

LaPorte County Health Department

2018

MISSION STATEMENT:

To engage and partner in a collaborative and responsive effort with the community and local organizations with respect to the diversity of the community to better serve the present and future generations.

LaPorte County Health Department

Office Hours

8:00am-4:00pm

Monday-Friday

Serving the Public Health Needs of LaPorte County

Main Office

809 State St Suite 401 A

LaPorte, IN 46350

(219) 326-6808 ext.2200

(219) 325-8628(fax)

Branch Office

302 W. 8th St Suite 4

Michigan City, IN 46360

(219) 874-5611 ext. 7780

(219) 873-3018(fax)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Sandra Deausy, MD, Health Officer

Tony Mancuso, Administrator

Julie Davies, Administrative Assistant/Office Manager LaPorte Office

Nancy L. Meehan, Office Manager Michigan City Office

Amanda Lahners, Environmental Health/Food Supervisor

Jennifer Smith R.N., Nursing Supervisor

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBERS

Public Health Clerks Michigan City Office

Michelle Bealor, Public Health Clerk

Linda Fike, Public Health Clerk

Public Health Nurses, Michigan City Office

Karen Stringer, RN, Public Health Nurse

Joanne Beckman, RN, Public Health Nurse

Marcia Metzcus, RN, Part-time Public Health Nurse

Water Laboratory

Cynthia Ebert, Technician

Environmental Health/Food Specialists

Julie Cuson, Environmental Health/Food Supervisor Assistant

Patty Nocek, Environmental Health/Food Specialist

Rob Sheffer, Environmental Health/Food Specialist

Patricia Wozniak, Environmental Health/Food Specialist

Brian Campbell, Environmental Health/Food Specialist

Ken Johnston, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator/Environmental Health Specialist

Public Health Nurses, LaPorte Office

Carrie Lafountain, RN, Nursing Supervisor Assistant

Danielle Glasgow, RN, Public Health Nurse

Ashley Kwilin, RN, Public Health Nurse

Public Health Clerks LaPorte Office

Jayme Staggers, Vital Records Registrar

Kristen Joseph, Vital Records Registrar

Melissa Felton, Public Health Clerk

Faith Chapman, Public Health Clerk

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Annabelle Juhasz, MD, President	January 2017- December 2020
Monique Thomas, Vice President	January 2016- December 2019
Patrick Dorroh, DVM	January 2016- December 2019
Lauren Arnold	January 2016- December 2019
Richard Houck, MD	January 2016- December 2019
Ali Luan	January 2017- December 2020
Michael Sandy	January 2015-December 2018

LAPORTE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH ATTORNEY

Nelson Pichardo, Esq.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2018

HEALTH BOARD: The LaPorte County Board of Health consists of seven (7) members who serve four-year terms on a staggered basis and are appointed by the LaPorte County Board of Commissioners. The Health Board elects its officers on an annual basis. The Board appointees include individuals with affiliation to the medical field along with interested citizens of the community. Annabella Juhasz M.D. served as the President of the Health Board in 2018.

HEALTH OFFICER: The Health Officer serves a four (4) year term in a part-time capacity and is appointed by the Board of Health. Sandra Deausy M.D. was appointed in September of 2012 to fulfill the vacated Health Officer's position and was reappointed in January of 2018 to the current term end of December 2021.

ADMINISTRATOR: Tony Mancuso has served as Administrator of the La Porte County Health Department since May of 2010. Mr. Mancuso has provided a major influence on establishing and revising countless department ordinances, which address and reflect current issues and concerns of the local community. Additionally, Mr. Mancuso initiated and enforced updated department policies to provide efficient and effective service to our LaPorte County residents. The department service

upgrades have resulted in an enhanced rapport with the public while improving open dialog with collaborating entities. The responsibilities of the Administrator can be quite challenging at times when difficult decisions create negative opposing public reactions. It is the overall responsibility of the Administrator to protect the public health and welfare of our community and its residents which at times, creates public controversy.

STAFF: The LaPorte County Health Department operated with 25 full-time employees, 2 part-time employees, and 2 seasonal interns in 2018.

DEPARTMENTS: The Health Department numerous health and environmental related services to the citizens of the LaPorte County community. The following is a brief description of each division.

VITAL RECORDS: Our Vital Records Division provides efficient and effective service from both office locations. Our staff interprets, implements, and enforces compliance with policies, procedures and safety regulations through all aspects of Vital Records processing. This division may also be likened to a Public Informatics Branch as the following critical core services are as follow: the issuance of certified birth and death certificates, establishment of voluntary paternity, amendments and corrections to birth certificates, genealogical searches for birth and death records dating back to 1882 as well as the processing of on line orders that result in a turnaround time of 24 hours.

NURSING SERVICES: Located in both offices, this division offers immunizations, communicable disease control and investigation, lead screening, tuberculosis testing and counseling, blood profile screenings, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, travel immunizations and STD testing and counseling.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/FOOD: Located in the La Porte office, this division issues Onsite Sewage System permits for new residential construction and for repairs to older septic systems. The section investigates complaints and advises residents on a variety of topics such as substandard housing, rodent/vector/bed bug infestation, open burning, trash and garbage, mold, foodborne outbreaks, radon, outdoor wood boilers, childhood lead exposure and unsanitary living conditions. The section also inspects and issues permits for public and semi- public pools and spas, tattoo and piercing establishments and temporary and retail food establishments. Testing is also provided for the certified food safety certification and the registered contractor's exam for septic system installers.

WATER LABORATORY: Located in the LaPorte office, the water lab tests water samples from drinking water sources, surface water sources including area bathing beaches, and public swimming

pools, spas, and whirlpools. The following tests are offered on water samples: Total Coliform with E. coli confirmation, E. coli (for surface water), lead, nitrate, nitrite, iron, fluoride, and phosphorus.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING/HEALTH EDUCATION: The Health Educator provides the community with various public health topics. The educator works with surrounding agencies forming community partnerships to share knowledge of social, economic, and cultural factors impacting the health of the community.

