



Fairfield County
Health
Department

2022

ANNUAL REPORT





From the Commissioner

R. Joseph Ebel, MS, MBA, REHS

As 2022 ended and I thought back over the past year that the Health Department has spent serving the people of Fairfield County I could not help but acknowledge the work that has been done to ensure the health, wellness, and safety for all.

Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) staff continued our pandemic response activities, throughout 2022. In January, the surge of COVID-19 due to the Omicron variant, resulted in 8,871 new cases and 58 deaths during the month. Case rates quickly fell by March before climbing to nearly 1,500 cases per month during

the summer. The availability of a new COVID-19 booster vaccine prompted an increase in booster doses given in the fall. County-wide, our combined private and public sector vaccine providers administered up to 400 new boosters each day.

In 2022, FCHD expanded our health promotion programming by adding new staff to engage the community and promote healthy lifestyles and injury prevention. New grant funded programs were added to address tobacco prevention and cessation, mental illness, safe sleep for new babies, and to promote general health and well-being through active living and healthy eating.

A renewed focus on quality, efficiency, and effectiveness, was launched last year. Starting with *Lean Six Sigma* yellow belt training for all FCHD staff, followed by *Lean Six Sigma* green belt certification for a core group of improvement team leaders. In 2023, we will continue identifying opportunities for improved quality and efficiency in the delivery of public health services across the county.

FCHD enhanced our summer mosquito control program by adding mosquito spraying to our vector-borne prevention services which previously included trapping and testing mosquitoes for illnesses including West Nile virus. Nearly 400 miles of roadways, streets, and alleys, were sprayed to control adult mosquitoes in nine communities over the summer and early months of the fall. Additionally, we hosted a scrap tire collection event which resulted in 4500 tires being collected.

In 2022 we began the process of completing the *Community Health Assessment* (CHA), which takes place every three years. FCHD worked with representatives from 30 different organizations to develop and send surveys to thousands of Fairfield County households. We received more than 700 responses and conducted key informant interviews with various community leaders. The results from the health assessment will be used to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that will guide public health programs and investments over the next three years.

As we look to 2023, I look forward to continued growth and enhanced public health service delivery as we work with our community partners to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the environment in

To Your Good Health,

Joe

Board of Health



Steven Kapetansky, MD, MPH
President



Brian Oliver
President Pro Tem



Tina Childers



Teresa Wood, PhD, RN

Health Department Leadership



R. Joseph Ebel, MS, MBA, REHS
Health Commissioner



Rachel Moresea, REHS
Director of Environmental
Health Services



Stephanie Fyffe, RN, MPH
Director of Public Health
Nursing Services



Jamie Ehorn, BBA
Director of
Administrative Services



Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC
Director of WIC
Services



Baylie Blevins, BS
Planning and Performance
Supervisor



Bobby Persinger, BPS, MHS, OCPC
Health Promotion
Supervisor



F. David Petty

2022 Public Health Guardian Award

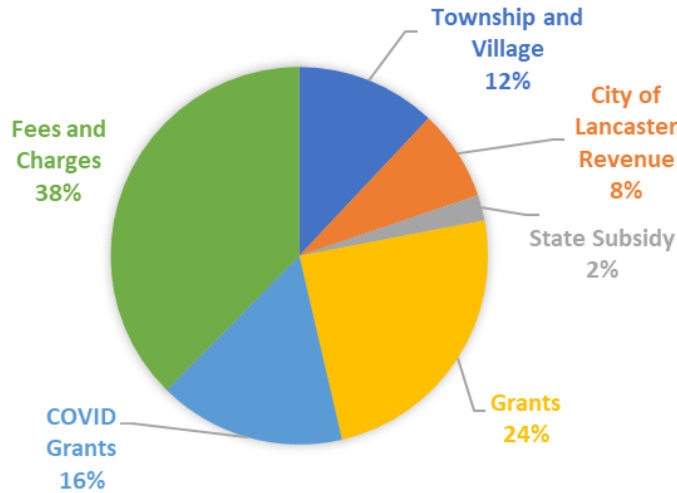
For his dedication to improving the health and well-being of the citizens of Fairfield County, the Fairfield County Board of Health posthumously named **F. David Petty** the 2022 recipient of the **Public Health Guardian** Award. David was a member of the Fairfield County Board of Health from 2010 until his passing in 2022, serving as President from 2011 through 2020.

David was very active throughout the county serving for 10 years as Bloom Township Clerk followed by two terms as a Bloom Township Trustee. Additionally, David was a FEMA-trained C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) member, Red Cross volunteer, and member of the Bloom Township Volunteer Fire Department.

