

Ashland County Health Department

Annual Report 2021



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY
COMMUNITY!**

Message from the Health Commissioner

Since taking on the role of Health Commissioner in June of this year, I have learned a great deal about the work of public health. There are so many joys in being able to help others try to live their best lives but that doesn't come without some challenges. COVID-19 brought a lot of stress and strain to our lives in the last two plus years and we can only hope we will be out of this pandemic soon. That means we can begin planning now for recovery mode. What does that mean? We learned that we are resilient people, but we also know that we have endured a lot as a community. We are grieving. Everyone knows someone that was impacted by the suffering and death caused by this terrible disease. We know that students have lost time in the classroom or with their after-school activities and those experiences are hard to replace. Some lost their jobs or were not able to support the things they are passionate about. As a community, we are grieving.

Grief is a normal part of life but that doesn't make it any easier to deal with. As we begin recovery mode you may be seeing some educational sessions on dealing with COVID grief. We may be hosting some events to discuss what happened during the pandemic to help us move forward. We will re-engage in events and activities that ACHD has put on hold as we dealt with COVID. We hope to bring back our family fun day; health fairs; and educational programs that focus on our collective health.

During this time, we also will be working on our new Community Health Assessment with University Hospitals and from that, we will produce our new Community Health Improvement Plan. We will be reaching out to members of the community for input on our plans and to discuss how COVID has affected your overall health.

On March 2, 2022 all of the documentation for our accreditation was submitted, and we eagerly await the next steps. We hope to receive our accreditation by our fiscal year-end 2022. Our staff has been amazing in helping in so many ways and accomplishing this during a pandemic! For more on accreditation, see the last page of this report.

Finally, we want to hear from you. If you go to our website: www.ashlandhealth.com, you will find our Customer Satisfaction Survey. We would love for you to take a moment and fill that out so we can improve on our services to the community.

Thank you all for your support and kind words during this last year. We know it was difficult on everyone. Today, we begin a new adventure to a stronger and healthier community.



2021 BOARD OF HEALTH AND LEADERSHIP STAFF OF ASHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Board Members:

President: Ron Puglisi
President Pro Tempore: Dr. Becky Cawrse
Mr. Carl Richert
Ms. Krystal Reynolds
Medical Director: Dr. David Tomchak, MD

Leadership Team:

Health Commissioner:
Vickie Taylor, BS, MA

Environmental Health Director:
Pat Donaldson, BS, RS

Director of Nursing:
Chris Bivens, RN, BSN

Business Manager:
Jenny Helbert

Vital Statistics Registrar
Lauren Jeffery

PHEP Coordinator
Laura Cerrito

Epidemiologist
Jill Hartson

District Advisory Council

2021 Officers:

Chairperson: Robert Vinsak, Hayesville
Secretary: Heather Mullinnex, Perrysville

Together we can make a healthier Ashland County

The Ashland County Health Department is mandated by Ohio Law to provide certain services to our community. These activities include preventing the potential for rabies by investigating mammal bite cases, limiting the transmission of communicable diseases through investigation and the treatment of individuals, providing vaccines for under-served or under-insured children, reducing smoking in our county, and offering health education and promotions.

Although Ohio law mandates the health department services; the state does not provide all the necessary funding. Funding comes from two major streams, your tax support from the levy millage, and from grant funding. ACHD applies for as many grants as we feel we are able to manage, and we have been successful in getting some awards. Many times, the awarded grants are for specific programs rather than for general operations of the health department. All we can say to you is THANK YOU for your support! Having a healthier Ashland County takes the commitment of us all!

