



Division of Health 2022 Annual Report

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
Department of Health, Recreation, Seniors, and Veterans Services

2100 Greenwood Ave, Hamilton, NJ 08609



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Message from the Director

I am pleased to present our 2022 year-end Annual report. Inside you will gain insight into the work of the Hamilton Township Division of Health, whose mission is to protect the health and well-being of our Hamilton residents. The achievements highlighted in the 2022 Annual Report would not be possible without the expertise and dedication of our Hamilton Division of Health staff.

Our division is comprised of the following sections: Public Health, Environmental Health and Animal Control Services. Each of our sections are dedicated to providing high quality services to our community within the challenges and opportunities encountered in the evolving public health and healthcare environments.

Animal care is another key component of a healthy community and this section maintains the highest standards of humane animal sheltering; promotes the placement of animals into homes; and encourages responsible pet ownership through education, enforcement, and community partnership.

As the pandemic continues to disrupt our nation and state, our Hamilton Township Division of Health has never faltered in delivering essential public health services to our community. I am also very proud of the exceptional staff at the division who have worked tirelessly and passionately to protect the public's health while continuing to address other programmatic priorities.

I would like to thank the residents of our community for their continued perseverance and adherence to many restrictions put upon us during these unprecedented times. Your compliance in wearing masks, socially distancing, practicing hand hygiene, and being vaccinated has help to control the spread of the virus and keep us all safe.

Thank you to Mayor Martin, his Administration, and our Township Council for their ongoing support of our Department. Our team will continue to work hard in protecting the health and safety of all those we are so privileged to serve in our community.

Yours in Health,

Kathleen Fitzgerald, RN, BSN, CALA, CDP
Director of Health

Message from the Health Officer

Outlined within this document is a detailed snapshot of all of the incredible work the staff has completed throughout the past year. Your health team remains dedicated, compassionate, and effective even in the face of the continued response to COVID-19, emerging diseases such as MonkeyPox, and pivoting towards accreditation. It is the Division's responsibility to prevent diseases, promote healthful behaviors, and protect the community.

Last year I set two goals for 2022:

1. By the end of 2022, 65% of the 5-11 year olds within the Township will have received at least 1-dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - a. Hamilton is not quite there yet. Currently, 49% of 5-11 year olds in the township have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to reduce the likelihood of severe disease due to COVID-19.
2. By the end of 2022, increase by 10% the number of adoptions from the Animal Shelter.
 - a. The Animal Shelter increased its year over year adoptions by 29%! While this number is fantastic, we also have seen a huge increase in the number of animals calling the shelter home temporarily. We need fosters and adopters more than ever!

Looking ahead to 2023, the Division will continue to do what it does best - respond to the health needs of Hamilton. This includes continued engagement with and monitoring of Trenton Water Works (TWW). Last year, the Division and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) conducted home-water sampling throughout the Township. This study found more than half of homes had Legionella bacteria detected. Additionally, the State of New Jersey finally stepped in to install a third party monitor of TWW and allow DEP to oversee that the deficiencies at TWW are addressed. More information of the Township's response and Legionella are found in this report and on the Township's website.

This year's goals are:

1. By the end of 2023, achieve a favorable score from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on the Division's application into the Pathways Recognition Program.
2. By the end of 2023, increase by 10% the number of adoptions from the Animal Shelter.
3. By the end of 2023, conduct home-water sampling of at least 20 homes for Legionella.

Thank you again for taking the time to review the division's annual report.

In good health,

Christopher Hellwig, MPH MCHES
Health Officer

Contact Information

Division of Health	
<u>Administration</u>	609-689-5562
Director	(Director) 609-890-3686
Health Officer	
Accounts Receivable/Payable	
<u>Public Health Nursing</u>	609-890-3884
Health Education	hamnurse@hamiltonnj.com
Childhood Vaccinations	covidvaccine@hamiltonnj.com
Flu / Pneumonia Vaccinations	
STD Clinic	
Infectious Disease Investigations	
<u>Environmental Health</u>	609-890-3828
Inspections and Licensing	environmental@hamiltonnj.com
Public Health Nuisances	
<u>Vital Statistics</u>	609-890-3826
Marriage Licenses	vitalstats@hamiltonnj.com
Certified Copies of Marriage, Birth, and Death Certificates	
<u>Animal Shelter</u>	609-890-3555
Animal Control	(ACOs) 609-890-3550
Adoption Inquiries	animal-shelter@hamiltonnj.com
Dog Licensing	
<u>After Hours and Holidays (HTPD)</u>	609-581-4000
<u>Complaints or Service Requests (HamStat)</u>	609-586-0311



Division staff and family members enjoying an evening Trenton Thunder Game.

Visit Hamilton Division of Health Online

www.hamiltonnj.com/health

www.hamiltonnj.com/animalshelter

Like us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/HamiltonTwpNJ

www.facebook.com/HamiltonAnimalShelter

Follow us on Twitter at:

@HamiltonTwpNJ

Like us on Instagram at:

@HamiltonTwpNJ

@HamiltonTownshipAnimalShelter

Mission, Vision, Values

The Township of Hamilton Division of Health serves as the local health authority for the township. Under the guidance of Mayor Martin, Director Fitzgerald, and the Hamilton Board of Health, the Division of Health is responsible for the program areas of public health nursing, environmental health, vital statistics, health licensing, administration, animal control, sheltering, and adoptions.

MISSION

The mission of the Division of Health is to serve as a trusted resource for Hamilton Township to improve the health and well-being of our residents through health education and promotion, enforcement of public health safety, and adopting to ever-changing community health needs.

VISION

The vision of the Division of Health is to create a culture of health by increasing accessibility and promoting health equity through honest and credible services and community engagement.

VALUES

The values of the Division of Health are Professionalism; Reliability; Accessibility; Integrity; Community-Minded

Township of Hamilton Board of Health

New Jersey Statute requires that each municipality have a Board of Health. Boards of Health, depending on the municipality's form of government, can be advisory, autonomous, or the town council. In Hamilton Township, the Township Council serves as the local Board of Health, under the Faulkner Act. The Council must go out of session as the municipal government and convene as the Board of Health.

The Board of Health's role is to ensure a reliable and efficient public health system exists in Hamilton. Additionally, the Board of Health is responsible for the oversight of the activities of the Division of Health as they pertain to NJAC 8:52, the public health practice standards of performance for local boards of health in New Jersey.

The Health Officer provides updates to the Board of Health throughout the year on the state of the Township's health. Future meeting dates, along with agendas and minutes are posted on the Township's website: www.hamiltonnj.com/council.

2023 Board of Health Members	
Charles F. Whalen, <i>President</i>	Anthony Carabelli, <i>Vice President</i>
Pasquale "Pat" Papero	Nancy Phillips
Richard Tighe	

Organization Chart

Division of Health	
<u>Director</u>	Kathleen Fitzgerald
<u>Health Officer</u>	Chris Hellwig
<u>Administration and Vital Statistics</u> Jessica Purdy - Supervisor Supervising Clerk	Sarah Papadem - Registrar Lisa Konopka - Clerk Typist / Deputy Registrar VACANT - Senior Clerk Typist
<u>Environmental Health</u> Lisa Surtees - Supervisor Chief REHS	Kelly Thomas - Senior REHS Eric Cuperwich - REHS Randy Donovan - REHS Rylee Evanko - Clerk / Alt Deputy Registrar
<u>Public Health Nursing</u> Giovanna Guarraggi - Supervisor Admin Director of Nursing	Jill Belviso - Asst PHN Supervisor Anita Masiello - Senior PHN Kelly Colton - Senior PHN Patricia Buczynski - PHN Christine Santoro - PHN (PT)* Veronica Eisenmann - Health Educator* Brady Rivera - Health Aide, Bilingual* Mamai-ee Freeman - Health Aide* Jill Rudd - Clerk Typist
<u>Animal Shelter</u> Donielle Gioia - Supervisor Management Specialist	Marion Munford - ACO Anthony Agabiti - Asst ACO Jay Schutz - Asst ACO Shaquille Pennerman - Asst ACO Susann Dipersio - Animal Attendant Noelle Goodwin - Animal Attendant Michaela Meleg - Animal Attendant Gary Stern - Animal Attendant (PT) Alfredo Nieves - Animal Attendant (PT) Jesse O'Neill - Animal Attendant (PT) Nicole Muller - Clerk Typist Donna Peroni - Senior Clerk Typist
<u>Hamilton Alliance Against Substance Abuse (HAASA)</u>	VACANT - Alliance Coordinator*

