

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Huron County



Public Health

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2022 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.



Board of Health

- Kathleen Butler, LPN
- James Gottfried, M.D.
- Ron Robinson
- Lisa Nedolast, RN
- Dane Howard
- Greg Polachek
- Lisa Reer, RPh
- Kimberly Stults, RN
- Jeremy Loose

Medical Director

Stephanie Gibson, M.D.

Health Commissioner

Tim Hollinger, MPH

A LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

If I had to choose one word to best describe 2022 for our agency, I would choose “rebooting,” in regard to rebooting public health after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebooting public programs begins with knowing whether the services offered are wanted and working as expected. Unfortunately, public health providers lack the means to solicit actual cross-sectional citizen feedback. When feedback is available, the data typically represents the interests of only a fraction of users who were highly motivated to respond because of their own personal beliefs and needs rather than a cross section of the population’s beliefs and needs.

Though we continued – and still continue – to closely monitor and provide weekly reports on COVID-19 in the community and at the state level, we had an opportunity to prioritize our non-COVID-19-related projects in 2022. Some of which included our application for re-accreditation, an attempt to develop a federally qualified health center, and increased collaboration with our community partners in efforts to better-serve Huron County through some new grants and programs that will be outlined in this report.

Looking back at 2022, I am optimistic that the “rebooting” efforts we’ve either attempted or fulfilled will bring success and learned lessons in 2023 for our agency. We remain diligent in researching not only what services the population needs, but what new services the population actually wants and would willingly use.



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)

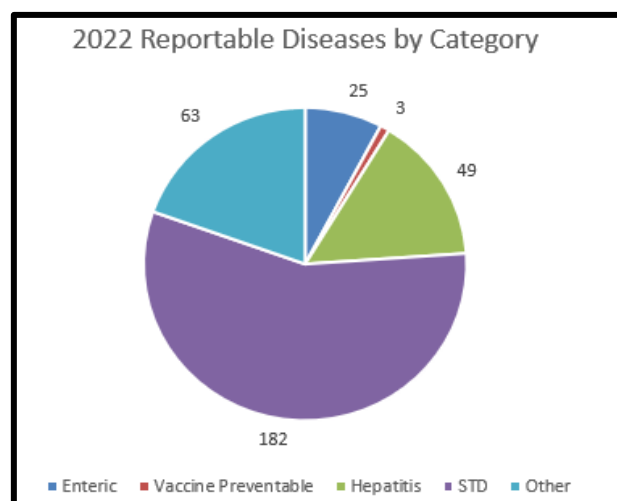
HCPH was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) in the amount of \$72,791.00. An essential component to emergency planning is establishing places where vaccines, antibiotics, and other medications or supplies could be quickly dispensed to a large number of people. These places are frequently referred to as points of dispensing or PODs. HCPH practices emergency plans for setup and dispensing at different POD locations in Huron County during the agency's annual drive-thru flu shot clinics. At the 2022 Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic, HCPH conducted a POD drill. During this drill, HCPH had a staff notification acknowledgement of 100% and was able to set up a POD within 18 minutes.

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 2022, there were 322 communicable disease cases (excluding COVID-19) reported.



Top 5 Communicable Diseases in 2022 (excluding COVID-19):

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

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 2022 on school absentee surveillance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Communicating effectively is important to HCPH's mission: to achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout Huron County. HCPH uses a variety of communication methods to promote health, prevent disease, and educate the public on important health topics.



5,347: Total number of followers on HCPH's Facebook page in 2022.



460: Total number of followers on HCPH's Instagram page in 2022.



458: Total number of followers on HCPH's Twitter page in 2022.

www.huroncohealth.com



43,391

Number of people that visited HCPH's website for the first time in 2022.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DIVISION GRANTS

Creating Healthy Communities Grant

2022 wrapped up year three of a five-year grant cycle for the Ohio Department of Health (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. Four CHC-sponsored projects were completed in Huron County in 2022, including:



- 1. Willard “Book-A-Bike” (Bikeshare Program)** – CHC staff closely collaborated with the City of Willard and the Huron County Community Library to implement a new bikeshare program for the City of Willard operating out of the Huron County Community Library in Willard.

This free bikeshare program allows residents to check out bikes for free use and currently offers four standard bikes, two electric pedal-assisted bikes, five local bike racks, and bike accessories such as bike locks



and baskets. HCPH also assisted the City in securing 75 free bicycle helmets through the “Put a Lid on It!” program for distribution to individuals using the program (while supplies lasted).

- 2. Basketball Court Revitalization at Stoutenburg Park, Norwalk** – CHC staff worked with the City of Norwalk Parks and Rec to update the basketball court at Stoutenburg Park to include two new basketball hoops, one ADA-compliant picnic table, and a new concrete court.



