Highlights from the past year include:

- Our WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program moved into new space at our offices at Sheridan Drive, Lancaster. WIC also saw their Farmers Market voucher program reach new heights, providing families with access to fresh, local foods.
- FCHD received a Project Dawn, Overdose Death Prevention Program, grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Our health educators provided information on overdose prevention and treatment programs and distributed over 1,500 naloxone kits to members of the public, businesses, and first responders.
- The 2023 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement plans were finalized. These documents help us identify the health challenges in our communities and prioritize strategies to address those challenges.
- FCHD hosted a scrap tire collection event in Amanda, where used tires were collected for proper disposal or recycling.
- FCHD continued our commitment to building healthy communities by expanding our Health Promotion programs that prevent disease and injury and promote healthy lifestyles.

I visited almost every township and village during 2023, and I look forward to continuing to work with local elected officials and residents across the county to support their efforts to make Fairfield County a place where residents live in healthy and safe communities and where they are empowered to make informed decisions that allow them to achieve their optimal health potential.

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner
Board of Health

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

Jamie Ehorn, BBA
Director of Administrative Services

Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC
Director of WIC

Rachel Moresea, REHS
Director of Environmental Health

Gale Neville, RN, MSN
Director of Nursing

Tina Childers

Teresa Wood, PhD, RN

Michele Morrone, PhD, REHS

Health Department Leadership

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

Rachel Moresea, REHS
Director of Environmental Health

Gale Neville, RN, MSN
Director of Nursing

Jamie Ehorn, BBA
Director of Administrative Services

Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC
Director of WIC

Baylie Blevins, BS
Director of Health Promotion
2023 Financial Report

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director of Administrative Services

2023 FUNDING SOURCES

- Grants: $1,532,910 (38%)
- Charges For Services: $565,992 (14%)
- Fees, Licenses, and Permits: $1,234,428 (30%)
- Townships and Villages: $667,621 (16%)
- State Subsidy: $82,414 (2%)
- Miscellaneous/Refunds: $10,912 (0%)

Total: $4,094,278

2023 EXPENDITURES

- Operations: $734,482 (20%)
- Personnel: $2,548,581 (70%)
- Travel and Training: $36,191 (1%)
- Other: $311,926 (9%)

Total: $3,631,179

Administrative Services Team:

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director
Kelly Brown | Account Specialist
Teresa Goddard | Clerical Specialist
Roxanne Harmon | Account Specialist
Kelly Donley | Account Specialist
Pauletta Krieger | Vital Statistics Registrar
# 2023 Vital Statistics

## Births for Fairfield County Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Births</strong></td>
<td>1740</td>
<td>1717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's age under 18</td>
<td>10 (0.6%)</td>
<td>12 (0.07%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's age 18 to 19</td>
<td>60 (3.5%)</td>
<td>52 (3.03%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Deaths of Fairfield County Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Deaths</strong></td>
<td>1692</td>
<td>1554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Accident</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Cancer</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by COVID-19</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Diabetes</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Heart Disease</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Homicide</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Stroke</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths by Suicide</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Causes</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Top Baby Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boys</strong></td>
<td>Oliver (15); Hudson (12); Owen (10); Henry (9); Theodore (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Girls</strong></td>
<td>Amelia (14); Sophia (9); Harper and Charlotte (8); Ava, Hazel and Olivia (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Health Nursing Outreach
Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) nursing staff provide a variety of educational presentations for the 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
This 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, assists with costs associated with the medical condition identified, and has access to a Public Health Nurse to assist them through the process.
FCHD assisted 280 families throughout Fairfield County with CMH services in 2023.

Help Me Grow (HMG)
In partnership with the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, FCHD conducts regular home visits to families with children birth to three-years-old who may be experiencing special health care needs. Speech, occupational, and physical therapy evaluations are conducted. Early intervention processes are used to support entry into pre-school.

Tuberculosis Unit
FCHD is the appointed TB Unit for Fairfield County. This program provides TB skin testing which screens for TB. Screenings are required for many reasons such as school programs, employment, and medications. FCHD can obtain orders for testing and make referrals to physicians for immigrants moving to Fairfield County. FCHD provides case management for people who have active TB, ensures medication compliance, monitors for side effects of medications, do investigations, and screenings of close contacts to prevent the spread of disease.

Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant
FCHD has been part of the “Get Vaccinated Ohio” grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for many years. This grant focuses on improving immunization rates in Fairfield County while removing barriers that could prevent children from getting vaccinated. FCHD administered 2,244 vaccines in 2023.

Infections Disease Investigation and Control Program
Health departments are required to monitor and investigate reportable diseases. In Ohio reportable diseases are usually reported by laboratories, physicians or their offices, hospitals, daycares, and schools, however anyone aware of a reportable disease can make a report.

The Infectious Disease Program is also responsible for COVID-19 data and surveillance. In addition, guidance to the community, long-term care facilities, schools, and daycares is provided.

STI (Formerly STD) Clinics
FCHD has partnered with Family Health Services of East Central Ohio to provide a free, walk-in STI clinic. The clinic takes place every Second and Fourth Mondays of each month at our office located at 1550 Sheridan Dr. Suite 100 Lancaster, Ohio 43130. This clinic is open to anyone in need of or wanting testing.

