

2023

Annual Report



Mission & Vision

Dedicated to the physical, social, and mental well-being of all who live, work, learn and play in Ashtabula County, we are committed to building a trusting relationship with our community, reducing health disparities, providing high-quality services, making those services accessible and imparting the value of public health on those we serve each day.



Dear Ashtabula County Partners in Health,

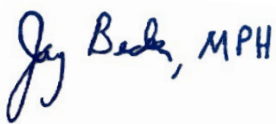
January 1, 2023, was day one of the new health initiative called Healthy Ashtabula County. This initiative should remind all of us that having a Healthy Ashtabula County, benefits all of us from each individual, family, student, teacher, employee, politician, business, school, homeowner, visitor and agency that we are all linked to this one common interest that all of us benefit from a Healthy Ashtabula County.

Moving toward a Healthy Ashtabula County, one cycle at a time.

Some of you may know that every three years, or one cycle, a professional contractor works with the Ashtabula County Community Health Assessment (CHA) Committee to develop questions for the health survey. A few cycles back, the survey had over 100 questions but today it only has 50 questions. Once the 50 questions are developed and agreed on by the CHA committee, they are mailed to 2800 random Ashtabula County residents to achieve 95% confidence level. Because Ashtabula and Conneaut City Health Departments are part of the CHA, their residents are also included in this survey (86 Ashtabula City residents and 45 Conneaut City residents completed this cycle's health survey). The questions are designed to gather specific information about health behaviors – good or bad. Questions look at anything that could affect physical and mental health in Ashtabula County which brings in what is referred to as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). SDOH includes education level of the resident, income, neighborhood, employment, access to food, healthcare, parks, clean water, social support, transportation, etc. All the data from the completed survey is compiled and analyzed, and a report is developed with the results. From the completed report the committee determines the health priorities that need to be the focus for the next 3-year cycle. The current priorities identified are Obesity Prevention, Improve Access to Care, and Depression and Anxiety Prevention and Treatment. The Ashtabula County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is phase 2 or the implementation and mitigation stage developed by the CHIP Committee where they choose the top 3 health priorities identified. Finally, each health priority has a committee working on specific strategies. These committees meet monthly for 3 years to track progress and tweak the strategies if needed to achieve the desired results. If you would like to follow the progress, please visit the website at HealthyAshtabulaCounty.com.

Healthy Ashtabula County Committee Agencies

Ashtabula County Community Health Improvement Planning Committees include the following agencies: Ashtabula County Health Department, Ashtabula City Health Department, Conneaut City Health Department, Ashtabula County Commissioners, Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services, Ashtabula County Educational Services Center, Ashtabula County EMA, Ashtabula County Medical Center, University Hospitals Geneva Medical Center, University Hospitals Conneaut Medical Center, Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services, Ashtabula County Metroparks, Ashtabula County Regional Home Health Services, Ashtabula County YMCA, Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County, Community Counseling Center, Country Neighbor Program, Glenbeigh Hospital, Kent State University – Ashtabula, Lake Area Recovery Center, Northwest Ambulance District, OSU Extension, Signature Health, and The Center for Health Affairs.



Jay Becker, M.P.H.
Health Commissioner
Ashtabula County Health Department

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Administration

In 2023, the Administrative Division of the Ashtabula County Health Department underwent a significant rebuilding period, marked by substantial changes in leadership, processes, procedures, and grants. This restructuring encompassed various aspects, including updates to accounts payable and receivable processes, modifications to filing placements and methods, improvements to the HVAC system, a whole new server, and the implementation of various software updates.

Despite the transformative period, the division faced and evaluated opportunities for collaboration, such as the potential partnership with the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County on their school-based healthcare initiative. However, due to certain considerations, the division had to withdraw from this particular opportunity. Additionally, the Administrative Division actively contributed to the Access to Care Workgroup, one pillar of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

During the year, the Ashtabula County Health Department successfully administered several key programs, including Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Get Vaccinated Ohio, Moms Quit for Two, the Harm Reduction Grant, the COVID-19 Vaccination Grant, The COVID-19 Enhanced Operations Grant, The Public Workforce Grant, and Medicaid Administration Claiming.

