

Annual Report

2021

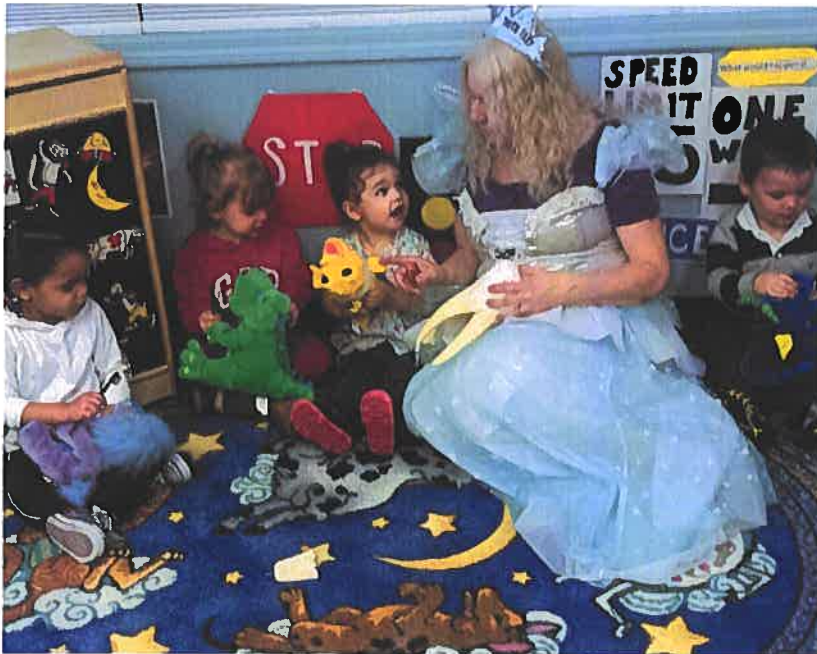


Jefferson, Ohio

In Memoriam to Director of Nursing Christine Kettunen PhD, MSN, RN

The 2021 Annual Report is dedicated to Christine Kettunen who was the Director of Nursing for the Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) from January 2003 to September 2021. Chris started with the ACHD in January 2003, Chris was coming to us from the VA Hospital in Cleveland where she was working as the Infection Control Practitioner. Chris was from Ashtabula County and was excited about working with the ACHD as the Director of Nursing. Chris had a passion for public health and more importantly she had a kindness that she demonstrated when interacting with the public and her staff. Anyone who knew Chris would always mention the heart of Chris Kettunen and it was evident in everything about her. Children loved Chris, for many years Chris hosted Boo at the Flu at the ACHD where the nurses would dress up for Halloween, give out treats and ask the children coming to get their flu shot to also dress up to scare away the FLU. You would also see Chris at the county schools at various times dressed up as the tooth fairy when she would talk to the children about dental health. You may have met Chris at one of the many events that she organized at ACHD. Chris saw Public Health as a way of interacting with the public on all levels and knew the importance of that in communicating the public health message.

God Bless you Chris Kettunen your kindness was appreciated by everyone who knew you. Thank you for your service to Ashtabula County. We love you and miss you.



Chris Kettunen as the “tooth fairy” pictured with some of her children.

Ashtabula County

Health Department

ROBERT "DOC" MALINOWSKI

46 YEARS SERVING ACHD



**ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

***PAUL E. THOMPSON, F.N.P.
Board President***

***KATHLEEN E. ARILSON, R.N.
Board Vice-President***

***DR. BRIAN WELLS
Board Member***

***LARRY BOTTOMS
Board Member***

***DR. HARLAN WAID JR.
Board Member***

***GARY O. HEWITT
Alternate Board Member***



2021 ASHTABULA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Jay Becker, M.P.H. | Health Commissioner |
| Dr. Wayne Kawalek | Medical Director |
| David Shumate, B.S.N., R.N. | Director of Nursing |
| Kimberly S. Marcy | Administrator Registrar of Vital Statistics |
| Randall K. Barnes, B.A., R.E.H.S. | Director of Environmental Health |
| Laura Steigerwald, A.B. | Administrative Assistant Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics |
| Andrea Elliott | Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics-Clerk |
| Jennifer Cleveland, M.S. | Accreditation/(QI) Coordinator |
| Robert Jelf III, M.P.H. | Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator |
| Allie Peterson, B.S. | Epidemiologist |
| Ian Elliott, C.D.C.A | Public Health Educator |
| John Dietrich, C.P.I. | Chief Plumbing Inspector |
| Gerald Martin, B.S., C.P.I | Certified Plumbing Inspector |
| Terry A. Palmer, B.S., R.E.H.S. | Registered Environmental Health Specialist |
| Todd R. Shanks, B.S., R.E.H.S. | Registered Environmental Health Specialist |
| Matthew B. Menzie, B.S., R.E.H.S. | Registered Environmental Health Specialist |
| April Tredway, L.P.N. | Public Health Nurse |
| Darlene Dyer, R.N. | Public Health Nurse/Nurse Floor Manager |
| Lori Johnston, L.P.N. | Public Health Nurse |
| Margaret Harvey, R.N. | Part-Time Public Health Nurse |
| Mary Jane Thompson, C.N.P. | Part-Time Public Health Nurse |
| Ann L. Hegfield | Clerk |
| Rhonda Krieg | Clerk |
| Danielle Cook | Clerk |
| Tiffany Matyi | Nursing Clerk |
| Joann Agnew | Part Time Nursing Clerk |
| Pat Yarbrough | Part Time Nursing Clerk |



Dear Partners in Health,

As Ashtabula County moves into 2022 we are all hopeful that the COVID Pandemic will continue to trend downward. Needless to say 2021 has been one of the more challenging years for Ashtabula County and the world. Every step of the way has demanded adjustments and has disrupted life as we have known; it is understood how tired we all are. If there is a positive for 2021 compared to 2020, much was learned about COVID which helped to develop the guidance from CDC and ODH in 2021 to protect individuals and families. The COVID vaccine that was released for use in the early part of 2021 provided for much needed relief for many individuals mentally as much as physically.