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COVID in 2021 Epidemiology Report

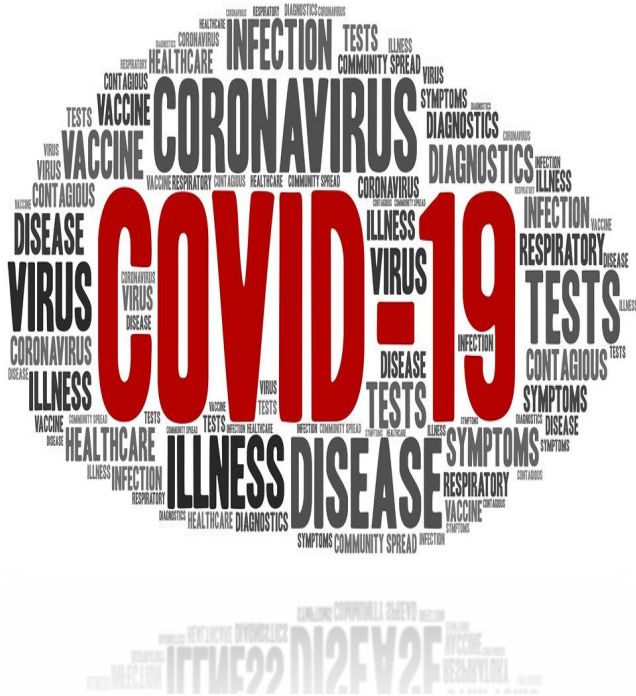
We saw great strides in the fight against the pandemic in 2021, most notably the widespread availability of COVID vaccines and monoclonal antibody treatments. Limited testing capabilities, which plagued the response efforts in 2020, were also addressed with at-home COVID tests. These accomplishments focus on prevention, treatment, and surveillance, which are all key to eventually achieving endemic status.

Even with these strides, we were still burdened with obstacles in 2021. We faced new variants, most notably Delta, which caused more serious disease, and Omicron, which was more transmissible. We also saw a 228.6% increase in COVID cases in Ashland when compared to 2020. The actual increase in cases is likely much higher, as we know at-home, positive COVID tests were underreported.

Sadly, deaths from COVID increased in 2021 as well. One-hundred-seventeen (117) Ashland County/Ashland City residents died from COVID as a primary cause of death or contributing cause of death. Of those, **78.6% were NOT vaccinated**, 19.6% were fully vaccinated, and the vaccination status of 1.7% was unknown. The figure of unvaccinated individuals includes 14 individuals who were not eligible to receive the COVID vaccine at the time of their infection. The youngest COVID death was 37 and the oldest was 93, with the average age being 73. Sixty-six (66) were men and 51 were women.

As we continue to live through this pandemic together, we can take steps to protect ourselves from any virus by choosing to live a healthy lifestyle and practicing everyday precautions. We can protect each other by staying home when we are sick and following public health guidance. In 2022, we hope to celebrate a decrease of COVID cases and deaths as we look to put this pandemic behind us.

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Environmental Health

Environmental Health Staffing 2021

Pat Donaldson, Director
Anna Fisher – EH Clerk
Jennifer Frazier – EH Specialist
Tom Cassel – EH Specialist
Karleigh Spence – EH Specialist in-training
Josh Sexton - EH Specialist in-training

What is environmental health?

This is a great question that we sometimes get asked by our community members. Environment Health (EH) is the division of the health department that deals with many facets to protect the health of citizens in the county. Most are aware the EH staff inspect restaurants, food trucks, and food at special events, but did you know that EH also protects in other ways? They do mosquito monitoring to abate disease such as West Nile and Zika; they inspect pools, campgrounds, and mobile home parks, license tattoo and body piercing, do water samples, assist with proper well and sewage installation, inspect schools and jails for sanitary and maintenance conditions, and monitor mammal bites, and community nuisance complaints among other health related items.

Food Service Inspection Violations

In the 2021 service year there were 1,598 violations. The top 5 violations were:

1. Design and construction
2. Protection from contamination after receiving
3. Maintenance and operation
4. Cleaning of equipment and utensils
5. Protection of clean items.



