

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Clermont County
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

OUR STRUCTURE

District Advisory Council

The District Advisory Council meets each year in March to appoint Board of Health members. Voting members of the Council include the president of the Board of County Commissioners, the chairperson from each township's board of trustees, and the mayor of each village in the County.

Board of Health

Board of Health members serve five-year terms.



Dr. Janet Rickabaugh



Andrew Crum



Dr. Joseph Khan



Dennis Brown



Steve Meadors

Health Commissioner



Julianne Nesbit

Medical Director



Dr. James Kaya

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Our Mission

Striving to improve Clermont County by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the environment.

Our Vision

Healthy People
Healthy Communities
Healthy Clermont

Our Values

Service
Credibility
Integrity
Responsibility
Equity

LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

In 2023, Clermont County Public Health (CCPH) focused on workforce development. Like other employers nationwide, we have experienced workforce shortages in crucial public health roles like epidemiologists, environmental health specialists, dietitians, public health nurses, and other vital positions. This deficit hampers our ability to respond to public health emergencies and provide routine public health services. Limited funding, an aging workforce, and inadequate incentives contribute to the ongoing struggle to recruit and retain skilled individuals in the public health sector.



To address this shortfall, we are focusing on increasing our investment in training programs, incentivizing careers in public health, and fostering collaborations between academic institutions, government agencies, and healthcare organizations to fortify the nation's public health workforce.

This past year, we worked to strengthen our relationships with local academic institutions. As custodians of knowledge and values, we strive to impart academic teachings, critical life skills, empathy, and a sense of civic duty. Educating the next generation involves instilling a mindset of adaptability in the face of a rapidly changing world. This approach transcends traditional classrooms, extending to the broader community, where mentorship, positive role modeling, and inclusive education environments lay the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future.

Later in the report, you will read about a unique opportunity to partner with a local vocational school to hire support staff. We have also worked closely with college students considering a public health career. CCPH has several educational affiliate agreements with colleges and universities in Ohio and surrounding states. These relationships can be paid internships and placements for clinical experience, practice placements, and culminating projects. CCPH supported three paid internships in 2023, assisting with communications, epidemiological investigation and research, and mosquito monitoring for disease transmission. We also sponsored a UC medical student to obtain public health experience analyzing content for our Community Health Assessment update. We completed several other projects using nursing students through practice placements and culminating projects. These partnerships are a win-win situation for students and CCPH. The students get exposure and experience in a public health setting, and we get much-needed work support that allows permanent staff to focus on other objectives.

We would love to accommodate every student who contacts us. However, we have limits on the number of students we can accommodate and what projects we have available. I encourage students to reach out early and start discussions on what options may be available. Students interested in paid internships should check job postings on our website or their university's employment website. Students interested in unpaid educational opportunities to meet course requirements should email ccph@clermontcountyohio.gov with a resume and a description of their interests.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julianne Nesbit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julianne Nesbit
Health Commissioner

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Our community health services branch provides many programs to keep you safe and prevent the spread of diseases in the community.

Our WIC program provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and supplemental food to women, infants, and children up to 5 years old.

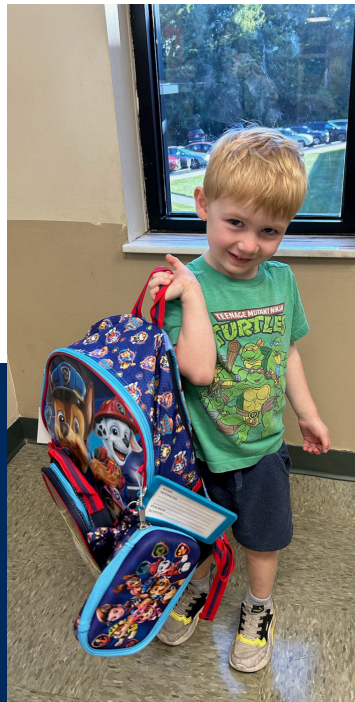
Our immunization program provides routine vaccinations to children and adults in the community.