2022 Financial Report

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director of Administrative Services

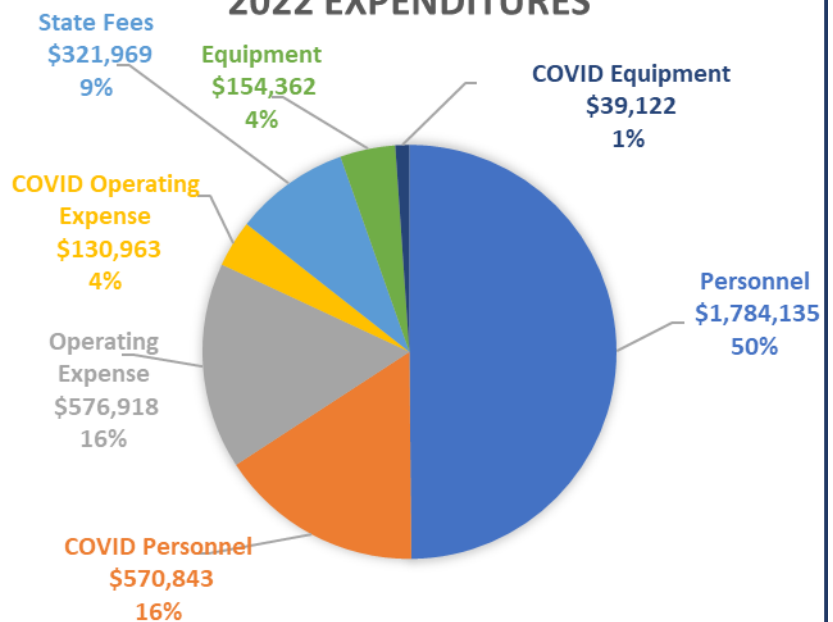
2022 FUNDING SOURCES



Funding Sources	2022
Township and Villages	\$ 540,095
City of Lancaster Revenue	\$ 350,000
State Subsidy	\$ 98,470
Grants	\$ 1,095,761
COVID Grants	\$ 721,607
Fees and Charges	\$ 1,689,844
Total	\$ 4,495,777

Expenditures	2022
Personnel	\$ 1,784,135
COVID Personnel	\$ 570,843
Operating Expense	\$ 576,918
COVID Operating Expense	\$ 130,963
State Fees	\$ 321,969
Equipment	\$ 154,362
COVID Equipment	\$ 39,122
Total	\$ 3,578,312

2022 EXPENDITURES



Administrative Services Team:

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director
Kelly Brown | Account Specialist
Teresa Goddard | Clerical Specialist and Receptionist

Megan Baker | Clerical Specialist
Kelly Donley | Account Specialist
Pauletta Krieger | Vital Statistics Registrar

Vital Statistics Report

Pauletta Krieger | Vital Statistics Registrar

2022 Vital Statistics

Births for Fairfield County Residents	2021	2022
Total Births	1727	1740
Mother's age under 18	13 (0.8%)	10 (0.6%)
Mother's age 18 to 19	40 (2.3%)	60 (3.5%)
Deaths of Fairfield County Residents	2021	2022*
Total Deaths	1817	1692
Deaths by Accident	126	113
Deaths by Cancer	315	327
Deaths by COVID-19	220	115
Deaths by Diabetes	50	51
Deaths by Heart Disease	331	297
Deaths by Homicide	11	5
Deaths by Suicide	29	22
All Other Causes	447	450
Top Baby Names	2022	
BOYS	Henry (14), Oliver (12), Hudson (10), Noah and Cooper (9)	
GIRLS	Charlotte and Olivia (10), Aurora (9), Ava (8), Emma and Evelyn (7)	

*preliminary data, may be subject to change.

PHN: Public Health Nursing

Stephanie Fyffe, RN, MPH | Director of Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nursing Outreach

FCHD nursing staff provide a variety of educational presentations for the general public. Onsite clinics offer individuals, families, and local businesses the opportunity to receive vaccinations, information, and services which promote health and wellness.

CMH: Children with Medical Handicaps

The CMH program is a health care program through the Ohio Department of Health which links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and assists with costs associated with services their children need.

FCHD supported **274** families throughout Fairfield County with CMH services.

Help Me Grow (HMG)

In a partnership with the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, FCHD conducts regular home visits to families with children birth to 3 years old who may be experiencing special health care needs. Speech, occupational, and physical therapy evaluations are conducted in addition to early intervention processes to support entry into pre-school.

Tuberculosis Unit

FCHD is the appointed TB Unit for the county and provides skin testing which screens for TB. Screenings are required for select school programs, employment, and medications. Additionally, FCHD arranges physicals for immigrants moving to Fairfield County. Lastly, FCHD provides case management for people who have active TB (DOT), side effects of prescriptions, investigations, and screenings of close contacts.

Get Vaccinated Ohio

FCHD received the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The grant focus on improving immunization rates in Fairfield County while removing barriers that prevent children from getting vaccinated. FCHD administered **583** vaccines in 2022.

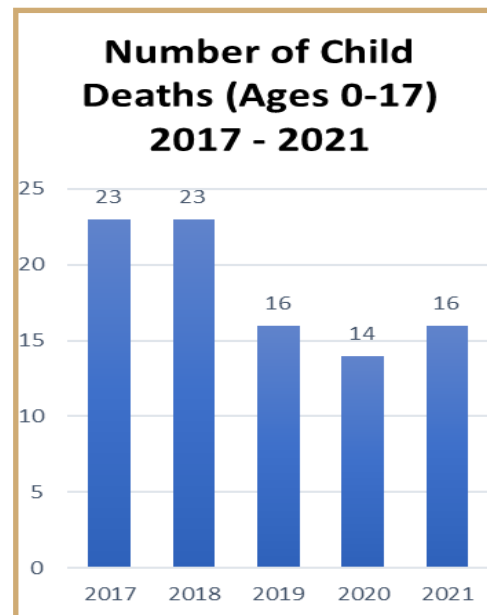
Infections Disease Investigation and Control Program

Health departments are required to monitor and investigate reportable diseases. The Ohio reportable diseases are usually reported by laboratories, physicians or their offices, hospitals daycares, and schools.

