

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Perry County
Health Department



Greetings from your Perry County Health Commissioner!



16 years of service at PCHD

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Perry County Health Department. This report is a snapshot of our department's accomplishments and collaborative efforts over the past year and reflects the staff's perseverance and extraordinary commitment to providing essential public health services for our residents.

The work we do in Public Health is ever-changing, complex and challenging, but what remains constant is our dedication to protecting the public's health and safety. We are committed to building upon our accomplishments and will continue to lead collaborative efforts with community partners to ensure all residents have an opportunity to be healthy where they live, work, and play.

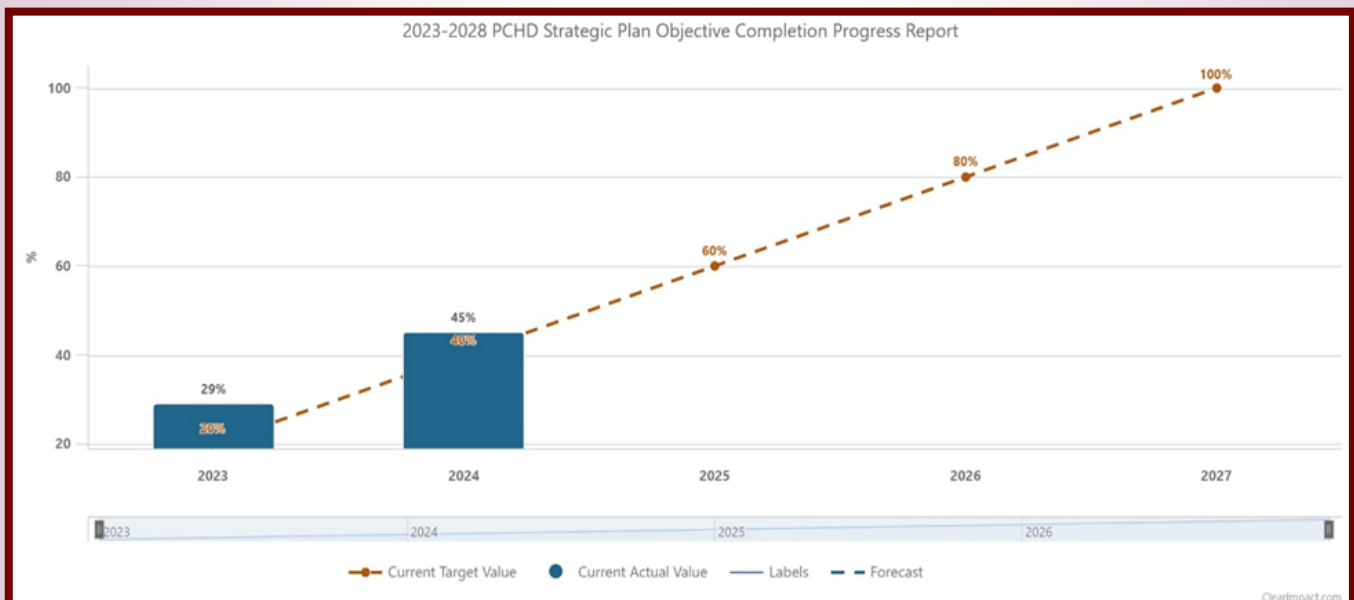
I hope you are inspired by all the services provided and the achievements accomplished by PCHD staff last year. Thank you for supporting our efforts in improving and sustaining the health of Perry County residents and may 2025 bring health and happiness to you, your family, and friends.

Sincerely,
Angela DeRolph, MPH
Health Commissioner



Progress and Monitoring of the PCHD Strategic Plan

The health department uses Clear Impact, which serves as PCHD's performance management system to track the completion of the objectives within the strategic plan. Fourteen (14) objectives have been completed since plan implementation began. The chart below shows that 45% of the total strategic plan objectives have been completed by the end of 2024.



Strategic Plan

The PCHD Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap detailing our goals and strategies that we plan to accomplish over the next 5 years. The strategic priorities for 2023-2028 include:

Public Relations



Goal: Grow a positive perception of the health department and its services post pandemic. Becoming a credible, trustworthy, knowledgeable, and dependable source of information. In turn, becoming an authority on public health issues by educating and aiding the community. The work of the Perry County Health Department will cultivate relationships with the community while promoting health equity.

Community Engagement



Goal: To strengthen community engagement by working to develop and maintain existing relationships that enable stakeholders to work together to address health-related issues and promote well-being to achieve positive health impact and outcomes.

**Compliance/
Reaccreditation**



Goal: Achieve and maintain compliance with all regulating entities and public health laws and codes. Achieve reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

CHIP Priorities



Goal: Implementation and Monitoring of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Build Health Equity



Goal: Foster a culture of inclusion, diversity, equity, and anti-racism.