We also provide vaccines required for traveling to certain international destinations, free child safety seats to families in need, free eye exams and glasses to people without vision insurance, and many other services.



Back to school clinics

Thanks to a grant from Interact for Health, we provided backpacks and school supplies to students at our back-to-school immunization clinics. We also had community partners on hand to share resources with families.



School nurse education day

We partnered with Child Focus to host a School Nurse Education Day in August. Our nurses and Child Focus presented on relevant topics and updated nurses from school districts throughout Clermont County about the latest guidance and recommendations for school-aged children.



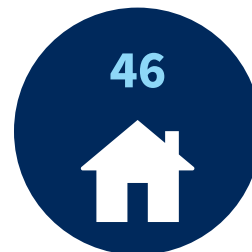
Childhood vaccines given



International travel vaccines



Adult vaccines



Home vaccination visits



Total vaccines administered

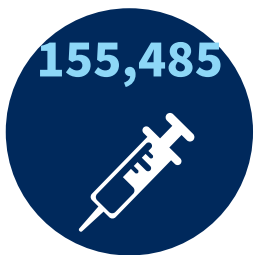
HARM REDUCTION



The harm reduction program had its busiest year since moving inside Mercy Clermont Hospital. In 2023, the program served 759 clients, exchanged more than 155,000 syringes, and distributed more than 1,000 doses of naloxone and 1,800 fentanyl test strips. All used syringes collected are disposed of properly.

We received a \$3,000 grant from the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board to purchase additional xylazine test kits and wound care kits to hand out at our clinic. Xylazine is becoming more common and is mixed with other drugs including fentanyl. Because it is not an opioid, naloxone will not reverse the effects of xylazine. When injected, xylazine can also cause severe wounds on the skin.

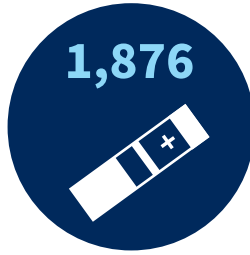
Treatment providers are on-site when the clinic is open, and they helped us make 89 referrals to treatment.



155,485
Sterile syringes
exchanged



759
Clients
served



1,876
Fentanyl test
strips given out



1,149
Naloxone doses
given out



89
Treatment
referrals



66
Child safety
seats given out



68
Tobacco
cessation
contacts



379
Children with
Medical
Handicaps
contacts



9,645
WIC office visits



4,210
Breastfeeding
texts sent

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Our environmental health services branch keeps you safe by protecting the food you eat, the water you drink and use for recreation, and the environment.

Environmental health specialists inspect food facilities, swimming pools, body art facilities and schools to ensure they meet all requirements to keep you safe.

Water quality technicians and environmental health specialists inspect septic systems to ensure they are working properly and not polluting the groundwater or the soil.

Our plumbing inspectors check all commercial and residential plumbing projects in the county, ensuring that the water you drink is safe.



We started a new streamlined process for contractors to submit plumbing plans electronically. Inspectors can sign off and digitally stamp the plans, making it easier to share the plans with the Building Inspections Department.



Food service inspections



Food licenses issued



Pool & spa inspections



Animal bite complaints



Operation permits issued

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Emergency preparedness is an integral part of public health. In May, we participated in a countywide Local Emergency Planning Committee exercise.

In October, we joined other health departments in southwest Ohio in a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise. The exercise tested our ability to respond and distribute essential medications during a crisis.

These exercises are essential during non-emergency times to help us gain valuable experience responding to scenarios, adapting and evolving our emergency plans, and strengthening our relationship with other community partners and public safety agencies. We are constantly working to stay prepared for the next public health emergency.