*Grant funded positions

Division of Health Staffing	
Number of Employees	34
Number of Per Diem Employees	5
Number of Volunteers	53
Number of Contract Organizations	6

Demographic and Health Profile of Hamilton

Health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. Most residents have heard the recommendations of a healthier lifestyle: seeking preventative care, not smoking, eating more fruits and vegetables, and getting regular exercise. But, did you know that where you live has an important role in you and your loved ones' health? According to HealthyPeople 2030, which is a set of national health objectives, our health is also determined in part by access to social and economic opportunities; the resources and supports available in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities; the quality of our schooling; the safety of our workplaces; the cleanliness of our water, food, and air; and the nature of our social interactions and relationships. In the tables below, are selected characteristics intended to provide a quick glance at the indicators that play a role in determining the health of Hamilton residents.

Table 1. US Census Bureau (2020) Demographic Characteristics for Hamilton Township, NJ

Demographic Characteristic	Measure
Total Population	92,297
Veteran Population	4.8%
Disabled Population	10%
Age	
Persons under 18 years	18.9%
Persons over 65 years	18.0%
Race and Ethnicity	
White alone	75.2%
Hispanic or Latinx	15.8%
Black or African American alone	14.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latinx	63.7%
Asian, alone	4.4%
Two or more races	2.1%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, persons 25+ years	91.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher, persons 25+ years	30.6%
Income	
Median household income	\$78,177
Persons in poverty	7.9%

Table 2. BRFSS 2017 Age-Adjusted Comparison of Health Indicators for Hamilton Township (n=81) and Mercer County (n=540), NJ

Health Indicator	Hamilton Twp.	Mercer County
Fair or Poor Health Status Reported	24.3%	16.9%
Adults with at least one chronic condition	12.3%	14.0%
Diabetes	5.3%	9.3%
Pre-Diabetes	7.0%	11.6%
Angina or Coronary Heart Disease	5.6%	3.5%
Cancer, other than skin cancer	7.4%	5.5%
Frequent mental distress	3.8%	16.8%
Obese, individuals 20+	27.8%	28.0%

Table 3. Comparison of Mortality Data (deaths due to any cause) between Hamilton Township and Mercer County, NJ, 2019

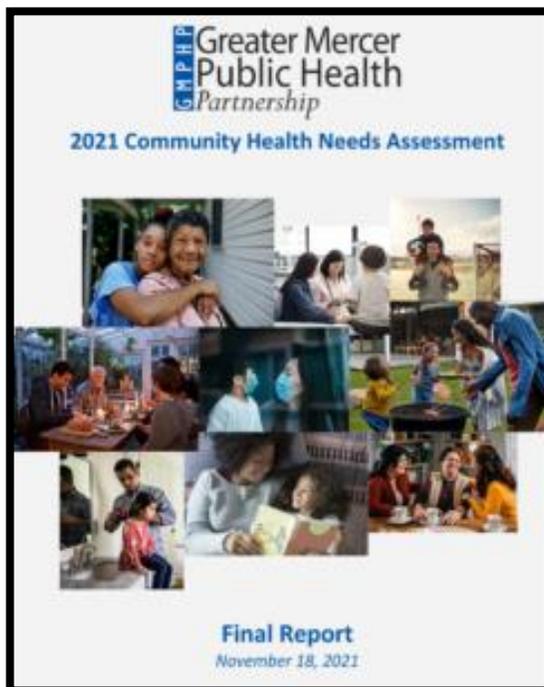
Mortality Statistic	Hamilton Twp.	Mercer County
Avg. age at death, 2000-2019, years	76.9	74.5
Age-Adjusted Rate, Deaths per 100,000 population	718.6	646.3

Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership

The Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) is a collaboration of local hospitals, health departments, human and social services agencies, and other not-for-profit organizations, which jointly work to measurably improve the health of residents of the Greater Mercer County community. The development of the most current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) began in early 2021 to identify the significant health priorities for Mercer County. The process included a combination of data collection and analysis of primary and secondary source data. This process resulted in the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Executive Board identifying Mercer County's priority health areas to be addressed in a plan for collaboratively improving the community's health. The priority areas identified include:

- **COVID-19**
 - Guiding goal: Reduce death disparities among vulnerable populations
- **Chronic Disease and Life Expectancy**
 - Guiding goal: Achieve equitable life expectancy among all residents in Mercer County
- **Behavioral Health and Trauma**
 - Guiding goal: Reduce the impact of trauma on health outcomes
- **Maternal and Infant Health**
 - Guiding goal: Achieve equitable outcomes for mothers and babies

The Division of Health takes the information outlined in the CHNA and develops a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Hamilton. The CHIP will outline how the Division will respond to the priority health areas identified in the CHNA along with any priority health areas specific to Hamilton. This assessment will be in effect from 2022 - 2024.



The Division has also chosen to focus on Childhood Lead outreach and education. Some activities completed in 2022 related to the CHIP include:

- COVID-19 vaccination clinics and home visits
- COVID-19 rapid test kit distribution.
- Development of informational infographics and flyers
- Launch of a Community Health Survey
- Development of a comprehensive Inventory of Support Services for residents to access freely.
- Screening for and investigating cases of elevated childhood lead

More information on the CHNA and CHIP can be accessed online: www.hamiltonnj.com/health

What does Public Health do?

The Hamilton Township Division of Health (HDOH) works tirelessly to protect and improve the health and well-being of our community, as well as the environmental resources upon which we all depend. Since 1900, the average lifespan of U.S. residents has increased by more than 30 years, with 25 years of this gain attributable to advances in public health, such as:

Vaccination	Safer and healthier foods
Motor-vehicle safety	Healthier mothers and babies
Safer workplaces	Family planning
Control of infectious diseases	Fluoridation of drinking water
Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke	Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard

Today, HDOH, along with our sister agencies across New Jersey and the country continue to promote health and wellness. The Division of Health...

- **Protects you from health threats.** HDOH works to prevent disease outbreaks and makes sure the water you drink, the food you eat, and the air you breathe are all safe. The Division is also ready to respond to any health emergency – be it bioterrorism, Ebola, food-borne diseases, rabies, Legionnaires’ disease, COVID-19, or Monkeypox (MPX).
- **Educates you and your neighbors about health issues.** HDOH provides you with information that helps you to make more healthful decisions, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking, and washing your hands to protect yourself from communicable diseases. During a public health emergency, we also provide important alerts and warnings to protect your health.
- **Provides healthy solutions.** HDOH offers the preventive care you need to avoid disease and maintain your health. The Division took the lead in Mercer County and launched COVID-19 vaccination for eligible residents in December 2020. The Division continues to provide annual flu vaccines to all township residents and the pneumonia vaccine to residents aged 65-older. Eligible children receive the immunizations required to attend school and prevent diseases. Additionally, the Division provides confidential STD testing, screening, and treatment to residents.
- **Advances community health.** HDOH takes part in developing new policies and standards that address existing and emerging challenges to our township’s health while enforcing a range of laws to help keep our residents safe. The Division stays up-to-date with research and staff training to maintain expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting-edge health programs.



