



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Ashland County
Health Department**

1211 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805

www.ashlandhealth.com

419-282-4231

After Hours Emergency 419-685-6395

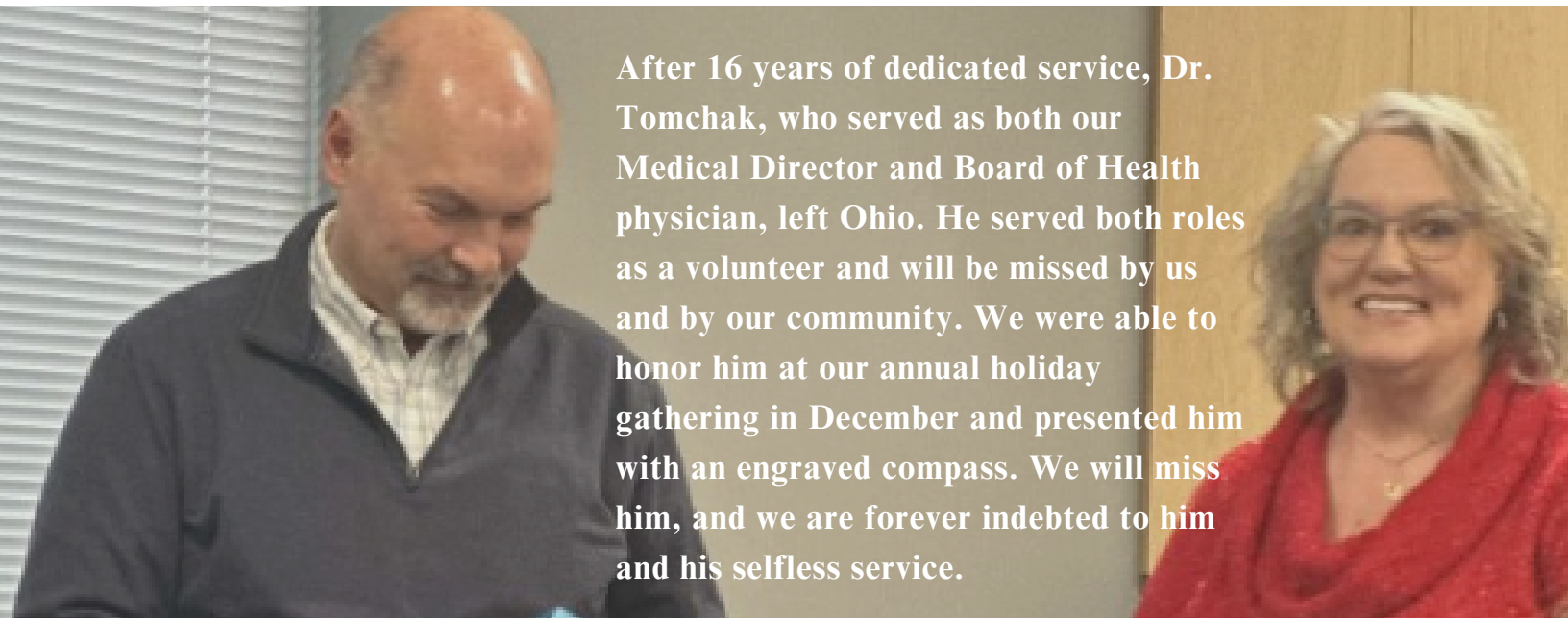
WHERE WE ARE NOW

Highlights from 2023 include our new building and Mobile Clinic.

We are pleased to present to you our annual report. The year 2023 was an exciting year for ACHD. In June, we moved into our new building on Claremont Avenue. This new facility affords us the ability to group departments for greater efficiency, provide a more secure and comfortable space to offer our services, and a more convenient location for the majority of our county population. However, we are aware that this move takes us away from some other population who also need our services. To remedy that, we added a mobile clinic to our department. This mobile clinic is out in different areas of the county, offering a variety of services such as vaccines and health screenings.