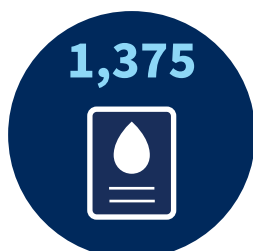
Food service inspections



Pool inspections



Septic system inspections



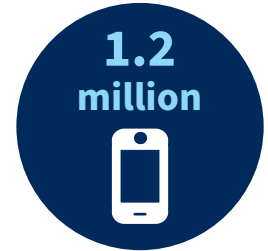
Plumbing permits issued



Plumbing inspections



Birth certificates issued



Social media impressions

STRATEGIC PLAN

We focused on our four strategic plan priorities in 2023. To foster collaboration, we launched our quarterly community newsletter to promote our programs and services and update our key stakeholders. Our fiscal officer increased training opportunities in all of our programs about how we establish our fees. We also created a quality improvement project to increase our available resources when applying for grants. To address health equity, we started staff training on the social determinants of health and will continue through 2024.

- Collaboration
- Organizational Capacity & Infrastructure
- Information
- Health Equity

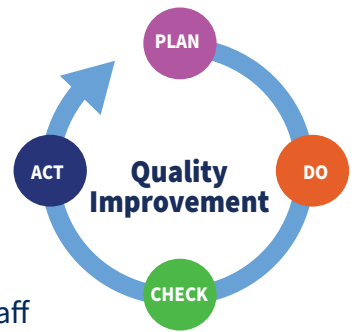
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Quality Improvement is vital to public health, and we always look for ways to improve our operations and services. In 2023, we worked on three projects.

Vital Statistics – We started a project to improve the efficiency of funeral homes ordering and filing death certificates. When completed, the project will reduce wait time for our customers and create a more streamlined workflow for our office staff.

Grant Resources - This project aims to improve the resources available to our staff members and make it easier to apply for and manage many of the grants we receive.

Operations Permit – This project is working to improve the operation permit program to balance workloads while still protecting the environment.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our staff attended more than 20 community outreach events in 2023.

In August, we partnered with the Clermont County Addiction and Recovery Partnership to host an Overdose Awareness Day event at Batavia Township Park.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Julianne Nesbit

Health Commissioner

Julianne was one of approximately 20 people in the country selected to participate in the National Association of County and City Health Officials' Adaptive Leadership Academy. The course was an intensive 7-month-long program geared toward helping leaders deal with consequential change in uncertain times.



Claudia Kadon

Environmental Health Specialist II

Claudia has been working toward her master's in public health at Indiana University. Her focus is on global and environmental health. As part of her degree program, she has also been interning with our Emergency Response Coordinator to learn more about our emergency response capabilities.



Shelby Simmons

Environmental Health Specialist II

Shelby Simmons was elected to serve as the 2024 director for the Southwest Ohio Environmental Health Association. Shelby was also selected to serve on the rule revision committee working to update Ohio's Body Art regulations.



Katrina Stapleton

Fiscal Officer

Katrina helped develop a training course for the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners. Katrina also presents this training to new health commissioners, fiscal officers, and senior health district leadership throughout the state. The course covers financial management, budgeting, financial indicators, and compliance issues.



Tara Jimison

Director of Nursing

Tara is working on her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Cincinnati. The program aims to prepare and advance Tara's skills as a public health leader. The coursework advances her knowledge in evidence-based practices, quality improvement, ethics, equity, and many other crucial public health principles.



