



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Ashland County Health Department

2024 Annual Report



WELCOME!

We're pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report! Many wonderful things happened in 2024, including the following initiatives...

The Ashland County Health Department (ACHD) finalized a **strategic plan** for 2024-2026. This plan outlines our direction, goals, and steps for success, as well as how we will monitor and measure our progress. The plan focuses on four priorities: Community and Partnerships, Performance, Finance and Governance, and Workforce. Our goals include:

- Meeting the public health needs and expectations of our community and partners.
- Attracting and retaining an educated, qualified, and diverse workforce.
- Improving operational efficiency and effectiveness through evidence-based and data-informed decisions.
- Excelling in financial stewardship and Board of Health engagement to meet local priorities and needs.

In December, ACHD launched the **Ashland County Community Health Assessment (CHA)** with 37 community partners in attendance. The CHA aims to:

- Identify health priorities by understanding the most pressing issues affecting our community, such as chronic diseases, mental health concerns, and access to care.
- Guide ACHD in allocating resources effectively.
- Promote community engagement by working with partners to address health concerns and factors impacting overall health.

Lastly, on behalf of the Ashland County Health Department, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to the residents of Ashland County for passing our renewal levy. Your support demonstrates a shared commitment to making Ashland County a healthier, stronger place to live, work, and thrive. We are honored to serve you and will work diligently to meet your public health needs and expectations.

Together, we can achieve great things!



BS, MDiv, MA
Health Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH

Allan Bevere
Doug Campbell
Rebecca Cawrse, DVM
Patrick Furness, MD
Ron Puglisi

Medical Director: Megan Oberhauser, DO



BIRTH & DEATH STATISTICS

334 Deaths in Ashland County, 2024*

- 156 males (4 child fatalities)
- 178 females (3 child fatalities)

Leading Causes of Death in Ashland County, 2024*

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Alzheimer's Disease
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
5. Cerebrovascular Disease

128 Births in Ashland County, 2024*

- 82 delivered by a physician
- 46 delivered by a midwife
 - 64 males
 - 64 females

**2024 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.*

Ashland County Health Department provides same day certified birth certificate copies for all Ohio counties, and certified death certificate copies for individuals who died in Ashland County.

Please call 419-282-4231 for more information.

Mission Statement

We strive to promote optimal health for individuals and families of the Ashland County, Ohio community through public health education, prevention of disease and injury, and response to public health challenges.



**Healthy People,
Healthy Environment,
Healthy Community**



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Public health nurses strive to improve the health of a community by preventing problems from happening or recurring. Each county in Ohio has a local health department with public health nurses. Our Director of Nursing serves as the chair of the Ashland County Health and Wellness Target Action Group (TAG). This group addresses the greatest health threats to Ashland County residents, as identified in the 2023-2025 Community Health Needs Assessment. In 2024, the Health and Wellness TAG conducted a community survey to see if low compliance with recommended colorectal cancer screenings were contributing to Ashland County's high colorectal cancer incidence rates. The results of the survey can be found at www.ashandhealth.com.

Nursing Service	Number
Blood Pressure Checks	26
Car Seat Education/Installation	4
CMH (Complex Medical Help) Program	181 average clients served monthly
COVID-19 Vaccines	190
CPR Classes	6
Flu (Influenza) Vaccines	208
Hearing and Vision Screenings	50
Homebound Visits	39
Immunizations Administered	804
Lead, ACHD Investigations (Blood Lead Level ≥ 10.0 micrograms/deciliter)	9
Lead, Ohio Department of Health Investigations for Ashland County (Blood Lead Level 3.5 to < 10.0 micrograms/deciliter)	29
Narcan (Naloxone) Doses Dispensed	357
NaloxBoxes Placed	3
TB Tests Conducted	84

ACHD's Mobile Clinic was deployed 15 times in 2024, giving 15 immunizations and completing 65 health screenings.

Also in 2024, we re-engaged our partnership with the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program. This allows us to offer child safety seats and booster seats to eligible low-income families. Participants of the program must attend an educational class, which includes seat installation.

