



**MONMOUTH
COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders

2017

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Monmouth County Health Department Annual Report 2017

Mission Statement: Empower residents of Monmouth County to achieve optimum health through the provision of the ten essential public health services:

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) is one of five health departments in Monmouth County. 26 of Monmouth County's 53 municipalities participate in the Monmouth County Board of Health System:

Aberdeen	Farmingdale	Matawan
Allentown	Hazlet	Millstone
Asbury Park	Holmdel	Neptune City
Atlantic Highlands	Howell	Neptune Township
Avon-By-The-Sea	Keansburg	Oceanport
Belmar	Keyport	Roosevelt
Bradley Beach	Lake Como	Shrewsbury Township
Eatontown	Manasquan	Union Beach
Englishtown	Marlboro	

Overview

The Monmouth County Board of Health, established in 1978, is composed of nine citizen members who are appointed by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Board's function is to establish policy and govern the services provided by the Monmouth County Health Department.

Principal Objectives

- As a field office of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), enforce the provisions of the New Jersey State Sanitary Code and regulations set forth in N.J.S.A. 24:14a-1 et seq., 26:3-69:1, and 58:11-23, as well as, local codes and ordinances that protect public health.
- Deliver a modern and manageable array of public health services as required by N.J.A.C. 8:52 entitled "Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey."
- Provide leadership in building a county wide core capacity to respond to bioterrorism and other public health threats.

Through the Department's programs and services, residents benefit directly from population-based, clinical services which provide primary and secondary disease prevention. Indirect resident benefits include protecting food and drinking water supplies and ensuring compliance with environmental health regulation, related to air, water, and noise and nuisance control.

Principal Activities

- Administrative and organizational management services, including but not limited to planning, organization, public health staffing, coordination and response, and budgeting and evaluation
- Enforcement of public health and environmental laws and regulations
- 24/7 surveillance, detection, and epidemiologic response to potential bioterrorism incidents or outbreaks of infectious disease
- Communicable disease control
- Management and operation of the New Jersey LINCS Health Alert Network
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Maternal and child health services
- Clinical primary and secondary preventive services
- Rabies control
- Comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for Tuberculosis and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Health education and health promotion

Primary Collaborative Efforts

An important function of the department is collaboration with community-based organizations and institutions to identify health problems and assure access to health services for all residents. In 2017, the department worked in conjunction with six other health departments in the County in bringing together a group of individuals representing more than 40 public and private healthcare providers, businesses, schools, social service, and voluntary health organizations to participate in an initiative to assess community health needs and priorities, through the Health Improvement Coalition of Monmouth County (HICMC). From that assessment and utilizing a strategic planning tool called Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), which helps prioritize public health needs and identify resources to address them, a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was developed. The New Jersey Department of Health requires local health departments to update the CHIP every 5 years. The Monmouth County CHIP was completed in 2017, and identified several strategic issues:

- An increase in the number of Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Tobacco, drugs, and alcohol use and abuse
- Obesity
- Inequitable access to healthcare
- Access to mental/behavioral health and substance abuse services

The three committees that were formed from the CHIP to develop programs to connect residents with necessary resources are:

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Mental Health and Addiction
- Health Equity

In 2017, the committees developed goals, objectives, and a method to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies to improve the health of the residents of Monmouth County.



Other Collaborations:

MCHD formed a partnership with Jersey Shore University Medical Center for the provision of comprehensive Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) diagnostic and treatment services to residents.

MCHD partnered with school systems to provide school-based immunization programs.

The department worked with our municipalities to provide Hepatitis B immunizations in conjunction with their blood borne pathogen requirements.

Also worked with Local Offices of Emergency Management in designing models for the rapid distribution of prophylactic medications to first responders and their families after a confirmed release of a bioterrorism agent or emerging infectious diseases.

The department is a member of the Monmouth County Cancer Coalition which is involved in the planning and coordination of cancer screening and education services countywide.

Through an agreement with the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Inc. (VNA) the department is a designated provider of cancer screening services through the New Jersey Cancer Early Detection and Education program (CEED) funded by the New Jersey Department of Health.

Membership on the Monmouth County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Provision of nursing and public health internship opportunities to students of Monmouth University and other institutes of higher learning.

Collaboration with the New Jersey Commission for The Blind and Visually Impaired to provide free eye health screening services.

Organization Capacity

The Health Department's programs and services are funded by local dollars as well as grants from the New Jersey Department of Health for emergency preparedness, case management of children with elevated blood lead levels, immunization outreach, sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services, childhood lead poisoning prevention outreach and education, and Medical Reserve Corps recruitment and training.

Currently the department is composed of 52 employees. Professional staffing consists of registered environmental health specialists and public health nurses who hold current licenses from the New Jersey Department of Health and the Board of Nursing, respectively. Additional staff includes Administrative staff, Environmental Specialists in the areas of water, air and noise, hazardous materials technicians, GIS specialist, epidemiologist, field disease investigators, Medical Reserve coordinator, and health educators.

Professional service contracts are in place for laboratory services, physicians, nurse practitioners, phlebotomy, mammography, x-rays, and interpretation services.

The department is equipped with state-of-the-art computer systems, connectivity, security, and data storage capacity. Systems are managed by Monmouth County's Information Technology Department. A full-time Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist is available for data mapping.

As a part of Monmouth County's governmental system, the Health Department has access to County resources: County Public Information and Print Shop, Human Resources, Information Technology, Finance, Purchasing, Buildings and Grounds, and Legal Counsel.

The Underground Storage Tank (UST) unit provides compliance assistance for regulated underground storage tank systems to several County agencies. In addition, the hazmat/UST staff provides logistical support for the Health Department's Strategic National Stockpile Personal Protective Equipment distribution program.

Continuing education and training are essential parts of our mission to provide a comprehensive emergency preparedness system throughout Monmouth County. The Health Department's hazmat unit maintains some of the most highly trained Hazmat/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Directorate response personnel in the State of New Jersey. We continue to expand our emergency response capabilities and competence by taking advantage of numerous federal, state, and local training opportunities.

Open Public Records Act

The Open Public Records Act (OPRA) permits the public to request certain government documents. These documents are available for inspection, examination, and copying purposes. Under OPRA, certain documentation and records are unavailable for public access in order to protect secure information.

The Public Health Protection unit maintains inspection and complaint records for all of the commercial facilities inspected each year as required by the State Sanitary Code. Records of dwellings and commercial buildings which are serviced by individual wells and individual sewage disposal systems are also maintained by the Department. Therefore, under the Open Public Records Act, individuals and commercial representatives may request their records be provided in accordance with the legally established guidelines. The REHS staff responded to over 496 OPRA requests during 2017.

The hazmat unit is also responsible for handling all requests for review of Health Department environmental records. A total of 507 OPRA requests were processed through the hazmat unit in 2017.



Public Health Protection

A staff of 15 registered environmental health specialists (REHS) enforces public health and environmental laws and regulations, which include but are not limited to the protection of food, bathing place sanitation, public health nuisances and hazards, preventable injuries, and exposure-related diseases in both the workplace and community settings.

One of our REHS staff members, Matthew Wysokinski, was recently awarded the honor of Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the Year by the New Jersey Environmental Health Association at its annual Educational Conference in Atlantic City. This is an award chosen from all licensed REHSs in the State of New Jersey and is given to an individual who has made an impact in the field of public and environmental health. Monmouth County Health Department is very grateful to have one of our hard-working staff members recognized in this manner.

Public Recreational Bathing and Youth Camp Inspections

In 2017, the Health Department staff inspected 126 recreational bathing facilities twice during the year including swimming pools, spas, splash parks, ocean bathing beaches, and a water park. An additional 58 re-inspections were performed to ensure adequate compliance with safety and sanitation requirements. Two municipal summonses were issued and staff members investigated four complaints involving recreational bathing sites.

REHS staff are also required to inspect Youth Camps each summer season. In 2017, 23 youth camps were inspected during their first week of operation. This inspection involves extensive review of staff credentials and camp operating procedures in addition to inspection of on-site food handling and recreational bathing facilities.

There are four additional camps which have received accreditation from the American Camping Association which allows them to self-inspect before opening. Four additional facilities were inspected by staff once during their operating season.

In July, MCHD received a call from a local fire official alerting us to a possible Youth Camp operating from an unapproved building. Staff members performed an inspection and discovered that the facility was operating a Youth Camp without approval or licenses from a property with multiple building and fire code violations. There was also evidence that children were using private, unguarded pools for swimming. County Counsel was enlisted to obtain a Superior Court Order to cease operation and close the facility. The State Health Department was also notified of our investigation, and as a result they conducted a multi-jurisdictional investigation attempting to find similar unlicensed operations.

Rabies Control and Surveillance

The Health Department oversees free vaccination clinic programs for cats and dogs. In 2017, the Department sponsored 25 clinics in our covered municipalities which provided free vaccinations to 1,967 dogs and cats. Another component of the Rabies Control Program involves investigating resident animal bite exposures. Whenever a human bite exposure occurs, the health department is notified and places the animal under a 10-day observation period. The animal is viewed at the end of the observation period to ensure it is not showing signs of illness.

The observation period is generally used for domestic and most livestock exposures. For other animals, including bats, the biting animal must be tested for rabies in a laboratory. Staff conducted 383 animal bite investigations involving animal observation and an additional 22 investigations which involved specimen delivery to the State Department of Health Laboratory. Four specimens were found to be positive for rabies upon testing.

Exposed persons are notified and referred for medical follow-up which includes post exposure prophylaxis. Domestic animals are usually given rabies boosters and placed under extended observation as dictated by vaccination status and level of exposure. In some rare instances, directly-exposed, unvaccinated animals must be euthanized.

