



**Huron County
Public Health**

2023 Annual Report

This page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

4	Annual Report Overview
5-6	Letter from the Health Commissioner
7-15	Community Programs Division
16-19	Medical Division
20-24	Environmental Division
25-26	Administrative Services
27	2023 Financial Statement

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

Huron County Public Health's (HCPH) mission is to achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities by providing public health services which promote health and prevent disease.

The governing body for HCPH is the Huron County Board of Health. Elected officials of Huron County cities, villages, and townships appoint Board members. Health Districts shall have a Board of Health consisting of at least five members. The District Advisory Council appoints four members, and the District Licensing Council appoints one. One member must be a physician. The Board of Health appoints the Health Commissioner.



Huron County Public Health

Board of Health

- James Gottfried, M.D.
President
- Kathleen Butler, LPN
Vice President
- DAC Seat - *vacant*
- Jeremy Loose
- Greg Polachek
- Lisa Reer, RPh
- Ron Robinson
- Krista Sowers, RRT, RCP
- Kimberly Stults, RN

Medical Director

Stephanie Gibson, M.D.

Health Commissioner

Tim Hollinger, MPH

A LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

2023 was a pivotal year of growth and development within our agency. The year started off with a challenge, the decision to discontinue our efforts towards establishing a federally qualified health center (FQHC), despite the immeasurable effort we invested into all the logistics of the FQHC such as purchasing buildings, hiring staff, and establishing branding for the FQHC. However, it was ultimately a necessary decision to ensure the continuity, stability, and security of the health district.

Although we started off with a challenge, there were rewards that followed. HCPH had a packed year of collaboration with community partners, and we championed several new grants and projects such as the installation of a harm reduction vending machine in July 2023, that is stocked with items that aim to overall reduce the number of overdose deaths in the community. The public was a bit apprehensive at first, but as we explained and demonstrated the benefits of the vending machine, this quickly became a highly-used asset in our community.

Another example of our community partnerships is the preparation efforts for the 2024 solar eclipse. To many, this is a once-in-a-lifetime celestial event that will really put our emergency preparedness to the test, as Norwalk sits right on the center of the path of totality. It's been very hard to spearhead any amount of preparation for this event, mainly because there's a chance that if the weather is uncooperative, we may not even be able to see the eclipse occur. However, we can still expect a mass gathering to occur. It's been months and months of discussion internally at HCPH and with community partners and critical infrastructure in Huron County such as EMA, police, fire, etc. We're all trying our best to envision what we can do to prepare as best as possible, but with the amount of people expected to be traveling to Huron County (specifically Norwalk), this is a challenging task to prepare for.

In 2023, we also completed our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation process and hope to receive our "continued accreditation" status in early 2024.

Finally, I would like to close out with the pride I feel within our staff and our Board of Health. Every employee and board member at Huron County Public Health cares deeply about this community and wants to continue to serve Huron County to the best of our ability. Below are some of each of our divisions biggest 2023 highlights:

- ***Community Programs Division:***
 - Renewed the Creating Health Communities (CHC) grant, allowing the continuation of partnerships between HCPH and community partners to bring active living and healthy eating resources to Huron County.
 - Launched the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Data Dashboard in coordination with community partners such as the Huron County Board of

Mental Health and Addiction Services (HCBMHAS) to ultimately provide timely and accurate data to help the community in Huron County make data-driven decisions and create a greater awareness to reduce stigma. The Dashboard can be viewed at www.HuronCoHealth.com/dashboard.

- ***Environmental Health Division:***

- Improvements to the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program that will prove beneficial to the community.
- Our Environmental Health (EH) division has been working to prepare the community and business owners for the upcoming solar eclipse by sharing the proper permit applications that may be needed during the gathering for the eclipse, such as temporary food license permits, temporary campground permits, temporary body art permits, and mass gathering permits. More information available at www.huroncohealth.com/eclipse.

- ***Division of Administrative Services:***

- Our Administrative Division worked carefully to make sure they found a new health insurance option that would save the agency the most money compared to 2022 renewal prices.
- Transferred fiscal software to the Cloud that will allow for more resourceful and secure storage of the agency's fiscal materials.

- ***Medical Services Division:***

- Applying for and being granted the Reproductive Health & Wellness grant through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) through the fiscal year 2025. This grant in the amount of \$65,000.00 allows HCPH to continue assisting our community with various reproductive health services such as STD testing & treatment, pregnancy tests, birth control options, and more. Additionally, touch-free doors were added at the entrances to our medical division.
- Installation of touch-free automatic doors at the entrances of our medical division. This allows for a decrease in the spreading of germs, while simultaneously allowing ease-of-access as well as improved Americans with Disabilities (ADA)-compliant facilities for clinic patients.

The remainder of this report shares in detail, information regarding HCPH's 2023 programs and services.



Tim Hollinger, MPH

Huron County Health Commissioner

Community Programs Division

The Community Programs Division (CPD) coordinates HCPH's public education, emergency preparedness and response, epidemiology, surveillance, communication efforts, and accreditation. CPD also coordinates the Huron County Community Health Assessment (CHA), the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and HCPH's health promotion programming and grants.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP)

HCPH was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) in the amount of \$72,791.00. In 2023, the PHEP grant covered expenses for an update of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Communications Plan, a regional-level full-scale Medical Countermeasures (MCM) exercise, continuity of operations exercise, participation in Ohio Department of Health (ODH) epidemiology meetings, and participation in regional epidemiologist/emergency planner meetings, and trainings for staff.

2023 ODH STATEWIDE MCM FULL-SCALE EXERCISE

HCPH participated in the ODH Statewide MCM Full-Scale Exercise (FSE), held October 17 – 19, 2023. The FSE was designed with a fictional scenario where players participated in response to a biological agent being released in the community. The purpose of the FSE was to evaluate the capability and operational readiness of ODH, regional and local PHEP subrecipients to address the public health and healthcare impacts to their communities from a simulated intentional Anthrax release occurring in their region. HCPH had participation from several staff members including the Health Commissioner, management, epidemiologist, public information officer, and several supporting staff members.

2023 Preparedness Summit, Atlanta, GA

In April 2023, HCPH's Epidemiologist/Emergency Planner received a scholarship from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to attend the 2023 Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA. The Summit encompassed 150+ learning sessions, demonstrations, and workshops to aid attendees in enhancing their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE

HCPH monitors the health of the community through epidemiological surveillance. The Epidemiologist monitors numerous systems for daily awareness of the health status of the community.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED TO HCPH

By law, cases of certain diseases must be reported to local health departments. Reportable diseases are of public health concern due to their severity and the potential for epidemic spread. In 2023, there were 205 communicable disease cases (excluding COVID-19) reported.