2021 was a year that the Ohio Legislature decided to take a different approach with the COVID Pandemic. Masking was no longer mandated, businesses and public venues were no longer allowed to be closed to prevent people from congregating. Vaccinations began at the beginning of 2021 which everyone thought was the beginning of the end of this pandemic but unfortunately that was not the case.

Because of the failure to fully vaccinate the majority of the residents of Ashtabula County the population was considered to be high risk for transmitting COVID throughout 2021. With the low rate of vaccination, the most vulnerable of our population were directly affected and the most at risk. Those who were the unhealthiest, weakest, sickest and the most vulnerable could not protect themselves because of their condition and legitimately could not receive the COVID vaccination. This population group was literally on an island with nowhere to go because they were at a huge disadvantage against being protected against the transmission of COVID.

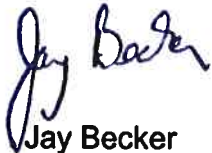
Many variables are responsible for the healthy residents of Ashtabula County to decide not to get fully vaccinated against COVID. Studies have proven one of the top reasons for not getting vaccinated against COVID was due to misinformation. With the onset of social media platforms and the distrust of news media, government and healthcare providers the public turned to social media as the main source for getting information for COVID and COVID vaccines.

As a result of the misinformation that was being provided to healthy Ashtabula County residents the vaccination rate was one of the lowest in the State of Ohio. Having one of the lowest vaccination rates in Ashtabula County puts us all at risk in all community settings which included: schools, church, shopping stores, gyms, restaurants, bars, festivals, sporting events, theatre and all public events. Taking a look back at where we were before the Pandemic began, what we have experienced and now looking forward we may be looking at a new normal for all of us. Time will tell. COVID outbreaks will

more than likely become common place. These COVID outbreaks will be handled by isolating those diagnosed (testing positive) who will need to stay home 5 days and return when not symptomatic wearing a facemask for 5 days. At this point it is believed that all of us will need to learn to live with COVID, new variants could become common place like new strains of the flu. Masking, washing hands, curbside pickup or having food and household supplies delivered to our doors, staying home when we are sick, working remotely, having virtual meetings will continue and evolve in our new normal and become part of our new culture at least for the time being. Each individual needs to assess the risk for them and use the appropriate measures to keep them healthy as we move forward into 2022.

The Ashtabula County Health Department wishes you and your family a healthy and happy 2022.

To your health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jay Becker

Health Commissioner

Ashtabula County Health Department



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Construction & Demolition Debris Inspections

Food Service/Food Establishment Licensing

Home Sewage Treatment System Permits

Plumbing Permits

Private Water System Permits

Private Water System Water Samples

Public Bathing Beach Licensing

Recreation Vehicle/Combined Park Camp Licensing

Resident Camp Licensing

Solid Waste Facility Licensing

Swimming Pool/Spa/Special Use Pool Licensing

Tattoo & Body Piercing Establishment Licensing

Vending Machine Licensing

2021 Environmental Health Update

The Environmental Health Division of the Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) is committed to preventing disease, accidents, and other environmental hazards through inspections and education. Environmental health programs deal with the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, the disposal of wastes, and the way we affect the health of those around us.

Our environmental health staff consists of Registered Environmental Health Specialists who each have over 20 years of experience working at the ACHD in addition to the plumbing staff that have a lifetime each of plumbing experience.

In 2021, the environmental health staff had another busy and challenging year dealing with Covid-19 and program evaluations from both the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).

Public swimming pools and campgrounds are regulated by the ODH and annually inspected by our staff. In November, the survey of our swimming pool and campground program was conducted by the ODH in accordance with state law. The purpose of the surveys are to determine whether the ACHD complies with the applicable provisions of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. After a multiday review, these programs were found to meet the minimum acceptable standards and we were placed on the approved health district list for these respective programs. The ACHD licenses 49 swimming pools and spas and 30 campgrounds.

Also in 2021, the OEPA completed its annual survey of our Solid and Infectious Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris Program in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code. This survey evaluated the administrative and field inspection components of our program. The OEPA evaluates the ACHD's licensing and inspection of three landfills in the county as well as the investigation and enforcement of solid waste disposal complaints occurring outside of licensed facilities. The OEPA found that the ACHD is in substantial compliance with Ohio's solid waste, infectious waste, and construction and demolition debris laws and regulations. Staff demonstrated knowledge of the regulations and accurately evaluated facilities for compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and authorizing documents.

The tally on the following page provides an overview of the number and type of inspections our staff performed in 2021. Environmental Health Specialists normally spend a large amount of time inspecting food service operations, sewage systems, and dealing with solid waste nuisances. Other duties include water sampling and inspection of bathing beaches, campgrounds, swimming pools, landfills, schools, manufactured home parks, tattoo and body piercing establishments, dog bites, and various other environmental inspections.

When it comes to plumbing systems, the plumbing department is responsible to protect the health and safety of all occupants in residential homes and commercial buildings throughout Ashtabula County with the exception of residential homes in Conneaut City. Inspectors are state certified and review all commercial building blueprint plans as well as residential plumbing schematics to ensure compliance with Ohio State Plumbing Code 4101:3-1 to 4101:3-13.

The plumbing department issued 202 residential and 63 commercial permits for the 2021 calendar year. After approval of the permits, the plumbing inspectors conduct consults and inspections and approve each dwelling and building throughout the construction stages to ensure code compliancy. Inspections performed in 2021 included approximately 2274 commercial and residential job checks and consultations.

Chief Plumbing Inspector, John Dietrich, attended multiple code courses from the Ohio Board of Building Standards and the Ohio Department of Commerce virtually because of Covid-19.

