



Hocking County Health Department Annual Report

2024



I am pleased to introduce the 2024 Hocking County Health Department Annual Report. This report highlights our key achievements from the past year. It also provides an overview of the Hocking County Health Department's programs and services with an emphasis on our efforts to meet our mission and vision.

It is with mixed emotions that I write this year's opening to our annual report. After 22 years of rewarding and dedicated work in public health, I announce my approaching retirement. My plan at this time is to retire on June 1, 2025. I am excited to be able to look forward to new opportunities and experiences that retirement will bring. At the same time, I am sad to be saying goodbye to something that has been such a huge part of my life for so long. I am extremely grateful for the people that I have had the great fortune to work with and the experiences I have had during my public health career. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been a part of my journey, from the mentors and colleagues to those who have offered advice, guidance, and support throughout my professional life. I want to sincerely thank the Hocking County Board of Health whose guidance and trust have been vital throughout my tenure. To the dedicated health department staff, I am profoundly grateful for their hard work, passion, and professionalism in serving the Hocking County community every single day. I extend a heartfelt thank you to our local public health partners, agencies, and organizations who worked alongside us in countless public health related initiatives. Together, we have worked through a wide range of challenges, including public health emergencies, disease prevention campaigns, and community wellness initiatives.

Finally, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the residents of Hocking County. It has been my honor to serve you, and I am humble by the trust you have placed in me and our department over the years. Your support has been the driving force behind our efforts!

I will always be proud of the accomplishments and the time I spent as the Hocking County Health Commissioner. I have no doubt the Hocking County Health Department team will continue to achieve great things, and I look forward to seeing your future successes.

Thank you again for everything, and I wish you all the best in the years to come.

With a healthy wish for all of Hocking County,

Doug Fisher
Health Commissioner

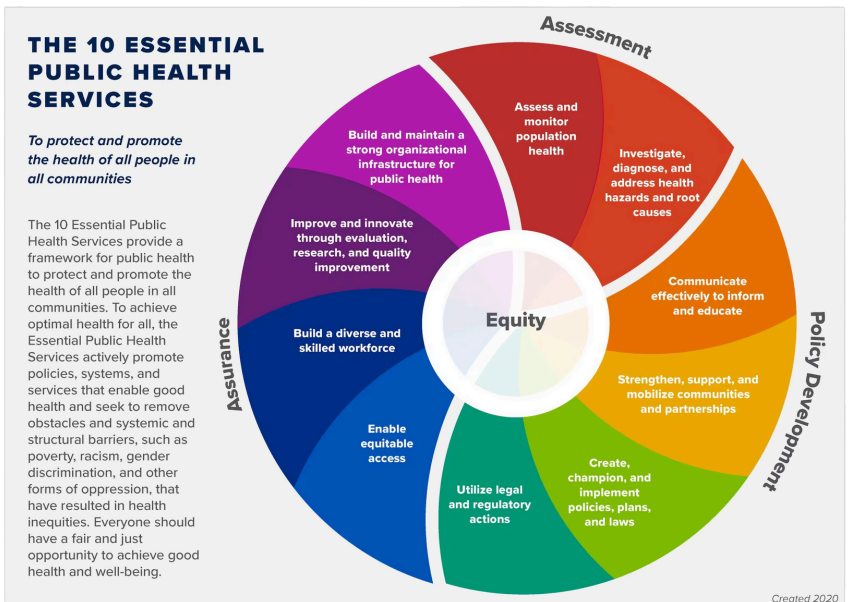


Mission

Our mission is to serve and educate the citizens of Hocking County with public health programs that prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles and protect the environment.

Vision

The vision of the Hocking County Health Department is to achieve excellence in health education, disease prevention and environmental health. It is our desire to provide high quality, community friendly, accessible services that reflect our mission in accordance with the Public Health Standards, and make the Hocking County Health Department become recognized as a model public health agency.



Environmental Health

Programs

In 2024, the plumbing program conducted approximately 393 inspections, driving 6,213 miles. The sewage and new building programs totaled 729 inspections, driving 11,029 miles. The private water program encumbered approximately 314 inspections and sample collections, driving 2,976 miles. The food safety program encumbered approximately 429 inspections, driving 2,641 miles. Recreation campground and pool program inspections totaled approximately 115 inspections, driving 854 miles.

Mosquito Control Grant

We hired 2 interns for our summer mosquito program. Mosquitos were collected and sent to the Ohio Department of Health for testing and identification. The interns also conducted pesticide resistance testing to determine if any mosquitos had become resistant to pesticides. We will apply again for 2025 for this grant from the EPA to continue collecting and testing mosquitoes, to use 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.

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 365 residents and received \$2,288,300.06 through the WPCLF program, which has greatly improved the public health of Hocking County Residents.