Our department is responsible for the investigation and follow-up of any contacts whenever an animal tests positive for the rabies virus. One case involved a kitten picked up just before Thanksgiving by a Good Samaritan who resided in Marlboro Township. The kitten was transported between two caregivers, attended two Thanksgiving celebrations (one in Middlesex County and one in Monmouth) and was seen by a veterinarian in Manalapan Township. The kitten developed neurologic symptoms associated with rabies and was subsequently submitted for testing. The case was unique in that it involved multiple jurisdictions and exposures, requiring collaboration and cooperation between 4 health departments, as well as the State Health Department and multiple public information offices. Ultimately, six people obtained rabies post exposure prophylaxis after handling the kitten prior to its death.

Animal Care Facility Inspections

Animal care facilities such as kennels, shelters, pounds, and pet shops are also inspected by the Department for compliance with regulations set forth by the New Jersey State Sanitary Code.

Additional legislation has been passed recently to further protect animal welfare by tightening documentation requirements regarding the use of “puppy mills” as pet store suppliers. In 2017, staff inspected 25 licensed facilities and responded to 16 animal related complaints. Three animal care facility complaints were also investigated.

Septic and Well Programs

The registered environmental health specialist staff is responsible for the enforcement of New Jersey regulations for the installation of onsite sewage disposal systems and private water supply wells. During this year, 393 plans for new septic systems and wells were reviewed to ensure compliance with NJ State Regulations. In 2017, a total of 1,918 well and septic inspections were conducted. This total reflects the certification of 213 new septic systems, 79 new wells, and 198 certifications for realty transfer as required in some municipalities.

The Health Department also reviews site plans and variance requests on behalf of local zoning and planning boards within our jurisdiction for comments regarding various Health Department regulations. As such, 104 plan reviews were conducted in 2017.

Also in 2017, the Monmouth County Board of Health passed a new Well Ordinance to ensure that wells are not drilled without local health review and approval. The DEP well permit procedure focuses on basic details such as well driller licensing and latitude/longitude location; it does not always address issues with regards to location of wetlands, property lines, driveways etc. Our new ordinance will allow our inspectors to catch problems before they occur, protecting our residents' drinking water and wallets.

Smoke Free Air Act Initiative

Since January 2006, smoking has been prohibited in most New Jersey indoor public places. Restaurants, bars, retail stores, and most other businesses with public access must be maintained as smoke free. Citizen complaints regarding smoking indoors are investigated with violations issued for non-compliance. Two complaints were investigated in 2017 and one Notice of Violation was issued.

Another component of the Smoke Free Air Act Initiative is the partial regulation of tobacco retail establishments where product sampling is provided as a means of generating sales. This process involves review of plans and ventilation equipment to ensure the sampling or "tasting" area's air supply, which contains the smoke from the sampling, does not commingle with the rest of the retail space or that of its neighbors. In 2017, one tobacco retail establishment plan was reviewed and approved, with one inspection to determine compliance.

Additionally, the Monmouth County Board of Health enacted a new ordinance to regulate the sampling areas of Tobacco Retail Establishments, including those selling e-cigarettes. The purpose behind enacting the ordinance is to prevent tobacco retailers from turning their sampling areas into indoor smoking lounges. Sampling areas are more clearly defined and are required to be separate from areas where individuals conduct regular retail business. Many tobacco retail business operators are unaware that general smoking indoors is still prohibited by the Smoke Free Air Act.



Body Art Facility Inspections

Businesses which perform tattooing, permanent cosmetic procedures, and body piercing are regulated by Chapter 8 of the Sanitary Code to ensure that adequate sterilization, sanitation and safety standards are maintained. Artists and operators performing these procedures must document adequate credentials and apprenticeship. Our yearly inspections are conducted at 15 body art facilities and staff reviewed three new facility plans. Four facility reinspections were conducted and credential reviews were conducted for five new artists.

Our department also has the responsibility for approving and inspecting the Three-Day Visionary Tattoo Festival held in Asbury Park each year. This event draws 187 artists from across the country, each requiring credential and training review prior to participating. 80 individual booth inspections were conducted over the course of the event, with more than 10,000 visitors attending. This event involves the participation of six staff members to maintain Health Department presence over all three days. Inspectors from the State Department of Health were on hand to assist with the booth inspections. MCHD staff received accolades from the DOH Supervisor in attendance for the overall organization of the event and our thoroughness and attention to detail.

Tanning Facilities

In 2017, our Registered Environmental Health Specialist staff routinely inspected tanning facilities for compliance with State Sanitary Code regulations. Twelve facility inspections were conducted and two re-inspections were performed. No complaints were received during the year; however one Notice of Violation was issued.

Retail Food Facility Inspections

Retail food establishments must operate in accordance with Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Sanitary Code, and are inspected at least once during each year. In 2017, the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) adopted new, more stringent regulations based on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food code which places increased emphasis on critical areas of food-borne disease control such as hand-washing and maintaining foods at proper temperature.

Inspectors investigated 144 complaints involving sanitation, food handling, and food-borne illness. The REHS staff also responded to 25 separate emergency events at retail food facilities. Emergency events can include fires, loss of power or water, and vehicles that crash into convenience stores. Another significant activity of the REHS staff is the consultation and education provided to operators on requirements and best practices. Staff members logged 245 retail food conferences throughout 2017.

The Health Department's dedicated and professional Registered Environmental Health Specialist staff completed 2,597 routine retail food inspections during 2017. This includes 42 mobile establishments and 137 temporary events.

The REHS staff diligently inspected more than 137 temporary special events involving food handling with more than 870 vendors. Notable events include Belmar Seafood Festival, Asbury Park Oyster Festival, Bradley Beach Lobster Fest, Ocean Grove's Flea Market, and a multitude of events held at Monmouth Park Racetrack.

In 2017, our department was presented with a unique Retail Food Facility plan review for the Catsbury Café. The facility proposed to operate a tea and coffee bar while allowing patron interaction with resident cats. Chapter 24 of the State Sanitary Code, which governs Retail Food Facility Operations, prohibits animals within retail food facilities, so the initial concept of free roaming cats was immediately denied. Our inspector contacted the State Health Department for guidance, as well as another state which had a similar facility in operation. After research and consultation with the municipality's zoning officer, a new plan was eventually submitted which would allow for two adjacent, but physically separate, operations to be approved simultaneously. One is the retail food facility where beverages and snack items are sold. The adjacent space is occupied by a pet shop where cats obtained through a sale agreement with the SPCA, can be observed through glass walls and purchased by patrons in the café. Patrons can also enter a play area contained with the pet shop portion of the facility. Both sections have separate ventilation systems and independent entrances insuring there is no co-mingling of the retail food establishment and pet shop operations.

Public Health Nuisance Complaints

The Health Department receives a wide variety of citizen complaints from all areas of public and environmental health. Complaints and emergencies are received 24/7 that range from poison ivy and mosquito breeding to sewage overflows and bedbugs. Fourteen mold complaints involving landlords and tenants were investigated in 2017.

The most common complaints received involve housing code deficiencies, sewage overflows, insect and rodent infestations, garbage overflows, and animal waste issues. Bedbug complaints accounted for 21 investigations, with other types of pests such as roaches, lice, ticks, and bees combining for an additional 33 complaints. 36 sewage overflows from septic system malfunctions were investigated, resulting in eight Notices of Violation and 14 Municipal Summonses for non-compliance.

Various housing complaints comprise our largest number of nuisance investigations each year. Housing complaints include heating and hot water issues, water leaks which can lead to mold, inadequate garbage pick-up, and indoor odor problems. In 2017, 142 housing complaints were investigated with 237 re-inspections performed.

Clinical and Preventive Health Services

Childhood Immunization Audits

Inspectors and public health nurses routinely verify compliance with childhood immunization requirements by auditing student records at daycare and school facilities. Individual records are reviewed for timely completion of required vaccines and identification of those who do not have vaccination protection due to exemption.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, unvaccinated children must be identified and excluded, to stem the spread of the disease. In 2017, 126 immunization audits of vaccination records were conducted in schools and childcare facilities. 62 facilities required a re- audit.

Immunization Services

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They help protect individuals and entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Infants are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases, which is why it is critical to protect them through immunization.

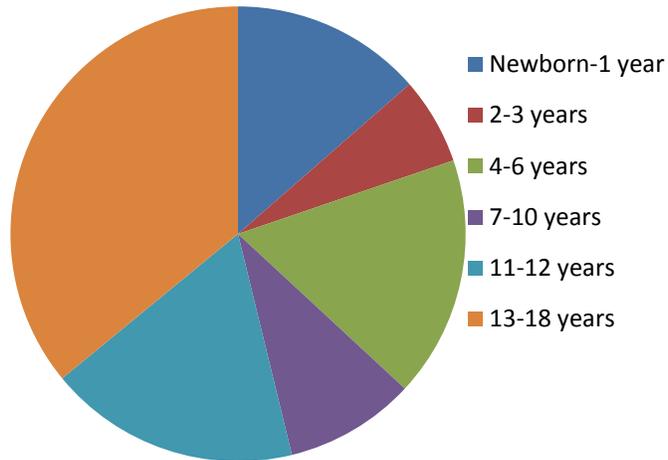
Each day nearly 12,000 babies are born in the United States who will need to be immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two.

Childhood immunizations are provided free of charge for residents of the towns under the Monmouth County Board of Health system, for children from birth to 18 years of age who are under insured or uninsured. Clinics are offered at the Monmouth County Board of Social Services building on Kozlowski Road in Freehold, and in collaboration with the Neptune Township school system.