Category	# Touchpoints
Food Protection	2,078
Institution Inspections	23
PH Nuisances	125
Rabies Control	164
Recreational Programs	163
Residential Sewer and Water	2,008
Solid Waste	14
Tattoo/Body Art	41
Misc. Activities: COVID Investigations; Admin meetings, etc.	2,640
Total	7,256

Business Office and Financial Management

ACHD FINANCES as of December 31, 2021

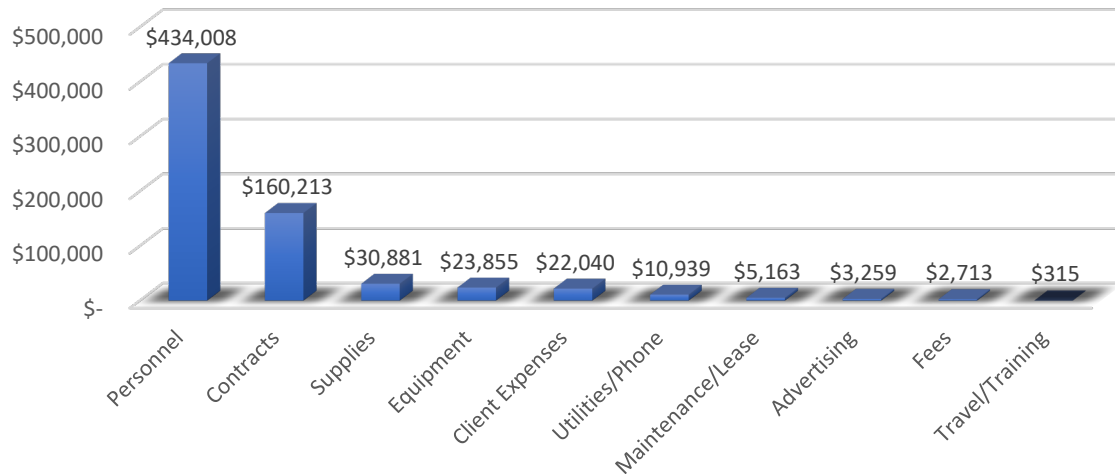
Fund	Revenue	Expenses	Fund Balance
General	\$1,960,489	\$1,318,007	\$1,590,649
PHEP	\$347,377	\$312,517	\$124,257
Food	\$122,165	\$110,896	\$156,536
Cares Act	\$771,840	\$592,422	\$179,419

COVID-19 Grant Funding for 2020 and 2021

Grant Name	Start / End Date	Notice of Award
Coronavirus – CO20	March 2020-March 2021	\$67,755.00
Contact Tracing – CT20	May 2020-December 2021	\$178,931.00
Coronavirus – CO21	March 2020-December 2021	\$479,785.00
Contact Tracing – CT21	June 2020-June 2021	\$35,891.00
Enhanced Operations – EO21	December 2020-July 2022	\$282,288.00
Vaccine Equity	December 2020-June 2020	Deliverable Based Grant \$50,000.00
Vaccine Needs Assessment	November 2020-March 2021	Deliverable Based Grant \$20,000.00
COVID-19 Vaccination – CN22	January 2022-June 2023	\$88,154.00
	Total Dollars Awarded	\$1,202,804.00

Note: Dollars awarded is the total award for the grant and is subject to meeting the proposed budget for each grant. Ohio Department of Health monitors and evaluates all spending on the awards.

Grant Fund Expenses for 2020 and 2021 COVID-19, Contact Tracing and Enhanced Operations



Category descriptions include:

Personnel – Employee wages and paid overtime COVID hours plus Indirect Costs - administration

Contracts – American Exchange (company who billed for our administration fees for COVID Vaccinations), Contact Tracers, Coblenz Technology contract for setting up new laptops

Supplies – Medical, office or equipment like supplies which include computer supplies such as mice and keyboards

Equipment – Nursing Clinic Refrigerator, laptops, monitors and docking stations

Client Expenses – Vaccine incentive cards

Utilities/Phone – Trac phones used for contact tracing and Trac phone minutes, as well as monthly cell phone service for leadership team

Maintenance/Lease – Postage and copier machine service

Advertising – Billboards for vaccine clinics

Fees – Coblenz IT fees for setting up laptops, Drug Screenings and Background testing for new employees and contact tracers

Travel/Training – Mileage for staff who were covered in the grants

Note: This represents the total dollars spent on the grants since the beginning of 2020 and it audited by the Ohio Department of Health.