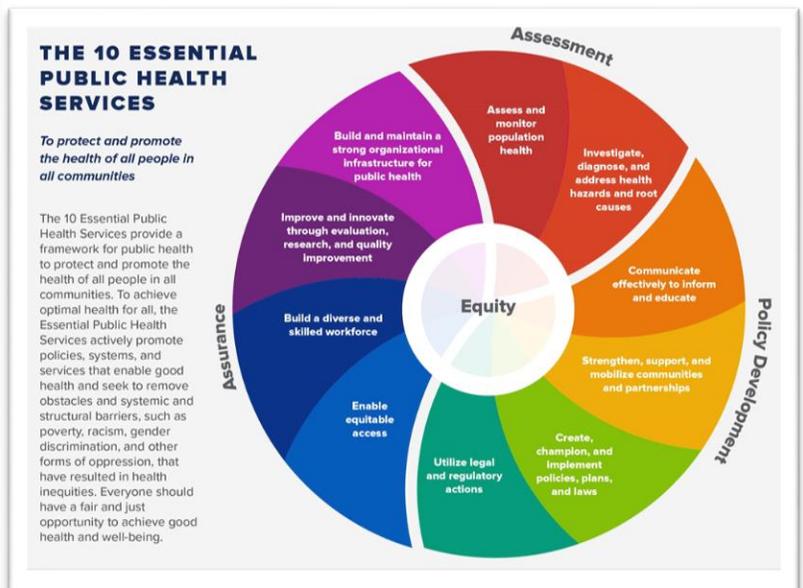
Administration

The Office of the Health Officer within the Division of Health plans and executes the decisions needed to ensure continued compliance with all applicable rules, laws, and guidelines set by township, state, and federal agencies. Additionally, the Health Officer is in charge of:

Financial Management	Strategic Planning
Public Information	Workforce Development
Record Keeping	Inter-Governmental Affairs
Personnel Management	Public Health Enforcement

Providing timely and accurate public information is an important role of the Health Officer, to ensure the public has the information they need to make healthful decisions.

Right: Chris Hellwig is speaking with 6ABC on the Division’s response to the ongoing issues with Trenton Water Works and Legionella found in the water system. More information is online at www.hamiltonnj.com/legionella



Top: The 10 essential services of public health
Left: Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests can be submitted online: www.townshipofhamiltonnj.nextrequest.com

Accreditation

Increasing Quality and Performance through PHAB Accreditation



Accreditation measures a health department's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards. PHAB fosters continuous quality improvement to help accredited health departments deliver essential public health services to their communities. Health departments that sustain accreditation over time report a wide range of benefits from accreditation, including:



95%

reported that accreditation stimulated **quality and performance improvement**



77%

strengthened **relationships with key partners** in other sectors (e.g. health care, social services, education)



90%

improved their ability to identify and address gaps in **employee training and workforce development**.



74%

reported accreditation helped them use **health equity** as a lens for **identifying and addressing health priorities**.

"[Health department] staff have discovered the importance and value of QI in public health and created a culture of continuous quality improvement that has resulted in both increased morale, teamwork, and success of [health department]."

The Division is actively moving down the path towards public health accreditation. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the entity that oversees the process. In 2022, the Division started the application process to join what is called the "Pathways Recognition Program." One way to look at Pathways is as accreditation-light. But don't mistake this as an easier or lesser option! This is a stepping-stone to full accreditation by PHAB, and focuses on the Foundational Capabilities of the Division as opposed to all capabilities. The progress made during Pathways will be honored during full-accreditation.

Hamilton Township Division of Health 2022 Community Health Survey

The Hamilton Township Division of Health is dedicated to serving the residents of Hamilton Township.



SCAN ME

or [click here](#) for the survey



We value your health and your feedback!



This is an anonymous, 5-minute survey about your health. Your responses are greatly appreciated and will help the Division of Health tailor programs and services that fit the health needs of our community!



Questions? Call 609-890-3825 or 609-890-3828



66%

experienced **improved visibility or reputation** to external stakeholders



65%

improved the **use of resources** within their health department



65%

of reaccredited health departments reported **greater collaboration** across health departments or within units



89%

saw increased **accountability and transparency** within their health department.

"The reaccreditation process helped us ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our communities. With reaccreditation, the Chicago Department of Public Health is demonstrating ongoing accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work."
-Allison Arwady, Acting Commissioner, Chicago Dept. of Public Health

PHAB is the sole national public health accrediting body for state, local, territorial, Army and Tribal health departments. Through the accreditation process, we promote consistency in the delivery of public health services across health departments by strengthening health department infrastructure.

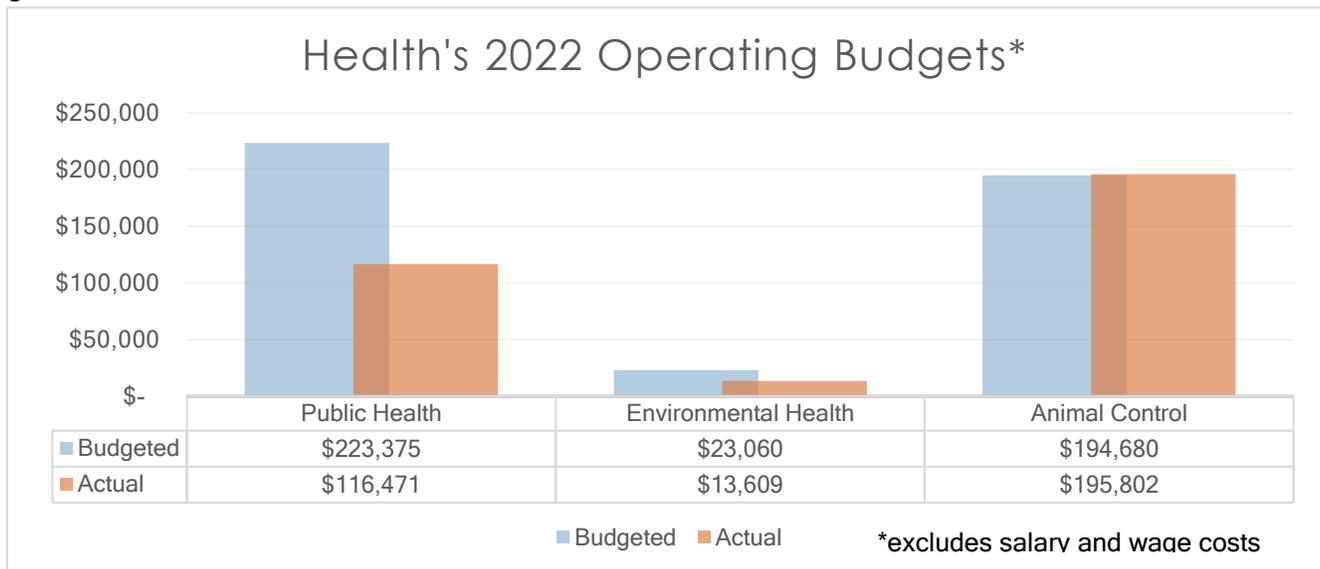
Visit phaboard.org to learn more about accreditation and for more on how quality and performance improvement contribute to public health transformation.