The Infectious Disease Program is also responsible for COVID-19 contact tracing and case investigation. In addition to these services the program provides surveillance and guidance to community entities including long-term care facilities, schools, and daycares.

Child Fatality Review Board

Established in 2000 by the Ohio General Assembly, the Child Fatality Review Board is chaired by the Health Commissioner and comprised of various community partner agencies. With a mission to reduce the incidence rate of preventable child death, the CFR Board meets to review and assess all county-wide childhood (birth to 17) deaths and create a report annually for the National Childhood Death Registry and the Ohio Department of Health.



Public Health Nursing Team:

Stephanie Fyffe, RN, MPH | Director

Debra Smith | Clerical Specialist

Kimberly Yeager, RN, BSN | Immunization Coordinator

Gale Neville, RN, MSN | Infectious Disease Coordinator

Judy Tata-Scali, RN, BSN | Maternal-Child Health Coordinator

Latisha Dawson, RN, BSN | Contract COVID-19 Nurse

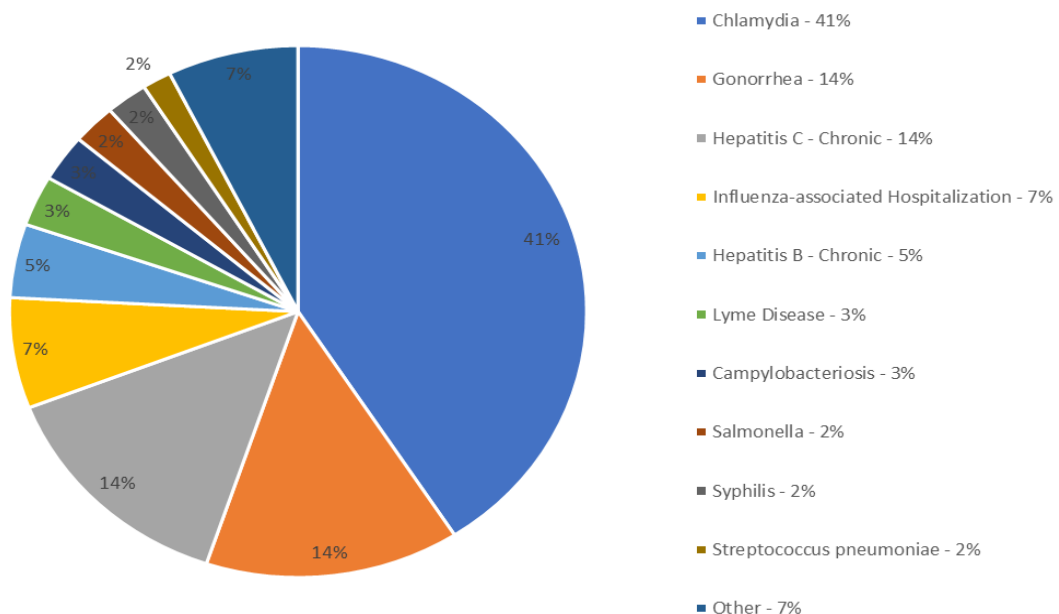
Epidemiology Report

Mitchell McGuire, MPH | Epidemiologist

Fairfield County Health Department investigated 981 reported disease cases in 2022, excluding COVID-19 investigations. Chlamydia remained the most frequently reported disease accounting for 41% of all cases. Hepatitis C and gonorrhea cases were the next most frequently reported diseases. (Note: Not all diseases are required to be reported to local health departments. In Ohio, there are about 90 diseases that are considered reportable infectious diseases.)