Community Health Improvement Plan

CHIP Highlights

The Perry County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a long-term strategy developed to address public health issues in Perry County. The current CHIP was based on the results of the 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and includes strategies to address Access to Care and Chronic Disease. To access the Perry County Community Health Assessment and additional community health data reports visit:

<https://perrycountyhealth.info/community-health-assessment/>

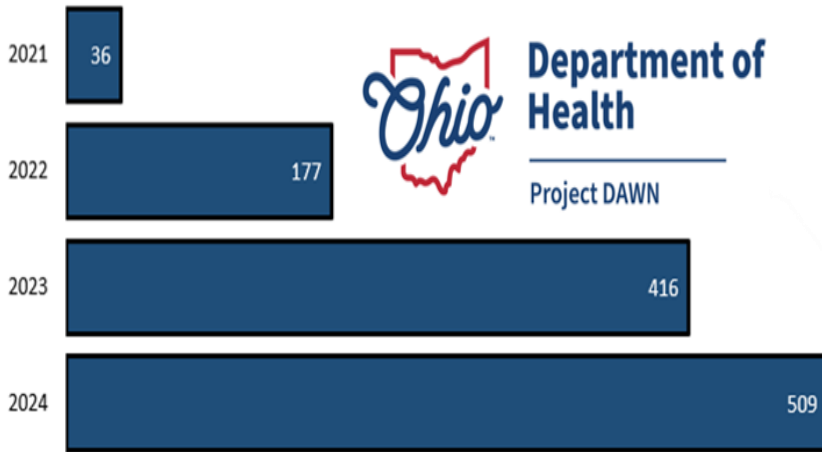
Increasing Access to Care

In 2024, PCHD and its partners configured a network of 45 Auvive AED's that are currently being integrated with the Perry County 911 Dispatch Center.

Once complete, the system will significantly increase Access to Care as it allows 911 dispatchers to map precise AED locations that could provide life saving actions promptly.



Pictured: Commissioner Ben Carpenter, Perry County Dispatch Director Sheri Emmert, and PHEP Coordinator Jim Mickey

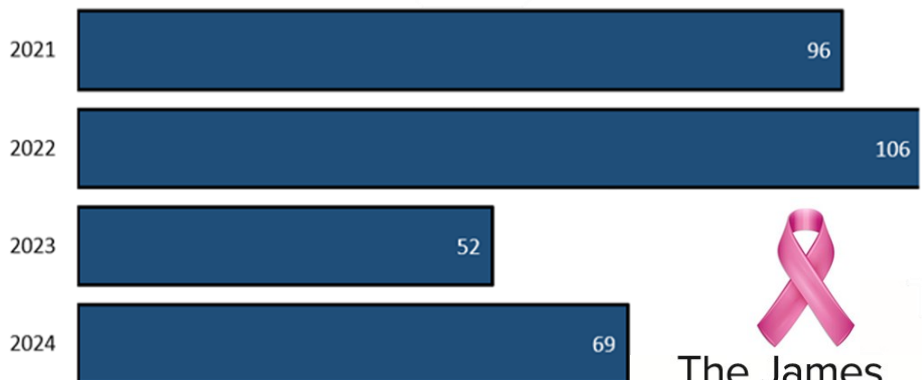


Project Dawn in Perry County

Reducing drug overdose deaths by increasing access to naloxone (NARCAN) was identified as a priority objective for Improving Access to Care within the County. The Perry County Health Department has significantly increased the number of naloxone kits distributed within the county since 2021

The Health Department provides the opportunity for women to receive close-to-home mammography services through our partnership with The James Cancer Center. Increasing the proportion of females who get screened for breast cancer was identified as a priority objective for increasing Access to Care within the County.

Since 2021, **323** women have received a close-to-home mammogram at the Health Department.



The James

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

The Chronic Disease Community Health Improvement Plan in conjunction with Creating Healthy Communities, Perry County Tobacco Program and the PCHD Nursing Division was completed in 2024 with four objectives created to address chronic disease.

- ◆ The Perry County Active Transportation Plan was updated.
- ◆ An assessment of the Perry County Food Pantries was completed in 2024. The assessment included data such as the number of volunteers, the average number of clients served, the ADA compliance of the locations and the need for electrical updates including emergency refrigeration.
- ◆ Vaping education and presentations were completed at local school districts including ALPHA.
- ◆ PCHD's mobile vaccination trailer was utilized for blood pressure checks, immunizations, and Narcan distribution and education at community events including the Perry County Fair, the Back to School Bash, Trunk or Treat, and the Annual Perry County Drive-thru.

Perry County's Vision of Health

Perry County Adding More to Life!
Value Strong - Community Focused – Health &
Prosperity for All

*The vision of health is Perry County's aspiration for the future and its provide direction when examining data in the CHA to identify health priorities addressed in the CHIP

Coming in 2025!

The Perry County Health Department will be releasing the new Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Community Health Assessment (CHA) Update:

In 2024 SOHIC contracted with Moxley Public Health, a public health consulting company to facilitate the Community Health Assessment (CHA) process and complete the CHA report for each of the county health departments and Genesis Healthcare System.

Southeastern Ohio Health Improvement Collaborative (SOHIC) Members:

- ◆ Perry County Health Department
- ◆ Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department
- ◆ Noble County Health Department
- ◆ Morgan County Health Department
- ◆ Genesis Healthcare System

Primary data for the Perry County Community Health Assessment (CHA) Report was collected through community member surveys, key informant interviews, and focus groups.

