



Wood County Health Department



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report for Wood County Health Department. This report showcases our dedication and commitment to preventing disease, promoting healthy lifestyles and protecting the health of everyone in Wood County. Our team's daily efforts make a significant impact on our community. Our Health Center offers critical medical, dental, behavioral health care and pharmacy services. Our Environmental Health Division provides programs covering private water systems and sewage treatment systems, food safety, recreational facilities, body art establishments, school and institutional inspections, housing inspections and rabies prevention. Our Health Promotion and Preparedness Division supports infectious disease surveillance and response, emergency preparedness and public health nursing services. Our Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides essential nutrition support. We also offer health education and other services to improve the well-being of our community.

I am also proud that, in 2023, Wood County Health Department achieved national reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. This accreditation reaffirms our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of public health practice and excellence in service delivery. I am also proud to share that the Wood County Community Health Center earned re-accreditation as a Patient-Centered Medical Home with Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). This recognition reflects our ongoing efforts to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care that addresses physical and behavioral health needs and highlights the quality of the services we provide.

In 2023, we completed a significant renovation project of the Health Center. This renovation, made possible through a federal capital improvement grant provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has enabled us to expand our services and better cater to the evolving needs of our community. The addition of exam rooms, a behavioral health wing and the expansion of pharmacy and waiting room areas has enhanced our capacity to deliver high-quality care to all individuals we serve.

The Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended in May 2023. However, older residents and people with certain underlying health conditions remain at increased risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19. Wood County Health Department continued to promote public health measures aimed at preventing or minimizing severe illness. We conducted vaccine clinics, distributed at-home COVID-19 tests and encouraged residents to stay home when sick.

Throughout the year, Wood County Health Department prioritized community outreach and education activities. We engaged with residents across Wood County on various topics, including health department services, tobacco and vaping cessation, mosquito and tick prevention, mental health, nutrition and physical activity, immunizations, air quality and more. These initiatives reflect our commitment to empowering individuals and communities to make informed decisions about their health.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff, board members, partners and community members who have supported Wood County Health Department in fulfilling its mission. Together, we will continue to work to promote a healthier future for Wood County.



Sincerely,
Benjamin Robison, MPH
Wood County Health Commissioner

2023 BOARD OF HEALTH

The 10-member Board of Health, in addition to appointing the Health Commissioner, oversees the Wood County Health Department to protect and promote the health of people in Wood County. For contact information, meeting minutes, and dates and locations of meetings go to woodcountyhealth.org/about-us.