- 3. Intersection Improvements at Benedict and Norwood Avenue Intersection, Norwalk** – CHC staff worked with the City of Norwalk to install four new solar flashing light signs at this intersection to aid in pedestrian safety and encourage active forms of transportation (i.e. walking, biking, etc) in the area.



- 4. Fisher-Titus Walking Path at the Willard Reservoir** – Huron County CHC sponsored ¼ mile of the newly completed walking path at the Willard Reservoir. In total, the newly paved path is 2.32 miles long, ADA-accessible, and includes ten storyboards that can be used to educate users about health-related topics.



Continued work for Huron County CHC in 2022 also included starting the process to update the Willard Pool's food options to align with healthier eating guidelines, as well as continued work on community gardens in Willard, Wakeman, and Norwalk. In 2022, CHC staff also submitted the grant work plan for 2023, which is slated to include work on three park improvements in Willard, Norwalk, and Greenwich.

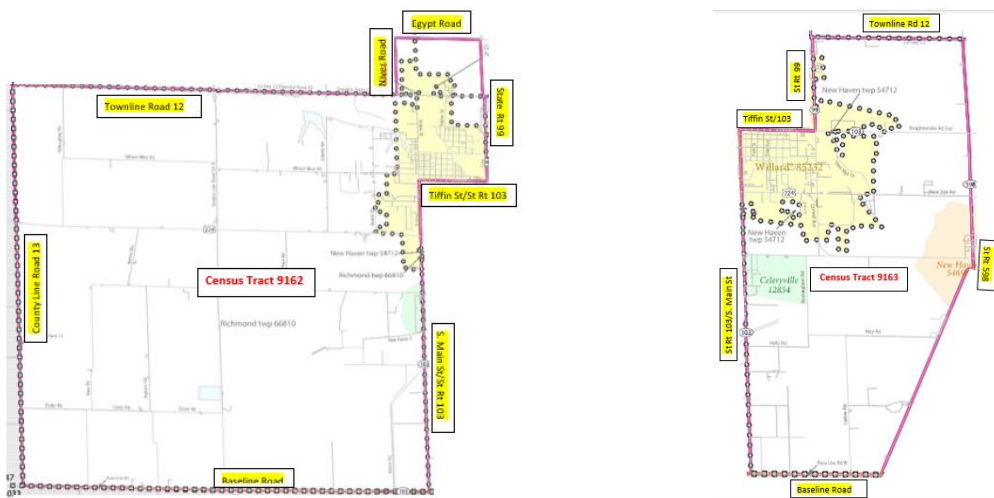
PEP+ Grant

HCPH was again awarded the PEP+ Grant through the Public Entities Pool (PEP) of Ohio. The purpose of the PEP+ Grant is to cover expenses for qualified safety items with a primary purpose of prevention of reduction liability claims or property losses. In 2022, HCPH received grant reimbursement in the amount of \$837.50 which covered new fire extinguishers for the agency's remodeled facility.

Ohio Health Improvement Zones Project

In July 2022, HCPH was awarded \$100,000.00 for the Ohio Health Improvement Zones (OHIZ) Grant, a new funding stream for the agency. 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.

Huron County's project is focused on one key activity: to "engage and assess" the OHIZs located in Southwest Huron County (census tracts #9162 and #9163). OHIZ work in 2022 focused largely on planning and organizing grant activities and assembling needed community partners. A focused community assessment of the OHIZ is planned for early 2023, with grant work slated to continue through mid-2023.



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

Addressing Vaccination Hesitancy

In December 2022, Huron County Public Health was awarded the *Equipping Local Health Departments to Address Vaccine Hesitancy* initiative through National Association of County and City Officials (NACCHO) in the amount of \$100,000.00. The end of 2022 was just the beginning of the project, which will continue into Summer of 2023. Upcoming work includes a “rapid community assessment” to occur in February 2023 designed to help HCPH better understand the community’s needs and decisions related to vaccinations and subsequent activities to address vaccination hesitancy/misinformation through improved education, outreach, and programming.

Strengthening Disability Inclusion

In January 2022, HCPH was awarded \$15,000.00 through NACCHO for the *Strengthening Disability Inclusion Efforts within Local Health Departments* initiative. Through this effort, HCPH worked to increase staff knowledge about disability inclusion, assess the community’s perception of accessibility at HCPH, collect feedback regarding barriers patients and clients face to accessing HCPH’s services, and overall to improve the agency’s standards for disability inclusion.

HEALing COMMUNITIES STUDY

Throughout 2022, the work of the HEALing Communities Study (HCS; funded by the National Institutes of Health and being led by the Ohio State University), which aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 40 percent, ramped up in Huron County. HCPH’s participation includes being an active workgroup member of the HEALing Communities Coalition, which operates through the Huron County Community Overdose Response Committee; serving as the “Communications Champion” for the Study, and collaborating to implement evidence-based practices to prevent/reduce opioid-related deaths in Huron County. Work with the Study is set to conclude in December 2023.