190

Community member surveys were completed

40

Community members participated in Focus Groups

11

Community leaders participated in Key Informant Interviews

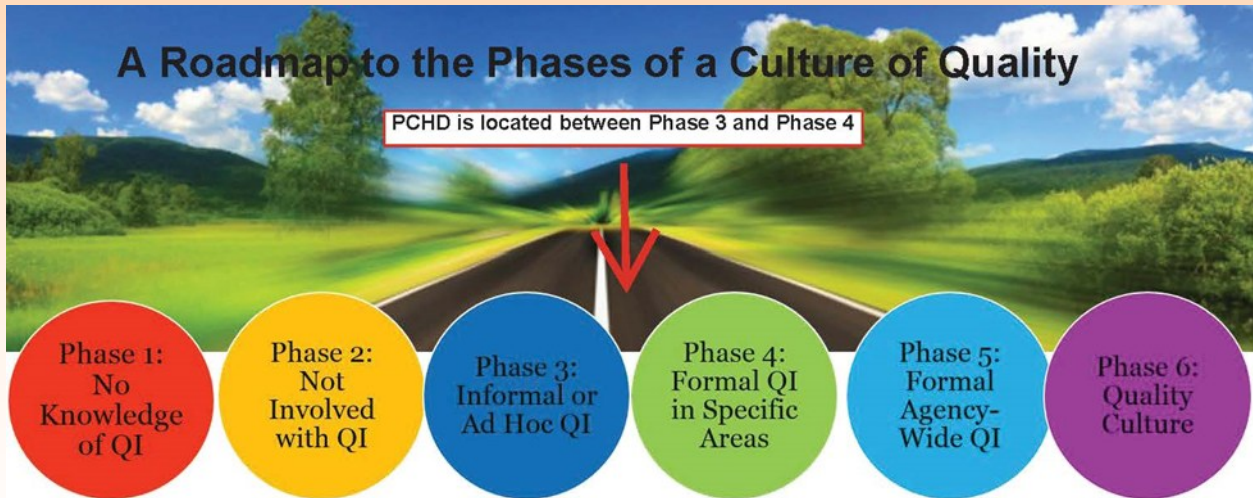
The Perry County Community Health Assessment (CHA) will provide organizations with comprehensive information about the community's current health status, needs, and issues.

This information will be used to develop the Perry County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which will include strategies to address health priority areas and justifying how and where resources should be allocated to best meet community needs.

The Perry County CHA and CHIP will be released in 2025

PCHD Building a Culture of Quality through Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and Performance Management

PCHD staff completed a formal, comprehensive assessment of our Quality Improvement (QI) culture by completing NACCHO's Organizational Culture of Quality Self-Assessment Tool Version 2.0 which engaged leadership and staff in the QI assessment and planning process. Data from the survey indicates that the Perry County Health Department falls between Phase 3 and 4 in the Phases of a Culture of Quality.



PCHD is working on transition strategies to be included in the PCHD Performance and Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) that will continue to move PCHD forward through the phases of a culture of quality to improve outcomes and performance

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is a deliberate, defined process which is focused on activities that are responsive to community needs and improving population health.

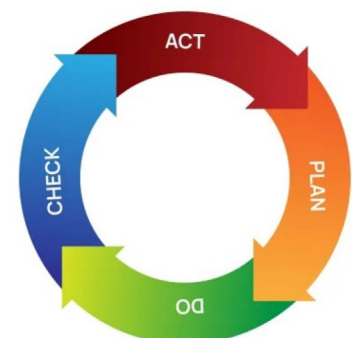
CQI is a continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes, and other indicators of quality in services or processes that achieve equity and improve the health of the community.



Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

The goal of CQI at the Perry County Health Department is to improve outcomes and performance by:

- Establishing a culture of CQI,
- Building CQI infrastructure and
- Applying CQI methods to daily practice.



Continuous Quality Improvement Project - Examining Ohio's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2024 the final report entitled "*Lessons Learned from Ohio's Public Health Pandemic Response A Road Map for Modernization and Quality Improvement in Public Health Practice*" was completed.

This report comprehensively analyzes Ohio's public health response to the COVID pandemic, discussing the strengths of the pandemic response, outlining the lessons learned, and highlighting potential recommendations for investment in the advancement and modernization of public health practice in Ohio.

The QI Process:

This study was led by a Quality Improvement committee that was jointly chaired by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC). Health Commissioner Angela DeRolph was one of the 10 members serving on the committee that worked with a research team at Ohio University to undertake a CQI project that examined Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Utilizing principles of the Six Sigma Quality Improvement Methodology and best practices in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, the study took more than 15 months to execute and involved nine different stages of data collection, including:

- ⇒ 36 focus group listening sessions
- ⇒ 9 group and/or individual interviews with key constituents outside of public health
- ⇒ 9 surveys
- ⇒ over 105 different health departments and 42 external stakeholder organizations engaged in the review.
- ⇒ 1,339 discrete participant engagements with the research process through a variety of research engagement types.

DID YOU KNOW:

Ohio accomplished "top-10"–level pandemic results, compared with other states, despite "bottom-10"–level funding.

Ohio's public health system rose to meet the challenge of a historic public health threat and greatly reduced severe outcomes!

