

Monmouth County Health Department Annual Report 2022

Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners

2022

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Monmouth County Board of Health

2022

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) 2022 Annual Report.

The MCHD continues to serve the residents of Monmouth County with a variety of resources and programs that positively impact the residents of Monmouth County.

This annual report highlights those services along with the important role the MCHD plays in keeping Monmouth County safe and healthy.

As the liaison to the MCHD, I would like to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their commitment and dedication to our residents.

To learn more, go to www.visitmonmouth.com or download the new Monmouth County Health Department App available for free at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Kiley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Commissioner Susan M. Kiley
Liaison to the Monmouth County Department of Health



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Monmouth County Health Department

Mission Statement

Mission Statement: Empower residents of Monmouth County to achieve optimum health through the provision of the 10 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 healthcare when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure a competent public health 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 is one of six health departments in Monmouth County. Thirty-four of Monmouth County's 53 municipalities participate in the Monmouth County Board of Health System. They are:

1. Aberdeen
2. Allentown
3. Asbury Park
4. Atlantic Highlands
5. Avon-By-The-Sea
6. Belmar
7. Bradley Beach
8. Eatontown
9. Englishtown
10. Farmingdale
11. Hazlet
12. Highlands
13. Holmdel
14. Howell
15. Keansburg
16. Keyport
17. Lake Como
18. Little Silver (Joined January 1, 2023)
19. Manasquan
20. Marlboro
21. Matawan
22. Middletown (Joined January 1, 2023)
23. Millstone Township
24. Neptune City
25. Neptune Township
26. Oceanport
27. Ocean Township (Joined May 1, 2022)
28. Red Bank
29. Roosevelt
30. Shrewsbury Borough (Joined January 1, 2022)
31. Shrewsbury Township
32. Union Beach
33. Upper Freehold Township
34. West Long Branch (Joined August 17, 2022)



2022 Annual Report

Monmouth County Board of Health

Overview

The Monmouth County Board of Health, established in 1978, is composed of citizen members who are appointed by the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners. 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), to 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.
- To deliver a modern and manageable array of public health services as required by N.J.A.C. 8:52, "Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey."
- To provide leadership in building 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 regulations, related to air, water, noise and nuisance control.

Principal Activities

Administrative and organizational management services, including but not limited to:

- Planning, organization, public health staffing, coordination and response, 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 Health Alert Network (NJHAN)
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Maternal child health services
- Clinical primary and secondary preventive services
- Rabies control
- Comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for Tuberculosis and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Health education/health promotion

COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2022, the Monmouth County Health Department continued to be the lead agency in the County through the worst pandemic in 100 years. The health department was involved in many pandemic related activities including but not limited to –

- Providing contact tracing for schools, long-term care centers, private businesses, employees, and other facilities,
- Conducting COVID case and outbreak investigations,
- Providing public education for residents in the County and numerous facilities and institutions on COVID-19 and inform said entities when the guidance changed,
- Issuing quarantine and isolation guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health,
- Providing testing and guidance to County employees,
- Working with NJ-211 and the Monmouth County Division of Social Services to place individuals who were experiencing homelessness and who were COVID positive to find emergency non-congregate sheltering,
- Working with individuals who were homebound to provide them with COVID vaccinations,
- Conducting numerous mobile pop-up sites throughout the County for COVID testing and vaccination.
- Operating two major vaccination clinics in Monmouth County at the Monmouth County Agricultural Building and at Brookdale Community College.
- Working with Monmouth County Administration and the Monmouth County Department of Public Information to develop press releases and respond to media inquiries related to COVID-19 pandemic activities.
- Creating a daily COVID case list which is posted on the County’s website.

During 2022, the Monmouth County Health Department provided 239 COVID-19 vaccine clinics and provided 11,915 vaccines.

County Departmental Cooperation

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

Currently, the Department is composed of 50 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, Epidemiologist, Field Disease Investigators, Medical Reserve Coordinator, and Health Educators.

Professional service contracts are in place for laboratory services, X-rays, immunization, and interpretation services for non-English speaking populations.

The Department is equipped with state-of-the-art computer systems, connectivity, security, and data storage capacity. The County's Information Technology Services Department manages technology systems and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

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

The Hazmat and Environmental Specialist staff provides logistics support for the Department's Strategic National Stockpile Preparedness Distribution Program.

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

Public Health Protection

A staff of 15 Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) enforce public health and environmental laws and regulations, which include, but are not limited to the protection of food, bathing place sanitation, rabies and zoonosis, body art, tanning, public health nuisances and hazards, preventable injuries, and exposure related diseases in both the workplace and community settings.

Public Recreational Bathing and Youth Camp Inspections

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) enacted substantial changes to the public recreational bathing regulations, effective January 2018. One of the mandated changes, the requirement for each facility to have personnel with a Pool Director Certification, came into effect in late 2018. The Monmouth County Health Department continues to work with the NJDOH and local facility operators to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

In 2022, Department staff inspected 147 recreational bathing facilities twice during the year, including swimming pools, spas, splash parks, ocean bathing beaches and a water park. An additional 25 re-inspections were performed to ensure adequate compliance with safety and sanitation requirements. Three Notices of Violation were issued. Nine facilities were required to temporarily close during the bathing season for either bacteriological or safety reasons.

Staff members investigated five complaints involving recreational bathing sites.

Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) are also required to inspect youth camps each summer season. In 2022, 24 youth camps were inspected during or prior to their first week of operation. This inspection involves an extensive review of staff credentials and camp operating procedures in addition to an inspection of on-site food handling and recreational bathing facilities.

During the 2022 season, the Department's REHS staff uncovered a licensed youth camp using unlicensed, unapproved swimming pools for their campers. The camp was issued violations and ordered to cease this activity. The homeowner was issued violations by the municipal zoning officer.

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

Rabies Control and Surveillance

The Monmouth County Health Department oversees free vaccination clinic programs for cats and dogs. In 2022, the Department sponsored 23 clinics in its covered municipalities which provided free vaccinations to 1,004 dogs and cats. Another component of the Rabies Control Program involves investigating resident animal bite exposures. Whenever a human bite exposure occurs, the Department is notified and places the animal under a 10-day observation period. The animal is re-evaluated 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 229 animal bite investigations involving animal observation and an additional 23 investigations which involved specimen delivery to the New Jersey Department of Health Laboratory. Eight specimens were found to be positive for rabies upon testing.