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FINANCIAL

GENERAL HEALTH FUND

1159-219

<u>STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Property Tax	1,403,104.70	1,419,682.28
License Excise Tax	105,936.02	116,786.92
Permits (Water, Food, Septic, etc.)	136,581.50	142,015.00
Immunizations	1,611.50	1,730.00
Birth & Death Certificates	110,912.38	115,693.06
Misc./Reimbursements/Receipts	1,787.25	1,465.30
Fit	6,450.05	6,286.50
CVET	9,424.84	9,427.08
Total Receipts	\$1,775,808.24	\$1,813,086.14

<u>STATEMENT OF PERSONAL SERVICE</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Salaries	1,016,588.00	1,005,495.29
OASI Withheld	62,433.00	57,610.76
Medicare Withheld	14,601.00	13,850.85
County Retirement Contribution	107,500.00	112,615.45
Employee Group Insurance	270,500.00	312,779.91
Unemployment Compensation	2,500.00	00.00
Per Diem	3,360.00	2,375.00
Extra Hire/Part time/seasonal	20,00.00	15,211.00
Total Personal Services	\$1,497,482.00	\$ 1,519,938.26

<u>SUPPLIES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Office Supplies	11,000.00	8,941.90
Equipment (Service/Repair)	9,000.00	5,271.38
Clothing	1,255.50	1,255.50
Microfilm/Photocopy/Claims	2,244.50	1,594.86
Education Supplies	10,000.00	9,601.59
Professional Healthcare Services	19,834.69	19,079.29
Dues	1,161.00	1,161.00
Subscriptions	1000.00	706.52
Publishing	1,000.00	913.00
Printing	3,839.00	1,529.87
Education & Training	10,500.00	7,679.21
Environmental Supplies	10,000.00	9,427.81
Total Supplies:	\$80,834.69	\$67,161.93

<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Professional Services – Health Officer	25,665.31	25,665.31
Mileage	29,000.00	24,695.03
Telephone	11,500.00	8,733.31
Litigation Expense	9,000.00	6,526.50
Total Services:	\$75,165.31	\$65,620.15

TOTAL:	APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURES
	\$1,653,482.00	\$1,652,720.34

YEAR END BALANCE: \$761.66

LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE FUND (GRANT) 9167-0827

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

Grant from Indiana State Department of Health	72,672.00
Carryover money from 2016	15,559.91
Total Receipts:	\$88,231.91

<u>STATEMENT OF PERSONAL SERVICES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Salaries (Full /Part time)	51,172.00	46,766.04
OASI, Medicare, County Retirement, Employee Group Insurance	12,500.00	13,487.96
Total Personal Services:	\$63,672.00	\$60,254.00

<u>SUPPLIES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Claims	37,559.11	15,750.61
Total Supplies:	\$37,559.11	\$15,750.61

TOTAL:	APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURES
	\$101,231.11	\$76,004.61

YEAR END BALANCE: \$25,226.50

INDIANA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRUST ACCOUNT (GRANT) 1206-0723

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

Grant from Indiana State Department of Health	45,758.55
<u>Carryover money from 2015</u>	<u>51,818.88</u>
Total receipts:	\$97,577.43

<u>STATEMENT OF PERSONAL SERVICES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Part time	34,879.27	7,007.50
<u>Oasi, Medicare,</u>	<u>4,188.00</u>	<u>536.08</u>
Total Personal Services:	\$39,067.27	\$7,543.58

<u>SUPPLIES</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
<u>Claims</u>	<u>58,510.15</u>	<u>46,664.41</u>
Total Supplies:	\$58,510.15	\$46,664.41

TOTAL:	APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURES
	\$97,577.42	\$54,207.99

YEAR END BALANCE: \$43,369.43

BEACH ACT (GRANT) 9162-0808

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

Grant Money from Indiana Department of Environmental Management	8,937.00
<u>Carryover 2015</u>	<u>-697.47</u>
Total:	\$8239.53

<u>STATEMENT OF PERSONAL SERVICE</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Salaries	0.00	43.20
<u>Claims</u>	<u>8,239.53</u>	<u>2,563.52</u>
Total Supplies/Personal Services	\$8,239.53	\$2,606.72

TOTAL:	APPROPRIATION	EXPENDITURES
	\$8,239.53	\$2,606.72

YEAR END BALANCE: \$5,632.81

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FUND (Non-Reverting) 2704-0526

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS	APPROPRIATIONS	EXPENDITURES
TOTAL:	\$156,999.10	\$60,645.19

YEAR END BALANCE: \$96,353.91

SERVE-SAFE (Non-Reverting) 2705-0526

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS	APPROPRIATION	EXPENDITURES
TOTAL:	\$4,798.55	\$3,038.00

YEAR END BALANCE: \$1,760.55

WATER LABROTORY (Non-Reverting) 2711-0826

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS	APPROPRIATION	EXPENDITURES
TOTAL:	\$128,076.92	\$74,691.74

YEAR END BALANCE: \$53,385.18

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FUND 9119-519

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES	2016	2017
Carryover	59,286.57	59,286.57
Receipts	0.00	0.00
Expenditures	0.00	0.00
YEAR END BALANCE:	\$59,286.57	\$59,286.57

Vital Records

IU-LaPorte Hospital Deliveries by Maternal Age

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
10 to 13 Years	0	0	0
14 to 16 Years	7	3	4
17 to 19 Years	63	39	45
20 to 24 Years	211	182	189
25 to 29 Years	244	215	218
30 to 34 Years	145	136	146
35 to 39 Years	45	52	46
40+ Years	11	19	11
TOTAL	726	646	659

Home Births

27 Years	1
32 to 36 Years	3
TOTAL	4

St. Anthony Memorial Hospital
Deliveries by
Maternal Age

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
10 to 13	0	0	0
14 to 16	8	8	4
17 to 19	44	38	36
20 to 24	156	143	136
25 to 29	143	150	152
30 to 34	98	85	113
35 to 39	52	34	38
40+	10	14	15
TOTAL	510	482	489

2018 LaPorte County Births

Combined Birth Statistics 2018

IU Health LaPorte Hospital Births

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Male	360	363	347
Female	366	283	312
Total Births	726	646	659

St. Anthony Memorial Hospital Births

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Male	250	243	244
Female	260	239	245
Total Births	510	482	489

Total Number of County Births

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Male	610	606	591
Female	626	522	557
Total Births	1236	1128	1148

2018 Total = 1148 Live Hospital Births

+ 6 Home Births = 1154

2018 Annual Birth & Death Certificates Issued

Michigan City & LaPorte Office Location Break Outs

	<u>MC Birth</u>	<u>LP Birth</u>	<u>MC Death</u>	<u>LP Death</u>
January	261	210	264	562
February	283	215	250	193
March	354	245	340	460
April	285	197	232	385
May	273	189	119	492
June	289	220	186	306
July	293	203	247	491
August	359	264	330	471
September	238	226	167	475
October	260	146	193	289
November	193	171	242	380
December	205	126	274	628
	3,293	2,412	2,844	5,132

Combined Total of Birth Certificates Issued = **5,705**

Combined Total of Death Certificates Issued = **7,976**

NURSING SERVICES

We are excited to share with you another year of achievements from our nurses at the La Porte County Health Department. The practice of public health nursing focuses on the relationships between health and well-being, connection to healthy communities, healthy families, and healthy social and environmental conditions. The activities highlighted within this 2018 Nursing Annual Report demonstrate our commitment and dedication to health promotion and illness prevention.