Recommendations for Investment in the Advancement and Modernization of Public Health Practice in Ohio:

Strengthen public relations capacity within public health

Relaunch efforts to educate the community about public health

Invest in the public health workforce and in building foundational services—both in staffing levels and skills development—to promote innovative, successive gains to health outcomes

Integrate strategies to incorporate resilience and mental health into all public health operations

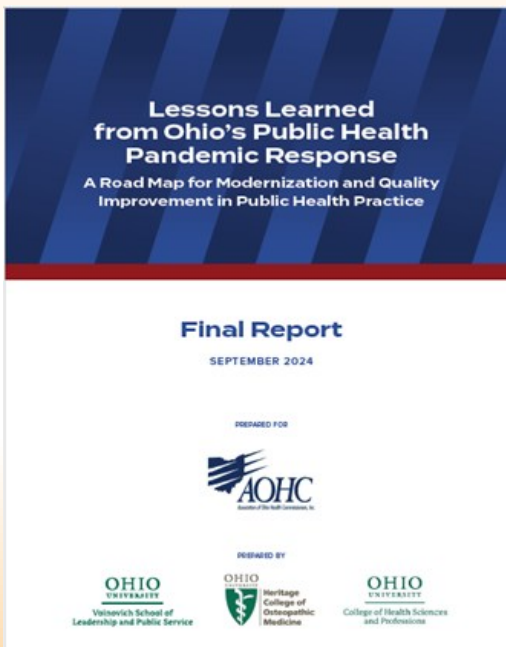
Establish or build upon existing mechanisms for community engagement, e.g., standing, diverse community focus groups, to support public health initiatives and communication strategies

Modernize data systems

Strengthen public health expertise in data management and analysis

Actively advocate for greater flexibility, availability, and sustainability of public health funding

Advocate for increased, sustained state funding that supports robust implementation of the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)



This report underscores the need for clear and consistent communication, community engagement, trust building, and data access and transparency, as well as adequate and consistent funding to address current health and prosperity needs in Ohio.

Investing in these recommendations will address root causes and support improvements in quality of life, life expectancy, and community responsiveness to health incidents which together will reduce overall health care and Medicaid costs in the process.

Public Health Nursing



509

kits distributed in 2024

416

kits distributed in 2023

93 more naloxone (NARCAN) kits were distributed in 2024.



116 Perry County Children were enrolled in the Complex Medical Help (CMH) Program in 2024. The CMH program links families of children with complex medical needs to a network of quality providers and helps the families obtain payment for the services their children need. This program is managed by Bailey Vandagriff, RN.



2024: **3,098** vaccines administered



2024: **101** head lice prescriptions called in

69



mammograms were provided to women locally through the Health Department's partnership with the James Cancer Center's Mobile Mammography Units.



Jenna Cannon, MPH, BSN, RN

Director of Nursing & Epidemiologist

5 years of service with PCHD

Bailey Vandagriff, RN

Public Health Nurse

2 years of service with PCHD



Jake Baker, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse

1 year of service with PCHD

Shawna Knox, LPN

Public Health Nurse

Started August 2024 with PCHD



Epidemiology

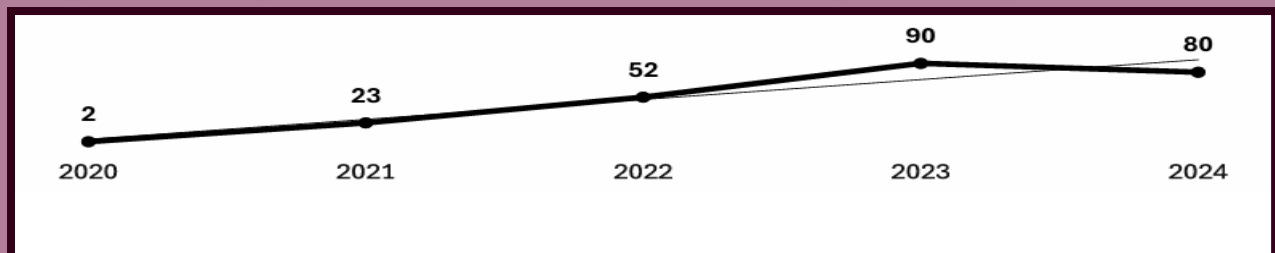
Reported Infectious Diseases: Perry County 2022- 2024

Reported Condition	2022	2023	2024
Campylobacteriosis	10	10	9
CP-CRE	2	0	1
Chlamydia	84	63	46
Covid-19	3936	905	626
Cryptosporidiosis	9	8	6
E-coli	1	3	1
Giardiasis	4	1	1
Gonococcal Infection	18	8	4
Haemophilus influenza	2	2	2
Hepatitis A	3	0	0
Hepatitis B	7	7	7
Hepatitis C	32	22	23
Hepatitis E	0	0	0
Influenza associated hospitalization	27	9	27
LaCrosse virus disease	1	1	0
Legionnaires' disease	0	0	0
Lyme disease	2	11	80
Meningitis	1	2	1
Pertussis	1	2	2
Salmonellosis	3	2	8
Streptococcal disease, Group A	2	5	2
<i>Strep. pneumoniae</i> , invasive	6	5	7
Syphilis	4	1	0
Varicella	1	1	1
Yersiniosis	1	1	1
Total	4,157	1,069	855

Includes Confirmed and Probable Case Classifications

Case counts reflect individuals residing in Perry County, Ohio at the time of identification.

Reported Lyme Disease Cases in Perry County 2020-2024



In 2023, PCHD obtained their first on-site Epidemiologist to assist with public health surveillance of infectious diseases and epidemiologic investigations.