July 2022

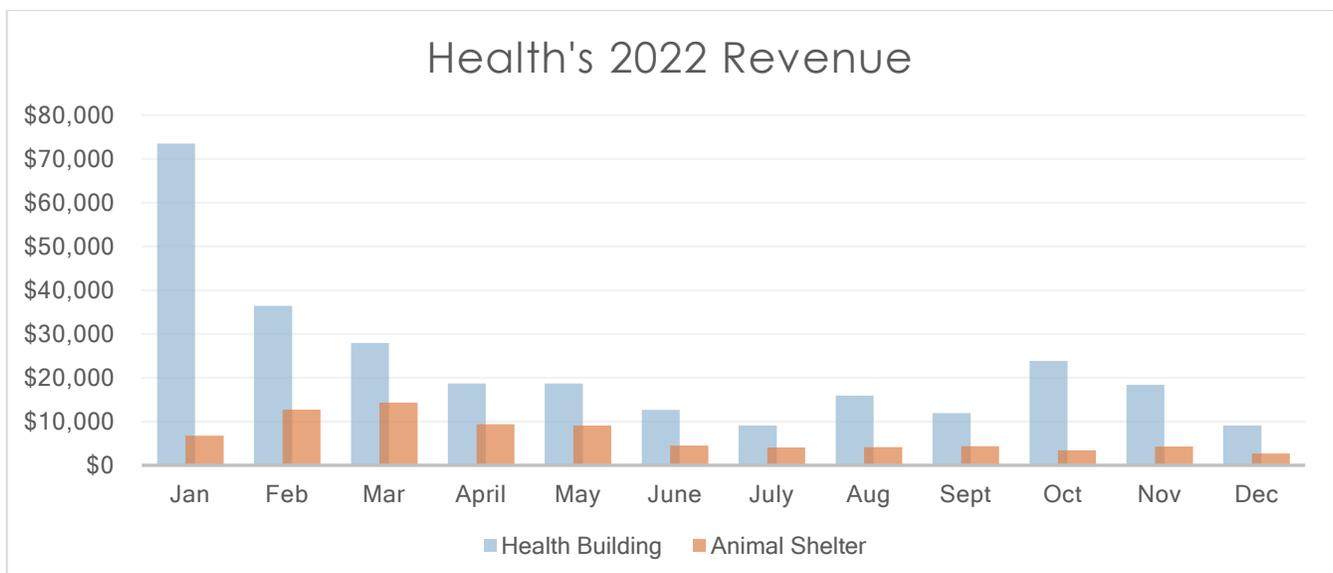
Financial Management

One of the main responsibilities of the Office of the Health Officer is to monitor the financial health of the Division. This includes ensuring that bills are paid in a timely manner; staff have the resources needed to complete their jobs; applying for grants to offset costs to the Township; and being responsible stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

The chart below displays the Division's appropriated budgets verse what was actually spent. In 2022, the Animal Shelter exceeded its budget due to costs associated with veterinary care for the animals at the facility. Vet costs increased because of an influx of animals arriving at the shelter, the number of animals arriving needing extensive medical care, and cost increases in general.



This chart displays the gross revenue of the Division. Revenue is made through the collection of fees for licenses, plan reviews, vital records, adoptions, and insurance reimbursements. The beginning of the year sees the greatest revenue due to license renewals, while a spike occurs in the fall due to insurance reimbursements for vaccinations.





Left: Mayor's Wellness Campaign display at the Hamilton Library.

Grants allow the Division to expand or launch new programs to improve the wellbeing of Hamilton Township without placing the burden solely on Township tax dollars. Each grant mandates that the Division meet certain deliverables and report on the progress quarterly. Additionally, most state grants are awarded according to state fiscal year (SFY) which runs from July 1 - June 30, each year.

Grants awarded in 2022

<u>Township Program</u> - Funder - <i>Grant Name</i>	Amount
<u>Municipal Alliance</u> - Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse - <i>Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction fund</i>	\$22,650
<u>Municipal Alliance</u> - Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services - <i>Youth Leadership grant</i>	\$10,597
<u>Public Health</u> - New Jersey Department of Health - <i>Vaccination Supplemental Funding grant</i>	\$100,000
<u>Public Health</u> - New Jersey Department of Health - <i>Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program grant</i>	\$274,735
<u>Public Health</u> - New Jersey Assoc. of County & City Health Officials - <i>Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure grant</i>	\$611,165
<u>Environmental Health</u> - New Jersey Department of Health - <i>Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention grant</i>	\$53,000
<u>Environmental Health</u> - New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - <i>Radon Action Program grant</i>	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$1,074,174

Public health tends to see large influxes of grant funds following health emergencies (H1N1, Ebola, COVID-19, etc...), which taper off and eventually end. The grants the Division received in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been extremely important in allowing the Division to scale up and meet the needs of the Township's residents.

Public Health Services

The Division of Health employs Public Health Nurses and Health Educators to provide health promotion services to our residents in Hamilton Township as well as the residents of the municipalities the division maintains shared services agreements. The nurses and staff in the Public Health Nursing Section work closely with all the sections of the division in order to support the following services:

Flu and Pneumonia Vaccinations	Health Education
Childhood Immunizations	STD Screening and Treatment
Childhood Blood Lead Screenings	Communicable Disease Investigations
School Immunization Audits	Public Health Clinics

Childhood health

	2020	2021	2022
Well child Home Visits	2	0	0
Individual Children Seen in Clinics	403	421	522
Childhood Immunizations Administered	978	1,095	1,721
Blood Lead Level (BLL) Screenings	8	8	21
Reported Children with Elevated BLLs	7	5	12
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Enrollment	208	66	160
Children Tested for Anemia (Iron Deficiency)	7	8	21
School Immunization Records Audited	3,612	4,750	5,736



Public Health Nursing Section staff offering health education and vaccinations at St. Greg’s Carnival.

DID YOU KNOW?
Children aged 6-59 months must receive a seasonal flu shot by 12/31 in order to stay enrolled in preschool or childcare

CALL THE HAMILTON DIVISION OF HEALTH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR CHILD'S ANNUAL FLU SHOT TODAY!

Annual School Immunization Audit Analysis

Each year the Division's Public Health Nurses conduct routine immunization audits of student records in schools across the Township. These audits take place to ensure children attending the Township's public and private schools have all the required immunizations mandated by the State. Schools must have proof of the students' immunization history or proof of exemption. Ensuring adherence to immunization requirements limits the spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

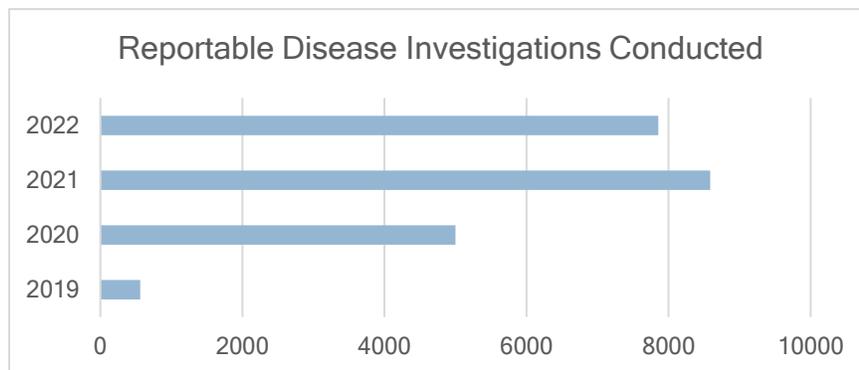
2022 Immunization Audit Statistics				
School Category	Number of Records Audited	Percentage of schools that received 100% compliance on their original audit	Percentage of Schools that required a re-audit	Percentage of Schools that received 100% compliance (original audit OR a re-audit)
Daycares and Pre-Schools	1,815	51%	49%	86%
Private and Religious Schools - Pre-K	192	67%	33%	83%
Private and Religious Schools - Kindergarten	185	67%	33%	100%
Private and Religious Schools - 6 th Grade	313	67%	33%	83%
Private and Religious Schools - Transfers	145	89%	11%	100%
Public Schools - Pre-K	236	75%	25%	88%
Public Schools - Kindergarten	808	65%	35%	94%
Public Schools - 6 th Grade	883	60%	40%	100%
Public Elementary School -Transfer Students	469	56%	44%	89%
Public Middle School - Transfer Students	401	50%	50%	75%
Public High School - Transfer Students	289	43%	57%	86%
Totals all schools	5,736	60%	40%	89%

Communicable Diseases

The Public Health Nursing Section is responsible for the investigation of all NJDOH reportable communicable diseases that occur within Hamilton Township residents. The nurses provide case management with medical providers and residents to ensure that all of the required information is collected to prevent the further spread of disease, proper treatment is given, and the diagnosis is correct. The nurses also work closely with congregate settings, schools, and high-density housing located within the township on any outbreaks, which may occur.

DISEASE NAME (2022 Confirmed Cases*)	COUNT
Novel coronavirus - 2019 NCOV	7,245
Influenza, human isolates	519
Other - diseases with case counts of 4 or less	28
Hepatitis C	24
Campylobacteriosis	10
Hepatitis B	8
Salmonellosis - non typhoid	7
Streptococcus pyogenes (gas)	7
Legionellosis	5
Total	7,853

*Preliminary data



Staff hired by NJDOH and managed by Mercer County conduct routine COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing. Hamilton is responsible for all other communicable disease investigations.