The Nursing Department is comprised of one nursing supervisor, five full-time nurses, and one part-time nurse.

Goals

Protecting the health and safety of our community is important work that we cannot tackle alone. Our goals in 2018 were focused on enhancing community partnerships and the delivery of public health services in our community. We accomplished that by partnering with public agencies, private sector organizations, and community groups working together to enhance the delivery of health care services. In 2019 we will strive to strengthen our community relationships around current and developing public health issues.

Immunization Services

Vaccines have been hailed as one of the most important public health advances in human history. Vaccines save lives by preventing the transmission of infectious diseases and are unique in that they protect health at both the individual and the community level. The LaPorte County Health Department strives to increase immunization rates and prevent vaccine preventable disease by providing quality vaccination services and minimizing barriers to immunization. In addition to providing general childhood and adult immunizations, the department promotes targeted immunizations to high risk individuals including international travelers. The LaPorte County Health Department participates in the Vaccine for Children program (VFC). This program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines for eligible children at no cost. The LaPorte County Health Department is also a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This is a delegation of authority that authorizes the department to administer VFC vaccines at no charge to underinsured children up through the age of 18. The LaPorte County Health Department administers immunizations in accordance with recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The staff regularly participates in continuing education offered by the Indiana State Department of Health, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and vaccine manufacturers.

Children from birth through the age of 18 may receive vaccines through the VFC program if they fall into at least one of the following categories:

- Medicaid Eligible
- Uninsured
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover vaccines)

The following vaccines for children are available through the LaPorte County Health Department:

- DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus)
- Hib (Haemophilus Influenza B)
- Tdap (Adolescent Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis)
- Meningococcal Conjugate
- Meningococcal B
- IPV (Polio)
- MMR
- Td (Tetanus, Diphtheria)
- Pneumococcal
- Gardasil 9 (HPV)
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Varicella
- Rotavirus
- Influenza

The following adult vaccines are available through the LaPorte County Health Department

- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis)
- Hepatitis A
- Gardasil 9 (HPV)
- Shingrix (Shingles)
- Varicella
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Polio
- Twinrix (Hepatitis A and B)

International Travel

The LaPorte County Health Department is a designated Yellow Fever vaccination clinic. Clients traveling outside of the United States are counseled regarding vaccine requirements and recommendations after a review of the client's itinerary, health history, and immunization history by the nursing staff. Recommendations are made based on current information published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Current outbreaks and travel advisories are taken into consideration during the consultation. Although Malaria prophylaxis is not available through the health department, travelers are given the medication recommendations for prophylaxis and instructed to consult with their health care provider.

The following vaccines are available to international travelers in addition to adult and childhood vaccines that are offered:

- Yellow Fever
- Typhoid

✚ 66 clients received immunizations for international travel in 2018.

✚ There were 2289 client visits and 3967 immunizations provided in 2018.

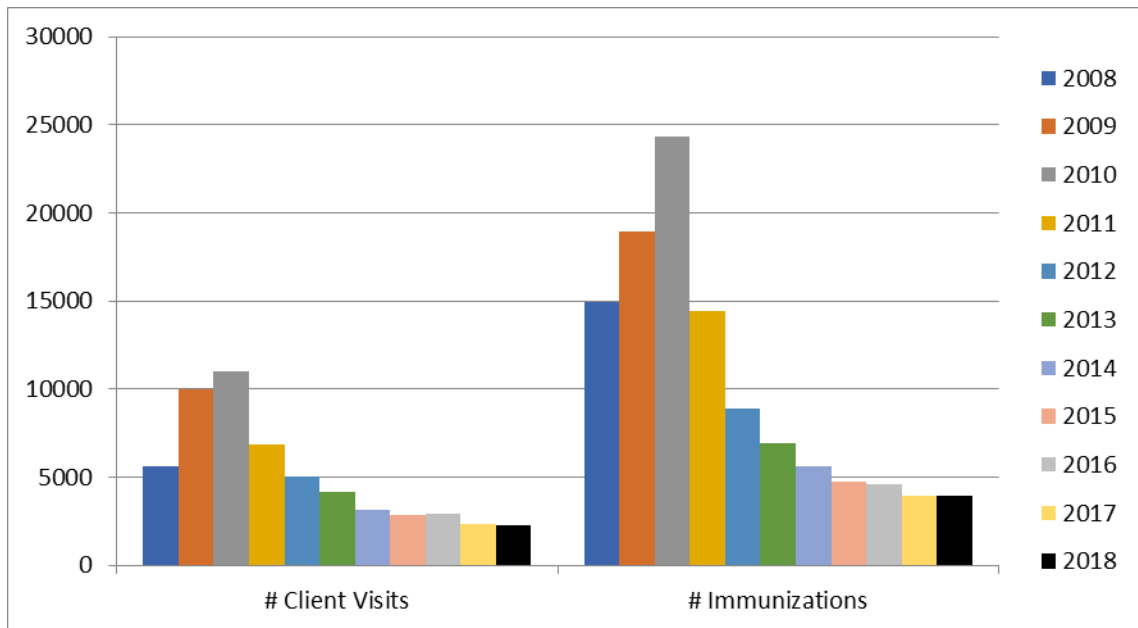
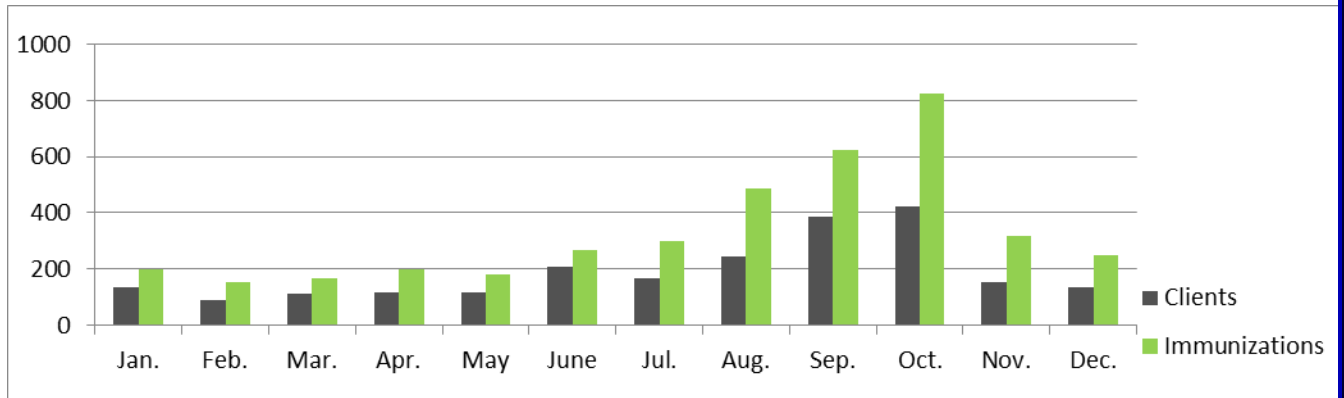


Figure 1: Number of vaccines and patient visits per year (Visits include childhood immunizations, adult immunizations, adult flu clinics, and travel immunizations.)