Child Fatality Review Board
In 2000 the Ohio General Assembly created the Child Fatality Review Board (CFR). The board is chaired by the Health Commissioner and comprised of representatives from various community agencies. The mission of the board is to reduce the incidence rate of preventable childhood deaths. The CFR Board meets to review and assess all county-wide childhood (birth - 17) deaths and create a report annually for the National Childhood Death Registry and the Ohio Department of Health.

Public Health Nursing Team:
Gale Neville, RN, MSN | Director
Kimberly Yeager, RN, BSN | Infectious Disease Coordinator
Judy Tata-Scali, RN, BSN | Maternal-Child Health Coordinator
Aerial Duchon, RN, BSN | Immunization Coordinator
EH: Environmental Health
Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director of Environmental Health

**Food Safety**
FCHD provides 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.

In 2023, a Gold Medal Food Program was started to recognize outstanding food facility operators in Fairfield County for creating and maintaining safe environments for people to eat with their friends and families.

**Rabies Control**
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**
Annually, FHCD 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. FCHD collected 1,025 mosquitoes during the 2023 season and sprayed 386 miles.

**Recreational Safety**
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**
FCHD inspects and permits for all new homes and commercial buildings, existing home additions, and existing commercial building remodels.

**Lot Splits**
The Fairfield County Health Department will perform on-site evaluations of existing deeded lots to determine whether the lot can be developed for commercial or residential use. There were 48 lot splits completed in Fairfield County in 2023.

**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.

**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 6 families with complete system replacements in 2023.

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

**Body Art Safety**
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 inspect 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.

**School-Based Program**
FCHD performs annual school facility inspections to help county school districts improve the environmental health of their buildings.
## EH: Environmental Health Inspections and Visits

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | Sheila Wolfe, REHS

Environmental Health Inspections for 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Subdivision</th>
<th>Campgrounds</th>
<th>Public Pools</th>
<th>Mobile Home Parks</th>
<th>Animal Bites</th>
<th>Food Inspections</th>
<th>Sewage Permits</th>
<th>Well Permits</th>
<th>Nuisance Complaints</th>
<th>Complaints Abated</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berne</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearcreek</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenfield</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hocking</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushcreek</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithopolis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millersport</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasantville</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushville</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoutsville</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Grove</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurston</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Rushville</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye Lake</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>240</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,347</strong></td>
<td><strong>176</strong></td>
<td><strong>209</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>2049</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Division Highlights

- FCHD disseminated more than 9,000 free COVID-19 home test kits to Fairfield County schools, businesses, and residents in 2023.
- FCHD established a workgroup to address nicotine and vaping use in youth of Fairfield County.
- To promote healthier eating habits and increase access to fresh vegetables and fruits to the community, FCHD has created a committee to start the planning for a community garden.
- FCHD is working to increase public access to naloxone by strategically placing NaloxBoxes through the County.

Cribbs for Kids

FCHD promoted safe sleep practices for infants and newborns and distributed 192 “crib kits” containing a cribette, fitted sheet, and sleep sack to parents throughout the county.

Project DAWN

The Fairfield County Health Department is part of the Project DAWN opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution network. Through this program, anyone in Fairfield County can receive a free Project DAWN Naloxone kit and training. FCHD works closely with the Fairfield County ADAMH Board and Project F.O.R.T. to distribute naloxone and training to best prepare the community. FCHD gave out a total of 1,598 Project DAWN kits and 101 of those kits were given to first responders. FCHD has provided training and naloxone to local schools, mental health and recovery centers, and private businesses throughout the county.

Promoting Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health

With funding from the Ohio Center for Excellence in Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion, FCHD partnered with county organizations including Lancaster City Parks, Fairfield County Parks, Geneva Hills, Destination Downtown Lancaster, Lithopolis Methodist Church, and Pickerington Parks to place suicide prevention messaging benches and street signs.

Healthy Eating and Active Living Program

In 2023, FCHD established the Healthy Fairfield County Coalition with a mission to ensure Fairfield County is healthy by promoting healthy eating and active living and a purpose to increase healthy eating and active living opportunities throughout the county. A result of the HEAL grant was placing healthier snacks in the vending machines and promoting drinking water first. FCHD conducted a safety walk audit in collaboration with community partners. FCHD engaged the community to determine what Healthy Eating or Active Living strategy they would like us to prioritize; they chose a community garden, which we will work on implementing in 2024. In preparation for that, we created a community engagement plan for the next grant year.
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. FCHD has begun the reaccreditation process and it will be completed in 2025.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers
The MRC is a group of non-medical and medical volunteers who assist in both emergency and regular activities. The Fairfield County MRC has 76 volunteers who spent 253 hours supporting public health efforts in 2023. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness trainings, CPR certification classes, COVID-19 kit distribution and emergency response exercises.

Quality Improvement
FCHD in consistently seeking both internal and external feedback on processes to ensure our functions are serving the public and our staff as best as possible. FCHD conducts quality improvement projects using the Lean Six Sigma process. There are 20 staff members trained in the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt and 8 staff members trained in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

FCHD staff participated in over 1,100 hours of professional development activities.

