



# Hocking County Health Department Annual Report

# 2023



# High expectations are the key to everything!

Greetings from the Hocking County Health Department Board of Health and staff. I am proud to introduce this year's version of our annual report.

When I think about how fast the past year went by, I realize that I am headed quickly to the end of my working career and there are several things I want to accomplish before that retirement day comes in approximately 1 ½ years. One of those tasks is to work the remainder of my time here with the Board of Health, department leadership, staff, and our community partners to always have high standards and goals for the Hocking County Health Department to plan for, function by, and achieve. We want to set the bar high each year. When we have clear established expectations for ourselves, we will position our health department for success.

To have high standards and expect to maintain and achieve them each year, it takes a team that:

- Have the right people in place
- Have the right skills, knowledge, and attitude
- Understand their responsibility and accept it
- Are motivated to serve
- Willing to work together with others
- Handle conflict
- Grow and develop
- Demonstrate loyalty
- Establish and maintain trust

The great and proud thing about the Hocking County Health Department Board of Health and staff is that we already have these as expectations. Are we perfect? No. Do we have room to grow and get better? Yes. Hopefully, some of our high standards and expectations are made evident through this year's accomplishments which are alluded to in the following pages of this year's annual report.

By having a dedicated Board of Health, staff, and the support of our partners I hope it is always the expectation that the public health of this community will set the bar high and be held to a high standard because that is my desire and what Hocking County deserves!

**Thank you for your ongoing support  
during 2023!!**

With a healthy wish for all of  
Hocking County,

Doug Fisher  
Health Commissioner



## **Teamwork**

The Health Department is composed of many divisions, including Administrative, Environmental, Fiscal, Nursing, and Preparedness. While each division has different responsibilities, they work together to meet our mission to serve and educate the citizens of Hocking County with public health programs that prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles and protect the environment.

## **Environmental Health**

### **Programs**

In 2023, the plumbing program spent approximately 334 hours conducting inspections, driving 6,401 miles. The sewage and new building programs totaled 1,082 hours of fieldwork, spanning 7,413 miles. The private water program encumbered approximately 225 hours of inspections and sample collections encompassing 2,821 miles. The food safety program encumbered 447 hours of inspections, spanning 2,338 miles. Recreation campground and pool program inspections totaled 133 hours, driving 997 miles.

### **Campground Program**

The Ohio Department of Health conducted a survey to determine if we are carrying out the mandated program requirements as set forth in the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes for our Campground Program. Due to excellent work by the Environmental Staff and Clerk Nichole Sigler, HCHD was removed from provisional status and is now a licensor for Campgrounds.

## **Mosquito Control Grant**

We hired 2 interns for our summer mosquito program. Mosquitoes were collected then sent to the Ohio Department of Health for testing and identification. The interns also conducted pesticide resistance testing to determine if any mosquitoes had become resistant to pesticides. We will apply again for 2024 for this grant from the EPA to continue collecting and testing mosquitoes, to larvicide to control mosquito populations, and to help educate our residents and visitors on how to prevent mosquito-borne diseases and to expand our tick collection and population monitoring.

## **Contractors Workshop**

We hosted our annual contractor's workshop, where 88 contractors and 6 different vendors participated. This workshop is held annually so sewage treatment system contractors can obtain their required 6 hours of continuing education.

## **Sewage Grant**

We continue to administer the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) from the Ohio EPA to assist homeowners in repairing or replacing their failed sewage treatment systems (STS). Since 2010, we have helped 250 homeowners and received \$1,876,049.43 through the WPCLF program, making Hocking County a healthier place to live.

