

Van Wert County General Health District



2021 Annual Report

Published: February 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

The overall mission of the Van Wert County General Health District is to promote and to protect the health and well-being of the community.

VISION STATEMENT

The Van Wert County General Health District will lead the way in protecting and improving the health of the residents of our community by serving as the most reliable source of public health services and information.

VAN WERT COUNTY DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Paul Svabik, President

Appointed February 1988 ◊ Term Expires April 2022

Brian Greve, Vice-President

Appointed April 2013 ◊ Term Expires April 2023

Dr. Thomas Conte

Appointed April 2016 ◊ Term Expires April 2024

Laura Metzger

Appointed Sept 2019 ◊ Term Expires April 2025

Randy Myers

Appointed April 2009 ◊ Term Expires April 2026

*Serving more than 28,000
residents, including:*

Convoy, Elgin, Harrison Township, Hoaglin Township, Jackson Township, Jennings Township, Liberty Township, Middle Point, Ohio City, Pleasant Township, Ridge Township, Scott, Tully Township, Union Township, Van Wert, Venedocia, Washington Township, Willshire, Willshire Township, Wren, and York Township.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Paul A. Kalogerou, MD

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Kathy Will, RN, DON

Nikki Kuhlman, RN, BS

Cindy Cook, RN

Katie Stammen, RN

Adam Hoaglin, RN

HELP ME GROW

Samantha Ball, RN, Supervisor

Malinda Falkner, Home Visitor

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

Adam, Hoaglin, RN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Britt Menchhofer, REHS

Kelly Freewalt, REHS

Ashley Winters, REHS

VITAL STATISTICS/ADMINISTRATIVE

Kristin Evans, Registrar

Jodi Koverman, Clerk

Jeanette Ford MS, BS, Administrator

Sam Shriver, Communication Specialist

STAFF WHO ALSO SERVED WITH US IN 2021

Madeline Hojnacki, RN

Susie Isenbarger, Registrar

Mackinzy Peterson BS, Clerk

Kylee Feasel, RN, Home Visitor



From Health Commissioner.....

Our Van Wert County Health Department and Board of Health welcome the District Advisory Council and appreciate your attendance. We remain diligent with our responsibilities to promote and protect the health and well-being of our community, empower the public to make responsible healthcare decisions, to keep our environment safe, and to remain prepared for any public health threat.

Our community and our health department remain challenged by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our department has been a valuable resource of information for our citizens, including the elderly, parents and families, educators, businesses, law enforcement, first responders, and our health partners.

We provide guidance for stopping the transmission of the COVID 19 virus with mitigation measures of vaccination, masking, social/physical distancing, and handwashing. Our department and the pharmacies provide vaccinations for the public.

Throughout the pandemic, many of our citizens have developed an awareness of the importance of public health and the significant role our health department plays in providing responsible, accurate, and data driven information and guidance.

Our department is composed of our Nursing Division, Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response Division, Environmental Health Division, Vital Statistics Division, and our Administrative Staff Division.

Our Nursing Division is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of Van Wert County. Our nurses immunize/vaccinate and educate the public regarding health issues, identify health concerns, monitor health status, and develop partnerships to identify and to solve problems.

The nurses collaborate with the Van Wert County Hospital and other community agencies to address the county's health needs. Our nursing director has been a valuable resource for the school system, providing pandemic response guidance for our educators and students. Our department continues to participate in a grant with area law enforcement officials to provide reversal medication for drug overdose cases.

Our Nursing Division has participated with other community partners to create a Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. Nursing also provides services for Children with Medical Disabilities, LEAD case investigations, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome counseling, and Child Fatality Review. Our nursing team, under the guidance of Director of Nursing Kathy Will, RN, continues to participate in the "Help Me Grow" program, providing services to underserved parents and newborns.

Our Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response Division prepares our department in collaboration with community partners against potential infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, and any other public health threats and participates in drills to remain prepared. Emergency Response Plans, including Pandemic Influenza and County Mass Fatalities Plans, are regularly updated.

Our Environmental Health Division, under the leadership of Registered Sanitarian Britt Menchhofer, REHS, monitors and inspects food establishments, solid waste disposal facilities, manufactured home parks, campgrounds, schools, public pools, and body piercing and tattoo facilities. The sanitarians provide permits for and inspect private water systems and household sewage treatment systems along with addressing nuisance and sewage cases. The sanitarians also perform rabies investigations.

Our Administrative Staff Division promotes effective communication between the clerical and nursing divisions. Health Department Administrator, Jeanette Ford, MSOP, BS, RRT, provides valuable input with coordinating the clerical and clinical staff, improving the billing process, building strong relationships with our board, community partners, and regional health departments, and continues to fulfill the obligations of Public Health Accreditation Coordinator. The clerical staff compassionately and professionally greet the public. Making certain that a client's visit remains a productive and satisfying experience remains a priority for the clerical and clinical teams. By accepting private insurance for the past several years, in addition to Medicare/Medicaid billing, our department has expanded the community's access to our clinics for their immunization needs.