Thomas Milbrodt
President



Nilgun Sezginis
Vice-President



Rachel Bowlus



DJ Mears



Bob Midden



Kim Hertzfeld



Cathleen Nelson



Richard Strow



Susan Yoder

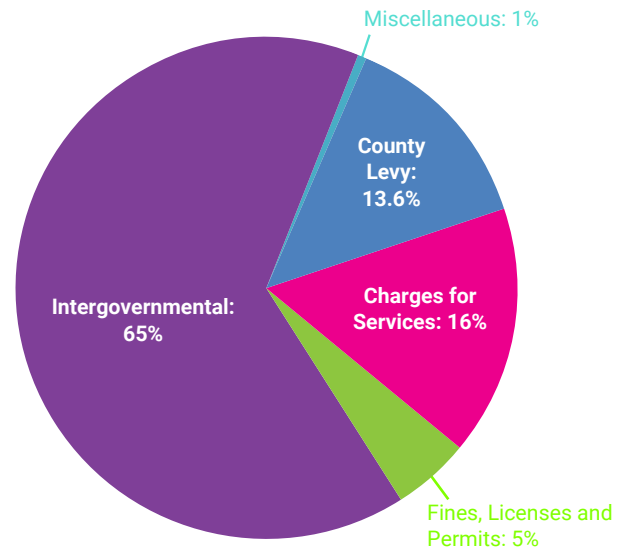


Dallas F. Ziegler

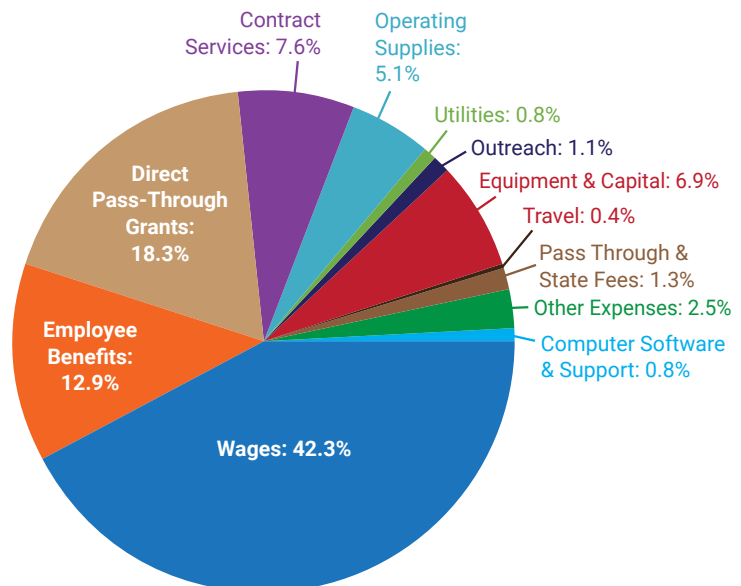
WOOD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2023 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Cash Receipts	Amount	Rev %
County Levy	\$1,642,794.09	13.6%
Charges for Services	\$1,914,976.23	16.0%
Fines, Licenses and Permits	\$655,558.48	5.0%
Intergovernmental*	\$7,837,194.08	65.0%
Miscellaneous	\$61,506.12	0.5%
Total	\$12,112,029.00	100.0%

* Included with the intergovernmental revenues shown above are various awards and grants obtained to fund health department operations.



Cash Disbursements	Amount	Exp %
Wages	\$4,458,811.70	42.3%
Employee Benefits	\$1,365,491.78	12.9%
Direct Pass-Through Grants**	\$1,928,154.55	18.3%
Contract Services	\$806,046.51	7.6%
Operating Supplies	\$535,466.61	5.1%
Utilities	\$86,889.13	0.8%
Outreach	\$111,245.62	1.1%
Equipment & Capital	\$728,052.33	6.9%
Travel	\$45,723.28	0.4%
Pass Through & State Fees	\$136,753.38	1.3%
Boiler & HVAC Debt Reduction	\$3,031.47	0.0%
Other Expenses	\$261,711.92	2.5%
Computer Software & Support	\$81,534.71	0.8%
Total	\$10,548,912.99	100.0%



** During 2023, grants obtained through ODH allowed WCHD to pass through grant funding to 7 different community agencies. WCHD administered these grants and recovered our administrative costs through those same grants.

We received funding for Covid 19 expenses that we incurred in 2022, but the FEMA funding was not received by us until January of 2023 for \$713,955 that reimbursed us for those expenditures.

Similarly, we had a delay in being able to receive some of our funding for 2022 operations expense from our HRSA grants. The adjustment was made and we were able to catch this funding up in January 2023 as well. - \$964,046



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Emergency Preparedness program helps Wood County prevent, prepare for and respond to health-related emergencies by creating local plans and partnerships. WCHD houses the regional public health emergency preparedness coordinator for Northwest Ohio, interfacing with other local health departments in Northwest Ohio and the Ohio Department of Health.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Infectious disease outbreaks are monitored by WCHD epidemiologists. When a potential outbreak occurs, investigations are conducted to prevent further spread of a disease, determine its cause and reduce the likelihood that it will reoccur. There are over 80 diseases that are required to be reported to the Wood County Health Department per the Ohio Administrative Code.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Year	Communicable Disease Cases Reported COVID-19 Excluded	Communicable Disease Cases Reported COVID-19 Included
2018	886	n/a
2019	878	n/a
2020	728	9,957
2021	668	15,747
2022	825	14,876
2023	755	3,774
5-year average	797	13,527

* Note: Disease case counts only include Probable and Confirmed case classifications. Case counts are based on event date, which uses the earliest of the following dates: illness onset date, diagnosis date, date reported to local health department, or date report to Ohio Department of Health. Data is preliminary and may change in future reports.