Jenna Cannon, MPH, BSN, RN

Director of Nursing & Epidemiology

Lyme Disease, a Rising Concern in Ohio

Since the establishment and spread of black legged ticks in Ohio, Lyme disease has steadily increased and caused significant disease among Ohioans. While it is both preventable and treatable, Lyme Disease may become more severe and life-altering if not treated early. Although there was a slight decrease in Lyme Disease cases from 2023-2024, the number of Lyme Disease cases has significantly increased in Perry County, Ohio, since 2020.

Health Education



Pictured: Community Garden located in New Straitsville

Creating Healthy Communities

Vision: Vibrant Ohio communities where everyone has access to healthy foods and opportunities for active living.

This program is managed by Jenny LaRue.

Healthy Eating Projects	Active Living Projects
Healthy Food, local food Assessment	Increase PC Transit riders in New Lexington
Community Garden in New Straitsville	Active Transportation Plan 5-year update
Perry Neighborhood Connection Coalition	Increase "Rest & Ride" Locations in New Lexington

Perry County Tobacco Prevention, Education & Cessation

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease, disability and death in the United States. An average of **20,000** people die each year in Ohio from tobacco related illnesses.

In 2021, **18%** of Perry County adults were current smokers and **25%** were considered former smokers. **8%** of adults used e-cigarettes or vapes in the past year.

We are dedicated to promoting healthy outcomes in adults, children and babies by limiting the effects of tobacco and tobacco smoke by lowering smoking rates.

Ohio Health Improvement Zone (OHIZ)

The OHIZ grant is from the Ohio Department of Health to fund a project to address Social Determinants of Health and improve health behaviors of residents through meaningful community engagement and cross sector collaborations. Census tract 9663 in Southern Perry County with a social vulnerability index of .78 was identified as the project area. This includes Shawnee, New Straitsville and Hemlock. Communities with social vulnerability scores of over .75 often have families with limited employment opportunities, fewer options for safe housing and less access to medical care.



PCHD's Child Injury Prevention grant held a distracted driving event in April 2024. The event showcased our Fatal Vision Roadster Pedal Kart and our partnership with the New Lexington Police Department to create awareness of the dangers of driving distracted.

Health Education

Health Education Coalitions

Are you interested in getting involved with Health Education?

Attend one of our coalition meetings!

The Perry Neighborhood Connection Coalition is led by **Jenny LaRue (740-721-0864)** and the Child Injury Prevention Coalition is led by **Haley Randolph (740-721-0860)**.



85 Families received car seats through our partnership with Ohio Buckles Buckeyes and Job and Family Services.



Families were educated on safe sleep practices and received a portable crib through our Cribs for Kids grant program.

34

Youth Tobacco Prevention Education & Cessation

All four Perry County school districts participate in an alternative to suspension program that educates youth on the decision to stop using tobacco and vape products in lieu of traditional suspension. Youth can call 855-891-9989 or visit www.livevapefree.com for free confidential help quitting.