The Ohio Department of Health requires all Local Health Departments to become accredited. The Accreditation status ensures that Health Department standards maintain consistency with nationally recognized guidelines, including continuous quality improvement. Our department has completed the process of Accreditation and has an active Quality Improvement Plan. Our department has had a major role in planning and formulating the Community Health Assessment. Strategic health priorities have been identified for the Community Health Improvement Plan including Housing Quality, Lead Awareness, Preventative Medicine- Immunizations and

Adverse Childhood Experiences. Our staff also participates in an Overdose Prevention team with other community partners. Our goal for Accreditation is to improve the health outcomes of our community.

We encourage you to review the 2021 yearly report of our health department's contribution to Van Wert County. The goals of our department remain the prevention of disease and the promotion and protection of the health of our community.

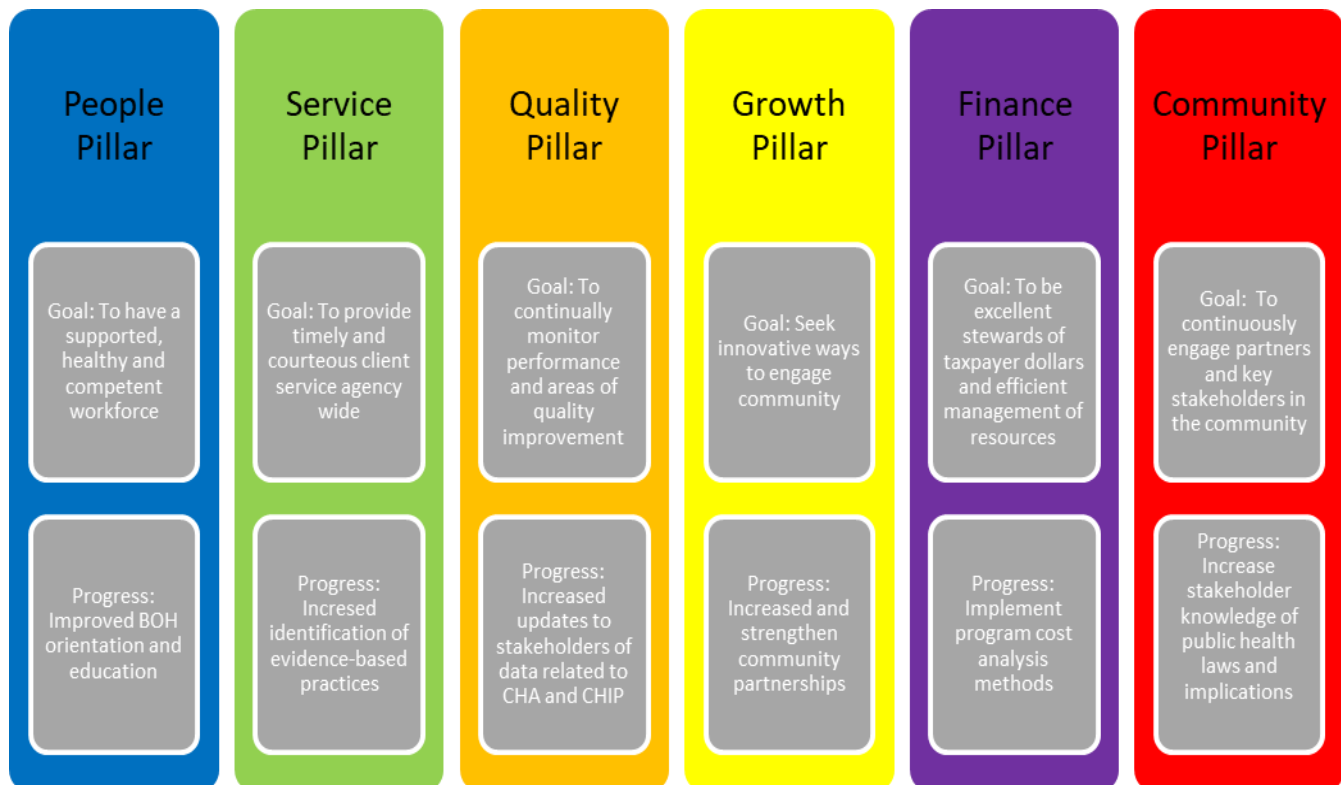
Public health funding continues to be limited. The Van Wert County District Advisory Council's continued support for our day-to-day functions is very much appreciated.

Our department remains astutely aware that we are public servants. We work closely with the Board of Health to maintain a fiscally responsible budget to ensure that our tax dollars remain efficiently and effectively utilized.