Notably, the Administrative team prioritized the well-being of all staff members. Leveraging grants and collaborating with other division directors, the team implemented staff retention bonuses, established a Sunshine Committee, and updated numerous personnel policies. The Sunshine Committee plays a significant role in fostering a positive workplace environment by keeping track of employees' birthdays and other life events. This initiative allows the entire organization to express gratitude and support for one another, with each employee receiving a card signed by all colleagues and a small gift for each life event.

The Ashtabula County Health Department Administrative Division is also involved in participating in several health-related committees and meetings. These include: the quarterly Vital Statistics Regional committee meeting; the monthly Ashtabula County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings, the Ashtabula County Family and Children First Council meetings, the Healthy Ashtabula County meetings, the Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team meetings, the Ashtabula County Health Department Accreditation Team meetings, and Ashtabula County Health Department Board of Health meetings; and the weekly Association of Ohio Health Commissioners meeting, the Ohio Department of Health call, and the Ashtabula County Health Department Directors meeting. The administrative staff of the Ashtabula County Health Department look forward to serving the residents of Ashtabula County in 2024.

2023

Valuation of Health Districts Full Year Fees

Andover Twp	\$ 61,317,530.00	\$ 22,998.01
Ashtabula Twp	\$ 184,446,250.00	\$ 69,179.19
Austinburg Twp	\$ 95,696,460.00	\$ 35,892.32
Cherry Valley Twp	\$ 26,055,020.00	\$ 9,772.31
Colebrook Twp	\$ 30,032,990.00	\$ 11,264.30
Denmark Twp	\$ 24,138,340.00	\$ 9,053.43
Dorset Twp	\$ 22,083,960.00	\$ 8,282.90
Geneva Twp	\$ 89,224,730.00	\$ 33,465.00
Harpersfield Twp	\$ 102,504,950.00	\$ 38,445.94
Hartsgrove Twp	\$ 48,851,580.00	\$ 18,322.48
Jefferson Twp	\$ 67,444,220.00	\$ 25,295.91
Kingsville Twp	\$ 45,780,680.00	\$ 17,170.69
Lenox Twp	\$ 43,861,030.00	\$ 16,450.70
Monroe Twp	\$ 56,891,050.00	\$ 21,337.80
Morgan Twp	\$ 27,858,190.00	\$ 10,448.61
New Lyme Twp	\$ 30,942,480.00	\$ 11,605.42
Orwell Twp	\$ 42,883,200.00	\$ 16,083.95
Pierpont Twp	\$ 29,227,700.00	\$ 10,962.26
Plymouth Twp	\$ 61,819,300.00	\$ 23,186.21
Richmond Twp	\$ 24,515,500.00	\$ 9,194.89
Rome Twp	\$ 35,603,630.00	\$ 13,353.65
Saybrook Twp	\$ 230,086,140.00	\$ 86,297.07
Sheffield Twp	\$ 46,599,160.00	\$ 17,477.68
Trumbull Twp	\$ 51,821,160.00	\$ 19,436.26
Wayne Twp	\$ 21,496,110.00	\$ 8,062.42
Williamsfield Twp	\$ 38,128,840.00	\$ 14,300.76
Windsor Twp	\$ 65,135,040.00	\$ 24,429.82
Ashtabula City	\$ -	\$ -
Conneaut City	\$ -	\$ -
Geneva City	\$ 125,802,960.00	\$ 47,184.19
Andover Village	\$ 24,097,330.00	9038.045791
GOTL Village	\$ 54,612,180.00	20483.07358
Jefferson Village	\$ 77,696,360.00	29141.12308
N Kingsville Village	\$ 86,952,090.00	32612.61605
Orwell Village	\$ 28,549,840.00	10708.02289
Roaming Shores Village	\$ 106,436,400.00	39920.48318
Rock Creek Village	\$ 11,044,720.00	4142.479067
TOTAL	\$ 2,119,637,120.00	\$ 795,000.00

FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2023

Receipts:

Licenses, Permits, Donations, Fees, Projects, etc.	\$1,660,667.70
Federal/State Fund	
BCMh - Public Health Nurse Consultation =	\$300.00
State Subsidy =	\$38,834.42
Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) =	\$46,010.38
Solid Waste =	\$143,078.41
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) =	\$88,369.00
Naloxone Grant =	\$85,375.00
Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO)=	\$37,112.00
Total Federal/State Fund	\$439,079.66
Private Insurance Billing	\$144,798.64
Total Receipts	\$2,244,546.92

Expenditures:

District Board of Health	\$569,818.51
Federal/State Fund:	
BCMh - Public Health Nurse Consultation =	\$0.00
State Subsidy =	\$3,000.00
Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) =	\$0.00
Solid Waste =	\$77,624.70
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) =	\$31,180.15
Naloxone Grant =	\$5,100.84
Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) =	\$3,558.10
Total Federal/State Fund	\$120,463.79
Private Insurance Billing	\$90,000.00
Wages and Fringe	\$1,467,911.86
Total Expenditures	\$2,248,194.16

Tax Duplicate for Health District (Real Estate, Personal Property & Public Utility)	\$2,119,637,120.00
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Vital Statistics

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 2023, 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.

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.

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 2024.

Vital Statistics

Live Births Recorded in County Health District (Home Births) – 22
 Male – 11
 Female – 11

Deaths Recorded in County Health District – 668
 Male – 346
 Female – 322

CAUSE OF DEATH – 2023		
1	Heart and Arteries	198
2	Cancer	116
3	Disease of Respiratory System	74
4	Disease of Brain	53
5	Cerebral Hemorrhage Cerebral Hemorrhage & Thrombosis	4 52
6	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	36
7	Pneumonia	19
8	Suicide	17
9	Overdose - Accident	15
10	Disease of Kidney/Urinary System	15
11	Infectious Disease	14
12	Accidents	14
13	Disease of Liver	10
14	Disease of Digestive System	8
15	COVID-19	6
16	Homicide	6
17	Natural Causes	5
18	Nutritional & Metabolic Disease	2
19	Diabetes	1
	Cause Pending	3
	Total	668

CERTIFIED COPIES OF BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES – Issued by the Ashtabula County Health Department in 2023

883 Birth Certificates

2,642 Death Certificates

58 Burial/Cremation Permits

RABIES SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The following listing is a tally of all specimens tested in 2023 for rabies through the Ohio Department of Health Rabies Surveillance Program. The surveillance program consisted primarily of testing sick raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. The tallies also include the number of rabies tests that were completed following an exposure. The specimens tested were from Ashtabula County, Ashtabula City and Conneaut City Health Districts from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Specimen	Amount Tested	Negative	Positive	Unable to Determine
Raccoons	13	11	1	1
Foxes	0	0	0	0
Squirrels	1	0	0	1
Skunks	0	0	0	0
Bats	8	7	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 July 31, 2023, and August 25, 2023. 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 2023. 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 178 reported animal bite cases investigated, 56 biting animals were rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident. 122 biting animals were NOT rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident.

Animal Bite Cases Investigated by the Ashtabula Co. Health Dept.	
Domestic Dogs	132
Domestic Cats	36
Other/Wild Animals: Raccoons - 4 Bats - 2 Hamster – 1 Rabbit – 1 Pig – 1 Unknown/animal type not reported – 1	10
Total Reported Animal Bite Cases Investigated	178
Non-Bite Cases Investigated (Animal Exp or Other Exposure) Cat – 1 Raccoon – 2 Squirrel – 1 Bat – 2	6
Total HDIS Animal Bites & Non-Bite Cases Investigated	184
Out-of-Area Bite Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department then referred to other health departments	64
Total Animal Bite Investigations, Non-Bite Investigations, and Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department	248
The following cases are included in the 2023 animal bites investigated/reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department:	
Referred to the Ashtabula City Health Department	51
Referred to the Conneaut City Health Department	11
Referred to other health departments	2
Total Referred to other health departments	64
Bite case animals tested at the lab for rabies	
Dogs	8
Cats	2
Raccoon	0
Bat	1
Total	11
*All <u>11</u> tested negative for rabies	
Non-Bite (pet/humans exposure)case animals tested at the lab for rabies	
Bats	2
Raccoon	2

