

Annual Report

2022



Jefferson, Ohio



**ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT
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2022 ASHTABULA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Jay Becker, M.P.H.	Health Commissioner
Dr. Wayne Kawalek, M.D.	Medical Director
David Shumate, B.S.N., R.N.	Director of Nursing
Allie Peterson, B.S.	Director of Administration
Randall K. Barnes, B.A., R.E.H.S.	Director of Environmental Health
TBA	Assistant to Administrator
Andrea Elliott	Registrar of Vital Statistics-Clerk
Jennifer Cleveland, M.S.	Director of Quality & Performance
TBA	Public Health Emergency Preparedness/ Epidemiologist
Ian Elliott, C.D.C.A	Public Health Educator
John Dietrich, C.P.I.	Chief Plumbing Inspector
Benjamin Lynch	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, R.N.	Public Health Nurse
Darlene Dyer, R.N.	Public Health Nurse/Nurse Floor Manager
Lori Johnston, L.P.N.	Public Health Nurse
TBA	Public Health Nurse
Ann L. Hegfield	Clerk
Rhonda Krieg	Deputy Registrar/Clerk
Nicole Stewart	Clerk
Tiffany Matyi	Nursing Clerk
Joann Agnew	Part Time Nursing Clerk
Pat Yarbrough	Part Time Nursing Clerk
Kathleen Shontz, F.N.P.	Part Time Nurse Practitioner



Dear Ashtabula County Partners in Health,

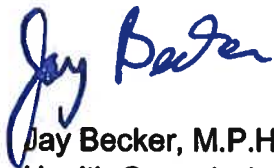
Dear friends and colleagues 2022 was a transitional year for the Ashtabula County Health Department and for Ashtabula County as a whole. At the beginning of 2022 COVID numbers were high in Ashtabula County and it looked very similar to 2021 and 2020. At this point no one knew the direction of the Pandemic yet and the anxiety of the community was still very high. The COVID misinformation was rampant and the confidence in the government and Public Health was at an all-time low. The Ashtabula County Health Department continued to send the same consistent message to the community to get vaccinated, to get tested if exposed or ill, to stay home if exposed or ill. Fortunately, as 2022 advanced the numbers began to subside slowly and when the weather broke as it had the two previous years the COVID cases faded but would it return as it had done before was the question that we all asked ourselves.

Although the COVID Pandemic has dominated most of the time and resources over the last 3 years we are proud to say that the Ashtabula County Health Department continued to maintain most of the services as we always have to the benefit of our residents. Just like this past year, the Ashtabula County Health Department office never closed, staff continued working every day, answering phone calls, calling residents with information about the Pandemic, vaccinating and distributing tests. We also set up dozens of clinics to vaccinate residents and distribute COVID tests. Our staff came to work every day and worked under some extremely high-pressured days to do our best to give residents help in managing the latest COVID facts. We had homebound individuals who reached out to us wanting us to come to their home and vaccinate them to give them comfort and make them feel safe, which we did. Nursing homes also contacted us to vaccinate their residents and we made several trips to vaccinate the prison population in Ashtabula County. Our staff went to wherever they were needed, worked evenings and weekends during the Pandemic, put themselves and their families at risk to take care of our residents to make them safe during a Worldwide Pandemic that killed millions of people and to prevent long COVID. While the world's most deadliest Pandemic was taking place our Environmental Health Specialists inspected restaurants, septic systems, pools, campgrounds, schools, grocery stores, our nurses continued to vaccinate children and adults to protect them from pertussis, tetanus, flu, diphtheria, measles, pneumonia, chickenpox to protect them at school, in the community and at work. Our health educator received State recognition on his work within Ashtabula County on the benefits of Naloxone and how its use will save lives in Ashtabula County. The year 2022 was also the year that the Ashtabula County Health Department achieved Accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board which

was no small feat. Achieving accreditation had been a project that the Ashtabula County Health Department had been working toward since 2013 and nonetheless it would be completed during a time where it could not be more chaotic and challenging time for the Ashtabula County Health Department, but it ended up being another example of what happens when you have a capable focused and dedicated team of individuals and what they can accomplish together.

Thank you to a great staff who this past year worked together better than any team could.