In sum, the environmental health unit anticipates a very productive and busy year in 2022 serving to protect the health of the citizens of Ashtabula County.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2021**

| | |
|---|------|
| Home Sewage Treatment System Installers Registrations | 42 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Site Evaluation Applications | 214 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspection for Real Estate Transactions | 104 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Permits Issued | 126 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Inspections | 956 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspections | 382 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Consultations | 146 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Service Provider Registrations | 24 |
| O&M Existing Sewage Treatment System | 26 |
| Home Sewage Treatment System Abandonment Permit | 51 |
| | |
| Private Water System Permits Issued | 74 |
| Private Water System Inspections | 168 |
| Water Hauler Registrations | 3 |
| Water Samples Taken (Bacteriological) | 314 |
| Water Samples Taken (Chemical) | 7 |
| | |
| Complaint Inspections | 1358 |
| | |
| Septage Hauler Registrations | 18 |
| Septage Inspections-Pumpers | 12 |
| Septage Land Application - Site Reviews | 2 |
| | |
| Camp Operation Permits Issued | 24 |
| Resident Camp Permits Issued | 6 |
| Camp Inspections | 34 |
| | |
| Public Bathing Beach Licenses Issued | 7 |
| Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool Licenses Issued | 49 |
| Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool and Bathing Beach Inspections | 63 |
| | |
| Construction Demolition and Debris Inspections | 507 |
| C&DD Applications | 52 |
| | |
| School Inspections | 58 |
| Manufactured Home Park Inspections | 32 |
| | |
| Solid Waste Disposal Facility Licenses Issued | 2 |
| Solid Waste Disposal Facility & Compost Facility Site Inspections | 113 |
| | |
| Food Service & Food Establishment Licenses Issued | 495 |
| Food Service & Food Establishment Inspections | 854 |
| Food Service Operation Consultations | 74 |
| Food Service Plan Reviews | 17 |
| Vending Machines FSO Licenses Issued | 54 |
| Vending Machines FSO Inspections | 41 |
| | |
| Tattoo & Body Piercing Licenses | 4 |
| Tattoo & Body Piercing Inspections | 6 |
| | |
| | |

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2021**

| | |
|---|------|
| Inspections with Health Commissioner or State & County Agency Personnel | 30 |
| Public Meetings, Lectures, Landfill Conferences & Trainings Attended | 52 |
| Meetings with Federal, State and Local Agencies | 63 |
| Meetings with County Agencies and Organizations | 37 |
| Educational Programs Presented to the Public | 12 |
| | |
| Animal Bite Field Investigations | 39 |
| | |
| Other Environmental Health Consultations-Water, Schools, Institutions, Rabies, Mold, etc. | 46 |
| | |
| PLUMBING | |
| Plumbing Permits Issued | 265 |
| Plumbing Plan Reviews Issued | 62 |
| Plumber's Registrations Issued | 90 |
| Plumbing Permit Checks | 1326 |
| Plumbing Schematics and Blue Prints Checked | 213 |
| Plumbing Inspections | 692 |
| Plumbing Complaints | 22 |
| Plumbing Consultations | 100 |
| Plumbing Investigations | 73 |
| Meetings Attended | 61 |
| | |



Accreditation



practices

Health Department Accreditation 2021

Public Health Accreditation is the measurement of health departments' performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards according to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The Ashtabula County Health Department Accreditation Team is made up of employees of Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD). The team devoted a considerable amount of time in 2021 to fulfilling PHAB Standards and Measures in preparation for the April 27th-29th PHAB site visit, that ultimately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, had to be conducted virtually.

The visit proved to be a rigorous review of ACHD standards and practices by experienced public health professionals, and the PHAB visitors found that Ashtabula County Health Department's strengths lie in the areas of preparedness, health education, and community engagement.

In August 2021, ACHD received ten Accreditation Committee Action Requirements-or ACAR's-which are measures requiring additional evidence or expansion. The Accreditation Team was given one year to complete the ACAR's and the health department created an Accreditation/Quality Improvement Coordinator position to ensure that someone could concentrate on Accreditation and help navigate the team through the ACAR process.



Nursing



Division



Public Health Nursing

2021 was an extremely challenging year for every health department in our county. With that being said, the nursing staff of the Ashtabula County Health Department faced losses and challenges that go beyond what most have seen for the year. We lost our beloved leader and rock, Director of Nursing, Chris Kettunen. Along with the passing of Chris, our Health Educator pursued a position with another health department closer to home and our Epidemiologist and our Public Health Planner left to pursue higher education full-time. With a small nursing staff of one full-time and two part-time nurses, the PRN nurses and volunteers stepped up in unimaginable ways to help seamlessly deliver our services to the public.

The primary focus of public health nursing is to promote health and prevent disease for entire population groups. During 2021 the nurses were challenged with preventing disease in the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first pandemic of its kind in over 100 years. During most of the year, the nurses were extremely busy delivering 14,611 COVID-19 vaccines to the residents of our county. Their duties also involved assisting our epidemiologist with investigating cases and case contacts, delivering education on isolation and quarantine and educating community residents on the importance of wearing masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing. The nurses were also busy assisting community agencies and businesses with their COVID response plans to keep workers and customers safe. Additionally, the nursing staff fielded numerous phone calls from community residents with questions relating to COVID-19, all of these contact statistics can be found on the next page.

The height of the pandemic, to date, came in the last four months of the year and spilled into January of 2022. The daily average of positive cases in our district in Ashtabula County rose from 8.6 positive cases a day on September 1st to 93.1 positive cases a day by December 31st. The challenges and strain on the healthcare field in general rippled throughout the community and this health department. Holding mass vaccine clinics in excess of 700 patients on Saturday afternoons, home visits to deliver vaccines to the home-bound and working with community partners to reach the far corners of our county are just some of the ways we attacked this unparalleled time of illness in our communities.

During 2021, the nurses provided several influenza vaccination clinics, including drive through clinics. There was no shortage of influenza vaccine this year and the Ashtabula County Health Department nurses provided over 800 influenza vaccinations to county residents.

