

Vigo County Health Department

2025 Annual Report



Serving in the past and present



**The Vigo County Health Department
serves to promote, protect and provide
for the well-being of the citizens in Vigo County**

VIGO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

What is a Board of Health? Boards of health are local public health systems, charged to address health promotion, disease prevention, and public protection. They provide the necessary guidance and oversight of a local health department to assure the community's health. Boards of health are a powerful part of the local public health system. In Indiana, boards set policies, hire and fire the health officer, review operational data and challenge any organizational activity when necessary. Boards also have financial oversight of the local health department.

2025 BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Amber Cadick, PhD, Chair
Marc Keilman, Vice-Chair
James McKanna
Dr. Micah Thompson M.D.

Dr. Custodio Lim M.D.
Jeff Depasse
Dr. Jennifer Todd, PhD



10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The strength of a public health system rests on its capacity to:

1. **Assess and monitor** population health.
2. **Investigate, diagnose and address** health hazards and root causes.
3. **Communicate effectively** to inform and educate.
4. **Strengthen, support and mobilize** communities and partnerships.
5. **Create, champion and implement** policies, plans and laws.
6. **Utilize legal and regulatory actions.**
7. **Enable equitable access.**
8. **Build a diverse and skilled** workforce.
9. **Improve and innovate** through evaluation, research and quality improvement.
10. **Build and maintain** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN VIGO COUNTY



**Dr. Darren Brucken
Health Officer**



**Joni Wise
Administrator**



**Purchasing Clerk Tiffany Mayfield and Bookkeeper Robbin Poore
manage the finances and purchases
for over \$4,671,767 budgeted funds in 2025.**

VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Darren Brucken, M.D., Health Commissioner

Administration

Joni Wise, Administrator

Amanda Puller, Deputy Administrator

Robbin Poore, Bookkeeper

Tiffany Mayfield, Purchasing Clerk

Environmental Health Division

Amanda Puller, Supervisor

Steve Thompson, Environmental Health Specialist

Amanda Baker, Environmental Health Specialist

Shelley Rubinacci, Environmental Health Specialist

Cheryl Lehman, Environmental Health Specialist,

Anna Bunch, Environmental Health Specialist

Andrew Martin, Environmental Health Specialist

Katie Mundy, Childhood Lead Case Manager

Health Education/Media Coordination

Shelby Jackson

Vital Statistics Division

Loretta Nicoson, Supervisor

Brooke Olinger, Registrar

Brandi Latham, Registrar

Maddie Lindsey, Registrar

Vector Control Division

Mike Grayless, Supervisor

Tony Grayless, Assistant Supervisor

Warren Sweitzer, Assistant

David Higgins, Assistant

Logan Edwards, Assistant

Dalton Higgins, Assistant

Kim Edwards, Secretary

Social Services Division

Molly Collett, Supervisor

Shonna Frye, Peer Recovery Coach

Larry Aynes, Peer Recovery Coach

Jeremy Baker, In-Take Coordinator

Clinical Division

Robin Maurer, Clinic Supervisor

Deb Sweeting RN, Staff Nurse

Libby O’Pell PT RN, Staff Nurse

Dolly Moss, Immunization Registry Clerk

Teresa Bechtel, Insurance Billing Clerk

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Health Fund

Balance: 1.1.25.	\$1,672,062.24
Receipts 1.1.25-12.31.25.	\$2,003,396.19
Expenditures: 1.1.25-12.31.25.	\$2,155,709.59
Balance: 12.31.25.	\$1,519,748.84

Health First Indiana

Balance: 1.1.25.	\$2,939,862.34
Expenditures: 1.1.25-12.31.25.	\$2,533,304.42
Balance: 12.31.25.	\$ 438,731.92

Health Maintenance

Balance: 1.1.25.	\$ 36,263.24
Expenditures: 1.1.25-12.31.25.	\$ 112.20
Balance: 12.31.25.	\$ 36,151.04

Non-Reverting

Balance: 1.1.15.	\$ 10,365.24
Receipts: 1.1.25-12.31.25.	\$ 26,440.00
Expenditures: 1.1.25-12.31.25.	\$ 6,244.57
Balance: 12.31.25.	\$ 30,560.67

VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION



Front row L-R: Mike Grayless, Logan Edwards and David Higgins
Back row L-R: Kim Edwards, Warren Sweitzer, Jeremy Johnson and Tony Grayless

The primary goal of the Vector Control Division is to reduce the risk of disease and death from pathogens carried by animals and/or vectors. The Vector Control Division also repairs and maintains all Health Department vehicles and spraying equipment.

A “vector” is an agent capable of transmitting a pathogen from one organism to another. (I.e. mosquito, rodent). The Vector Control Division devotes its time primarily to:

1. Vector control
2. West Nile surveillance
3. Dead animal removal
4. Fleet maintenance and repairs



Mosquito Control

The spraying for adult mosquitoes in Vigo County was as diligent as the weather would allow in 2025. The adulticiding program consists of five ½ ton pickup trucks and four ATVs (equipped with ultra-low volume cold aerosol fog machines) to spray insecticides throughout the county, as well as the city of Terre Haute, for the control of adult mosquitoes. The ATV mounted ULV makes most sites accessible. All nine ultra-low volume-fogging machines must be certified for droplet size and calibrated for flow rate prior to each spraying season. Calibration is monitored daily throughout the spraying season. Adult mosquito control is accomplished using three insecticides, Bio-Mist 4+12, Kontrol 4-4, Aqua Anvil and Duet.



Yearly calibration and testing of spray equipment



ATV mounted ULV machine

All ULV units are fitted with GPS compatible “Smart Flow” systems. This enables Vector Control staff to preset and record calibration, time of spraying, flow rate and vehicle speed.

Vector Control staff prepare and update 26 maps that are 40-45 miles of County and city roads. The 26 maps show the areas to treat and areas that we do not treat, which we consider no spray zones. Some of the areas that are considered no spray zones might be areas with organic gardens, beekeepers, large bodies of water or people who have requested no spraying be done in the area where they live, either for health or personal reasons. The 26 maps are treated weekly, biweekly or monthly depending on adult mosquito population and weather conditions.