Best in Health,



Jay Becker, M.P.H
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

2022 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 (REHS) who each have over 20 years of experience working at the ACHD in addition to the plumbing staff that have a lifetime of plumbing experience.

STATE SURVEYS: 2022 was a busy year for the ACHD environmental staff. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) evaluated the ACHD in the food service/food establishment program areas. ODH and ODA staff spent nearly five workdays each evaluating the administrative paperwork and performing field inspections with each REHS. Results of the surveys were that the staff of the ACHD is performing in a satisfactory manner and is complying with the majority of the provisions of the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency also performed a solid waste survey of the ACHD. This survey evaluated the administrative and field inspection components of the program. The OEPA found that the ACHD is in substantial compliance and is approved to administer and enforce the solid and infectious waste and construction and demolition debris laws and rules.

COST ANALYSIS & FEES: Randall Barnes, Director of Environmental Health, took over the task of completing the required cost analysis of the environmental programs from the Administrator in 2021. In 2022, it was found that the food fees were quite low and not covering the cost of inspecting the restaurants, grocery stores, vending machines, and mobile and temporary units. The food fees had not been raised for fifteen years and the proposed fees were presented to our licensing council. The licensing council consists of individuals, business owners, and employees that work in the various environmental programs the ACHD inspects. The licensing council reviewed the proposed fees and recommended to raise the fees as presented. A public hearing was held in November and the new fees were passed by the Board of Health. The new fees more accurately reflect the true cost of the program to the ACHD and will bring in approximately \$17,000 more in fees in 2023 and for each year thereafter. More environmental program cost analysis were completed in 2022 as well and new fees will be established for the remainder of the programs in 2023.

PLUMBING UNIT: 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 except for 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 186 residential and 60 commercial permits for the 2022 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 2022 included approximately 1,413 commercial and residential job checks and consultations.

In October 2022, we welcomed a new plumbing Inspector, Benjamin Lynch. Ben has over 8 years' experience as a plumber and is quickly adapting to his new role in helping ensure safe plumbing systems throughout the county.

The tally on the following page provides an overview of the number and type of inspections our staff performed in 2022. 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.

In sum, the environmental health unit anticipates a very productive and busy year in 2023 serving to protect the health of the citizens of Ashtabula County.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2022**

Home Sewage Treatment System Installers Registrations	39
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Evaluation Applications	207
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspection for Real Estate Transactions	40
Home Sewage Treatment System Permits Issued	122
Home Sewage Treatment System Inspections	895
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspections	384
Home Sewage Treatment System Consultations	159
Home Sewage Treatment System Service Provider Registrations	25
O&M Existing Sewage Treatment System	36
Home Sewage Treatment System Abandonment Permit	47
Private Water System Permits Issued	74
Private Water System Inspections	131
Water Hauler Registrations	2
Water Samples Taken (Bacteriological)	260
Water Samples Taken (Chemical)	12
Complaint Inspections	1225
Septage Hauler Registrations	18
Septage Inspections-Pumpers	12
Septage Land Application - Site Reviews	2
Camp Operation Permits Issued	24
Resident Camp Permits Issued	5
Camp Inspections	31
Public Bathing Beach Licenses Issued	7
Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool Licenses Issued	55
Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool and Bathing Beach Inspections	60
Construction Demolition and Debris Inspections	533
C&DD Applications	70
School Inspections	39
Manufactured Home Park Inspections	34
Solid Waste Disposal Facility Licenses Issued	3
Solid Waste Disposal Facility & Compost Facility Site Inspections	111
Food Service & Food Establishment Licenses Issued	499
Food Service & Food Establishment Inspections	878
Food Service Operation Consultations	90
Food Service Plan Reviews	16
Vending Machines FSO Licenses Issued	67
Vending Machines FSO Inspections	59
Tattoo & Body Piercing Licenses	4
Tattoo & Body Piercing Inspections	6