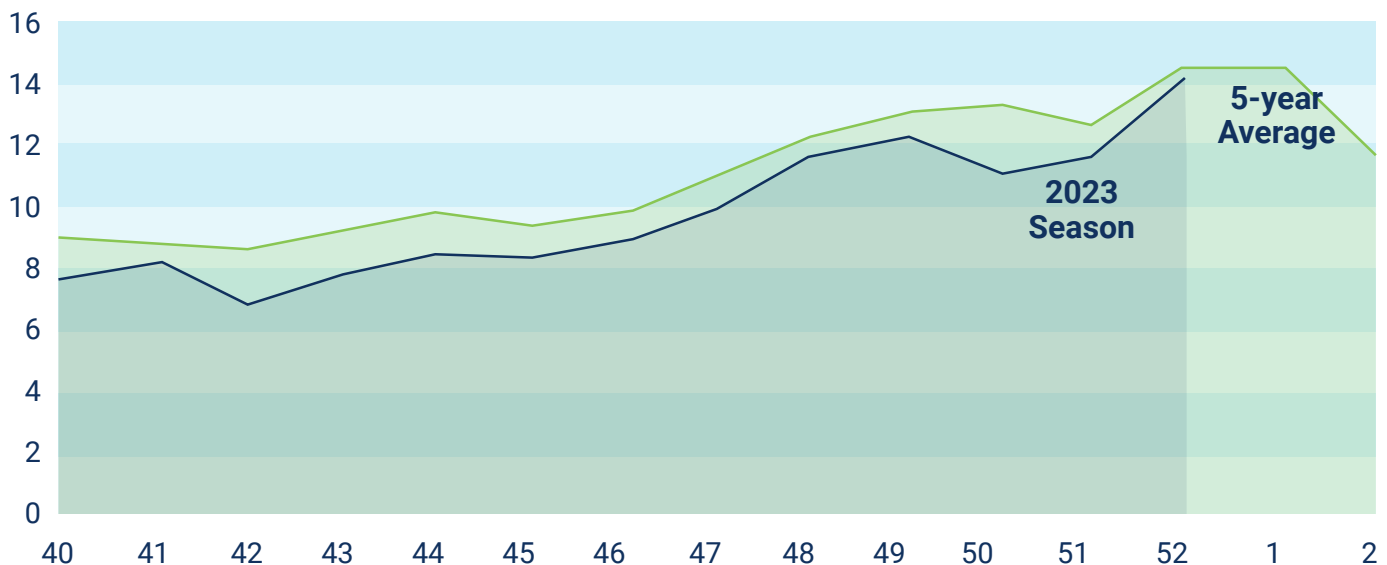


MOST COMMONLY REPORTED DISEASES IN 2023

COVID-19	3,018
Chlamydia	389
Gonorrhea	106
Hepatitis C	68
Campylobacteriosis	47
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations	37
Salmonellosis	20

Moving into the annual respiratory illness season, WCHD braced for a “tridemic” consisting of influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 illnesses that would occur during the respiratory illness seasons of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. From October 2022 to February 2023, there was a notable surge in flu-related hospitalizations, peaking at 109. Subsequently, there was a delayed onset and a significant decline in flu hospitalizations during the fall of 2023.

RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES WERE LOWER THAN THE FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE.





COVID-19



COVID-19 was a major cause of illness and death in 2023 and remained a primary reason that individuals sought healthcare. Omicron continued to be the predominant variant in 2023 and mutated into many different subvariants. Both reported COVID-19 cases and severe outcomes have dropped sharply each year since 2021, with 2023 reporting the lowest number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths. COVID-19 showed trends similar to other respiratory diseases that increase during the colder months.

COVID-19	2022-Full Year	Jan-Jun 2023	Jul-Dec 2023	2023-Full Year
Cases	13,961	1,346	1,670	3,016
Hospitals	242	44	24	68
Deaths	87	11	13	24



WCHD continued to offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics throughout 2023. The Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio continued its partnership with the health department, providing flu and COVID-19 vaccines to area seniors. WCHD provided vaccines and nurses for offsite vaccine administration efforts.



At-home COVID-19 tests were available for free at WHCD. Staff also worked with local partners including libraries and senior centers to make test kits accessible to the public. A COVID-19 hotline continued to be available to support community questions about COVID-19.





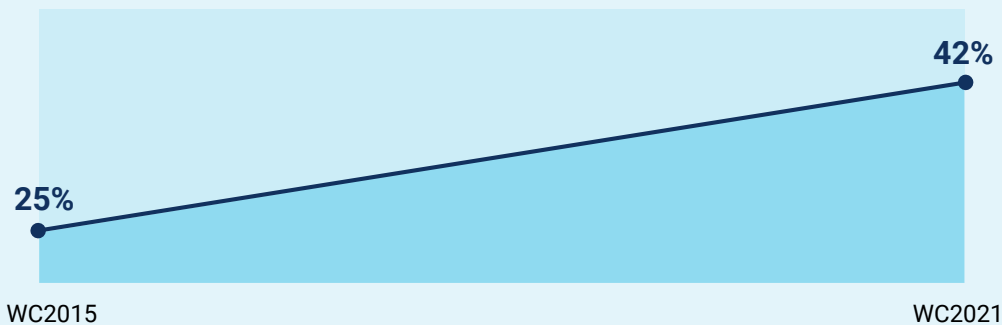
CHRONIC DISEASE

Chronic disease data is analyzed and monitored by WCHD epidemiologists. Data from both state and local sources are used to help gather the most accurate information. This data is used to generate health profiles, which are shared with the public as well as local and state partners to help inform decision-making. Examples of chronic diseases include cancer, mental health, substance abuse, heart disease and obesity. Visit our website (<https://woodcountyhealth.org/health-promotion-preparedness/resources-for-healthy-lives/>) to see health profiles for chronic diseases like mental illness and obesity.