Respectfully,

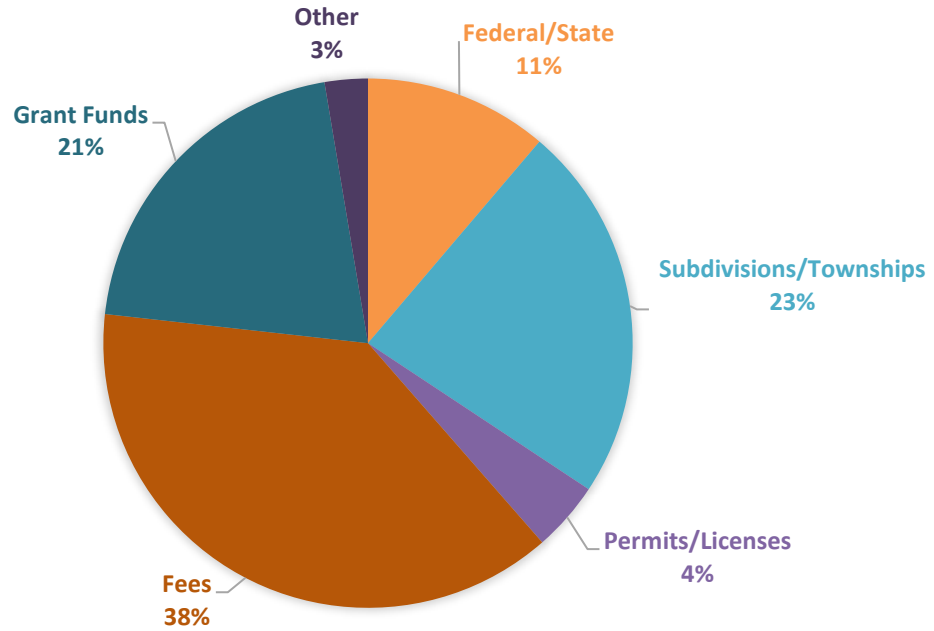
Paul A. Kalogerou, MD
Health Commissioner/Medical Director

2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan

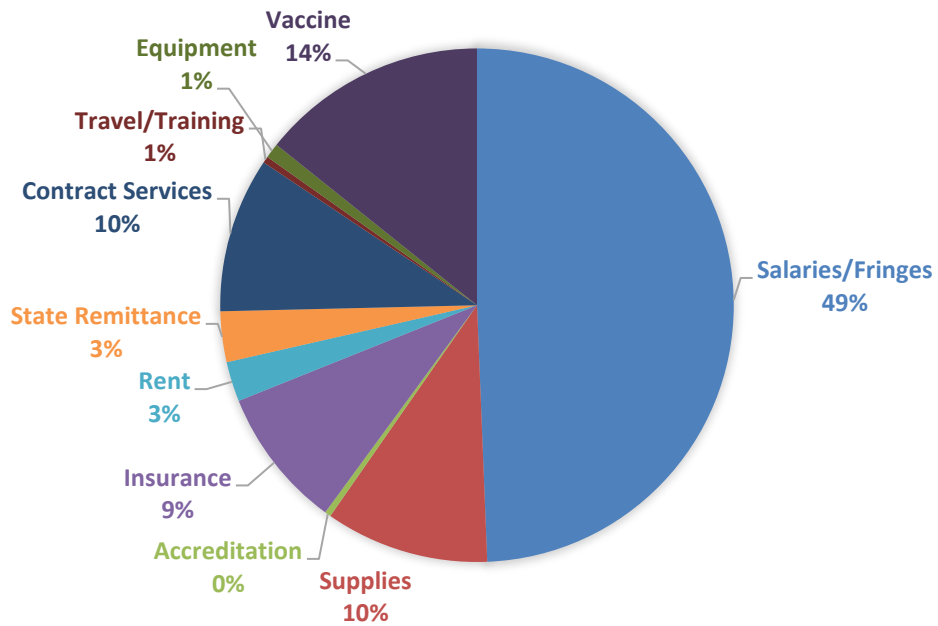


Maintaining Financial Stability

2021 REVENUE



2021 EXPENSES



Emergency Preparedness and Response

The health department continues to receive funds from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant.

Target Capabilities:

- Community Preparedness
- Community Recovery
- Emergency Operations Coordination
- Emergency Public Information and Warning
- Fatality Management
- Information Sharing
- Mass Care
- Medical Countermeasures
- Medical Surge
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
- Responder Safety and Health
- Volunteer Management

The 2021 grant revenue was
\$56204.72
for Van Wert County Health
Department.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, the health department continues to increase pandemic influenza planning with special emphasis on Medical Countermeasures and Distribution. This includes Closed Point of Dispensing planning. This will be the primary responsibility for public health.

COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Response

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread through the nation, state and Van Wert County. In 2021, 5,077 Van Wert County residents tested positive for the SARS COVID-19 virus*. There were 63 resident deaths*. The staff at the health department focused began to shift at the beginning of the year from contact tracing, isolation and quarantine measures, as well as general community education on the virus to vaccination. The first vaccines were provided to health care workers in the health department clinic right before Christmas 2020. This grew to mass clinics where thousands of residents were vaccinated during the day. The health department was fortunate to have wonderful volunteers step up to help give vaccines, register individuals, verify demographic information, enter data into the computer systems, even open band-aids to help the nursing staff move individuals through quickly. Volunteers set up the clinic areas, cleaned between individuals, and tore the clinic back down after all shots were given. We were also fortunate enough to have CERT Team volunteers who helped direct traffic in the parking lots and in the building. The health department could not have accomplished the task of vaccinating the residents of the county without the help of the volunteers.

