



2025

ANNUAL

REPORT

Fairfield County Health Department



From the Commissioner:

In Fairfield County, we are fortunate to have great community partners who work collaboratively to provide services and improve the health of our residents through health care, disease and injury prevention, health promotion, and social services.

When new challenges arrive, being able to draw on those relationships that we have developed through the years allows us to maintain stability and to respond quickly to changing community health needs.

I am proud of the hardworking, professional, and caring team here at FCHD, and their impact on the communities we serve.



2025 Highlights

- Established a Community Health Worker (CHW) program, where the CHW acts as a trusted link between communities and health/social services, bridging cultural gaps, providing education, offering support, and connecting people to resources like food, pregnancy supports, WIC, Cribs for Kids, Car Seats, and healthcare providers, helping them navigate complex systems and build self-sufficiency through outreach, advocacy, and direct services like screenings and coaching.
- Completed the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA), reporting on the health status of Fairfield County residents, and identifying trends and opportunities for improvement, meeting the 3-year CHA cycle as required by Ohio law.
- Expanded WIC services in the Pickerington area by increasing clinic hours from 3 days a week to 4 days at our Tussing Road office.
- Continued to increase our community outreach efforts, providing health education and information at public events, health fairs, and schools.
- Successfully navigated an uncertain federal grant funding environment in 2025, securing grant funds from other sources, which allowed us to retain all of our staff, and avoid layoffs.

In 2026 we look forward to:

- Working with our community partners to draft the 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan, utilizing the findings of the 2025 Community Health Assessment to set priorities and develop an action plan for health improvement efforts over the next 3 years.
- Conducting a Strategic Plan update to develop a clear vision and mission to guide the Fairfield County Health Department over the next 3 years.

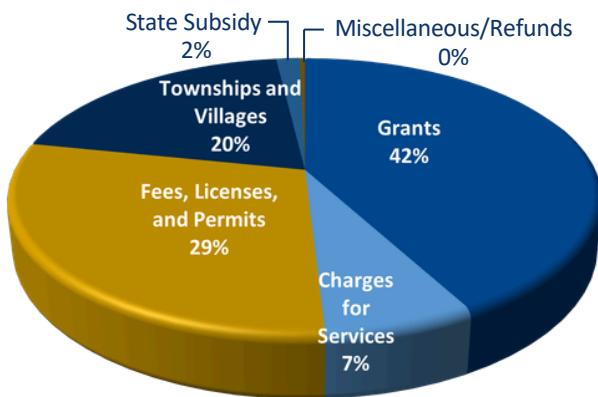
Yours in Health,
Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner

A handwritten signature of Joe Ebel in black ink.

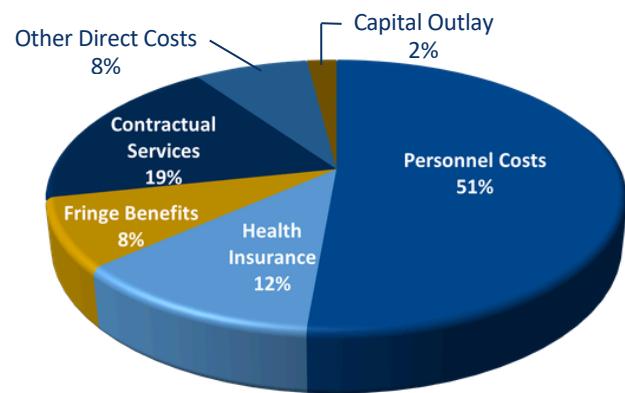
2025 Financial Report

Jamie Ehorn, BS | Director of Administrative Services

Funding Sources	
Grants	\$2,063,760
Charges For Services	\$343,601
Fees, Licenses, and Permits	\$1,428,613
Townships and Villages	\$974,314
State Subsidy	\$77,030
Miscellaneous/Refunds	\$16,064
Total	\$4,903,382



Expenditures	
Personnel Costs	\$2,173,504
Health Insurance	\$510,074
Fringe Benefits	\$348,131
Contractual Services	\$791,014
Other Direct Costs	\$324,614
Capital Outlay	\$83,877
Total	\$4,231,214



Vital Statistics

	2024	2025
Births	1,662	1,713
Deaths	1,599	1,530

2025 Top Baby Names	
Boys	Liam, Noah, Asher, Everett, William, Carter, Bennett, Levi, Luke, Mason
Girls	Evelyn, Vivian, Amelia, Harper, Lainey, Lily, Scarlett, Sophia