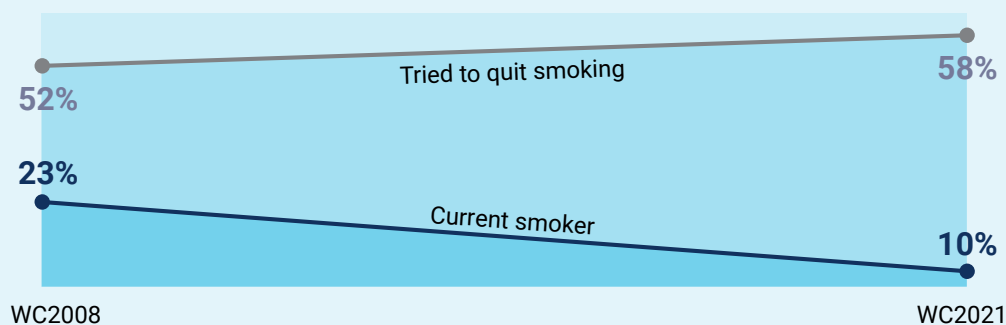
Chronic diseases are the most common causes of premature death and decreased quality of life. While not all factors that contribute to chronic disease can be changed, lifestyle choices like avoiding smoking or vaping can decrease the risk of developing chronic diseases.

Non-Modifiable Risk Factors	Modifiable Risk Factor
Age	Smoking or Vaping
Gender	Alcohol Consumption
Genetics	Physical Inactivity
Race and Ethnicity	High Blood Pressure

More Wood County Adults Faced Limitations Because of Serious Health Issues from 2015 to 2021



More Wood County Residents are Quitting Smoking with Total Smokers Dropping to 10%





VACCINES FOR CHILDREN

WCHD offers vaccines for children whose physicians do not give routine vaccines. The Health Department serves any child through the age of 18 who has no insurance, Medicaid insurance, private insurance or is underinsured. In 2023, the WCHD vaccine program administered 501 vaccines for 106 patients.

WOOD COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS: CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

The Wood County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) continues to be a vital and dedicated force in our community, exemplifying resilience and commitment to public health. Throughout the year, MRC volunteers played a crucial role in supporting emergency response efforts, community outreach initiatives and public health programs. Whether providing essential medical services, participating in drills and training, or contributing to health education campaigns, MRC volunteers have consistently demonstrated unwavering dedication to enhancing the overall well-being of our community. Their collaborative spirit and tireless efforts have further strengthened WCHD's capacity to respond effectively to diverse public health challenges. Reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year, WCHD extends its deepest gratitude to the passionate individuals who comprise the Wood County MRC for their invaluable contributions and steadfast commitment to the health and safety of our community.

Wood County's MRC comprises volunteers who have a wide range of experience and skills including medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds. Members bolster our emergency planning and response capabilities and are part of an organized and trained team. No special skills or medical experience are required as long as they are 18 years old. Roles can be tailored to take advantage of their backgrounds. Individuals who are interested in learning more about Wood County's MRC or who want to apply can go to:

<https://woodcountyhealth.org/health-promotion-preparedness/emergency-preparedness>.





CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL/HEALTHCARE NEEDS PROGRAM: *PEACE OF MIND WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS MEDICAL NEEDS.*

The Children with Medical/Healthcare Needs (CMH) program helps ease the burden of medical costs for children with significant healthcare needs. Offered by the Ohio Department of Health, the program links eligible families to a network of quality providers and helps them obtain payments for necessary services for their child with chronic medical conditions. Some of the eligible conditions covered by the program include AIDS, cancer, cerebral palsy, cleft lip/palate, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, scoliosis, hemophilia, hearing loss, juvenile arthritis, metabolic disorders, severe vision disorders, sickle cell disease, spina bifida, congenital heart disease and chronic lung disease. Eligible children must be permanent residents of Ohio under the care of a CMH-approved doctor (M.D. or D.O.). In 2023, the Wood County CMH program served 315 Wood County families.