Seasonal Influenza and Pneumonia Vaccinations

Each year, the Public Health Nurses offer Hamilton residents their annual seasonal flu vaccine at no out-of-pocket costs. The flu clinics are held each fall throughout the township. Additionally, the nurses will make home visits to residents who may be homebound. Residents who are eligible for the pneumonia vaccine are also able to receive it at no out-of-pocket cost from the Division of Health.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of flu clinics held	15	17	18
Total number of flu vaccines administered	1,624	1,898	1,951
Number of High-Dose flu vaccine administered	401	388	349
Total number of pneumonia vaccines administered	39	49	25
Total number of home visits made for vaccination	85	78	49

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and Treatment Program

Hamilton residents diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB) are required to complete antibiotic treatment under the observation of a Public Health Nurse in order to prevent the spread of TB in the community. Treatment schedules can range from a few months to over a year depending on the strain of TB, and the resident's compliance. The Public Health Nurse visits the residents home daily to ensure the medication is taken, this is called Directly Observed Therapy (DOT.) The Division also conducts PPDs, which is a skin test for TB. *In 2021, Trenton Health Team managed DOTs.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of residents placed under DOT	1	0*	3
Number of home visits conducted	10	0*	183
Number of PPDs conducted	77	116	167
Number of positive PPDs referred for follow up	1	5	8

Internships and Clinical Education

The Division of Health strongly supports the training of future public health and nursing professionals. The division provides real world community experience for students interested in public health and nursing. Students assist within the clinics, inspections, and outreach under the guidance of a mentor.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of College/University affiliation agreements	4	3	3
Total number of interns/student nurses	11	11	9



Left: Health Officer, Chris Hellwig, with Shelter mascot, Max.

Top: Health staff at the Senior Center picnic.

Outbreak Investigations

In addition to conducting investigations for individual instances of certain diseases, the Public Health Nurses case manage outbreaks in settings such as long term care (LTC) facilities, schools, workplaces, and youth organizations. Outbreaks are defined differently based on the specific disease and may be declared if several individuals who exhibit similar symptoms are in the same room, same wing or attended a common event; there is an increase in absences with report of similar symptoms; two or more individuals are diagnosed with the same reportable disease; or a single case of a highly infectious disease exists or is suspected to exist. The PHN assigned to the outbreak will work closely with the facility to ensure proper infection control measures are implemented, sick individuals are either excluded from participation or isolated, and helps the facility perform contact tracing and case investigation. Outbreaks are assigned an “E” number to designate that an outbreak exists, and investigations are assigned and “I” number. Not all investigations translate into an outbreak.

Outbreaks and investigations by Exposure Setting	2022 Outbreaks	2022 Investigations
Group home	1	-
Daycare facility	1	-
Healthcare - Assisted Living Residence	15	2
Healthcare - Long Term Care	15	1
Healthcare - Acute Care Hospital	1	-
Community	2	-
School or University	21	-
Total	56	3

Outbreaks by Exposure Setting and Disease	Gastro-enteritis	Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease	Influenza or other respiratory	COVID-19	Scabies	Total
Group home	-	-	-	1	-	1
Daycare facility	-	-	-	1	-	1
Healthcare - Assisted Living Residence	1	-	-	15	1	17
Healthcare - Long Term Care	1	-	1	14	1	16
Healthcare - Acute Care Hospital	-	-	-	1	-	1
Community	-	-	-	2	-	2
School or University	-	1	2	18	-	21
Total	2	2	1	47	1	59

Legionnaires' disease

Preventing Legionnaires' Disease

Tips for Homeowners to maintain healthy household water

Legionella bacteria can grow in many parts of a water system that are continually wet, and certain devices can then spread water containing the bacteria. Examples of areas where *Legionella* can grow and spread include: water storage tanks, water filters, faucets, aerators, showerheads, hoses, pipes, hot tubs, and humidifiers.

Home air conditioners are NOT at risk because they do not use water to cool the air

Tips for a healthy home:

	Run faucets and showers for 3 minutes when they have not been used for more than a week		Remove, shorten, and/or regularly flush existing dead legs (a section of pipe with low use)
	Follow manufacturer instructions and clean/replace water filters in your home		If you are at risk for Legionnaires' disease avoid high risk activities (ex: power washing)
	Clean or replace shower heads and faucet screens when buildup is visible, follow manufacturer instructions	A hot water tank set to a temperature of 140°F is best for controlling <i>Legionella</i>. The minimum temperature should be 120°F. If the temperature on the tank is higher than 120°F a mixing valve must be installed to prevent burns. Drain and flush hot water tank per manufacturer instructions, consider hiring a professional.	
	Follow manufacturer instructions for medical devices and humidifiers		Follow manufacturer instructions to maintain proper chemical levels in your hot tub
			Turn off and drain garden hoses when not in use for the season

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov
 NJ Department of Health (NJDOH): www.nj.gov/health

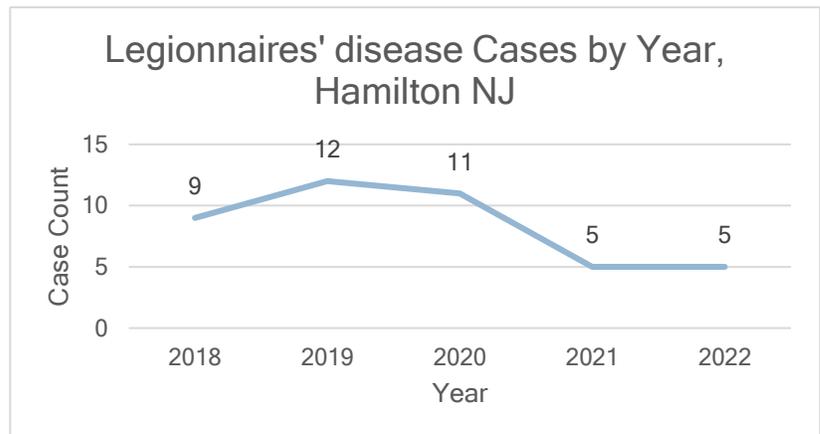
November 2022



Legionnaires' disease is a respiratory illness caused by bacteria, and is a type of pneumonia that people can get after breathing in aerosolized water (small droplets of water in the air) containing *Legionella* bacteria. Symptoms of Legionnaires' disease include cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headaches, which are similar to symptoms caused by other respiratory infections, including COVID-19. Most healthy people exposed to *Legionella* do not become ill. However, people who are 50 years or older, especially those who smoke cigarettes, or those with certain medical conditions, including weakened immune systems, chronic lung disease or other chronic health conditions, are at increased risk for Legionnaires' disease. Legionnaires' disease is treatable with antibiotics so it is important that anyone who thinks they have symptoms of Legionnaires' disease contact their health care provider and seek medical evaluation.

The Township of Hamilton has been working with Trenton Water Works (TWW) and its partners at NJDEP, and NJDOH, to investigate cases of Legionnaires' disease within the Township for over 10-years. The Township and its partners have issued multiple press releases, social media posts, and mass mailers to every TWW customer in regards to our investigation of Legionnaires' disease within the Township. Additionally, there have been numerous news reports covering this. All of these outreach attempts were to better educate our residents.

In 2022, the Division worked with NJDOH to conduct a home-water sampling study that identified more than half of homes had detectable levels of *Legionella*. The Division continues to meet regularly with NJDOH, DEP, and TWW to ensure that steps continue to be taken to improve the water quality for TWW customers in Hamilton. A welcome step was taken in 2022 by NJDEP, and TWW is now under direct oversight of the State.



For more information, residents can call HamStat, the Division of Health, or visit www.hamiltonnj.com/legionella.