	2024	2025
Deaths by Cancer	320	317
Deaths by Heart Disease	316	303
Deaths by Stroke	103	102
Deaths by Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	109	94
Deaths by Accidents	107	92
Deaths by Diabetes	47	55
Deaths by Alzheimers	47	46
Deaths by High Blood Pressure and Kidney Disease	17	32
Deaths by Influenza and Pneumonia	18	29
Death by Parkinson's Disease	30	28

Note: Data pulled on 2/11/26. 2024 and 2025 mortality data are preliminary and subject to change as records are finalized.

Environmental Health Programs

FCHD operates 13 environmental health programs. In addition to the programs included in this report, FCHD operates the rabies control program, recreational safety, household and small flow sewage treatment systems and private water systems. To learn more about FCHD Environmental programs, visit: fairfieldhealth.org

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. **97 MS4 Inspections** were completed in 2025.

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. in 2025, FCHD helped **7 families** with complete system replacements.

Food Safety

In 2025, we initiated a new system on our website where anyone can submit a Food Safety and Illness Report. In 2025, we received a total of **211 complaints**. Our food safety team conducted additional inspections of these facilities as a result of these complaints.

Below is a summary of all inspections that our food safety team conducted in 2025.



2025 Food Inspections	
Total Number of Inspections	1,219
Total Number of Violations	2,218
Total Unique Code Sections Cited	174
Total Number of Standard Inspections Without Violations	425
Total Number of Standard Inspections	1,005
Percent of Inspections without Violations	42%

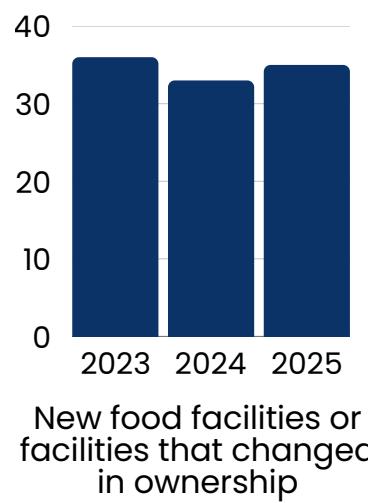
Tire Collection

Properly recycling tires is important to keep pollution out of our waterways, among other things. This year, FCHD participated in another tire collection event in Thurston during their Community Cleanup Day. As a result of the event, **688 tires** were collected, recycled, and kept out of the landfill or waterways at a discounted rate for residents.

Mosquito Control

Mosquitos are considered vectors for many diseases, including West Nile Virus. FCHD offers low-cost spraying as part of an integrated pest management approach to reduce mosquitos in Fairfield County.

FCHD started spraying at the end of May and sprayed a total of **417 miles** this season. FCHD also set 123 mosquito traps and submitted 3,770 mosquitos to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for testing.



EH: Environmental Health

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | Sheila Wolfe, REHS

Environmental Health Inspections for 2025

Political Subdivision	Camp grounds	Public Pools	Mobile Home Parks	Animal Bites	Sewage Permits	Well Permits	Lot Splits/Lot Inspections	Nuisance Complaints	Complaints Abated	Total
Amanda	0	0	0	11	7	12	2	0	0	32
Berne	3	10	5	7	13	12	8	10	6	74
Bloom	1	8	0	10	37	25	8	2	1	92
Clearcreek	0	0	2	4	12	13	6	2	2	41
Greenfield	0	6	1	9	7	13	3	2	2	43
Hocking	0	2	0	6	12	16	3	3	3	45
Liberty	4	2	0	2	26	39	6	1	1	81
Madison	0	0	0	0	11	8	7	2	1	29
Pleasant	0	4	0	4	26	21	9	1	0	65
Richland	0	0	0	3	7	4	2	2	2	20
Rushcreek	0	0	0	12	24	23	7	0	0	66
Violet	0	6	0	31	8	17	1	0	2	65
Walnut	3	0	1	11	6	38	12	0	0	71
Lancaster	1	38	2	90	0	1	1	1	1	135
Pickerington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amanda	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	7
Bremen	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
Carroll	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lithopolis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millersport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasantville	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	9
Rushville	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Stoutsville	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	7
Sugar Grove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thornville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Rushville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckeye Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Did not Report (bite report)	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Totals	12	86	12	225	196	242	75	31	23	900

PHN: Public Health Nursing

Gale Neville, MSN, RN | Director of Nursing

CMH: Complex Medical Help

This program 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 **237 families** throughout Fairfield County with CMH services in 2025.

