



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Fairfield County Health Department



From the Commissioner:



The mission of the Fairfield County Health Department is to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent disease, and protect the environment to ensure all residents have access to the information, opportunities, and resources, that enable them to achieve their fullest health potential. Our Public Health Nursing, Health Promotion and Planning, Environmental Health, WIC, and Administrative staff all strive to be Continuously Improving, Honest and Ethical, Responsive, Collaborative, and Respectful, as we work to improve the health of our community.

2024 Highlights

- Launched a Newborn Home Visiting Nurse program to provide education, referrals, and health assessments for new moms and their babies.
- Helped seniors with the repair or replacement of failing sewage systems, thanks to a \$70,000 Ohio Healthy Aging grant awarded by the County Commissioners.
- Took over as the lead agency for the Fairfield County Safe Communities traffic safety program.
- Supported a scrap tire drop-off event in Thurston, where 1,921 tires were collected for disposal and recycling.
- Continued to increase our community outreach efforts, providing health education and information at public events, health fairs, and schools.
- We also received a grant this year to provide fall prevention equipment, like grab rails, in collaboration with Violet Township Fire Department to help prevent household injuries for vulnerable residents in their community.
- Our Healthy Eating and Active Living program facilitated the installation of a new community garden at the Lancaster Camp Ground.

In 2025 we look forward to:

- The addition of a Community Health Worker to our team to help residents find resources to improve their health and wellbeing, finding medical homes, accessing mental health services, getting pregnancy support, and making referrals to social service providers.
- Conducting the 2025 Community Health Assessment to identify the health status and needs of our residents.
- Launching new Environmental Health and Vital Statistics (Birth and Death) software platforms to improve customer service.

Yours in Health,

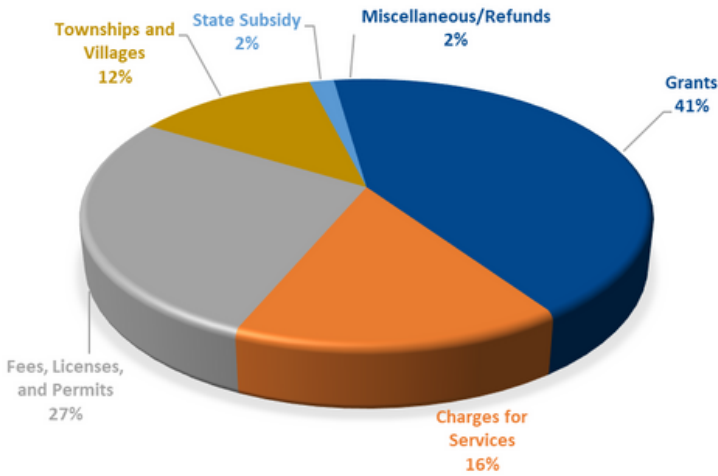
Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Ebel".

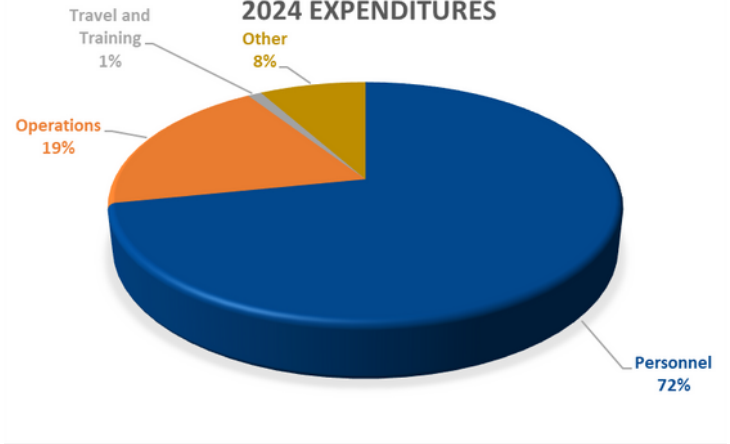
2024 Financial Report

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director of Administrative Services

2024 FUNDING SOURCES



2024 EXPENDITURES



Funding Sources	2024
Grants	\$1,892,770
Charges For Services	\$739,272
Fees, Licenses, and Permits	1,279,963
Townships and Villages	\$578,550
State Subsidy	\$78,112
Miscellaneous/Refunds	\$103,893
Total	\$4,672,560