# Nursing

## Covid-19

<b>Covid-19 Case Count</b>	<b>2023</b>
January	95
February	81
March	103
April	24
May	23
June	17
July	5
August	79
September	123
October	80
November	102
December	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>981</b>
<b>Total cases from 2020-2023</b>	<b>9451</b>
<b>Covid-19 Vaccinations</b>	<b>2023</b>
	678
<b>Total Vaccinations from 2020-2023</b>	<b>16292</b>

## Lead

Throughout 2023 the number of cases of lead poisoning in our communities' children has increased. With this increase, the Hocking County Health Department is reaching out to do its part in educating about lead-based hazards. The health department aims to increase knowledge of lead and lead concerns and looks forward to adding lead education to community outreach programs.

We plan to provide reminders of the importance of testing all children between the ages of 1-5 years old for lead poisoning, which includes ongoing testing if warranted, and explain lead abatement and lead abatement funding opportunities to community members. We have been working diligently with the state of Ohio and have obtained a professional-grade HEPA vacuum to loan out to assist the residents of Hocking County.

## **Tobacco Use, Cessation, and Prevention**

The Hocking County Health Department's tobacco prevention program continues to expand cessation services in Hocking County. Our mission is to decrease the burden of tobacco use for Hocking County citizens through tobacco prevention and cessation programs, disease prevention education, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, and protection of the environment. The Hocking County Health Department now has two certified tobacco treatment counselors to help Hocking County residents with their quit journey.

- Counseling can tell you how to avoid the things that make you want to smoke.
- Counseling and medication, when used together, can more than double the chances of quitting.
- Counselors at the Hocking County Health Department know how to help you be successful in quitting.
- Your first appointment will take place in person, and after that can be over the phone or in person.
- There is no out-of-pocket cost for counseling services.

# Emergency Preparedness

## Grant Funding

Through federal funding made available to the health department, our Emergency Preparedness Division continues to plan for emergency situations, drill, and exercise response plans, and review and update the plans annually with our local and regional response partners. In addition, each year, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requests preparedness activities be completed in exchange for that funding. In 2023, our activities included:

- A four-day Statewide Full-Scale Exercise focusing on the request, receipt, movement, storage, and preparation for dispensing of medications from the Strategic National Stockpile (federally managed medication, medical equipment, and supply stockpile);
- Annual review and update of our training plan to extend to 2028 (Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan);
- A focus on incorporating Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services into our plans and response;
- Multiple trainings for our Emergency Preparedness staff sponsored by the National Disaster Preparedness Consortium;
- Exploration and utilization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) new Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT); and
- Evaluation of our Medical Countermeasure (Dispensing) Program using CDC's tool.



# 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment

Rural Health Innovations, a subsidiary of the National Rural Health Resource Center, conducted a CHNA this year, in collaboration with Hocking Valley Community Hospital and the Hocking Valley Steering Committee, which included four members from the Hocking County Health Department.

A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) serves multiple purposes. They are an opportunity for a hospital or public health department to connect with community members and partner organizations to discover how they rate the health of their community and to understand what they identify as their region's key health issues and opportunities. CHNAs are also an opportunity to advance health equity by identifying existing health inequities and working in collaboration to remove obstacles to health and well-being. After a discovery phase, the CHNA process is an opportunity to work with community partners to design strategies and actions to address the prioritized health needs of the community to improve well-being.

Report findings may be used for:

- Developing and implementing plans to address key issues as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act §9007 for 501(c)3 charitable hospitals
- Promoting collaboration and partnerships within the community or region
- Supporting community-based strategic planning
- Writing grants to support the community's engagement with local health care services
- Educating groups about emerging issues and community priorities
- Supporting community advocacy or policy development
- Supporting creation of a CHA and CHIP for public health