Ashleigh Konopka and Tyler Briggs, Epidemiologists

WCHD STAFF PRESENT AT NORTHEAST OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Tyler Briggs and Ashleigh Konopka, WCHD Epidemiologists, attended the Northeast Ohio Environmental Health Association Conference to present about their experience identifying and responding to the Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) outbreak that impacted Wood County in August 2022. Many cases were linked by whole genome sequencing, matching a strain of bacteria associated with a national outbreak. The outbreak spread across six states and resulted in over 100 cases.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Environmental Health (EH) division is responsible for the administration and enforcement of many program areas including private water systems, home sewage treatment systems, food safety, recreational swim and camp areas, body art, school and institution inspections, housing and animal bite/human rabies prevention.



The EH division applied for and received \$150,000.00 to be used for the repair and replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems (HSTS) in Wood County. These funds are available through the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Resource Fund and WCHD has received and used all available funding annually since 2016. With this program WCHD has been able to assist over 60 homeowners, including eight in 2023. Repair and replacement of these systems reduces sewage nuisances and protects our waterways.



The 2023 Clean Plate Award was presented to 38 licensed food facilities in June 2023. These food facilities have been dedicated to upholding excellent sanitation and food safety knowledge within their operation. Food facilities may only apply if strict criteria are met. There are over 800 licensed facilities in Wood County.



The Wood County Health Department was awarded funding through the EPA Mosquito Control Grant. These funds have been offered since 2016, and WCHD has received these funds six of the seven years available. The funding allows for surveillance, outreach and education including the continuation of the partnership with the BGSU biology department for mosquito surveillance activity under the direction of Dr. Daniel Pavuk. Dr. Pavuk and his team collected mosquitos in traps throughout the county for identification by the Ohio Department of Health. In May, the Ohio EPA Digital Communications Director paid a visit to BGSU to hear about Wood County's mosquito surveillance program. Outreach and education included digital, radio and social media ads that focus on educating community members about ways to avoid mosquitoes and mosquito bites, how to eliminate mosquito breeding areas in and around their homes, how to stop mosquitoes from coming indoors as well as community surveillance and control.



On September 29, 2023, the WCHD Environmental Health division hosted a Fall Seminar with 44 attendees. Topics included the evolving impact of drugs, soils reviews for Environmental Health Specialists, human trafficking, the challenges of Zika and West Nile viruses for public health entomology, laws surrounding service dogs, the 2024 solar eclipse and its impacts on local communities, the influence of non-point source pollutants on plants in Northwest Ohio marshes, and variation in illicit drugs and pharmaceuticals in wastewaters and streams of Northwest Ohio and potential impacts on wildlife.



Environmental Health Specialists in Food safety continued to speak at the Serv Safe food protection manager training, hosted monthly at the Wood County OSU Extension office. The staff gave insight into the regulatory component of food safety to each class of food service employees.



The EH Division Recreational Program was surveyed in October. These surveys are conducted by the Ohio Department of Health REACH program staff to verify that approved health districts are qualified and can administer and enforce the public swimming pool and campground programs. The process is intensive and includes field evaluation of the assigned Environmental Health Specialists along with all administrative processes. The surveyor affirmed the quality of the program provided by WCHD.



On December 13, 2023, the EH Division hosted a full-day training for sewage treatment system contractors.



EH program staff, and partners from both the public and private sectors presented information on various topics regarding the installation of sewage treatment systems. This training session provided contractors in attendance with Continuing Education Units (CEUs) that are required by the Ohio sewage treatment system rules.



In 2023 three Environmental Health Specialists passed the National Environmental Health Association's



Registered Environmental Health Specialist exam. Passing this national exam is required to advance from Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training to Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

Congratulations on a job well done!



The Environmental Technician role was established in 2023 as part of a career advancement track leading to the position of Environmental Health Specialist. This role allows individuals to engage in fieldwork that doesn't require registration with the Ohio Department of Health as an Environmental Health Specialist.





ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT COMPARISON REPORT

Food Services	2023 YTD
# of Food Service Plan Reviews Paid	60
# of Food Service (FSO) Licenses Issued	521
# of Retail Food (RFE) Licenses Issues (incl MMe's)	224
# of Temporary Food Licenses Issued	148
# of Mobile Food Licenses Issued	47
# of Vending Licenses Issued	74

Other Programs	2023 YTD
# of Pools & Spa Licenses Issued	75
# of Bathing Area Licenses Issued	2
# of Body Art Licenses Issued	18
# of Camp Licenses Issued	4
# of Temporary Campsite Licenses Issued	6
# of Animal Bites Reported	200
# of Nuisance Complaints	337

Private Water	2023 YTD
# of Well Permits Issued	38
# of Water Realty Inspections Paid	6
# of Water Samples Paid	125
# of Single Family Pond Permits Issued	2