Administrative Services Team:

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

Expenditures	2024
Personnel	\$2,715,769
Operations	\$721,452
Travel and Training	\$39,612
Other	\$306,151
Total	\$3,782,984

Vital Statistics Report

Pauletta Krieger | Vital Statistics Registrar

Births for Fairfield County Residents	2023	2024
Total Births	1718	1662
Mother's age under 18	12	12
Mother's age 18 to 19	52	39

Deaths of Fairfield County Residents	2023	2024
Total Deaths	1692	1554
Deaths by Accident	113	115
Deaths by Alzheimer's Disease	60	48
Deaths by Cancer	327	319
Deaths by Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	104	72
Deaths by COVID-19	115	23
Deaths by Diabetes	51	51
Deaths by Heart Disease	297	304
Deaths by Homicide	5	2
Deaths by Stroke	75	83
Deaths by Suicide	22	27
All Other Causes	450	510

Top Baby Names	2024
Boys	Oliver (15); Hudson (12); Owen (10); Henry (9); Theodore (8)
Girls	Amelia (14); Sophia (9); Harper and Charlotte (8); Ava, Hazel & Olivia (7)

PHN: Public Health Nursing

Gale Neville | Director of Nursing

CMH: Complex Medical Help

Previously known as Children with Medical Handicaps, 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 **275** families throughout Fairfield County with CMH services in 2024.

Help Me Grow (HMG) Early Intervention

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.

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 **1,910** vaccines in 2024.

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

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.

Newborn Home Visiting Program

FCHD has a Newborn Home Visiting program to provide new parents with extra support after a baby is born. This program allows a public health nurse to provide education to the caregiver on how to take care of themselves and the baby. FCHD has received **49** referrals and completed **38** visits for new moms in Fairfield County. The program was done in partnership with the Fairfield County Foundation, the United Way of Fairfield County, and the ADAMH Board.

Public Health Nursing Team:

Gale Neville, RN, MSN | Director
Shannon Mentzer, RN | NBHV Nurse

Crystal Warner, LPN | Immunization Coordinator
Judy Tata-Scali, RN, BSN | Maternal-Child Health Coordinator

Epidemiology and Communicable Disease Control

Mackenzie Kaminski, BS | Epidemiologist Madeline Cook, BS | Communicable Disease Specialist

In 2024, the Fairfield County Health Department conducted **3,493** communicable disease investigations, marking a decrease from **4,798** total disease cases in 2023. This year's most reported diseases were COVID-19, Chlamydia, Influenza-associated hospitalizations, Gonorrhea, and Lyme Disease, with COVID-19 alone accounting for a significant portion of cases (**69%**). Influenza-associated hospitalizations saw a sharp increase from **19** cases in 2023 to **103** cases in 2024, highlighting a more severe flu season. Meanwhile, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Lyme Disease experienced slight declines compared to the previous year.



2024 Communicable Disease Report		
2024 Top 5 Diseases	2023 Case Count	2024 Case Count
COVID-19	3,704	2,429
Chlamydia	460	414
Influenza-associated hospitalizations	19	103
Gonorrhea	117	102
Lyme Disease	87	79

The data presented in this report was pulled from the Ohio Disease Reporting System on 02/21/2025 and reflects all reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases for 2024. Data is subject to change as new and/or updated information is received.

Health Promotion & Planning

Baylie Blevins, BS | Director of Health Promotion & Planning

Community Education and Outreach

To continue to promote health, wellness, and safety, FCHD collaborated with multiple county organizations including, but not limited to, Lancaster City Schools, Lancaster Campgrounds, Meals on Wheels, Destination Downtown Lancaster, ADAMH, Project F.O.R.T., Canal Winchester Chamber, and Pickerington Farmers Market. FCHD participated in **65** community-based health events in 2024.

Healthy Eating and Active Living

In 2024, FCHD established a new community garden! With the help of over **20 partners** around the county, we now have 7 garden beds, a compost bin, shed, and fence. 6 of the 7 beds are available for community members to rent for the season and grow their own produce. FCHD partnered with WIC to use the seventh bed for educational purposes.

AARP Community Challenge

FCHD received the 2024 AARP Community Challenge microgrant to conduct a bike audit in Fairfield County. FCHD audited the portion of the Lancaster Bike Path around Forest Rose School, Lancaster High School, and Lanreco Park to assess its safety. The results were shared in a meeting with the City of Lancaster, where possible improvements were discussed.