More information about the HEALing Communities Study can be found at <https://healingcommunitiesstudy.org/>.

DRUG OVERDOSE AND SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

In July 2022, HCPH held the first meeting for the Huron County Drug Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review Committee, formed in accordance with [Ohio Revised Code Section 307.6410](#). Committee members include representatives from several local agencies/organizations. At current, HCPH facilitates quarterly Committee meetings and Health Commissioner Tim Hollinger serves as the Committee Chairperson. The goals of this Committee are to:

1. Establish and maintain a comprehensive database of all drug overdose and suicide deaths that occur in Huron County and review aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning these deaths;
2. Identify commonalities between suicide and overdose deaths occurring in Huron County;
3. Identify gaps or opportunities for improvement in local program and service offerings; and
4. Identify and implement innovative interventions in order to ultimately decrease the incidence and prevalence of preventable drug overdose and suicide-related deaths in Huron County.

A summary of the Committee's work in 2022 can be found in the Huron County Drug Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review Committee's 2022 Annual Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

In June 2022, HCPH officially submitted the agency's application for reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The agency's application was subsequently accepted by PHAB and all reaccreditation documentation was submitted to PHAB for review in August 2022. As of December 31, 2022, HCPH is still awaiting PHAB's feedback on documentation submitted to continue to move the reaccreditation process forward. HCPH is hopeful that the agency's reaccreditation cycle will wrap up in 2023 with a designation of "continued accreditation."

Medical Division

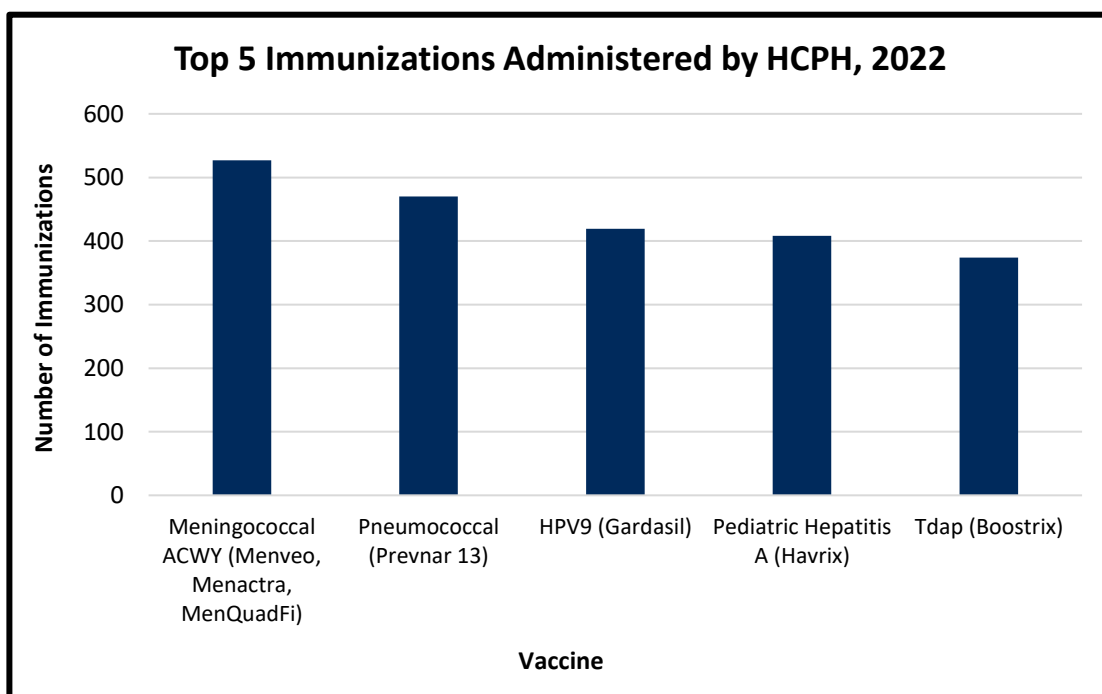
The Medical Division of HCPH provides a variety of medical services to Huron County, including primary care, reproductive health, school health services, as well as immunizations, alcohol and opioid addiction services, and other public health nursing services.

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 2022, HCPH provided vaccinations to 1,144 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 969 non-VFC eligible children in 2022.

In 2022, HCPH also administered 1,219 doses of COVID-19 immunizations, and 736 total doses of influenza immunizations. The total number of immunizations administered at HCPH in 2022 (excluding COVID-19 and flu vaccines), was 4,637. The top five immunizations administered by HCPH in 2022 are pictured in the following graph.