With parental permission, the children are entered into a statewide immunization registry, which encourages timely and age appropriate immunizations. In addition, parents have the opportunity to apply for assistance, including Medicaid and Affordable Care Act insurance. In 2017, the clinic immunized 420 children, administering 1,160 total immunizations.

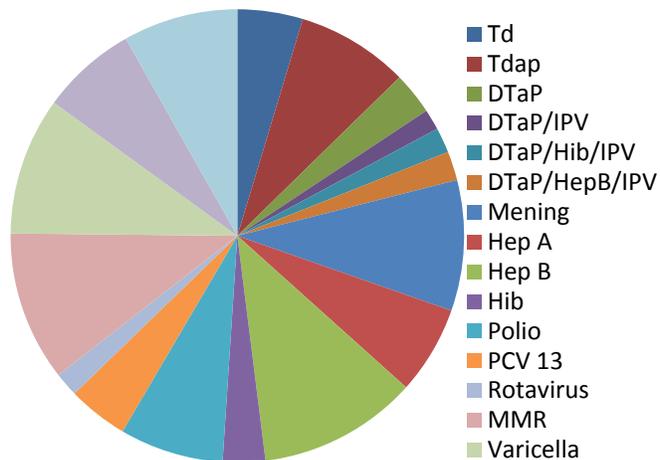
Total Immunized

Infant and Preschool	155
School Age Children	265



Vaccines Administered

Td	54	HIB	35
Tdap	93	Polio	35
DTap	35	PCV 13	86
DTap/IPV	17	Rotavirus	50
DTap/Hib/IPV	21	MMR	20
DTap/HepB/IPV	24	Varicella	124
Mening	108	HPV - 9	114
Hep A	73	Influenza	79
Hep B	132		



Adolescent and Adult Immunizations

Adolescent and adult immunizations are offered monthly. The immunizations include influenza, pneumonia, tetanus, measles, mumps rubella, meningitis, Hepatitis A, Gardasil, Zoster and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap).

The Hepatitis B program is also offered to Monmouth County Board of Health towns for employees required to have the vaccine as part of their blood borne pathogen program. In 2017, we provided Hepatitis B vaccines to municipal partners as part of their blood borne pathogen compliance.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) were provided to 103 adults. The Tdap vaccine is recommended for new parents, grandparents, and caregivers to help protect newborns from pertussis which can have serious effects on the infant.

Seasonal Influenza Clinics

In 2017, the department's team of Public Health Nurses provided over 1,000 seasonal influenza vaccinations at senior centers and various sites in MCHD member municipalities.

As we saw increasing flu activity within the county, MCHD provided educational materials to our towns' schools. We also provided clinical information and updates from the Centers for Disease Control to physicians, long term care facilities, hospitals, and other health care providers. Additional clinics were provided focusing on providing flu vaccine to young children.



Healthy By Two Grant

The Monmouth County Health Department was awarded a grant to encourage timely immunizations. The goal of the Healthy By Two grant is to have children receive timely immunizations before their second birthday. More than two hundred years have passed since the first successful smallpox vaccine was developed. Today's vaccines are among the 21st century's most successful and cost-effective public health tools for preventing disease and death. Through immunizations, debilitating and often fatal diseases like polio that were once common are only memories for most Americans. For infants, timely immunizations are one of the most important ways to protect them and others from serious diseases and infections.

In 2017, immunization records were reviewed for over 500 children. Children needing immunizations identified through the program are offered immunization services through the Monmouth County Health Department.

In addition the program worked with the New Jersey Department of Health to provide two educational programs for daycare, preschool, and school providers to educate them on the immunizations required for the age groups attending their facilities.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

In 1998, the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) was approached by the Chief of Infectious Disease at Jersey Shore University Medical Center (JSUMC) now part of the Hackensack-Meridian Hospital System regarding the high volume of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) being treated in the hospital's emergency department.

Collaboration was formed between JSUMC and the MCHD to establish an STD clinic on a satellite campus of JSUMC to provide appropriate treatment, follow-up, and risk reduction education for Monmouth County residents.

The clinic is held at Jersey Shore University Medical Center Clinic site in Neptune on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Clinic services are county wide, but are free of charge for residents who live in towns covered by the Monmouth County Health Department.

Clinic services include physical examination, diagnostic services by a physician or physician's assistant, and treatment as needed. Our Field Representative Disease Control staff provides comprehensive follow-up, including STD education, risk factor counseling, and partner notification.

Monmouth County was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health for the Disease Control Field Representative and also provides medications at no charge at the STD clinic.

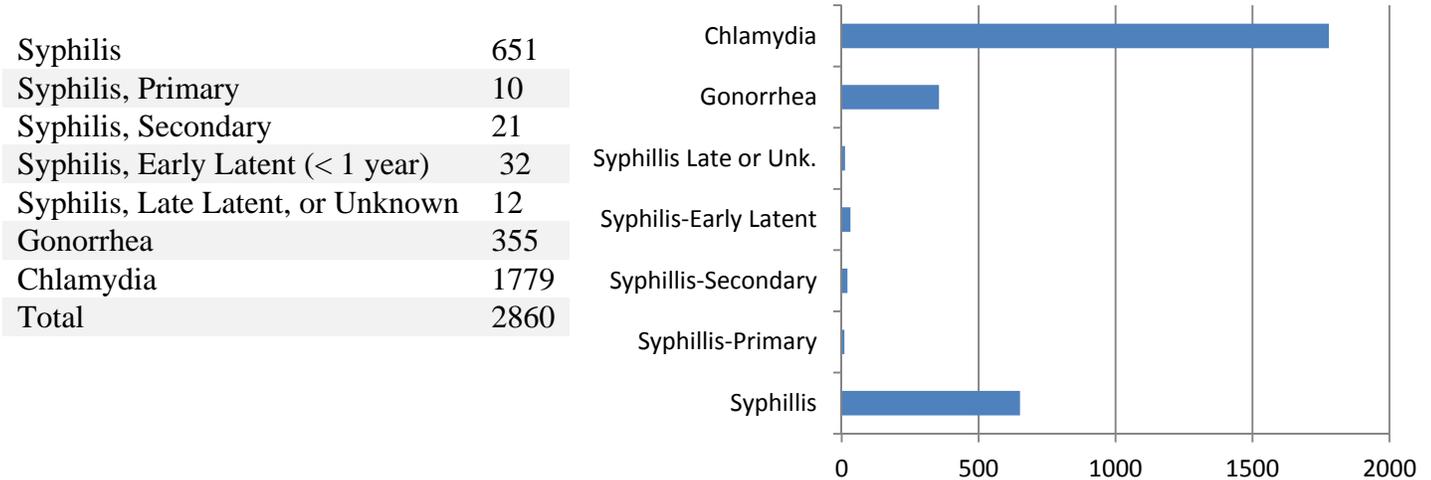
In 2017, 1,108 visits were made to the clinic and 1,019 clients were seen for concerns regarding sexually transmitted diseases. This reflects a 20% increase in clients in 2017. The following graphic show newly diagnosed positive STDs identified at the STD clinic.

Syphilis, Primary	4
Syphilis, Secondary	4
Syphilis, Early Latent (< 1 year)	2
Syphilis, Late Latent, or Unknown	9
Gonorrhea	21
Chlamydia	55
Genital Warts	7
Genital Herpes	1
Fungal Dermatitis	1
Other	1
Results	378

Per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) many cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis continue to go undiagnosed and unreported, and data on several additional STDs – such as human papilloma virus and herpes simplex virus, are not routinely reported to the health department or CDC. As a result, surveillance data captures only a fraction of our STD burden.

Antibiotics can cure chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. However when left untreated, they put men, women, and infants at risk for severe, lifelong health outcomes like HIV, chronic pain and severe reproductive health complications. They may also transmit infections to others-further compounding the STD burden.

In 2017, 2860 STDs were diagnosed in Monmouth County. The MCHD Field Representative Disease Control staff worked with health care providers and/or patients to ensure treatment as well as notify and treat partners.



STDs were identified as a concern in the Monmouth County Community Health Improvement Plan and over 40 agencies are working together to reduce the number of STDs in Monmouth County.

Tuberculosis Program

Tuberculosis (TB) is spread through the air from one person to another when someone who is ill with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, laughs, sings, or sneezes. The people near the ill person breathe the TB germs into their lungs.

People with TB disease must take several medications for a least six months, even if they begin to feel well after only a few weeks of treatment due to bacteria yet to be killed. However tuberculosis can almost always be cured with medicine.

The Monmouth County Health Department TB Program provides complete case management which includes Mantoux testing, X-ray referrals, physicals, medication management, and monitoring of cases and contacts as well as tuberculosis testing services for high risk individuals. The TB program offers education and training in proper testing procedures. TB program services are county wide, but free of charge for residents who live in towns covered by the Monmouth County Health Department.

Tuberculosis case management is also provided for individuals with latent TB, which is when a person has TB bacteria in their body but there are no symptoms. You cannot transfer latent TB on to others, but there is a risk that you will become ill with active TB later on, especially if the immune system is weakened.