Nursing

Covid-19

Covid-19 Case Count	2024
January	167
February	118
March	25
April	19
May	6
June	8
July	35
August	113
September	96
October	42
November	25
December	47
Total	701
Total cases from 2020-2024	10152
Covid-19 Vaccinations	805
Total Vaccinations from 2020-2024	17097

Immunizations

In recent years, many regions have seen fluctuations in immunization rates. Factors contributing to these changes can include public awareness campaigns, access to healthcare, socioeconomic conditions, and, unfortunately, the spread of misinformation regarding vaccine safety. For instance, specific communities may experience lower vaccination rates due to vaccine hesitancy, which can lead to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Efforts to improve these rates often involve educational initiatives to inform communities about the importance of vaccinations and programs designed to increase access to vaccines, such as the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

The Hocking County Health Department participates in the VFC program. The VFC program is a federally funded program overseen by the CDC and administered in Ohio by the Ohio Department of Health. It supplies vaccines free to public and private healthcare providers who enroll and agree to immunize eligible children in their medical practices.

In addition to the VFC program, the Health Department works closely with the Logan-Hocking School District to ensure students have all the required school immunizations. High immunization rates are essential for maintaining herd immunity, which helps protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons, such as allergies or compromised immune systems.

Tobacco Use, Cessation, and Prevention

The Hocking County Health Department's tobacco prevention program is steadfast in its commitment to youth health, focusing on prevention and decreasing the access and availability of nicotine products to youth.

As part of the program's efforts, our staff educates 4th, 7th, and 9th-grade students in the Logan-Hocking School District on the dangers of nicotine products, with a special emphasis on electronic cigarettes. Over the last year, more than 700 students have been educated, paving the way for a healthier future generation.

Emergency Preparedness

Through federal funding made available to the health department, our Emergency Preparedness Division continues to plan for emergency situations, drills, 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 2024, our activities included:

- Retirement of our previous Emergency Response Coordinator, Debbie Elliot, and the addition of a new Emergency Response Coordinator, Ashlee Hagenbarth;
- An increase in recruitment events for the Hocking County Medical Reserve Corps;
- Annual review and update of our training plan to extend to 2028 (Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan);
- A focus on working with Access and Functional needs partners when updating plans and facilitating exercises;
- Multiple trainings for our Emergency Preparedness staff sponsored by the National Disaster Preparedness Consortium;
- Planning for two chemical-based tabletop exercises that will occur in Spring of 2025;
- 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.

2024 Community Health Improvement Plan

In 2023, a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was completed in Hocking County to evaluate the health issues and health status of the county's population. In 2024, Rural Health Innovations facilitated a collaborative effort, bringing together community stakeholders and the steering committee to examine the results of the CHNA and jointly develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The CHIP, a comprehensive and long-term plan, identifies health priorities, goals, objectives, and action steps that a community can use to guide them in developing and implementing projects, programs, and policies that aim to improve the health of the residents of Hocking County. This long-term commitment ensures that the health of the community remains a top priority.

3 Health Priorities Hocking County 2024-2026

Community
Health
Improvement
Plan (CHIP)