CAR SEAT SAFETY AND OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES PROGRAM



28 car seats/boosters were distributed in 2022, and **14** 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 2022, HCPH offered one drive-thru flu shot clinic in Norwalk.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Registered Public Health Nurses (PHNs) provide health screenings such as vision and hearing, as well as immunization checks and reminders to contracted area schools. The PHNs also provide requested health education to staff and students. Schools contracted in the 2021-2022 school year included Celeryville Christian, Monroeville Local Schools, Monroeville St. Joseph Catholic School, Norwalk Catholic Schools, Norwalk City Schools and Western Reserve Local Schools. Screenings are offered to students in Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade, as well as any student referred by their parent or teacher and many students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

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 (which includes services offered in 2022), HCPH received \$105,351.00 to provide these services. Services are provided to those with or without insurance, and a sliding fee scale is available. In calendar year 2022, HCPH served 304 unduplicated clients throughout 510 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. A goal of the program is to offer more telehealth visits for clients in this program.

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 both primary care services and 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 2022, HCPH served 38 unduplicated patients. Of the 286 scheduled appointments, 219 were kept.



38

Number of clients that participated in the MAT program in 2022.

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 2022, the families of 81 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 2022, HCPH helped 12 families receive this service.

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 12 Huron County children in 2021 were reviewed in 2022. The review committee encouraged the continuation of mental health and suicide awareness/prevention activities in area schools.

LEAD CASE MANAGEMENT

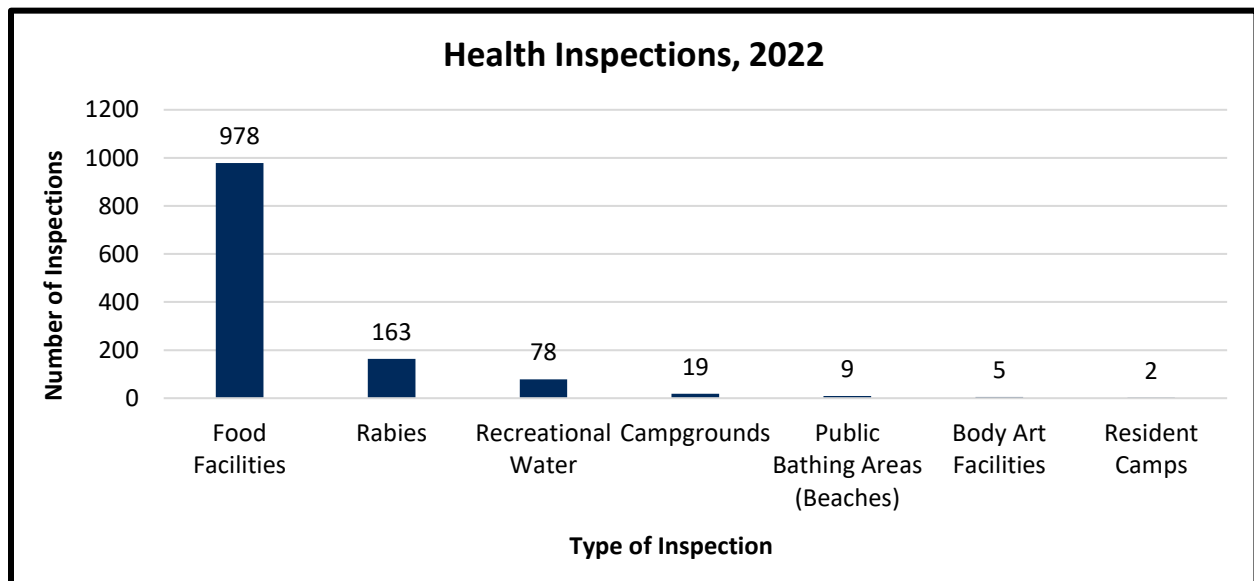
The Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OHHLPPP) addresses the needs of lead-poisoned children from birth through 6 years of age. By partnering with HCPH, OHHLPPP assists family members, medical care providers, and other community members to reduce and prevent lead poisoning. Children under the age of 3 years are at greatest risk for lead poisoning. In Huron County, 8 families whose child had a high lead level received case management, and many others received education to prevent lead poisoning.

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.