Nurses continued to provide vaccination clinics for childhood immunizations and certain adult immunizations such as tetanus, pneumonia and shingles. Vaccination clinics were provided by appointment only in order to maintain social distance.

The Nursing Department wishes to express our deepest sympathy to those who lost family members and friends due to COVID-19.

Clinics

Well Child Clinics

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of Well Child Clinics held in 2021 | 15 |
| Number of Patients | 37 |

Tuberculosis Clinics

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of Tuberculosis Clinics held in 2021 | *2 |
| Number of Patients | *6 |

Immunization Clinics

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of Standard Immunizations Clinics held in 2021 | 93 |
| Number of Patients Immunized with Standard Vaccines in 2021 | 860 |
| Number of Amish Clinics held in 2021 | *30 |
| Number of Flu Clinics held in 2021 | 33 |
| Number of Influenza Immunizations Provided in 2021 | 801 |
| Number of Covid Clinics held in 2021 | *144 |
| Number of Covid 19 Immunizations Provided in 2021 | 14,611 |

Nursing Services and Statistics

- Most Nursing services were limited or shut down in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Nursing contacted approximately 16,326 individual people who were either COVID-19 positive or exposed and had to quarantine.
- Nurses and contact tracers made over 24,500 initial phone calls and follow up calls to those who tested positive or to those who had to quarantine from COVID-19.
- The nursing department fielded over 7,200 COVID-19 concern/complaint based calls in 2021.
- 153 tuberculosis skin tests were administered.
- Vision and hearing screening are usually conducted in the fall of each year. Due to the COVID pandemic vision and hearing screenings were not conducted during 2021 except during well-child clinics.
- Blood pressure screening clinics are normally conducted at various locations throughout the county each week. Due to the pandemic, blood pressure screening clinics were not held in 2021.
- *43 Home visits with vaccinations provided during 2021.

*Limited data available for reporting year



Health Education

The purpose of health education is to help individuals and communities improve their health by increasing their knowledge of healthy behaviors and avoiding how to recognize and avoid unhealthy behaviors. Health education promotes the prevention of disease and aims to empower community residents to make healthy choices.

Throughout 2021, the Ashtabula County Health Department continued to provide services to the community. In November of 2021, the county welcomed a new health educator, Ian Elliott. The health educator took on the role of maintaining the IN grant to keep Ashtabula county provided with Naloxone to reduce the number of fentanyl related deaths in the county. The educator moving forward will be applying for new grants from the state for the overall wellness of Ashtabula county. Also, since November 2021, the health educator along with nursing infused COVID-19 vaccine clinics with Naloxone distribution to cover other needed demographics in Ashtabula County.

The Health Educator has been working to expand Naloxone distribution throughout the county. The health educator attends quarterly meetings with (OPN) Overdose Prevention Network, (OIPP) Ohio Injury Prevention Network, (ODH) Ohio Department of Health, as well as other local groups implementing new strategies to combating the Overdoses in Ashtabula County.

The Ashtabula County Health Educator since November 2021, has distributed 104 Naloxone kits and Education training to Sheriff's Department, Probation officers, Court, Recovery services, and has Partnered up with other agencies to educate and distribute Naloxone and other harm reduction strategies. The Ohio Department of Health continues to provide Naloxone for distribution to the County. Community partner agencies assisting with naloxone distribution in the community include Mental health and Recovery Board, University Hospitals, Ashtabula City Health Department, Conneaut City Health Department, Community Counseling, Lake Area Recovery Center, Signature Health, Bright View, the North West Ambulance District.

A second main focus for health education was related to tobacco prevention and cessation during the 2021 year. The Ashtabula County Health Educator was a member of the Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Tobacco Prevention Coalition (LGATPC). This group educates and raises awareness about the negative health effects of tobacco product use. The Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Grant is funded by the Ohio Department of Health.

The Health Educator conducted community surveys to determine community readiness for tobacco policy change. Policy change in addition to prevention and cessation is the focus of the next tobacco grant cycle.