I would be remiss if I did not thank so many who have supported these changes to our health department. First, thank you to the county commissioners who funded the building project and collaborated with us to design a building that is efficient and secure. Secondly, to our Board of Health for supporting our efforts and encouraging us to create the best possible site. Next, to our community members who have visited us during the opening and since then by stopping by for services and engaging with us on different community projects. Lastly, to our amazing staff, who endured many changes all at once, and worked tirelessly to get us up and running in just a few short days.

We hope that all these changes will help us to better serve the citizens of Ashland County. It is always our pleasure to hear from you, so please feel free to reach out via our “Contact Us” on our website, www.ashlandhealth.com.



After 16 years of dedicated service, Dr. Tomchak, who served as both our Medical Director and Board of Health physician, left Ohio. He served both roles as a volunteer and will be missed by us and by our community. We were able to honor him at our annual holiday gathering in December and presented him with an engraved compass. We will miss him, and we are forever indebted to him and his selfless service.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health meets monthly. Meetings are open to the public and the agenda includes opportunity for public comment. Please visit ashlandhealth.com for meeting dates. Ms. Krystal Reynolds served as board president in 2023.



Ashland County Health Department

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Health Commissioner
Vickie Taylor, BS, MDiv, MA

Director of Operations
Jenny Helbert

Director of Environmental Health
Pat Donaldson, BS, RS

Director of Nursing
Jenna Gerwig, BSN, RN

Director of Preparedness & Prevention
Jill Hartson

Vital Statistics Registrar
Lauren Jeffery

PHEP Coordinator
Laura Cerrito

DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)

The Ashland County Health Department serves the townships, villages and contract cities of the county. The mayor of each of the villages, the president of the Ashland County Board of Commissioners, and the chairperson of each township’s board of trustees are the designated members of the DAC. Their statutory powers and duties include selecting board of health members and considering special reports from the board of health. They also offer recommendations for public health improvement throughout the county. Mayor Randy Spade served as the president of the DAC and Katy Wright from Jackson Township served as secretary.

VITAL STATISTICS

ACHD can provide certified birth certificates for anyone born in Ohio. Death certificates can only be purchased in the county where the person was pronounced deceased. We are open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BIRTHS 2023*

176 births
98 hospital births**
78 home births
93 male
83 female

DEATHS 2023*

620 deaths
306 male (4 child fatalities)
314 female (4 child fatalities)

**2023 data are not finalized and may change. These data were provided by the Ohio Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.*