Home Sewage Treatment System	2023 YTD
# of Site Evaluations	62
# of Design Reviews Paid	35
# of Septic Permits Issued	67
# of Sewage Alteration Permits Issued	40
# of Operational Permits Paid (initial O&M1)	183
# of Operational Permits Paid (initial O&M2)	107
# of Property Improvement Permit/Consult	48
# of Sewage Abandonment Permits Issued	76
# of Septic Realty Inspections Paid	N/A
# of Septic Installer Licenses	38
# of Sewage Service Provider Licenses	17
# of Sewage Hauler Vehicle Permit	22





SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

EH staff support communities across Wood County. The chart below provides detail on the number of hours spent in 2023 in each of the county's townships, villages and cities.

Hours spent in Townships, Villages and cities

Community	Hours Worked
Bloom Township	21
Bloomdale	10
Bowling Green	1732
Bradner	49
Center Township	36
Custar	10
Cygnets	12
Freedom Township	33
Grand Rapids	103
Grand Rapids Township	74
Haskins	18
Jackson Township	13
Jerry City	4
Lake Township	161
Liberty Township	227
Luckey	34
Middleton Township	104
Millbury	39
Montgomery Township	30

Community	Hours Worked
North Baltimore	128
Northwood	266
Pemberville	123
Perry Township	36
Perrysburg	1078
Perrysburg Township	445
Plain Township	80
Portage	8
Portage Township	23
Risingsun	16
Rossford	331
Tontogany	21
Troy Township	76
Walbridge	45
Washington Township	54
Wayne	25
Webster Township	31
West Milgrove	6
Weston	25



WOOD COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Wood County Community Health Center (WCCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and represents a beacon of comprehensive care, providing vital services to individuals and families in need. With a dedicated team of healthcare professionals and a commitment to serving all patients regardless of their ability to pay, WCCHC offers a wide array of services for the entire family including primary care, dental care, behavioral health services, preventative care and an on-site pharmacy that helps many people save on the cost of their prescriptions.

WCCHC earned re-accreditation as a Patient-Centered Medical Home with Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) in 2023. This reflects the quality of care the Health Center provides, having evidence-based protocols, standardized tools and quality measures in place to support the broad needs of patients with behavioral health conditions. Behavioral health care is integrated into a patient's routine primary and dental care. Patients ages 12 and older receive depression screenings during each medical or dental appointment. Depending on their results, they may be referred for behavioral health services. Participating in the "warm hand-off" between the primary care provider or dental provider and the behavioral health clinician increases the likelihood that patients will follow through with needed care and can potentially reduce any stigma associated by patients seeking behavioral health treatment from other providers less known to them. This improves the treatment of behavioral health conditions and other chronic medical conditions, leading to better health outcomes overall.

As an FQHC, WCCHC accepts Medicaid, Medicare and most insurance plans. Many fees are based on household size and income. WCCHC staff can help individuals apply for insurance and other programs, and no one is turned away due to inability to pay.





Why Having an FQHC in Wood County Matters:

The presence of a FQHC in Wood County is instrumental in addressing our community's healthcare challenges head-on. By offering accessible and affordable care to all residents, WCCHC plays a pivotal role in:

1. **Expanding Access to Care.** WCCHC ensures that individuals and families have access to essential healthcare services, regardless of financial constraints or insurance status.
2. **Improving Health Outcomes.** Through preventive care, chronic disease management and early intervention, WCCHC strives to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in care across our community.
3. **Addressing Behavioral Health Needs.** With integrated behavioral health services, WCCHC provides timely access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, promoting holistic well-being for all.
4. **Creating a Healthier Future.** WCCHC is committed to serving as a catalyst for positive change in the community. By addressing the unique needs of underserved populations, WCCHC is working towards creating a healthier and more equitable future for all residents.

HEALTH CENTER BOARD

As a public entity, the Wood County Board of Health collaborates with the Wood County Community Health Center Co-Applicant Board to oversee operations of the Wood County Community Health Center. The Board of the Wood County Community Health Center is composed of members of the community and Health Center patients who are dedicated to the organization's mission to provide quality health services to improve the well-being of individuals and families. The Health Center Board includes Stephen Meredith, President; Ruthann House, Vice President; Earl McKinney, Treasurer; Jody Eaton, Secretary; Kenzie Clouse; Jerry Crawford; Audre Duconge; Mohammed Omara and Sharon Schaeffer.