Deborah Raney
Director of Health Education

19 years of service at PCHD



Jenny LaRue
Health Educator

25 years of service at PCHD



Chad Seurkamp
Health Educator

9 years of service at PCHD



Lesa Garey
Health Educator

9 years of service at PCHD

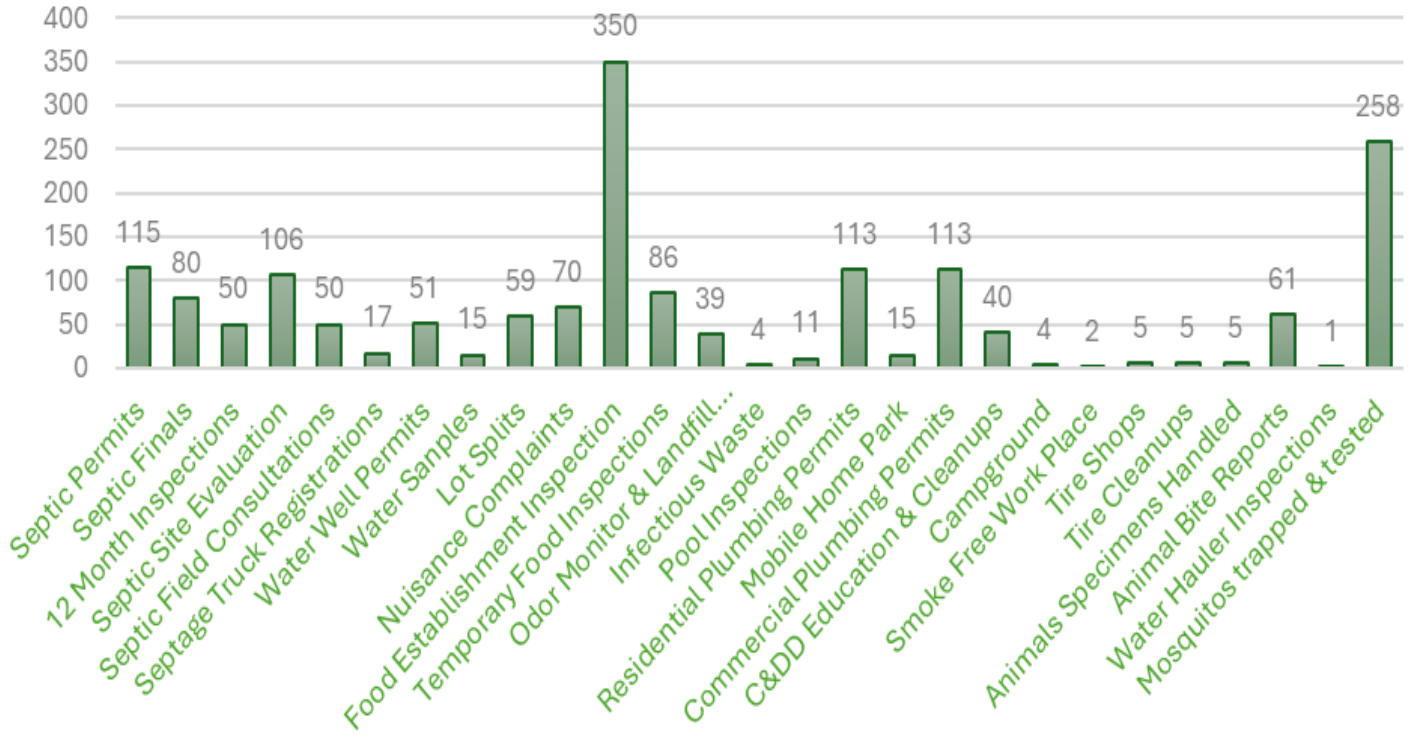


Haley Randolph
Health Educator

1 years of service at PCHD

Environmental Health

2024 Environmental Services and Inspections



Chad Cook

Registered Environmental Health Specialist

25 years of service at PCHD



Brooke Howell

Registered Environmental Health Specialist

2 years of service at PCHD



3,000+
scrap tires
collected



Kaylin Wellspring

Environmental Admin Assistant

Started December 2024 at PCHD



Cary Bowers

Director of Environmental Health

13 years of service at PCHD



Susan Kinney

Environmental Admin Assistant

26 years of service at PCHD



Josh McClure

Registered Environmental Health Specialist

1 year of service at PCHD

Environmental Health

In 2024, **350** food establishments were licensed and inspected including **47** mobile food establishments were licensed and inspected including **5** new mobiles.

New establishments in Perry County include:

- Big Stan's Bar & Grill in Thornville
- Wills Restaurant in Corning
- General Assembly in Somerset
- Shawnee Crossing in Shawnee
- Café Grind in New Lexington



Registered Environmental Specialist,
Brooke Howell during a food inspection in Perry
County

Working to keep you
healthy where you
live, **work** and **play** by
overseeing:

⇒ Home Sewage Treatment Systems



⇒ Private Water Systems



⇒ Plumbing Installations and Alterations



⇒ C&DD Licensing and Inspections

⇒ Food Service Licensing and Inspections



⇒ Campground Licensing



⇒ Swimming Pool Licensing

⇒ Mosquito Surveillance and Control



⇒ Animal Bites/Rabies Concerns



⇒ Public Health Nuisances



Environmental Program Highlights

Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) Program:

Enforcement and Monitoring: In 2024, our CDD Program acquired a Jerome-Hydrogen Sulfide Monitor to use around both disposal facilities located in Perry County. The meter will help monitor the air quality around the landfills when odors are present or reported. This monitor will help our department determine if gas levels in the air are remaining within state requirements.

Cleanup and Education: Our department during 2024, approved and over-sought 3 community education and cleanup events, and approved for completion in 2025, 5 individual property education and clean-up events.

We are looking to expand our program in 2025, and encourage all communities to participate in the C&DD Community Clean-up and Education Program.

Additional equipment to be acquired in 2025 includes a Drone to be used to help monitor disposal facilities and illegal dump sites, as well as property and septic system layouts for homeowners and businesses.

In 2024, a temporary mosquito technician was hired to assist with implementing mosquito control activities in villages and public spaces throughout Perry County.

9 different pools (groups) were collected, bringing the total number of mosquitos pooled to **171.**

A total of **258** mosquitos were identified in traps.

There were **0** reported cases of mosquito-borne illnesses in Perry County in 2024.

Adult mosquito control spray was applied in **all villages** within Perry County, including some additional problem areas and community events.

Mosquito Control activities will continue in 2025, in partnership with the Ohio EPA Mosquito Control Grant, awarded each year to qualified applicants.



Emergency Preparedness

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator is responsible for providing disaster, emergency, and special events planning and operations to move forward our capabilities to coordinate our responses and recovery to natural disasters and human caused emergencies. Plans were updated and developed, trainings and exercises were attended or held, and supplies and equipment were maintained at the ready to better assist with the next challenge.



Jim Mickey
Emergency Response
Coordinator
8 years of service at PCHD



370 vaccinations were given and **10.6 pounds** of prescription medications were collected at the annual drive-thru clinic in October.

Training in CPR/AED use for cardiac emergencies was provided to **610** individuals at 11 events throughout Perry County in 2024.



The health department coordinated efforts with the Perry County Fair to deploy and demobilize the Blu Med Emergency Facility. The Blu Med facility was used during fair week to offer an air conditioned space, blood pressure checks, free bottled water, a changing/feeding station for infants, and training in CPR, AED use and airway obstructions.



Vital Statistics

2024

Certificates Issued

844 birth

815 death

11

Homebirths were registered in Perry County

223

Perry County deaths*

4

Deaths were overdoses*



*Although more incidents may have occurred in Perry County, many individuals are transported to out-of-county hospitals before being pronounced deceased.