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2022**

Inspections with Health Commissioner or State & County Agency Personnel	24
Public Meetings, Lectures, Landfill Conferences & Trainings Attended	43
Meetings with Federal, State and Local Agencies	67
Meetings with County Agencies and Organizations	32
Educational Programs Presented to the Public	8
Animal Bite Field Investigations	14
Other Environmental Health Consultations-Water, Schools, Institutions, Rabies, Mold, etc.	54
PLUMBING	
Plumbing Permits Issued	246
Plumbing Plan Reviews Issued	49
Plumber's Registrations Issued	90
Plumbing Permit Checks	418
Plumbing Schematics and Blue Prints Checked	294
Plumbing Inspections	842
Plumbing Complaints	20
Plumbing Consultations	153
Plumbing Investigations	76
Meetings Attended	141



Accreditation



Health Department Accreditation 2022

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). On November 4, 2022, the health department received notice of their successful Accreditation without deficits from the PHAB Executive Committee. Congratulations from other health departments, the Ohio Department of Health, and the CDC have followed.

The team is now working toward the Reaccreditation process, which is due every five years, and the Director of Quality & Performance must continue providing detailed reports to PHAB on an annual basis.

The Ashtabula County Health Department Accreditation Team is made up of employees of Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD). The team has devoted a considerable amount of time over the past several years to fulfilling PHAB Standards and Measures in preparation for Accreditation and have seen the benefits national accreditation offers in advancing the quality of public health programs and services.



Nursing



Division



Public Health Nursing

Reflecting on the 2022 year for public health, the nursing department can be summed up with one word, resilient. At the beginning of the year, we were in the midst of the single largest covid wave of the entire pandemic to date. We pushed through. Spring and summer came and the challenge to restore normalcy began.

The primary focus of public health nursing is to promote health and prevent disease for entire population groups. During 2022, the nurses were challenged with preventing disease in the community as well as re-establishing basic public health measures and education. Our nursing staff took to the townships, villages, and community at large to reach as many people as possible. Utilizing our mobile clinic approach, we attended multiple health fairs, the RAM clinic, the Ashtabula County Fair, The PRIDE festival, and many schools, libraries, churches, and halls. Their goal was to get the residents of the county, mostly children, back on track with their required immunizations. It was also to educate the public on many diseases, illness, and public health challenges going on currently, and into the future. While the pandemic needs did not go away 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 focused on bringing our covid services into existing offerings to set ourselves up for the new public health reality we live in.

The nurses expanded our Amish and south county clinic offerings, re-opened the remaining clinics in north county that had been closed during covid, and provided a record number of vaccines to the community in 2022. We expanded our wellness clinics, (formerly well-child clinic), to include another service provider, Kathleen Shontz, FNP, and to offer wellness physical exam services to adults as well as the children we already see.

During 2022, the nurses provided a large number of influenza vaccination clinics, including several drive through clinics. Despite some flu vaccine shortages in the county this year, the Ashtabula County Health Department nurses had flu vaccine in stock and provided over 1,000 influenza vaccinations to county residents.

As we closed out the year into the holidays, our focus once again shifted to family health in times of gathering, mental wellness, and developing plans for a healthy Ashtabula County in 2023. The nursing clerks, the nurses, and the rest of the team that supports all that nursing does in the community, continue to be resilient and work tirelessly behind the scenes to delivery for the county, the community as a whole, and its residents.

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

Clinics

Number of Wellness Clinics held in 2022	24
Number of Wellness Patients	87
Number of Tuberculosis Clinics held in 2022	16
Number of Naloxone Distribution Clinics in 2022	22
Number of Lead Home Visits in 2022	4
Number of Children with Medical Handicaps Home Visits in 2022	2
Number of Home Visits for Vaccinations in 2022	107