Exposed persons are notified and referred for medical follow-up which includes postexposure 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.

Animal Care Facility Inspections

Animal care facilities such as kennels, shelters, pounds and pet shops are also inspected by the Monmouth County Health 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 to combat the use of “puppy mills” as pet store suppliers. In 2022, staff inspected 23 licensed facilities and responded to three animal related complaints. Four 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, 390 plans for new septic systems and wells were reviewed to ensure compliance with New Jersey state regulations. In 2022, a total of 1,230 well and septic inspections were conducted. This total reflects the certification of 182 new septic systems, 74 new wells and 337 certifications for realty transfer as required in some municipalities.

The Monmouth County Health Department also reviews site plans and variance requests on behalf of local zoning and planning boards within its jurisdiction for comments regarding various Department regulations; 109 plan reviews were conducted in 2022.

New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act

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 smokefree. Citizen complaints regarding indoor smoking are investigated with violations issued for non-compliance.

Another component of the Smoke Free Air Act is the partial regulation of tobacco retail establishments where product sampling is provided as a means of generating sales. This process involves a review of plans and ventilation equipment to ensure that the sampling or “tasting” area air supply, which contains the smoke from the sampling, does not comingle with the rest of the retail space or that of its neighbors. In 2022, three indoor smoking complaints were investigated.

Additionally, the Monmouth County Health Department recently introduced an ordinance to regulate the sampling areas of tobacco retail establishments, including those selling electronic 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.

Body Art Facility Inspections

Businesses that perform tattooing, permanent cosmetic procedures and ear/body piercing are regulated by Chapter 8 of the State 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.

Recent changes to the State Sanitary Code now require all ear-piercing facilities to be licensed and inspected. The Monmouth County Health Department’s annual inspections are conducted at 20 body art facilities and staff reviewed five new facility plans. Credential reviews were conducted for nine new artists.

The Department also has the responsibility for approving and inspecting the Three-Day Visionary Tattoo Festival held in Asbury Park each year. This event draws 220 artists from across the country, each requiring credential and training review prior to participation.

Ninety-two individual booth inspections were conducted during the event, with more than 10,000 visitors attending. This event involves the participation of six staff members to maintain Department presence over all three days.

Inspectors from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) were on hand to assist as observers for booth inspections. MCHD staff consistently receive accolades from the NJDOH supervisor in attendance for the overall organization of the event and for the Department’s thoroughness and attention to detail.

Tanning Facilities

In 2022, the Monmouth County Health Department's Registered Environmental Health Specialists routinely inspected tanning facilities for compliance with State Sanitary Code regulations. Nine facility inspections were conducted, and three re-inspections were performed. One of the Department's investigations resulted in a Notice of Violation that caused the New Jersey Department of Health to issue a cease and desist order to a health club chain for its overall noncompliance in several of their facilities. No complaints were received during the year; however, two municipal summonses were 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 2007, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) adopted new, more stringent regulations based on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food code which places increased emphasis on critical areas of food-borne disease control such as handwashing and maintaining foods at proper temperature.

The Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) set a goal to create an application form and guidance documents to help make the process to open a new establishment more efficient for facility operators. This new form has eliminated confusion and provided applicants with a clear explanation of what is required. Guidance documents were also developed to help explain the steps needed to properly utilize "Time as a Public Health Control." While this process is not utilized by all facilities, the operators who do need the guidance will appreciate having the process spelled out so clearly.

Inspectors investigated 102 complaints involving sanitation, food handling and/or food-borne illness. The REHS staff also responded to 28 separate emergency events at retail food facilities. Emergency events can include fires, loss of power or water, and structural damage. Staff also performed 65 visits to retail food facilities to verify removal of recalled food products. Another significant activity of the REHS staff is the consultation and education provided to operators regarding requirements and best practices. Staff members logged 110 retail food conferences throughout 2022.

The Monmouth County Health Department's dedicated and professional REHS staff completed 2,473 routine retail food inspections during 2022. This includes 45 mobile establishments and 194 temporary events. In addition, 229 re-inspections were performed. The staff issued 21 Notices of Violation and 17 municipal summonses.

The REHS staff diligently inspected more than 194 temporary special events involving food handling with more than 988 vendors. Notable events included the Belmar Seafood Festival, Asbury Park Vegan Festival, Ocean Township Italian American Festival, Ocean Grove Flea Market, and a multitude of events held at Monmouth Park racetrack, from the Food Truck Festival to the BBQ & Craft Beer Festival.

Public Health Nuisance Complaints

The Monmouth County Health Department receives a wide variety of citizen complaints encompassing all areas of public and environmental health. Complaints and emergencies are received 24 hours a day, seven days a week and range from poison ivy and mosquito breeding to sewage overflows and bedbugs. Eleven mold complaints involving landlords and tenants were investigated in 2022.

The most common complaints received involved housing code deficiencies, sewage overflows, insect and rodent infestations, garbage overflows and animal waste issues. Bedbug complaints accounted for nine investigations, with other types of pests such as roaches, lice, ticks and bees combining for an additional 16 complaints. Twenty sewage overflows from septic system malfunctions were investigated, resulting in 14 Notices of Violation and 22 municipal summonses for non-compliance.

Various housing complaints comprise the Department's 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 2022, 91 housing complaints were investigated with 189 re-inspections performed. Nuisance complaint investigations resulted in 11 Notices of Violations being issued and three municipal court summonses.

Open Public Records Act (OPRA)

The Public Health Protection Unit maintains inspection records 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 Monmouth County Health Department. Therefore, under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA), individuals and commercial representatives may request their records be provided in accordance with the legally established guidelines.

The Registered Environmental Health Specialist staff responded to more than 1,274 OPRA requests during 2022.

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 2022, 195 immunization audits of vaccination records were conducted in schools and childcare facilities. Thirty-two facilities required a re-audit. Two Notices of Violation were issued.

Immunization Services

In public health, vaccines are among the most powerful and cost-effective tool for preventing disease and death. Vaccinations benefit individuals as well as entire communities in the prevention and reduction of infectious diseases. Infants are particularly prone to infectious diseases — which is why it is critical to protect this vulnerable group through immunizations.

Nearly **four million babies** are born in the United States every year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the hope is that each child born will be vaccinated against **15 vaccine-preventable diseases**, with most of these immunizations given before 2 years of age. This is according to the CDC and its “Recommended child and adolescent immunization schedule for ages 18 years and younger.”