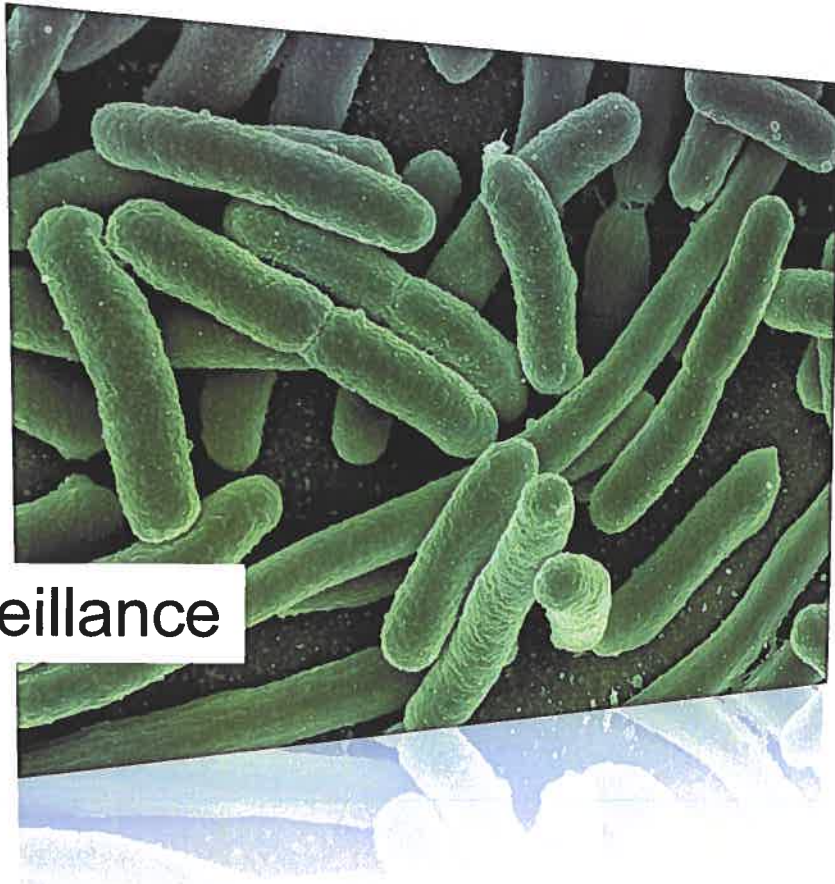


Health Education - Continued

Finally, one of the best examples of health education in action for the Ashtabula County Health Department this past year continues every day during our COVID vaccination clinics, COVID contact tracing phone calls and during COVID complaint phone calls. These are times that the ACHD staff has shined their brightest over the past 2 years. These moments are times that the ACHD staff spends with the county residents to give them the latest COVID information on how to protect themselves, their family, coworkers, friends and fellow students against COVID. This task literally took every staff member from the Ashtabula County Health Department and made them Health Educators during the COVID Pandemic. We needed all hands on deck to answer phones, make phone calls, explain COVID protocols, answer questions about COVID test kits, it did not matter if you were a sanitarian, clerk, nurse, health educator, administrator or health commissioner during COVID we were all Health Educators trying to help were we could. We will never know how many people were saved by the information we gave them. We know how many people died as a result of receiving misinformation (current COVID deaths in Ashtabula County is 320 and nationwide over 900,000 deaths attributable to COVID). Misinformation would include information that was not based on facts, not based on science. In many cases it was received by those who directly died from COVID but in many cases it was received by those who came in close contact with the one who died (family member, friend, coworker, fellow student, or a caretaker). The purpose of health education is to help individuals and communities improve their health by increasing their knowledge of healthy behaviors and avoiding unhealthy behaviors. Health education promotes prevention of disease and aims to empower community residents to make healthy choices (vaccinations, masks). Health Education not only includes the health information with the facts and proper content but those receiving the health information must trust the source (physicians, scientists) as being reliable and use that information to enact healthy behavior changes to produce the proper health result.

The public health educator along with the nurses' duties were shifted in 2020 and 2021 to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Health Educator was tasked with contact tracing, patient data entry, and answering any COVID-19-related questions that the public may have had. Many Ashtabula County Health Department staff became social workers in the past two years as thousands of phone calls were received and made to manage the COVID Pandemic. Staff were asked to work extra hours, vacations were paused, staff dealt with many angry, scared, and frustrated residents but somehow they managed a very difficult time. Going forward it has become crystal clear the importance of Health Education and how necessary a clear concise public health message can be during a public health disaster.

Thank you to all Ashtabula County staff for your hard work, patience and dedication for a job well done in 2021.



Disease Surveillance



Emergency Preparedness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

During 2021, Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) continued to respond to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic through facilitation of the Vaccination PODs and ongoing information sharing efforts across our partners. The year also saw a significant number of personnel transitions. Among these, ACHD gained a new Epidemiologist and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator as part of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program in Fall of 2021.

PHEP grant work continued with updates to the Community Recovery Planning, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Preparedness Improvement Plan, and the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP, formerly the MYTEP, Multi-Year Training and Exercised Plan). Each year, the Ohio Department of Health, with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, identifies a series of Emergency Preparedness activities for Local Health Departments to undertake to bolster local, state, and ultimately national readiness to respond to and recover from incidents which impact the health of our communities.

Maintaining, updating, and at times, complete revisions of these plans are an ongoing duty requiring many hours of effort and collaboration with partners on all levels. To facilitate this, the Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team (ACPHAT) meets monthly to share information and ensure the alignment of goals and efforts wherever reasonable. This group allows many of the agencies who will work together in emergency circumstances to develop a rapport and knowledge of each other's priorities, concerns, and capabilities.

Additional efforts will continue through the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years with the development of both the Environmental and Radiological Response Annexes, staff and site preparedness training and exercises at ACHD, and the establishment of a regular schedule of exercises for the testing and validation of community response capabilities.

Across the entire 2021 year, COVID-19 Vaccination efforts were a major factor of all ACHD activity, in coordination with ODH and local partners. As a result, despite misinformation and significant vaccine hesitancy in the region, over 51,000 residents of the county received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine by the year's end.

As the COVID-19 response continues to change over time, ACHD has adapted and will seek to continuously improve from the lessons learned. ACHD seeks to bolster response and recovery capability with an all-hazards approach to be ready to lead or support Emergency Response efforts anytime the public health is endangered.

Communicable Disease Investigation

Communicable Disease Investigation is part of the Nursing Services within the Ashtabula County Health Department. Ashtabula County Health Department provides surveillance of communicable diseases reported in Ashtabula County in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Infectious Disease Reporting requirements and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.

During 2021, the communicable disease staff continued to face challenges related to COVID-19. Throughout the last quarter of the year, we worked through the largest spike in cases that we've encountered over the entire pandemic. All Health Department staff were involved in answering questions about COVID-19. Ashtabula County Health Department also hired additional contact tracers to assist with the COVID-19 response that included daily calls, contact tracing, and consulting on testing, release dates, and symptom checks. Ashtabula County Health Department had continual contact with schools in the county throughout 2021 answering questions about COVID-19 and assisting schools in making an informed decision about education for the youth during the pandemic. The communicable disease staff also assisted the nursing staff with large community-based vaccination clinics for COVID-19. Finally, Ashtabula County Health Department continually reviewed event plans throughout 2021 to determine if these events would be safe and permitted under ODH's guidelines at the time of event.

Outside of COVID-19 the Ashtabula County Health Department Communicable Disease Prevention staff worked with the Environmental Health Division when food-borne illness/outbreak were suspected to have occurred. Communicable Disease Prevention staff also provided information and data to the public for probable or confirmed vector-borne disease in collaboration with the Environmental Health Division. (Including but not limited to West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, Hepatitis A, and Salmonella.)