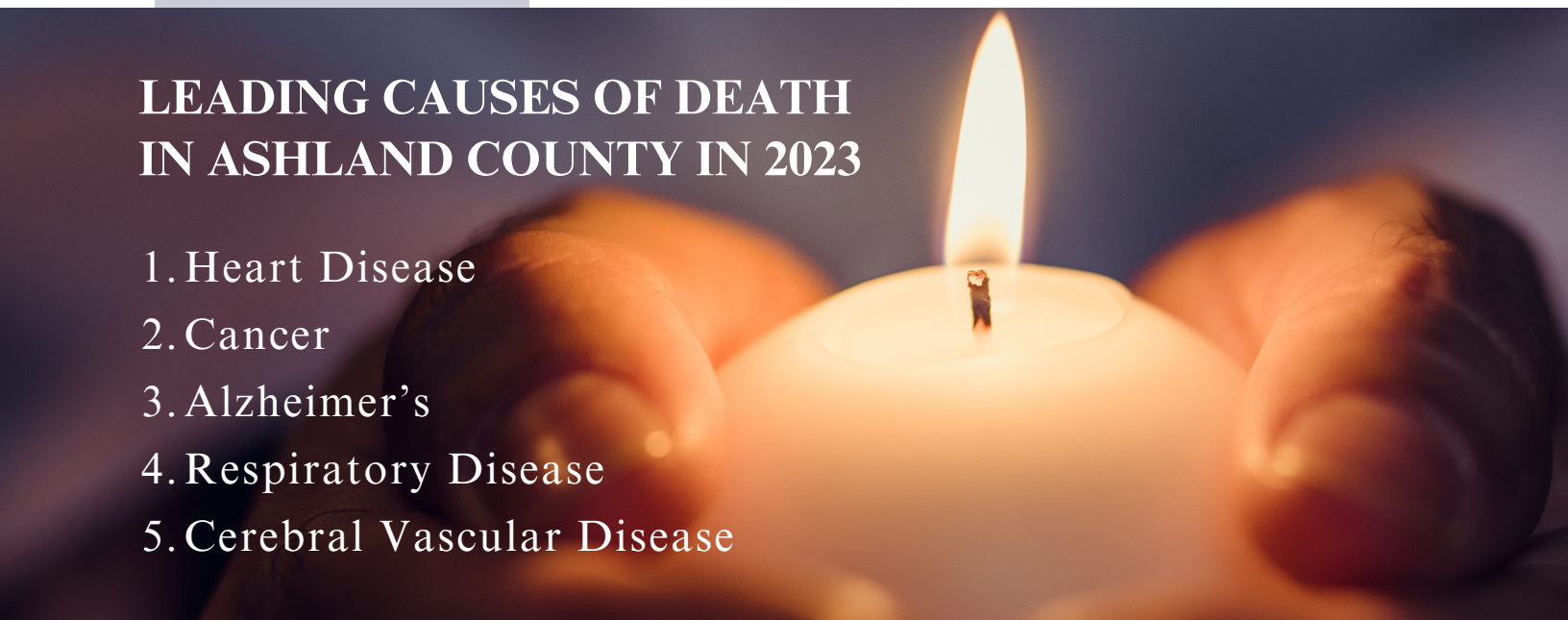
GENEALOGY

ACHD holds records from 1908-present. Birth records from 1949-2005 are not public records because they contain medical information. Please call our office at 419-282-4231 to learn more.

***University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center discontinued labor and delivery services in Ashland County on August 8, 2023. From this date on, home births and Emergency Department births will be the only documented births in Ashland County. Therefore, caution should be taken in comparing birth records from previous years.*

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHLAND COUNTY IN 2023

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Alzheimer's
4. Respiratory Disease
5. Cerebral Vascular Disease



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Did you know we teach the American Heart Association's initial CPR certification and CPR renewal classes? Please contact us for more information at 419-282-4357! We are open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A new service rolled into the Ashland County Health Department on April 19, 2023 in the form of a used, handicap accessible 2022 Ford E450 van, outfitted with an examination room, refrigerator, bathroom, and generator. The \$230,000 Mobile Clinic was purchased with funds from the Enhanced Operations Grant. It provides services to individuals who experience barriers to care, such as those who may not have a vehicle or who may have difficulty traveling longer distances.

Through the Mobile Clinic, we offer vaccination services and the following health screenings: blood pressure reading; hemoglobin A1C; cholesterol check (requires a 9-12 hour fast); blood sugar test (a 3 hour fast is preferred); and height and weight check.

In 2023, the Mobile Clinic was **deployed 13 times**, primarily focusing on the most underserved areas of Ashland County, as identified through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the State of Ohio's CMIST tool. CMIST measures five essential functional needs categories – communication, maintaining health, independence, safety and support, and transportation. At these events, we **administered 63 vaccines** and completed **119 health screenings**.



EPIDEMIOLOGY

Epidemiology is a service of the Nursing Division. There are 90 reportable infectious diseases (Ohio Administrative Code 3703-1) in Ohio. We conduct follow-up of the infectious diseases reported in Ashland County, investigate outbreaks, and provide case management and education.

Diseases are classified as class “A,” class “B” and class “C” depending on the severity of illness or potential for epidemic spread. Class “A” must be reported immediately and include, but are not limited to anthrax, measles, rabies, and smallpox. Some reportable infectious diseases, like measles, are vaccine-preventable, but are still common in many parts of the world. Unvaccinated travelers bring measles to the U.S. from other countries. This puts babies too young for the vaccine and children and adults with weakened immune systems who cannot get the vaccine at risk. According to the CDC, measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected. Did you know the measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace after an infected person leaves the area?