The Monmouth County Health Department offers immunizations **free of charge** for children living in towns throughout Monmouth County who are **uninsured** or have **NJ Family Care Plan A** coverage. Appointments are scheduled for the vaccine clinic at the Monmouth County Health Department, 50 East Main Street, Freehold Borough, for children from birth through 18 years of age. Referrals are also provided to parents, if needed, for assistance in applying for Medicaid and NJ Family Care insurance or finding a medical home.

With parental permission, the child is entered into the statewide immunization registry, the official New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS), which tracks and encourages timely and age-appropriate vaccinations. In 2022, the clinic immunized **254 children**, administering a total of **701 vaccinations**.

Total of **254** children immunized in 2022

Age groups

<1 years-old	5	immunized
1-3 years-old	23	immunized
4-6 years-old	18	immunized
7-10 years-old	23	immunized
11-12 years-old	60	immunized
13-18 years-old	125	immunized

Vaccines Administered			
Td	38	Polio	86
Tdap	74	PCV 13	09
DTaP	03	Rotavirus	01
DTaP/IPV	06	MMR	42
DTaP/Hib/IPV	05	Varicella	44
DTaP/HepB/IPV	06	HPV-9	84
Meningitis	88	Influenza	50
Hepatitis A	78	MMR/Varicella	12
Hepatitis B	65		
HIB	10	Total	701

“Healthy By Two” Grant Program

The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) was awarded a grant by the State of New Jersey to encourage timely vaccinations for children. The goal of this grant is for children to receive the appropriate immunizations by their second birthday. Prior to age 2 is when most childhood Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended vaccinations are given.

More than 200 years have passed since the development of the first successful smallpox vaccine. Since that time, vaccines have become the most important and cost-effective public health tool for preventing disease and death. Because of immunizations, debilitating and often fatal diseases such as polio are almost non-existent and only a memory for some Americans. Timely vaccinations are one of the most important ways to protect infants, as well as everyone else, from serious illness.

In 2022, immunization records were reviewed for more than **254** children. Those children identified through the “Healthy by Two” Grant Program and found to be deficient in vaccinations were either offered immunization services at the MCHD or given referrals to outside facilities.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

The most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data shows an unsettling increase in the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI rates), as well as an indication of some antibiotic resistant strains of gonorrhea. For example, from 2017 to 2021, chlamydia has increased by 4.7%, gonorrhea by 25%, syphilis by 68% and congenital syphilis by 185%!

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 STIs being treated in the hospital's emergency department.

JSUMC and the MCHD began a collaborative STI prevention effort by hosting a regular STI 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 in Neptune on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. Clinic services are free for municipal residents in the Monmouth County Board of Health system.

Clinic services include physical examinations, diagnostic services by a physician or physician's assistant, labs, and treatment as needed. The Department's Field Representative Disease Control provides comprehensive follow-up, including STI education, risk reduction counseling, partner elicitation, and confidential notification.

Monmouth County was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to employ a Field Representative Disease Control staff member. NJDOH also provides medications at no charge to be provided at the STI clinic. Additionally, the County received funding from NJDOH for an Access to Reproductive Care and HIV Services (ARCH) nurse. The nurse provides education to clients about risk reduction and offers free STI, HCV, and HIV screenings.

In 2022, 350 clients were seen at the clinic regarding STIs. .

Antibiotics can cure chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. However, left untreated, the infections put men, women and infants at risk for severe lifelong health outcomes like chronic pain and severe reproductive health complications. It also puts individuals at greater risk for HIV. Untreated patients can transmit infections to others – further compounding the STI burden.

In 2022, 2,499 confirmed STIs were reported in Monmouth County. This was a significant increase compared to 2021 when 2,062 cases were reported. In 2021, MCHD saw 1,441 cases of chlamydia, 342 cases of gonorrhea and 140 cases of syphilis. Most notable, MCHD saw nine cases of congenital syphilis which has not been seen for years. The MCHD Disease Investigator works with the healthcare provider and/or patient to ensure treatment as well as notification and treatment of partners.

Per the CDC, many cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis continue to go undiagnosed and unreported, and data about several additional STIs, such as human papilloma virus (HPV) and herpes simplex virus, are not routinely reported to the Department or to the CDC. As a result, surveillance data captures only a fraction of the Department's STI burden.

ARCH (Access to Reproductive Care and HIV Services) Nurse

The Monmouth County Health Department's ARCH (Access to Reproductive Care and HIV Services) program provides Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings, Hepatitis C and HIV testing, as well as STI treatment, pregnancy testing and linkage to prenatal care, nutritional counseling, reproductive counseling for women of childbearing age, vaccinations, condom distribution, and safe sex education. Additionally, the program provides free Narcan and Narcan use training to anyone in the community.

The Department's community outreach has provided education and disease identification to assist with awareness and mitigation. The Department's testing during the 2022 COVID pandemic year totaled 96 persons tested for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Prior to the pandemic, the Department was testing more than 30 clients a month for STI screenings. The New Jersey Department of Health also provides STI treatment medications at no charge.

The MCHD provides services in-house, by appointment. Additionally, most of the screenings and outreach have taken place off-site, working weekly with behavioral health facilities in the County, as well as regular screening services and on-site educational programs.

Drug overdoses in Monmouth County have trended upward from 1,300 in 2014, to 3,200 in 2021 (more than double), following similar trends throughout the State. The ARCH nurse provides Narcan training and distribution to anyone requesting a need. MCHD has partnered with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Division of Corrections, which has distributed 144 boxes of Narcan to at-risk inmates. The MCHD also provided training and products to counselors and family members.

Monmouth County Tuberculosis Program

Tuberculosis (TB) is a potentially serious bacterial disease that is spread through the air from person to person. TB is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* which becomes airborne when someone who is contagious coughs, speaks, laughs, sings or sneezes. People near the ill person then inhale bacteria into their lungs.

TB is not communicable via surface contamination, clothing, drinking glasses, eating utensils, handshakes or toilet facilities, for example. Not everyone who inhales the bacterium will develop active TB disease. In most TB infections the body's natural defenses are able to control the infection.

There are two types of TB conditions: latent TB infection and active TB disease. A TB bacterium in the body of a non-symptomatic patient is called a latent TB infection. People with latent TB infection do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms, and cannot spread TB bacteria to others.