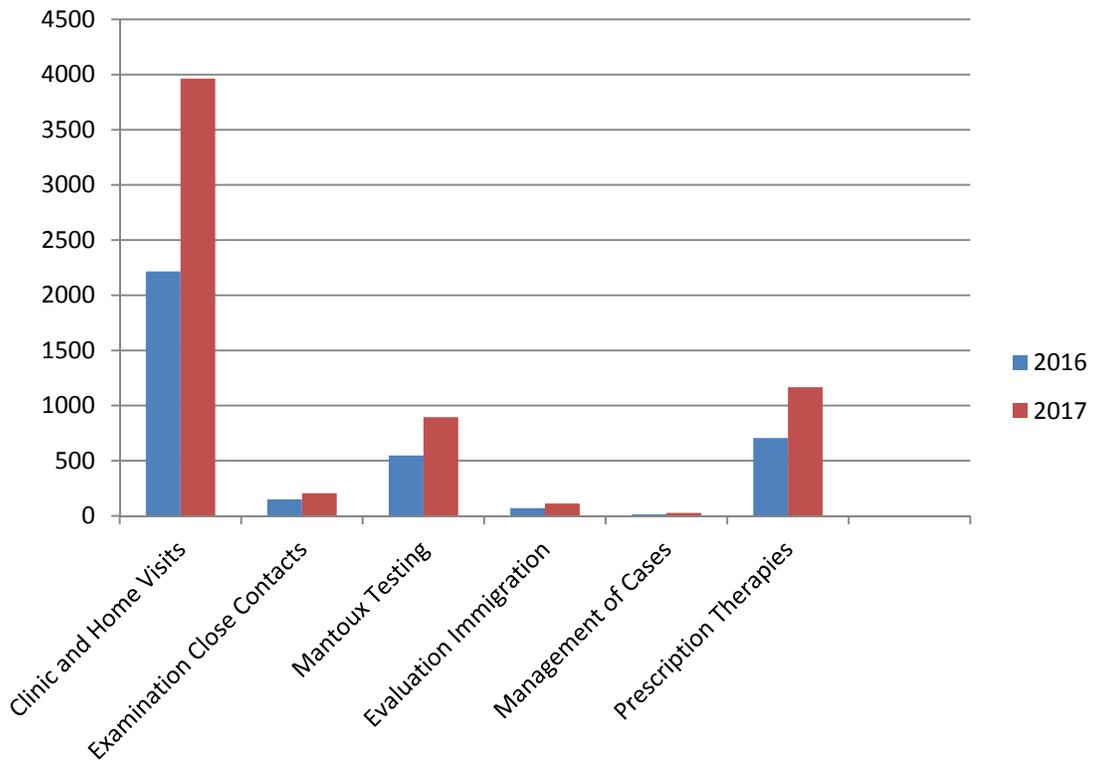
In 2017, the Tuberculosis Program provided care in 3,963 clinic and home visits. 206 close contacts of TB cases were identified, examined and/or treated. Tuberculosis evaluations were provided for 113 immigration status report referrals and there were 2 newly identified tuberculosis cases managed. Additionally, the TB clinic staff provided Mantoux testing for 896 individuals, and managed prescription therapies for 1,166 patients.

In 2017, we saw an almost doubling of cases, contacts, Mantoux testing, and prescription management. This represents a significant increase in the incidence of TB cases which had previously remained relatively constant since 1992. There is not a clear reason to account for the increased incidence identified at this time.



2016-2017 TB Activities

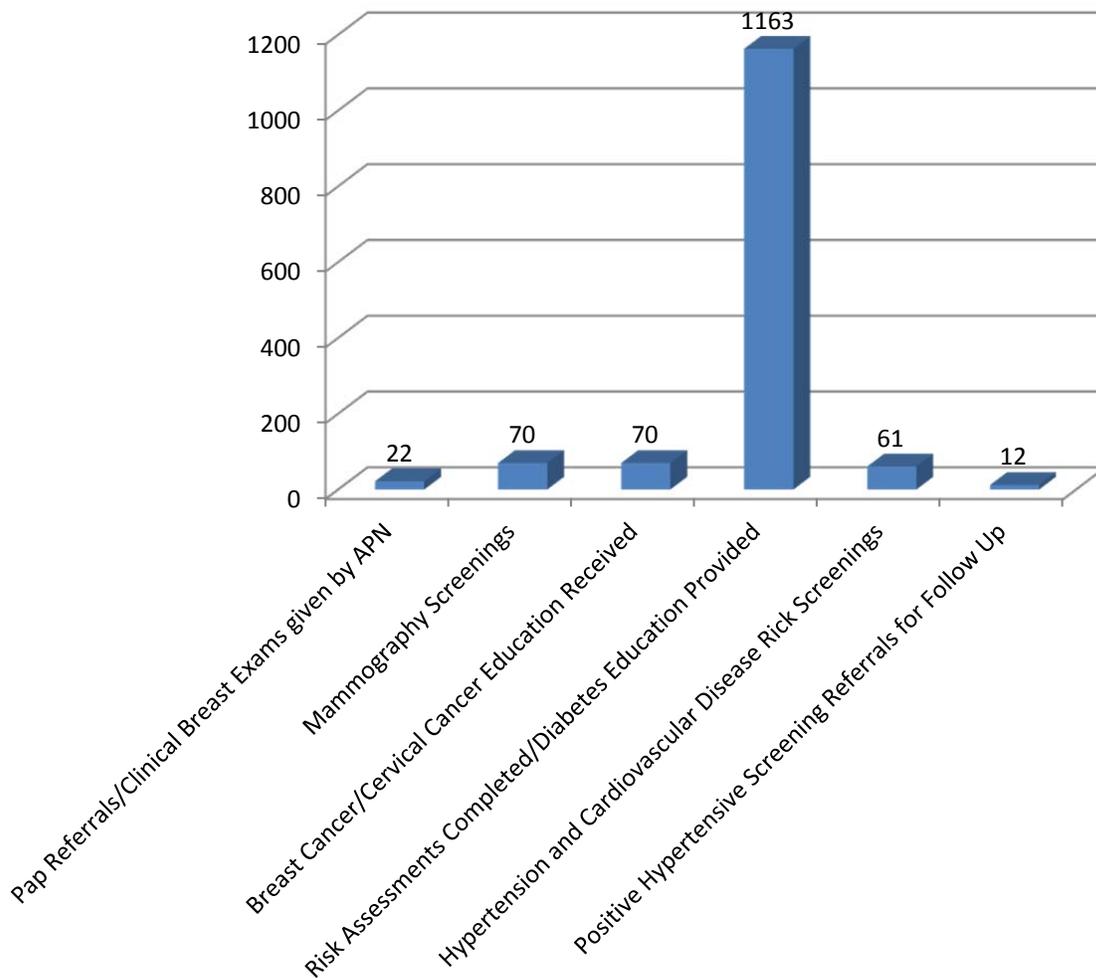
	2016	2017
Clinic and Home Visits	2216	3963
Examination Close Contacts	150	206
Mantoux Testing	548	896
Evaluation Immigration	71	113
Management of Cases	15	27
Prescription Therapies	707	1166
Totals	3707	6371



Women’s Health Program

Cervical cancer once was the leading cause of cancer death for women in the United States. However during the past 4 decades, incidence and mortality from cervical cancer have declined significantly; primarily because of the widespread use of the Papanicolaou (PAP) test to detect cervical abnormalities. In addition to preventing cervical cancer, screenings can detect cancer early when treatment is most successful.

Monmouth County Health Department cancer detection services include referrals for free pap screenings, breast exams, and education about colorectal cancer screening. Services are county wide, but are free of charge for residents who live in towns covered by the Monmouth County Health Department. Free mammography clinics are held eight times a year for uninsured women. A total of 70 mammographies were done in 2017.



Eye Health Services

Beginning in October of 2011, MCHD started a partnership with the New Jersey Commission For the Blind and Visually Impaired to provide eye screening for residents the second Monday of every month. Services include testing for visual acuity, glaucoma, cataracts and other eye diseases and conditions. In 2013, an additional partnership was formed with Hackensack-Meridian Health system to provide free screening for diabetes, body mass index, osteoporosis, cholesterol, cardiovascular risk evaluation, and hypertension screening during the eye clinic. Additionally in 2014, a collaboration with the Monmouth Ocean Food Bank who began to provide information and direction as Navigators for the Affordable Care Act at the clinic. Vouchers are given for purchasing eye glasses and referrals are made for free surgery for those who qualify.

The Commission provides an Ophthalmologist for the screenings and the MCHD staff provides the clinic facility, advertisements, administration, and issues the vouchers for glasses.

Eye Clinic Statistics

- 12 eye screening clinics
- 351 people screened
- 27 of people referred for further evaluation/treatment due to major issues/conditions found
- 12 individuals were referred for glaucoma follow up
- 15 were referred for eye surgeries which included retinal bleeding, cataract, and a growth on the eye
- 11 were referred for diabetic retinopathy

Health Fairs

The Monmouth County Health Department participated in more than 25 health fairs and town days. The Monmouth County Health Department brought informational materials and provided screenings for oral cancer, hypertension, lead poisoning, and immunizations. They also provided testing of consumer products for lead, cadmium, and mercury.



Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (Patient Focus)

The Monmouth County Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides medical and case management to children with elevated lead levels and free blood lead testing for children without health insurance. Blood lead testing services are county wide, but are free of charge for residents who live in towns covered by the Monmouth County Board of Health System. Children with lead levels above 5 ug/dl are placed into complete case management that oversees the medical components of the child's care as well as ensuring that sources of lead exposure are removed from the environment. Our public health nurses and licensed lead inspector/risk assessors work as a team to address the medical and environmental aspects of each case of elevated blood lead levels.

Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. The key to keeping our children healthy is to stop them from coming into contact with lead, treat children who have been poisoned, and educate parents and child caregivers about the dangers of lead. The effects of low levels of lead on young children can have permanent damage affecting their behavior and learning. Intervention at lower levels to reduce their lead level is essential to their optimal health.