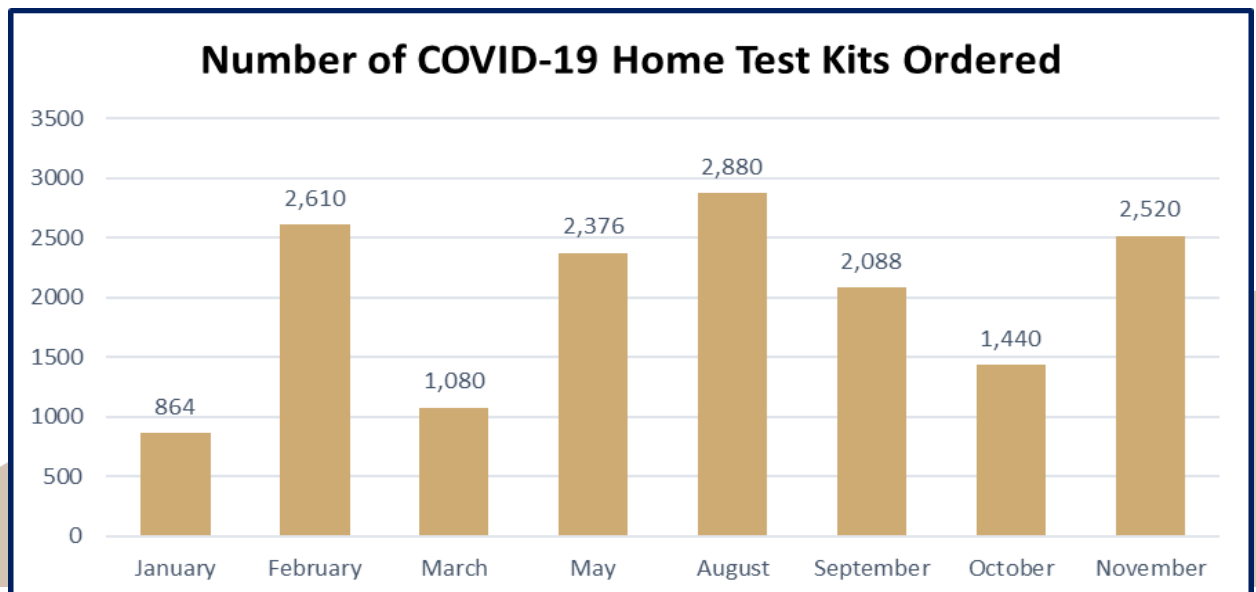
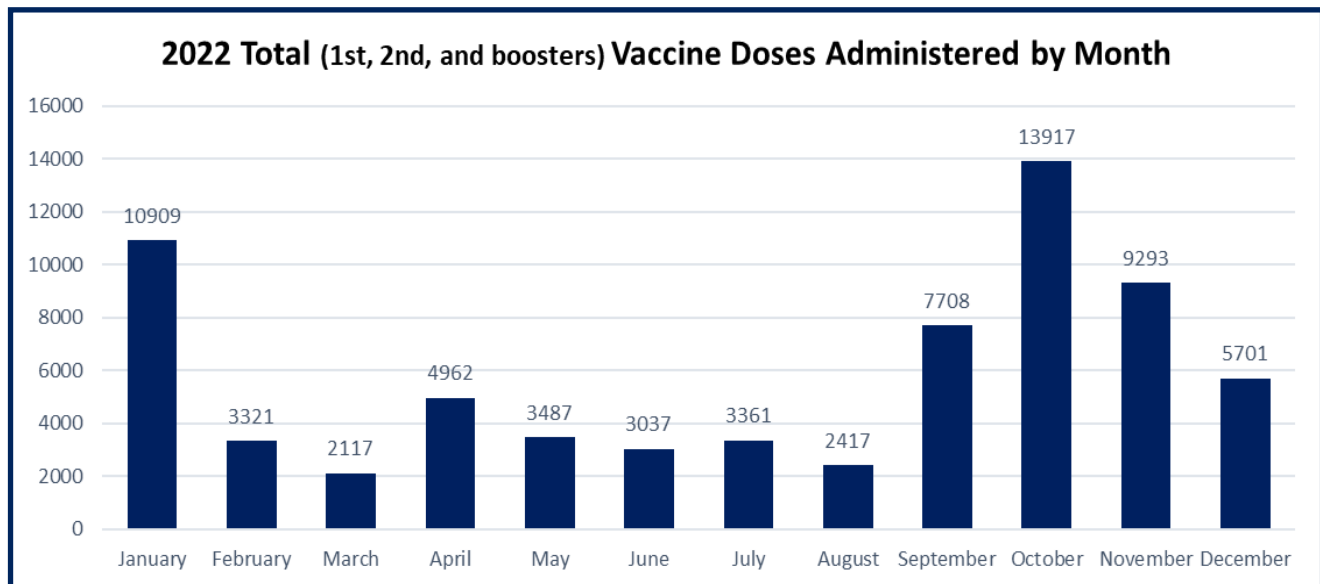
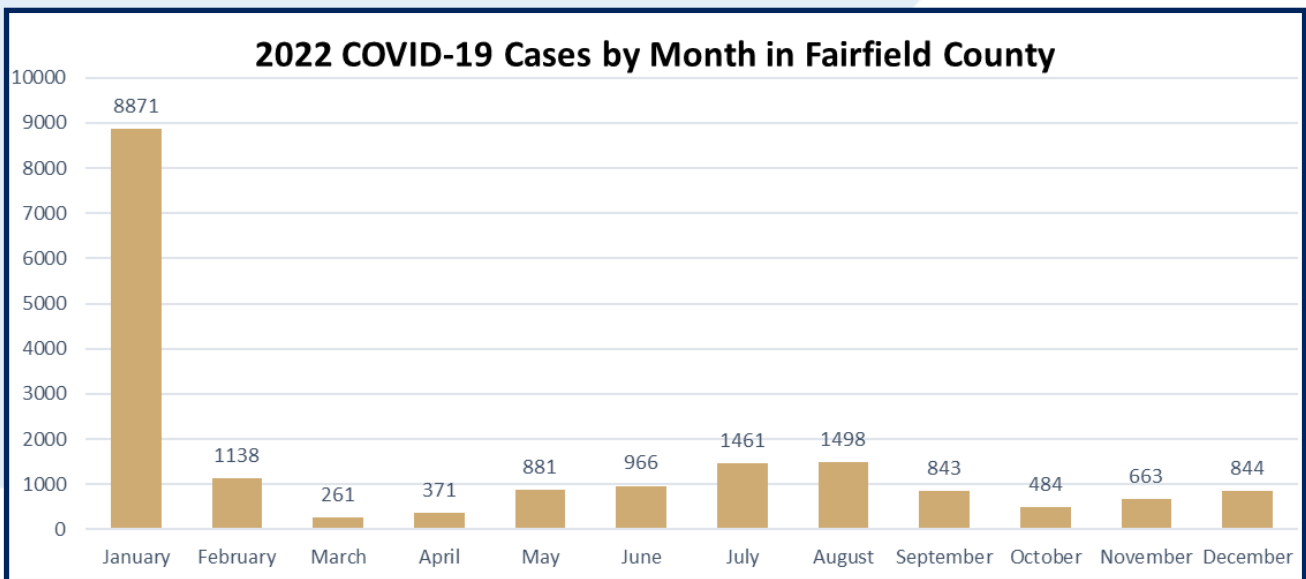
2022	Infectious Diseases Report (Excluding COVID-19 investigations)			
Flu	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2022 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Hospitalized Flu Cases	61	8	66	41.0
STDs	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2022 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Chlamydia	354	338	401	249.0
Gonorrhea	112	91	140	86.9
Hepatitis (A-C)	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2022 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Hepatitis A	3	4	0	0
Hepatitis B - chronic	19	28	44	27.3
Hepatitis C - chronic	85	106	137	85.1
Top 5 Diseases 2022	2020 Cases	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2022 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Chlamydia infection	354	338	401	249.0
Gonococcal infection	112	91	140	86.9
Hepatitis C - chronic	85	106	137	85.1
Hospitalized Flu Cases	61	8	66	41.0
Hepatitis B - chronic	19	28	44	27.3