1

Reducing barriers to
accessing mental health
resources

2

Utilizing evidence-
based strategies for
promoting a healthy
lifestyle

3

Developing
comprehensive
workforce strategies

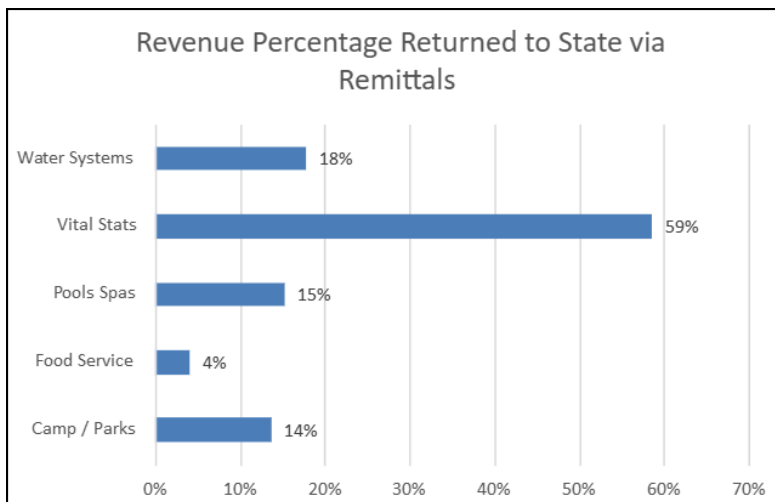
Revenue

Revenue	2024
Health Levy	
Real Estate	\$ 843,272.00
Rollback	\$ 58,764.00
Personal Property	-
Trailer Tax	\$ 3,788.00
Total	\$ 905,824.00
Fees- Vital Statistics	
Burial Permits	\$ 618.00
Certified Copies	\$ 43,255.00
Vital Statistics Reg.	\$ 2,364.00
Total	\$ 46,237.00
Fees- Environmental	
Campgrounds and Parks	\$ 15,285.00
Food Service	\$ 104,856.00
Pools ad Spas	\$ 10,380.00
Sewage/Plumbing	\$ 289,192.00
Water Systems	\$ 59,194.00
Total	\$ 478,907.00
Nursing Programs	
BCMh	\$ 16,356.00
Contracts	\$ 15,262.00
Flu Shots	\$ 90,985.00
Hep. B/TB Clinic	\$ 246.00
Immunizations	\$ 192,496.00
Other	\$ 19,376.00
Total	\$ 334,721.00
Grants	
Contact Tracing	-
Covid-19	\$ 32,314.00
Maternal Child Health	-
Workforce Development	\$ 117,932.00
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	\$ 111,900.00
Tobacco	\$ 110,125.00
WIC	\$ 206,026.00
Zika	\$ 22,600.00
Total	\$ 600,897.00
Total Program Revenue	\$2,366,586.00

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	2024
Administrative/Vital Statistics	\$ 882,585.00
Environmental Health	\$ 548,426.00
Nursing Health Services	\$ 466,715.00
Grants	\$ 589,752.00
Total Net Expenses	\$2,487,478.00



Health Department Staff

Front Row: Chance Graham, Lisa Hall, Emily Norris, Doug Fisher, Amber Hartley, Kahla Cosper, and Lacey Roop.

Back Row: Justin Sargent, Deven Speck, Jamie Carrell, Kevin Smith, Shari Schorr, Ashley Mount, Tammy Napier, and Mandi Tripp.

Not Pictured: Ashlee Hagenbarth, Kayla Harris, Nichole Sigler, Nikki Hankinson, and Walt Keigley.



Staff Changes

2024 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 Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Debbie Elliott, Environmental Health Specialist Rebecca Lyon. In their place, we welcomed Environmental Health Specialist in Training Justin Sargent, and Environmental Health Specialist in Training Deven Speck.

Health Services Report

NURSING	2024
School/Community	
Car Seats	45
Head Lice Checks	40994
Breastfeeding Consultations	134
Cribs For Kids	38
Tobacco Cessation Sessions	7
Immunizations	
Covid-19 Immunizations	805
Flu Shots	1059
Immunizations	819
Health Clinic	
Tuberculin Skin Tests	162
Pregnancy Tests	26
Project Dawn Kits	250
WIC	
WIC Certification/Recertification	840
WIC Nutrition Education	1632
Environmental	
Animal Bite Reports	61
Building Placement Permits	148
Food Inspections	450
Lot Splits	21
Nuisance Complaint Investigations	91
Plumbing Permits (Res/Com)	187
Plumbing Inspections	354
Private Water System Permits	146
Sewage Final Approvals	236
Sewage Permits	183
Site Evaluations	130
Private Water Samples	217

Vital Statistics

Leading Causes of Resident Death	2024
Accidental	10
Alzheimer's	5
Cancer	66
Cardiac	63
Cerebrovascular	33
COVID-19	3
Dementia	12
Gastrointestinal	10
Infant Death	1
Malnutrition/Failure to Thrive	15
Natural Causes	2
Other	13
Overdose	11
Parkinson's	4
Pneumonia	1
Renal	6
Respiratory/Pulmonary	68
Shock/Sepsis/Septic	18
Suicide	2
Certificates Issued	
Birth	631
Death	515
County Statistics	
Total County Resident Births	270
Births in County	1
Total County Resident Deaths	345
Deaths in County	203
Coroner Cases (including pending)	31
Premature Deaths (0-74 Years)	10 ^c



Hocking County Reportable Diseases

Reportable Diseases	2022	2023	2024
Campylobacteriosis	3	5	7
Chlamydia infection	79	59	34
COVID-19	3751	981	701
CP-CRE	3	2	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	1
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	2	3	1
Giardiasis	2	0	0
Gonococcal infection	10	7	6
Haemophilus influenzae	1	2	1
Hepatitis B - chronic	8	8	3
Hepatitis C - chronic	21	31	17
Influenza - associated hospitalization	13	4	31
Legionellosis	0	1	3
Lyme Disease- Confirmed	1	9	27
Lyme Disease- Suspected	23	52	52
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	0
Mumps	1	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	1
Q Fever Acute	1	0	0
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1	2	0
Salmonellosis	3	4	4
Shigellosis	0	0	1
Streptococcal - Group A - invasive	1	2	1
Streptococcal - Group B- in newborn	0	1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae - unknown or non-resistant	3	4	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae - resistant/intermediate	1	1	1
Syphilis- unknown duration or late	0	1	1
Varicella	2	1	0
TOTAL	3931	1180	896



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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Facebook: Hocking County Health Department

Board of Health Members

Robert Lilley, President
Ruth Ann Spatar, Vice President
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Dr. Douglass Carr- Medical Director

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