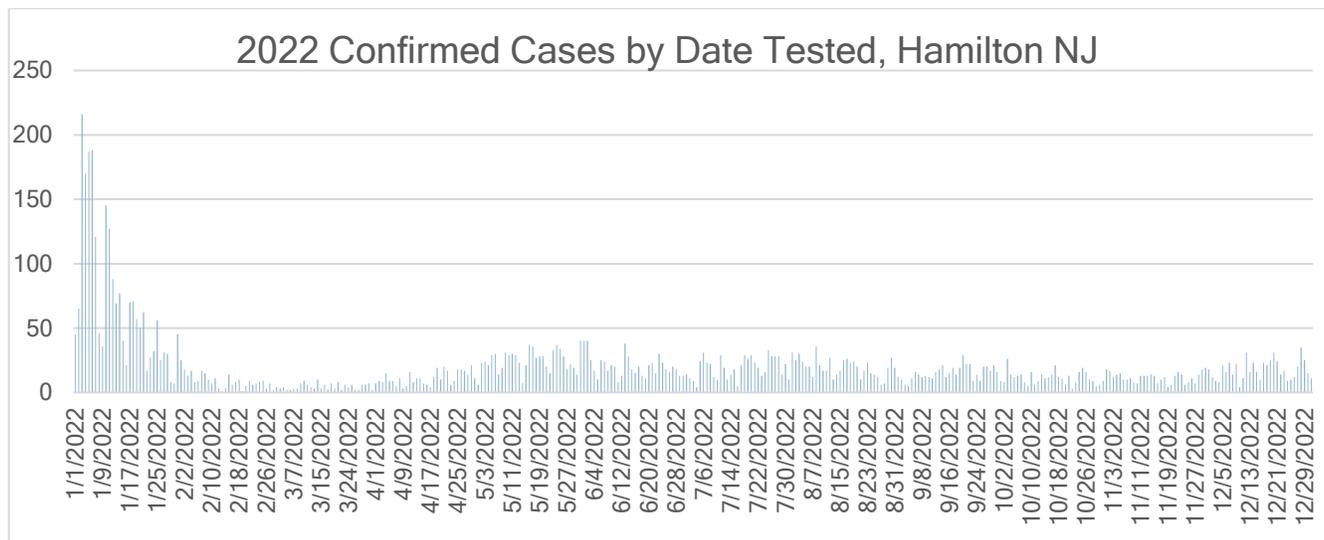
COVID-19

In 2022, the Division continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the renewal of the Strengthening Local Public Health and Vaccination Supplemental Funding grants, the Division was able to continue COVID-19 outreach and vaccination efforts. Below are some of the Division's facts, figures and highlights from the 2022 response to COVID-19. That work includes:

Contact tracing	Case investigation
Long Term Care (LTC) outbreak coordination	School guidance
Technical assistance to businesses	Health education
Vaccination	Public health enforcement

COVID-19 Cases

Between January and December of 2022 there were 7,245 confirmed PCR cases of COVID-19 in Hamilton Township, unfortunately 87 residents passed away. As seen in the chart below there was a spike in cases due to the Omicron variant surge early in the year, then cases held mostly steady.



COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccination continues to be an important tool in addressing the pandemic and remains highly effective at preventing severe disease and death due to COVID-19 (CDC, 2022). In 2022 updated vaccination recommendations included second boosters for older adults, vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 5 years and the introduction of the Bivalent boosters. The Division continued to offer COVID-19 vaccination clinics within the community. Table 1 contains facts regarding COVID-19 vaccinations from 2020-2022. The Division's current clinic dates are posted online at www.hamiltonnj.com/coronavirus and the clinics remain free and walk-in.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Held	2	91	85
Total COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in 2021	424	8,150	3,199
Vaccine and Dose Breakdown			
1 st doses (all vaccines)	424	3,098	193
2 nd doses (all vaccines)	--	2,213	198
3 rd doses (all vaccines)	--	46	26
Monovalent Boosters (all vaccines)	--	2,793	1,215
Bivalent Boosters (all vaccines)	--	--	1,286
Pfizer (12+), all doses		2,826	1,183
1 st doses	--	915	36
2 nd doses	--	807	42
3 rd doses	--	14	--
Monovalent Booster doses	--	1,090	627
Bivalent Boosters	--	--	478
Pfizer Pediatric (5-11), all doses		844	210
1 st doses	--	538	78
2 nd and 3 rd doses	--	306	85
Monovalent Booster doses	--	--	18
Bivalent Booster doses	--	--	29
Pfizer (6 months - 4 years)			81
1 st doses	--	--	28
2 nd doses	--	--	28
3 rd doses	--	--	25
Moderna (6+), all doses		3,437	1,616
1 st doses	424	774	14
2 nd doses	--	1,100	9
3 rd doses	--	32	--
Monovalent Booster doses	--	1,531	814
Bivalent Booster doses	--	--	779
Moderna (6 months - 5 years)			72
1 st doses	--	--	37
2 nd doses	--	--	35
J&J/Janssen (18+), all doses		1,043	37
1 st doses	--	871	1
Monovalent Booster doses	--	172	36
Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Home Visits Completed	--	145	184

Community Outreach and Partnerships

The Division participated in ongoing community outreach to reach populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. A health assessment was completed in 2021 and then updated in September 2022. This rapid assessment provided insight into the Hamilton Township community, identified populations disproportionately affected and efforts to help mitigate some of the challenges faced by the pandemic.

The assessment, along with an inventory of social services, is available for residents to access on the Division's website: www.hamiltonnj.com/health.

Outreach efforts included developing partnerships with local organizations to help provide COVID-19 and other health information to residents; as well as continuing with community-based clinics for COVID-19 vaccination. Sites the Division collaborated with in 2022 include the Hamilton Senior Center, John O. Wilson Hamilton Neighborhood Center, Hamilton Township Schools, Trenton Catholic Preparatory Academy, Senior Living Communities, Hamilton Township Public Library, National Night Out, Oktoberfest and the Nottingham Firehouse.

The Division continued to provide information and events via the email distribution list of over 120 community partners, the Township Social Media platforms and newsletter, making regular updates to the website, newspaper ads and canvassing in the community.

Additional COVID-19 response and outreach activities included:

- Answering COVID-19 related questions for residents in person and via phone/email
- Scheduling vaccine clinics
- Providing Spanish/English translation services
- Developing flyers and other educational material to be shared with the community
- Maintaining an inventory of local social support services for residents to access
- Distributing COVID-19 testing kits to schools, community centers, food pantries and at community events



Health Aides Mamai-ee Freeman and Brady Rivera distributing COVID-19 test kits to the Hamilton YMCA and local daycares.

Adult Health Services

Throughout the year, the Division of Health operates clinics that provide for certain community health services for the Township's residents. These services include the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic, Nursing Evaluation Clinic, and Community Home Evaluations. The Division's health services are overseen by the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) who works with the Public Health Medical Director to ensure that standing orders are in place for all procedures being performed by the nursing staff and that best practices are being followed.

STD Clinic

Hamilton Township provides free and confidential STD Clinical services for the residents of the following municipalities through shared-service agreements:

Ewing Township	East Windsor Township
Hightstown Borough	Hopewell Township
Lawrence Township	Princeton Township
Robbinsville Township	West Windsor Township

	2020	2021	2022
Total clients seen in clinics	88	106	169
Hepatitis B screenings performed	4	22	17
Hepatitis C screenings performed	16	38	27
HIV Screenings performed	-	-	75
Oral screenings for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea	55	76	109
Urine screenings for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea	63	72	122
Syphilis screenings performed	55	67	110
Vaccines administered during clinic	26	10	23
JYNNEOS (MPX) vaccines administered	-	-	71

Note: In 2020, the STD clinic was closed during certain periods. In 2022, HDOH and NJDOH collaborated to restart free and confidential HIV screenings within the STD clinic. The MPX vaccine, JYNNEOS, was offered starting in September, 2022 to eligible residents.

Nursing Evaluation Clinic

This clinic is offered monthly, by appointment, at both of the Senior Centers in Hamilton Township (Hamilton Township Senior Center and the John O. Wilson Neighborhood Center). Blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol tests are performed and referrals made when indicated.

	2020	2021	2022
Health assessments performed	14	30	77

Community Home Evaluations

The Division will make home visits based off referrals to assess and follow up on public health concerns/situations by other agencies as well as individuals. They range in ages of infant through adulthood as well as elderly/senior citizen referrals. Services include vaccinations, neglect issues, and public health concerns.