Ashley Champ
Registrar

Started September 2024 at PCHD

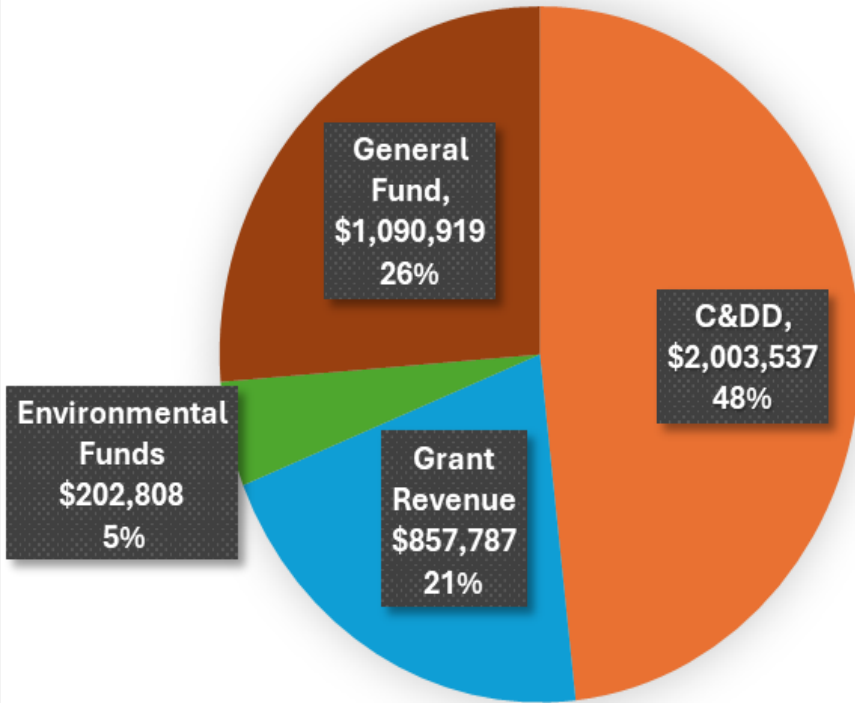


Te'Lesia Spencer
Deputy Registrar

Started August 2024 at PCHD

Fiscal Report

2024 Perry County Health Department Revenue



Revenue includes: intergovernmental (ie: levy), contracts, charges for services (ie: birth certificates), license/permit fees, grant funding and landfill tipping fees.

2024
Public Health Levy Income
\$815,613
Supports

Public Health Clinic

Vital Statistics

Environmental Support

Health Education & Promotion

Emergency Preparedness

Administration

Fund Breakdown

General Fund Costs include:

personnel costs, operating costs, and mandated costs

Environmental Health Costs include:

costs associated with the food program, sewage program, plumbing program, and pool program. This would include expenditures such as personnel, operating costs, contracts, and mandated costs.

Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Costs include:

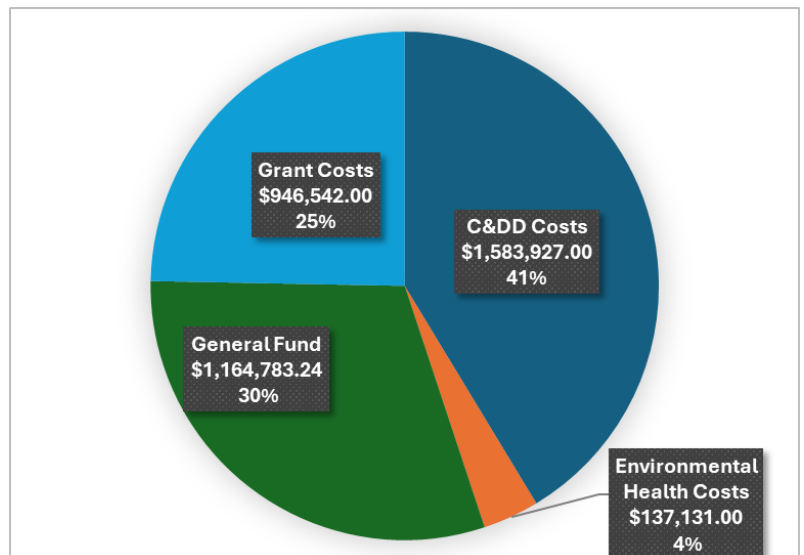
cost associated with the C&DD Program and would include expenditures such as personnel, operating costs, contracts, and mandated costs. *C&DD fund balances are restricted by the ORC to be used solely for the purposes of the C&DD program.

Grant Costs include:

expenditures associated with all of the PCHD grants and include items such as personnel, operating costs, and contracts.

*Grant funding must be used for purposes specified by the grant.

2024 Perry County Health Department Expenditures





Health Commissioner Angela DeRolph was elected as Vice President of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) during the Fall AOHC Conference held in September.

Pictured left to right: Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Commissioner & AOHC past President Corey Hamilton, Wood County Health Commissioner and AOHC President Ben Robison, Perry County Health Commissioner and AOHC Vice President Angela DeRolph.

Josh McClure, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, recently passed his Ohio Environmental Health Specialist Exam, allowing him to become registered with the State of Ohio. Josh oversees the Perry County landfills facilitating monitoring and inspections.



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PCHD in the Spotlight

Our Mission

To improve Public Health in Perry County by preventing disease, promoting health and safety, and protecting our environment.

Our Vision

A motivated community uniting for health and prosperity where we live, work, and play.