*based on a countywide population of 161,064



2022 COVID-19 Update

Mitchell McGuire, MPH | Epidemiologist



EHS: Environmental Health Services

Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director of Environmental Health Services

Food Safety Program

FCHD protects citizens from foodborne illnesses through education as well as inspections of all food service and retail food establishments including: restaurants, grocery stores, mobile food services, food vending machines, and temporary food establishments.

MS4 Program

As part of the U.S. EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the nation's water resources from polluted storm water runoff, FCHD conducts Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) inspections on discharging aeration systems in Violet Township, Liberty Township (sections 6 and 30R), and the Village of Lithopolis.

Rabies Control Program

To prevent the spread, all reported animal bites are investigated by FCHD to determine if the animal has or is exhibiting signs of the rabies virus. FCHD encourages all pets be vaccinated and ensures all animals are quarantined and further action is taken when necessary.

Mosquito Control Program

Annually, FCHD environmental health specialists spray for, collect, identify and test mosquitoes at various sites throughout the county. All mosquitoes are tested for various diseases including West Nile Virus. Mosquito control spraying was conducted on **400** miles of roadways during the 2022 season.

Recreation Safety Program

FCHD inspects and issues permits to all county campgrounds, residential camps, public pools and spas in an effort to protect the public from injury, the potential for disease transmission, and provide a safe and healthy recreational environment.

Plumbing Program

FCHD issues permits and performs inspections for all new homes and commercial buildings, existing home additions, and existing commercial building remodels.

School Safety Program

FCHD performs annual school facility inspections to help county school districts improve the environmental health of their buildings.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

FCHD receives funds from the Ohio EPA through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to help low to moderate-income families repair or replace failing septic systems.

FCHD helped **11** families with complete system replacements in 2022.

Solid Waste Program

FCHD is charged with regulating the collection, storage, and final disposal of all solid waste in Fairfield County through the Ohio EPA Solid Waste Program.

Body Art Safety Program

Body art facilities are monitored and licensed to ensure safe and sanitary conditions. Body art establishments include businesses that offer tattoos, piercings, permanent makeup/cosmetics, and microblading.

Household and Small Flow Sewage Treatment Systems

FCHD investigate all sewage nuisance complaints as well as inspects and issues permits for all new residential and commercial small flow septic systems and existing systems that require alteration or repair to ensure proper design and installation.

Private Water Systems

To ensure safe drinking water, FCHD samples, inspects, and issues permits for homes served by a private water system including wells, cisterns, hauled water storage tanks, springs, and/or ponds.