Number of clients and immunizations by month 2018

Communicable Disease

The Communicable Disease Reporting under Indiana Code 16-41-2-1 allows the Indiana State Department of Health to establish reporting, monitoring, and preventive procedures for communicable diseases. Upon receiving a communicable disease report, the public health nurse must investigate the reported disease with a specified time frame outlined in section 47 of the rule. Any disease that is nationally reportable, vaccine preventable, emerging, exhibits drug resistance, has a high potential for bioterrorism, and would require a public health response is reportable under the communicable disease rule.

Below is a list of diseases that were directly reported to the LaPorte County Health Department in 2018. **

Campylobacterosis	25	Chlamydia	70
Cryptosporidiosis	3	Shiga Toxin Escherichia Coli	1
Gonorrhea	30	Hepatitis, Viral, Type A	0
Hepatitis, Viral, Type B (Acute)	1	Hepatitis, Viral, Type B (Chronic)	1
Giardiasis	4	Measles*	0

Hepatitis, Viral, Type B (Perinatal)	0	Hepatitis, Viral, Type C (Acute)	2
Hepatitis, Viral, Type C (Chronic or unable to classify)	131	Legionellosis	7
Listeriosis	0	Lyme Disease	20
Meningococcal – Invasive	0	Mumps*	2
Pertussis*	0	Salmonellosis	16
Varicella	1	Shigellosis	2
Streptococcus, Group A, Invasive	8	Streptococcus, Group B, Invasive	0
Streptococcus Pneumonia, Invasive	8	Syphilis	5
West Nile Encephalitis	1	HIV	3
Animal Bites	222	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1
Yersiniosis	1	Haemophilus Influenzae *	0
Histoplasmosis	4	Babesiosis	0
Influenza (Deaths)	6	Q Fever	1
CP-CRE	10	Ehrlichiosis	1

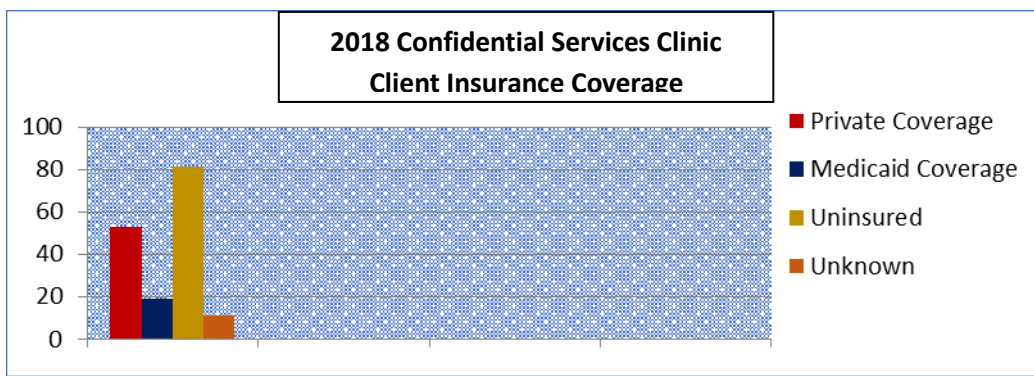
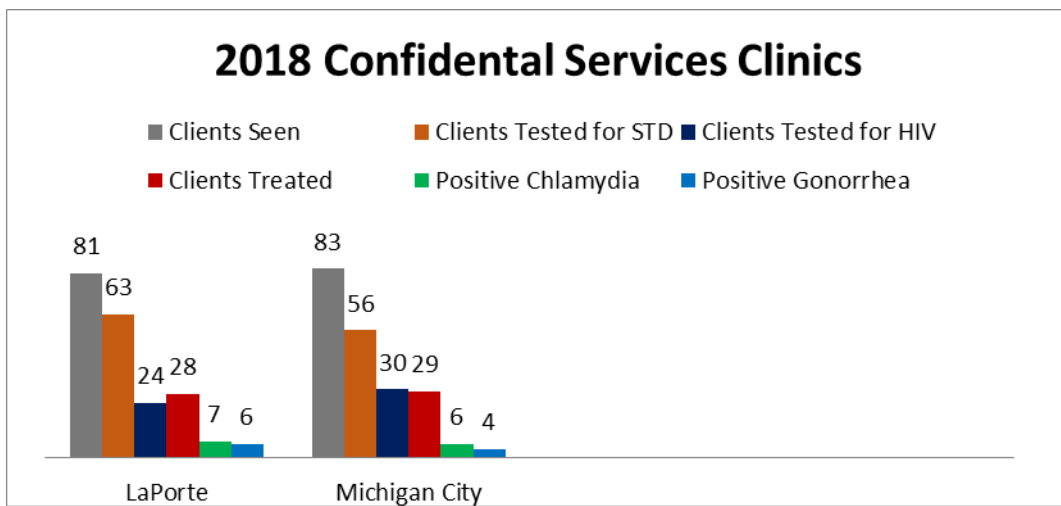
**** Note: Some physicians and laboratories report directly to the Indiana State Department of Health. Therefore, the above data may represent lower numbers than the actual occurrence of these diseases in the county. * Reported to and investigated by the Indiana State Department of Health.**

Confidential Services

The LaPorte County Health Department remains committed to providing services for the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections. Two confidential service clinics are held weekly in our offices each Wednesday in LaPorte and each Thursday in Michigan City. Appointments for these services are advisable. Examinations, diagnostic services, treatment, and referrals are provided for a \$20.00 fee.

164 Clients were seen in our Confidential Services Clinics in 2018. 119 clients were tested for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea and 54 clients were tested for HIV.