On September 16, 2017, the new lead law, N.J.A.C. 8:51, lowered the lead level for intervention from 10 ug/dl to 5 ug/dl. This has tripled the case load of the department, increasing the number of public health nurse home visits and lead inspector/risk assessor environmental investigations.

In 2017, the Monmouth County Health Department continued to provide consultative services, training, consumer goods testing, and assisted in lead cases in other jurisdictions.

The Monmouth County Health Department offers free lead screening to children from six months to six years old who do not have medical insurance. Between 2014 and 2015 and six months of 2016 the Monmouth County Health Department participated in the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) lead screening grant from the NJDOH to screen all residents (adults and children) who were affected by "Super Storm" Sandy. In 2017, 27 children were screened in the program with two testing positive for lead.

For children with blood lead levels of 5ug/dl or above, our licensed lead inspector/risk assessors checked the home where the child lives, any previous addresses of the family within six months, and any secondary addresses in which the child spent 10 hours or more during the week. This may include caregivers, relative's homes, or daycares.

Community Development Partnership

The lead inspector/risk assessors also conduct screening inspections for the Monmouth County Housing Project. The housing project headed by Monmouth County Community Development provides grant money to homeowners for repair on their home. As part of the program, homes built before 1978 undergo a lead screening inspection. If any lead is found, the housing project hires a contractor to conduct a complete lead inspection including abatement of lead surfaces. In 2017, six houses were inspected for the Community Development program.

Consumer Product Testing

In 2017, the Monmouth County Health Department licensed an XRF unit designed to test consumer products for lead, cadmium, and mercury content. Testing was done at health fairs, in homes of children with elevated blood lead levels, and for other health departments. A variety of testing was done throughout New Jersey to assist other health departments in determining a source of lead for children with elevated blood lead levels.

Healthy Traveler Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) makes recommendations for vaccination of individuals traveling internationally based on the destination of travel and diseases endemic to that area. Since 1998, the Monmouth County Health Department has provided an International Traveler Program in accordance with CDC guidelines with tailored education as well as vaccinations for the traveler. Since the program's inception, over 1,000 travelers have been provided with preventive education and vaccination prior to travel.

In 2017, the manufacturer of the yellow fever vaccine was unable to produce the vaccine causing a national shortage. An emergency use vaccine is currently being imported from France and only 250 sites in the United States have this vaccine available. MCHD works to connect residents with a current source for yellow fever vaccine.

In 2017, over 500 individuals contacted the Monmouth County Health Department for travel-related purposes. In the same year, the travel clinic served 76 patients at 11 scheduled clinics and provided vaccines and counseling for their travel destinations.

Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance

Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) reports and investigates diseases and conditions of public health concern to protect the health of Monmouth county residents.

Disease reporting is accomplished in accordance with the NJ Administrative Code N.J.A.C. Chapter 57 Communicable Diseases. The Chapter includes 8 subchapters including Rabies and Animal Control Rules and Regulations. Public health reporting is mandated by law and is exempt from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA specifically provides for public health reporting without a patient's authorization or consent.

The infectious disease epidemiologist and the field disease representatives investigate reportable diseases as per the NJDOH and Center for Disease Control (CDC) and guidance. The list of reportable diseases per the NJ administrative code can be found on the [NJ State Department of Health's website](#).

The Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) is utilized for all confidential patient related communications between local health departments and the NJDOH. The new version of CDRSS, (CDRSS 2.0) will be introduced at the end of July 2018 and the health department staff is training and preparing for the change.

Additionally, the health department keeps abreast of emerging infectious diseases across the globe through updates received from but not limited to Epi-X, Flu.gov, ProMed, NJLINCS, CDC – COCA and Travax.

The epidemiologist reviews health related data using surveillance tools like Hippocrates, Epicenter and Biosense. Hospitals, schools and long term care facilities report health related data to NJDOH, which is utilized to detect anomalies suggestive of rare diseases and disease outbreaks.

Communicable Disease Surveillance

Disease	Count
Babesiosis	55
Campylobacteriosis	57
Dengue Fever	6
Ehrlichiosis	41
Giardiasis	13
Gonorrhea	31
Haemophilus Influenzae	13
Hepatitis A	10
Hepatitis B	72
Hepatitis B – Chronic	42
Hepatitis B – Perinatal	7
Hepatitis C	149
Hepatitis C – Chronic	216
Hepatitis C – Perinatal	5
Influenza	46
Legionellosis	9
Lyme Disease	813
Pertussis	24
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	49
Rubella	7
Salmonellosis – Non Typhoid	58
E. coli	7
Shigellosis	5
Strep. pneumoniae	34
Strep. pyogenes	18
Varicella	14
Zika Virus	43
Total	1844

In 2017, a total of 1,844 cases were reported to the Monmouth County Health Department and investigated.

Please note disease numbers less than five were not included to avoid identification/HIPPA. These cases were investigated but not all cases are confirmed diseases.

14 outbreaks were investigated and prevention and control measures were initiated to avoid further spread of disease. These outbreaks included respiratory, gastrointestinal, skin rash, Legionella, and Hepatitis C.

Most of the respiratory outbreaks were flu related. Tick-borne diseases topped the list in reportable diseases in 2017 followed by Hepatitis C. Some vaccine preventable diseases like Pertussis were also noted.

The Monmouth County Health Department urges residents to be up to date on all childhood immunizations and seasonal vaccinations to avoid complications and protect the community.

Monmouth County Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program coordinates the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, as well as citizens interested in health issues. Volunteers are eager to support and address their community's ongoing public health needs and to help their community during large-scale emergency situations.

The Monmouth County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps is a 386 person team consisting of 241 medical professionals and 145 community volunteers. MRC volunteers have diverse skills and are trained and prepared to assist the health department with public health priorities and emergency response. The MRC's overall goal is to improve community resiliency and public health in Monmouth County.

All members are asked to complete seven core training courses:

- Orientation To Public Health
- Incident Command System 100
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) 700
- Psychological First Aid
- Personal Emergency Preparedness
- MRC Orientation
- Shelter Fundamentals

Other trainings may include:

- Teambuilding
- Outbreak Investigation
- START Triage
- Radiological Preparedness Training
- Phone Bank Training

Regular activities include providing volunteers to assist with annual flu clinics, health screenings, emergency preparedness trainings, health fairs, recruiting at nursing schools, and distributing public health information.

With the emergence of Zika in 2016, additional trainings were offered to our volunteers. Volunteers assisted with community outreach classes, manned a phone bank, and assisted at health fairs and community days. They were an integral part of our “Fight the Bite” campaign, which continued in 2017.

Volunteers also participated in a Point of Distribution Exercise to provide medications to a large number of individuals in a timely fashion, and assisted the NJDOH by assembling Zika Prevention Kits. September saw members assisting at the Belmar Beach Bash, an event for young people with Autism. Volunteers helped in the First Aid Station and the Art Activity station. Other September activities included the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management Prepare-a-thon event in Neptune. In 2017, the MCHD hosted Disaster Management training for MRC units throughout New Jersey.



Health Education

The purpose of the Health Education program is to provide current information from reliable sources in order to assist County residents in making informed decisions to maintain their best health.

Health education is promoted in all of the Health Department programs. It may vary from a registered environmental health specialist providing important information on food safety issues during a retail food inspection to public health nurses providing lead education materials to the parent of a child with an elevated blood lead level. Each division provides one-on-one education during routine inspections.

The Health Education Division works with the County Office of Communications to inform residents of ongoing topics and events via newspaper articles, information posted on the Health Department website, social media posts, and the bimonthly electronic newsletter. Our staff is a multi-disciplinary group with expertise in areas ranging from hazardous materials response, environmental and consumer health, epidemiology, public health nursing, and a variety of other public health topics that affect Monmouth County residents.



Staff members take health education activities directly to the public in a variety of ways. We conduct presentations at the local level. Our speaker's bureau works with organizations, community groups and municipal officials to arrange presentations. During 2017, staff members also presented at several professional conferences including the New Jersey Environmental Health Association, New Jersey Department of Health Childhood Lead Conference, and the 2017 Minority Health Month Conference, Bridging Health Equities Across Communities.

MCHD has sponsored the Howell Health Fair, participated in the Community Health Fair in Long Branch, and the SCAN fair at Monmouth Mall. Health Officer Christopher P. Merkel has met with the superintendents of schools to discuss issues such as childhood lead poisoning prevention and tuberculosis control. Our staff has attended numerous community events across the county, providing a variety of educational materials. Our public health nurses (PHN) have conducted trainings on Zika and its impact on pregnant women as part of a grant. This outreach was conducted in five counties:

Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex, Union, and Morris.



Our staff participated in the Health Improvement Coalition of Monmouth County (HICMC) and contributed to the latest Community Health Improvement

Plan (CHIP) which will be released in 2018. Members attended meetings and worked collaboratively with community partners and stakeholders to articulate a shared vision for the residents of Monmouth County. The vision, “a model community committed to empowering all residents to achieve optimum health,” has been the guiding force of the coalition. Work on the new CHIP will continue to ensure that its goals are implemented.

During 2017, MCHD took the first steps in the accreditation process. An accreditation steering committee was formed and the accreditation process was introduced to the staff. Our goal is to continue the preliminary steps and submit our application at the end of 2018.

As part of the Health Department Workforce Development Plan, MCHD staff was offered courses in communicable diseases, shelter in place techniques, CPR, shelter fundamentals, and Emergency Support Function 8.

Emergency Preparedness

The department has been the lead agency for preparedness, known as the Local Information Network and Communications System (LINCS) agency for Monmouth County since 2002.