2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Health Center received an award from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Oral Health Program for a School-Based Dental Sealant program, which was implemented in local schools by our dental staff. Dental sealants are used to prevent pit and fissure caries, the most common type of tooth decay seen today among school-aged children. They are an effective tool that contributes to the overall health of students. Dental sealants are underused, particularly for children from economically disadvantaged families who are at higher risk for tooth decay and lack routine access to dental care.
- The Health Center received an award from ODH for continuation of the Reproductive Health and Wellness Program (RHWP). The RHWP comprehensively addresses issues of reproductive health and wellness (including family planning) with a focus on populations in greatest need and identified priorities.
- The Health Center received continued recognition as a Patient-Centered Medical Home with Behavioral Health Distinction by NCQA.
- WCCHC's online patient portal helps patients take control of their healthcare. Patients can ask their provider a question, share an update or send an attachment, request medication refills or renewals and review their prescription medications. They can also view visit summaries, lab results and other documentation and see a list of upcoming appointments as well as past appointments.
- Patient self-scheduling was added in 2023 to allow patients to schedule appointments online.



BY THE NUMBERS



Medical Visits
1,724 Patients
4,527 Visits



Dental Visits
1,195 Patients
2,041 Visits



Mental Health Visits
990 Patients
2,041 Visits



Prescriptions Filled
17,141





RENOVATIONS

Wood County Community Health Center began a renovation project in November 2022 that concluded in 2023 and allowed for an expansion of services to better serve the needs of our community. The renovation enabled the Health Center to increase the number of exam rooms, added a behavioral health wing and expanded the pharmacy and waiting room areas.





BRIDGING THE GAP: GRANT-FUNDED ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE OPIOID WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT

WCCHC is committed to addressing the complex needs of individuals affected by substance use disorders. WCCHC has made a significant advancement in efforts to combat opioid addiction and support individuals on their journey to recovery by offering the Bridge device. The Bridge device is a revolutionary solution for managing opioid withdrawal symptoms. It is a non-pharmaceutical intervention that is worn behind the ear to help reduce the symptoms of opioid withdrawal. The Bridge is the first FDA-cleared, drug-free, non-surgical device to use neuromodulation to aid in the reduction of symptoms associated with opioid withdrawal.



The process for receiving the Bridge device is simple. Patients undergo a 30-minute session with their provider, during which the primary care physician (PCP) places the device behind the patient's ear. The patient then rests in a quiet, dark room for 10 minutes while the device delivers neurostimulation therapy. The PCP returns to make any necessary adjustments, ensuring optimal comfort and effectiveness. Each patient receives two or three Bridge devices five days apart put on by their provider.

Thanks to grant funding from the Wood County ADAMHS Board, WCCHC can offer access to the Bridge device to individuals across the state of Ohio, regardless of financial means. This initiative eliminates financial barriers to treatment, ensuring that anyone in need can receive the support and care they deserve as they navigate the challenges of opioid withdrawal. In 2023, we provided total of 19 units for 10 patients. The Bridge device helps patients manage early withdrawal symptoms and transition to medication assisted treatment (MAT) or enter into abstinence-based recovery. MAT has been recognized as an effective treatment for substance use disorders, particularly for individuals grappling with opioid and alcohol dependence. WCCHC offers MAT options for individuals struggling with substance use disorders as part of its integrated treatment approach, combining medication with counseling to support individuals on their journey to recovery. Treatment that combines medication and therapy is more effective than one of these methods alone.

Substance use disorders can significantly impact an individual's behavior and overall well-being. Therapy can help people deal with those behaviors and emotions that are often linked to addiction. It can teach long-term coping skills for stress and help people start positive routines. Renee Groman, Behavioral Health Manager at WCCHC, emphasized the importance of integrating medication and therapy services. "Our goal is to provide holistic, evidence-based care that addresses the physical, emotional and psychological aspects of substance use disorders. With the Bridge device and MAT as treatment options, we can offer individuals a comprehensive approach to recovery that supports their long-term well-being."



NARCAN VENDING MACHINE

Fast, free and simple-to-use Narcan vending machines are now located across Wood County. Thanks to the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, Wood County Health Department is one of those locations. The other two vending machines are located at Midwest Recovery Center at 115 W. State St. in North Baltimore and Harbor's location at 800 Commerce Dr. #115 in Perrysburg.

Narcan is the nasal spray equivalent of naloxone, a medication approved by the FDA designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. Narcan cannot harm individuals nor can it give anyone a high. It can only reverse the effects of an opiate overdose. If given to an individual not experiencing an opiate overdose, nothing will occur. Always dial 911 after administering Narcan and if it is an emergency other than opiate overdose.