Squirrel	1
Cat	1
Total	6
* 4 tested negative for rabies, 2 were unable to determine due to the condition of the sample	

Environmental Health

2023 was a year of many positive changes and updates for the environmental division and the ACHD. As we finally started to move away from covid activities, the leadership staff worked on updating many dated policies to help promote worker satisfaction, longevity, and productivity. License and permit fees were raised in many program areas to properly reflect the cost of these programs. A new indoor HVAC system required remodeling and a reorganization of many of the filing cabinets. This was used as a time to purge many unneeded files and better organize and retain the files that are important.

The tally on the following page provides an overview of the number and type of inspections our staff performed in 2023. 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 2023, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency performed a solid waste survey of the ACHD. This survey evaluated the administrative and field inspection components of our solid waste 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 in the county.

Our plumbing department is responsible for protecting 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. After approval of the permits, the plumbing inspectors conduct consultations and inspections and approve each dwelling and building throughout the construction stages to ensure code compliancy. 2024 will bring in a new Ohio Plumbing Code to be used throughout the county as well.

In 2024, the environmental division will be updating our outdated environmental software with new free software provided by the Ohio Department of Health. This will be a lengthy and major undertaking for us but in the end will also allow us to quickly access all our records electronically. In addition, we are pursuing grant opportunities to provide education to homeowners to help them maintain their sewage systems and protect their private water supplies. In sum, the environmental health unit anticipates a very productive and busy year in 2024 serving and protecting the health of the citizens of Ashtabula County.

Environmental Health Statistics

Home Sewage Treatment System Installers Registrations	43
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Evaluation Applications	220
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspection for Real Estate Transactions	36
Home Sewage Treatment System Permits Issued	129
Home Sewage Treatment System Inspections	828
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspections	396
Home Sewage Treatment System Consultations	163
Home Sewage Treatment System Service Provider Registrations	22
O&M Existing Sewage Treatment System	27
Home Sewage Treatment System Abandonment Permit	58
Private Water System Permits Issued	71
Private Water System Inspections	132
Water Hauler Registrations	2
Water Samples Taken (Bacteriological)	234
Water Samples Taken (Chemical)	128
Complaint Inspections	1197
Septage Hauler Registrations	17
Septage Inspections-Pumpers	8
Septage Land Application - Site Reviews	2
Camp Operation Permits Issued	24
Resident Camp Permits Issued	5
Camp Inspections	33
Public Bathing Beach Licenses Issued	7
Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool Licenses Issued	51
Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool and Bathing Beach Inspections	56
Construction Demolition and Debris Inspections	626
C&DD Applications	76
School Inspections	42
Manufactured Home Park Inspections	30
Solid Waste Disposal Facility Licenses Issued	3
Solid Waste Disposal Facility & Compost Facility Site Inspections	97
Food Service & Food Establishment Licenses Issued	513
Food Service & Food Establishment Inspections	838
Food Service Operation Consultations	115