	2020	2021	2022
Home visits conducted	85	226	49

Environmental Health Services

The Division of Health's Environmental Health Services section is responsible for the enforcement of State Sanitary Codes; the protection of food and potable water supplies; environmental health activities and public health nuisances. In addition to inspections, this section also is responsible for licensing all retail food establishments, recreational bathing facilities, vending machines, camps, and body art establishments. This section performs the following services for the township:

Body Art Program	Public Health Nuisance Program
Childhood Lead Program	Youth Camp Program
Retail Food Program	Wastewater Control Program
Public Recreational Bathing Program	Animal Facilities Program

Wastewater Control Program

In order to prevent the pollution of the Township's water supply, the Division ensures compliance will local and state rules for the installation of residential septic systems. Staff review all plans for new construction, alterations, and repairs for septic systems within the township. Additionally, the staff review septic systems before real estate transactions. **Increase in septic systems due to information the Division received from real estate transactions on systems not previously known to Environmental Health Staff.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of properties with septic systems	360	506**	533
Permits issued for construction or alteration	14	18	28
Properties reviewed for real estate transactions	14	21	10

Private Well Testing Act

Environmental Health staff review private well water analysis results for compliance with NJAC 7:9 during real estate transactions.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of wells reviewed for real estate transactions	16	19	8

Body Art

Environmental Health Services inspects tattoo, piercing, and permanent cosmetic facilities operating within the Township to ensure proper sanitation and safety standards are being followed. Starting in 2021, these facilities will be licensed by the Division of Health.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Body Art establishments operating	1	0	2

Retail Food Establishments

The Division of Health inspects and regulates restaurants, grocery stores, and other retail food facilities to ensure compliance with safety and sanitation rules. The Environmental Health staff work closely with the Public Health Nurses to investigate and control disease outbreaks linked to retail food facilities. The division also licenses these facilities.

Licenses	2020	2021	2022
Number of Retail Food Establishment licenses issued	527	524	514
Number of Full Year-Temporary/Mobile licenses issued	25	30	32
Number of Vending Machine licenses issued	105	200	178
Number of Temporary Single-Event licenses issued	19	70	146

Inspections and Investigations	2020	2021	2022
Number of routine inspections completed	446	491	520
Number of re-inspections completed	94	86	115
Number of pre-operational inspections completed	31	34	24
Number of retail food plan reviews completed	22	34	40
Number of complaint driven investigations completed	206	50	69
Number of Notices of Violations issued	282	221	246



Chief REHS, Lisa Surtees, and Senior REHS, Kelly Thomas conducting preoperational inspections for mobile retail food establishments.



Retail Food Establishment Inspection Analysis

The Division’s REHSs use a risk-based inspection method to ensure establishments comply with NJAC 8:24. They are graded on 52 measures. If an establishment receives a “Conditionally Satisfactory” score during an inspection, the establishment is given time to correct issues and will be re-inspected. If the establishment fails to receive a “Satisfactory” score, it is required to pay a re-inspection fee. After four re-inspections during a two-year period, the establishment must close until all violations are abated.

Did you know that the Division posts the inspection scores of all inspected retail food establishments online? They are available via www.hamiltonnj.com/environmentalhealth.

The chart below highlights the most common violations encountered during inspections.

Top 20 Risk-Based Inspection Measures Found Out of Compliance	Percent Out of Compliance
40. Materials, construction, repair, design, capacity, location, installation, maintenance.	43%
44. Food and non-food contact surfaces properly constructed, cleanable, used.	42%
27. Food protected from potential contamination during preparation, storage, and display.	28%
51. Premises maintained free of litter, unnecessary articles, cleaning and maintenance equipment properly stored; and garbage and refuse properly maintained.	27%
*14. Food contact surfaces properly cleaned and sanitized.	26%
*6. Handwashing facilities provided in toilet rooms and prep areas; convenient, accessible, unobstructed.	22%
*7. Handwashing facilities provided with warm water, soap, and acceptable hand-drying method.	21%
*12. Proper separation of raw meats and raw eggs from ready-to-eat foods provided.	20%
*13. Food protected from contamination.	20%
*1. PIC demonstrates knowledge of food safety principles pertaining to this operation.	18%
52. All required signs (handwashing, inspection placard, etc) provided and conspicuously posted.	18%
31. Toxic substances properly identified, stored, and used.	17%
43. Utensils, single service items, equipment, linens properly stored, dried, and handled.	17%
*17. COLD HOLDING: PHFs maintained at “Refrigeration Temperatures” (41°F)	16%
41. Equipment temperature measuring devices provided (refrigeration units, etc.)	16%
30. Wiping cloths properly used and stored.	13%
45. Proper warewashing facilities installed, maintained, cleaned, used; sanitizer test strips available, used.	12%
49. Design, construction, installation, and maintenance proper-floors/walls/ceilings.	12%
32. Presence of insects/rodents minimized: outer openings protected, animals as allowed.	11%
42. In-use utensils properly stored.	11%

* *Critical violations*, which could result in an establishment receiving a “Conditionally Satisfactory” score. The other measures are considered good retail practices.

Youth Camps

In order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the youth who attend camps within the Township, the Division of Health conducts inspections of these facilities. NJDOH is the licensing agency for youth camps.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of inspections completed	7	7	14

Public Recreational Bathing

Environmental Health Services conducts safety and sanitation inspections of public recreational bathing facilities to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and protect consumers who use these facilities from avoidable harm and danger.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of licenses issued	9	28	32
Number of inspections completed	34	97	129

Public Recreational Bathing Inspection Analysis

All establishments must receive a Routine 1 inspection and only 38.7% of establishments passed this inspection. Year Round establishments receive a Routine 2 inspection and only 53.8% of establishments passed this inspection.

Reason For Inspection	Conditionally -Satisfactory	Pending	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total Inspected
Complaint	-	-	-	-	1
Additional Site Visits	-	-	-	-	9
Pre-Operational	-	12	11	-	23
Routine 1	16	-	12	3	31
Routine 2	5	-	7	1	13
Re-inspection 1	6	-	28	3	37
Re-inspection 2	4	-	4	1	9
Re-inspection 3	-	-	3	1	4
Re-inspection 4	1	-	-	-	1
Re-inspection 5	-	-	1	-	1
Total	32	12	66	9	129

Childhood Lead – Environmental Interventions

While the City of Trenton provides Public Health Nursing case management for children residing in Hamilton with elevated blood lead levels, the Division of Health's Environmental Health Services section conducts the environmental interventions within the homes of children identified with high levels of lead.

	2020	2021	2022
New cases of children with EBLLs	7	5	8
Number of homes completing lead abatement	3	4	7

Animal Facilities

Starting in 2020, the responsibility of inspecting the Township's animal facilities was transferred from the Township's Animal Control Officers to the Environmental Services Staff. The Division of Health inspects kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds to ensure that these facilities are operating in compliance with sanitation, safety, and animal welfare rules.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of licenses issued	5	5	5
Number of routine inspections completed	5	5	5

Massage/Somatic Establishments

The Division of Health enforces safety and sanitation standards for these facilities in order to protect the health and safety of consumers who patronize massage and somatic facilities. Licenses are issued by the Township's Clerk's Office.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of inspections completed	8	8	9

Public Health Nuisances

The Environmental Health Services staff conducts investigations into quality of life complaints that pose a nuisance to Township residents. In 2020, the responsibility investigating property maintenance (high grass and weeds, junk, rubbish, debris, etc.) related complaints was transferred to the Department of Community and Economic Development which explains the large reductions in NOVs being issued by Environmental Health Services*.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Notices of Violations issued	13*	31	24

COVID-19 Compliance

The Environmental Health Services staff, in addition to assisting with COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing, provided technical assistance and compliance reviews for the Township's business community in order to help reduce the spread of the virus. The staff conducted these activities above and beyond the routine inspections performed throughout the year.