The LINC's system is a part of the federal Health Alert Network (HAN) that connects the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to local health departments electronically to ensure the rapid dissemination of critical information in the event of a bioterrorism incident or public health threat, as well as promote mutual cooperation and general welfare of the public health system.

NJDOH has established 22 LINCS agency sites throughout New Jersey to distribute information to their partners. MCHD has collaborated with and established working connections with municipal governments, local health departments, hospitals, doctors, laboratories, emergency management, emergency medical services, schools, churches, and community organizations.



The department has the responsibility of bringing together the local health authorities, institutions, corporations, and other interested parties to coordinate local public health response in the event of a public health emergency in Monmouth County. In the event of a public health emergency, the LINCS site will activate its 24/7 capability and coordinate public health activities to minimize the impact on

the public. In the event of an incident, information will be posted to the MCHD website.

The HAN also provides state and local agencies with responsibility for:

- Preparedness planning and assessment
- Disease surveillance and investigation
- Electronic laboratory test reporting
- Emergency communications
- Workforce development

MCHD is part of the Central East Health Care Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of health care providers, emergency medical services, and representatives from local health departments located in Monmouth, Ocean, Union, and Middlesex counties. The coalition meets quarterly for preparedness strategic planning. In 2017, the department participated in the meetings as well as an Ebola table top exercise to better plan for future emerging pathogens that may arise.

MCHD is also part of the Central East Public Health Emergency Preparedness Work Group which comprises LINC's agencies from Monmouth, Ocean, Union and Middlesex counties. The coalition meets

quarterly for regional preparedness activities. In 2017, the work group developed plans for the sharing of resources for receipt of the Strategic National Stockpile, the set up and operation of a medical needs shelter, closed points of distribution training and development of communication plans.

In 2017, MCHD continued our series of Closed Point of Distribution (POD) presentations. A Closed POD is a non-medical dispensing site that provides medication, to a targeted population, such as a healthcare provider or business. The objective of a Closed POD to maintain the infrastructure of healthcare and business should there be an emergency requiring the distribution of medication or vaccinations. In 2017 the closed POD presentations were given to several varieties of businesses on a quarterly basis.

The following businesses attended the presentations held by the MCHD:

- The New Jersey Food Safety Council
- New Jersey American Water Company
- New Jersey Natural Gas
- Jersey Shore Adult Day Care.

In 2017, the MCHD had a Strategic National Stockpile and first responder POD table top and a fully functional exercise. The exercise included receipt of medications from the New Jersey Department of Health and dissemination to local offices of emergency management for distribution to their first responders. Hackensack Meridian Health, Riverview Medical Center, and Hackensack Meridian Health Bayshore Medical Center participated in the exercise by picking up their designated medications for the staff and their family members from the local delivery site.

In 2017, the MCHD preparedness staff assisted the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in an active shooter drill which included various police agencies and emergency medical services. The MCHD participated in the federal and state sponsored exercise “Gotham Shield,” where MCHD staff were involved in the communication assessment and participated in activities at the radiological reception center and medical reception center.

The department staff also attended an informative webinar which explained the health department roles and responsibilities as it pertains to Essential Support Function #8 (ESF) in a public health disaster. The MCHD assisted the Office of Emergency Management sponsored STORM PLUS (Seniors Taking on Readiness Measures) program, teaching the residents of Monmouth County how to be prepared and equipped during an emergency situation.

The Monmouth County Medical Reserve Corp and the Manalapan Medical Reserve Corp presented and hosted a demonstration and educational session on the capabilities of the DMAT team. The DMAT team is a disaster medical assistance team which is comprised of a group of professional and paraprofessional medical personnel organized to provide rapid-response medical care or decontamination and casualty response during a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other incident in the United States.

Drug Overdose Fatality Review Team

Fatal drug overdose is a significant public health problem. In 2016, 164 fatal drug overdoses occurred in Monmouth County. Opioids, including heroin and pharmaceutical opioids, are involved in a majority of overdose deaths. To support the development of effective strategies for preventing and responding to overdoses, it is necessary and appropriate to review and analyze all available information related to overdose deaths in a jurisdiction. The creation of a multidisciplinary, multi-agency overdose fatality review team will enable public health authorities to receive information and expert consultation from a wide array of stakeholders while preserving the confidentiality of protected information, including personal health information.

At the end of 2016, an overdose fatality review team was established in Monmouth County, chaired by the Monmouth County Health Department's public health coordinator, and coordinated with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's office.

The purposes of forming the Monmouth County DOFRT are to:

- Promote cooperation and coordination among agencies involved in investigations of drug overdose deaths
- Develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of drug overdose deaths in the county
- Develop plans for and recommend changes within the agencies represented on the local team to prevent drug overdose deaths
- Advise the New Jersey Department of Health and other appropriate agencies on changes to law, policy, or practice, including the use of devices that are programmed to dispense medications on a schedule or similar technology, to prevent drug overdose deaths.

In 2017, the Monmouth County Information Services Department developed a data base to capture critical information in order to identify trends and opportunities for interventions from the reviews done by the team.

The team is a multi-disciplinary group including the following:

- County health officer
- Director of local department of social services
- The superintendent of schools
- A state, county, or municipal law enforcement officer
- The director of behavioral health services in the county
- An emergency medical services provider
- A representative of a hospital
- A health care professional who specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of substance use disorders
- A representative of a local jail or detention center

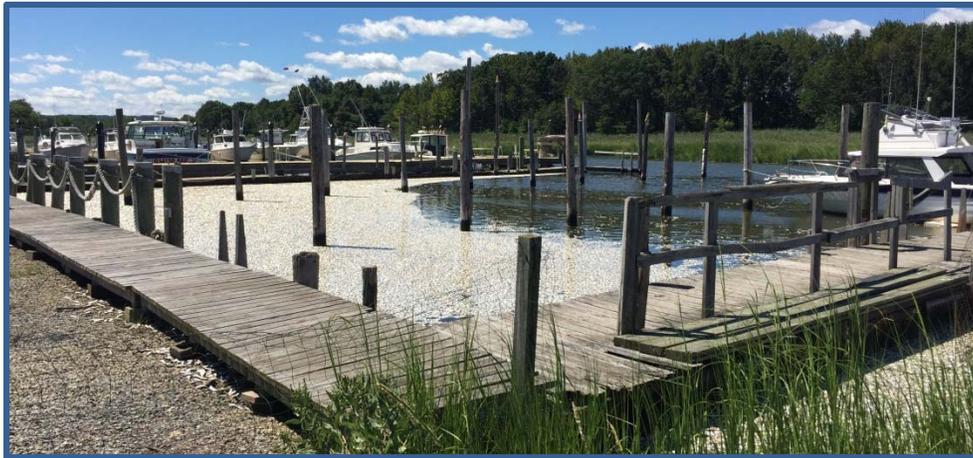
As the review of individuals have occurred additional agencies are being included and encouraged to participate in this team.

Environmental Health Program

In 1978, the New Jersey Legislature passed the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA), which directed the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to begin partially funding environmental health programs in county and regional health departments. The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) is the only local health authority of the six remaining health departments in Monmouth County whose programs is certified by NJDEP to perform investigation, enforcement, and regulation of air and noise pollution, solid waste disposal, recycling, hazmat emergency and terrorism response, hazardous waste storage and disposal, and surface and ground water pollution. In addition to directly providing these services, the MCHD coordinates these services through uniform shared services agreements with one regional health department and three municipal hazmat teams.

The MCHD Environmental Health Program commits its efforts to where the most good can be achieved. Trained staff is needed from other County departments in order for the MCHD to adequately provide public health services as they emerge during future disasters.

Previous environmental health reports and expanded reports of the information that follows can be accessed from the Health Department page of the [Monmouth County website](#).



Water Pollution Control Program

The Health Department’s Water Pollution Control Program acts as an agent of the NJDEP through the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA). Responsibilities of the Water Pollution Control Program include responding to citizen and NJDEP complaints related to water pollution, such events as fish kills, algae blooms, and illegal or dangerous discharges into water bodies. Other directives for the program are set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act, Private Well Testing Act, Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program, and ambient stream water quality monitoring. The County’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) supports environmental investigations and other public health activities.

Public Non-Community Wells

42 transient systems and 29 non-transient inspections were conducted. Inspection reports generated through the New Jersey Environmental Management System (NJEMS) are sent directly to the well system owners.

Private Well Testing Act (PWTA)

Private wells, periodically or if involved in realty transfers, are required to be analyzed for primary and secondary USEPA and NJDEP water quality parameters. PWTA results are received from NJDEP. In 2017, 13 letters were sent to residents within 200 feet of wells that exceeded primary parameter standards to advise those on shallow wells of possible risks to their drinking water.

Cooperative Coastal Monitoring (CCMP)

In 2017, 47 bathing beach sites were monitored weekly during the recreational bathing season with a total of 1,002 samples taken and analyzed for bacteria. There were five bathing beach closures in 2017 due to bacteria. There were 187 re-samples obtained and analyzed after initial sampling results exceeded bacterial standards. 37 beach advisories were posted that required sanitary surveys to be performed. Sample results can be [found at NJDEP's website](#).

Fish Kills

Periodic fish kills of Menhaden occurred during the springtime in the Navesink River and the Raritan/Sandy Hook Bayshore area. These fish kills were believed to be caused by hypoxia. In-situ water quality parameters obtained by this department indicated that within large schools of juvenile Menhaden, dissolved oxygen levels plummeted during diurnal oscillations.