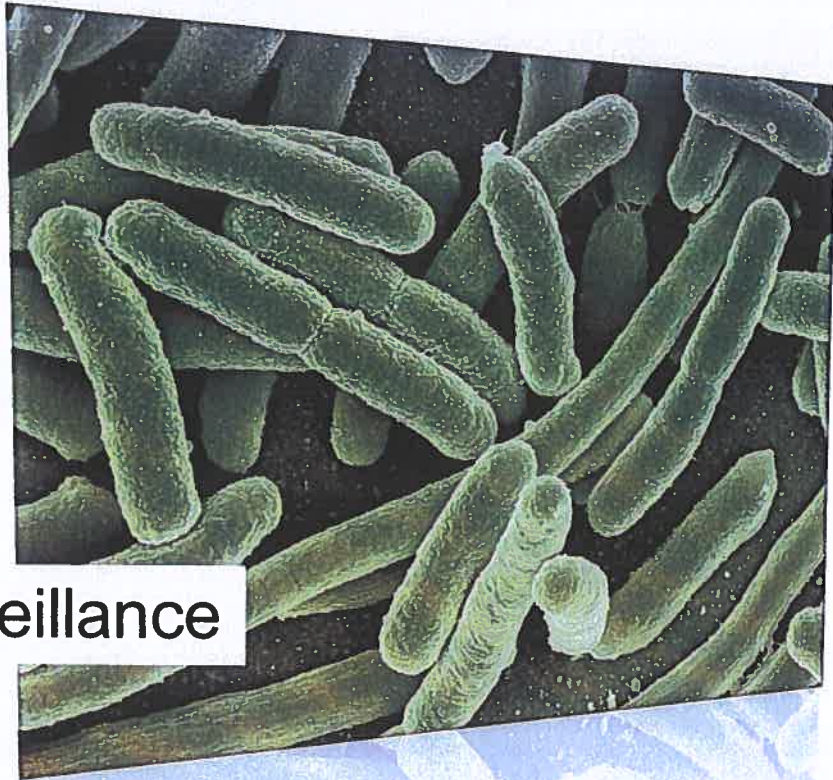
Immunization Clinics

Number of Standard Immunizations Clinics held in 2022	111
Number of Standard Vaccines given in 2022	1,704
Number of Amish Clinics held in 2022	102
Number of Flu Clinics held in 2022	144
Number of Influenza Immunizations Provided in 2022	1,020
Number of Covid Clinics held in 2022	180
Number of Covid 19 Immunizations Provided in 2022	2,573

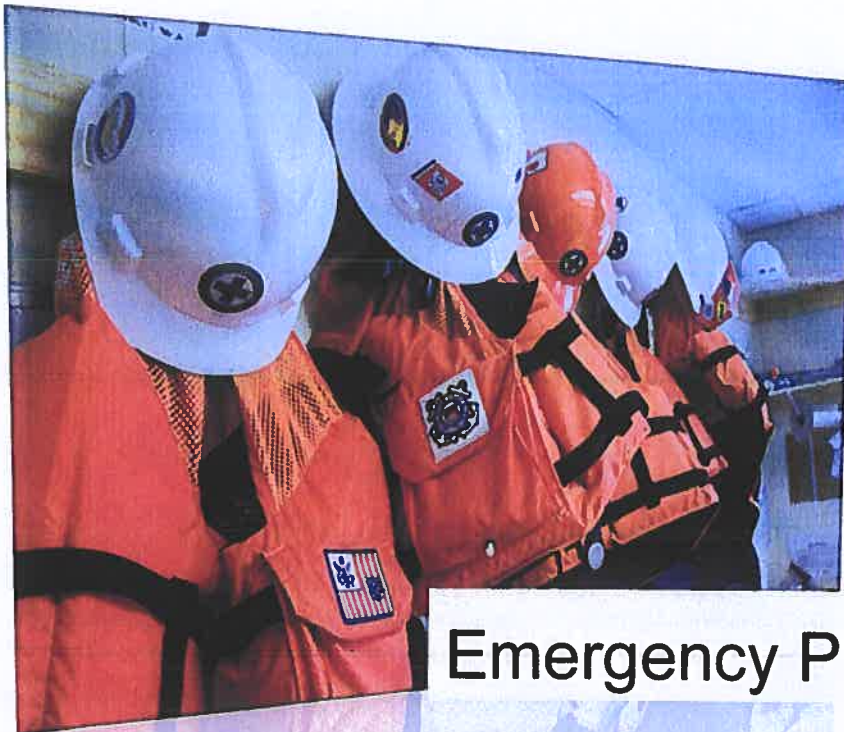
TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED VACCINES IN 2022	4,065
TOTAL NUMBER OF VACCINES GIVEN IN 2022	5,297