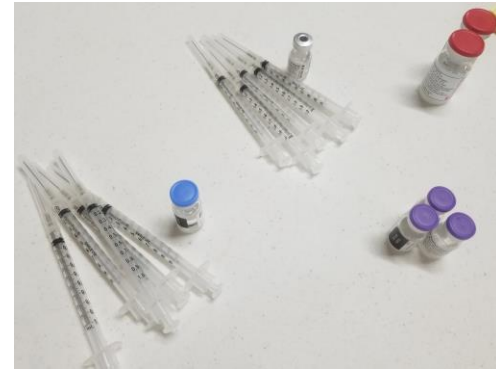


*Data source ODH COVID-19 dashboard

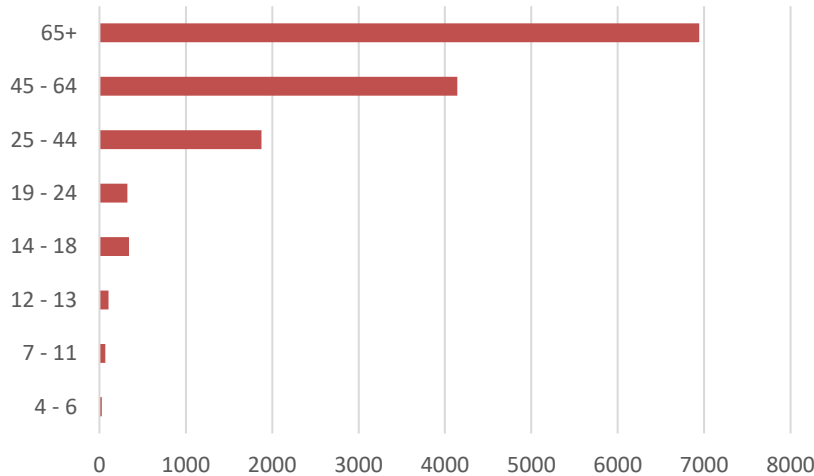
2021 COVID -19 statistics

Vaccination Data

13,848 Total Vaccines Given
Received first vaccine 12,405
Fully vaccinated 11,489



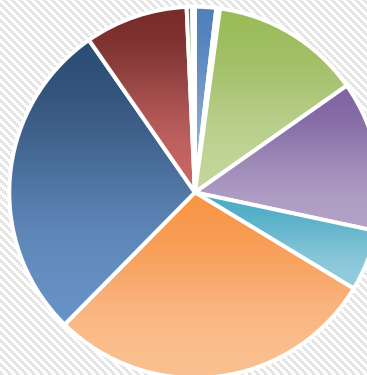
Total COVID-19 Vaccines Given by Age Group



The health department has facilitated 93 COVID 19 Immunization Clinics. We have utilized 28 volunteer nurses, 8 staff nurses and 4 different clinic sites to provide this public health service to our community.

The health department also accommodated 4 schools, local fire departments, Van Wert Jail staff and inmates, police officers, and numerous homebound residents with a partnership with Community Health Professionals.

COVID-19 Vaccine by Type and Dose



Other COVID-19 Data

Investigation of COVID-19 cases, contacts, and outbreaks fall to the public health department under a non-funded communicable disease mandate.

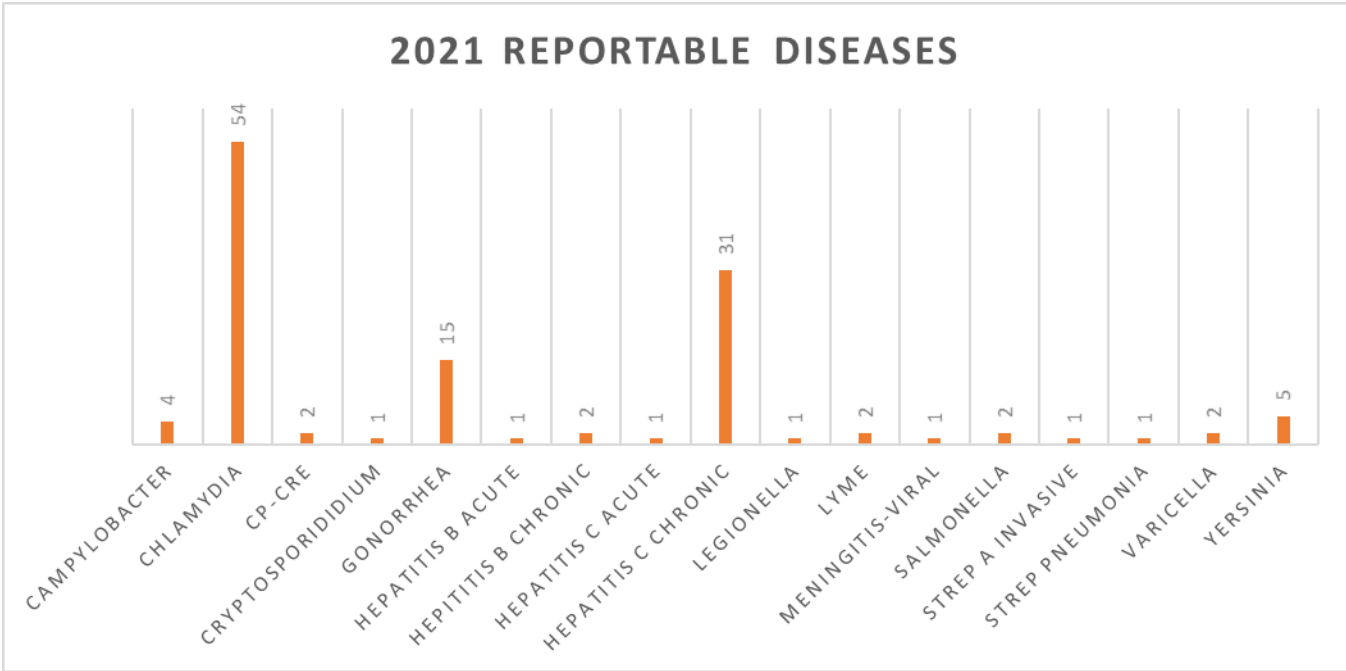
The health department investigated 3180 cases in 2021. Using 5 nurses to complete investigation and required documentation. In May, the health department received assistance from a contract group called PCG through the Ohio Department of Health.