Food Service Plan Reviews	16
Vending Machines FSO Licenses Issued	57
Vending Machines FSO Inspections	11
Tattoo & Body Piercing Licenses	7
Tattoo & Body Piercing Inspections	12
Inspections with Health Commissioner or State & County Agency Personnel	58
Public Meetings, Lectures, Landfill Conferences & Trainings Attended	177
Meetings with Federal, State and Local Agencies	58
Meetings with County Agencies and Organizations	36
Educational Programs Presented to the Public	12
Animal Bite Field Investigations	24
Other Environmental Health Consultations-Water, Schools, Institutions, Rabies, Mold, etc.	51
PLUMBING	
Plumbing Permits Issued	188
Plumbing Plan Reviews Issued	42
Plumber's Registrations Issued	98
Plumbing Permit Checks	568
Plumbing Schematics and Blue Prints Checked	268
Plumbing Inspections	940
Plumbing Complaints	23
Plumbing Consultations	247
Plumbing Investigations	120
Meetings Attended	272

Public Health Nursing

The primary focus of public health nursing is to promote health and prevent disease for entire population groups. During 2023, the nurses were challenged with preventing disease in the community as well as maintaining 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 and keep the residents of the county, mostly children, on track with their required immunizations. It was also to educate the public on many diseases, illnesses, and public health challenges going on currently, and into the future.

The nurses expanded our Amish and south county clinic offerings, operating several clinics in north county, and provided a record number of standard vaccines to the community in 2023. We expanded our wellness clinics, and offered wellness physical exam services to adults as well as the children we already see in record numbers.

During 2023, the nurses provided a large number of influenza vaccination clinics, including several drive-thru clinics. We continued our focus on family health in times of gathering, mental wellness, and developing plans for a healthy Ashtabula County in 2024. 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 deliver for the county, the community, and its residents.

Immunizations

In 2023, Ashtabula County Public Health Nurses administered vaccinations to 1,379 adults and 880 children/adolescents (excluding COVID and flu vaccines). Our Nursing Division Clerical and Public Health Nursing staff members held 103 flu clinics during the fall and winter of 2023 at various settings in the community, private businesses/organizations and at our main office location. We provided 1,347 COVID-19 vaccinations. ACHD offers CDC recommended vaccines and those required for Ohio school entry. We are a Vaccines for Children provider which is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaska Native. We also operate the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant which seeks to improve and sustain vaccination coverage among children and adolescents, and to reduce vaccination coverage disparities in Ohio. ACHD is also a provider for a number of private health insurances. Please contact our Nursing Division for more vaccine information, schedule an appointment or to inquire about having an immunization clinic at your business or organization at 440-576-6010 option 2.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's leading infectious diseases and can be deadly. Up to 13 million people in the United States are living with inactive or latent TB infection. Without treatment, 1 in 10 people with latent TB infection will develop active TB disease. The only way

to know for sure if you have inactive TB is to get tested. The Ashtabula County Health Department's Tuberculosis Program provided 159 tuberculin skin tests in 2023 and evaluated 14 patients for latent tuberculosis. Of the 14 patients evaluated for latent tuberculosis, 2 required and completed treatment. The priority of the Tuberculosis (TB) program in Ashtabula County is aimed at eliminating TB within the county, and ultimately within the state of Ohio. The goals of the program include Identifying and treating those persons with active Tuberculosis; finding and screening those persons who have been in contact with active TB patients and providing them with appropriated treatment; and screening high-risk populations to detect persons who are infected with TB, also known as latent TB, who may benefit from therapy to prevent progression to active TB disease. For calendar year 2023, Ashtabula County Health Department followed and treated 2 individuals with TB infection or latent TB. These individuals were not active TB cases and were not deemed infectious. If you have questions regarding TB or to schedule a TB skin test, contact our TB Program at 440-576-6010 option 2.

Lead Monitoring

The Ashtabula County Health Department, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health, monitors elevated lead levels in children in our district. There is no safe level of lead in the blood. Any confirmed level of lead in the blood is a reliable indicator that a child has been exposed to lead. Under Ohio law, all blood lead test results are required to be reported to the Ohio Department of Health. The ODH Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program follows cases regarding all blood lead levels of 3.5 or greater. ODH and ACHD provide lead education regarding potential environmental sources of lead exposure, effect of diet on exposure, potential health effects, and hazards associated with renovating pre-1978 homes. Medical management is provided until a child's blood lead level is below 3.5. In the Ashtabula County Health Department district for 2023, we had 24 cases of elevated lead levels that met criteria to follow and 7 of those cases were able to be closed during the year. There are programs for qualified individuals that can assist with lead abatement in the home. For more information on lead or testing, contact our lead program at 440-576-6010, option 2.