CIAG Drowning Prevention

FCHD is excited to start a new drowning prevention program as a part of the Child Injury Action Group in partnership with the Fairfield County YMCA! More information to come.

Cribs for Kids

FCHD continued to promote safe sleep practices for infants and newborns in 2024. **157** "crib kits" containing a cribette, fitted sheet, and sleep sack were distributed to parents throughout the county.

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 2024. FCHD also facilitated **4** Safe Communities Coalition meetings and **4** Fatal Crash Data Review meetings to promote safety in Fairfield County.

Safe Kids

In 2024, FCHD took over the Safe Kids of Fairfield County Coalition. This Coalition allows us to provide vital resources to promote safety and educational information to families in Fairfield County. Through this program we were able to distribute over **250** free bike helmets to youth in our communities, along with bike safety materials. We have also begun to distribute free smoke detectors to educate the community on fire safety.

Project DAWN

In 2024, FCHD provided **6** free trainings to schools, mental health and recovery centers, and private businesses. FCHD implemented a free mail order for Narcan. FCHD gave out a total of **2,347** Project DAWN Narcan kits and **159** of those kits were given to first responders. In partnership with the Fairfield County ADAMH Board and Project F.O.R.T., we have been able to place **80+** naloxboxes. To view a map of their locations and learn more about Project DAWN, please reference the Project DAWN tab on the FCHD website.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation

During 2024, a media campaign that encouraged residents to call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line reached over **37,000** people, and a youth prevention media campaign reached over **24,000** youth. FCHD recruited youth to conduct **54** tobacco retailer store audits to collect data on how tobacco products are marketed and promoted. **70** adults called the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line, and **2** youth called MyLifeMyQuit. FCHD reached approximately **800** youth and **300** adults in outreach efforts.

Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB)

FCHD received this grant in the month of October of 2024. The purpose is to increase the availability of child safety seats for families who could not otherwise afford them and to increase correct installation and proper use of child safety seats. **30** convertible car seats, and **3** boosters were disseminated and installed properly for Fairfield County residents. **8** car seat checks were conducted, 3 out of 8 of them were installed correctly upon arrival.

Division Highlights

- FCHD disseminated more than **3,000** free COVID-19 home test kits to Fairfield County schools, businesses, and residents in 2024.
- New to FCHD this year, CIAG Drowning Prevention, Ohio Buckles Buckeyes, AARP, and Put A Lid on It.
- FCHD hosted or co-hosted the following events: Fall Health Fest, Drive Thru Resource Fair, BBL's Kids' Bike Safety Rodeo, Mental Health Matters Event, and Overdose Awareness Day.

Health Promotion & Planning Team:

Baylie Blevins, BS | Director
Riley Ernst, MPH | Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Megan Baker, BS, OCPSA | Health Educator
Bethany Carson, MS, CHES, OCPSA | Health Educator
Hannah Josefczyk, BS, CHES, OCPSA | Health Educator
Kipchoge VanHoose Jr., MPH | Health Educator
Mackenzie Kaminski, BS | Epidemiologist

Health Promotion & Planning

Baylie Blevins, BS | Director of Health Promotion & Planning

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 **87** volunteers who spent **371** hours supporting public health efforts in 2024. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness exercises, community events to distribute emergency resources, CPR certification classes, and supported the mobile CPR trailer to teach live saving skills to the community. The Fairfield County MRC sponsored **59** community member's CPR certifications in 2024.

Quality Improvement and Public Health Accreditation

FCHD is consistently seeking both internal and external feedback on processes to ensure our functions are serving the public and our staff as best as possible. 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 **2,600** hours of professional development activities. FCHD will be conducting our Community Health Assessment and completing our Public Health Accreditation Board reaccreditation process in 2025. Being accredited under these standards helps us provide high quality care to our community.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

FCHD is responsible for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Cities Readiness Initiative programs. This allows staff to engage 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. There were **21** emergency preparedness activities conducted in 2024.

Put a Lid On It

FCHD received the Put a Lid On It Grant to provide **72** free bike helmets to youth and adults in Fairfield County to promote awareness of bike safety.