Additional assistance was acquired through private physicians who were onboarded to electronically enter their cases.

Public Health Nursing

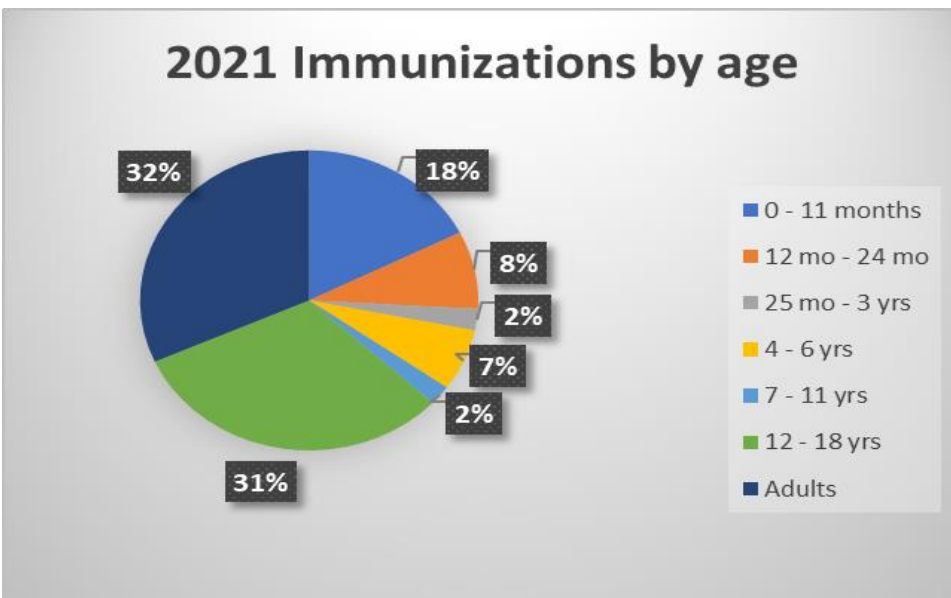
Communicable Disease

Communicable diseases are reported and investigated depending on their classification through the CDC. Nursing staff track the prevalence of a variety of diseases, contact tracing spread, and provide educational information to those infected.



Immunization Clinic

The immunization clinic is open Monday through Friday with various timeslots through the days to accommodate client schedules as well as late clinic hours being offered during each month.