Top 5 Communicable Diseases in 2023 (excluding COVID-19):

1. Chlamydia
2. Hepatitis C
3. Flu-Associated Hospitalization
4. Campylobacteriosis
5. Gonorrhea

HURON COUNTY SCHOOL ABSENTEE SURVEILLANCE

School Absentee Surveillance is a way to track illness in schools for students that may not see a doctor. School Absentee Surveillance is beneficial for schools because it can identify suspicious health events in specific schools or school districts. HCPH partnered with 10 schools in 2023 on school absentee surveillance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

HCPH's Public Information Officer (PIO) had the opportunity to virtually attend the 2023 Government Social Media (GSM) Conference in May 2023. The GSM Conference hosted guest speakers and training sessions led by experienced professionals providing guidance to internal and external communication methods in all levels of government agencies throughout various social media platforms. HCPH's PIO applied information learned at the GSM Conference to HCPH's social media platforms and has seen growth in the audience of each of the agency's platforms, as depicted in the graphics below.

Communicating effectively is important to HCPH's mission: to achieve and sustain healthy

people and healthy communities throughout Huron County. HCPH primarily uses three social media platforms to communicate with the population we serve, to provide methods to promote health, prevent disease, and educate the public on important health topics.



5,549: Total number of followers on HCPH's Facebook page in 2023.



493: Total number of followers on HCPH's Instagram page in 2023.



477: Total number of followers on HCPH's X (formerly Twitter) page in 2023.

www.huroncohealth.com



33,719

Number of people that visited HCPH's website for the first time in 2023.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DIVISION GRANTS

Creating Healthy Communities Grant

2023 wrapped up year four of a five-year grant cycle for the ODH's Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Grant, a healthy eating and active living-focused grant with a mission of activating community-led solutions to create sustainable change in policies, places, and population health. Three CHC-sponsored projects were started and two completed in Huron County in 2023, including:

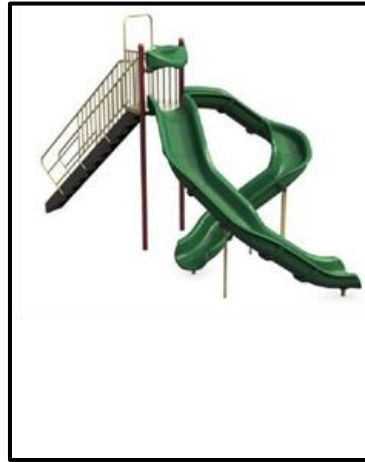
- 1. Stokely Park Project in Norwalk** – CHC sponsored the purchase of youth soccer goals, a climbing/discovery cave, a basketball hoop, and Americans with Disabilities Association (ADA)-compliant benches & table, fence addition and replacement, concrete, and slide paint for Stokely Park. These contributions will promote and increase healthy living and equity within the community. Due to delays, this project will be completed in 2024. A photo of the current equipment at Stokely Park can be seen below.



- 2. Willard City Park Project** – Huron County CHC partnered with the City of Willard’s Parks and Recreation Department to sponsor a portion of the cost for a single slide to replace an existing outdated slide at Willard City Park. The City of Willard Park and Recreation Department plans to remove the existing blue slide and will be installing the replacement slide in 2024 within the new Kiddie Land (2024 CHC Strategy).



Outdated Slide, 2023



New Slide, coming 2024

- 3. Reservoir Park Project in Greenwich** - Reservoir Park in Greenwich received funding from CHC to sponsor multiple pieces of equipment that will allow for an up-to-date area for active living opportunities. This includes a climbing wall, ADA-accessible play surfacing, stone border, slide mats, teeter duo, whizzy dizzy, swing

seats, and removal of existing slide poles. Due to delays, this project will be a 2024 sustained project, and completion is expected by mid-2024.



Huron County CHC also sustained several projects in 2023 including:

- *Community gardens in Norwalk, Wakeman, and Willard.*
- *Food Service Guidelines at the Willard City Pool in the City of Willard.*
- *Revitalization efforts to Red Cap Park in the Village of Wakeman.*
- *Willard Book-A-Bike bikeshare program for the City of Willard, operating out of the Huron County Community Library.*

Additionally, the ODH updated primary program branding in 2023, resulting in the expiration of secondary program logos, including CHC. Therefore, HCPH and CHC staff worked closely to create a new HCPH CHC program-specific logo that can be found below.



Previous Huron County CHC Program Logo, 2020-2023



New Huron County CHC Program Logo, 2023

PEP+ Grant

Each year, HCPH applies for the PEP+ Grant through the Public Entities Pool (PEP) of Ohio. This grant is intended to cover safety items wherein the primary purpose of the item is prevention or reduction of liability claims or property losses, as well as risk control training and COVID-19-related expenses. In 2023, HCPH received \$170.00 for the PEP+ Grant to cover the cost of service and maintenance for the agency's fire extinguishers.

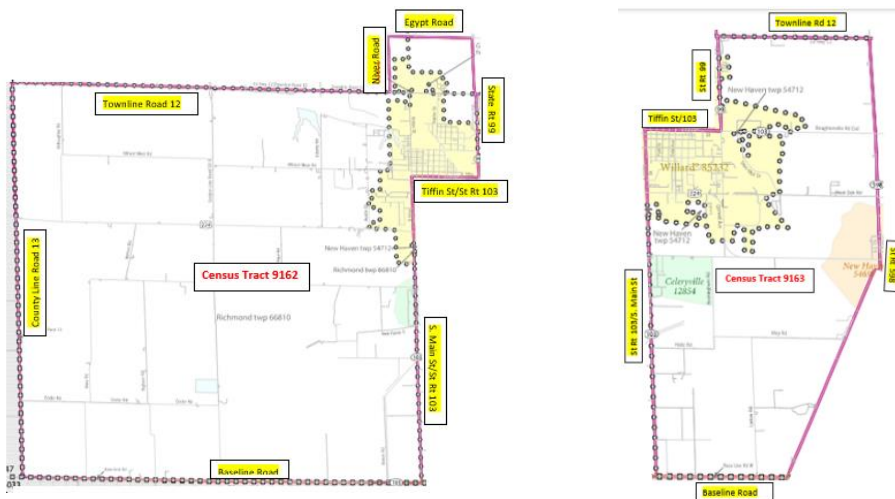
HCPH's Response to COVID-19 in 2023

In 2023, HCPH received three COVID-19-related grant awards from the ODH to assist with COVID-19 response in Huron County. Grant descriptions are included below.

Grant Title	Award Period	Award Amount
COVID-19 Vaccination (CN22)	1/1/2022 - 6/30/2023	\$104,213.00
COVID-19 Enhanced Operations (EO22)	8/1/2022 – 7/31/2023	\$318,000.00
COVID-19 Enhanced Operations (EO23)	8/1/2023 – 7/31/2024	\$410,769.00
TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS RECEIVED		\$832,982.00

Ohio Health Improvement Zones Project

In July 2022, HCPH was awarded \$100,000.00 for the Ohio Health Improvement Zones (OHIZ) Pilot Project. The purpose of this funding is to address social determinants of health and improve healthy behaviors of residents through meaningful community engagement and cross-sector collaboration in OHIZs. This project, which will conclude in the first half of 2024, will provide significant funding to the Willard Kiddie Land Park project.