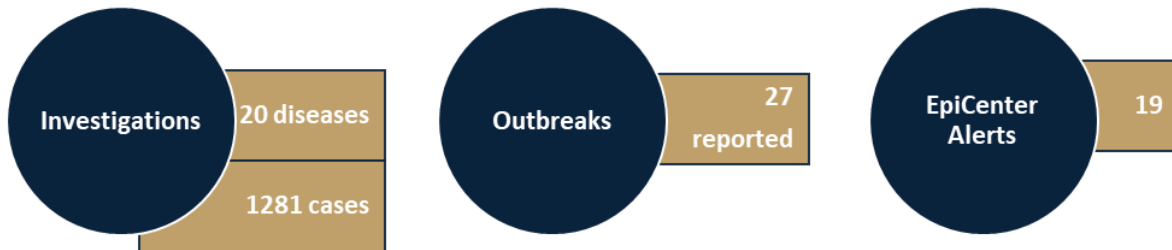


*For more information about the **Ohio Buckles Buckeyes** program, please call 419-282-4232.*

ACHD staff provides services at the Amish Health and Safety Day.

REPORTABLE DISEASE

The Ashland County Health Department is responsible for the investigation and surveillance of reportable infectious diseases. Over 80 diseases are required to be reported to ACHD. Our epidemiologist works with individuals and facilities to prevent additional spread throughout the community. We also investigate outbreaks to determine the cause and reduce the likelihood that it will reoccur.



Disease	2024 Total*	2023 Total*
Campylobacteriosis	20	22
<i>C. auris</i> Colonization	0	1
Chlamydia	87	85
COVID-19	1079	1635
CPO**	1	4
Cryptosporidiosis	5	4
Cyclosporiasis	3	0
<i>E. coli</i> , O157:H7 & STEC	3	7
Giardiasis	3	4
Gonorrhea	11	15
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Invasive	2	1
Hepatitis A	0	1

*totals reflect Probable and Confirmed cases only

Disease	2024 Total*	2023 Total*
Hepatitis B, Chronic	2	4
Hepatitis C, Chronic	10	19
HIV	0	4
Influenza-Associated Hospitalization	34	12
Lyme Disease	7	11
Meningitis, Aseptic/Viral	1	0
Pertussis	0	3
Salmonellosis	7	8
<i>Streptococcal</i> , Group A, Invasive	1	5
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Invasive	4	6
Vibriosis	0	1
Yersiniosis	1	1

**CPO – Carbapenemase-Producing Organism

FALLS PREVENTION

2024 marked the first full year of our new Falls Prevention Program. As part of the program, we hosted the award-winning, 8-week Matter of Balance program in Loudonville and in Ashland. The Matter of Balance program teaches individuals practical strategies to manage falls, and features strength and balance exercises. If you are interested in taking the Matter of Balance program, call 419-282-4340.



ACHD's Matter of Balance coaches Jill Hartson and Jean Neel with their first class!



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Public health has been called the “invisible shield”. If everything is working well, no one thinks about public health. That’s especially true with the work of our environmental health team. You can eat at a restaurant, swim at a public pool, or park your RV at your favorite campground without the fear of getting sick. And don’t forget, you also have clean water and breathable air thanks to the work of our environmental health team!

FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

- 928 inspections
- 373 licenses issued
- 302 consultations
- 73 plan reviews

SEWAGE PROGRAM

- 594 consultations
- 306 household sewage inspections
- 156 site reviews
- 75 permits issued
- 4 permit-to-alter issued

WATER PROGRAM

- 376 consultations
- 136 water samples collected
- 86 inspections
- 47 permits to install/seal
- 4 permit-to-alter issued

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL

HEALTH SERVICES

- 181 reported animal bites/exposures*
- 102 public health nuisance consultations
- 26 public health nuisance complaints
- 79 pools/spa inspections
- 22 manufactured home park inspections
- 13 camp/campground inspections
- 9 tattoo facility inspections
- 5 school inspections
- 5 solid waste facility inspections

*One exposure was to a rabies-positive bat.



The county fairs are a busy time of year for us! Our food specialists, Ruth McCrea, Laura Studevart and Ryan Hartson inspected 64 food sites at the Ashland County Fair.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

We support communities across Ashland County! The chart below provides detail on the number of activities completed in 2024 in each of the county's townships, villages and cities. Activities include licensed facility inspections and our environmental health responsibilities pertaining to residential sewer and water.