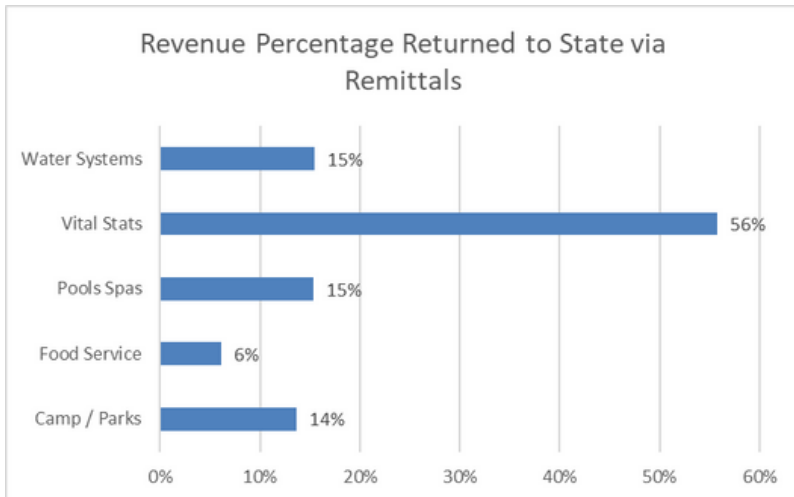
# Revenue

Revenue	2023
<b>Health Levy</b>	
Real Estate	\$ 818,570.00
Rollback	\$ 65,573.00
Personal Property	-
Trailer Tax	\$ 4,062.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 888,205.00</b>
<b>Fees- Vital Statistics</b>	
Burial Permits	\$ 633.00
Certified Copies	\$ 44,794.00
Vital Statistics Reg.	\$ 2,973.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,400.00</b>
<b>Fees- Environmental</b>	
Campgrounds and Parks	\$ 13,738.00
Food Service	\$ 91,505.00
Pools ad Spas	\$ 10,830.00
Sewage/Plumbing	\$ 280,802.00
Water Systems	\$ 57,391.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 454,266.00</b>
<b>Nursing Programs</b>	
BCMh	\$ 8,130.00
Contracts	\$ 23,916.00
Flu Shots	\$ 73,810.00
Hep. B/TB Clinic	-
Immunizations	\$ 128,767.00
Other	\$ 14,034.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 248,657.00</b>
<b>Grants</b>	
Contact Tracing	-
Covid-19	\$ 33,557.00
Maternal Child Health	-
Workforce Development	\$ 142,963.00
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	\$ 174,319.00
Tobacco	\$ 78,050.00
WIC	\$ 204,837.00
Zika	\$ 23,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 656,826.00</b>
<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,296,354.00</b>

# Expenses

Public health is critical to the health and well-being of our community. In order to provide essential public health services and state-mandated programs in Logan and Hocking County, the community's financial support is key. The levy allows the Health Department to maintain daily operations while providing necessary services within the community. We greatly appreciate your support of public health and look forward to improving the health of our community.

Expenses	2023
Administrative/Vital Statistics	\$ 669,262.00
Environmental Health	\$ 482,915.00
Nursing Health Services	\$ 446,450.00
Grants	\$ 693,700.00
<b>Total Net Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,292,327.00</b>



# Health Department Staff

Front Row: Debbie Elliott, Chance Graham, Kevin Smith, Nichole Sigler, Lisa Hall, Emily Norris, Amber Hartley, and Lacey Roop.

Back Row: Kahla Cospers, Rebecca Lyon, Ashlee Hagenbarth, Kent Stewart, Walt Keigley, Jamie Carrell, Shari Schorr, Mandi Tripp, Kayla Harris, and Ashley Mount .

Not Pictured: Nikki Hankinson, Tammy Napier, and Doug Fisher



## Staff Changes

2023 saw many changes in our staff. These changes came with mixed emotions; sadness at their departure and heartfelt best wishes as they left. Those that left included Environmental Health Specialist Hannah Montgomery, Environmental Health Specialist in Training John Blazer, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Laura Gossel, and Clerical Staff Stehphanie Runge. In their place, we welcomed Environmental Health Specialist Rebecca Lyon, Environmental Health Specialist in Training Kent Stewart, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Ashlee Hagenbarth and Clerical Staff members Mandi Tripp and Kayla Harris.