Office of Vital Statistics

Leading Causes of Death for 2021

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. COVID-19
4. Alzheimer's
5. Strokes/Aneurysms

Vital Records provide a valuable service to the Ashland Community. Not only does it provide birth and death certificate copies to the public, but it also works with funeral homes on burial permits, doctors on cause of death, and reports to the State Vital Records for data reports on the causes of death.



BIRTHS IN 2021

- MALE = 135
- FEMALE = 131
- **TOTAL = 266**

DEATHS IN 2021

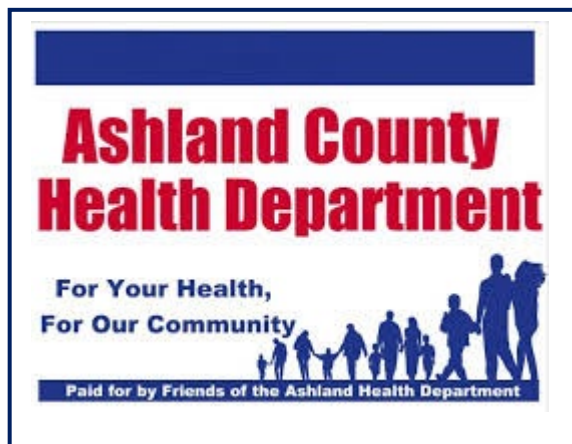
- MALE = 239
- FEMALE = 223
- **TOTAL = 462**

CHILDHOOD FATALITIES = 8

Total Vital Records Ordered and Processed:

Birth Records: 1,696

Death Records: 2,228



Nursing Division

Services Provided in 2021

COVID-19 Vaccines	16,623
Pediatric COVID Vaccines	113
Other Vaccines	514
Influenza Vaccines	160
Tb Testing	48
Lice Checks	2
Blood Pressure Checks	10
Lead Checks	9
Car Seats Distributed	0
Cribs for Kids	0
CMH Services	1,000



Nursing Staff

Director of Nursing: Chris Bivens – RN,BSN
Clinical Nurse: Laurie McFarlin, RN
Clinical Nurse: Jean Neal, RN, PRN
BCMh Nurse: Ashley Warrick, RN, BSN
Clinical Nurse, BCMH: Gary Gallion, RN, BSN
Nursing Clerk: Andrea Ellison
Billing Clerk: Trish Burkett

In April 2021, Lt. Governor Jon Husted visited a clinic hosted by ACHD and University Hospitals Samaritan. It was great having support to provide resources and vaccines to the community.

Ashland County Annual Communicable Disease Report							
Reportable Condition	Count 2021	Count 2020	Count 2019	Count 2018	Count 2017	Count 2016	Disease Class
Babesiosis	1	0	0	0	0	1	B
Campylobacteriosis	14	18	20	25	21	17	B
Chlamydia infection	134	112	108	121	147	119	B
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	1	0	1	B
CP-CRE	1	1					
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	0	0	5	0	0	B
COVID-19	6339	1760	0				A
Cryptosporidiosis	5	4	7	11	7	18	B
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	0	0	2	0	0	B
Cyclosporiasis	1	0	3	1	0	0	B
E. coli (Shiga toxin producing) –all	1	2	4	9	9	4	B
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	13	1	1	0	B
Giardiasis	4	3	7	7	8	7	B
Gonococcal infection	21	8	23	19	29	13	B
Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	3	1	2	1	B
Hepatitis A	1	3	6	0	0	0	B
Hepatitis B – acute/chronic	9	4	11	2	9	9	B
Hepatitis B – Perinatal Infection	0	1	0	13	0	1	B
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic	18	20	22	31	36	38	B
Influenza – associated hospitalization	0	38	27	54	39	21	B
Lacrosse Virus Disease	0	1	3	1	2	0	B
Legionnaires’ Disease	3	2	3	4	0	0	B
Listeriosis	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Lyme Disease	29	11	13	5	9	8	B
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	0	0	5	3	1	0	B
Meningitis – Bacterial (not n meningitis)	0	0	0	0	1	0	B
Mumps	0	0	2	2	0	0	B
Mycobacterial disease – other than TB	0	0	0	0	0	2	B
Pertussis	1	3	6	7	5	20	B
Q Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	B
Salmonellosis	8	8	6	19	10	7	B
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	B
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	2	5	1	3	2	2	B
Strep pneumoniae – resistant, non, unk	0	2	6	6	3	5	B
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	1	0	1	2	0	0	B
TB	0	1					
Tetanus	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Varicella	0	0	2	4	3	1	B
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	1	0	B
Vibriosis	2	1	0	1	0	0	B
Yersiniosis	1	0	1	0	5	1	B
Total	6,596	2,009	303	362	350	297	