Immunization Program

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 **1,487** vaccines in 2025 and hosted **37** off-site clinics.

Newborn Home Visiting (NBHV)

In 2025, FCHD completed **17** newborn home visit appointments and distributed over **315 items** to families with newborns. These items include diapers, swaddles, laundry detergent, diaper bags, safety items, and more.

Community Health Worker (CHW)

Since February 27, FCHD has received **194 referrals** and completed **299 appointments**. We successfully assisted **76 families** by connecting them with **195** social and medical services throughout the county. In recognition of this work, FCHD was named **Care Coordination Agency of the Month** by Health Impact Ohio in April and later awarded the **2025 Excellence in Rural Population Care Coordination Award** by Health Impact Ohio in December.

Help Me Grow (HMG) Early Intervention

In partnership with the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, FCHD conducts regular assessments of 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 preschool. FCHD saw **58 cases** in 2025.

Epidemiology and Communicable Disease Control

Baylie Blevins, MPH | Director of Health Promotion & Planning

In 2025, the Fairfield County Health Department conducted **2,345** communicable disease investigations, representing a decrease from **3,491** investigations in 2024, largely due to changes in COVID-19 reporting requirements effective October 1, 2025.

Excluding COVID-19, the most frequently investigated diseases were Chlamydia, influenza-associated hospitalizations, Lyme Disease, Gonorrhea, and Pertussis. Chlamydia was the most commonly reported condition, accounting for approximately **16%** of all investigations. Influenza-associated hospitalizations increased substantially compared to the previous year, likely reflecting a late 2024 respiratory season, while Lyme Disease increases were consistent with statewide trends associated with prolonged warm weather.

Top 5 Diseases in Fairfield County, 2025 (preliminary)

2025 Top 5 Diseases	2025 Case Count	2024 Case Count
Chlamydia	383	413
Influenza-associated hospitalizations	275	103
Lyme Disease	115	79
Gonorrhea	90	102
Pertussis	59	38

The data presented in this report was pulled from the Ohio Disease Reporting System on 01/28/2026 and reflects all reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases for 2025. Data is subject to change as new and/or updated information is received.

WIC: Women, Infants, and Children

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

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.

The Fairfield County WIC Program delivered a strong performance throughout 2025 by exceeding its assigned monthly caseload ceiling of 1,536 per month. Participation was **22,487** for the year. The program operated with a 2025 grant funding award in the amount of **\$520,162**.

The program expanded WIC service availability, enhanced communication systems, and maintained full compliance during its State Management Evaluation held on April 1, 2025. Participation in the 2025 Farmers Market Nutrition Program showed strong engagement, particularly at the Pickerington WIC Clinic, outreach efforts, including holiday events, and further strengthened participant relationships.

In summary, 2025 reflects a year of growth, operational improvements, and continued commitment to serving families in Fairfield County.



Month	Participation
January	1,846
February	1,823
March	1,836
April	1,890
May	1,921
June	1,926
July	1,903
August	1,914
September	1,982
October	1,826
November	1,825
December	1,795



Community Engagement

The Lancaster WIC office hosted Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, offering families an opportunity for holiday photos.

Farmer's Market Coupons

The WIC staff distributed **60** WIC Farmers' Market coupons this summer. **29** coupons were redeemed, totaling **\$145.00**.

New in 2025

Operation achievements in 2025 included increasing Pickerington WIC Clinic service days to **4** days per week (Tue.- Fri.) and improving client access by implementing a new phone system option to allow participants to select the Fairfield County WIC site they need.



Health Promotion & Planning

Baylie Blevins, MPH | Director of Health Promotion & Planning

Passport to Parks in Fairfield County

In partnership with Lancaster Parks & Recreation and Fairfield County Parks District, FCHD launched the Passport to Parks in Fairfield County in 2025, where individuals can receive a prize for completing activities in the passport.



Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap

FCHD was selected for the Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Roadmap Strategist cohort of 2026. The HBI Roadmap is a process and vision focused on implementing public health strategies to promote brain health in accordance with the framework goals of Healthy People 2030. Alongside this goal, the Roadmap seeks to address the intricacies of dementia and its effects on patients and their caregivers.