	LaPorte Confidential Clinic	Michigan City Confidential Clinic
Number of Clients Seen	81	83
HIV Tests Performed	24	30
Number of Clients Tested	63	56
Positive Chlamydia Tests	7	6
Positive Gonorrhea Tests	6	4

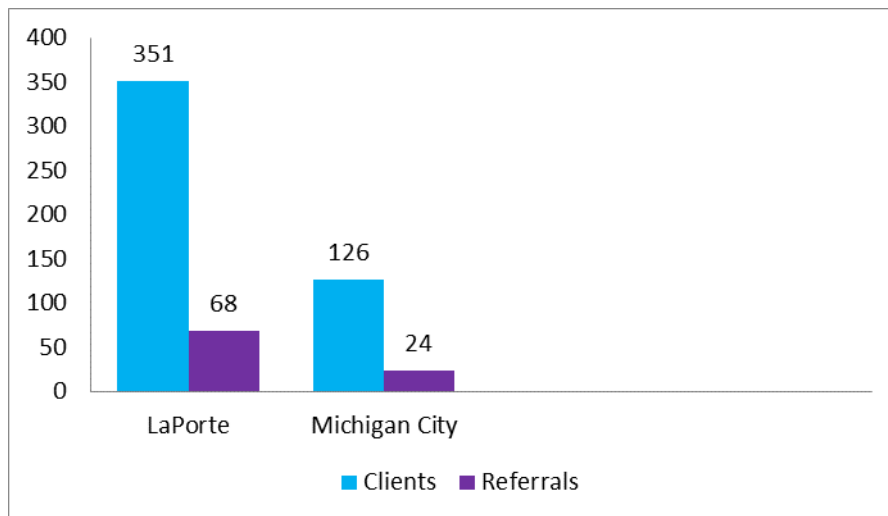


Wellness Lab Screening

The wellness lab screening service is offered once per month in Michigan City and twice per month in LaPorte. This low-cost preventative health care screening provides the client and their physician with valuable information regarding their overall health. We offer the following lab tests to the public:

Complete Metabolic Panel with Lipids	Prostate Specific Antigen	Uric Acid
Complete Blood Count	Thyroid (Free T4 and TSH)	Iron
Hemoglobin A1C	Thyroid (T3 Uptake)	Vitamin D
Vitamin B12	Magnesium	Male Testosterone
Hepatitis Panel	Mumps Titer	Measles Titer
Rubella Titer	Varicella Titer	

2018 Wellness Lab Screening Statistics



✚ In 2018 - 477 clients received lab services and referrals were made for 92 abnormal lab results.

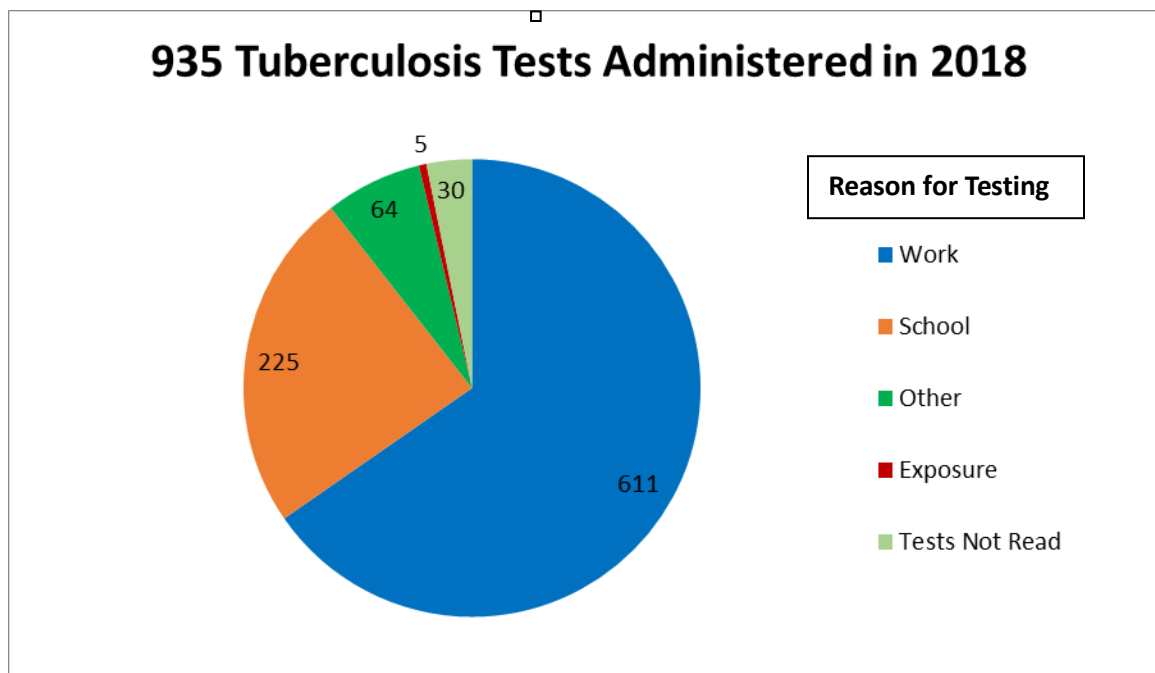
Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

The overall priorities for the treatment of Tuberculosis are early identification and complete treatment of infectious patients and minimizing the transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis to others. The Tuberculosis Case Manager works under the supervision of the Health Officer and assures that complete and appropriate information regarding each patient is shared with the Indiana State Department of Health Tuberculosis program.

All persons with active Tuberculosis (infectious) receive medications by Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) to ensure adherence and completion of treatment. Patients remain under the care of their physician and health department until this is accomplished.

Contact investigation to identify all people exposed to Tuberculosis is the second priority of Tuberculosis control. Intensive efforts are made to identify untreated individuals who are infected so they do not become infectious. Contact investigations are done through extensive interviewing and follow up of all infected contacts with Tuberculosis skin testing. Persons who are found to have latent Tuberculosis infection (non-infectious) may also receive medications free of charge through the health department by referral from their medical provider.

In 2018, we had 1 active Tuberculosis cases and 4 latent Tuberculosis cases.



Lead Program

Capillary blood lead testing is provided free of charge to children 6 months through 6 years of age and pregnant women. The health department provides this service in both offices by appointment. Families of children who are identified as having elevated blood lead levels receive an environmental assessment and case management services provided by the nursing case manager and a certified lead risk assessor.

We tested 26 clients for lead in 2018. We followed up on 10 elevated blood lead levels found during screening by either the health department or by the primary care provider. We did 4 home assessments for elevated blood lead levels in 2018.

Pregnancy Testing Program

The pregnancy testing program's mission is to reduce the county's rates of unintended pregnancy, smoking during pregnancy, premature birth and infant mortality through improved access to primary medical care, pre-contraception and inter-conception counseling, family planning, prenatal care and prenatal care coordination services.

We tested 9 women for pregnancy in 2018. Of those tests, 5 tested positive. We were able to refer all 5 women into prenatal services.