If TB bacteria become active in the body and multiply, the person will go from having a latent TB infection to active TB disease. Active TB patients display symptoms and are capable of passing the bacterium to others.

The Monmouth County Health Department's TB program focuses on the screening, prevention and treatment of active and latent tuberculosis in adults and children. The TB program provides continuous case management to active cases and to those individuals' close contacts, as well as preventative treatment to individuals diagnosed with latent tuberculosis. The staff provides hospital, clinic and home visits to ensure compliance with treatment and offers education, X-ray referrals, medical evaluations and medication management to Monmouth County residents, as well as providing support to local hospitals and other medical facilities.

Patients with active TB disease must take several different drugs for at least six months, even if they begin to feel well after only a few weeks of treatment. TB can almost always be successfully treated.

Preventive treatment is also provided for individuals with latent TB. Latent TB patients harbor TB bacteria in their bodies but are not symptomatic. Latent TB is not communicable, but there is a risk that the patient will develop active TB, especially if their immune system is compromised by another illness or certain immune suppressant medications.

The MCHD TB program provides case management, X-ray referrals and medical evaluations, as well as medication management and monitoring for these individuals in order to prevent further development of the TB germs into disease.

In 2022, the MCHD TB program provided clinic, hospital and home visits which included medical evaluations, assessments, therapy treatment and monitoring. Six new active TB cases were identified and individually case managed and 49 close contacts to TB cases were identified, examined and or treated. Additionally, the TB program provided purified protein derivative testing for 140 individuals and managed prescription therapies for 315 patients.

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 blood lead levels and free blood lead testing for children without health insurance.

Blood lead screening is recommended for children once by the age of 1 (12 months) and again by the age of 2 (24 months) or at least by the age of 6 if not tested previously. Children insured by Medicaid are required to have lead screenings by 1 and 2 years old.

All blood lead test results are recorded in the New Jersey database, the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS).

Children with blood lead levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$) or higher are placed into comprehensive 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.

The Department's public health nurses and licensed lead inspector/risk assessors work as a team to address the medical and environmental aspects of each elevated blood lead case.

Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. The key to keeping children healthy is to stop them from encountering lead and lead dust, treating children who have been affected by lead, and educating parents and child caregivers about the dangers of lead. Even low blood lead levels in young children can result in permanent damage affecting their behavior and learning. Timely intervention at lower levels to reduce their lead level is essential to their optimal health.

For children with blood lead levels of 5 µg/dl or above, the Department's licensed lead inspector/risk assessors inspect and test the home where the child lives, any previous addresses of the family within three months, and any secondary addresses in which the child spent 10 hours or more during the week. These may include residences of caregivers or relatives, or childcare facilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected childhood lead poisoning significantly. School and daycare closures resulted in many children being confined to homes where lead was present. Access to lead screenings decreased dramatically.

According to the Childhood Lead Exposure in New Jersey Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 2020, during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March–May 2020), the number of children in New Jersey with blood lead tests decreased by 52.4% compared with the same period in 2019. Lead-removal efforts slowed at this time. Public health emergency safety measures delayed case managers and lead inspector/risk assessors from visiting homes of families with children affected by lead.

In 2022, approximately 14 new cases were referred to the Department for case management and environmental intervention. During the year, 102 blood lead screenings were provided for uninsured or underinsured children.

Central New Jersey Lead & Healthy Homes Coalition

The Central New Jersey Lead & Healthy Homes Coalition is a regional program as part of a New Jersey Department of Health grant encompassing Monmouth, Ocean, Middlesex, Mercer, Somerset, and Hunterdon Counties. Monmouth County's coalition coordinator works with partners to promote outreach, education and partnership development around childhood lead poisoning prevention issues.

In 2022, the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) had finally begun to transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nurse case management, child blood lead screenings, environmental interventions, and community/partner engagement resumed and increased in activities.

Community outreach and partner engagement continued in the form of e-mails, virtual events, and increased opportunities with in-person events. Educational programs, such as pre-recordings, knowledge of new and current legislation, and news articles have been provided to coalition partners.

Professional development webinars about the health and environmental aspects of lead poisoning prevention were shared with partners. During the year, the coalition coordinator hosted four quarterly virtual (and hybrid in-person/virtual) meetings with all partners to provide updates about events, activities, legislation, and relevant content from guest speakers. Attendance at the meetings and membership increased as the year went on.

Here are some accomplished 2022 goals and objectives:

The coalition formed a Lead Education & Screenings Subcommittee with several partners. The subcommittee developed new ways to increase screenings and education about lead. There was discussion to create new lead educational material about lead and nutrition, as well as child blood lead screenings placard reminder messages for families.

Child blood lead screenings have resumed and increased across the coalition's six-county program area and the MCHD. The coalition engaged partners in a professional development filter paper training event for child blood lead screenings.

In coordination with the Lead Program Nurse Case Manager, a presentation about the screening filter paper method was provided, along with hands-on instruction of the training. More than 40 coalition partners were in attendance. The MCHD also restarted screenings for targeted and non-targeted populations as part its weekly childhood immunization clinics.

The Coalition and MCHD provided legislative updates relevant to lead poisoning Lead-Safe Certificate Law (now N.J.A.C 5:28) that took effect July 22, 2022. Landlords will be required to have lead-based paint inspections performed in pre-1978 properties upon rental turnover and within two to three years if renters do not move.

A professional development educational awareness webinar event was hosted by MCHD for all jurisdictional municipal inspectors and code enforcement staff to educate them about the law. Questions from municipalities regarding the new law were forwarded directly to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, .

The coalition provided Lead and Healthy Homes items, such as educational materials and cleaning supplies, to support any partners hosting programs and events.

In March, the coalition coordinator participated in a tabling event at the New Jersey Environmental Health Association in Atlantic City.

In April, the coalition coordinator participated in an Earth Day tabling event with Bradley Beach. Lead educational materials were provided to event attendees, along with a distribution of 80 "Healthy Homes" dust pans.

The East Windsor Health Department partnered with the coalition to receive 74 Healthy Homes cleaning supplies as part of a lead education component to an August National Night Out event. Lead and Healthy Homes items were made available anytime to partners.

Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance

The 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 regulation with the New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. Chapter 57 Communicable Diseases. The chapter includes eight subchapters and Rabies and Animal Control Rules and Regulations in N.J.A.C. Chapter 23 & N.J.A.C. Chapter 23A.

Public health reporting is mandated by law and is not affected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA specifically provides for public health reporting without a patient's authorization or consent. MCHD strictly adheres to HIPAA regulations during the course of its public health reporting and investigations.

The Infectious Disease Epidemiologist and the Field Disease Representatives investigate reportable diseases as per the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements and guidance.

The Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) is utilized for all confidential patient related communications with the local health departments and NJDOH. Additionally, the Department keeps abreast of emerging infectious diseases across the globe via updates received from Epi-X, Flu.gov, ProMed, New Jersey Health Alert Network, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity, and Travax, among other sources.

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

COVID-19 remained a priority for communicable disease activities in 2022. Public Consulting Group (PCG) contact tracers investigated some of the 38,185 confirmed cases and MCHD's communicable disease team responded to 163 outbreaks. However, MCHD continued to investigate all reportable communicable diseases reported to the Department. In 2022, MCHD investigated 633 reportable communicable diseases and responded to 21 non-COVID outbreaks, including Mpox, which became a national outbreak in the United States.

In 2022, MCHD investigated 22 confirmed and probable cases of Mpox and identified 30 close contacts. MCHD prioritized post-exposure prophylaxis to high-risk contacts including direct exposures, household contacts, group living settings, and healthcare facilities. MCHD administered 90 doses of the Jynneos Mpox Smallpox vaccine and 22 vials were distributed as a vaccine hub in 2022.

Monmouth County Medical Reserve Corps

The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is comprised of medical and public health professionals as well as other community members who want to improve health and safety throughout Monmouth County. The MCHD MRC has 231 active members consisting of 158 medical professionals and 73 community volunteers. Volunteers possess a wide range of skills and are trained and prepared to assist with public health priorities and emergency response efforts.

During 2022, the MCHD MRC continued to be active and respond to emergency and non-emergency response efforts.

Total Reported Activities during 2022	254
Total MCHD MRC Participants during 2022	962
Total Hours Contributed	2,905
Economic Value of Contributions	\$169,767

COVID-19 response activities included supporting vaccine clinics, vaccinating the homebound and delivering food to people isolating with COVID-19. MCHD MRC volunteers administered 172 homebound vaccinations and made 32 food deliveries.

In August, the MCHD MRC began assisting the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) to help fully staff and respond to the Mpox public health crisis. The VNA Community Health Center was one of three initial sites established in New Jersey for Mpox vaccine administration. The MCHD MRC volunteers were a key ingredient in staffing this large-scale clinic.

In non-emergency response activities, volunteers assisted at flu clinics and County Wellness events, and supported events for the National Brain Tumor Walk and the Autism Family Services of New Jersey Annual Autism Beach Bash.

For all of its efforts the Department was awarded Honorable Mention for Community Response (COVID-19 General) at the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response MRC Recognition Awards for 2022. The awards are an opportunity to recognize and highlight the contributions of MRC units across the Country.

Other trainings may include:

- Teambuilding
- Simple triage and rapid treatment Triage
- Outbreak Investigation
- Phone Bank Training
- Radiological Preparedness Training
- Shelter 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.

Health Promotion

The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) continued to be a strong public information source during 2022 with continuous content updates throughout the year, ranging from informational tools for the public to news about emerging public and environmental health topics.

The MCHD website has been extremely successful in showing the public the many programs provided by the Department. The bi-monthly newsletter remains a very effective tool for keeping the public up to date about important health issues, as well as current events locally and nationally. At the time of this report, 22,485 people have signed up for the MCHD newsletter.

COVID-19 Texting Campaign

To spread awareness about vaccine and testing clinics, Monmouth County participated in the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) COVID-19 Clinic Call Center Texting Campaign. Through this system, NJDOH sent text messages to eligible residents who live nearby for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine, notifying them of upcoming vaccine clinics. This partnership helped the Monmouth County Department of Health (MCHD) greatly improve its outreach to communities throughout the County.

Health Promotion

The MCHD website continues to be an information tool with continuous content updates throughout the year, ranging from calendar updates to news of emerging public and environmental health topics.

MCHD has launched a mobile app which can be downloaded for free on Apple or Android devices. The mobile app provides Monmouth County residents with real time information about MCHD programs and services, including information about testing and vaccine clinics. It also provides information about public health related news and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). Since its launch, the app has been downloaded approximately 1,600 times and has a weekly use of about 400 users.



Emergency Preparedness

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) established 22 Local Information Network and Communications Systems (LINCS) agencies throughout New Jersey.

Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) is a LINCS agency and as such, is the lead agency for public health emergency preparedness in Monmouth County. MCHD is also responsible for developing and maintaining up-to-date contact lists for community partners including hospitals, healthcare facilities, faith-based organizations, schools, childcare facilities, municipal partners, emergency medical services, emergency management, and community organizations.

These contact lists are part of the Health Alert Network, a state and federal initiative to rapidly disseminate critical information during public health emergencies. Last year, approximately 475 LINCS messages were distributed to MCHD contacts, covering topics such as communicable disease outbreak information, product recalls, training opportunities, and more.

MCHD works closely with its partners in the New Jersey Department of Health, Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management (MCOEM), and Central Healthcare Coalition to ensure its staff is well trained and ready to respond.

To make sure the Department was ready to quickly distribute emergency public health messaging, even after hours, MCHD participated in communicator drills in February, May, and November 2022. In July, MCHD, together with MCOEM, held training for medical needs sheltering operations.

MCHD is part of the Central Healthcare Coalition. The coalition is comprised of healthcare providers, emergency medical services and representatives from local health departments in Monmouth, Union, Middlesex, Ocean, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties. The coalition meets quarterly for preparedness strategic planning and examining existing plans for gaps.

In the Summer of 2022, Mpox cases began to appear in communities throughout the country.

To reduce the spread of the disease, MCHD conducted public outreach, at public events, providing health information and linking individuals to additional services.

MCHD served as a vaccine hub, receiving, storing and distributing Mpox vaccine to community partners. MCHD communicable disease investigators conducted contact tracing of known cases to reduce the spread of Mpox. Finally, MCHD nurses held free vaccine clinics for qualified individuals.