Vector Control employees spend an extended amount of time treating stagnant water for mosquito larvae. Several brands of insecticide targeting several species are employed to kill the larvae. One type of insecticide (Golden bear) can last for seven days in stagnant low area water, covering the surface of the water denying the mosquito larvae access to air. All “catch basins” or dry wells are treated with Altosid briquettes and Bactimas briquettes which lasts 30 or 150 days. Altosid Briquettes inhibit the growth of the larvae preventing them from becoming adults. Catch basins have been identified as one of many

ideal habitats for the Vector (*Culex pipiens*), a mosquito, notoriously known for the transmission of West Nile. *Culex* mosquito larvae love the stagnant dirty water left behind from rain that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into catch basins, retention ponds, and roadside ditches.

In 2025, over 2000 catch basins were treated. That number will continue to increase due to community growth. Parking lots and subdivisions will install retention ponds and or catch basins to contain water runoff. Catch basins and larvaciding sites are mapped out using the County's GIS system. Larvae samples are examined for identification of species to ensure proper insecticide treatment.



Summer interns Cassidee Cerny and Emrey Rubinacci treat catch basins

The following table contains a list of the amount and types of insecticide used in Vigo County to control adult mosquitoes and larvae in 2025.

	INSECTICIDE	AMOUNT USED
55 Gallon Drum	Biomist 4 + 12	26 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Kontrol	23 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Aqua Anvil	2 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Duet	2 Drums
220 Per Case	Altosid Briquettes (150 Day)	24 Cases
100 Per Case	Bactimas Briquets	22 Cases

West Nile Virus Surveillance

Gravid traps are specialized devices designed to attract and capture gravid (pregnant) female mosquitoes by providing an ideal site for them to lay their eggs. These traps often utilize organic infusions, such as those made from alfalfa pellets to lure mosquitoes. The organic material ferments in water, producing odors that are highly attractive to gravid mosquitoes.

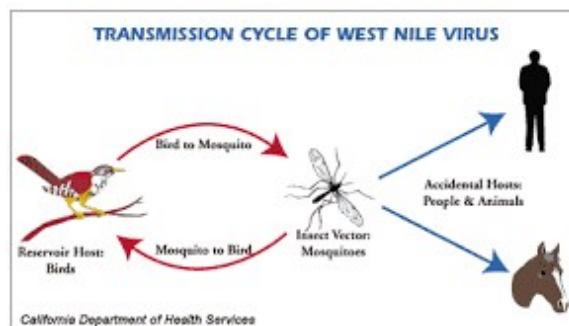
Gravid traps were set out at numerous locations throughout Vigo County with 2673 mosquitoes being collected between June and October 2025. Once the mosquitoes are collected, they are separated into groups ranging in number from 5 to 100 and are then labeled as pools of

mosquitoes, which are sent to the Indiana Department of Health for West Nile testing. A total of 109 pools were sent in for testing in 2025. The Indiana Department of Health reported 18 positive pools for Vigo County. Vector control specialists will continue to set, maintain and collect mosquito pools for IDH West Nile Virus testing in the upcoming year.

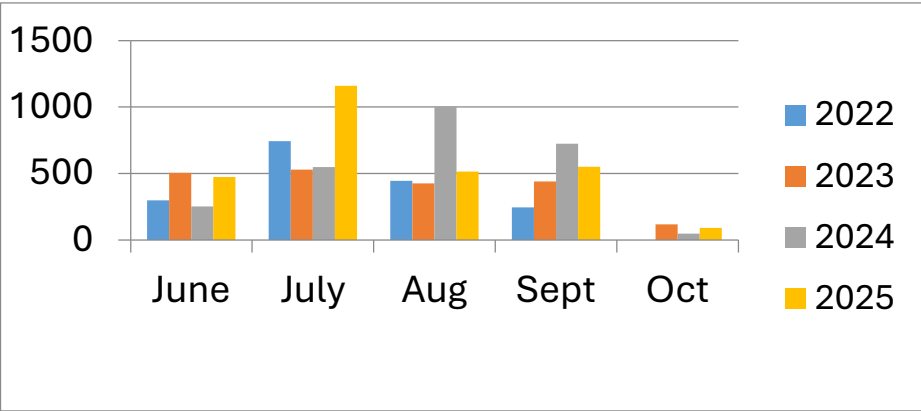
Mosquito Species Collected (N =2,673)

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number Collected</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>1. Culex pipiens–restuans (mixed)</i>	2639	98.69%
<i>2. Aedes japonicus</i>	19	0.71%
<i>3. Aedes albopictus</i>	11	0.41%
<i>4. Aedes triseriatus</i>	2	0.07%
<i>5. Orthopodomyia signifera</i>	2	<u>0.07%</u>
Total	2673	100%