Disclaimer: Results for 2021 data as of 1/5/2022 using ODRS “created date” and includes all confirmed, suspected, and probable cases. Information is accurate on day of report and is subject to change as cases are added and updated.

Emergency Preparedness

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Did you know?

Part of the role of public health is to be prepared for emergencies that could affect all or part of our population. As such we participate in PHEP grant which prepares ACHD to respond to such emergencies. PHEP Program works to advance six main areas of preparedness, so state and local public health systems are better prepared for emergencies that impact the public's health.

- **Community Resilience:** Preparing for and recovering from emergencies
- **Incident management:** Coordinating an effective response
- **Information Management:** Making sure people have information to take action
- **Countermeasures and Mitigation:** Getting medicines and supplies where they are needed
- **Surge Management:** Expanding medical services to handle large events
- **Bio-surveillance:** Investigating and identifying health threats.

ACHD is here to help keep us all safe.

The Ashland County Health Department (ACHD) is a recipient of a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant from the Ohio Department of Health. ACHD has been a recipient of these funds for more than eighteen years. This funding has enabled the health department to build upon existing infrastructure and strengthen our preparedness and planning capabilities, so we are better able to respond. The six target areas for PHEP preparedness include:

- **Community Resilience:** Preparing for and recovering from emergencies
- **Incident management:** Coordinating an effective response
- **Information Management:** Making sure people have information to take action
- **Countermeasures and Mitigation:** Getting medicines and supplies where they are needed
- **Surge Management:** Expanding medical services to handle large events
- **Bio-surveillance:** Investigating and identifying health threats

As everyone is aware, the health department and its personnel have been active in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This response effort required a substantial number of personnel hours and resources over the last two years.

As we move forward in 2022, PHEP program activities will be centered around planning efforts that will include whole community initiatives, health department emergency response, environmental health preparedness and response, radiological incident response, continuity of operations, and medical countermeasure dispensing and distribution.

The health department will continue on a monthly and quarterly basis to conduct communication system drills to ensure that our internal communication equipment remains fully operational and available for use during emergencies. The health department will continue to collaborate with local and regional partners to expand planning and response capabilities to help keep us all safe.



ACCREDITATION UPDATE



2021 was also a year in which ACHD focused on completing the documentation phase on accreditation. In March of 2022, all documents were submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Information regarding accreditation for health departments can be found at <https://phaboard.org/>

Two major documents that are required by the State of Ohio Board of Health and PHAB are the CHA and CHIP. These documents can be found on our website www.ashlandhealth.com.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CHA) COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

Our current CHA and CHIP are in place until 2023. ACHD along with our community partners, are currently gathering data for the next round of the CHA and CHIP. We will provide more information on the process as it progresses. If you are asked to participate in a focus group or to provide information to our consultants, please do not hesitate to participate. We need to hear from our community.



Have questions? Please submit a Comment/Question form through www.ashlandhealth.com website.

It is our greatest pleasure to serve the citizens of Ashland County. Please take our customer satisfaction survey found at the top of our website at www.ashlandhealth.com.