Cribs for Kids Program

The Cribs for Kids Program was initiated in 2015. We collaborated with the Indiana State Department of Health to be a Cribs for Kids distribution site. This entails providing safe sleep education, infant survival kits, and portable cribs for parents and caregivers in Indiana who do not have a safe place for their babies to sleep. Our educational message focuses on key risk reduction measures for safe sleep from the American Academy of Pediatrics and National Institutes of Health. In 2018 we provided safe sleep education at both the health department and the La Porte County Public Library branches. We were able to distribute 57 cribs to families in need in 2018. We were able to secure a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte to ensure the continuity of the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL/FOOD SERVICES

The Environmental Health programs serve to prevent disease, preserve the environment, and improve the quality of life. The environmental section implements a wide variety of environmental health programs. These programs include: retail food inspection and permitting; complaint investigations and inspections; environmental and unsanitary complaint investigations; on-site sewage system geographical information systems (GIS) mapping, permitting and inspections; public and semi-public pools, wading pools and spas, permitting and inspection; outdoor wood boiler unit registration; radon awareness; vector control; tattoo and body piercing permitting and inspection; meth house condemnation; Lake Michigan and inland lake sampling; environmental lead assessments; mobile camp car permitting and inspection; and emergency preparedness. In addition to these services we have a water laboratory that is certified in bacteriological and nitrate testing.

Lead Risk Assessments

The Environmental Health section of the health department has a licensed lead risk inspector/assessor on staff. The assessor/inspector investigates the interior and exterior of homes within the county for the presence of deteriorating lead-based paint and other lead hazards. Lead risk assessments/inspections are performed as required by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and in compliance with Indiana Administrative Code Title 410, Article 29 Reporting Monitoring and Prevention of Lead Poisoning.

The inspection/assessment process is prompted when a health department nurse is notified, by a licensed physician or ISDH, that a child has been identified with an Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL) in their system. This notification prompts the inspector/assessor to contact the child's parents/guardians and set up an initial consultation within the home. At this time an interview is conducted, and paint chip samples and dust wipe samples are collected throughout the home. These samples are then sent to the ISDH Indoor Air Quality Laboratories for analysis. If lead hazards are found to exist within the home, then the assessor/inspector provides additional consultation with the property owner by prescribing the appropriate actions best suited to remediate the situation within a given prescribed timeframe. The LPCHD lead risk assessor completed 4 in home assessments 2018.

Public Swimming Pools

The Environmental staff continues to inspect and review plans for all public and semi-public aquatic recreational facilities in La Porte County. Guidelines for inspection are set forth in the Indiana State Department of Health Rule 410 IAC 6-2.1 and La Porte County Ordinance No. 2008-15.

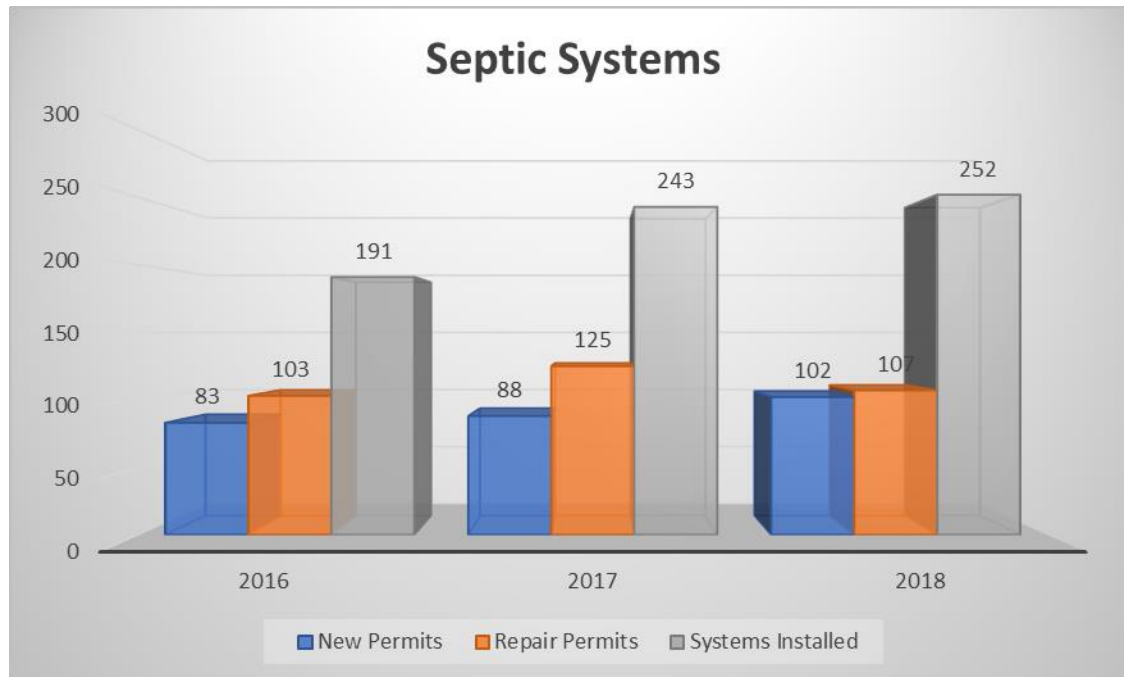
Outdoor/seasonal facilities were inspected once prior to opening for the season and once during the season. There were 34 outdoor/seasonal facilities, resulting in a total of 68 seasonal inspections. Indoor/year-round facilities are inspected 2 times per year. There were 36 year-round facilities, resulting in a total of 72 inspections. Inspection totals do not include re-inspections that may have been performed. Some facilities have more than one type of pool (i.e. pool and/or kiddie pool) resulting in multiple inspections for some facilities. The environmental section has 6 staff members that are Certified Pool Operators. All pools in La Porte County must employ a certified pool operator to operate their pools. These pools are a mix of recreational pools, spas, wading pools, splash pads, diving pools, therapy pools, and competition lap pools.

Outdoor Hydronic Heater Program (Outdoor Wood Boilers/Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces)

The Environmental staff continues to educate owners, register units, and investigate complaints under the La Porte County Ordinance 2007-10-B "Ordinance for Regulation of Outdoor Hydronic Heaters." There are 150 registered units in La Porte County. In 2018, there were 3 complaints. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) enforces state rule 326 IAC 4-3 as it pertains to outdoor hydronic heaters, and the La Porte County environmental staff will liaison on those complaints if necessary.

On-Site Sewage System (OSS)

The OSS section works closely with property owners, developers, soil scientists and surveyors to ensure that septic systems are designed and installed in accordance with the minimum standards established by Indiana State Department of Health Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3 and La Porte County Ordinance No 2012-01. There were 213 septic permits issued in 2018 and 243 septic systems were installed and inspected. There were also 213 operating permits issued.