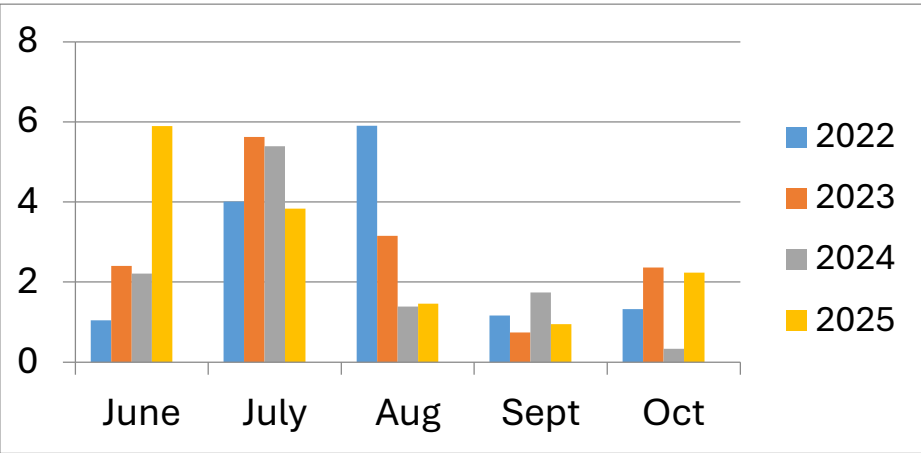
Gravid Trap



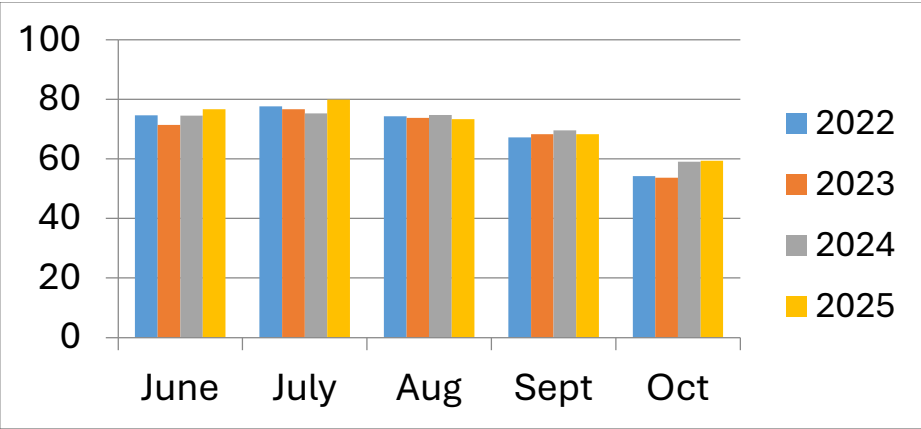
Total Mosquitoes Collected



Precipitation Amounts



Average Temperatures



2025 Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention Activities

1. Distributed 5400 “Skeeter Beater” coloring books to pre-school through 3rd grade elementary students on preventing and identifying prime breeding areas for mosquitoes.
2. Worked with Homeowners (high grass, weeds, swimming pools, fishponds, standing water).
3. Sent out Notice to Abate letters to all Vigo County cemetery caretakers.
4. Continued to monitor homeowners, tire retailers and salvage yards to ensure compliance with the Tire Storage Ordinance.

2026 Mosquito and Larvae Control Strategies

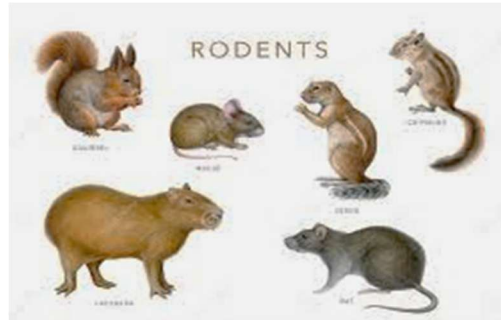
1. Intensify local culex and aedes mosquito larval control to prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes that feed on birds and contribute to the virus amplification transmission cycle.
2. Continue active West Nile surveillance to determine the presence of new or expanding West Nile transmission. (Light Traps-Adult mosquito testing)
3. Reinforce public education and outreach programs to reduce mosquito- breeding sites around homes.
4. Educate on personal protective measures (long sleeves, insect repellent) with the use of the media (TV, radio and newspapers)
5. Implement local mosquito control to reduce the number of virus infected mosquitoes, thus reducing the immediate risk to humans.
6. Monitor adult and larval mosquito control efforts to ensure that the local programs are effectively reducing mosquito densities and virus infection rates.
7. Conduct inspections of local tire retailers and junkyards for tire storage ordinance compliance.

Removal of Deceased Animals

In 2025 a total of 652 deceased animals were removed from private properties as well as city and county roadways and taken to the landfill, with 203 of them being deer.

Rodent

Rodents (i.e. rats, mice) are another source of disease transmission. Rodents must have adequate food, shelter, and water to survive. For these reasons, a large majority of rodent complaints are located within the city of Terre Haute.



A vector control specialist investigates complaints about rodents and proceeds to make recommendations to the property owner on findings and rodent control (i.e. removal of debris, animal feces). In some cases, the vector control specialist may set out bait and remove dead rodents, but most of the extermination is usually the responsibility of the property owner. A vector control specialist will continue to make follow-up inspections to ensure the property owner is correctly handling the problem.

Rabies

In 2025 Vector Control staff sent 20 bats, 2 raccoons, 1 dog and 2 cats to the Indiana Department of Health for rabies testing. One bat tested unsatisfactory for rabies virus.



Vehicle Maintenance

During the winter months the Vector Control Division is busy with repairing, cleaning and inspection of all vehicles and equipment. All ULV spray units must be cleaned and broken down during the winter months, checked, repaired and parts replaced as needed. Along with routine maintenance, all trucks and cars are thoroughly inspected and repaired. All vehicles and equipment have routine maintenance throughout the year.

Tire Clean-up Program

In 2025 Vigo County Health Department employees removed discarded tires from the alleys and streets of Terre Haute and surrounding communities. A total of 3376 tires plus 17 oversized tires, filling four semi-trailers, were collected. Residents that had tires stored outside were given information on our Tire Storage Ordinance informing them that the tires must be stored inside or removed from the property.



Interns Colson Bales and Cole Grayless



Intern Paul Chalos



Teamwork



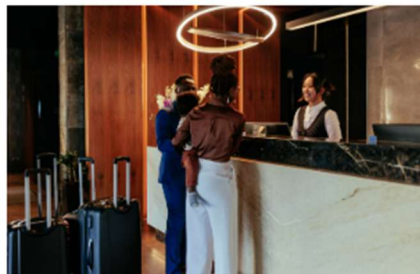
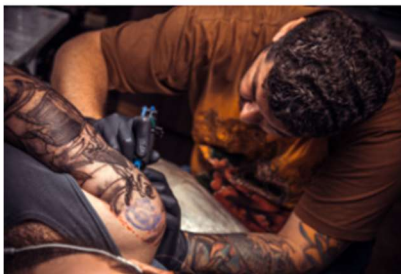
Good Find!