In 2023, an RSV vaccine became available to older adults, pregnant women (during weeks 32-36), and infants. RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. However, it can be dangerous for babies, toddlers, and older adults.

To stop the spread of germs, always stay home when you are sick, cover your cough or sneeze in a shirt sleeve or tissue, wash your hands, avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, and clean frequently touched surfaces.

Public Health Nursing			<i>Screening Services</i>
COVID-19 Vaccines Given 258	Flu (Influenza) Vaccines Given 221	Children with Medical Handicap 221 average clients served monthly	Blood pressure, height and weight checks are available at our office for walk in-service Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.
TB Tests - 72	Immunizations Given 752	Narcan Doses Dispensed 246	

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

One of the ways we keep you safe from environmental health hazards is by performing complaint inspections for public health nuisances. A public health nuisance is excessive/improperly stored garbage or animal waste at a residence or business. In 2023, we investigated 42 public health nuisance complaints and completed 73 public health nuisance consultations.

SEWAGE PROGRAM

83 site reviews
 64 permits issued
 5 permit-to-alter issued
 203 household sewage inspections
 593 consultations

FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

387 licenses issued
 812 inspections
 217 consultations
 100 plan reviews

WATER PROGRAM

49 permits to install/seal issued
 3 permit-to-alter issued
 112 inspections
 154 consultations
 126 water samples collected

Other Environmental Health Services

127 reported animal bites
 18 camp/campground inspections
 71 pools/spa inspections
 3 school inspections
 3 tattoo facility inspections
 14 manufactured home park inspections



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM RABIES! If you are bitten or scratched...

- Immediately wash the wound with soap and water.
- Do not delay medical advice. Call your family doctor or go to the nearest ER.
- Obtain the pet owner’s name, address and telephone number. If you can, find out if the animal has a current rabies vaccination. Write down the rabies tag & license number.
- Complete a Mammal Bite Report posted at www.ashlandhealth.com.

ACHD investigates all reported domestic & wild mammal bites.



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Our PHEP program uses exercises to prepare for our county’s emergency response to hazards and threats. Exercises build, test, assess, and validate emergency response capabilities. Exercises also help to identify resource requirements, capability gaps, strengths, and areas for improvement.

Together with the Ohio Department of Health and all 113 local Ohio health departments, we participated in a full-scale exercise that simulated an intentional Anthrax release. The exercise tested our ability to assess the risk to Ashland County residents and determine the local availability of medication, which was not enough in our simulated exercise scenario. Following the process outlined in our Medical Countermeasures Plan, we submitted a request with our local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to order more medication from the State. We traveled to the regional drop site where we were given empty boxes as props so we could practice the movement and intake of the medication as if it were a real event.

Radiological incidents are also considered a hazard in Ohio, so we participated in a regional radiological exercise and a statewide radiation exercise in early 2023. Through these exercises, we were able to identify radiological hazards and risks in our county; our capabilities and limitations; and our role in a radiological incident. We were also able to test the following processes: notification and communication; triage and surge management; and our county’s ability to receive, assess, decontaminate, and treat patients with radiation exposure. Since our local partners also participate in these exercises, we work on any improvements or plan modifications together.



ACHD & EMA staff practice material intake during a statewide full-scale exercise.

FINANCE REPORT

Ashland County Health Department finances as of December 31, 2023.

Fund	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenses	Fund Balance
General	\$1,103,885.94	\$1,302,177.34	\$1,405,018.03	\$1,001,045.25
PHEP Grant	\$167,645.79	\$83,012.72	\$201,889.29	\$48,769.22
Workforce Grant	\$62,163.98	\$155,107.40	\$210,138.20	\$7,133.18
Food Program	\$223,899.28	\$162,511.00	\$171,319.24	\$215,091.04
Care's Act Grant	\$554,544.91	\$112,228.40	\$321,514.33	\$345,258.98
Mosquito Grant	\$0	\$50,000	\$42,902.94	\$7,097.06