Nursing Services and Statistics

- 138 tuberculosis skin tests were administered.
- 121 total vision and hearing screening tests were completed
- 1,096 Naloxone Opioid Reversal Kits were handed out to the public
- Over 11,000 Covid-19 test kits were distributed
- 4 Pediatric PKU tests were completed
- 26 Health education events in schools and health fairs were completed covering education on the harmful effect of smoking and vaping, hand washing, germs and disease spread, and dental and body hygiene
- Applied for grant funding that paid for a MARTTI language interpreter device that allows us to communicate using over 250 languages for all residents in Ashtabula County



Disease Surveillance



Emergency Preparedness

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 2022, the communicable disease staff continued to face challenges related to COVID-19. Throughout the first quarter of the year, we continued to work 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 2022, answering questions about COVID-19 and assisting schools in making an informed decision about education for the youth during the pandemic. Finally, Ashtabula County Health Department continually reviewed event plans throughout 2022 to determine if these events would be safe and permitted under ODH's guidelines at the time of the event.

Outside of COVID-19 the Ashtabula County Health Department Communicable Disease Prevention staff worked with the Environmental Health Division when food-borne illness/outbreaks 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 2022, COVID-19 required a lot of our attention at the Ashtabula County Health Department, but during that time we investigated 5,411 reportable conditions as defined by ODH. The 5,411 conditions were made up of 94.31% non-vaccine preventable disease (COVID-19 included), 3.33% sexually transmitted disease, 0.83% vaccine preventable disease, and 0.63% food and waterborne disease. Of those 5,411 reportable conditions, COVID-19 accounted for 4,998 of them. For comparison, in 2021 the health district investigated 8,580 disease reports and in 2020, the department investigated 3,780 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 2022, 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 2023, 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
Campylobacteriosis	11
Chlamydia infection	135
COVID-19 (call health department immediately)	4,998
CP-CRE	12
Cryptosporidiosis	7
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	1
Giardiasis	3
Gonococcal infection	39
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1
Hepatitis A	5
Hepatitis B (including delta) - acute	4
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	17
Hepatitis C - acute	1
Hepatitis C - chronic	47
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1
Immigrant Investigation	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	47
Legionellosis	2
Lyme Disease	32
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	2
MIS-C associated with COVID-19 (call health department immediately)	1
Mumps	1
Pertussis	11
Salmonellosis	10
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	5
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	3
Syphilis - unknown duration or late	6
Tuberculosis	1
Varicella	4
Yersiniosis	1
Total	5,411

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

During 2022, Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) continued to respond to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic through facilitation of Vaccination PODs and on-going information sharing efforts across our partners.

PHEP grant work continued with updates to the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Preparedness Improvement Plan and the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP, formerly the MYTEP, Multi-Year Training and Exercised Plan), as well as the creation of an Environmental Response Annex. 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 2023 fiscal year with the development of the Radiological Response Annex, revitalization of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), an overhaul of the Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Plan, 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.

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.

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.

Health education is essential for improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It involves empowering people to make healthy choices by increasing their knowledge of healthy behaviors and avoiding unhealthy behaviors. Ashtabula County Health Department is one of the organizations committed to providing such services in the community. Throughout 2022, the Health Educator played an important role in ensuring the county had access to Naloxone to reduce the number of fentanyl-related deaths in the area.

The Health Educator has continued to expand Naloxone distribution, education, and training throughout the county. The health educator attends quarterly meetings with Project DAWN, (OPN) Overdose Prevention Network, (OIPP) Ohio Injury Prevention Network, (ODH) Ohio Department of Health, as well as other local groups (SALT) Substance Awareness Leadership Team, Ashtabula County Prevention Coalition, Naloxone Collaborative, and Building Resilience which focus on implementing new strategies to combat the overdoses in Ashtabula County.

Ashtabula County has been hit hard by the opioid crisis, with fentanyl-related deaths on the rise. The Health Educator knew that something needed to be done to help the community and so they took on the important task of maintaining the Integrated Naloxone (IN) grant that provided Naloxone to the county.

Through their efforts, the Health Educator was able to enhance the Naloxone Saves Lives program at the Ashtabula County Health Department by forming new service ties with healthcare facilities to provide Naloxone rescue kits. It was a challenging task, but one that was crucial in reducing the number of deaths caused by opioid overdoses.