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Front row L-R: Cheryl Lehman, Mandy Puller and Steve Thompson

Back row L-R: Shelley Rubinacci, Mandy Baker, Andrew Martin, Katie Mundy and Anna Bunch



Environmental Health Division protects public health and the environment by ensuring conformance with State laws and County ordinances pertaining to a wide variety of environmental health programs. Much of this work is accomplished by performing routine inspections and investigations and taking enforcement action when warranted. The Environmental Health Division also interacts with various federal, state, regional, and local governmental agencies associated with environmental health programs.

Food Safety



Moldy Food



Clogged Drain



Fish in Cooler



Moldy Soda Nozzles

The Food Safety Program involves the planning of new and remodeled retail food establishments, inspections of fairs and festivals in Vigo County, and the licensing and inspecting of all retail food establishments within Vigo County. We work closely with the state department of health on any food recalls and food-borne illnesses.



Old Meat in Container



Improper Thawing



Dirty Dish Cart



Dirty 3-bay Nozzle

By promoting food safety education and fostering understanding, communication, and cooperation among regulators, industry and consumers, VCHD seeks to provide the best public health and consumer protection in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.



Inspections Conducted:

- 1101 routine inspections
- 4 follow-up inspections
- 78 opening inspections
- 200 temporary inspections

On-Site Sewage



Raking of Sand Bed



Filled in Sand Bed



Flooded Septic Bed

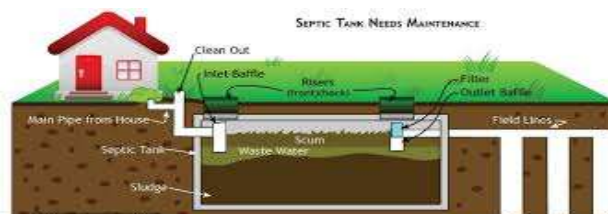
ATL Sand Line System:

An on-site system is one which treats the sewage in a septic tank so that most of the sewage becomes effluent and is disposed of in an area close to the house or buildings. An example of an on-site disposal system consists of a septic tank and leach drains. The planning, installation, and repair of on-site sewage disposal systems must be reviewed and inspected by one of our full-time environmental health specialists. This includes reviewing soil scientist reports, drawing of installed systems for department records, and giving recommendations for proposed subdivisions.

A total of:

- 67 On-Site Sewage Permits
- 1 Replacement Permit
- 22 Replacement On-Site Sewage Permits
- 52 Subdivisions
- 298 Improvement Location Permits
- 13 On-site Sewage inquiries
- 106 Septic Requirements Dispersed

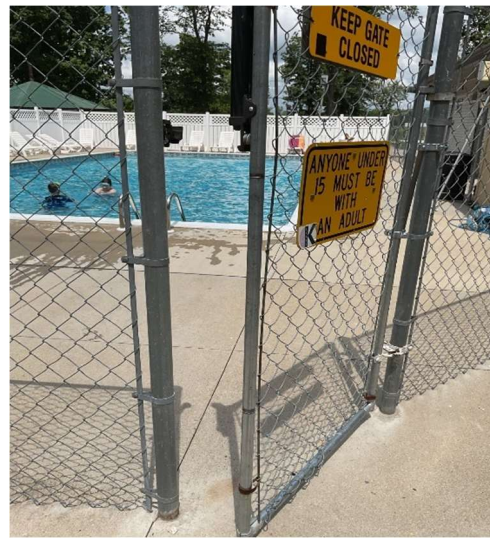
ATL System



Recreational Water



Green Pool



Safety Violation at Local Pool

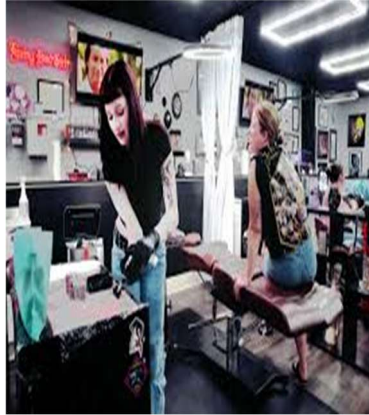
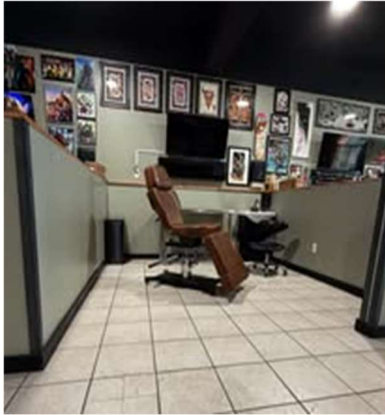
Water used for recreational purposes is subject to a variety of environmental influences, which can affect the health, and/or safety of individuals using those waters. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the number of reported recreational water illness outbreaks from 1978-2012 has increased significantly. The outbreaks are associated with treated recreational water such as hot tubs, pools and spas.

Recreational water program includes the inspection and review of bacteriological reports of swimming and wading pools, spas, therapy pools, and public access beaches. The inspection evaluates the pool area, water quality, safety equipment, and mechanical room.

The goals of these programs are to minimize safety hazards, reduce the potential for disease transmission and assure that waters used for recreational purposes are operated and maintained in compliance with the applicable ordinances.

- 130 Regular inspections were performed
- 14 Follow-up inspection
- 5 Closures
- 9 Failed Water Testing Closures
- 48 Pool Permits Issued

Body Art



Pictures of Local Body Art Establishments

The use of improperly sanitized needles and instruments for invasive procedures on the human body and/or procedures completed by inadequately trained individuals can contribute to the spread of communicable diseases and/or cause permanent injury. Through the Body Art Safety program, the Environmental Health Specialist works to ensure the safe and proper operation of the licensed body art establishments in Vigo County. We educate operators, evaluate plan reviews, and perform opening inspections on new or remodeled body art establishments. We also ensure general safety and sanitation standards, and proper disposal methods of infectious waste.

The Artist licensing program ensures the individuals that are performing the body art are knowledgeable and competent.