Overdose Fatality Review Team

The Overdose Fatality Review Team (ODFRT) was established in Monmouth County to support the development of effective strategies for preventing and responding to overdoses.

The goals of the Monmouth County ODFRT are to:

- Promote cooperation and coordination among agencies involved in investigations of drug overdose deaths or in providing services to surviving family members;
- Develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of drug overdose deaths in the County;
- Enable the agencies represented on the local team to develop plans and recommend changes to prevent drug overdose deaths;
- Advise the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and other appropriate agencies about 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.

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

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Monmouth County Health Department
Monmouth County Division of Behavioral Health
Monmouth County Correctional Institution
Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
Monmouth County Division of Social Services
Office of the Medical Examiner
Representatives of state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies
Representatives of emergency medical services
Hospital representatives
Probation
Parole
Recovery Court
Persons in recovery
Prevention and Harm Reduction Specialists
Peer Recovery Specialists
Mental Health and Substance Use treatment professionals

As the ODFRT continues, additional agencies are being included and encouraged to participate in this project.

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 is the only local health authority of the six remaining health departments in Monmouth County whose programs are 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 three municipal hazmat teams.

Previous environmental health reports and expanded reports of the information that follows can be accessed from the Health Department section of the Monmouth County website at www.visitmonmouth.com.



Manasquan Inlet

Water Pollution Control Program

The Monmouth County Health Department's Water Pollution Control Program acts as an agent of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (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

Forty-one transient systems and 40 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

Private wells, periodically or if involved in realty transfers, are required to be analyzed for primary and secondary United States Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) water quality parameters. Private Well Testing Act results are received from NJDEP. In 2022, 10 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 Program

In 2022, 50 bathing beach sites were monitored weekly during the recreational bathing season with a total of 838 samples taken and analyzed for bacteria. There was one re-sample obtained and analyzed after initial sampling results exceeded bacterial standards. There were no bathing beach closures. One beach advisory was posted, requiring sanitary surveys be performed. Sample results can be found at www.njbeaches.org.

Fish Kills

Periodic fish kills of Menhaden occurred during the spring 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 the Monmouth County Health Department indicated dissolved oxygen levels, within large schools of juvenile Menhaden, plummeted during diurnal oscillations.

Phytoplankton

During the year, field observations during coastal monitoring program, fish kill investigations and local complaints resulted in two 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 these water bodies and posted to the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) website.

The increasing trend of harmful algae blooms (HABs) occurring in County water bodies is a concern. The MCHD and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection are involved in a cooperative effort to identify and investigate these HABs.

Watershed Management Initiatives

Staff coordinated with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), County and local entities on several comprehensive storm water infrastructure investigations, and source tracking of bacterially impacted recreational waters.

Complaints

A total of eight environmental surface and drinking water complaints were investigated.

Environmental Laboratory

The laboratory maintained and calibrated state certified field sampling instrumentation used in complaint investigations. Database management and sample tracking was performed for multiple projects and complaints. The Monmouth County Health Department is the only County health laboratory currently performing this function.

Air & Noise Control Program

During 2022, the Monmouth County Health Department Air and Noise Control Program performed 436 site visits and complaint investigations, 52 of which were minor source inspections.

Air and Noise Site Visits

<u>Site Visits</u>	2022
Citizen Complaints	11
NJDEP Referrals	41
Total	52

Minor Source Inspections

This year, 79 minor source inspections were conducted 2022.

<u>Minor Source</u>	2022
B sources	77
Dry Cleaners	2
Total	79

Noise Control Program

Six noise complaints were investigated.

GIS/GPS Completed Projects

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

Greener Blue Sewage Pump-Out Boat

The Greener Blue is owned and maintained by the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) and operated by the NY/NJ Baykeeper Organization through a cooperative agreement established in 2015. Since 2001, the Greener Blue has serviced more than 17,460 boats and properly disposed of more than 620,000 gallons of sewage. In 2022, 1,110 boats were serviced, and 28,750 gallons of sewage were disposed.



Greener Blue Boat

Hazardous Materials Response and Pesticide Control

The Monmouth County Health Department's (MCHD) 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.

The MCHD maintains a core of highly trained and equipped personnel who will respond to Hazmat and CBRNE emergencies and conducts investigations in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS), 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 at all times.

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 sustaining extended operations for larger incidents. In addition, the MCHD maintains equipment capable of supporting command, logistics, decontamination, and mobile power needs at any incident.

MCHD handles 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 91 complaints were investigated during 2022.

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 Community (LEPC) and regularly participates in other planning meetings with County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the County Fire Marshal. Coordination with the County OEM and Fire Marshal has resulted in an integrated network of primary and secondary departments for mutual aid including Hazmat/CBRN response and mass decontamination.

The Hazmat staff regularly provides support to other health department units and County agencies. Staff also participate in the MCHD's Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program during the summer months.

All members of the Hazmat staff also maintain certification in NJDEP odor field enforcement procedures to assist the Department's Air Pollution Control Unit with after-hours complaints. In addition, the Hazmat staff provides logistics support for the Department's Strategic National Stockpile Personal Protective Equipment Distribution Program.

Continuing education and training are essential parts of the MCHD mission to provide a comprehensive emergency preparedness system throughout Monmouth County. The Department's Hazmat Unit maintains some of the most highly trained Hazmat/CBRNE response personnel in the State of New Jersey. In 2022, MCHD continued to expand its emergency response capability and competence by taking advantage of numerous federal, state, and local training opportunities.

Solid Waste Control

The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) Solid Waste Enforcement Team (SWET) is authorized by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to enforce state 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.

The scope of work for 2022 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. Field activities include recycling compliance inspections and waste audits at businesses and institutions throughout the County to ensure compliance with the Monmouth County Solid Waste Management Plan. The SWET handles citizen complaints and investigates complaints received and referred by the NJDEP.

Monmouth County has 257 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 a temporary basis and others cease operation. 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 and 28 closed landfills.

Facilities that are found to be 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. During 2022, the MCHD issued 27 violations and the identified facilities expeditiously returned to compliance. SWET personnel conducted several joint inspections with NJDEP staff to ensure uniformity in enforcement protocols.

Recycling Compliance Inspections

The Solid Waste Enforcement Team conducted 1,043 recycling compliance inspections at businesses and institutions throughout the County. The Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD) inspects all types of businesses regardless of size, including educational and entertainment facilities, all retail stores, restaurants, manufacturing and distribution facilities, and professional offices.