To use the machine, dial (419) 567 "NO OD" (6663). The caller is asked a series of simple, anonymous demographic questions, then they receive a 4-digit code to use at the machine to dispense. Codes are only provided during regular Wood County ADAMHS business hours - closed on major holidays.



VITAL STATISTICS 2023

2023 Statistics



Hospital Births	321
Home Births	25
Birth Certificates Issued	2,247
Wood County Deaths	1,052
Death Certificates Issued	5,136





WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, most commonly known as WIC, is a government-funded program that provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables, and iron-fortified infant formula; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs. Income-eligible pregnant women, children under five years old and grandparents caring for their grandchildren under five years old can participate in WIC. Monthly food supplements are given with a WIC nutrition card that works at the store like a debit card. Packages can be tailored for children with allergies or special health needs.

WIC offices are located at
639 S. Dunbridge Rd. in Bowling Green.
Office hours are:
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday:
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Satellite clinics are available three days
per month in Northwood





WIC HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the Wood County WIC program ended the year with a caseload of 1,886 unduplicated participants, a 79% increase in participants over 2022!



WIC relaunched its hospital visitation program, through partnership with the Wood County Hospital, which allowed WIC staff to visit moms and new babies at the bedside after delivery. This was a great opportunity for staff to conduct WIC outreach and also connect families with WIC breastfeeding staff to support a successful breastfeeding experience during the transition from hospital to home and beyond.



The Wood County WIC program completed its seventh year of the Ohio WIC Farmers Market

Nutrition Program, providing interested WIC participants with \$30 vouchers to purchase fresh, Ohio-raised fruits and vegetables.

The coupons were redeemable at any participating Wood County Farmers Market from July through October. Families who received vouchers redeemed a total of \$1,665 worth of fresh produce.



The Wood County WIC program partnered with the Toledo Lucas County Health Department to supply cribs and Safe Sleep Kits to families who have no safe place for their baby to sleep. The goal of this program is to address sleep-related infant mortality in the region. WIC provided cribs to all families who qualify for WIC and presented a need for a safer sleeping environment for their infants.





WIC Highlights *cont.*



WIC collaborated with the dietetic internship program at BGSU to help interns gain a better understanding of possible careers in public health/community nutrition. In 2023, interns developed nutrition education modules focused on shopping on a budget, switching to low-fat dairy and the benefits of eating more whole grains and legumes. Interns delivered education along with corresponding healthy recipes and food samples on three different occasions to families visiting the WIC office for appointments.



In collaboration with WCHD, Wood County WIC hosted an infant care station at the Wood County Fair.

The station was housed within an air-conditioned room so parents had a cool, clean place to breastfeed, change a diaper or just get out of the heat.



WIC offered a free Latch-On event in August 2023 for Breastfeeding WIC parents. The event was a huge success! There was food, a raffle for a stroller and a stocked diaper bag, and all attendees received a goodie bag with breastfeeding support items such as nursing bras and breastmilk storage bags.



Help Me Grow and lactation support from the Wood County Hospital were also on site to share about their programs and services. Attendees were asked to share about their breastfeeding journeys and the role WIC breastfeeding staff have played in supporting them. One mom reflected, "The staff were knowledgeable and very helpful in answering all of my breastfeeding questions and offering support." Another mom shared, "My breastfeeding experience has been better with my second child. It has been rough learning the proper latch for him. It has gotten better once I reached out to the WIC office to have them check his latch and get advice. Getting the advice has improved the experience."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2023, WCHD staff were actively engaged with residents from across the community, demonstrating a commitment to promoting health and wellness. Through a variety of initiatives, partnerships and events, WCHD successfully disseminated vital health information to enhance the well-being of Wood County residents.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Participation in Community Events:



Throughout the year, WCHD staff actively participated in or presented at 27 different community events. These events served as valuable platforms for engaging with community members, addressing health concerns and fostering meaningful dialogue about public health initiatives.



Key Highlights *cont.*

Media Engagement:



WCHD staff members were prominently featured in television, radio and newspaper interviews, amplifying the reach of health-related messages and initiatives. These media engagements played a crucial role in raising awareness about important health issues and promoted preventive measures within the community.



Distribution of Educational Materials:



WCHD distributed educational and promotional materials across various platforms. By providing easily accessible resources, WCHD aimed to equip individuals with the information needed to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



Participation in Community Coalitions and Associations:



WCHD engaged with community coalitions, service organizations, business associations and other community groups, fostering collaborative partnerships aimed at addressing local health issues and promoting community wellness.



Health Communication Campaigns:



WCHD conducted radio, digital and billboard advertising campaigns to raise awareness about various health topics and health department services.



Wood County Health Department

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