- 22 Body Art Establishments Licensed
- 48 Routine Inspections
- 7 Body Art Establishment Openings
- 52 Artist License
- 8 Temporary Artist License



Lead Poisoning Prevention

Structures built prior to 1978 are likely to have lead-based paint. However, the federal government banned consumer use of lead-based paint in 1978. Lead found in dust, paint and soil in and around your home could be dangerous if not maintained properly.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead based paint can be found in:

- 24% of homes built from 1960-1978
- 69% of homes built from 1940-1959
- 87% of homes built before 1940

If the paint is in good condition and has been painted over, it usually doesn't pose a problem. If the paint is peeling or has been disturbed by scraping, sanding, or burning, it can pose significant health risks to people, especially children 6 and under.

As of July 1, 2022, the State of Indiana mandated that all local health departments follow children with elevated blood lead levels of 5 μg or more and to provide parent education and blood testing of children with elevated blood lead levels of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more. This includes educating the parents and conducting a risk assessment of the home.



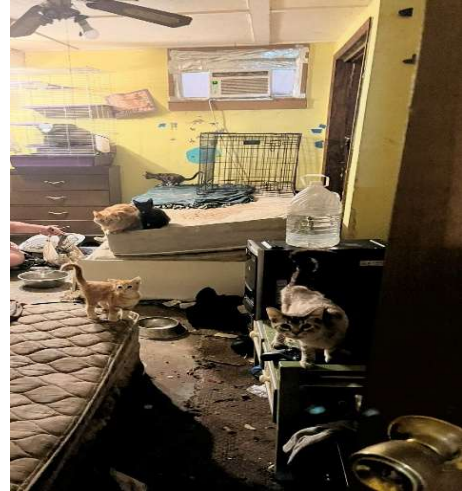
Homes in Vigo County with Lead

We have six licensed Risk Assessors that address the lead risks in the homes of children that have elevated blood lead levels. The Risk Assessors educate the families on proper cleaning procedures and mitigation choices when lead risks are identified. Additionally, a Public Health Nurse follows that child until their blood lead levels drop below the mandated 5 μg level.

- 38 new cases
- 38 risk assessments
- 3 consultations
- 4 clearances



Public Health Complaints



Unfit for Human Habitation Homes in Vigo County

Housing and property complaints filter through this program. Some of the problems addressed: mold, rodents, roaches, bed bugs, animal and human feces, meth lab remediation, surfacing sewage, and unfit for human habitation situations. We are called by other agencies, such as Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, City and County Building Inspection, City Environmental, City and County law enforcement, along with concerned citizens of Vigo County.

- 26 Surfacing Sewage Complaints
- 14 Mold Complaints
- 21 Pest/Rodent Complaints
- 62 Retail Food Establishment Complaints
- 12 Unfit for Human Habitation
- 17 Other Complaints
- 10 Referrals to Vector Control



Environmental Health Extras



Lead and Environmental Staff in the Field/Training

- Met with IDOH District Food and On-Site Sewage Reps.
- Audited by the IDOH for Standardization of the FDA Food Code
- Attended IEHA Chapter Meetings
- Attended Tuesday Trainings with IDOH
- Attended IDOH OSS Annual Meeting
- Attended FEMA Wastewater Disaster Management Course
- Attended IDOH EPH Virtual Training
- On-Site Sewage Presentation at Vigo County Library
- Issued Training to Clay County in Food Inspections
- Worked with West Terre Haute Police on properties that were in disrepair
- Standardized Environmental Staff
- Attended Rapid Response Training
- Attended Food Code Meeting
- Attended Pool Workshop
- Attended Nursing Conference
- Attended Hemoglobin and Lead Testing at Head Start
- Attended YMCA Clinic
- Attended IEHA Spring and Fall Conference
- Met with House of Thousand Needles
- Attended IEHA Wastewater Management Meeting
- Attended Mobile Virtual Training
- Attended HUD Webinar
- Taught Serv-Safe Class
- Various Meeting with Inspect to Go Program
- Worked with Fire Fly Agency on home that may be unfit for human habitation

VITAL STATISTICS



L-R: Brooke Olinger, Brandi Latham, Libby Knight and supervisor, Loretta Nicoson

The Vital Records Division's Objective is Two-Fold:

- Carry out uniform procedures
- Maintain and protect the integrity of the Vital Records Systems



The Division Has the Responsibility To:

- Maintain a system that accurately records all births, deaths and fetal deaths
- Efficiently issue certified copies of records
- Issue provisional notification of death-burial transit permits
- Process paternities when they come to us from the courts
- Type and process paternities when people schedule appointments to come in to our office
- Type affidavits of amendment and schedule appointments for people to make corrections to their birth record
- Work with funeral homes in filing death certificates
- Verify birth records for the Military, Social Security and Division of Family and Children
- Assist citizens who wish to inspect permanent birth and death records
- Assist customers in doing genealogy

Year in Numbers:

Births Reported in Wedlock-877

Births Reported Out of Wedlock-834

Divorced-92

Home Births-0

Fetal Death Reported-10

Deaths Reported-1,519

Coroner Cases-217

Birth Certificates Issued-8,039

Death Certificates Issued-9,170

Certificates Issued Free-457

Genealogy Searches-48

Corrections Processed:

Paternity Affidavit-53

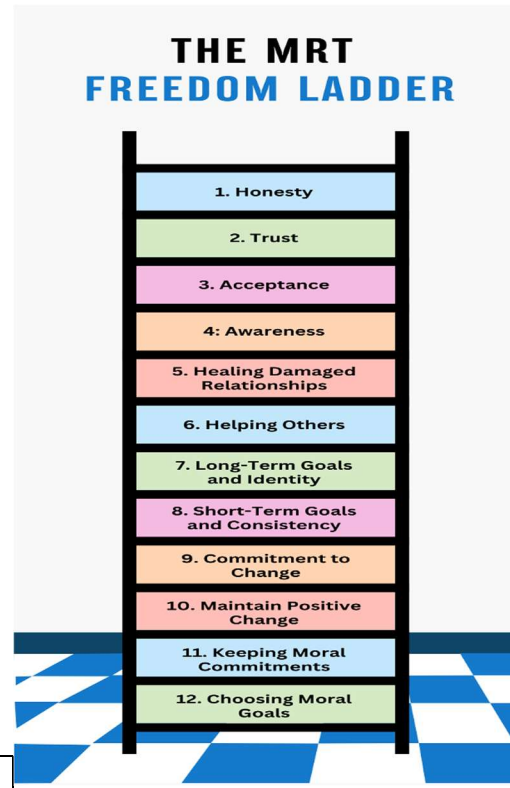
Legal Name Change-28

Court Order Determination of Parents-21

Total Corrections updating Records-594

To obtain an Indiana birth or death certificate, you must provide one valid primary document (e.g., driver's license, state ID, passport, or military ID) or two valid secondary documents (e.g., Social Security card, voter registration, or utility bill). All documents must be current.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION



L-R: Jeremy Baker, Shonna Frye, Larry Aynes and supervisor, Molly Collett

Our Commitment

- **Mission Statement:** Supporting individuals with a substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues by partnering with other organizations in the community to provide peer support recovery services.
- **Vision:** Build a strong and healthy recovery community and lower recidivism rates in the Vigo County Jail.
- **Core Values:** Core values are the foundation on which we perform our work and conduct ourselves with each other.
- **Compassion:** We treat our peers, partners, and each other with respect, understanding, and compassion.
- **Trust:** We create a safe space and communicate with honesty and openness.
- **Acceptance:** We believe that everyone has unique challenges and strengths. We value the power of self-direction in building sustainable recovery.
- **Collaboration:** We build strength-based connections to achieve home, health, purpose, and community.
- **Confidentiality:** We adhere to the confidentiality agreement not to disclose any information obtained during the coaching relationship without the client's permission.

Peer Coaching

Peer coaching involves **individuals with lived experience of substance use disorders providing guidance and support to those currently seeking recovery**. These peer recovery coaches use their personal journeys to inspire hope, offer practical advice, and model successful recovery strategies.



Substance Abuse Counseling

Substance abuse counseling is a combination of treatment and support to help people break free from drug or alcohol addiction. **Substance abuse counselors** work with patients of all ages who have addictions to illegal drugs, alcohol, prescription medications, and tobacco products. They evaluate patients' health, recommend treatments, and help them develop skills to aid in recovery. **Counseling for addiction** helps individuals understand what causes addiction, recognize risk factors for relapse, and develop coping tools for stressful situations. **Addiction counselors** develop tailored treatment plans based on specific addiction, needs, and goals.

Seeking Safety is an **evidence-based treatment model that treats co-occurring post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse**. It is a present-focused therapy that emphasizes coping skills, grounding techniques, and education to help clients attain safety from trauma and substance abuse. The Seeking Safety treatment model was developed in the 1990s, with assistance from the National Institute on Drug Abuse-based Relational Intervention.



- **Peer Coached: 31**
- **Enrolled in Insurance: 48**
- **MRT Graduates: 128**
- **Released, but still Clients: 10**

Seeking Safety Data

Total Classes	Total students		Locked	Percent
2311	393		235	59.80
		Percent		
Attended	2204	95.37		
Missed	107	4.63		
Completed	78	19.85		
Treatment	18	4.58		
Rearrested	20	5.09		
Employed	7	1.78		
Housed	12	3.05		
			Total	Percent
W	Warrant		2	0.51
I	Vigo County		191	48.60
R	Released		47	11.96
S	Sober Living		12	3.05
U	Unsure		72	18.32
IO	Another County		7	1.78
P	Prison		37	9.41
CC	Community Corrections		18	4.58
T	Treatment		7	1.78

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The Change Program/Interactive Journaling is an evidence-based practice for motivation and guiding individuals toward a positive life change. It is goal directed, client-centered and helps participants modify behavior while progressing through the stages of change, precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and maintenance.

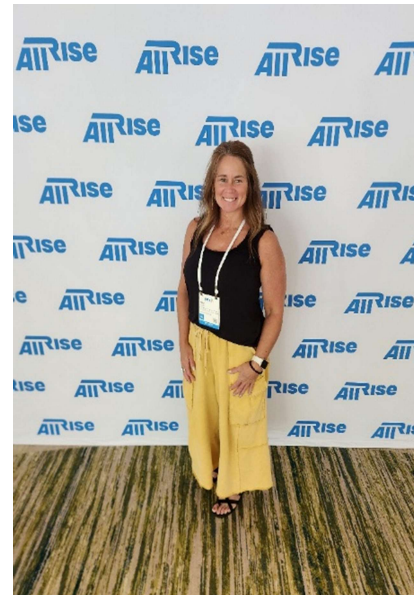
Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) promotes moral reasoning, better decision making, and improvement of behavior. It is based on the idea that risky and criminal behavior stem from faulty

thinking patterns, such as a lack of empathy, distorted perceptions of right and wrong, and impulsivity. This is also an evidence-based program.



Conferences and Community Events

- All Rise Conference
- Mental Health and Addiction/Indianapolis, IN
- Health Fair at the Vigo County Court House
- Circle of Change



Larry Aynes and Molly Collett
At the All Rise Conference in Florida

Vigo County Sheriff's Office

March 20, 2025

Jail Programming Update:

Over the past year, the Sheriff's Office has partnered with the health department and other county government entities to establish the RISE program. This initiative focuses on preparing incarcerated individuals for successful reintegration into our community, with the ultimate objectives of providing treatment and reducing recidivism rates.

The Vigo County Health Department Social Services Division offers peer support services and programming within the Vigo County Jail as part of this program. Currently, the classes offered include Seeking Safety, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and The Change Program. These programs are designed to be goal-oriented and client-centered, helping participants modify their behavior while progressing through the stages of change, including precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, and maintenance.

We recognize the fact that these programs will not have a lasting impact on each and every person in attendance, however we are optimistic that it will have an impact on some, if not many. We believe that impacting as many individuals as we can is better than doing nothing at all.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts, support, and dedication of the health department team, including Director Joni Wise, Molly Collett, Shonna Frye, and Larry Aynes.