More information about the Ohio Health Improvement Zones can be found at <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/health-equity/health-improvement-zones>.

2023 NACCHO 360 Conference, Denver, CO

In 2023, HCPH was awarded a \$100,000.00 grant through the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), to address vaccine hesitancy in Huron County. Data shows that since the COVID-19 pandemic, many parents/guardians have chosen not to receive or have their children receive any vaccinations, including routine vaccines such as Varicella (Chickenpox), DTap, HepA, and HepB. Data showed school vaccination rates had been decreasing in Huron County, and retrospectively, Huron County had fallen below the State of Ohio rates for kindergarten, 7th grade, and 12th grade vaccinations.

In response, HCPH conducted community interviews and partnered with agencies and organizations serving children and their families to assist in distributing a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) survey. Data from the survey showed that 18.9% of respondents felt vaccines were not safe at all, and 40.9% of all respondents do not trust pharmaceutical companies. The survey also showed that 49.2% of the respondents were not at all concerned about their child getting a vaccine-preventable disease like measles or polio.

HCPH is focusing efforts on rebuilding trust at the local level. One effort by HCPH was filming an educational video featuring local trusted community members expressing their opinions on the importance of vaccines and mailed postcards with scientific data and links/QR codes to reputable resources with data about vaccines to all residences in Huron County. HCPH continues to monitor vaccine rates in Huron County and works with community partners to identify resources to continue educating the public on routine vaccines.

In July 2023, utilizing funds from the NACCHO Vaccine Hesitancy project, and a NACCHO housing scholarship, HCPH's Community Programs Director attended the NACCHO 360 Conference in Denver, Colorado. This conference allowed HCPH to learn, network, and share experiences and best practices with other local health departments across the U.S. At this conference, HCPH presented alongside two other Vaccine Hesitancy grantees on the agency's findings from the RCA and the workplan completed as part of the grant.

HEALing COMMUNITIES STUDY

In 2022 and 2023, HCPH was an active participant in the HEALing Communities Study (HCS), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study which aimed to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 40% over three years in participating communities in Massachusetts, Ohio, New York, and Kentucky. The purpose of the study was to investigate how tools for preventing and treating opioid misuse and opioid use disorders are most effective at the local level.

Additional information about the study can be found at <https://heal.nih.gov/research/research-to-practice/healing-communities>.

In 2023, HCPH continued to serve as a workgroup member, and also served as Huron County's "Communication Champion" for the study.

As a result of HCS, HCPH worked closely with the Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services to design and launch the *Huron County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Data Dashboard*. The Dashboard launched in December 2023 and is now available as a tool for both community partners and community members to provide transparent data about overdoses, suicide, and more in Huron County. The Dashboard can be viewed at www.HuronCoHealth.com/dashboard.

A second community benefit resulting from HCS is HCPH's Harm Reduction Vending Machine, which launched in July 2023. This climate-controlled vending machine, located at HCPH's offices at 28 Executive Drive in Norwalk, provides residents with free 24/7/365 access to potentially life-saving harm reduction resources such as fentanyl test strips and naloxone. Since the installation of the vending machine in July 2023, HCPH has distributed 489 boxes of naloxone (under the brand name Kloxxado), and 720 fentanyl test strips to the public through the vending machine.

NACCHO SUICIDE, OVERDOSE AND ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs) PREVENTION PLANNING (SOAPP) PROJECT

HCPH was awarded \$50,000.00 for the NACCHO SOAPP Project in November 2023. This project, which will continue into mid-2024, will provide HCPH with technical assistance to help Huron County understand and strengthen capacity to address the intersection of overdose, suicide, and ACEs in Huron County. The project will assist HCPH in applying a community-based prevention framework to:

- i. Leverage cross-sector partnerships and engage community collaborators to develop and organizing body to commit to working at the intersection of suicide, overdose, and ACEs.
- ii. Identify health inequities and focus efforts on supporting those in greatest need within their communities.
- iii. Develop and adopt a strategic plan to tackle the intersection of suicide, overdose, and ACEs.
- iv. Identify and select evidence-based strategies to strengthen prevention response, identifying adaptations for the community's cultural context and readiness for change.

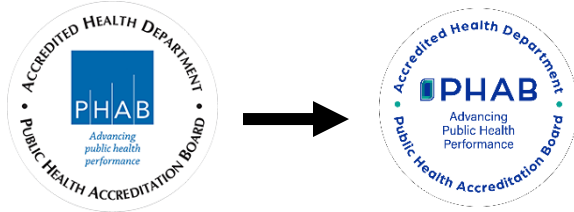
DRUG OVERDOSE AND SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD 2023

In 2023, HCPH continued to facilitate the Huron County Drug Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review Committee, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 307.6410. The Committee met quarterly in 2023. Additional details about the Committee's work in 2023 will be made available in the Committee's Annual Report in April 2024.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

HCPH has been nationally accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) since November 2015 and walked through the reaccreditation process in 2023. In August 2023, HCPH completed the pre-site visit review, and in November 2023, HCPH staff participated in a virtual site visit with PHAB. As of the end of 2023, HCPH is awaiting PHAB's reaccreditation decision which will be made in March 2024.

Additionally in 2023, PHAB announced an update to their brand logo, as pictured below.



Previous Logo

New Logo, 2023

CHA/CHIP

In October 2023, an updated Community Health Assessment (CHA) was released by the Huron County Health Partners. Huron County's 2023 CHA is the result of a collaborative effort coordinated by the HCPH and completed by central-Ohio-based research firm Illuminology. The CHA is intended to help community stakeholders better understand the health needs and priorities of Huron County residents. Characterizing and understanding the prevalence of acute and chronic health conditions, access to care barriers, health disparities, and other health issues can direct community resources to where they will have the biggest impact. Moving forward, partners will utilize CHA data to inform the development and implementation of strategic plans to meet the community's health needs.

The CHA is available for the public to view at www.HuronCoHealth.com/huron-county-health-partners.