Vector control (West Nile Virus)

West Nile Virus surveillance continues to take place in La Porte County to monitor the spread of the virus during the months of July through September. This was accomplished setting up mosquito traps throughout the county. Several hundred mosquitoes were sent to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Molecular Laboratory for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing. Larvicides were applied in areas with stagnant water to control mosquito populations.

Food Protection

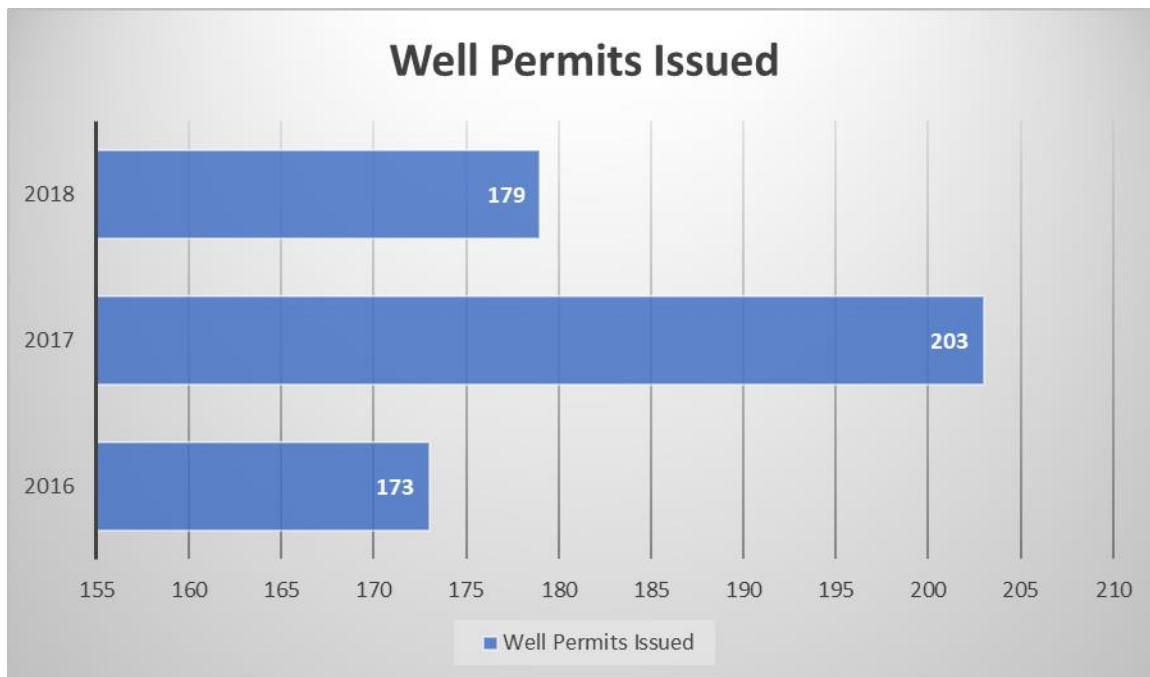
The inspectors of the Environmental Health/Food Division enforce 410 IAC 7-24 and Ordinance no. 2013-15 to ensure that the public is served food that meets standards for healthful and safe preparation and consumption. Restaurants, bed and breakfasts, convenience stores, private clubs, lunch trucks, grocery stores, bars, taverns, certain non-profit organizations, schools, mobile units and temporary vendors receive unannounced inspections throughout the year. In 2018, the inspectors performed 1,134 routine retail food establishment inspections and 396 temporary food establishment inspections.

The division works closely with public health nurses, physicians and the state field epidemiologist to investigate suspected foodborne disease outbreaks.



Wells

The Well and Water Quality Ordinance went in to effect in November of 2015. The well ordinance ensures that new wells are properly distanced from structures and septic systems. The ordinance requires new wells to be tested for coliform bacteria and Nitrate. 179 wells were drilled and tested in 2018.



Environmental/Sanitation Complaints

This section concerns all complaints made to the health department. Complaints range from trash and garbage to unsanitary living conditions. In 2018, our office investigated 139 complaints. An investigation into these complaints begins with a phone call and/or site inspection. If there are no health code violations, the complaint is considered invalid and it is closed out of the database. If the complaint is found to be valid by violation of a health code, then environmental staff will consult with the subject of the complaint and inform them of the appropriate action that needs to be taken in order to remediate the situation. The table below is a representation of the types and quantity of complaints that are investigated. Not all complaint types are listed. Ongoing and open investigations are not included in these totals.

Food Related	46
Stagnant swimming pools	2
Standing water/Mosquitoes	3
Bugs	20
Septic Issues	16
Open Burning	10
Unsanitary Living	17
Outdoor Air Quality	3
Indoor Air Quality	6
Trash & Garbage	12
Dog Feces	1
Pesticides	1
Abandoned Vehicles	3
Tires	1
Abandoned Property	1
High Weeds	2
Water Pollution	2
Rodents/Animals	4

Property Transfers

Property inspections at the time of sale was a new program for the Health Department in 2016. Septic systems are required to be inspected by an IOWPA certified inspector prior to the selling a residential or commercial property. Drinking water wells are required to be tested for coliform bacteria and Nitrate (NO3) by a certified laboratory. All results are to be supplied to the buyer of the property at least three days prior to closing. Properties within municipalities must supply documentation if they are connected to utilities. The purpose of the Property Transfer Ordinance is several folds: Firstly, it is meant to inform prospective buyers of the water quality of the drinking water and also the status of their onsite-septic system. Secondly, it is to identify and remediate failed septic system, non-systems, and to locate undocumented systems. Thirdly, to protect the surface and ground waters of the state of Indiana. Finally, to give the LPCHD an overall picture of the general functioning of septic systems within the county. Please note that the program went into effect on 7-1-2016.