Older Adult Falls Prevention

Two classes were held in 2025 to help address the risk of falling and lack of knowledge surrounding risk factors among older adults in Fairfield County. These initiatives focus on reducing fear of falling in older adults through behavior change. A Stepping On class was held at the Olivedale Senior Center with **21 participants**, and A Matter of Balance class was held at the Pickfair Square Retirement Community with **13 participants**.



Safe Communities Program

The Safe Communities program, in collaboration with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the National Highway Safety Administration, participated in **13** traffic safety campaigns in 2025. FCHD also facilitated **4** Safe Communities Coalition meetings and **4** Fatal Crash Data Review meetings to promote safety in Fairfield County. Fatal crashes are continuing to decrease in Ohio, with a total of **3** fatal crashes in 2025. We received additional from State Farm in 2025 to promote safe driving among teenagers in Fairfield County.



Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation

During 2025, a media campaign that encouraged residents to call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line reached over **51,000** people, and a youth vaping prevention media campaign reached over **110,000** youth. FCHD recruited youth to conduct **54** tobacco retailer compliance checks to ensure compliance of the Tobacco 21 law. **75** adults enrolled in the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line. During event outreach efforts, FCHD reached approximately **570** youth and **164** adults.

Integrated Harm Reduction

In 2025, FCHD received the Integrated Harm Reduction grant from ODH to further expand harm reduction efforts. FCHD gave out a total of **1,801** Project DAWN Narcan kits, with **162** of those kits given to first responders. In 2025, FCHD started a naloxone leave-behind program with the Lancaster Fire Department and hope to expand to other departments in 2026.

In partnership with the Fairfield County ADAMH Board, FCHD placed **3** harm reduction cabinets to increase accessibility to free harm reduction supplies in the county. Two of these are located in Pickerington and one in Lancaster.

Safe Kids

In 2025, FCHD distributed over **100** free bike helmets to youth in our communities, along with bike safety materials. We also distributed **257** household safety items for Safe Kids Month in May, which included fire extinguishers, medication lock boxes, furniture anchors, stove knob covers, and carbon monoxide detectors.



Put a Lid on It

FCHD received the Put a Lid on It Grant again in 2025, with which over **50** free bike helmets were provided to youth and adults in Fairfield County to promote awareness of bike safety.



Crib for Kids

FCHD continued to promote safe sleep practices for infants and newborns in 2025. **149** "crib kits" containing a cribette, fitted sheet, and sleep sack were distributed to families in the county. We encourage families to remember the ABCs of safe sleep: Alone, Back and Crib.



Health Promotion & Planning

Baylie Blevins, MPH | Director of Health Promotion & Planning

Child and Family Injury Prevention

In 2025, FCHD received a grant from the Fairfield County Foundation to provide household safety items to families in Fairfield County. In 2025, we distributed **473 safety items** to **68 households**. We plan to continue to support the public through these efforts in 2026.

Car Seat Safety

A total of **185 car seats** were distributed in 2025; **71** through our newborn home visiting program, **70** through Ohio Buckles Buckeyes and **44** through a South Central Power grant program.



FCHD also hosted its first car seat check event in 2025! Trained CPSTs checked **7** car seats for proper installation, distributed **3** car seats, and helped **6 families** at the event. **86%** of participants were misusing their car seat in some way prior to the event (6/7 seats). In 2025, our techs completed **15** car seat checks.

Healthy Eating and Active Living

In 2025, FCHD and partners conducted walk audits of routes that individuals take to get to everyday destinations. Through these audits and feedback, the crosswalks that children take near Mt. Pleasant Elementary School were found to be a barrier. In an effort to make it safer, we completed a demonstration project to extend curbs and shorten the crosswalks on Broad Street. Because of positive feedback, we presented the project and its results to the City of Lancaster to propose they make it permanent.