The doors of success, opportunity, and progress are opened when we work together!

Derek Fell

Sheriff



L-R: Sheriff Derek Fell, Chief Deputy Steve Meng, Shonna Frye, Molly Collett, Jail Matron Casey Lee and Jail Commander Charley Funk

HEALTH EDUCATION & MEDIA COORDINATION



Shelby Jackson, Health Educator



Health education is the process of aiding individuals and groups to make informed decisions as well as build skills pertaining to community, family and personal health. Having a position in health education provides an outlet for the citizens of Vigo County on health information, awareness and means of prevention. The education used is based on statistical data that is gathered either from the local, state or national level.

Community Coalitions

Programming

Health Fairs

Presentations

Social and Traditional Media

Community Involvement



Community members cutting the debut ribbon for the Safe Sleep Educational Trailer. Pictured from left to right is: Joni Wise (VCHD Administrator), Charla Cline (Chances and Services for Youth), Shelby Jackson (VCHD Health Educator), Anthony Foust (Sales & Retail Specialist), Gary Russell (Development & Expansion Specialist), Ethel Massing (CEO Safe Sleep Simulation), Austin Farrington (All Babies Initiative), Mike Morris (Vigo County Commissioner), Gina Bindley (Regional Public Health Nurse Consultant).

Presentations

Offer comprehensive approaches to current public health issues that are of concern. Some presentations are multi-faceted, such as an overview of the Vigo County Health Department and the role it has in public health throughout the county and surrounding Wabash Valley community. Other presentations can be an in-depth look into direct issues such as disease transmission through vectors, bacterial and viral levels or drug and alcohol use. This involvement offers the public the opportunity to learn about their health and wellbeing, ask questions and become familiar with the staff and services provided at the Vigo County Health Department. This familiarity between the public and local governmental agency aids in building trust between the entities, thus encouraging the public to be more receptive to public health. The goal is to collaboratively work with many community partners that include but are certainly not limited to assisted living facilities, school corporations, local universities, health and wellness facilities and local hospitals.

The following is a brief list of programs and presentations conducted by the Vigo County Health Department with different community organizations:

- Handwashing Tent
- SafeSleep Mobile Education Trailer
- Cobblestone and Silver Birch Assisted Living Facilities
- Historic Walnut Square – Resident Enrichment Program
- County Employee CPR/First Aid Program
- AED Education
- ServSafe Food Protection Manager



Local tattoo shop, Scars and Stories, attend CPR, First Aid and AED training at the Vigo County Health Department and receive their certification through American Heart Association (left). Crash course on chest compressions and first aid provided at Historic Walnut Square for their resident enrichment program (right).

Collaborations

Health education and media coordination works thoughtfully with a multitude of Vigo County members to provide fast, reliable and educational information to all citizens. Together public health services are amplified.

- All Babies Initiative
- District 7 Healthcare Coalition and Local Health Departments
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Child Fatality Review
- Lugar Center for Rural Health
- Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department
- Chances and Services for Youth
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Drug Free Vigo County

Health Fairs

To be involved with and organize health fairs is a great way to promote health awareness and encourage participants to take responsibility for their health. These opportunities can also provide valuable health information to make informed decisions. Additionally, health fairs allow health department employees the opportunity to meet with the public and discuss their specific health concerns in locations that are most convenient and easily accessible. Public health is more influential when we meet people where they are.

The following consist of some, but not all health fairs that the Vigo County Health Department has been affiliated with:

- We Live Back-to-School-Bash with Hamilton Center
- Vaccine Clinics
- Employee Health Fairs at Local Businesses
- Terre Haute Pride Festival
- Multiple Community Baby Showers throughout the Wabash Valley

Media Partnerships

Working alongside the media is a crucial component of Health Education. To ensure the residents of Vigo County receive the most accurate and up to date health information, the Vigo County Health Department has maintained an excellent relation with the surrounding media companies. Local media companies that are utilized are news channels, newspapers and radio stations. The Health Educator/Media Coordinator works diligently across multiple media outlets to compose important health messages to promote, provide and protect the citizens of Vigo County.



Passive Engagement

When it comes to health and wellness, the best strategies are those that are passive throughout the day. Gentle reminders pertain to health depending on the season, specific month or special occasion. The Vigo County Government Annex utilizes a few passive strategies to increase health awareness and knowledge.

- **Health Education Boards:** New Year Same Ear, In my Healthy Era, Toast to the New Year, Tips for a Fan-Cactus Year, Don't Drop the Ball on Your Health, Be Sweet to Your Heart, Spread the Love Donate Blood, Love Your Lungs, Love is in the Air but so are Germs, Infant Safe Sleep, Take the Madness out of March, Taste the Rainbow, Moo-ve More this March, Sham-Rockin', Kidney Health isn't all Luck, April Showers bring May Flowers, Public Health History, Leave Measles in the Dust, 2025 Tire Amnesty, Mental Health, King of the Grill, Orange You Glad for Public Health, Servin' up Food Safety for Summer, Water Safety, Blue Zones, Vitamins vs. Minerals, Back to School, Public Health is A-Maize-ing, Don't Fall Behind, Tackle Pollen this Fall, Don't be a Sick Scarecrow, All About Fall Prevention, Don't Let Stress Ruffle Your Feathers, Exercise Makes you Merry & Bright, Have Yourself a Merry Little Breathmas