Environmental Health Services Team:

Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | EHS Supervisor

Shelia Wolfe, REHS | EHS Supervisor

Brianna Boudinot, EHSIT | Environmental Health Specialist in Training

Marissa Daugherty, EHSIT | Clerical Specialist

Claire Donley | Environmental Health Specialist in Training

Nick McConnaughey, EHSIT | Environmental Health Specialist in Training

Kelsey Nein, EHSIT | Environmental Health Specialist in Training

Dennis Oliver | Plumbing Inspector

Cindy Sharpe | Clerical Specialist

Katie Wasky, EHSIT | Environmental Health Specialist in Training

McCray Wooten, EHSIT | Environmental Health Specialist in Training

EHS: Environmental Health Services

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | Environmental Health Services Supervisor

2022 Environmental Health Inspections

Political Subdivision	Campgrounds	Public Pools	Mobile Home Parks	Animal Bites	Site Visits Total
Amanda (Twp)	0	0	0	3	0
Berne (Twp)	2	5	5	14	12
Bloom (Twp)	1	4	0	4	7
Clearcreek (Twp)	0	0	2	2	2
Greenfield (Twp)	0	3	1	6	2
Hocking (Twp)	0	1	0	5	0
Liberty (Twp)	1	1	0	11	2
Madison (Twp)	0	0	0	1	0
Pleasant (Twp)	0	2	0	8	2
Richland (Twp)	0	0	0	3	0
Rushcreek (Twp)	0	0	0	4	0
Violet (Twp)	0	3	0	17	2
Walnut (Twp)	1	0	2	1	4
Lancaster (City)	1	19	0	84	16
Pickerington (City)	0	N/A	0	6	0
Amanda (Village)	0	0	0	3	0
Baltimore (Village)	0	1	0	1	0
Bremen (Village)	0	2	0	1	2
Carroll (Village)	0	0	0	0	0
Lithopolis (Village)	0	0	1	2	1
Millersport (Village)	0	0	0	1	0
Pleasantville (Village)	0	2	0	2	0
Rushville (Village)	0	0	1	3	1
Stoutsville (Village)	0	0	0	0	0
Sugar Grove (Village)	0	0	0	1	0
Thurston (Village)	0	0	0	3	0
West Rushville (Village)	0	0	0	0	0
Buckeye Lake (Village)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	43	14	192	53

EHS: Environmental Health Services

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | Environmental Health Services Supervisor

2022 Environmental Health Inspections

Political Subdivision	Sewage Permits	Well Permits	Lot Splits and Inspections	Nuisance complaints	Complaints abated	Total Site Visits
Amanda (Twp)	11	13	2	3	2	20
Berne (Twp)	18	21	4	7	7	36
Bloom (Twp)	39	49	6	2	1	72
Clearcreek (Twp)	15	10	3	1	1	19
Greenfield (Twp)	17	21	8	4	3	30
Hocking (Twp)	11	10	5	1	1	17
Liberty (Twp)	25	32	7	2	2	42
Madison (Twp)	13	15	3			18
Pleasant (Twp)	25	30	5	1	1	37
Richland (Twp)	2	2	2			10
Rushcreek (Twp)	21	16	5	2	2	30
Violet (Twp)	13	15	4	15	9	41
Walnut (Twp)	11	31	3	3	3	39
Lancaster (City)	1		1	2	1	4
Pickerington (City)						
Amanda (Village)						
Baltimore (Village)						
Bremen (Village)				1	1	2
Carroll (Village)						
Lithopolis (Village)						
Millersport (Village)				1	1	1
Pleasantville (Village)						
Rushville (Village)						
Stoutsville (Village)						
Thurston (Village)						
West Rushville (Village)						
Buckeye Lake (Village)						

EHS: Environmental Health Services

Shelia Wolfe, REHS | Environmental Health Services Supervisor

2022 Environmental Health Inspections

Political Subdivision	Retail Food Establishments	Food Service Operations	Mobile	Vending	Total
Amanda (Twp)	4	4	0	0	8
Berne (Twp)	0	14	11	0	25
Bloom (Twp)	0	5	2	0	7
Clearcreek (Twp)	6	0	0	0	6
Greenfield (Twp)	6	26	2	0	34
Hocking (Twp)	4	4	2	3	13
Liberty (Twp)	0	12	1	0	13
Madison (Twp)	0	0	2	0	2
Pleasant (Twp)	4	8	4	1	17
Richland (Twp)	0	4	3	0	7
Rushcreek (Twp)	4	4	1	0	9
Violet (Twp)	4	42	5	0	51
Walnut (Twp)	4	10	3	1	18
Lancaster (City)	294	482	39	30	845
Pickerington (City)	6	25	16	0	47
Amanda (Village)	6	12	2	0	20
Baltimore (Village)	21	36	14	3	74
Bremen (Village)	3	18	1	1	23
Carroll (Village)	6	21	4	0	31
Lithopolis (Village)	6	14	2	0	22
Millersport (Village)	12	26	13	0	51
Pleasantville (Village)	4	2	0	0	6
Rushville (Village)	4	0	1	0	5
Stoutsville (Village)	4	2	2	0	8
Thurston (Village)	0	2	0	0	2
West Rushville (Village)	2	0	1	0	3
Buckeye Lake (Village)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	404	773	131	39	1,347

*includes standard, enforcement, and complaint investigations as well as consultations.

P&P: Planning and Performance

Baylie Blevins, BS | Planning & Performance Supervisor

Performance and Planning Services

FCHD is responsible for all quality improvement efforts as well as the creation, maintenance, and management of all public health emergency response plans. Countywide plans are activated when a public health pandemic, outbreak or incident threatens to or impacts the health of the residents of Fairfield County.