Community	# of Activities	Community	# of Activities
Ashland City	1835	Mohican	147
Clear Creek	98	Montgomery	208
Green	210	Orange	117
Hanover	383	Perry	124
Jackson	147	Ruggles	24
Lake	78	Sullivan	167
Mifflin	74	Troy	73
Milton	182	Vermillion	137





EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Were you one of the millions of people who enjoyed the spectacular solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 without a hitch? Did you know experts from the Ashland County Health Department met with community partners – first responders, healthcare systems, the business community, elected officials and many others – years before this rare event to address public safety concerns?

With a projected influx of 100-150,000 visitors to Ashland’s total eclipse viewing opportunity, the group collectively planned for heavy congestion on area roadways, loss of communications, and supply shortages for basic needs.

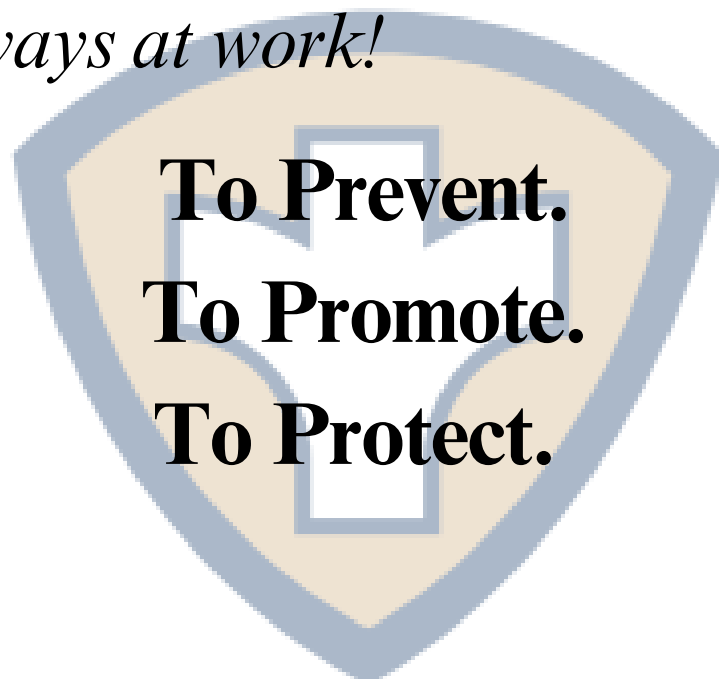
Ashland County Health Department focused on *protecting public health through licensing mobile food trucks, ensuring regulatory compliance at campgrounds and RV parks, and launching an educational campaign.* The campaign served to educate homeowners of potential damage to their household sewage treatment systems and wells if property was used for event parking. The public was also encouraged to protect their eyes, which was shared with the Amish community, along with a warning to practice caution on the roads with visitors who may not be used to horse-drawn buggies. Lastly, we had additional doses of Narcan available for potential overdoses and watched for post-event communicable disease outbreaks.

Public health...

always at work!



Preparedness fun in 2024! We learned how to operate a Point of Distribution site with an interactive game from the CDC.





FINANCE REPORT

*ACHD Finances as of December 31, 2024**

Fund	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenses	Fund Balance
General	\$1,001,045.25	\$1,470,035.43	\$1,603,456.03	\$867,624.65
Mosquito	\$7,097.06	\$25,000.00	\$20,437.37	\$11,659.69
PHEP	\$48,769.22	\$71,490.00	\$70,690.28	\$49,568.94
Workforce Development	\$7,133.18	\$79,838.99	\$67,217.64	\$19,754.53
Food Program	\$215,091.04	\$85,107.67	\$100,277.15	\$199,921.56
Care's Act	\$345,258.98	\$0	\$283,457.23	\$61,801.75
Total of all funds	\$1,624,394.73	\$1,731,472.09	\$2,145,535.70	\$1,210,331.12

*Figures based on what was provided for the 2024 Financial Annual Report.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AT ACHD

Not only are we committed to providing quality public health services to the community, we're also committed to improving staff workflow processes. In 2024, we chartered a Quality Improvement Team to respond to inefficiencies in the receipt and delivery of mail and packages. The team streamlined the internal process which improved our mail carrier and delivery personnel's experience too!





Ashland County Health Department

CONTACT US

Main Line: 419-282-4231
Administration: 419-282-4239
Birth & Death Records: 419-282-4335
Environmental Health: 419-282-4337
Nursing: 419-282-4357



Proudly accredited as of 3.3.25

Location:

1211 Claremont Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Find us on Facebook!

www.ashlandhealth.com