Phytoplankton

During 2017, field observations during coastal monitoring, fish kill investigations, and local complaints resulted in 27 phytoplankton samples being taken for analysis. On two occasions, Cyano-Bacteria (Blue Green Algae) cell counts exceeded safe levels. Health advisories were physically posted at this body of water and posted to the Health Department website. The increasing trend of harmful algae blooms (HABs) occurring in county water bodies is a concern. MCHD and NJDEP are planning a cooperative effort to identify and investigate these HABs in the future.

Ambient Surface Water Quality



The ambient surface water quality monitoring program objectives are to support NJDEP and local watershed initiatives, track water quality trends through time, establish background water quality, obtain water quality data which can be correlated with specific land uses, provide data to NJDEP in support of the Integrated List, and coordinate the collection of bacterial data with the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program. 10 sampling sites were identified and sampled throughout 2017. The results for this year's ambient monitoring program are available on the MCHD website.

Watershed Management Initiatives

Staff coordinated with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Department of Transportation, county, and local entities on several comprehensive storm water infrastructure investigations and source tracking bacteria impacted recreational waters.

Complaints

A total of 29 environmental surface and drinking water complaints were investigated in 2017.

Environmental Laboratory

The laboratory maintained and calibrated state certified field sampling instrumentation used in complaint investigations and ambient water quality sampling. Database management and sample tracking was performed for multiple projects and complaints. The laboratory analyzed 27 phytoplankton samples for identification and enumeration. MCHD is the only county health laboratory currently performing this function.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Over 90 new GIS mapping projects were generated for programs during 2017. Most environmental, public health, and domestic preparedness datasets were updated during the year. GIS projects during the year primarily focused on environmental investigations, public health, and domestic preparedness. It was also utilized to improve daily workflow efficiency within the department. GIS mapping was utilized for several inter-agency storm-water infrastructure investigations in Belmar and Long Branch.

The MCHD GIS Specialist held two workshops at the "Take the Lead on Lead" conference on September 14, 2017. The Conference was held by the New Jersey Lead and Healthy Homes Coalitions. The workshops were entitled "How to Use Mapping to Enhance Primary Prevention." The presentation and demonstrations provided the audience with an overview of GIS and its wide range of capabilities.

The primary example discussed was how MCHD used the technology to assist with outreach to families with children who have high blood lead levels. The project also analyzed the results of over 5,300 screenings held by the Department from September 2014 through June 2016 in an effort to identify hot spots within Monmouth County.

GIS mapping was utilized in the Monmouth County Emergency Operations Center for an inter-agency Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) exercise held on November 1, 2017. Maps were used to assist in the visualization during the security briefing, as well as serving as a guide to the process of receiving and delivering the SNS to first responders and their families in the event of a public health crisis.

Website

The MCHD website continued to be a strong public informational tool in 2017. Continuous content updates were conducted throughout the year and ranged from informational tools for the public to news on emerging public and environmental health topics. The MCHD website and the bi-monthly newsletter which the public can either view on the website or via email has been extremely successful in showing the public the many programs conducted by the health department.



Royal Flush Sewage Pump-Out Boat

MCHD and the NY/NJ Baykeeper Organization agreed to continue their cooperative effort with the Baykeeper providing captains to operate the Royal Flush during the season. MCHD continues to administer the program and maintain the boat in operational condition. The Royal Flush serviced 826 boats and pumped 28,260 gallons of sewage during the 2017 boating season.

Air & Noise Control Program

During 2017, the Monmouth County Health Department Air and Noise Control Program performed 292 site visits 150 of which were minor source inspections.

Air and Noise Site Visits

In total 292 site visits were made during 2017 compared to 249 in 2016.

Site Visits	2016	2017
Citizen Complaints	52	24
DEP Referrals	49	118
Minor Source	148	150
Total	249	292

Minor Source Inspections

This year 150 minor source inspections were conducted compared to 148 in 2016.

Minor Source	2016	2017
B Sources	113	116
Dry Cleaners	35	34
Total	148	150

Noise Control Program

18 noise complaints were investigated in 2017.

GIS/GPS Completed Projects

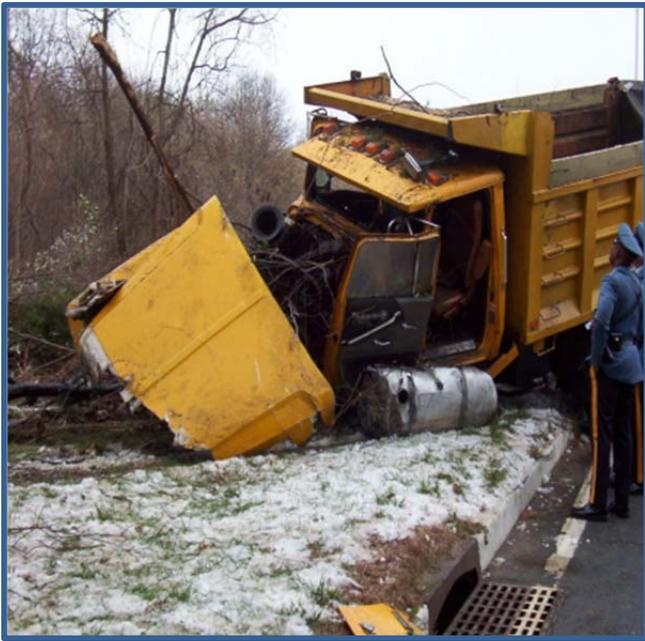
All maps for GIS are updated on an as needed basis. The dry cleaners map was updated regarding date inspected, permit renewal, and equipment on site.

Looking Ahead

In 2018, we will complete our fiscal year 2017-2018 DEP requirements for minor source inspections. We will also continue to serve the residents of Monmouth County, particularly as they are affected by issues under the jurisdiction of the Air and Noise Program.

Hazardous Materials Response and Pesticide Control

The Monmouth County Health Department's Hazardous Materials Response Unit continues to provide outstanding hazardous materials and environmental response services to the citizens of Monmouth County. It is the responsibility of the hazardous materials unit to develop and maintain standardized hazardous materials (Hazmat) and CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive) emergency response capability, capacity, and competence. We maintain a core of highly



trained and equipped personnel that will respond to hazmat and CBRNE emergencies and conduct investigations in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Special Operations Section.

The MCHD hazmat team is available to respond to any hazmat/CBRNE incident in Monmouth County on a 24/7 day period all year. Each hazmat team member is equipped with a specialized emergency response vehicle containing all the detection, personal protection, and response equipment needed to handle most routine incidents in the field. The hazmat unit also maintains two heavy duty emergency response trucks capable of supporting

extended operations for larger incidents. In addition, we maintain equipment capable of supporting command, logistics, decontamination, and mobile power needs at any incident.

We handle a wide range of incident responses each year from private citizens, business interests, industrial facilities, and government agencies. Incidents vary in nature from small residential spills of household chemicals and heating oil to large-scale industrial spills, chemical reactions, fires, illegal dumping, and over the road accidents involving cargo spills or releases of motor vehicle fluids. A total of 88 complaints were investigated during the 2017 calendar year.

The hazmat unit continues to be involved in domestic preparedness planning for the county. The environmental health coordinator maintains a seat on the county's Grant Working Group and Local Emergency Planning Commission, and regularly participates in other planning meetings with county Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the county Fire Marshall. Coordination with the county OEM and Fire Marshall has resulted in an integrated network of primary and secondary departments for mutual aid including hazmat/CBRN response and mass decontamination.

Our hazmat unit participated in a DEP pilot Pesticide Control Program (PCP) again in 2017. The Pesticide Control Program is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and regulations regarding the use, sale, transport, disposal, manufacture, and storage of pesticides in the state of New Jersey. It also promotes pollution prevention and pesticide use reduction through training and outreach activities involving Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Under the program, our staff performed compliance inspections of area landscapers, multiple family residences, unregistered products, and compliance assistance inspections of area schools.

The hazmat staff regularly provides support to other Health Department units and county agencies. We also participate in the Health Department's Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program during the summer months. All members of the hazmat/UST staff also maintain certification in NJDEP odor field enforcement procedures to assist our Air Pollution Control Unit with after-hours complaints. Our UST unit provides compliance assistance for regulated underground storage tank systems to several county agencies and facility owners. In addition, the hazmat/UST staff provides logistics support for the Health Department's Strategic National Stockpile Personal Protective Equipment distribution program.



Continuing education and training are essential parts of our mission to provide a comprehensive emergency preparedness system throughout Monmouth County. The Health Department's hazmat unit maintains some of the most highly trained hazmat/CBRNE response personnel in the State of New Jersey. In 2017, we continued to expand our emergency response capability and competence by taking advantage of numerous federal, state, and local training opportunities.

Solid Waste Control

The Monmouth County Health Department Solid Waste Enforcement Team (SWET) is authorized by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to enforce NJ solid waste regulations in Monmouth County. This enforcement authority was established by an interagency agreement entered in 1987, pursuant to the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA). Current personnel consist of a



program coordinator and six inspectors assigned to conduct field inspections.

Our scope of work for the 2017 calendar year included compliance monitoring and daily routine inspections at the Monmouth County Sanitary Landfill as well as the inspection of transfer stations, closed landfills, Class A recycling facilities, Class B recycling facilities – including general, limited, and exempt activities, compost facilities, and farmland leaf mulch sites. SWET has an established program to monitor solid waste

haulers for compliance with regulations governing registration and transporter requirements. Our field activities include recycling compliance inspections and waste audits at businesses and institutions throughout the County to ensure compliance with our Monmouth County Solid Waste Management Plan. SWET handles citizen complaints in addition to investigating complaints referred to us by the NJDEP. One SWET staff member is assigned full-time to oversee the operation of the private vendor that operates the Household Hazardous Materials Facility for the Monmouth County Reclamation Center. Additionally, three staff members are part of the Hazmat Emergency Response Team.