Amanda Myers

Operations Manager

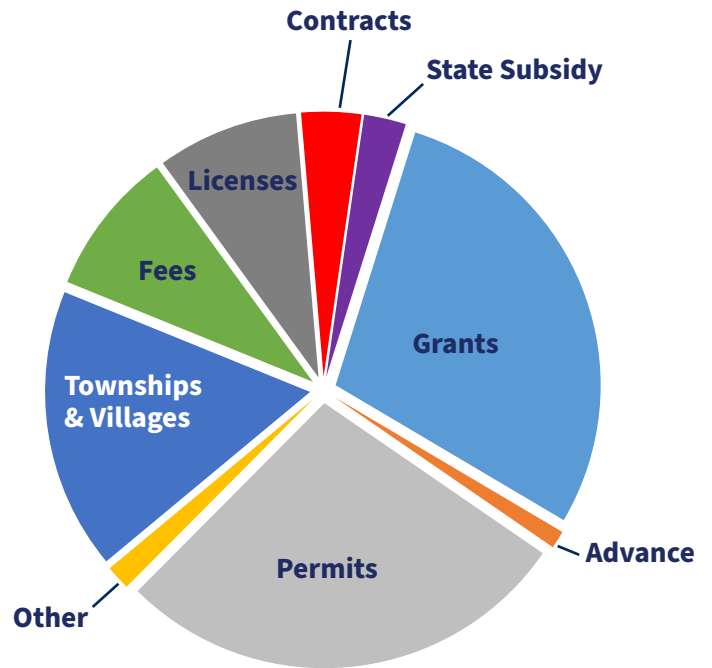
Amanda partnered with Grant Career Center to hire a career tech student. The partnership allows a Grant Career Center student to get valuable real-world work experience while attending school. It also helps us fill a staffing need in a crucial customer service position.

Amanda worked to revise several internal policies to allow us to hire minors, before the partnership could start. The student, Annabelle Terrell works as an office specialist at our Permit Central office. Annabelle helps process permits, accept payments, answer phones, issue birth certificates, and provide customer service at our front counter. Annabelle plans to continue her education after graduating from Grant.

FINANCIALS

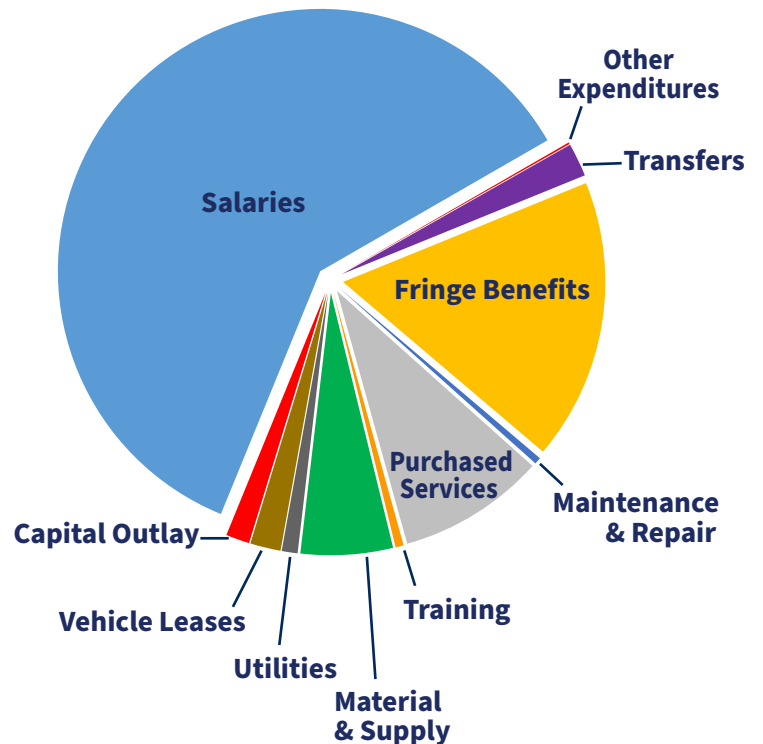
Revenue

| | Amount |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Grants | \$1,325,501.55 |
| Permits | \$1,289,824.47 |
| Townships, Villages & City of Milford | \$795,198.85 |
| Fees for Services | \$409,750.36 |
| Licenses | \$400,001.39 |
| Contracts | \$168,878.32 |
| State Subsidy | \$118,937.29 |
| Other | \$69,811.16 |
| Advance | \$50,000.00 |
| Grand Total | \$4,627,903.39 |