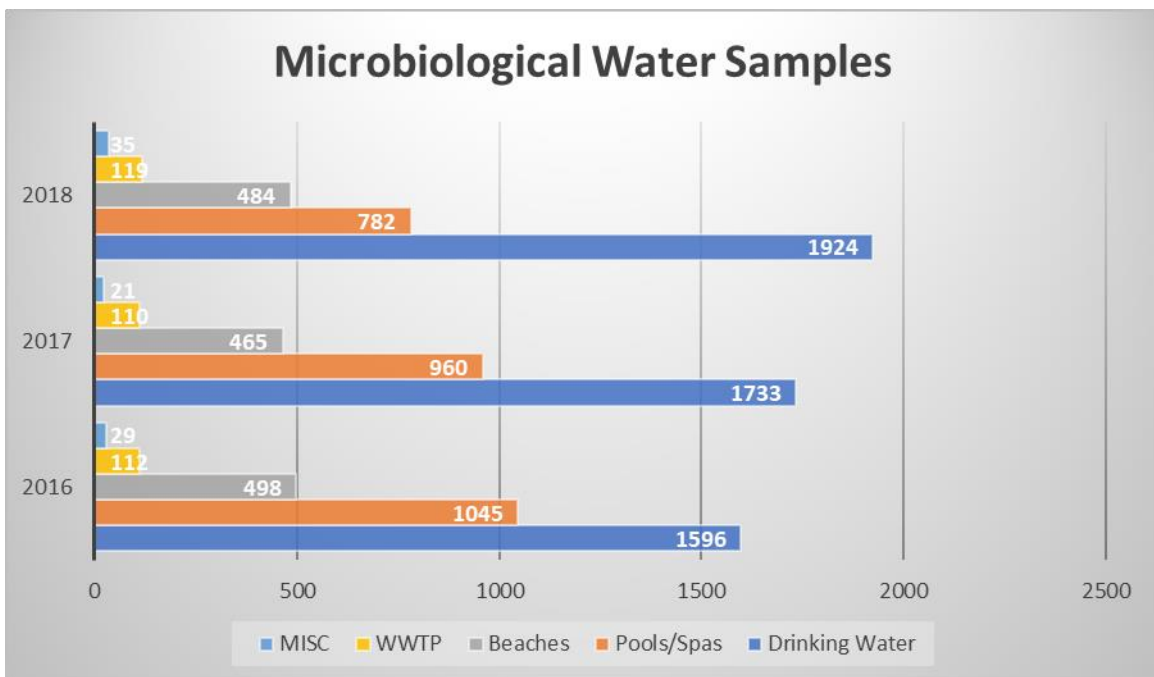


Water Laboratory

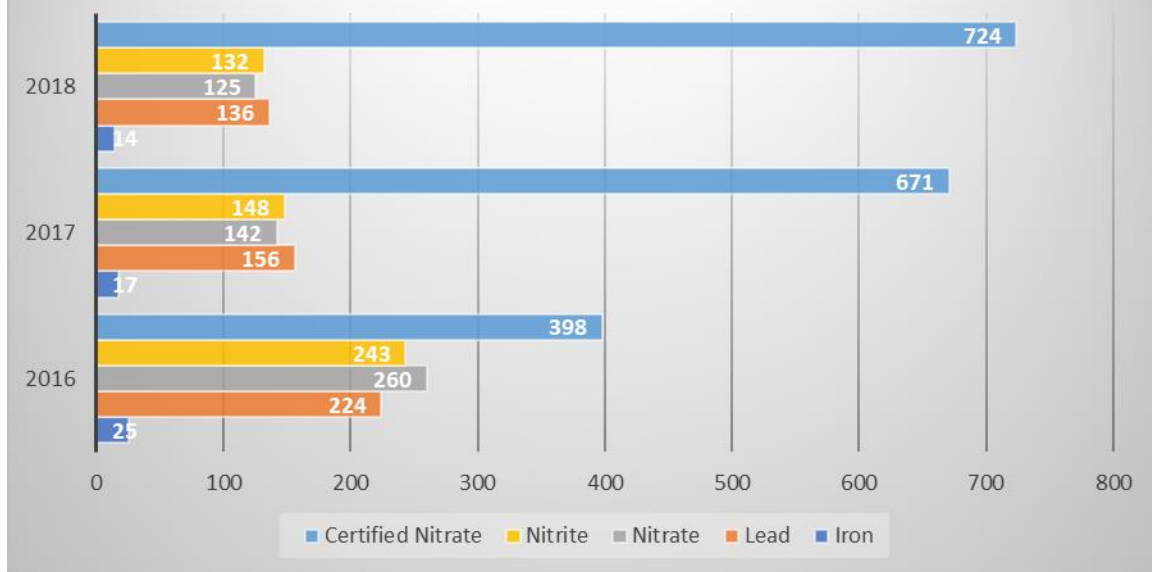
The La Porte County Health Department is 1 of 3 health departments in Indiana with an on-site water laboratory certified by the ISDH Laboratories. The LPCHD is certified for the analysis of drinking water, pools and spas for the presence of total coliform with E. coli confirmation, surface water, including recreational beach waters for the enumeration of E. coli, Nitrate and heterotrophic plate counts. The LPCHD is 1 of 2 Health Departments in Indiana certified by ISDH Laboratories for the presence of Nitrate in drinking water. The ISDH Laboratories are responsible for certifying laboratories under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This includes conducting on-site evaluations and evaluating proficiency test samples. ISDH re-certification is done every three years. In addition, the lab offers chemistry screening analysis such as nitrate, nitrite, lead, iron and fluoride. The Laboratories next ISDH inspection will be in 2019.

LPCHD Celebrated National Drinking Water Week from May 1st through 25th by offering FREE in-home well water screening kits to La Porte County residents. 219 kits were handed out at the LPCHD offices in La Porte and Michigan City. Residents were instructed to record their results on a pre-paid postcard and send it back to the La Porte office. The in-home test kits were available for pick-up in both the La Porte and Michigan City offices. The screen tests included tests for pesticides, lead, nitrate, nitrite, bacteria, pH, hardness, copper, iron and chlorine. Educational material was provided along with the in-home test kits.

The water lab processed a total of 2975 bacteria samples and 1131 chemistry samples.



Chemical Water Samples



Beach Sampling

Grant monies secured through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) allowed the La Porte County Health Department (LPCHD) to continue to monitor the water quality of the swimming areas of Lake Michigan for the fourteenth consecutive year. This contract originally was put in place to supplement our existing program with federal funds from the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act). The Act was set up for states to develop and implement beach water quality monitoring and notification programs. 152 routine samples were collected from Lake Michigan from stops 20, 31, 34, and 37. Stop 24 was closed for the season due to unsafe beach conditions. 364 routine samples were collected from the Inland Lakes. Inland Lake sampling sites include Waverly Beach, Kiwanis Beach and Holton Beach on Pine Lake, Stone Lake Beach, Old Stone Lake Beach and the Boat Launch on Stone Lake, Hudson Lake, Upper and Lower Fish Lake. Liberty and Villa Beaches in Sauguny Lake were added in 2018. Results from the previous day's water sample are entered into the IDEM website called *Beachguard*. Starting in 2017, following IDEM's recommendations, the LPCHD decided not to close beaches with *E. coli* levels greater than 1000 cfu's. Any beach with an *E. coli* count greater than 235 cfu's had an advisory posted. The highest *E. coli* count this summer along Lake Michigan was 980 cfu's. The LPCHD has had an existing sampling and notification program for our Inland and Lake Michigan Beaches for over twenty years.