FCHD epidemiologists investigate and monitor communicable, infectious, and chronic diseases impacting the county and provide critical data to the statewide epidemiological infrastructure.

FCHD staff participated in over **1,000** hours of professional development. Through the *Lean Six Sigma* process, FCHD conducted four quality improvement (QI) projects in 2022.

QI Projects focused on improving the new employee on-boarding process as well as shortening the length of time it takes for new clients to initiate engagement with the WIC team.

Public Health Accreditation

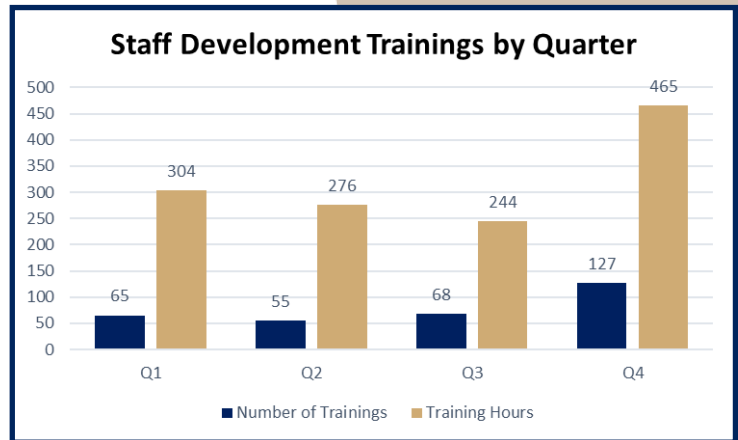
FCHD received national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2020. To maintain the standards for certification, FCHD is expected to ensure staff are adequately trained, services are delivered effectively, and quality assurance is guaranteed.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

FCHD engages community partners in response to public health emergencies in an effort to maintain business continuity, manage mass care events, and facilitate response to pandemics and other events that could impact the general public. FCHD also organizes and oversees county training exercises.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) after the attacks on September 11, 2001. The Fairfield County Medical Reserve Corps was re-established in 2021 with funding through the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) and has continued to impact and serve the citizens of the county since.



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- FCHD Conducted **three** countywide emergency preparedness exercises.
- FCHD employees participated in **47** professional growth and development trainings.
- FCHD staff participate in **8** local and statewide collaboratives including the Central Region Coalition Operations Advisory Board of the Central Ohio Trauma System.

Planning and Performance Team:

Baylie Blevins, BS | Supervisor
Stacey Hughes | COVID-19 Contract Tracer

Madison Gardner | COVID-19 Contract Tracer
Mitchell McGuire, MPH | Epidemiologist

HPS: Health Promotion Services

Bobby Persinger, BPS, MHS, OCPC | Health Promotion Supervisor

Community Education and Outreach

To continue to promote health, wellness and safety, FCHD collaborated with multiple county organizations including the Fairfield County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Project F.O.R.T. and the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.

FCHD participated in nearly **20** community-based health presentations in 2022.

Promoting Health

HEAL Initiative: Through community assessment, partner engagement, and policy creation, FCHD began promoting healthy eating and active living within schools, businesses, and homes through the HEAL grant, funded by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Whole Health Initiative: With support from the Aladdin Shriners Hospital Association for Children, FCHD distributed “whole health bags” complete with healthy recipes, personal hygiene products, and physical activity booklets and promoted general health and wellness to **837** elementary, intermediate, and middle school students across Fairfield County.

Additionally, **three** county middle schools were awarded “school kits” with jump ropes, exercise cards, frisbees, and healthy eating activity booklets to encourage healthy eating and active living at school.

Promoting Safety

FCHD promoted safe sleep practices for infants and newborns and distributed **167** “crib kits” containing a cribette, fitted sheet, and sleep sack to new parents throughout the county.

Promoting Family Connection and Literacy

FCHD provided literacy packs, complete with educational materials and books to **300** families across Fairfield County in an effort to promote reading and family bonding through funding from the Fairfield County Foundation’s Terry A. McGhee and Sally J. Grimm Community Fund.

Promoting Mental Wellness

With funding from the Ohio Center for Excellence in Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion, FCHD utilized social media, direct-to-consumer outreach, and the creation of a new website to develop a multifaceted community awareness campaign dedicated to promoting positive mental health and suicide prevention.

Preventing Addiction and Dependence

FCHD continued efforts to reduce dependence on nicotine and support cessation efforts through the ODH Tobacco Prevention and Cessation grant.

FCHD trained **42** health professionals and partnered with local medical providers and ended 2022 in the top **10** for funded counties with the highest public engagement with the Ohio Tobacco QuitLine.

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- FCHD disseminated more than **15,000** free COVID-19 home test kits to Fairfield County schools, businesses, and residents in 2022.
- FCHD became a partner in the statewide literacy collaboration with Dolly Parton’s *Imagination Library*.
- To strengthen community partnerships and expand countywide efforts to promote overall health, FCHD established the Healthy Fairfield County Coalition.