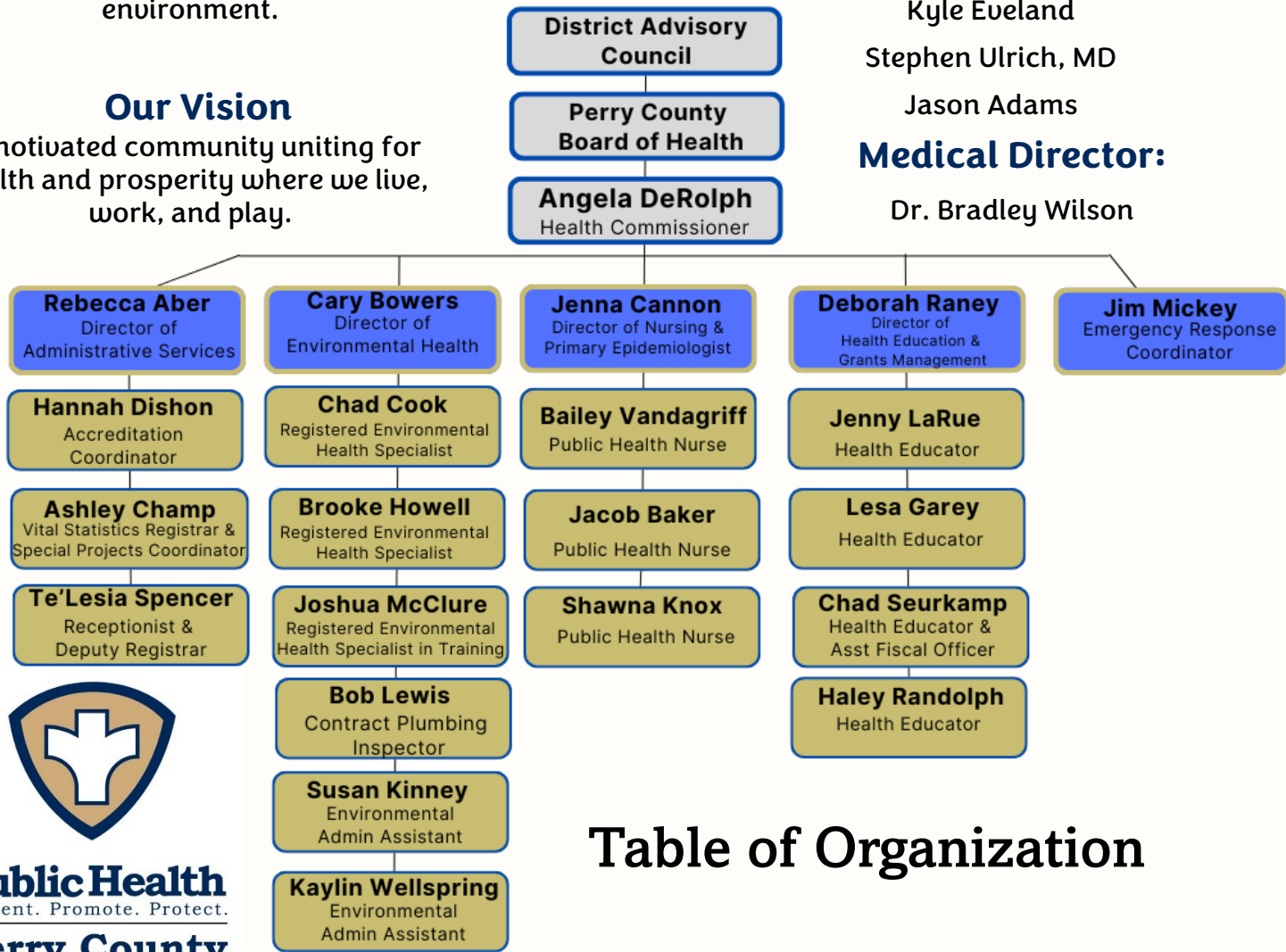
The Board of Health:

Timothy Cotterman, President
James Clouse, R.Ph., Vice President

Kyle Eueland
Stephen Ulrich, MD
Jason Adams

Medical Director:

Dr. Bradley Wilson



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Health Department

Table of Organization

Our Core Values: WE CARE

- Willingness:** We are ready to respond and eager to promote and protect the health of Perry county residents where they live, work and play.
- Excellence:** We promote quality outcomes through learning and continuous quality improvement. We use scientific data and evidence-based strategies to build a strong foundation to address health needs and promote healthy living in Perry County.
- Collaboration:** We value the diversity and unique contributions of our employees and partners. We develop positive relationships, foster innovative solutions, and use teamwork to solve problems and achieve common goals.
- Accountability:** We operate with open communication, transparency, timeliness, and continuous quality improvement. We strive to do the right thing to achieve the best public health outcomes.
- Respect:** We uphold a standard of conduct that recognizes and values the contributions of all. We value our employees and treat our clients, partners, and those we serve with respect by listening, understanding, and responding to their needs.
- Education:** We are committed to empowering and enriching employees through workforce development in order to advance the practice of public health. We also strive to offer and promote quality programs for our community in an attempt to improve health outcomes.

PCHD Staff working to keep you **healthy** where you **live, work** and **play**



To learn more about us, visit our website
perrycountyhealth.info



Find us on Facebook!





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