In 2022, the ACHD successfully supplied 1,096 naloxone rescue kits, adding to the total of 2,486 naloxone rescue kits circulated in the county for the year. These kits were distributed throughout the community, and as a result, 101 lives were saved. The impact of the Naloxone program was immense, and it is clear, those efforts made a real difference in the lives of the people in Ashtabula County.

The Health Educator throughout the year, worked to develop and implement a wide range of health education initiatives. From targeted interventions aimed at high-risk populations to broad-based campaigns designed to reach the wider community. They collaborated with a diverse range of partners from community-based organizations to healthcare providers to deliver their programs and services to those who needed them most.

In addition to their work with the IN grant and the Naloxone Saves Lives program, the Health Educator also played a critical role in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and Naloxone rescue kits throughout Ashtabula County in 2022. Working closely with nursing staff, they organized and infused COVID-19 vaccine clinics with Naloxone distribution to cover other important health needs. These clinics were held at various locations throughout the county, including community centers, schools, and churches. By combining the COVID-19 vaccine distribution with Naloxone rescue kit distribution, the Health Educator and their team were able to increase access to both life-saving resources for the community.

The Health Educator served on the Prevention Awareness Recovery Treatment conference committee (PART) and participated in various health education events throughout the year. They attended and educated/distributed naloxone at the RAM clinic, LGBTQ+ PRIDE event, Ashtabula County Fair, and Recovery Out Loud. The Health Educator implemented a secondary Project DAWN site with University Hospitals, which helped to identify and respond to drug overdoses.

In addition to their work with the IN grant, the Naloxone Saves Lives program, and the COVID-19 vaccine clinics, the Health Educator conducted a variety of school health education programs throughout the year. One of the primary programs focused on educating fourth and fifth graders in elementary schools about the dangers of vaping and other forms of tobacco use.

The Health Educator utilized a variety of interactive tools and methods to engage students and make the learning experience enjoyable and informative. The program was well-received by students and teachers alike, and the Health Educator received positive feedback for their efforts.

In addition to the anti-tobacco program, the Health Educator also worked with the nurses at ACHD to develop a hygiene plan for elementary students which included strategies for maintaining good personal hygiene, such as washing hands regularly and covering coughs and sneezes. This was promoted in multiple schools in the county.

The Health Educator is also looking towards the future of public health in Ashtabula County. By applying for new grants from the state, they hope to secure additional resources that will enable them to enhance the existing health programs and implement new initiatives.

As the Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) moves into 2023, the role of the health educator continues to be a critical component of the community health improvement plan for the next two years. A primary health concern facing Ashtabula County is the prevalence of obesity, anxiety and depression, and limited access to healthcare. By staying at the forefront of public health trends and emerging issues like the ones mentioned, the Health Educator is poised to continue making a significant difference in the lives of those in the community. Through their work, they are helping to create a healthier, safer, and more resilient Ashtabula County for all.



Vital Statistics

Vital Statistic Report

Vital Statistic-Cause of Death Report

Birth Certificates

Death Certificates

Vital Statistics 2022

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 2022, 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 2022:

- **1,011** certified copies of Birth Certificates
- **3,112** certified copies of Death Certificates
- **54** burial and/or cremation permits
- **17 new home births** were electronically created, approved by ODH VS and filed in our health district.

- **754** 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:

Andrea Elliott, Registrar
Rhonda Krieg, Deputy Registrar

Ann Hegfield, Registered Clerk
Nicole Stewart, 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 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Elliott, Registrar of Vital Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS - 2022

Live Births Recorded in County Health District - 2022		<u>17</u>
(Home Births)	Male	<u>5</u>
	Female	<u>12</u>
Deaths Recorded In County Health District -	2022	<u>754</u>
	Male	<u>397</u>
	Female	<u>357</u>

CAUSE OF DEATH – 2022		
1	Heart and Arteries	240
2	Cancer	133
3	Disease of Respiratory System	87
4	Disease of Brain	59
5	COVID-19	32
6	Disease of Kidney/Urinary System	28
7	Pneumonia	23
8	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	22
9	Over Dose - Accident	22
10	Infectious Disease	17
11	Accidents	12
12	Disease of Liver	11
13	Suicide	7
	Organ Failure	6
14	Natural Causes	4
14	Nutritional & Metabolic Disease	2
15	Disease of Digestive System	3
16	Homicide	3
	Cerebral Hemorrhage	3
17	Cerebral Hemorrhage & Thrombosis	32
18	Diabetes	3
	Disease of Blood	2
19	Disease of Central Nervous System	2
	Cause Pending	1
	Total	754