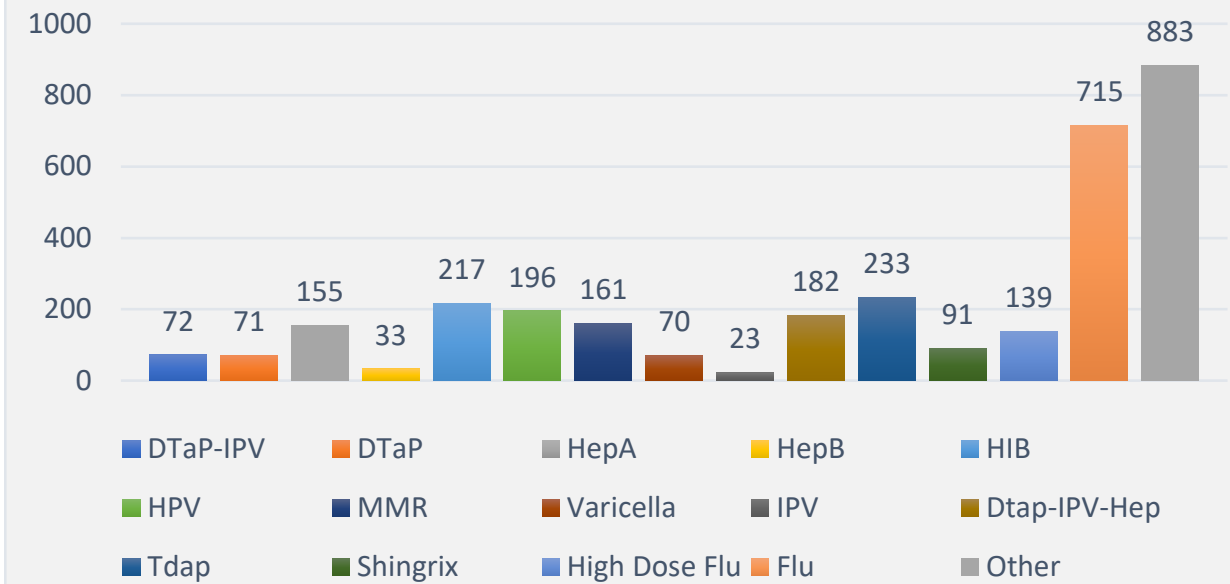


17,089
Total Vaccines
given*

199
TB Tests
administered

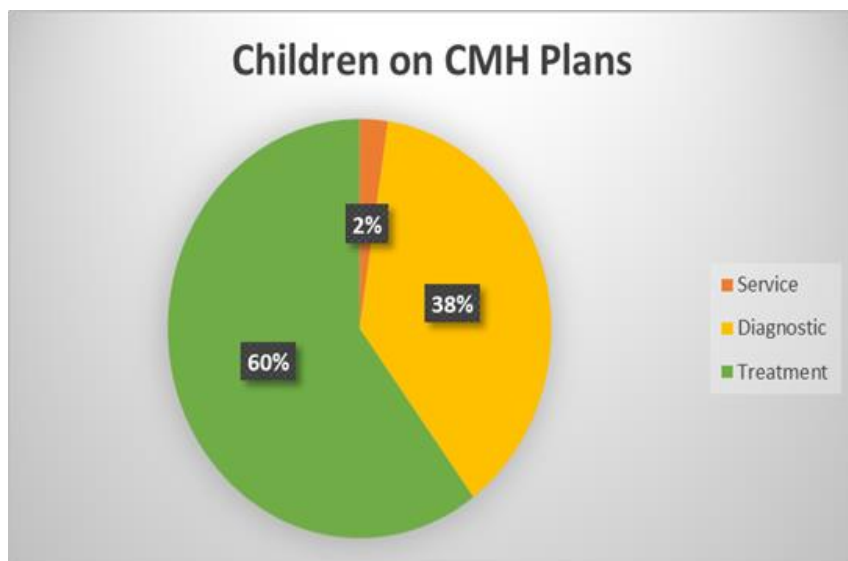
*Total vaccination amount includes all COVID-19 vaccines given in 2021

2021 Vaccinations



Children with Medical Handicaps Program

The Children with Medical Handicaps program is an ODH program that helps link families of children with special healthcare needs from birth to age 22 with services, diagnostic testing and treatments.



\$104,730.00
Revenue

145
Children covered in all
three service areas:
diagnostic, treatment,
and service coordination

Help Me Grow Home Visiting

Help Me Grow Home Visiting is a voluntary parent support program that offers families a judgment-free environment to receive up-to-date information on child development and well-being and promote school readiness. Each family support specialist partners with the family to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development. Scheduling a home visit is done on a parent's terms and at their convenience. The visits will take place wherever it is most comfortable for the caregiver, typically in the home. Each visit will center around the family's specific interests in areas like child development, toilet training, positive stress management, discipline, and safety.

27
Families
Served

\$95,343.56
Total Revenue



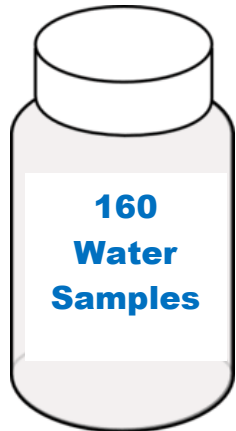
Learning to say bye-bye

*Floor Time!
Learning and exploring.*



Connecting using sock puppets

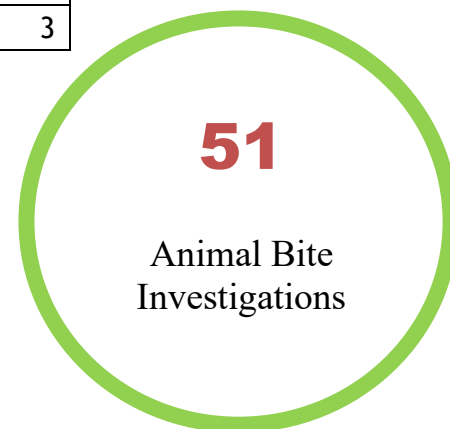
Environmental Health



Licensing Programs	Licenses	Inspections
Food Service Operation/Retail Food Establishments	253	424
Schools		22
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	8	30
Manufactured Home Parks		8
Campgrounds	2	7
Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities	3	4
Solid Waste Facilities	1	4

Permit Programs	Permits	Inspections
Private Water Systems	45	21
Sewage System Installation	29	115
Septage Hauler Vehicles	15	3

Registration Programs	Registrations
Sewage System Installers	14
Septage Haulers	11
Sewage System Service Providers	7



32% Increase

Food Service Operation/Retail Food Establishment Licenses

15% Decrease

Private Water System Inspections

117% Increase

Sewage System Inspections

Miscellaneous Programs and Services	Totals
Nuisance Complaint Investigations/Re-inspections	54
Real Estate Well & Septic Inspections	32

Operation and Maintenance Program

In 2015, new guidance was implemented requiring health departments across the state of Ohio to establish an operation and maintenance permitting program for sewage treatment systems. The purpose of the program is to ensure that septic systems are being maintained properly, not causing a public health nuisance and to help educate homeowners. The program rules and regulations can be found in the Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29-19 and the Ohio Revised Code 3718.02 (A)(7). This program ensures that all household sewage systems throughout the county are being maintained properly, getting serviced regularly, are not causing a public health nuisance, and are operating as designed. When a system isn't properly maintained, it may back up into the house or fail sooner than it should, and could be a large financial burden on the owner. The operation and maintenance permit is \$50 and is renewed every five years. There are three options for the homeowner to meet the evaluation requirements: Have a registered service provider to evaluate, pump/maintain the system; provide documentation to our department showing the system has been pumped within the past two years; have a sanitarian complete the evaluation at the property. Once the evaluation is complete, the homeowner will receive their permit, evaluation report, and education materials for their septic system.