Project DAWN/Harm Reduction

Ashtabula County is ranked 18th in the state (per 100,000 population) for the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths. For 2023, our county had 37 overdose deaths, a 37% increase over 2022, with 68% of those deaths associated with fentanyl. Males, specifically white males, have consistently been impacted more with overdose deaths each year. Your Ashtabula County Health Department has implemented the Project DAWN program since 2017. Project DAWN is a network of Ohio-based drug overdose education and Narcan distribution programs. Narcan, also known as naloxone, is a medication that can block the effect of opioids, like fentanyl, and reverse an overdose. Ashtabula County Health Department's Project DAWN Program provides take-home Narcan kits, fentanyl test strips, dirty needle drop bin, and clean needle exchange program to community members, free of charge. Our program has progressively increased community Narcan distribution every year since its inception from 46 in 2017 to 1,592 in calendar year 2023. Another tool we gained to help fight fentanyl overdose in late 2023 was fentanyl test strips meant to test for the presence

of fentanyl in substances to help warn people who are unaware that they may be exposed to it. We distributed 848 test strips from August through December. For 2024, we have added a needle drop box at the ACHD office in Jefferson, offer needle drop box services at any community clinic, offer a needle exchange program where we exchange dirty syringes for clean ones to reduce the spread of diseases like hepatitis and HIV, and began rapid testing with counseling for HIV and hepatitis C. For more information or to obtain a Narcan kit, or on any other harm reduction services, call 440-576-6010, option 2.

Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)

The Children with Medical Handicaps Program is a health care program in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). CMH links families with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need. CMH views the local public health nurse as an essential member of the health care team. At the Ashtabula County Health Department, we are the link between the resources provided through ODH and the families that need them. We perform home visits, phone calls, consultations, and guidance throughout the process to assist in the care of your child. During 2023, we provided case management to 104 children in the county. For more information regarding the CMH program, call 440-576-6010, option 2.

Prevent Blindness Ohio (PBO)

Prevent Blindness Ohio is dedicated to addressing the challenge to prevent blindness and preserve sight through wise investment of community support. The goal of the Vision Care Outreach Program (VCO) is to reduce the incidence of unnecessary vision loss and impairment by providing access to a donated system of comprehensive vision care services for uninsured or underinsured adults and children in Ohio. When Ohioans apply for or renew their license plates, they will be asked if they want to contribute \$1 to the fund and it will be added to their fee. These dollars go directly to helping pay for eye exams, eyeglasses, and visits for residents in our county to receive sight saving care. During 2023, we helped 42 people see the world around them. For more information on Prevent Blindness, call 440-576-6010, option 2.

Communicable Disease Investigation

The Ashtabula County Health Department's Communicable Disease Investigation team, a part of Nursing Services, oversees surveillance and reporting of communicable diseases in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health and CDC guidelines. Throughout 2023, the staff faced challenges related to COVID-19, engaging with schools, providing information, and aiding in decision-making. Beyond COVID-19, they addressed a Pertussis outbreak in the Southwest corner of Ashtabula County, collaborating with neighboring counties and administering vaccinations. The team also worked on suspected food-borne and vector-borne illnesses, including West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, Hepatitis A, and Salmonella. Rabies investigations involved coordination between communicable disease and environmental health staff, with no positive cases reported in 2023. Emphasizing the importance of

vaccination, the department encourages residents to stay up-to-date. Looking ahead to 2024, the Communicable Disease Prevention Staff aims to continue serving the community.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