Expenses

| | Amount |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Salaries | \$2,801,938.29 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$803,634.73 |
| Purchased Services | \$420,017.90 |
| Material & Supply | \$262,724.04 |
| Transfers - Advance Reimbursements | \$95,500.00 |
| Vehicle Leases | \$87,261.85 |
| Capital Outlay | \$67,571.43 |
| Utilities | \$45,228.03 |
| Training | \$23,190.08 |
| Maintenance & Repair | \$19,173.43 |
| Other Expenditures | \$4,884.57 |
| Grand Total | \$4,631,124.35 |



Reportable Diseases

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|--------|--------|-------|
| Campylobacteriosis | 30 | 28 | 33 |
| Chlamydia | 551 | 498 | 457 |
| COVID-19 | 24,120 | 27,333 | 6,760 |
| Cryptosporidiosis | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| E.coli, shiga-toxin producing | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Giardiasis | 16 | 4 | 5 |
| Gonorrhea | 152 | 116 | 81 |
| Haemophiliis Influenza (invasive) | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| Hepatitis A | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Hepatitis B, acute | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Hepatitis B, chronic | 27 | 25 | 24 |
| Hepatitis C, acute | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis C, (non-perinatal) | 221 | 136 | 116 |
| Hepatitis C (perinatal) | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Influenza-associated hospitalizations | 12 | 170 | 36 |
| Legionnaire's Disease | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| Lyme Disease | 30 | 37 | 55 |
| Meningitis-aseptic (viral) | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Meningitis, bacterial (not N. meningitidis) | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Mycobacterial Disease, TB (suspect) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outbreaks, food | 94 | 39 | 14 |
| Pertussis | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Salmonellosis | 24 | 28 | 27 |
| Shigellosis | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Streptococcal - Group A - invasive | 14 | 20 | 28 |
| Streptococcal Pneumoniae, Invasive Disease (resistance/intermediate) | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Syphilis | 18 | 16 | 13 |
| Varicella | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Vibrosis | 1 | 0 | 1 |

The disease table is not inclusive of all diseases reported in Clermont County, but those of most interest or highest incidence. The table includes suspect, probable, and confirmed cases. Case counts are considered provisional and are subject to change pending further investigation. Diseases included in the table may not be exclusive to the category in which they are listed.

Cases prior to 2022 were based on date of diagnosis. Cases from 2022 and after are based on event date.

Leading Causes of Death

| | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|------|------|
| Diseases of the heart | 450 | 473 |
| Malignant neoplasms (cancer) | 459 | 420 |
| COVID-19 | 290 | 175 |
| Accidents | 142 | 142 |
| Cerebrovascular diseases | 160 | 139 |
| Chronic lower respiratory diseases | 113 | 124 |
| Alzheimer's disease | 79 | 98 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 69 | 69 |
| Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome (kidney) | 43 | 59 |
| Influenza and pneumonia | 28 | 34 |
| Septicemia | 24 | 32 |
| Suicide | 28 | 32 |
| Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis | 30 | 31 |
| Nutritional deficiencies | 23 | 29 |
| Parkinson's disease | 24 | 26 |

Vital statistics data is preliminary and subject to change pending final investigation. The data reported is for all Clermont County residents regardless of where the birth or death occurred.

*2021 & 2022 cause of death data totals are preliminary and are not yet finalized .

*2023 data is not yet available.

| | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total births | 2,230 | 2,163 |
| Total deaths | 2,409 | 2,323 |



Clermont County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Follow us



Contact us

Community Health Services
2400 Clermont Center Dr.
Suite 200
Batavia, OH 45103
513-735-8400



**Clermont County
Public Health**
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Permit Central
2275 Bauer Rd.
Suite 300
Batavia, OH 45103
513-732-7499

www.ccphohio.org

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