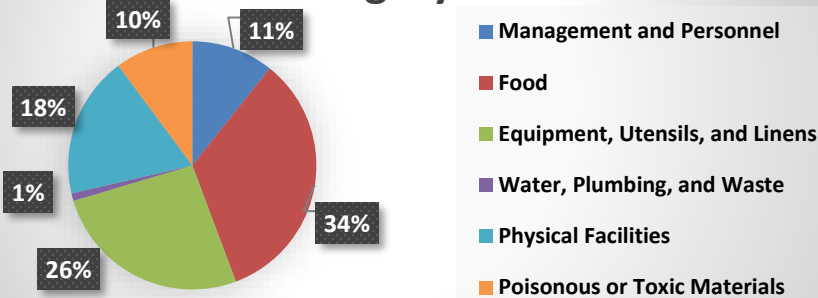
Environmental Program Enforcement Trends and Patterns

Food Safety Program

Food Safety Program operates under ORC 3717, OAC 3701-21, and OAC 901:3.

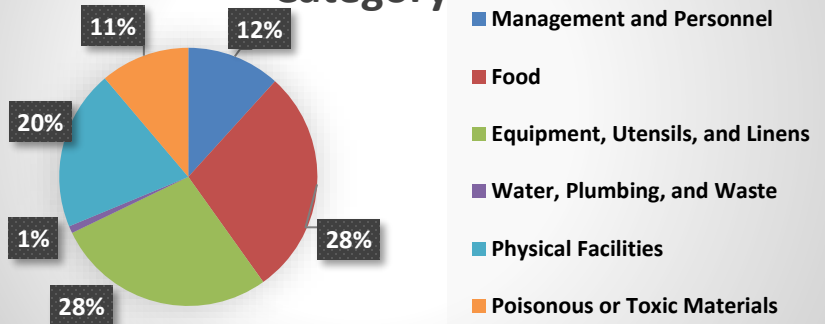
Staff inspect and license all restaurants within the county, all types of food service such as mobile units and temporaries, as well as quick food services entities.

2020 Food Violations by Code Category



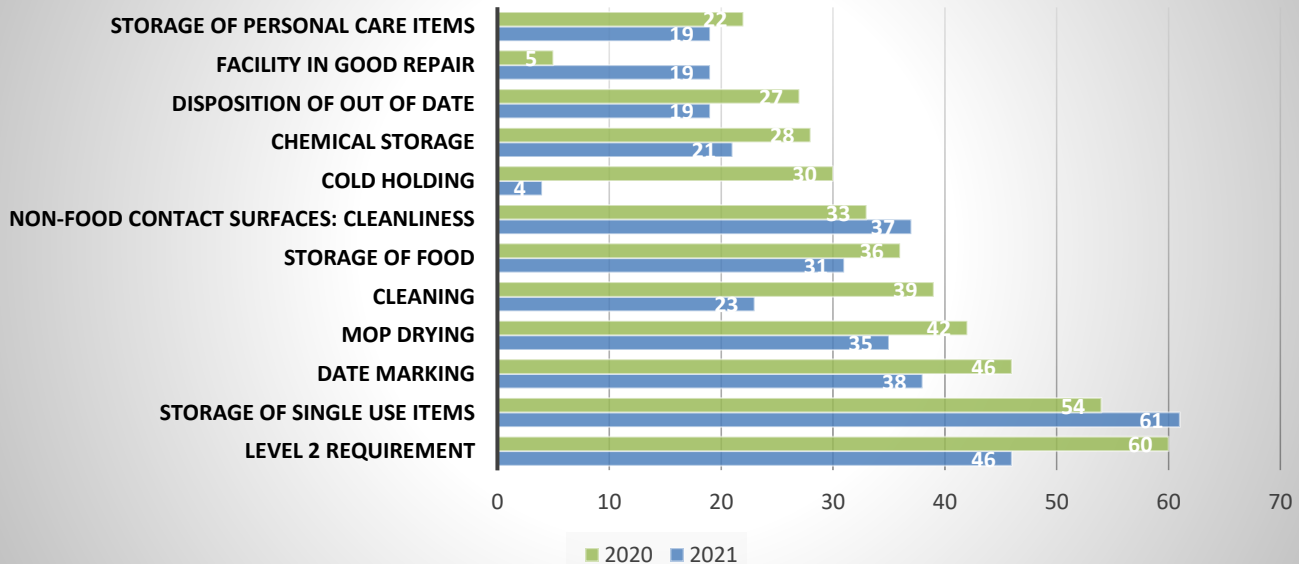
These graphs depict a breakdown of the violations cited by the health department in 2020 and 2021. The top two pie charts break the violations down by the Code Category they are in. The highest cited issue is food related violations and the second falls under equipment, utensils, and linens.

2021 Food Violations by Code Category



Since Food Related Violations were the highest for both years, the below graph depicts the top violations within this category for the years of 2020 and 2021.

Top Food Code Violations



Nuisance Program

The health department nuisance program operates under ORC 3709.12. This code states the health department's responsibility when it comes to protecting the public's health from nuisances. ORC gives the definition of a nuisance.