In 2023, the Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) actively addressed the COVID-19 pandemic, organizing Vaccination PODs and facilitating information sharing among partners. The department's Preparedness efforts, supported by the PHEP grant, involved updating and creating various plans, such as the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Preparedness Improvement Plan, Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), Communications Annex, and a new Radiological Response Annex. The ongoing maintenance and revisions of these plans demand significant collaboration and effort. The Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team (ACPHAT) monthly meetings facilitate information exchange and goal alignment among agencies involved in emergency response. Looking ahead to 2024, ACHD aims to develop the Pandemic Influenza Annex, revitalize the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), overhaul the Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Plan, conduct staff and site preparedness training, and establish a regular schedule of exercises for testing community response capabilities. Adapting to evolving COVID-19 challenges, ACHD remains committed to continuous improvement, embracing an all-hazards approach to enhance response and recovery capabilities for any public health threat.

Public Health Nursing Statistics

Non-Immunization Clinics

Wellness Clinics	28
Wellness Patients	142
Tuberculosis Clinics	12
Naloxone Distribution Clinics	52
Lead Home Visits	2
Children with Medical Handicaps Home Visits	1

Immunization Clinics

Standard Immunization Clinics	215
Standard Immunizations Given	3,549
Home Visits for Immunizations	147
Amish Clinics	138
Flu Clinics	103
Influenza Immunizations Provided	864
Covid-19 Clinics	38
Covid-19 Immunizations Provided	1,347

Total Number of Patients Who Received Immunizations – 2,259

Total Number of Immunizations Provided – 5,760

Additional Nursing Services and Statistics

- 178 total vision and hearing screening tests were completed
- 1,518 People were educated on substance use/abuse
- Over 7,000 Covid-19 test kits were distributed
- 32 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
- Communicable disease count are as follows:

Reportable Condition	Count
C. auris – Colonization Screening	1
Campylobacteriosis	10
Chlamydia infection	114
COVID-19 (call health department immediately)	2,002
CPO	8
Cryptosporidiosis	1
Dengue	1
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	1
Giardiasis	4
Gonococcal infection	15
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	2
Hepatitis A	3
Hepatitis B (including delta) - acute	1
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	16
Hepatitis C - acute	1
Hepatitis C - chronic	47
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	0
Immigrant Investigation	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	19
Legionellosis	4
Lyme Disease	102
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	2
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	2
Mumps	0
Pertussis	46
Salmonellosis	5
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	12
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	1
Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS)	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	7
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	8
Syphilis - unknown duration or late	4
Tuberculosis	1
Varicella	6
Yersiniosis	1
Total	2,449

Quality and Performance

Accreditation

2023 was Ashtabula County Health Department's (ACHD) first year as an accredited health department. In order to maintain accreditation status, a PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) annual report must be completed, as well as the work required to meet the five-year Reaccreditation mark. The PHAB Annual Report was submitted in November, and the health department remains in good standing with PHAB.

Community Health Improvement

2023 was also the first year of the Community Health Improvement Plan cycle, where ACHD and 32 community stakeholders formed a collaborative, Healthy Ashtabula County met regularly to implement solutions, the group split into teams to address the three priority items determined through the the Community Health Needs Assessment process (Obesity Prevention; Mental Wellbeing and Access to Care). The 2023 CHIP Annual Report outlines the impactful work done by the team. Due in large part to the strides made by the teams in 2023, a fourth "Health Equity lens" called *Strengthen and Sustain Healthy Ashtabula County* was initiated, and stakeholders met to determine the feasibility of becoming a separate, non-profit organization.

Strategic Planning

The Community Health Improvement Plan and accreditation standards, as well as public health mandates and grant requirements, are some of the stipulations used to draw up the ACHD Strategic Plan. The strategic plan guides the directors by outlining the long-term goals and strategies. It communicates the ACHD's vision, mission, and values, and specifies how ACHD will measure its progress and achieve its intended objectives.

ACHD directors held bi-weekly work sessions to evaluate progress and formulate the best course of action in each of the three areas of Quality & Performance. Completed and approved plans and documents are made available to the public via the ACHD and Healthy Ashtabula County websites.