**CERTIFIED COPIES OF BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES – Issued by the
Ashtabula County Health Department in 2022**

<u>1,011</u>	Birth Certificates
<u>3,112</u>	Death Certificates
<u>54</u>	Burial/Cremation Permits



Rabies Prevention

Rabies Surveillance Program Report

Animal Bite Report



RABIES SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The following listing is a tally of all specimens tested in 2022 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, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Raccoon specimens submitted for rabies testing 7
Negative 6 Positive 0 Unable to Determine 1
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 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Specimen Tested	Negative	Positive
Raccoons	6	0
Fox	1	0

GROUND BAITING 2022

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, 2022 and August 24, 2022. 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.

ANIMAL BITES

The following listing is a tally of all animal bites reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department for 2022. 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 201 reported animal bite cases investigated, 80 biting animals were rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident. 121 biting animals were NOT rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident.

Animal Bite Cases Investigated by the Ashtabula Co. Health Dept.	
Domestic Dogs	146
Domestic Cats	33
Other/Wild Animals: Raccoons - 8 Bats - 11 Opossum - 1 Mink-1 Other-1	22
Total Reported Animal Bite Cases Investigated	201
Non-Bite Cases Investigated (Animal Exp or Other Exposure)	17
Total HDIS Animal Bites & Non-Bite Cases Investigated	218
Out-of-Area Bite Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department then referred to other health departments	12
Total Animal Bite, Non-Bite Investigated and Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department	230

The following cases are included in the 2022 animal bites investigated/reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department:	
Referred to the Ashtabula City Health Department	43
Referred to the Conneaut City Health Department	23
Referred to other health departments	11
Total Referred to other health departments	77

Bite case animals tested at the lab for rabies	
Dogs	3
Cats	2
Raccoon	4
Bat	1
Mink	1
* All 11 tested negative for rabies	
Total	11
Non-Bite (pet/humans' exposure) case animals tested at the lab for rabies	
Bats - 6	6
Fox - 1	1
Raccoon-5	5
* All 11 tested negative and 1 Undetermined for rabies	
Total	12



Administration

Administration Report

2022 Valuation of Health Districts

Financial Report

Administration

In 2022 the Ashtabula County Health Department administered the following programs: Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO), Moms Quit for Two, the Naloxone Grant, The COVID Vaccination Grant, The COVID Enhanced Operations Grant, The Public Workforce Grant, and Medicaid Administration Claiming.

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant supports the prevention of 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 Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) Grant seeks to increase the immunization level of children in Ashtabula County to prevent childhood illnesses such as measles, mumps, pertussis, chickenpox and diphtheria. The GVO program works closely with the Ohio Department of Health and local physicians on promoting infectious disease prevention with the use of targeted vaccines in Ashtabula County. Moms Quit for Two is a tobacco cessation program working with expectant mothers to quit smoking to promote the betterment of health to the baby and mom. The COVID Vaccination Grant provided COVID vaccines to the residents of Ashtabula County this past year to prevent serious illness. The COVID Enhanced Operations Grant provided extra needed support to mitigate the effects of the COVID Pandemic and to help complete contact tracing for those exposed and ill with COVID this past year. The Public Workforce Grant provided additional fiscal support to bring new staff into the Ashtabula County Health Department to assist with programs. 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 2022. 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 Environmental Health Specialists due to COVID complaints.

The Ashtabula County Health Department Administrative Division is also involved in participating in a number of health-related committees. These committees include: Monthly Ashtabula County Board of Health Meetings, the monthly Association of Health Commissioner Meetings, the weekly Ohio Department of Health Meetings, the weekly Ashtabula County Health Department Director Meetings, the weekly Ashtabula County Health Department Grant Leadership Meetings, the Ashtabula County Family and Children First Council, the Ashtabula County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), the Ashtabula County Solid Waste Policy Committee, the Ashtabula County Health Needs Assessment Advisory Committee, the Ashtabula County Health Department Accreditation Team Meetings, the Vital Statistics Quarterly Regional Committee, the 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 2023.