Monmouth County has 241 facilities that handle solid waste and/or recyclables, each requiring a minimum of two to four inspections per site, per year with more frequent inspections conducted on an as needed basis. The number of facilities varies each year as new facilities are added, some operate on temporary basis and others cease operating.

The facilities range in the size of their operation and include the following:

- municipal recycling convenience centers, exempt recycling, or composting sites handling brush, leaves, asphalt, concrete or tires
- NJDEP fully permitted recycling operations handling similar products but on a much larger scale
- four transfer stations
- one operating sanitary landfill
- 28 closed landfills

Facilities that are found non-compliant receive a Notice of Violation (NOV) and are given a grace period to correct any deficiencies. In more egregious cases the grace period may not be warranted and the facility may be subject to a penalty assessment or court action. In 2017, we issued five violations and the cited facilities expeditiously returned to compliance. SWET personnel conduct a number of joint inspections with NJDEP staff to ensure uniformity in enforcement protocols.



Landfill at Monmouth County Reclamation Center, Tinton Falls

Recycling Compliance Inspections

SWET conducted 1,640 recycling compliance inspections at businesses and institutions throughout the County. We inspect all types of businesses regardless of size including educational and entertainment facilities, all retail stores, restaurants, manufacturing and distribution, and professional offices. The inspections identified 230 violations of the New Jersey Administrative Code's recycling regulations. Our goal is to achieve compliance through informal meetings to educate the consumer about the recycling laws and the benefits of recycling on the community and the environment. In most cases the business owners or managers share this information with their staff and return to compliance. These recycling regulations adopted by the State are based on local municipal ordinances, thus allowing us to easily incorporate local recycling coordinators and code officials into the enforcement process. We typically refer all initial violations to the municipality where the violation occurred. Guidelines under the grace period law call for initial offenders to be afforded a period of 30 days to implement programs or strategies to bring the recycling program into compliance. In most cases this is achieved under the jurisdiction of local municipal enforcement. For towns that request MCHD follow-up on the NOV's, we re-inspect violators to ensure that the deficiencies have been corrected. Our focus this past year was concentrated on schools, hotels, and workout facilities. Additionally, we targeted outdoor recreational and entertainment facilities. We plan on continuing this more goal oriented approach in 2018.

In addition to the public and private facilities that were inspected in 2017, inspections were also completed at the four transfer stations located in county. The regulations state that recycling needs to be separated at the point of generation and cannot be commingled with any type of waste. Should this occur we follow-up with the generator and the hauler on correcting any infractions. A total of 169 loads were inspected resulting in seven violations.

Transporter Waste Flow Inspections

A total of 1,701 solid waste vehicles and/or roll-off containers/dumpsters were inspected at various job sites as well as Monmouth County's four transfer stations. This resulted in 76 NOV's and 21 penalty assessments being issued. Inspectors check for compliance with all registration and transporter requirements which are regulated under the New Jersey Administrative Code and the Monmouth County Solid Waste Management Plan. This includes inspections for banned or hazardous materials, regulated medical waste, or mandated recyclable materials being disposed of in the waste stream. We also monitor haulers for compliance with Monmouth County Intrastate Waste Flow Control Requirements. This requires haulers transporting household waste to dispose of this material at the Monmouth County Reclamation Center (MCRC) or take it to an out of state solid waste facility for final disposition. Since the MCRC is a user funded public utility, it is extremely important that a steady flow of waste is received to keep the operation fiscally secure. Solid waste containers are also inspected at various developments and construction sites.

The transporter violations that occur most frequently include:

- Failure to maintain solid waste vehicles or containers
- Failure to ensure the device used for solid waste transport is registered with the Department
- Failure to properly mark solid waste vehicle/container
- Failure to carry current DEP registration certificate
- Failure to comply with limitations on approved registration
- Collecting solid waste and source separated recyclables in the same vehicle

In addition SWET monitored proper disposal of 218 asbestos loads brought to MCRC by both homeowners and contractors. Monmouth County SWET is one of only several regional offices in the state that conduct exempt hauler self-generator solid waste transporter interviews on behalf of the NJDEP. A total of 20 applicants met the criteria and were interviewed and assisted in completion of the application for final processing by NJDEP.

Solid Waste Complaint Investigations

SWET investigated a total of 74 complaints from local citizens and 25 complaint referrals from the NJDEP. Historically the majority of our complaints center on either: solid waste transporter activities, asbestos transport and disposal, or illegal dumping.

Violations commonly cited include:

- Use of poorly maintained equipment resulting in waste spillage onto public roadways
- Failure to dispose of solid waste at an approved facility
- Illegal Dumping
- Operating an Illegal Solid Waste Facility
- Operating an Illegal Recycling Facility
- Failure to properly seal asbestos in leak tight containment during transport
- Failure to send to the State the Notification of Intent to Remove Asbestos prior to engaging in the activity
- Conducting a business as a Solid Waste Broker without possessing the required State license and certificate

All minor violators are served Notices of Violation and are reinvestigated for compliance after appropriate grace periods ranging from one to thirty days. Violations which are non-minor

(repeat offenses or knowingly or purposely committing a violation) result in the issuance of a municipal court summons or a Notice of Penalty Assessment. We adhere strictly to all CEHA notification and reporting requirements regarding enforcement activities. The investigations of all NJDEP referrals were reported back to the State within five days.

SWET ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

Complaints:	Totals	
Complaints from Local Source	49	
Complaints from NJ DEP	25	
	74	
Activity:	Totals	NOV
Municipal Summonses Issues:	22	0
Violations Referred to NJDEP	1	0
Court Actions	21	0
Major Landfill Inspections (OP)	2	0
Closed Landfill	14	0
Transfer Station	10	1
Recycling Investigation	1,640	230
Exempt Compost Facility	75	0
Class C Facility	8	0
Exempt and Limited Class B	329	4
Beneficial Use Determination	1	0
Class A Recycling Centers	18	0
Farmland Mulch Sites	57	0
Convenience Centers	175	0
DPW Inspections	9	0
Class B-General:	23	0
Leaf Transfer Inspection	38	0
Recycling Truck Inspection	169	7
Transporters Interviewed	20	0
Exempt Hauler Investigation	6	2
Truck Checks	814	38
Container Inspections	887	38
Wasteflow Investigations	2	0
Totals	4,341	320

Household Hazardous Waste Facility



With continued support from the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW) will begin its 22nd year of operation. Since its inception, this permanent facility has provided county residents, non-profits, and government entities, with an environmentally safe disposal outlet for a variety of hazardous household chemicals that may otherwise end up in our waste stream.

In 2017, more than 11,700 participants utilized this facility which generated over 800,000 pounds of household hazardous waste.

There has been a significant increase in participation over the last four years including, 8,604 participants in 2014, 9,265 in 2015, 11,042 in 2016, and 11,700 participants in 2017. Participation amongst government entities, nonprofits, and schools, has more than doubled since 2014.

Increases in HHW facility participation are likely to continue as residents become more aware of operating hours, the absence of single day HHW events, and the elimination of previously required appointments. County residents may continue to use this facility without the need to make appointments on a first come, first serve basis.

Monmouth County continues to employ a “Landfill Ban Restriction” on all household hazardous waste types. As a result, over 800,000 pounds of HHW have been recycled, reused, or incinerated as part of a national “waste to energy initiative”. The Monmouth County Reclamation Center had operated this facility with specially trained Health Department staff until the end of 2013 before privatization.

Effective January 7, 2014, the County of Monmouth awarded the contract to operate The Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility to Radiac Environmental Services. The Monmouth County Reclamation Center provides this essential service with continued Health Department oversight. The Health Department has dedicated one of its staff members to oversee operations at the HHW Facility. Radiac Environmental Services will operate HHW through June 1, 2018.

2017 HHW FACILITY WASTE BREAKDOWN 897,824 LBs

Recyclables	89,614
Other	26,826
Oil Based Paint	106,869
Latex Paint	553,272
Gasoline	31,781
Flammable Liquids	52,555
Bases	10,606
Aerosols	18,138
Acids	8,163

2017 Activities Summary

1,000 Flu Vaccinations Administered
 3,963 Tuberculosis Clinic Services Provided
 1,844 Communicable Disease Cases Investigated
 1,019 Clients Treated at STD Clinic
 813 Lyme Disease Cases Identified (Education also
 Provided)
 351 Free Eye Clinic Screenings Provided
 70 Women Screened for Cancer
 386 Medical Reserve Corp Volunteers Registered

1,967 Dogs and Cats Vaccinated at 26 Clinics

496 OPRA Record Searches performed by REHS staff
 10,140 Public & Environmental work activities performed
 by REHS staff
 2,597 Routine Retail Food Inspections Performed
 1,918 Well and Septic Inspections Conducted
 424 Public Health Complaints Investigated

28,260 Gallons of Sewage pumped instead of dumped in
 the ocean and other waterways by the Royal Flush
 Pump-Out Boat

1,002 Ocean and Bay samples analyzed through
 Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program to
 protect Monmouth County bathers
 292 Site Visits performed by Air Noise Program staff
 for minor sources and complaints

507 Environmental Property Record Searches
 performed by Hazmat personnel
 74 Solid Waste Complaint Investigations conducted
 department-wide
 1,640 Recycling Compliance inspections conducted
 897,824 Pounds of Household Hazardous Waste received
 from 11,700 residents at the HHW permanent
 facility



2017 Health Department Annual Report



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