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. FCHD has begun the reaccreditation process and it will be completed in 2025.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers
The MRC is a group of non-medical and medical volunteers who assist in both emergency and regular activities. The Fairfield County MRC has 76 volunteers who spent 253 hours supporting public health efforts in 2023. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness trainings, CPR certification classes, COVID-19 kit distribution and emergency response exercises.

Quality Improvement
FCHD in consistently seeking both internal and external feedback on processes to ensure our functions are serving the public and our staff as best as possible. FCHD conducts quality improvement projects using the Lean Six Sigma process. There are 20 staff members trained in the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt and 8 staff members trained in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

FCHD staff participated in over 1,100 hours of professional development activities.

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. FCHD has begun the reaccreditation process and it will be completed in 2025.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers
The MRC is a group of non-medical and medical volunteers who assist in both emergency and regular activities. The Fairfield County MRC has 76 volunteers who spent 253 hours supporting public health efforts in 2023. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness trainings, CPR certification classes, COVID-19 kit distribution and emergency response exercises.

Quality Improvement
FCHD in consistently seeking both internal and external feedback on processes to ensure our functions are serving the public and our staff as best as possible. FCHD conducts quality improvement projects using the Lean Six Sigma process. There are 20 staff members trained in the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt and 8 staff members trained in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

FCHD staff participated in over 1,100 hours of professional development activities.

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. FCHD has begun the reaccreditation process and it will be completed in 2025.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers
The MRC is a group of non-medical and medical volunteers who assist in both emergency and regular activities. The Fairfield County MRC has 76 volunteers who spent 253 hours supporting public health efforts in 2023. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness trainings, CPR certification classes, COVID-19 kit distribution and emergency response exercises.

Quality Improvement
FCHD in consistently seeking both internal and external feedback on processes to ensure our functions are serving the public and our staff as best as possible. FCHD conducts quality improvement projects using the Lean Six Sigma process. There are 20 staff members trained in the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt and 8 staff members trained in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

FCHD staff participated in over 1,100 hours of professional development activities.
The Fairfield County Health Department investigated 973 reported disease cases in 2023, excluding COVID-19 investigations. Chlamydia remained the most frequently reported disease accounting for 47% of all cases. Gonorrhea and Hepatitis C 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.)
In 2023, there were 3,679 COVID-19 cases for Fairfield County residents. The highest months of reported COVID-19 cases were January and December of 2023, with a total of 1,217 reported positive cases. There were 23 Fairfield County resident deaths that were attributed to COVID-19. 410 COVID-19 vaccinations were administered by the FCHD Nursing Staff in 2023, including both Moderna and Pfizer. As a measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19, FCHD distributes free at-home tests to members of the public. FCHD distributed approximately 9,000 COVID-19 at-home test kits throughout 2023. These test kits are still available to be picked up at FCHD.
WIC Overview
WIC is a nutrition education program. WIC provides nutritious foods which promote good health for pregnant women, women who just had a baby, breastfeeding moms, infants, and children up to age five.

Nutrition Program
FCHD provides nutrition education and healthy foods which promote overall wellness. 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.

Fairfield County had $2,235,380.30 in WIC food benefits redeemed to support healthy families in Fairfield County in 2023.

Farmer’s Market Coupons
FCHD promotes healthy eating by partnering with local Farmer’s Market vendors and offering fresh fruit and vegetable options for WIC clients. 1,014 Farmer’s Market Coupons were issued and 592 were redeemed totaling $2,960.00.

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.

The Connection
In 2023, WIC began an education program called The Connection for in office learning, nutrition promotion through online learning, as well as sending our a Quarterly Resource Newsletter.

WIC Team:
Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC | Director
Cheryl Hopkins, RD, LD, CLS | WIC Dietitian
Jordan Miller, MS, RDN, LD, CLS | Breastfeeding Coordinator and Dietitian
Kaleigh Pulsinelli, BFA | Breastfeeding Peer Helper
Lucinda Robinson, CLC | WIC Nutrition Assistant
Denise Roudabush | WIC Nutrition Assistant
Kari Saunders, MS, RD, LD | WIC Dietitian
FCHD in the Community

FCHD conducted a walk audit of East Main Street. We reviewed the safety conditions of local sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, and more as part of our efforts to promote active transportation across Fairfield County.

The Board of Health Monthly meetings went on the road in 2023! In March the meeting was held at the Millersport Elementary School.

Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, spoke at Overdose Awareness Day in Downtown Lancaster.

Delivering a 988 bench to the Village of Pleasantville. FCHD placed 15 Suicide Prevention 988 throughout Fairfield County.
WIC nutrition coordinator, Cheryl Hopkins for being recognized as a 2023 Firefly Award recipient from our friends at FACFC.

Our all staff training day was held at the Wagnall’s library and ended with a trip to the Rock Mill Bridge.

FCHD staff participated in a United Way Day project to support the Harcum House.

The health department booth at the 2023 Fairfield County Fair.