The inspections identified 276 violations of the New Jersey Administrative Code's recycling regulations. The Department's goal is to achieve compliance through informal meetings where staff try to educate the consumer about recycling laws and the benefits of recycling to 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 the MCHD to easily incorporate local recycling coordinators and code officials into the enforcement process. The Department typically refers 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 their recycling program into compliance. In most cases, this is achieved under the jurisdiction of local municipal enforcement.

For towns that request the MCHD to follow-up on the Notices of Violation, staff will re-inspect the violators to ensure that the deficiencies have been corrected. The Department's focus this past year was concentrated on beach areas.

In addition to the public and private facilities that were inspected in 2022, inspections were also completed at the four transfer stations in the county. The regulations state that recycling must be separated at the point of generation and cannot be commingled with any type of waste. Should this occur, staff follow-up with the generator and the hauler to correct any infractions. A total of 75 loads were inspected resulting in eight violations.

Transporter Waste Flow Inspections

A total of 575 solid waste vehicles and/or roll-off containers/dumpsters were inspected at various job sites and at Monmouth County's four transfer stations resulting in 20 Notices of Violation and five 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 in the waste stream.

Monmouth County Health Department staff 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.

The transporter violations that occur most frequently at the MCRC 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 a solid waste vehicle/container; failure to carry a current New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) registration certificate; failure to comply with limitations on approved registration; and collecting solid waste and source separated recyclables in the same vehicle. Solid waste containers are also inspected at various developments and construction sites.

The Monmouth County Solid Waste Enforcement Team 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 two applicants met the criteria and were interviewed and assisted in completion of the application for final processing by NJDEP.

SWET ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN 2022			
ACTIVITIES		COMPLAINTS	
Activity	Count 2022	Complaint	Count 2022
Municipal Summons Issues:	5	Complaints from Local Source	32
Settlement Conferences:	5	Complaints from NJDEP	38
Court Actions	7	Total	70
Major Landfill Inspections (OP)	1		
Closed Landfill	13		
Transfer Station	11		
Recycling Investigation	1,043		
Exempt Compost Facility	51		
Class C Facility	4		
Exempt and Limited Class B Facilities	257		
Class A Recycling Centers	19		
Farmland Mulch Sites	47		
Convenience Centers	71		
Class B-General:	37		
Leaf Transfer Inspection	52		
Total	2,242		

Mosquito Control Division

Surveillance Activities

- Statewide, there were 20 confirmed human cases of West Nile virus with four fatalities, the fifth highest number of cases since 2012. Five of the cases and one fatality occurred in Monmouth County. Of note, two of the five cases occurred in the same neighborhood.
- 515 mosquito pools were sent to the New Jersey Department of Health laboratory for testing for West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, James Canyon virus, St. Louis virus and Lacrosse virus; 34 pools tested positive for West Nile virus.
- An additional 149 pools were tested for West Nile virus using the in-house Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform system; 16 pools tested positive. Often these pools were collected in areas near locations of previous positive results or human cases; this testing provided quick results that helped guide adult mosquito control operations.
- Dry weather conditions sustained across Monmouth County for most of the 2022 season greatly reduced mosquito populations. Sixteen light traps deployed throughout the County collected only 6,082 mosquitoes, less than half the number collected in 2021.

Inspections and Treatment

- Most likely due to dry conditions, the Division received only 311 requests for service from the public, the lowest number in 15 years and less than half the average of 696.
- Division staff completed 8,430 inspections of larval mosquito habitats, one of the top five totals since 2006. Of this total, 44% were dry at the time of inspection; 22% were found wet with larvae; and 32% were treated or pre-treated.
- 5,725 acres of larval habitat were treated aurally by helicopter with Vectoprime; 4,050 acres were treated with Vectobac GS.
- Eight adult mosquito control operations were conducted by truck in 2022: one in response to a human case, seven in response to positive bridge vectors and one for nuisance control. For four of the five human cases of West Nile virus, the Division received notification late in the season when temperatures were too low for adult mosquito control operations. In total, ~845 acres were treated by 5.35 gallons of pyrethroid pesticide.
- Twenty-three sites were treated with ~4,000 fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) which are native fish and natural predators of mosquito larvae.

Tire Retrieval Program

- The “Mosquito Madness” tire pick-up program targeted the Borough of Keyport in 2022; 103 tires were collected through the program.
- More than three tons of tires were collected through regular inspection operations.

Insecticide Resistance

- The Division expanded its testing of *Culex* mosquitoes for insecticide resistance to include two sites with little history of adult mosquito control. Similar to sites where more operations have occurred, mosquitoes from these sites displayed moderate resistance to pyrethroids and no resistance to organophosphates.
- Attempts to identify the mechanism for the resistance were thwarted by an inability to find enough *Culex pipiens* eggs due to dry conditions. Field personnel collected eggs; however, most hatched out were *Culex restuans* and not usable for the resistance protocol.
- Plans to test more populations of *Aedes albopictus* were postponed to 2023 due to the dry conditions and inability to collect enough eggs to conduct the bottle assays.

Tick-Borne Disease Management Program

Tick Identification

- The public submitted 468 ticks for identification of species, sex, life stage and engorgement level.
- Consistent with a trend that began in 2012, the Lone Star Tick was by far the most common tick comprising 70% submissions.
- Black-Legged Ticks, which are the carriers of the Lyme disease pathogen, only comprised 15% and American dog ticks comprised 15%.
- The public retrieved 26 ticks presumably to submit to a private lab for testing for disease infection; 11 were Black-Legged Ticks, 11 were lone star ticks and five were American dog ticks. While a low percentage of overall submissions, the fact that multiple species were retrieved suggests increasing public awareness of other tick species diseases besides the Black-Legged Tick and Lyme disease.

Tick Surveillance

- Program staff completed a fifth year of field surveillance at 19 sites where tick abundance is estimated by drag sampling between May and July.
- The surveillance targets nymphal ticks as they are the stage most associated with human risk of disease due to their small, difficult to detect size and likelihood to be encountered due to the increased outdoor activity.
- The relative abundance of the Lone Star Tick suggests they are the most encountered tick in Monmouth County.
- Overall density of Black-Legged Ticks has trended lower over time.
- Tick collections at Naval Weapons Station Earle indicate substantially lower numbers of Black-Legged Ticks in 2022 compared to previous years since 1998; however, overall density of neither species has shown any significant trend nor have numbers of ticks increased significantly over two decades.
- The tick-borne disease laboratory added disease-causing viruses to its testing capabilities including Powassan, Bourbon, and heartland viruses. Testing for viruses of archived ticks will begin in 2023.