2022
Valuation of Health Districts Full Year Fees

Andover Twp	\$ 47,107,680.00	\$ 22,805.18
Ashtabula Twp	\$ 158,262,430.00	\$ 76,616.03
Austinburg Twp	\$ 73,935,080.00	\$ 35,792.53
Cherry Valley Twp	\$ 18,473,450.00	\$ 8,943.14
Colebrook Twp	\$ 20,738,870.00	\$ 10,039.84
Denmark Twp	\$ 17,327,970.00	\$ 8,388.60
Dorset Twp	\$ 15,736,230.00	\$ 7,618.03
Geneva Twp	\$ 70,021,530.00	\$ 33,897.95
Harpersfield Twp	\$ 76,951,380.00	\$ 37,252.74
Hartsgrove Twp	\$ 36,319,030.00	\$ 17,582.31
Jefferson Twp	\$ 51,128,340.00	\$ 24,751.61
Kingsville Twp	\$ 37,474,690.00	\$ 18,141.78
Lenox Twp	\$ 32,008,480.00	\$ 15,495.54
Monroe Twp	\$ 41,540,430.00	\$ 20,110.03
Morgan Twp	\$ 21,032,090.00	\$ 10,181.79
New Lyme Twp	\$ 22,411,480.00	\$ 10,849.57
Orwell Twp	\$ 30,707,640.00	\$ 14,865.80
Pierpont Twp	\$ 21,049,100.00	\$ 10,190.03
Plymouth Twp	\$ 46,583,690.00	\$ 22,551.51
Richmond Twp	\$ 17,170,940.00	\$ 8,312.58
Rome Twp	\$ 25,953,020.00	\$ 12,564.05
Saybrook Twp	\$ 182,569,090.00	\$ 88,383.06
Sheffield Twp	\$ 34,106,490.00	\$ 16,511.21
Trumbull Twp	\$ 38,835,950.00	\$ 18,800.77
Wayne Twp	\$ 15,409,000.00	\$ 7,459.61
Williamsfield Twp	\$ 27,279,100.00	\$ 13,206.02
Windsor Twp	\$ 46,462,280.00	\$ 22,492.74
Ashtabula City	\$ -	\$ -
Conneaut City	\$ -	\$ -
Geneva City	\$ 106,042,570.00	\$ 51,336.00
Andover Village	\$ 20,434,610.00	\$ 9,892.55
GOTL Village	\$ 47,296,990.00	\$ 22,896.83
Jefferson Village	\$ 62,608,080.00	\$ 30,309.04
N Kingsville Village	\$ 67,457,110.00	\$ 32,656.49
Orwell Village	\$ 25,896,440.00	\$ 12,536.66
Roaming Shores Village	\$ 77,032,120.00	\$ 37,291.83
Rock Creek Village	\$ 8,833,900.00	\$ 4,276.56
TOTAL	\$ 1,642,197,280.00	\$ 795,000.00



FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2022

Receipts:

Licenses, Permits, Donations, Fees, Projects, etc.	\$2,072,918.00
Federal/State Fund	
BCMH - Public Health Nurse Consultation =	\$950.00
State Subsidy =	\$12,316.00
Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) =	\$26,149.00
Solid Waste =	\$80,505.00
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) =	\$117,312.00
Naloxone Grant =	\$31,330.00
Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO)=	\$26,044.00
Total State Fund	\$2,367,524.00
Moms Quit For two Grant (Tobacco)	\$102,640.00
Private Insurance Billing	\$87,452.00
Total Receipts	\$2,557,616.00

Expenditures:

District Board of Health	\$2,368,168.00
State Fund:	
BCMH - Public Health Nurse Consultation =	\$ 1.00
State Subsidy =	\$ 13,007.00
Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) =	\$55,145.00
Solid Waste =	\$73,103.00
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) =	\$82,005.00
Naloxone Grant =	\$32,587.00
Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) =	\$29,464.00
Total State Fund	\$2,653,480.00
Private Insurance Billing	\$57,636.00
Total Expenditures	\$2,711,116.00

Tax Duplicate for Health District (Real Estate, Personal Property & Public Utility)	\$1,642,197,280.00
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