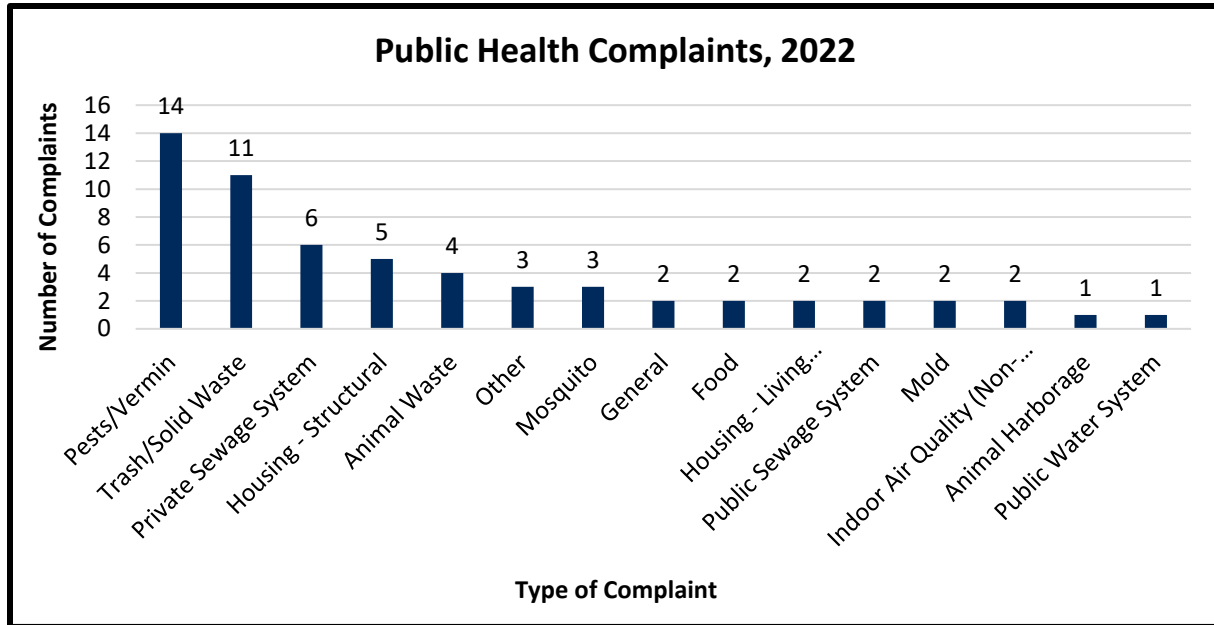
2022 HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The number of health inspections increased from 714 in 2021 to 1,254 in 2022. 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, manufactured home parks, 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 60 complaints were made to HCPH in 2022, as outlined on the following page.

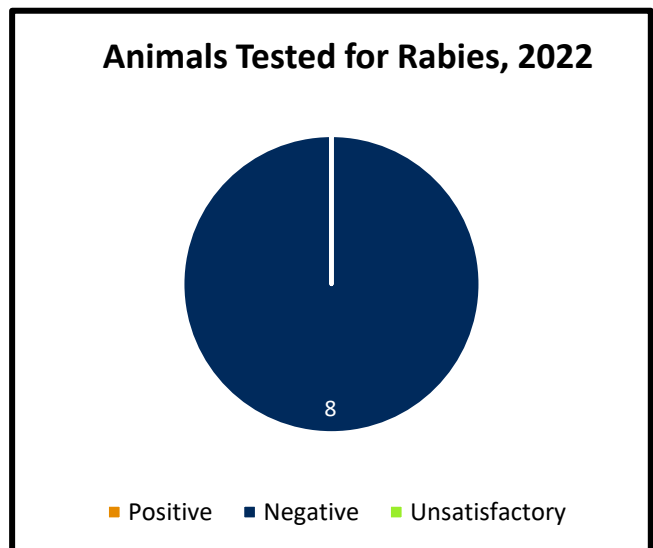
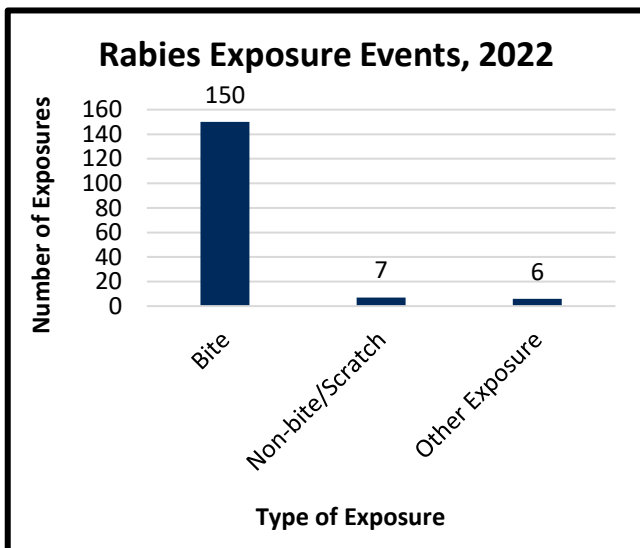
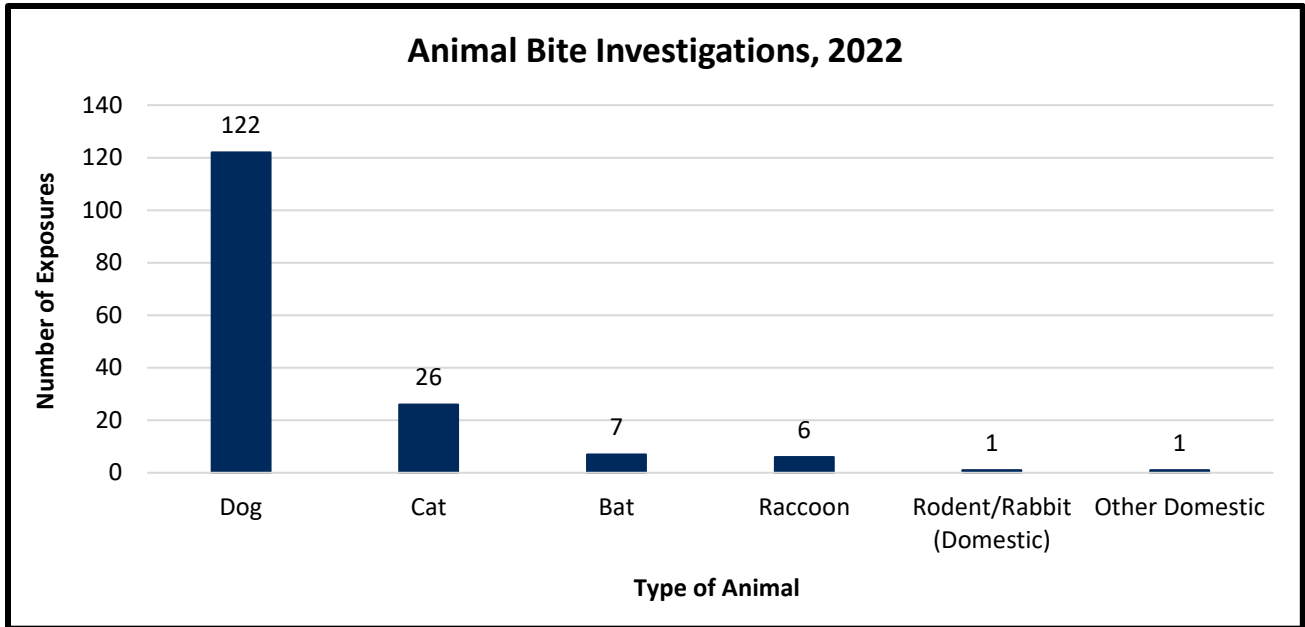


OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

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.

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 2022, 163 incident reports were made to HCPH regarding animal bites and possible rabies exposure in Huron County. The number of investigations by animal type are outlined on the next page of this report.



FOOD STANDARDIZATION GRANT

In 2022, Huron County Public Health (HCPH) was granted a total of \$26,500.00 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. This grant period was in effect from February 2022 – December 2022, and allowed Huron County Public Health funding to offset wages and education expenses incurred with completing the Nine Standards of the RFFM Program. HCPH applied for and was granted a total of \$21,556.00 to renew this grant in 2023.

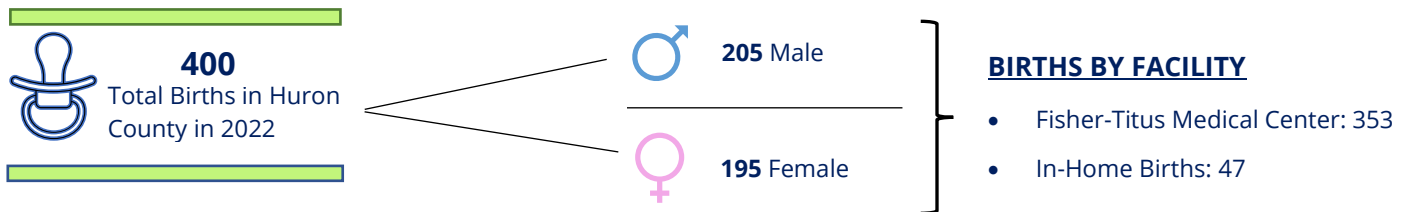
Administrative Services

The Administrative Services 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.

NEW IN 2022: ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM FOR BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

In 2022, Huron County Public Health obtained a contract with Permittium Software, an online ordering system that provides clients with the convenient option to purchase certified copies of birth or death certificates online. Clients can order up to 10 certified copies per transaction.