# Health Services Report

<b>NURSING</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>School/Community</b>	
Car Seats	45
Head Lice Checks	35066
Breastfeeding Consultations	127
Cribs For Kids	27
Tobacco Cessation Sessions	82
<b>Immunizations</b>	
Covid-19 Immunizations	678
Flu Shots	1095
Immunizations	429
<b>Health Clinic</b>	
Tuberculin Skin Tests	137
Pregnancy Tests	13
Project Dawn Kits	316
<b>WIC</b>	
WIC Certification/Recertification	722
WIC Nutrition Education	1569
<b>Environmental</b>	
Animal Bite Reports	86
Building Placement Permits	191
Food Inspections	486
Lot Splits	31
Nuisance Complaint Investigations	140
Plumbing Permits (Res/Com)	194
Plumbing Inspections	454
Private Water System Permits	125
Sewage Final Approvals	254
Sewage Permits	243

# Vital Statistics

Leading Causes of Resident Death	2023
Staph/Septic	13
Unknown	2
Cancer	72
Diabetes	8
Suicide	8
Accidental	30
Malnutrition/Failure to Thrive/Age	10
Cerebral Palsy/Parkinson's	11
Homicide	1
Cardiac	65
Respiratory/Pulmonary	39
Renal	5
Cerebrovascular	28
Influenza/Pneumonia	7
Gastro-Intestinal	19
Infant	2
Covid-19	9
Pending	3
Overdoses	14
Certificates Issued	
Birth	1071
Death	679
County Statistics	
Total County Resident Births	263
Births in County	5
Total County Resident Deaths	335
Deaths in County	207
Coroner Cases (including pending)	44
Premature Deaths (0-74 Years)	107



# Hocking County

## Reportable Diseases

Reportable Disease	2021	2022	2023
Campylobacteriosis	5	3	5
Chlamydia infection	59	79	59
COVID-19	3311	3751	981
CP-CRE	0	3	2
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	2	3
Giardiasis	0	2	0
Gonococcal infection	9	10	7
Haemophilus influenzae	1	1	2
Hepatitis A	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - chronic	3	8	8
Hepatitis C - acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis C - chronic	33	21	31
Hepatitis C - perinatal infection	0	0	0
Influenza - associated hospitalization	2	13	4
LaCrosse virus disease	0	0	0
Legionellosis	2	0	1
Lyme Disease- Confirmed	4	1	9
Lyme Disease- Suspected	-	23	52
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	0	1	0
Mumps	0	1	0
Pertussis	0	0	0
Q Fever Acute	0	1	0
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	1	2
Salmonellosis	2	3	4
Streptococcal - Group A - invasive	4	1	2
Streptococcal - Group B- in newborn	0	0	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae - unknown or non-resistant	3	3	4
Streptococcus pneumoniae - resistant/intermediate	1	1	1
Syphilis- unknown duration or late	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Varicella	1	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3441</b>	<b>3931</b>	<b>1180</b>



Reporting infectious diseases is mandated by the Ohio Administrative Code. Diseases of public health concern require a timely response by the health department because of the potential for epidemic spread. Infectious disease nurses and epidemiologists handle notification, response, education, prophylaxis, and prevention activities daily.



## **Contact Information**

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Logan, Ohio 43138

740-385-3030

[www.hockingcountyhealthdepartment.com](http://www.hockingcountyhealthdepartment.com)

Facebook: Hocking County Health Department

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/hocking\\_lhd\\_tobacco\\_program](https://www.instagram.com/hocking_lhd_tobacco_program)

Twitter: [HCHD@hockinghealth](https://twitter.com/HCHD@hockinghealth)

## **Board of Health Members**

Robert Lilley, President

Ruth Ann Spatar, Vice President

Steven Carpenter

Andrea Jones

Dr. James Hayward

Dr. Douglas Carr- Medical Director

**Let us know how we are doing through  
our satisfaction survey available on our  
website.**