Health Promotions Team:

Bobby Persinger, BPS, MHS, OCPC | Supervisor

Elizabeth Elliott, RA | Health Educator

Hannah Josefczyk, RA, CHES | Health Educator

WIC: Women, Infants, and Children

Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC | Director of WIC Services

Breastfeeding Program

FCHD provides breastfeeding education and consultation to women who are pregnant or recently gave birth. Certified Lactation Consultants, Specialists, and breastfeeding peer helpers support new moms as they embark on the journey of breastfeeding.

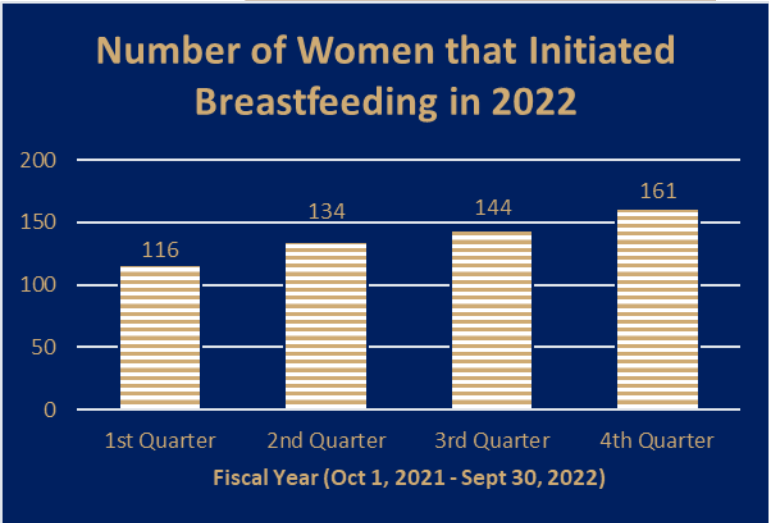
Fairfield County had a monthly average of **\$153,054.75** in authorized WIC vendor redemption.

Nutrition Program

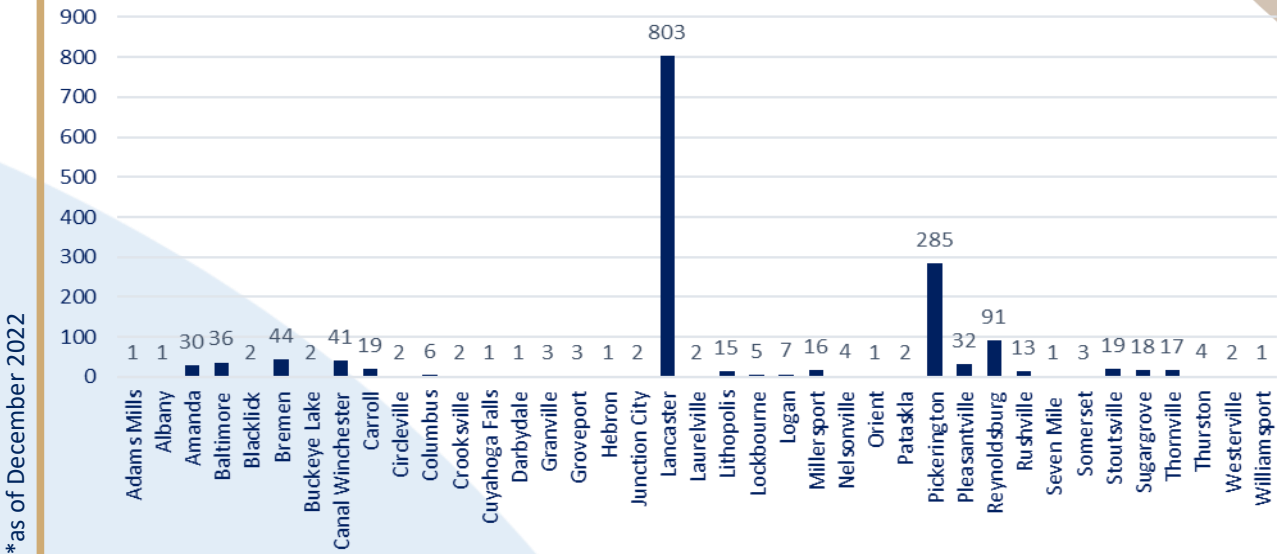
FCHD provides nutrition education and healthy foods which promote overall wellness for pregnant women, women who recently gave birth, breastfeeding mothers, infants, and children up to age five.

After enrollment, WIC clients can receive information on healthy eating, referrals to specialty health care professionals, and general parenting education at the two countywide locations in Lancaster and Pickerington.

FCHD promotes healthy eating by partnering with local Farmer’s Market vendors and offering fresh fruit and vegetable options for WIC clients.



WIC Participants Served by City



WIC Team:

Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC | Director
Jordan Miller, RD, LD | Nutrition Coordinator and Dietitian
Lucinda Robinson, CLC | WIC Nutrition Assistant

Cheryl Hopkins, RD, LD, CLS | WIC Dietitian
Kaleigh Pulsinelli, BFA | Breastfeeding Peer Helper
Denise Roudabush | WIC Nutrition Assistant



Fairfield County
**Health
Department**

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