ORC 3709.12 "The board of health of a general health district may make such orders and regulations as are necessary for its own government, for the public health, the prevention or restriction of disease, and the prevention, abatement, or suppression of nuisances. Such board may require that no human, animal, or household wastes from sanitary installations within the district be discharged into a storm sewer, open ditch, or watercourse without a permit therefore having been secured from the board under such terms as the board requires."

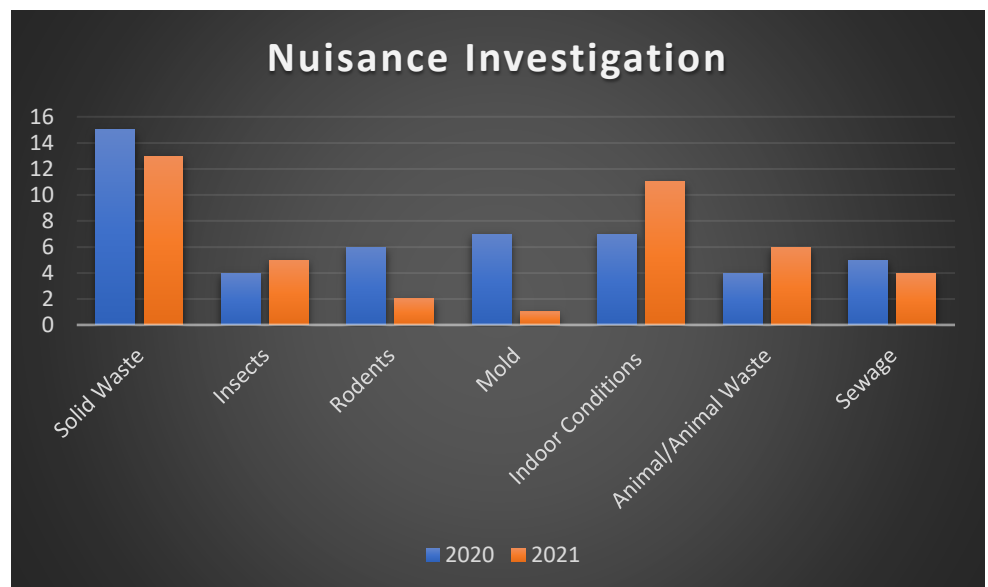
ORC 3767.13 "No person shall erect, continue, use, or maintain a building, structure, or place for the exercise of a trade, employment, or business, or for the keeping or feeding of an animal which, by occasioning noxious exhalations or noisome or offensive smells, becomes injurious to the health, comfort, or property of individuals or of the public. No person shall cause or allow offal, filth, or noisome substances to be collected or remain in any place to the damage or prejudice of others or of the public."

10%

Nuisances were corrected after contact by the health department staff

17%

Nuisance Reports are an ongoing issue and continue to be worked on by health department staff



*This graph shows a comparison of the type of nuisance reports of 2022 to 2021

3

Nuisance cases were referred to Van Wert City

The health department has no way to provide any type of physical or financial assistance to those with issues that are deemed a nuisance. And the department has no control or enforcement capacities when it comes to an individual who chooses to live in less-than-optimal conditions or has no other choice. Many calls received by the department regarding issues are that of inside problems such as mold or other hazards and generally speaking, are from renters who have requested these issues be fixed by their landlords to no avail. The health department has no control or jurisdiction to enforce anything that is not a "public health issue". The ORC is established to protect the public, not the individual.

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics Division works closely with community members and funeral homes. This area supplies certified birth certificates and death certificates as well as working alongside funeral homes to approve burial/cremation permits and files all death certificates with the state of Ohio for any person who dies within the county limits.

In 2021 the division implemented an online process for the public to request birth or death certificates. The link for the online system is on the health department website or residents can go straight to: <https://vanwertoh.permitium.com/rod>

The Vital Statistics Division also collaborated with Van Wert Health Maternity Unit to provide new families with a QRS code to directly request a certified birth certificate online.



11
Home Birth
Certificates
Processed

Additional Statistics from Vital Statistics Records

- 7 death certificates from 2021 still pending cause
- Drug related deaths 3
- Self-inflicted harm 3

Leading cause of death for residents of Van Wert County in **2021**:

1. Cancer
 - a. Lung
 - b. Colon
 - c. Pancreatic
2. Disease of Heart
 - a. Ischemic Heart Disease
 - b. CHF
3. COVID-19

Accreditation

Van Wert County General Health District continues to move toward accreditation. The department completed the submission of documentation to the PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) in September 2019. This was a daunting process of over 300 documents and cover pages covering 12 domains. The PHAB site review was completed in May 2021. From this site review, the department received an action plan to improve some of the documentation and processes. The staff continues to work toward this achievement on top of their regular job duties. The action plan will be completed in May 2022.

Community Involvement

The Van Wert County General Health District continues to be a member of the following groups; however, COVID-19 has suspended some activities. The department looks forward to engaging with them in the upcoming year.

Overdose Prevention Team

Soil Waste Policy Committee

Van Wert County Disaster Task Force

Live Healthy Van Wert

Domestic Violence Task Force

Family and Children First

Vantage Health Careers Advisory Board



Van Wert County
General Health District