CIAG Drowning Prevention

In partnership with the Family YMCA of Lancaster and Fairfield County, FCHD provided free swim lessons and education on safe swimming to **201 children & 194 adults**.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

FCHD is responsible for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Cities Readiness Initiative programs. This enables staff to engage community partners in response to public health emergencies to maintain business continuity, manage mass care events, and facilitate responses to pandemics and other events that could affect the general public. In 2025, **30** emergency preparedness activities were conducted.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers

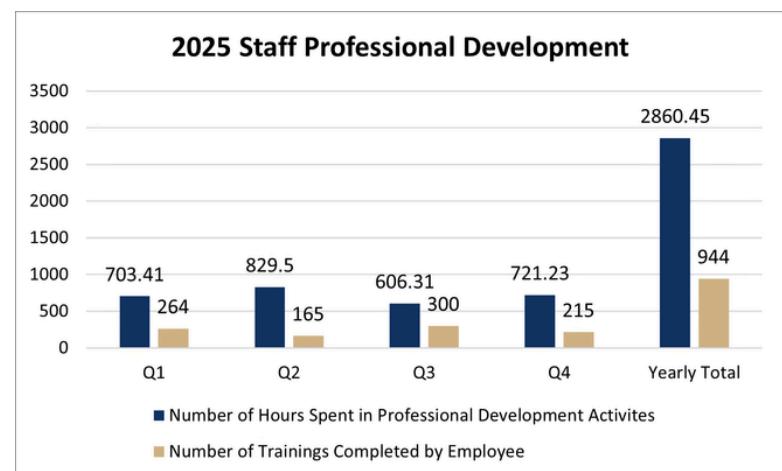
The MRC is a group of non-medical and medical volunteers who assist in both emergency and regular activities. The Fairfield County MRC has 90 volunteers who spent **221** hours supporting public health efforts in 2025. This equals **\$4,938.96** in economic value. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness exercises, community events to distribute emergency resources, CPR certification classes, and supported the mobile CPR trailer to teach life-saving skills to the community.



Quality Improvement and Public Health Accreditation

FCHD continues to focus on quality improvement by using feedback from staff, partners, and the community to strengthen public health services. This work is supported by ongoing staff training and skill development. In 2025, FCHD staff completed over **2,800** hours of professional development activities.

During the year, FCHD completed a Community Health Assessment and began the Community Health Improvement Plan process to guide future public health priorities in Fairfield County. See the next page for a summary of our findings. The department is also currently undergoing public health reaccreditation, building on previous accreditation efforts.



2026 Community Health Assessment

Overview

The Fairfield County Community Health Assessment (CHA) identifies trends, health needs, and areas where Fairfield County needs to prioritize for funding and program development over the next 3 years.

Top 10 Community Conditions As Identified by Community Members

1 Housing and Homelessness

2 Access to Healthcare

e.g., doctors, specialists, health insurance coverage, etc.

3 Substance Misuse

4 Income/Poverty and Unemployment

5 Food Insecurity

e.g., not being able to access and/or afford healthy food.

6 Adverse Childhood Experiences

e.g., childhood abuse, mental health, trauma, etc..

7 Nutrition and Physical Health/Exercise

Includes overweight and obesity.

8 Crime and Violence

9 Transportation

e.g., public transit, cars, walkability, etc.

10 Education

e.g., early childhood education, post-secondary, etc.

Key Findings



11% of Fairfield County Residents experience severe housing problems.

Defined as having at least one of the following issues: overcrowding, high housing costs, or having inadequate kitchen or plumbing facilities.

Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of Fairfield County Residents did *not* have a routine checkup in the prior year.



39% of Fairfield County residents are obese.

This ranks slightly higher than the state average of 38%.

27% of respondents say that recreational spaces are lacking, in addition to 28% of Fairfield County adults being sedentary, compared to the 24% Ohio average.



9% of Fairfield County households, 29% of single moms with children, and 39% of senior households receive food stamps.

Substance Access in Fairfield County Youth

22%

of Fairfield County 12th graders have frequently used alcohol in the past month

75%

of Fairfield County 12th graders rated their ease of access to alcohol.

15.0

Years old is the **average of first use of alcohol** for 12th graders in Fairfield County.

View the full report by scanning the QR code:



FCHD in the Community



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

Do you like seeing what we're doing in the community? Stay up to date year-round by following us on social media!



[facebook.com/FDHealth](https://www.facebook.com/FDHealth)



[facebook.com/FairfieldCountySC](https://www.facebook.com/FairfieldCountySC)



[@fairfield_health](https://www.instagram.com/@fairfield_health)



[@Fairfieldco1550](https://www.x.com/@Fairfieldco1550)



[@fairfieldhealth](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fairfield-health)



[fairfieldhealth.org](https://www.fairfieldhealth.org)

Use the QR code to sign up for our emails to be the first to see things like announcements & quarterly newsletters.