EH: Environmental Health

Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director of Environmental Health

Gold Medal Food Program

FCHD's Gold Medal Food Program recognizes outstanding food facility operators in Fairfield County for creating and maintaining safe environments for people to eat with their friends & families. In 2024, **139** gold medals were given out.



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. **142** MS4 Inspections were completed in 2024

Plumbing Permits Approved	332
Lot Splits/Inspections	52
New Body Art Facilities Licensed	5
School Inspections Completed:	93
Miles sprayed for mosquitos	312

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.

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 2024, FCHD helped **12** families with complete system replacements--that's twice as many as last year.

Environmental Health Team:

Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director
Jennifer Valentine, REHS | EHS Supervisor
Shelia Wolfe, REHS | EHS Supervisor
Breanna Boudinot | Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Claire Donley | Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Nick McConaughy | Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Kelsey Nein | Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Dennis Oliver | Plumbing Inspector
McCray Wooten | Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Cindy Sharpe | Clerical Specialist
Marissa Daugherty | Clerical Specialist

EH: Environmental Health

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | Sheila Wolfe, REHS

Environmental Health Inspections for 2024

	Political Subdivision	Camp grounds	Public Pools	Mobile Home Parks	Animal Bites	Food Inspections	Sewage Permits	Well Permits	Lot Splits/Lot Inspections	Nuisance Complaints	Complaints Abated	Total
Townships	Amanda	0	0	0	10	6	18	18	4	0	0	52
	Berne	3	5	5	5	26	6	5	5	10	4	72
	Bloom	1	4	0	19	6	34	35	2	2	2	98
	Clearcreek	0	0	2	7	6	19	13	7	1	1	54
	Greenfield	0	3	1	9	38	18	21	2	1	1	88
	Hocking	0	1	0	5	13	7	6	1	1	0	31
	Liberty	2	1	0	9	11	16	20	6	1	1	61
	Madison	0	0	0	4	2	8	8	3	0	0	23
	Pleasant	0	2	0	8	17	21	23	6	1	1	78
	Richland	0	0	0	4	4	5	6	2	2	1	23
	Rushcreek	0	0	0	4	7	16	14	4	0	0	44
	Violet	0	3	0	29	69	7	10	5	3	3	120
	Walnut	1	0	2	9	4	7	44	5	3	2	77
	Lancaster	1	18	2	73	697	1	1	0	1	1	783
	Pickerington	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	27
Villages	Amanda	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	31
	Baltimore	0	1	0	3	69	0	0	0	1	1	72
	Bremen	0	2	0	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	22
	Carroll	0	0	0	2	31	0	0	0	1	1	33
	Lithopolis	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	19
	Millersport	0	0	0	2	58	0	0	0	0	0	58
	Pleasantville	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	1	1	12
	Rushville	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	2	2	10
	Stoutsville	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	1	1	10
	Sugar Grove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	Thornville	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
	West Rushville	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Buckeye Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Did not Report	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Totals	8	42	13	237	1,203	183	224	52	33	24	1,922	

Environmental Health Programs

FCHD operates 13 environmental health programs. In addition to the reports above, 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

WIC: Women, Infants, and Children

Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC | 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.

Nutrition Program

FCHD's WIC Program 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.

Mental Health Services

In 2024, Cassidy Zaker from Mental Health America of Ohio visited every 3rd Monday of the month. She provided services to those who need assistance in navigating mental health services or substance abuse/addiction services.

Celebrating 50 Years

On March 21, 2024, we celebrated WIC's 50th anniversary, along with National Nutrition month. We had several fun activities, including a food demonstration and a visit from the Easter Bunny. We showed participants how to use a star cookie cutter to make a star cheese sandwich. Every child who participated could sample the cheese sandwich cut out. In addition, the Easter Bunny visited the WIC waiting room area where parents could take a picture of their child with the Easter Bunny.



Hands-On Education

In the summer, WIC partnered with AHA to provide nutrition education on growing vegetables and WIC food issuance. A WIC dietitian taught children how to grow and harvest their own vegetables. Afterwards, each child got to take home their own vegetables!



Farmer's Market Coupons

The WIC staff distributed **450** WIC Farmers' Market coupons this summer at the Lancaster Farmers' Market. **328** coupons (72.89%) were redeemed, totaling **\$1,640.00**.

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
Paula Grunkemeyer | WIC Dietetic Technician
Paige Betsill | WIC Dietetic Technician