In 2021, COVID-19 required a lot of our attention at the Ashtabula County Health Department but during that time we investigated 8,580 reportable conditions as defined by ODH. The 8,580 conditions were made up of 96.69% non-vaccine preventable disease (COVID-19 included), 2.19% sexually transmitted disease, 0.68% vaccine preventable disease, and 0.42% food and waterborne disease. Of those 8,580 reportable conditions, COVID-19 accounted for 8,163 of them. For comparison, in 2020 the health district investigated 3,780 disease reports and in 2019, the department investigated 587 disease reports.

Rabies investigations were coordinated with collaboration between communicable disease prevention staff and environmental health staff. Environmental health staff track animal bites and collect specimens to send to Ohio Department of Health labs for rabies testing. Human rabies exposure cases are followed up by communicable disease staff with collaboration from environmental staff. In 2021, Ashtabula County Health Department had no positive rabies cases to report.

Vaccination is the best method to prevent disease for both the person receiving the vaccination, as well as vulnerable population groups (i.e. babies too young to vaccinate, those with immunocompromising conditions, and the elderly whose vaccines waned over the years). All Ashtabula County residents are strongly encouraged to check with their primary care physician and get their vaccinations up to date.

In 2022, the Communicable Disease Prevention Staff of the Ashtabula County Health Department look forward to continuing to provide services to Ashtabula County residents.

| Reportable Condition | Count |
|--|-------|
| Amebiasis | 1 |
| Any unexpected pattern of cases, deaths or diseases (call health department immediately) | 2 |
| Campylobacteriosis | 13 |
| Chlamydia infection | 134 |
| Coccidioidomycosis | 1 |
| COVID-19 (call health department immediately) | 8,163 |
| CP-CRE | 3 |
| Cryptosporidiosis | 1 |
| Cyclosporiasis | 1 |
| E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Unknown Serotype) | 3 |
| Giardiasis | 2 |
| Gonococcal Infection | 53 |
| Haemophilus influenza (invasive disease) | 1 |
| Hepatitis A | 12 |
| Hepatitis B (including delta) – acute | 1 |
| Hepatitis B (including delta) – chronic | 16 |
| Hepatitis C – chronic | 57 |
| Hepatitis C – Perinatal Infection | 1 |
| Influenza A – novel virus infection (call health department immediately) | 1 |
| Influenza-associated hospitalization | 1 |
| Legionellosis | 3 |
| Listeriosis | 1 |
| Lyme Disease | 59 |
| Meningitis – aseptic/viral | 2 |
| MIS-C associated with COVID-19 (call health department immediately) | 1 |
| Pertussis | 10 |
| Salmonellosis | 11 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Streptococcal – Group A – invasive | 4 |
| Streptococcus pneumonia – invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant | 6 |
| Syphilis – unknown duration or late | 1 |
| Tuberculosis | 4 |
| Varicella | 11 |
| TOTAL | 8,580 |



Vital Statistics

Vital Statistic Report

Vital Statistic-Cause of Death Report

Birth Certificates

Death Certificates

Vital Statistics 2021

The Vital Statistics unit of the Ashtabula County Health Department collects important information and data concerning births, deaths and diseases in Ashtabula County. This unit works closely with the public, funeral homes, Ashtabula County Coroner's Office as well as other Government offices in the collection and provision of vital statistics data.

In 2021, the Ashtabula County Health Department Vital Statistics unit incurred many new changes and enhancements to the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and to the Integrated Perinatal Health Information System (IPHIS). Our unit learned of these changes by attending the monthly Webinars presented by the Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all group trainings that required travel continue to be cancelled.

The Vital Statistics unit at the Ashtabula County Health Department continues to electronically create a birth record for 2017 and forward births that take place outside a birth facility (e.g. home births). The birth record is then electronically approved and/or disapproved by the Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics Registration unit. Once approved then the birth record is available for certified copies.

The Vital Statistics unit at the Ashtabula County Health Department also continues to accept electronic filing for death records in our general health district. This means signed death certificates for filing can be emailed with a request for approval to local registrars who will review the certificate and accept or reject the filing within one business day. This speeds up the filing and registration process of death certificates and makes the death certificates available sooner to the families or to the public for certified copies.

The Social Security Number (SSN) must be redacted from death records within the past five years unless the applicant is authorized by ORC 3705.23 (5) to view the SSN. The Ashtabula County Health Department Vital Statistics Unit does have the ability to print a death certificate with/without SSN.

As the E-Filing project continues to expand with local vital statistics offices in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics continues to also add physicians and coroners to expand the electronic certification of death records. Paper records received for filing will continue to be certified using the current process.

The Ashtabula County Health Department's Vital Statistics Department issued the following for 2021:

- **986** certified copies of Birth Certificates
- **3,069** certified copies of Death Certificates
- **70** burial and/or cremation permits
- **14 new home births** were electronically created, approved by ODH VS and filed in our health district.

- **804** death records were filed in our health district. This includes deaths that were pronounced in all of Ashtabula County with the exception of Ashtabula City Health District and Conneaut City Health District.

The Vital Statistics staff at the Ashtabula County Health Department includes the following:

Kim Marcy, Registrar
Laura Steigerwald, Deputy Registrar
Andrea Elliott, Deputy Registrar

Ann Hegfield, Registered Clerk
Rhonda Krieg, Registered Clerk
Danielle Cook, Clerk (In-Training)