VITAL STATISTICS: HURON COUNTY BIRTHS

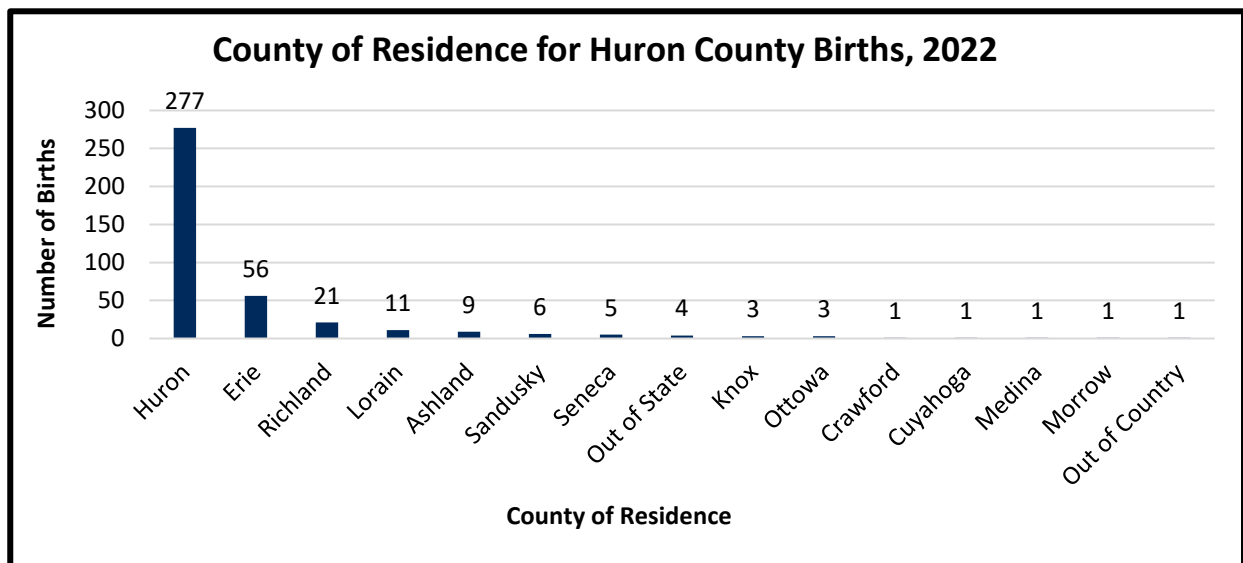


Top Baby Names in Huron County 2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colton (4) Daniel (4) Elijah (4) Oliver (4) Weston (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amelia (5) Abigail (4)
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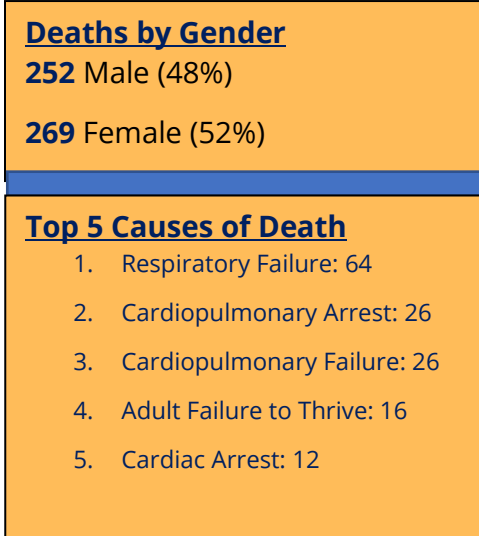
BIRTHS IN HURON COUNTY BY MOTHER'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