Medical Division

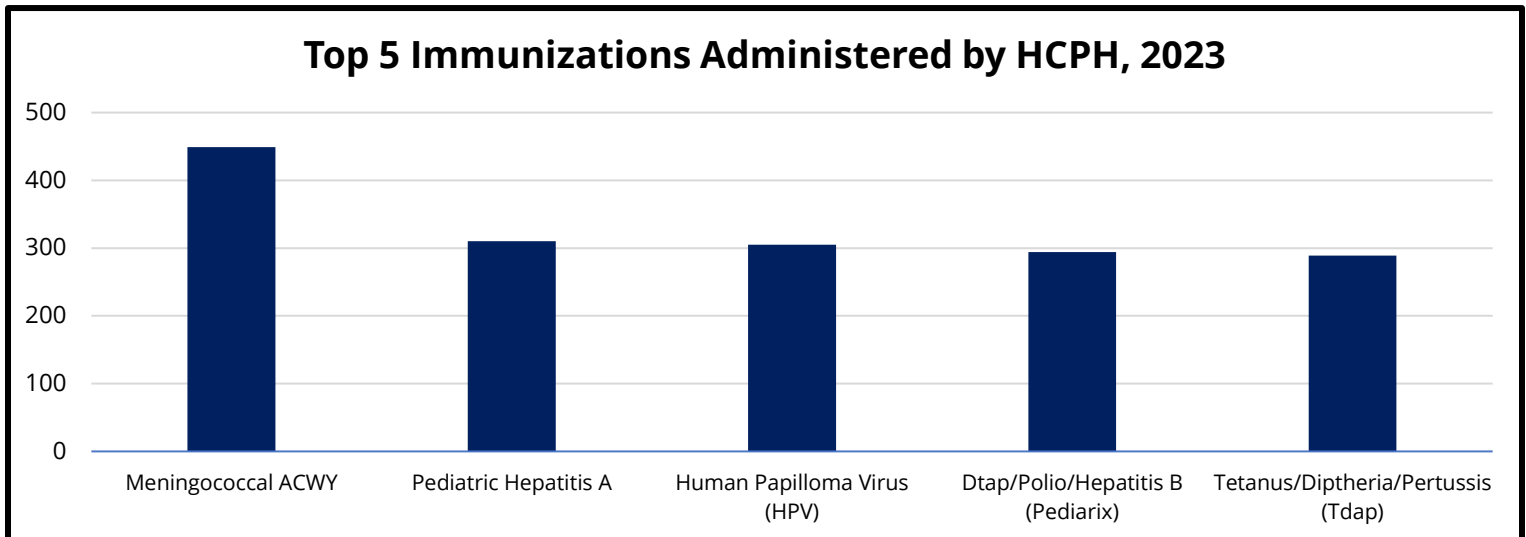
The Medical Division of HCPH provides a variety of medical services to Huron County, including immunizations, reproductive health, school health services, alcohol and opioid addiction services, and other public health nursing services.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations are provided by HCPH to persons 6 weeks of age and up, following all current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

HCPH continues to participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and in 2023, HCPH provided vaccinations to 1,844 VFC-eligible children. Children birth through age 18 years, who are insured by Medicaid, have no health insurance, are Native American or Alaskan Native or are underinsured, are VFC-eligible. No child is turned away for their family's inability to pay for these vaccinations. HCPH also served 402 non-VFC eligible children in 2023.

In 2023 HCPH also administered 172 doses of COVID-19 immunizations, and 408 total doses of influenza immunizations. The total number of immunizations administered at HCPH in 2023 (excluding COVID-19 and flu vaccines), was 1,647. The top five immunizations administered by HCPH in 2023 are pictured in the following graph.



CAR SEAT SAFETY AND OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES PROGRAM



40 car seats/boosters were distributed in 2023, and **2** car seats were inspected.

HCPH distributes infant and child car seats and booster seats to eligible Huron County families. Designed for low-income families in need of safety seats for their children, this car seat instruction, distribution, and education service can help families who qualify by providing child passenger safety seats for children from all of Huron County. HCPH has a Certified Passenger Safety Technician available on staff to provide car seat checks, as well as provide a new car seat/booster seat to WIC-eligible families.

DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINICS

Since the mid 2000's, HCPH has offered adult influenza vaccinations through drive-thru clinics held around the county. These clinics allow persons to be vaccinated in a convenient location quickly, without having to get out of their vehicle. In addition to being convenient to the public, drive-thru clinics also allow staff to practice emergency plans for emergency vaccination and medication distribution. In 2023, HCPH offered one drive-thru flu shot clinic in Norwalk.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Per Ohio Revised Code 3313.69, vision and hearing screenings for children in preschool, kindergarten and grades 1,3,5,7,9 and 11 were completed (as well as children referred from other grades for concerns) in Norwalk City schools, Monroeville St. Joseph Catholic School, Western Reserve Local Schools and T-Squared Academy through contracts with these schools. This includes initial screening, rescreening children that did not pass the initial hearing screening or did not have their glasses/contacts with them at the initial vision screening. HCPH also provides referrals (and follow-up referrals) home to parents for children that did not pass the initial or subsequent screening. Aggregate data is reported to the ODH by June 1st of every year, as required by Ohio Revised Code 3313.50. The Registered Nurses (RNs) also assist the schools in ensuring children are up to date on their vaccinations for school attendance per the Ohio Revised Code 3313.671 and report aggregate data to the ODH by October 15th of each year. RNs may also screen preschool-age children for height and weight twice per school year to ensure they are growing as expected. Schools may also request the RNs provide health education on various topics to students and staff.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

HCPH provides reproductive health and wellness services to men and women of all ages in need of sexual health care through the Title X Grant offered by the ODH and the Federal Government. For Fiscal Year 2023 (April 1, 2023 – March 30, 2024), HCPH was approved for \$85,500.00 to provide these services. Services are provided to those with or without insurance, and a sliding fee scale is available. In calendar year 2023, HCPH served 233 unduplicated clients throughout 358 visits for the year. Medical services provided included contraception, sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and treatment, vaccinations, breast exams, blood pressure checks, mental and behavioral health and substance use referrals and cholesterol screenings, amongst others.

VIVITROL AND MEDICATION ASSISTED THERAPY

Medication-assisted Therapy (MAT) is another service offered by HCPH's Medical Division. MAT is the use of medications, including Vivitrol and Subutex, used in combination with counseling to treat substance use disorders. In 2022, these services were available on a limited basis in conjunction with the Reproductive Health and Wellness Program. Clients are encouraged to obtain counseling and frequent check-ins are required with a Nurse Practitioner or Medical Provider. In 2023, HCPH served 12 unduplicated patients.



12

Number of clients that participated in the MAT program in 2023.

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (CMH)

CMH is a financial assistance program for families with children with special health care needs. CMH provides financial services to rule out a handicapping condition, determine a diagnosis, or establish a plan of treatment for a child already diagnosed with a medical condition. HCPH assists families with applications and provides information on CMH-approved providers and case management for those approved for the program. In 2023, the families of 63 children received Public Health Nurse case management services through the CMH program. These services are offered after-hours and on weekends to best meet the needs of families whose children have complex chronic medical needs.

BABY SLEEP SAFE/CRIBS FOR KIDS

This grant-funded program is sponsored by the ODH, Bureau of Maternal, Child and Family Health, Maternal Child Health Program's Cribs for Kids® Safe Sleep Program, and a sub-award of a grant issued by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This program is offered to Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)-eligible families in Huron County and Bellevue City. HCPH provides eligible families with a portable crib and a Safe Sleep Kit

that includes a fitted sheet, sleep sack, and pacifier, along with education on making sure infants are sleeping safely. In 2023, HCPH distributed 7 cribettes and Safe Sleep packs.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

Deaths of Huron County children under the age of 18 years are reviewed in the year after the death unless an investigation is still underway. While mortality data provides HCPH with information on child deaths (by number and cause of death), it is from careful study of each and every child's death that HCPH learns how to best respond to a death and how to best prevent another. Participants from public health, law enforcement, education, mental health, social services, pediatric specialists, and the county coroner are involved in these reviews. The deaths of 8 Huron County children in 2022 were reviewed in 2023, however, one case was not fully reviewed due to pending legal action. HCPH and the review committee are now partnering with the Suicide and Overdose review team, as some cases overlap. The review committee encouraged the continuation of mental health and suicide awareness/ prevention activities in area schools.