As always, we look forward to working with the public and implementing new and exciting changes to the Ashtabula County Health Department Vital Statistics unit in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Marcy, Administrator/ Registrar of Vital Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS - 2021

| | | |
|---|--------|------------|
| Live Births Recorded in County Health District - 2021 | | <u>14</u> |
| (Home Births) | Male | <u>8</u> |
| | Female | <u>6</u> |
| | | |
| Deaths Recorded In County Health District - | 2021 | <u>793</u> |
| | Male | <u>410</u> |
| | Female | <u>383</u> |

| CAUSE OF DEATH – 2021 | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| 1 | Heart and Arteries | 255 |
| 2 | Cancer | 108 |
| 3 | Disease of Respiratory System | 103 |
| 4 | Disease of Brain | 64 |
| 5 | COVID-19 | 41 |
| 6 | Pneumonia | 35 |
| 7 | Disease of Kidney/Urinary System | 30 |
| 8 | Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) | 28 |
| 9 | Natural Causes | 18 |
| 10 | Over Dose – Accident | 17 |
| 11 | Suicide | 14 |
| 12 | Accidents | 12 |
| | Infectious Disease | 11 |
| 13 | Cerebral Hemorrhage & Thrombosis | 11 |
| 14 | Nutritional & Metabolic Disease | 10 |
| 15 | Organ Failure | 9 |
| 16 | Disease of Liver | 7 |
| | Disease of Digestive System | 5 |
| 17 | Homicide | 5 |
| 18 | Diabetes | 3 |
| | Disease of Blood | 2 |
| 19 | Disease of Central Nervous System | 2 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Cause Pending | 3 |
| | Total | 793 |

CERTIFIED COPIES OF BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES – Issued by the Ashtabula County Health Department in 2021

986 Birth Certificates

3,069 Death Certificates

70 Burial/Cremation Permits



Rabies Prevention

Rabies Surveillance Program Report

Animal Bite Report

ANIMAL BITES

The following listing is a tally of all animal bites reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department for 2021. Reported animal bites are investigated, quarantines established and rabies tests conducted, as required. Reports received on animal bites occurring outside the Ashtabula County General Health District are referred to the appropriate health department.

*Of the 231 reported animal bite cases investigated, 51 biting animals were rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident. 180 biting animals were NOT rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Animal Bite Cases Investigated by the Ashtabula Co. Health Dept. | |
| Domestic Dogs | 171 |
| Domestic Cats | 51 |
| Other/Wild Animals: Raccoons - 2 Bats - 6 Opossum - 1 | 9 |
| Total Reported Animal Bite Cases Investigated | 231 |
| Non-Bite Cases Investigated (Animal Exp or Other Exposure) | 6 |
| Total HDIS Animal Bites & Non-Bite Cases Investigated | 237 |
| | |
| Out-of-Area Bite Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department then referred to other health departments | 68 |
| Total Animal Bite, Non-Bite Investigated and Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department | 305 |
| ***** | |
| The following cases are included in the 2021 animal bites investigated/reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department: | |
| Referred to the Ashtabula City Health Department | 45 |
| Referred to the Conneaut City Health Department | 12 |
| Referred to other health departments | 11 |
| Total Referred to other health departments | 68 |
| ***** | |
| Bite case animals tested at the lab for rabies | |
| Dogs | 3 |
| Cats | 6 |
| Raccoon | 1 |
| Bat | 1 |
| * All 11 tested negative for rabies | |
| Total | 11 |
| | |
| Non-Bite (pet/humans exposure)case animals tested at the lab for rabies | |
| Bats - 4 | 4 |
| Fox - 1 | 1 |
| Chipmunk - 1 | 1 |
| * All 6 tested negative for rabies | |
| Total | 6 |



RABIES SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The following listing is a tally of all specimens tested in 2021 for rabies through the Ohio Department of Health Rabies Surveillance Program. The surveillance program consisted primarily of testing sick raccoons, skunks and fox. The specimens tested were from Ashtabula County, Ashtabula City and Conneaut City Health Districts from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Raccoon specimens submitted for rabies testing 3
Negative 3 Positive 0
Fox specimen submitted for rabies testing 1
Negative 1 Positive 0

Rabies Surveillance specimens tested by the Ashtabula County Health Department for rabies involving pet exposures January, 2021 through December, 2021.

| Specimen Tested | Negative | Positive |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Raccoons | 3 | 0 |
| Fox | 1 | 0 |

GROUND BAITING 2021

As in the past, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services Program in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health distributed oral rabies vaccination in 14 eastern Ohio counties (Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, Portage Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and parts of Belmont, Geauga, Harrison Lake and Monroe). Distribution of the rabies vaccine-laden baits by air and ground took place between August 2, 2021 and August 24, 2021. This area baiting included Ashtabula County Health District, Ashtabula City Health District and Conneaut City Health District.

The oral rabies vaccine is used to vaccinate wild raccoons against rabies. The vaccine provides protection against rabies infection to raccoons for at least one year.



Administration

Administration Report

Paid Into Health Fund Report

Financial Report

Administration

In 2021 the Ashtabula County Health Department administered the following programs: Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Maternal and Child Health Program, Get Vaccinated Ohio (IAP), Naloxone Grant, Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation Program, COVID-19 Response Grant, COVID-19 Contact Tracing Grant, COVID-19 Resource Coordination Grant, Medicaid Administration Claiming and the Health Community Assessment and CQI (Continual Quality Improvement) Project.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness addresses bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious diseases and public health preparedness as it relates to vaccinating and or prophylaxing the entire population of Ashtabula County such as the COVID 19 Global Pandemic currently taking place. The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program seeks to identify and address the MCH needs of the community. The MCH grant provides infrastructure building services, completion of a community health needs assessment, and engages in direct and population based health care services. The Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) Grant seeks to increase the immunization level of children in Ashtabula County. The Naloxone Grant provides education on prevention of opioid use and also places Naloxone within the community for emergency use if needed. The goal of Medicaid Administration Claiming (MAC) Program is to improve access of the public to the Medicaid program and improve the overall delivery of Medicaid services.

The COVID-19 Global Pandemic has added a tremendous burden on the staff and jurisdiction of the Ashtabula County Health Department throughout 2021. COVID 19 activities added many additional duties for staff such as managing COVID complaints about lack of mask wearing and social distancing, managing several COVID 19 grants, performing thousands of calls for contact tracing, extra inspections and follow up by sanitarians due to COVID complaints. Hundreds of hours were devoted to writing protective COVID 19 health orders for businesses, schools, residents in 2021. COVID Response Grant activity provide funding to support resources needed for the COVID-19 Response which included adding personnel, supplies and equipment. The COVID-19 Contact Tracing Grant provided support for Contact Tracers and various support. The year 2022 will continue with many of the same COVID 19 activities plus vaccinating thousands of Ashtabula County residents. The Ashtabula County Health Department appreciates the patience of the community as we work through this pandemic.

