

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

SURVEY SHOWS STRONG PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., October 3, 2011 – The Delaware General Health District enjoys strong recognition and confidence from the community it serves, according to a consultant who surveyed local public opinion on health issues this summer.

Most respondents to the random telephone survey said they believe the Health District is accomplishing its mission to foster, protect and improve health and the environment for local residents and communities. And four out of five believe the Health District’s work benefits all residents – a significant jump from a similar survey eight years ago.

Residents also cited heart- and weight-related issues most often as their leading health concerns. Behavioral health care issues, cancer issues, and aging-related issues also concerned significant numbers of respondents.

The survey of 400 adult Delaware County residents was conducted this summer by The Strategy Team Ltd., commissioned by the Delaware General Health District and the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. The Delaware Board of Health reviewed the results recently with Orié V. Kristel PhD of The Strategy Team.

“The Delaware General Health District is perceived as an authoritative source for health information in the community,” Kristel said.

“We are very pleased with the confidence the public has in our agency as reflected in the survey results,” said Frances M. Veverka, Health Commissioner. “Information from the survey will help us better address the health concerns of residents.”

Respondents rated as “very important” the Health District’s work to protect water supplies, inspect sewage systems, and to inspect and ensure cleanliness in restaurants and food stores.

Residents’ preferences in obtaining health information, such as the internet, newspapers, radio and TV, are determined to help the district reach residents with health program information and in times of a public health emergency.

The survey also showed that 92 percent of respondents have Internet access, spending an average of 2.4 hours per day online, and more than half of those have Facebook profiles. The Delaware General Health District has a Facebook page and a Twitter presence.

Compared to a similar survey in 2003, respondents are increasingly logging on to the Internet for health information. More than a third of the respondents look to the Health District for information on a community health issue.

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