2023-2025 NJACCHO President

During a ceremony at the 2022 League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor swore in Monmouth County Public Health Coordinator Christopher P. Merkel as the new President of the New Jersey Association of City and County Health Officers (NJACCHO).

NJACCHO is a private, nonprofit organization of municipal and county public health leaders and allied health professionals.

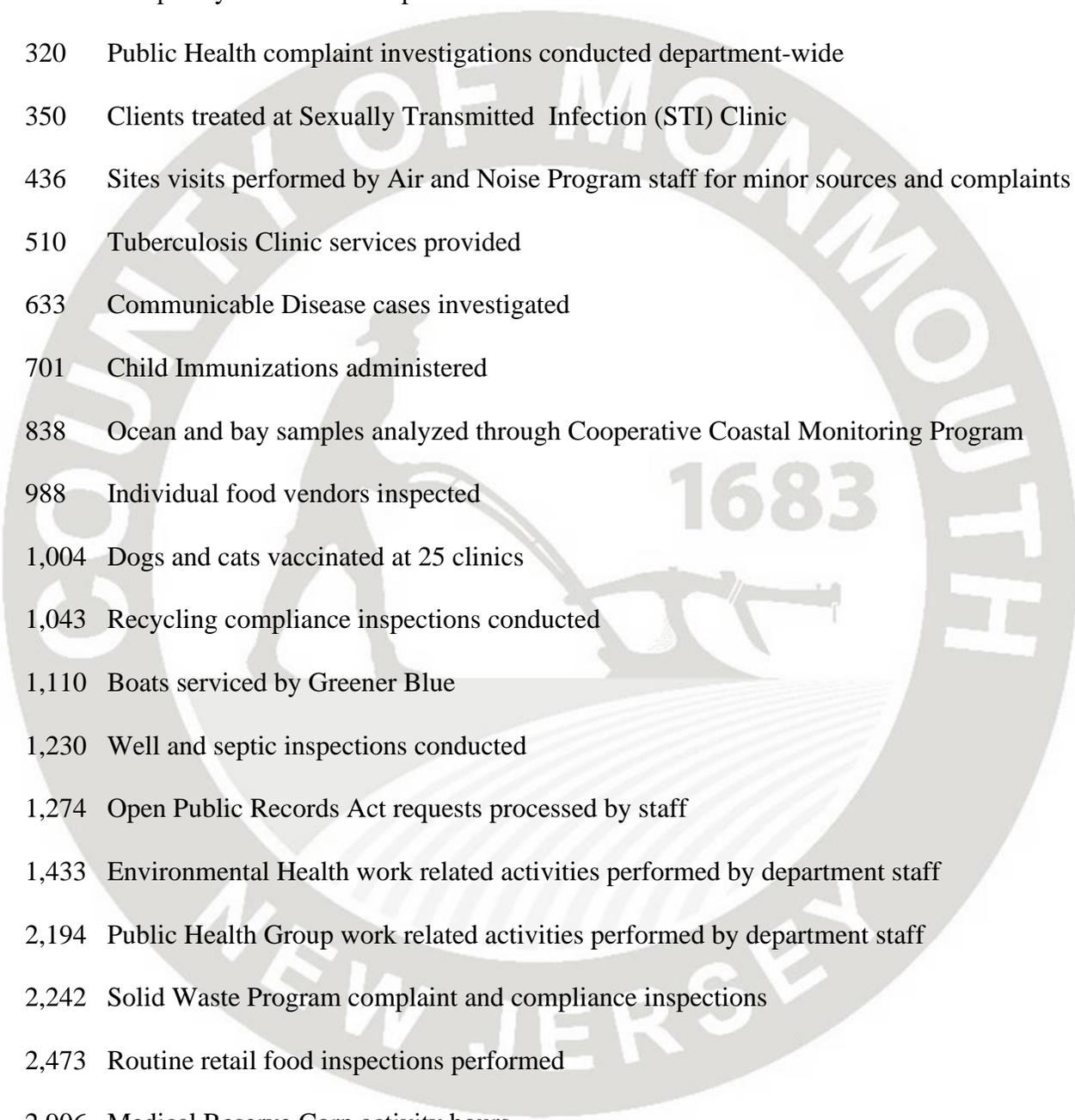
Its mission is to advance the art and science of public health, ensure conditions that promote health, prevent disease, and protect the health of New Jersey's population through leadership, advocacy, collaboration, and the assurance of workforce competencies. It is the premiere public health professional organization in New Jersey.

As president, Merkel will oversee several activities to further public health in New Jersey including:

- Public Health workforce development programs such as N2PH (New to Public Health Program) and Dale Carnegie Leadership training
- Advocacy for Public Health Priority Funding
- Administering approximately \$75 million in grant funds to eligible county, municipal, and regional health departments with the goal of enhancing public health infrastructure and capacity



Monmouth County Health Department 2022 By the Numbers

- 
- 164 Communicable Disease Outbreaks investigated
 - 194 Temporary food events inspected
 - 320 Public Health complaint investigations conducted department-wide
 - 350 Clients treated at Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Clinic
 - 436 Sites visits performed by Air and Noise Program staff for minor sources and complaints
 - 510 Tuberculosis Clinic services provided
 - 633 Communicable Disease cases investigated
 - 701 Child Immunizations administered
 - 838 Ocean and bay samples analyzed through Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program
 - 988 Individual food vendors inspected
 - 1,004 Dogs and cats vaccinated at 25 clinics
 - 1,043 Recycling compliance inspections conducted
 - 1,110 Boats serviced by Greener Blue
 - 1,230 Well and septic inspections conducted
 - 1,274 Open Public Records Act requests processed by staff
 - 1,433 Environmental Health work related activities performed by department staff
 - 2,194 Public Health Group work related activities performed by department staff
 - 2,242 Solid Waste Program complaint and compliance inspections
 - 2,473 Routine retail food inspections performed
 - 2,906 Medical Reserve Corp activity hours
 - 28,750 Gallons of sewage pumped by the Greener Blue pump-out boat, instead of being discharged into the ocean or other waterways