The Ashtabula County Health Department Administrative Division is also involved in participating in a number of health related committees. These committees include: Ashtabula County Child Fatality Review (CFR) Committee, Ashtabula County Family and Children First Council, Ashtabula County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Ashtabula County Solid Waste Policy Committee, Ashtabula County Health Needs Assessment Advisory Committee, Ashtabula County Maternal Child Health (MCH) Consortium, Medical Reserve Corp (MRC), Accreditation Team Meetings and the Vital Statistics Quarterly Regional Committee, Healing Workgroup Committee and the Ashtabula County Substance Abuse Leadership Team. The administrative staff of Ashtabula County Health Department looks forward to serving the residents of Ashtabula County in 2022.

2021
Valuation of **Full Year Fees**
Health Districts

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Andover Twp | \$ 46,724,360.00 | \$ 23,089.67 |
| Ashtabula Twp | \$ 145,146,010.00 | \$ 71,726.46 |
| Austinburg Twp | \$ 71,992,190.00 | \$ 35,576.21 |
| Cherry Valley Twp | \$ 18,284,900.00 | \$ 9,035.81 |
| Colebrook Twp | \$ 20,620,450.00 | \$ 10,189.96 |
| Denmark Twp | \$ 17,167,580.00 | \$ 8,483.66 |
| Dorset Twp | \$ 15,647,270.00 | \$ 7,732.37 |
| Geneva Twp | \$ 68,361,180.00 | \$ 33,781.88 |
| Harpersfield Twp | \$ 75,747,740.00 | \$ 37,432.08 |
| Hartsgrove Twp | \$ 36,067,800.00 | \$ 17,823.54 |
| Jefferson Twp | \$ 50,933,470.00 | \$ 25,169.67 |
| Kingsville Twp | \$ 37,231,890.00 | \$ 18,398.79 |
| Lenox Twp | \$ 31,665,360.00 | \$ 15,648.00 |
| Monroe Twp | \$ 40,863,560.00 | \$ 20,193.45 |
| Morgan Twp | \$ 20,855,550.00 | \$ 10,306.14 |
| New Lyme Twp | \$ 22,025,500.00 | \$ 10,884.29 |
| Orwell Twp | \$ 30,520,120.00 | \$ 15,082.05 |
| Pierpont Twp | \$ 21,127,000.00 | \$ 10,440.28 |
| Plymouth Twp | \$ 45,907,740.00 | \$ 22,686.12 |
| Richmond Twp | \$ 17,245,100.00 | \$ 8,521.97 |
| Rome Twp | \$ 25,746,650.00 | \$ 12,723.16 |
| Saybrook Twp | \$ 180,641,360.00 | \$ 89,267.11 |
| Sheffield Twp | \$ 33,766,210.00 | \$ 16,686.17 |
| Trumbull Twp | \$ 38,700,190.00 | \$ 19,124.38 |
| Wayne Twp | \$ 15,237,410.00 | \$ 7,529.83 |
| Williamsfield Twp | \$ 27,015,640.00 | \$ 13,350.25 |
| Windsor Twp | \$ 46,068,920.00 | \$ 22,765.77 |
| | | |
| Ashtabula City | \$ - | \$ - |
| Conneaut City | \$ - | \$ - |
| Geneva City | \$ 104,854,230.00 | \$ 51,815.56 |
| | | |
| Andover Village | \$ 20,013,000.00 | \$ 9,889.78 |
| GOTL Village | \$ 42,526,080.00 | \$ 21,015.01 |
| Jefferson Village | \$ 62,331,400.00 | \$ 30,802.16 |
| N Kingsville Village | \$ 67,091,250.00 | \$ 33,154.32 |
| Orwell Village | \$ 25,738,990.00 | \$ 12,719.38 |
| Roaming Shores Village | \$ 76,029,870.00 | \$ 37,571.50 |
| Rock Creek Village | \$ 8,869,930.00 | \$ 4,383.23 |
| | | |
| TOTAL | \$ 1,608,765,900.00 | \$ 795,000.00 |

FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2021

Receipts:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Licenses, Permits, Donations, Fees, Projects, etc. | \$1,975,281.00 |
| Federal/State Fund | |
| BCMNH - Public Health Nurse Consultation = | \$220.00 |
| State Subsidy = | \$13,044.00 |
| Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) = | \$69,321.00 |
| Solid Waste = | \$12,514.00 |
| Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) = | \$48,831.00 |
| Child & Family Health Services Fund (CFHS) = | \$ 0.00 |
| Naloxone Grant = | \$29,000.00 |
| Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO)= | \$22,829.00 |
| Total State Fund | \$2,171,040.00 |
| Pass through Grants (Tobacco) | \$44,010.00 |
| Private Insurance Billing | \$22,480.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$2,237,530.00 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| District Board of Health | \$1,892,684.00 |
| State Fund: | |
| BCMNH - Public Health Nurse Consultation = | \$ 312.00 |
| State Subsidy = | \$ 38.00 |
| Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) = | \$47,466.00 |
| Solid Waste = | \$74,872.00 |
| Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) = | \$43,442.00 |
| Child & Family Health Services Fund (CFHS) = | \$ 3,390.00 |
| Naloxone Grant = | \$ 1,231.00 |
| Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) = | \$19,122.00 |
| Total State Fund | \$2,082,557.00 |
| Pass-through (Tobacco & Reproductive Health ODH Health Needs) | \$47,377.00 |
| Private Insurance Billing | \$13,523.00 |
| Total Expenditures | \$2,143,457.00 |

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Tax Duplicate for Health District (Real Estate, Personal Property & Public Utility) | \$1,608,765,900.00 |
|--|---------------------------|