LEAD CASE MANAGEMENT

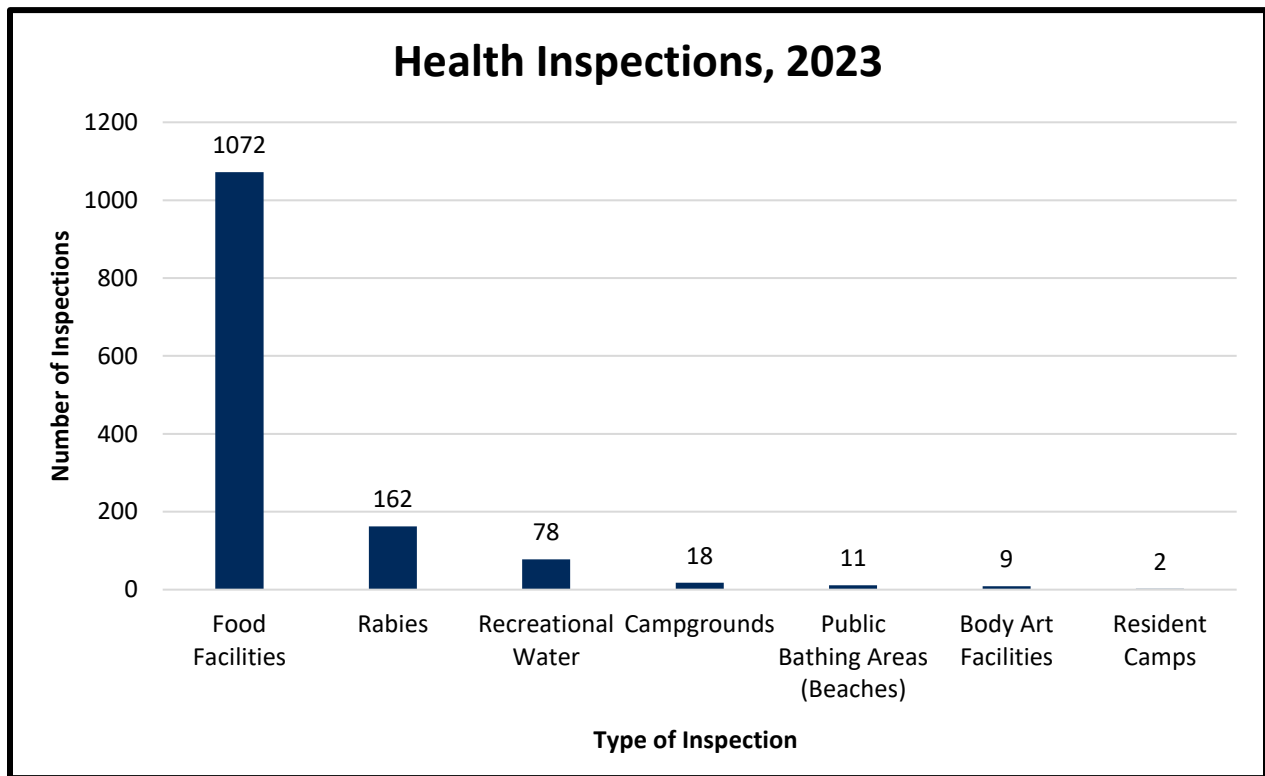
HCPH offers lead screening and education to the community. The 'safe' level of lead in the blood has recently decreased and nearly every zip code in Huron County falls under the 'high risk' category. There are additional risk factors for elevated blood lead levels as well, that HCPH includes in screening and education. Most children in Huron County should be screened for lead poisoning between the ages of 1-2 years. Test results that indicate high lead levels are forwarded to the ODH for further investigation.

Environmental Division

The Environmental Health Division of HCPH promotes public health by addressing many of the environmental factors that can affect human health. The primary role of the environmental staff is to prevent human illness or injury through public health functions which include inspection, regulation, and enforcement of food facilities, sewage, and private water systems (PWS), beaches, swimming pools, and tattoo/body art establishments and by investigating nuisance complaints and animal bites.

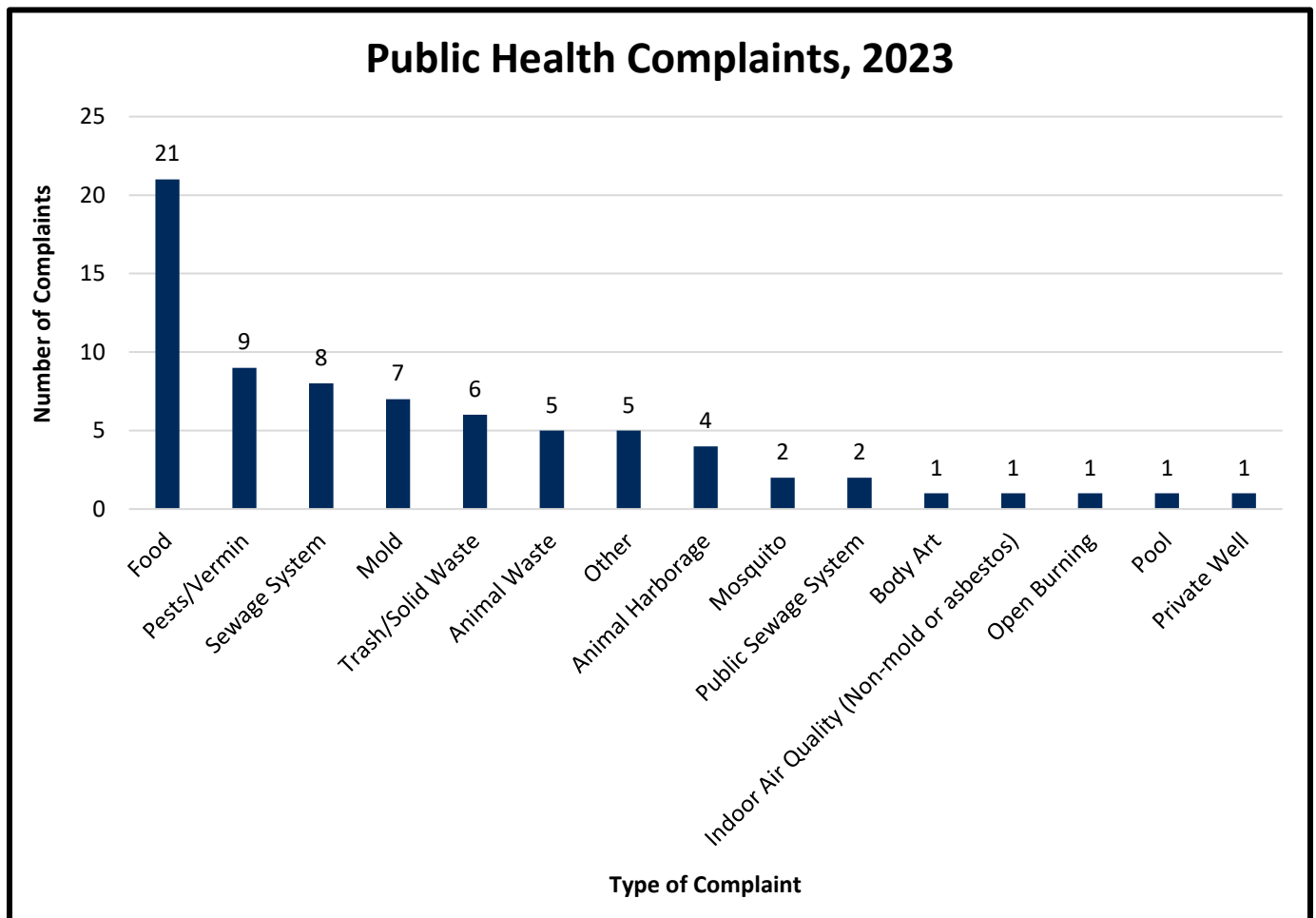
2023 HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The number of health inspections increased from 1,254 in 2022 to 1,352 in 2023. The number of inspections by facility type can be seen below.



PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS

Complaints can be submitted to HCPH regarding a licensed and inspected facility or provider, which may include public bathing areas (beaches), campgrounds, food facilities, tattoo and body piercing facilities, swimming pools, plumbers, or other service providers. Complaints may also be made regarding a public health nuisance. Nuisance conditions that HCPH has jurisdiction over include solid waste and trash, rodents, insects, animal feces, sewage system malfunctions, water system issues, mosquito breeding, and mold (rental properties only). A total of 74 public health complaints were made to HCPH in 2023, as outlined below.



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF)

HCPH again partnered with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the ODH to provide Huron County residents having a private sewage system with an alternative financial resource to repair/replace their failing systems. Twenty-five (25) applicants applied for WPCLF assistance in 2023, with ten (10) of those applicants being eligible for the WPCLF.

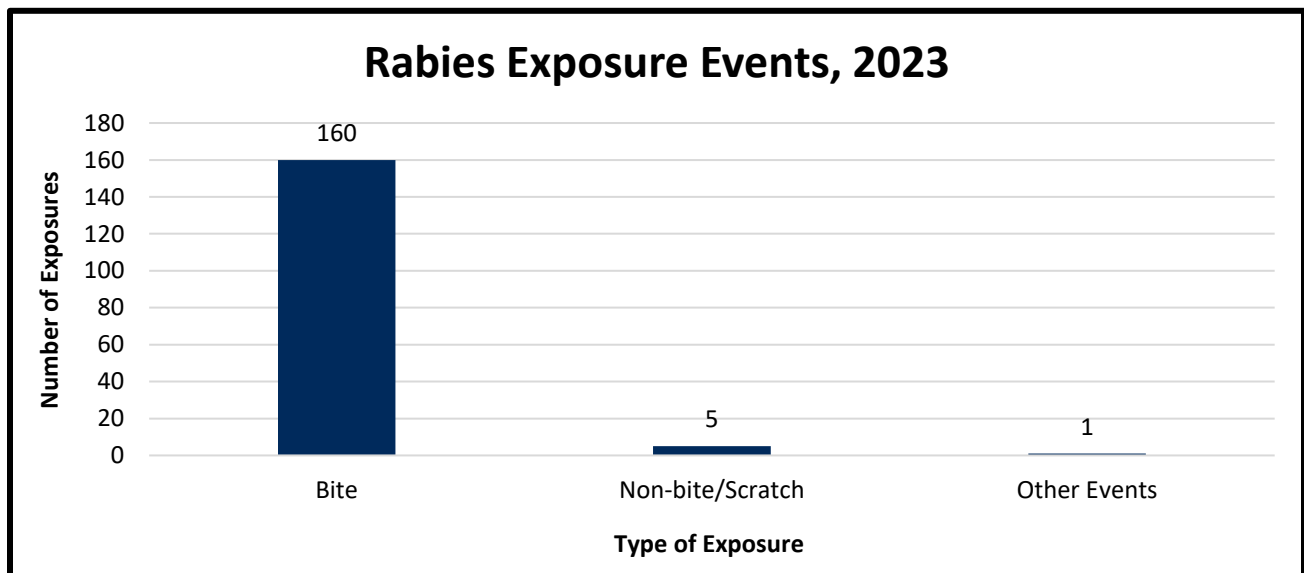
Eligible awards included five (5) applicants having 100% of the cost of replacement covered, four (4) having 85% of the cost for replacement covered, and one (1) having 50% of the cost for replacement covered. The OEPA has awarded HCPH with additional WPCLF Grant funds, and HCPH is looking forward to helping improve Huron County's water resources by repairing/replacing more sewage systems in 2024.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

In January 2015, the ODH adopted new rules regarding private sewage treatment systems (STS) in Ohio. These rules require each health department across the state to implement a local Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program to monitor and ensure the proper function of STS in their jurisdictions. HCPH's O&M program, effective March 25, 2019, requires every STS in Huron County to have an O&M permit. Permits ensure systems are monitored and maintained on a regular basis so that failing systems may be identified and addressed. In 2023, HCPH issued 581 O&M permits.

RABIES PROGRAM

Ohio laws require mandatory reporting of possible human rabies exposure to the local health department in the jurisdiction in which the exposure occurred in. In 2023, there were 166 definitive exposures in Huron County as outlined in the graph below, with 162 incident reports made to HCPH regarding animal bites and *possible* rabies exposure in Huron County.



FOOD STANDARDIZATION GRANT

In 2023, Huron County Public Health (HCPH) applied for and was granted a renewal total of \$21,556.00 from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program. The program provides funding to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) retail food regulatory agencies as they advance conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS). This grant period was in effect from February 2023 – December 2023, and allowed Huron County Public Health funding to offset wages and education expenses incurred with completing the Nine Standards of the RFFM Program.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE & TRAININGS

FDA Food Standardization Conferences

HCPH Environmental Health Division sent Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Matt Schwab, to two conferences in 2023 that allowed for networking and professional development opportunities between local, state, and federal public health agencies. First in May 2023, Matt attended a site-visit and conformance education conference at the Jefferson County Health Department in Kearneysville, West Virginia. Then, in October 2023, Matt had the opportunity to attend the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Mentorship Program End-of-the-Year Conference in Arlington, Virginia.

The Mentorship Program, co-chaired by NEHA and NACCHO, pairs enrolled mentee SLTT retail food agencies who wish to have further assistance conforming in the VNRFRPS with a mentoring STLL. Awarded agencies may collaborate monthly on Zoom calls, attend an in-person site-visit, and attend & present at the End of the Year meeting. All expenditures incurred by the enrolled agencies are reimbursed. HCPH has been awarded a third round of grant funds to continuing conformance in 2024 in the total amount of \$31,500.00.

Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Operations

In November 2023, Matt Hicks, REHS at HCPH attended an Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Operations (EHTER Ops) course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. This training was a five-day course that provided participants with the operations-level knowledge and skills needed to respond to incidents of natural- or human-caused disaster, and to use appropriate protocols and equipment to achieve mission objectives.

Participants were trained to assess problems and risks, plan for a team response, select equipment and instrumentation appropriate to the event, perform the required tasks

according to the Environmental Health response protocol, and perform reporting and follow-up under the Incident Command System (ICS). The majority of the course was conducted through hands-on operational practice or response to simulated events. Participants performed Environmental Health Responder tasks while responding to and identifying issues involved with chemical and bacterial contamination of water supplies, emergency shelter assessment, mass feeding operations assessment, and health & safety hazards associated with non-structural building related assessments.

The cost of the training course was funded through a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant, while lodging, meals, and transportation were sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). HCPH staff plans to utilize the information and education gained at this training to update the agency's Shelter Operations Plan (SOP).

Administrative Services

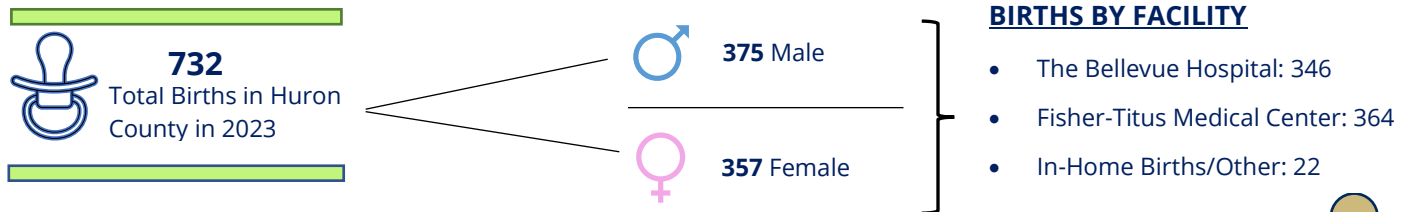
The Administrative Service’s Vital Statistics Office issues birth certificates for anyone born in the state of Ohio, and death certificates for anyone who has died in Huron County.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE GRANT (PHWG)

In addition to Vital Statistics, the Administrative Services Division oversaw the receipt and execution of the 2022 & 2023 PHWG. The purpose of this funding is to support activities related to recruitment, retention, and development of the agency’s workforce needed for delivery of quality public health services. PHWG awards were as follows:

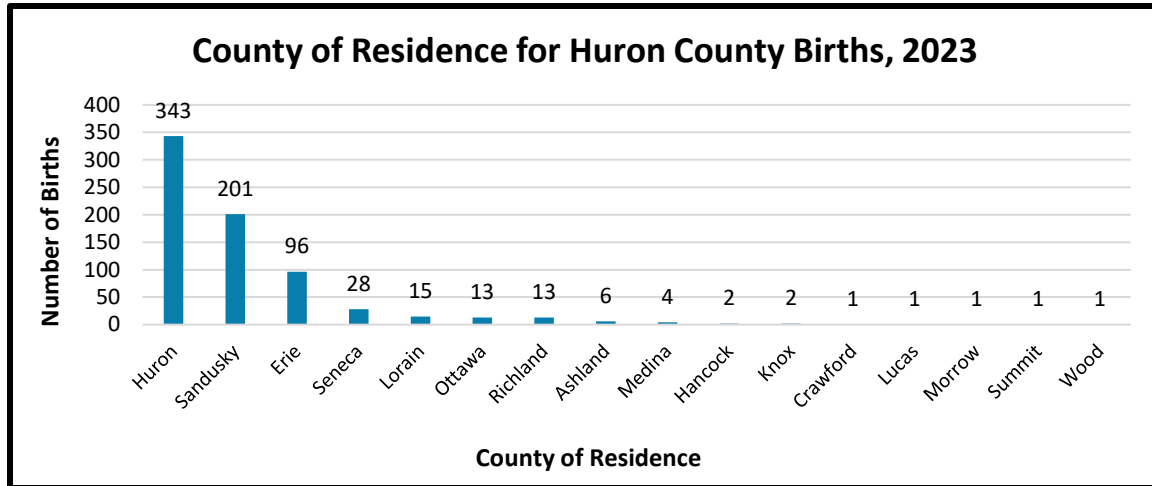
- Fiscal Year 2022 – Grant Period 9/1/2021 – 12/31/2023: \$230,000.00
- Fiscal Year 2023 – Grant Period 7/1/2023 – 11/30/2027: \$445,000.00

VITAL STATISTICS: HURON COUNTY BIRTHS



BIRTHS IN HURON COUNTY BY MOTHER’S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

The following graph depicts births in Huron County by the mother’s county of residence.



VITAL STATISTICS: HURON COUNTY DEATHS

DEATHS IN HURON COUNTY (RESIDENT) = 446

Deaths by Gender

234 Male (52%)

212 Female (48%)

Top 5 Causes of Death

1. Respiratory Failure: 55
2. Cardiopulmonary Failure: 25
3. Cardiopulmonary Arrest: 23
4. Cardiac Arrest: 16
5. Acute Respiratory Failure: 14

DEATHS IN HURON COUNTY (NON-RESIDENT) = 73

Deaths by Gender

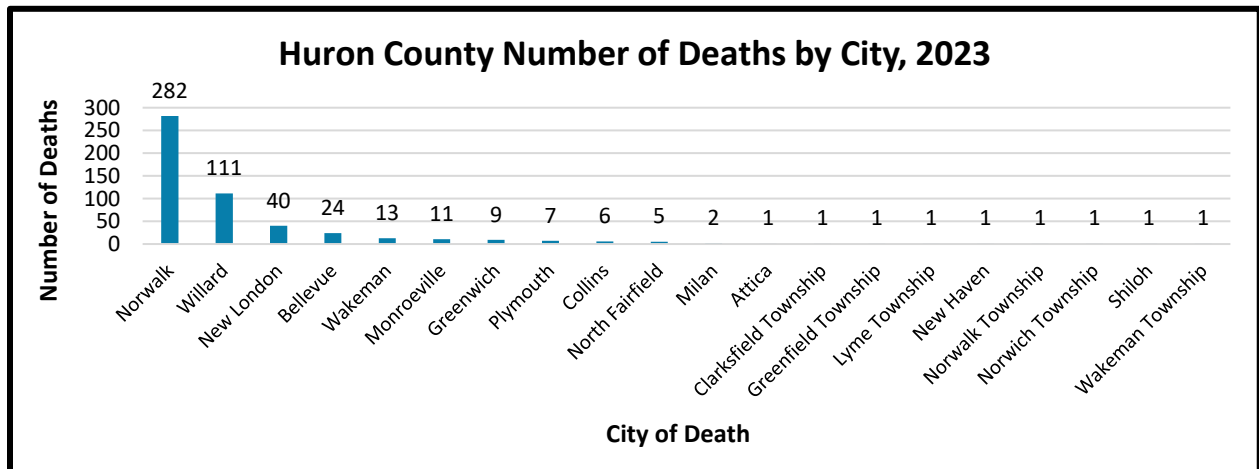
27 Male (37%)