	2020	2021	2022
COVID-19 compliance checks for indoor/outdoor dining	90	18	0*
Inspections completed on RFEs after COVID-19 related closure	7	0	0*
COVID-10 Pool Operation Prevention Plan reviews completed	36	30*	0*
Youth camp compliance plan review	1	0*	0*
Sports program compliance plan reviews	1	1	0*
Number of RFEs temporarily closed or out of business from COVID-19	36	11	0*

*No longer required when Public Health Emergency expired

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics section of the Division of Health is charged with the responsibility of maintaining records in regards to marriages, births, and deaths that take place within the Township. The Registrars process applications for marriages and civil union licenses; issue birth, marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, and death certificates; and issue disinterment and burial permits. Additionally, the Registrar can assist with certain corrections to these records.

	2020	2021	2022
Home birth or birth en-route	2	6	7
Birth certificates issued	296	453	613
Death certificates issued	2,832	2,320	2,128
Marriage certificates issued	974	1,464	1,606
Marriage licenses issued	451	572	565
Domestic Partnership certificates issued	0	4	0
Domestic Partnership registrations issued	0	2	0
Civil Union certificates issued	0	1	0
Civil Union registrations issued	0	1	0
Disinterment permits issued	1	3	5
Burial permits issued	0	3	3
Corrections requested	11	71	56



Left: Animal Shelter volunteer Kim Jiras at one of the Shelter's adoptable dogs.

Below: The Division of Health's display at Oktoberfest. Fall is a great time to get your annual flu vaccine, which is a popular "give-a-way" at Oktoberfest.



Animal Shelter and Adoption Center

The Hamilton Township Animal Shelter and Adoption Center (HTAS) serves as the Township's rabies control facility which ensures the health, safety, and welfare of the animals and citizens of our community. The Shelter's goal is to place animals into humane environments through adoption, and to educate the community on responsible pet ownership. HTAS works tirelessly so that the animals in its care are afforded the "Five Freedoms."

Freedom from discomfort	Freedom from hunger and thirst
Freedom from pain, injury, and disease	Freedom to express normal behavior
Freedom from fear and distress	

Animal Intake and Outflow

	2021			2022		
Animal Intake	Dogs	Cats	Other	Dogs	Cats	Other
Surrendered by owner	39	50	0	17	27	0
Stray/Impounded	185	157	18	233	239	21
Animals received from other organizations	6	10	0	5	0	0
Other (cruelty investigation, animal bite, etc.)	28	20	1	24	34	2
TOTAL	258	237	19	279	300	23

	2021			2022		
Animal Outflow	Dogs	Cats	Other	Dogs	Cats	Other
Reclaimed by owner	151	14	2	158	21	1
Adopted	76	135	17	89	215	17
Euthanized	4	24	2	4	31	2
Animals transferred to other organizations	14	17	1	16	10	2
Other (escaped, died at shelter, etc.)	0	11	1	0	9	1
TOTAL	245	201	23	267	286	23

Animal Control Services

The Division of Health's Animal Control Officers (ACOs) are charged with enforcing the Township's animal control laws and responding to animal emergencies. The ACOs respond to animals at large, transporting sick and injured animals, investigating animal bites, assist with rabies clinics, and provide public education. Additionally, the ACOs work closely with the Hamilton Police Department's Humane Law Enforcement Officers (HLEOs) on animal welfare and cruelty investigations.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of field calls	2,614	2,458	3,038
Number of animal bite investigations	133	134	147
Number of summonses issued	50	42	47
Number of wildlife transported to rehabilitation centers	124	152	130

	2020	2021	2022
Number of dog licenses issued	3,554	3,616	3,392
Number of free rabies vaccinations administered	928	836	748



Shelter Manager, Donielle Gioia, accepting donations from Bracco Diagnostics. Check out the Shelter's wish list at: www.hamiltonnj.com/animalshelter

DID YOU KNOW? In 2022, HTAS had an **67.8% return rate of stray dogs** to their owners. All dogs entering the shelter as strays are photographed and posted on the shelter's Facebook page and shared by shelter staff to local Lost and Found Pages (Hamilton Area and Mercer County). Sadly, this is a drop of 13.8% year over year. This is still significantly higher than the 2021 state average for stray dogs redeemed, which is only 27.4%

Unfortunately, cats continue to have a dramatically lower reclaim rate, approximately 9%, but Hamilton's rate is double the state average.

Source:
www.nj.gov/health/vph/Shelter_Pound_County_Detailed_2021.pdf

Volunteers

The volunteer program at HTAS has been revised, including the agreement/waiver packet that all volunteers must complete prior to beginning their volunteer service. More information on how to volunteer is available online at www.hamiltonnj.com/animalshelter.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of volunteers	23	51	53

Foster Program

The shelter initiated a foster program to assist with space and the well-being of the animals in the care of Hamilton Township. Some animals are very stressed in the shelter environment and/or need more individual care.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of animals fostered	25	112	198

Transfer Program

HTAS initiated a rescue/transfer program to assist in maximizing lifesaving efforts and placement of adoptable animals. Approved rescue organizations with different or more resources often assist with medically or behaviorally challenging animals.

	2020	2021	2022
Number of animals transfer to other organizations	42	32	28

Non-Live Outcomes

Unfortunately, not all animals that come to the shelter are placed into their “forever” homes. Some animals are terminally ill, others die during treatment, and others present a public safety or public health risk. The Division of Health takes the decision of euthanasia extremely seriously and with humility, and as such the Shelter Management Team makes those decisions jointly. HTAS is proud to be a no-kill shelter.

Euthanasia	2021				2022			
	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Aggression, Unsafe to Handle	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	2
Cancer	1	4	0	5	2	2	0	4
Failure to thrive	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Major organ failure	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2
Medical – severe	0	14	2	16	0	12	2	14
Medical – emergency	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	4
Medical – disease	0	3	0	3	0	7	0	7
TOTAL	4	24	2	30	4	30	2	36

Died in care	2021			2022		
	Other	Cats	Total	Other	Cats	Total
Neonatal Kitten	0	7	7	0	5	5
Post-surgical	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unknown	3	2	5	2	1	3
Medical – disease	0	1	1	0	1	1
TOTAL	3	11	14	2	8	10

Note: no dogs died in care in 2021 or 2022

2022 Annual Live Release Rate: **93.5%**

The Annual Live Release Rate is calculated by dividing total live outcomes (adoptions, outgoing transfers, and return to owner/guardian) by total outcomes (total live outcomes plus euthanasia not including or died/lost in shelter/care). The generally accepted live-release rate to be considered a no-kill shelter is 90%, which HTAS is proud to exceed.



Some of the loving animals that called the Shelter home temporarily in 2022. The Shelter ensures all animals receive the care they need during their stay.

Municipal Alliance Commission

The mission of the Hamilton Alliance Against Substance Abuse Committee (HAASA) is to serve as the official Township coordinating body for the planning, awareness and education of substance abuse prevention efforts on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The committee is dedicated to promoting safe, healthy and responsible lifestyles through community involvement, education programs and family oriented events for all residents of Hamilton Township. HAASA is advisory in nature; and awards State allocated funds to programs that meet certain criteria.

Residents looking for more information can visit www.hamiltonnj.com/haasa or email haasa@hamiltonnj.com.

Membership

	Type
Adrienne Petta	Chair
Jessica Nitti	Regular
Janice Archambeault	Regular
Lawrence Petta	Regular
Brian Birch	Regular
Kim Saich	Regular
Alejandro Battle	Representative of the Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Schuster	Representative of Chief of Police
VACANT	Presiding Judge
Rick Tighe	Council Liaison
Cashel Darvas	Representative of the Mayor
Arianna Medina	Commission Secretary
Chris Hellwig	Coordinator

The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) funds HAASA. HAASA uses the funds to support coordination of the alliance, and to provide drug and alcohol education in the Township's schools.

	2021	2022
Number of students reached	1,034	1,125
Number of education sessions	76	43
Number of schools supported	3	6



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Thank you for taking the time to read through the Division of Health's 2022 annual report.
Have a happy, and healthy 2023!!
- Your Health Team



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.