- **'Installments':** Kidney Stones, Take the Madness out of March – Chronic Stress vs. Depression, Cholesterol the Good & the Ugly, Norovirus, 2025 Tire Amnesty, Lead Safe Cleaning, Allergies Asthma Achoo – Bless You, Don't Fry Try Sun Safety, Why is it so Humid?, Share the Road, Public Health Concern or Nuisance, Your Gut Effect on Mental Health: The Gut Brain Axis, VCHD Fall Vaccine Bash, Keeping "Bag" Lunches Safe for School, Let's not Kid'ney Around – These Organs are Important, Start the Conversation – Be the Difference, Shingles, Fire Safety, Be Antibiotic Aware, Be like the Grinch and Go Green
- **Employee Monthly Newsletters:** The Myopia Epidemic – Break up with Your Computer, Text Neck, Mental Health in Indiana, 2025 Tire Amnesty, Swaddle for Safe Sleep, Oral Health and Dental Coverage, Vigo County Health Department Employee Health Fair Flyer, Water Safety, Back to School Wellness, Needle With Your Name on It, Prep Your Thanksgiving Plate, Preventing Injuries from Ladders and Ornaments

Social Media

An ever-evolving, key piece of Health Education is a presence within social media. With the growing rate of digital health, the usage of social media is crucial when aiming to reach most of the population, or certain demographics depending on which software is being utilized. The quick timing that social media provides works well with health emergencies such as an outbreak or public service announcements. When 'I' becomes 'we' even illness becomes wellness. One of the six principles of effective emergency and risk communication is to be first. Crises are time-sensitive and quick communication is crucial. The following are actions and goals pertaining to health information being dispersed through social media:

1. Maintain a high level of interaction across sites.
2. Increase the amount of community members reached through various strategies.
3. Work with other community organizations to spread information throughout the county.

Follow



along with us at @vigocountyhealthdepartment



"We are only as healthy as our most vulnerable."

CLINICAL SERVICES



L-R: Libby O'Pell, R.N., Deb Sweetings, R.N., Dr. Kathy Brown, Robin Maurer, supervisor and Hope Taylor

The Vigo County Health Department (VCHD) Clinic is focused on being essential support for the residents of our county and the surrounding communities. The focus of VCHD is to continue to maintain a core mission to serve by promoting healthy lifestyles and protecting against disease through education and prevention.

The department provides all ACIP recommended childhood and adult vaccines. Vaccines are a key component of prevention services against vaccine preventable diseases. Our Clinic provides services to both children and adults for a nominal fee or free of charge.



Well Child Services/Physicals/Vaccines

The Well-Child Program serves children from birth to 18 years of age. Our doctor provides well-child checkups, Head Start, kindergarten, sports and some adult physicals on Friday mornings.

The VCHD Clinic continued its role in 2025 as a key provider for the federal **Vaccines for Children (VFC)** program, ensuring critical immunizations are available to all eligible children in the community. Since some area pediatricians do not provide immunizations to their patients, the VCHD helps to fill that gap by immunizing those children.

The Vigo County Health Department is also enrolled in the **Vaccines for Adults** program in Indiana. This is a publicly funded **Adult 317 Program** to provide vaccinations to eligible adults who are uninsured or underinsured.

The VCHD carries vaccines for the full-time employees of the county. We provide essential vaccines for full-time county employees often depending on occupational exposure and department-specific policies.

Lead Screening

Lead and Hemoglobin testing was done on the children at Head Start and Early Head Start on two separate occasions. A total of 66 children were tested. Though lead can be found in many places in a child's environment, lead exposure is preventable. Lead and Hemoglobin testing is always available at the Vigo County Health Department Clinic Monday-Friday.

Community Involvement

The Vigo County Health Department partnered with the Mobile Dentist, seeing 30 kids for dental cleaning and dental work at two different events. The VCHD hosted a Fall Vaccine Bash and partnered

with several community entities to make this a success. We saw 30 children and gave 43 vaccines. Yearly TB testing/reads were performed for 52 employees of Vigo County Head Start.



Education

Education is an important aspect of evidence-based care. VCHD staff participated in meetings presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). Our staff attended the Public Health Nurses Conference in Carmel, Indiana on June 24th. This was a wonderful Conference to attend and meet other Health Departments and their staff. The clinic staff continued annual training in 2025 and will throughout the upcoming years.

In July the Health Department hosted the Chirp User Group meeting in our council chambers for the IDOD (Indiana Department of Health). CHIRP is a secure, web-based registry designed to permanently store immunization records for all Indiana residents in an electronic format. The Vigo County Health Department Clinic did well on the IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers). This is a CDC- led national program that supports healthcare providers in improving vaccination rates among children and adolescents.



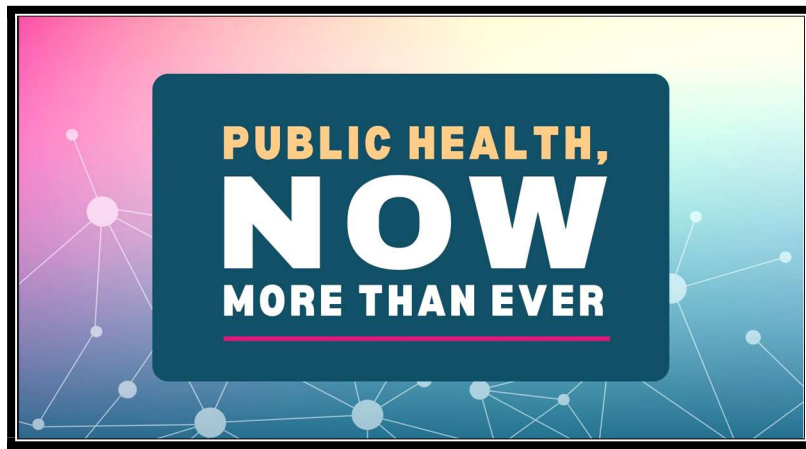
The Indiana Department of Health Public Health Nurse State Conference in Carmel, Indiana.

L-R: Kayla Terrill, Deb Sweeting, Robin Maurer, Shelby Jackson, Kelsie Clark and Katie Mundy.

Tuberculosis Case Management & Testing

Why is TB Case Management and testing important? Tuberculosis {TB} is a highly contagious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and must be reported to the local Health Dept. It is classified as active TB or latent TB better known as LTBI. Case management ensures adherence to the treatment of TB. Tuberculosis (TB) control and case management by Local Health Departments is a mandated task under the Indiana Code 410 IAC 1-2.3-106.

THE END !



SEE YOU
NEXT YEAR !