46 Female (63%)

Top 5 Causes of Death

- 1(i). Cardiopulmonary Arrest: 9
- 1(ii). Respiratory Failure: 9
- 2(i). Alzheimer's: 5
- 2(ii). Cardiac Arrest: 5
- 3(i). Acute Respiratory Failure: 4
- 3(ii). Cardiopulmonary Failure: 4

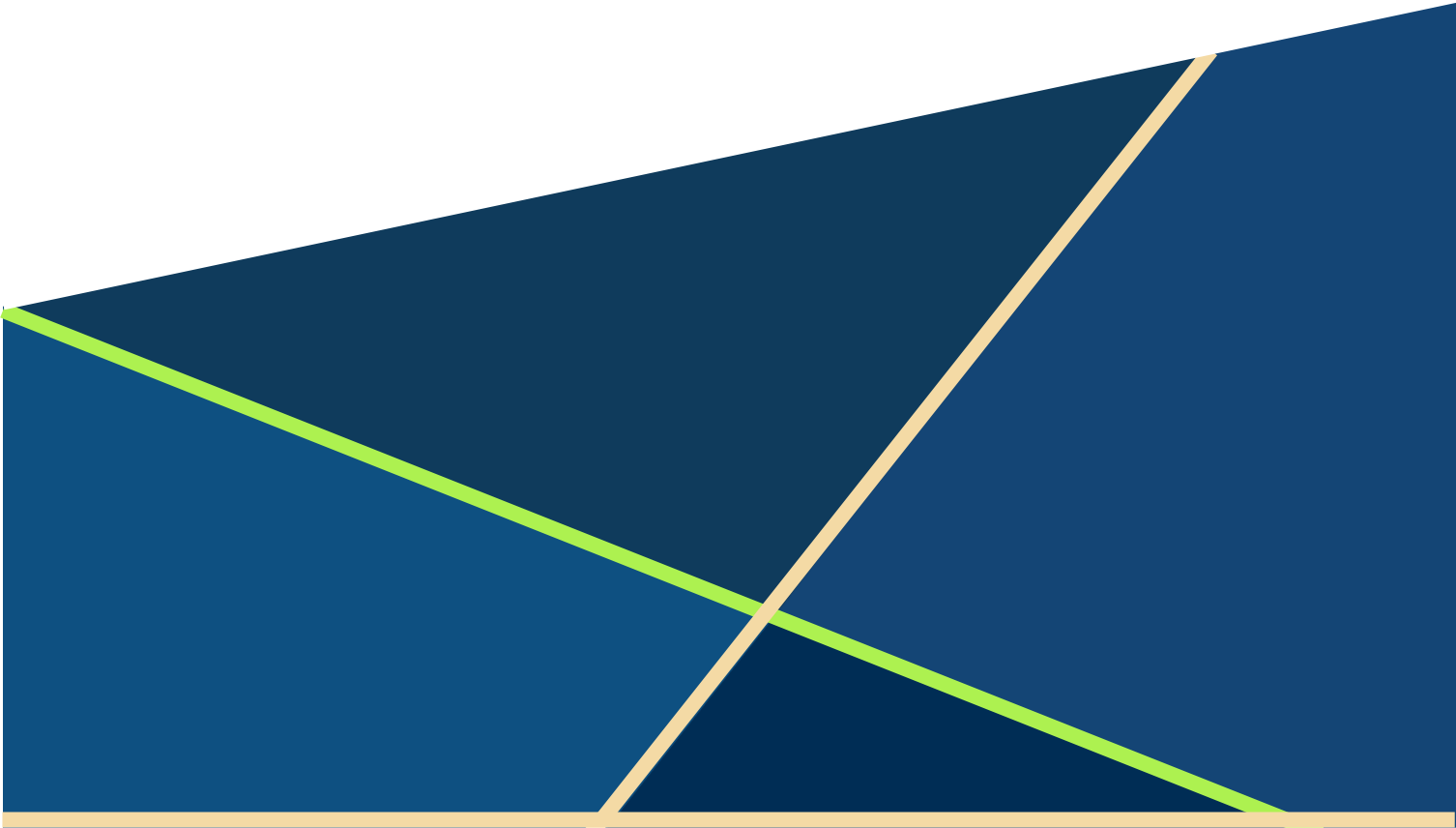
LOCATION OF DEATHS OCCURRING IN HURON COUNTY AND/OR WITHIN BELLEVUE CITY LIMITS



2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of cash receipts, cash disbursements, and changes in fund balances. All funds for the period through December 2023.

Fund Cash Balance 12/31/2022	\$418,837	\$567,838	\$986,675
2023 Cash Receipts			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
Local Taxation	\$930,972		\$930,972
State Subsidy	\$36,458		\$36,458
Environmental Health Fees	\$298,444	\$48,738	\$347,182
Vital Statistics Fees	\$132,758		\$132,758
Medical Fees	\$290,376	\$26,475	\$316,851
Donation Revenue (Fair, Copies CHP)	\$3,049		\$3,049
Contract & Misc Revenue	\$153,546		\$153,546
Federal Grant Funds	\$0	\$1,186,434	\$1,186,434
State Grant Funds	\$0	\$30,431	\$30,431
Local Grant Funds PEP Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Cash Receipts	\$1,845,603	\$1,292,078	\$3,137,681
2023 Cash Disbursements			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
Salaries	\$569,938	\$608,432	\$1,178,370
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	\$93,384	\$95,163	\$188,547
Health Benefits	\$93,083	\$140,049	\$233,132
Travel	\$2,030		\$2,030
Supplies	\$11,245	\$325,053	\$336,298
Vaccine	\$187,920		\$187,920
Contract Personnel	\$286		\$286
Contracts-Services/Repairs	\$349,973		\$349,973
Advertising and Printing	\$675		\$675
Other Expenses (Meeting/Training Expense, Client Refunds, Liability Insurance, Cable/Phone, Postage, Electronic Health Records, Lab Fees)	\$61,100		\$61,100
Equipment	\$5,434		\$5,434
State Fee Remittance	\$87,220		\$87,220
County Health Assessment Costs	\$9,507		\$9,507
Total Cash Disbursements	\$1,471,795	\$1,168,697	\$2,640,492
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$373,808	\$123,381	\$497,189
Transfers/Advances In	\$247,490	\$261,320	\$508,810
Transfers/Advances Out	\$261,320	\$247,490	\$508,810
Fund Cash Balance 12/31/2023	\$778,815	\$705,049	\$1,483,864
Reserve for Encumbrances	\$45,221	\$3,112	\$48,333
Available Cash Balance January 1, 2024	\$733,594	\$701,937	\$1,435,531



Huron County Public Health
28 Executive Drive,
Norwalk, OH 44857
419-668-1652
information@huroncohealth.com