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

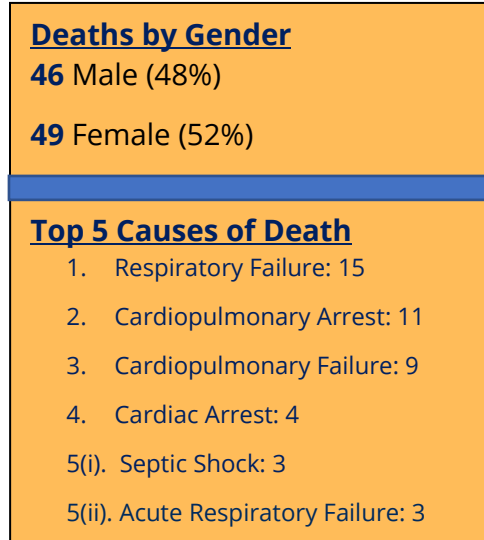


VITAL STATISTICS: HURON COUNTY DEATHS

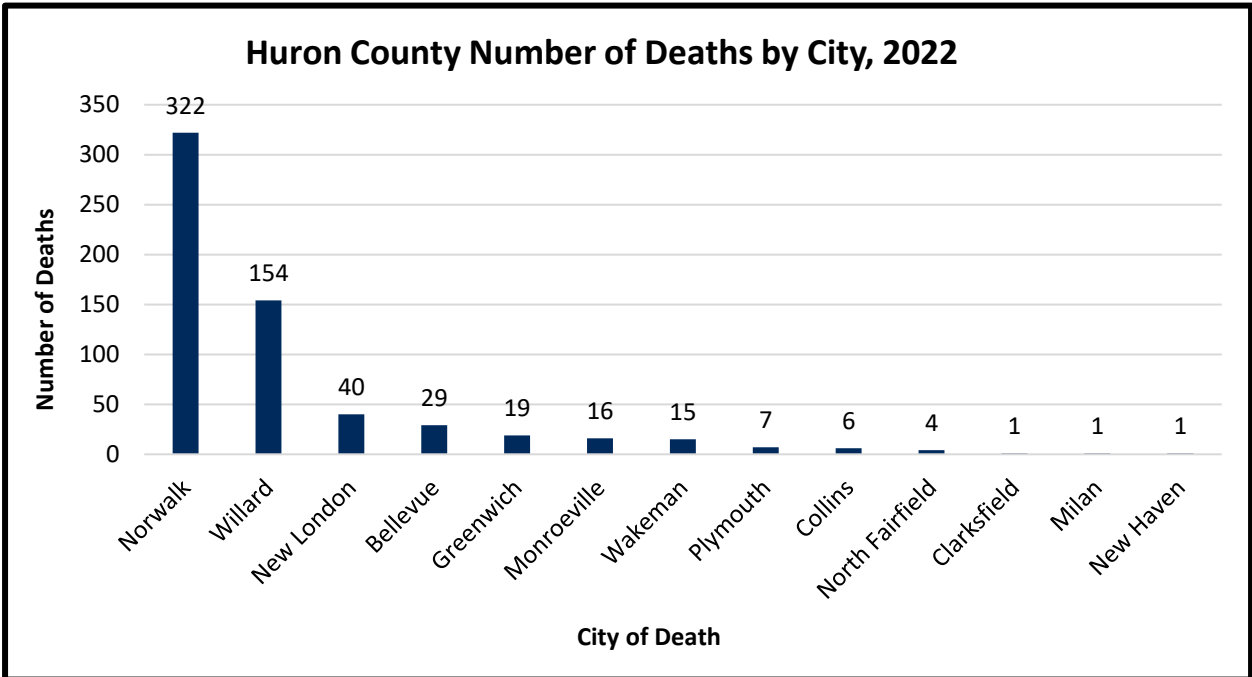
**DEATHS IN HURON COUNTY
(RESIDENT) = 521**



**DEATHS IN HURON COUNTY
(NON-RESIDENT) = 95**



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




2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of cash receipts, cash disbursements, and changes in fund balances. All funds for the period through December 2022.

Fund Cash Balance 12/31/2021	\$935,534	\$711,916	\$1,647,450
2021 Cash Receipts			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
Local Taxation	\$922,530		\$922,530
State Subsidy	\$38,348		\$38,348
Environmental Health Fees	\$292,727	\$45,730	\$338,457
Vital Statistics Fees	\$147,682		\$147,682
Medical Fees	\$492,632	\$12,075	\$504,707
Donation Revenue (Fair, Copies CHP)	\$7,069		\$7,069
Contract & Misc Revenue	\$122,595		\$122,595
Federal Grant Funds	\$0	\$820,374	\$820,374
State Grant Funds	\$0	\$38,703	\$38,703
Local Grant Funds PEP Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Cash Receipts	\$2,023,582	\$916,883	\$2,940,465
2022 Cash Disbursements			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
Salaries	\$805,102	\$596,305	\$1,401,407
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	\$126,011	\$187,131	\$313,142
Health Benefits	\$183,662		\$183,662
Travel	\$4,368		\$4,368
Supplies	\$67,377	\$249,162	\$316,539
Vaccine	\$281,170		\$281,170
Contract Personnel	\$1,326		\$1,326
Contracts-Services/Repairs	\$965,441		\$965,441
Advertising and Printing	\$1,221		\$1,221
Other Expenses (Meeting/Training Expense, Client Refunds, Liability Insurance, Cable/Phone, Postage, Electronic Health Records, Lab Fees)	\$64,106		\$64,106
Equipment	\$14,498		\$14,498
State Fee Remittance	\$93,480		\$93,480
County Health Assessment Costs	\$0		\$0
Total Cash Disbursements	\$2,607,763	\$1,032,598	\$3,640,361
Receipts Less Disbursements	(\$584,181)	(\$115,715)	(\$699,896)
Transfers/Advances In	\$317,379	\$306,396	\$623,775
Transfers/Advances Out	(\$249,895)	(\$307,450)	(\$557,345)
Fund Cash Balance 12/31/2022	\$418,837	\$595,147	\$1,013,984
Reserve for Encumbrances	\$32,206	\$3,428	\$35,634
Available Cash Balance January 1, 2023	\$386,631	\$591,719	\$978,350

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A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping triangles in various shades of blue, ranging from a light sky blue to a dark navy blue. The shapes are arranged in a way that they appear to be layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is abstract and modern.

Huron County Public Health
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