

WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Parting Letter from the Health Commissioner.....	03
Board of Health.....	04
What is Public Health?.....	05
Health Education & Preparedness.....	06-12
Vital Statistics Division.....	13
Public Health Nursing Division.....	14-18
Environmental Public Health Division.....	19-21
Financial Report.....	22

OUR TEAM

HEALTH COMMISSIONER

James D. Watkins, MPH, REHS

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Rachel Aeschliman, MPH, RN
Tammy Riegsecker, RN
Nathan Hoffer, RN
Jessy Hoffer, RN
Bethany Coutz, OCPSA

VITAL STATISTICS

Alyssa Hauer, BS
Ashley Rathke
Kathy Lamberson
Staci Laney

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Sandy Shirkey

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Brad Price, REHS
Kailea Holbrook, MS, REHS
Teri Boltinghouse, REHSIT
Shannon Trausch
Brittany Spotts

HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Victoria Smith, MPH, CHES
Katie Brown, MPH, CHES, CPST
Michael Wright, MPH, CHES
Sara Casper, BS, CPST
Peg Buda, BS

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Glen Seaman, MD

WIC

Kolleen Boland, MS, RD, LD
Becky Hill, RN IBCLC
Roberta Dye
Jami Tusko
Megan Winebernner

CONNECT WITH US

Montpelier Office

310 Lincoln Avenue
Montpelier, OH 43543
Phone: (419) 485-3141
Fax: (419) 485-5420

Bryan Office

1399 East High Street
Bryan, OH 43506
Phone: (419) 636-8754
Fax: (419) 636-8107



Website

williamscountyhealth.org



Facebook

@WilliamsCoHD



Instagram

@WilliamsCoHD



Twitter

@WilliamsCoHD

WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Our Mission: Prevent disease and injury, promote health and wellness, & protect you and your community

Our Vision: Shaping the healthiest and safest community

A Parting Letter from James D. Watkins, Health Commissioner

I have been reading lately about how we tend to put the past on a pedestal and think it was a simpler time, not so frustrating or complicated. Having a long career in public health I have been part of and seen many changes. Change is always a loss of something familiar and comfortable. As we age, I also think we can resist change because we have gone through so many changes in our lives. I was privileged to be elected several times by my fellow health commissioners to serve on our state association (AOHC) board as the representative for the NW Ohio Health Departments. Later, I was elected by my fellow health commissioners from across the state to serve as President of AOHC. For the last 10 years, I have had the privilege of serving on our board for the Local Public Health Services Collaborative. These experiences allowed me to bring a Williams County perspective to conversations and the privilege of learning from many great people.

During the past 17 years, the Williams County Health Department has:

- Passed an operational levy that has made the department much more financially stable.
- Became one of the first 20 health departments in the state to meet the state requirements of national accreditation.
- Delivered vaccinations to the community through two pandemics.
- Founded a successful, statewide, collaborative to provide services to local communities at a reduced cost.
- Affiliated with BGSU as an academic health department. This has allowed us to attract staff.

Overall, I am proud of the fantastic staff we have had over the years who have cared about the Williams County community. Their dedication to working with the community has made it a pleasure to serve in the capacity of health commissioner.

Retirement after 17 years as health commissioner will be a major change for me, but life is all about change. It's a matter of how we choose to react to change.



Wishing the community all the best,
James D. Watkins

BOARD OF HEALTH

The 9 members of the Board of Health are appointed by the chairman of each township, mayors of each village, and the Bryan City Council. State law requires the board to report and take measures to control disease, enforce state public health laws and promote health and well-being within the department. The board is also responsible for the department's budget and hiring and retaining a health commissioner. One board of health position is in the process of being filled.

John Waterston, President

Appointed by District Advisory Council
Represents Jefferson & Superior

Tammy Bernath, Vice President

Appointed by District Advisory Council
Represents Pioneer, Bridgewater,
Florence, & Northwest

Lydia Schmidt, M.D

Appointed by District Advisory Council
Represents Center & Pulaski

Megan Hall

Appointed by City of Bryan
Represents City of Bryan

John Drinnon

Appointed by City of Bryan
Represents City of Bryan

Sharon Tarr

Appointed by District Advisory Council
Represents Montpelier

Dee Custar

Appointed by District Advisory Council
Represents Stryker, Brady, & Springfield

Cheryl Boldman

Appointed by District Advisory Council
Represents West Unity, Millcreek, &
Madison Township

TBD – Appointed by District Advisory Council;
Represents Edon, Edgerton, Blakeslee & St. Joseph



*Back row from left to right: Sharon Tarr, John Drinnon, John Waterston, Dr. Lydia Schmidt
Front row from left to right: Cheryl Boldman, Tammy Bernath, Dee Custar, Megan Hall*

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

Health starts where we live, learn, work, and play. The vision of public health is healthy people living in healthy communities. Public health is the combination of science, practical skills, and beliefs, which are designed to give everyone a chance to live a healthy life. Such efforts include keeping you safe from the spread of contagious diseases, providing programs and advocating for policies to promote healthy lifestyles and opportunities, inspecting restaurants for sanitary food handling procedures, monitoring drinking water so it remains free of sewage or pollution, and upholding public health laws to protect the health of populations.

10 Essential Public Health Services



ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #1
Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #2
Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #3
Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #4
Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #5
Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #6
Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #7
Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #8
Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #9
Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #10
Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

The core functions that are important to achieving the main goals of public health include policy development, assessment, and assurance. We assess health conditions and risks within our community to help find health trends and weaken their impacts on our community. We educate our community on important issues and support policies that support our community's health. Finally, we make sure policies, programs, and health services are effective and accessible.

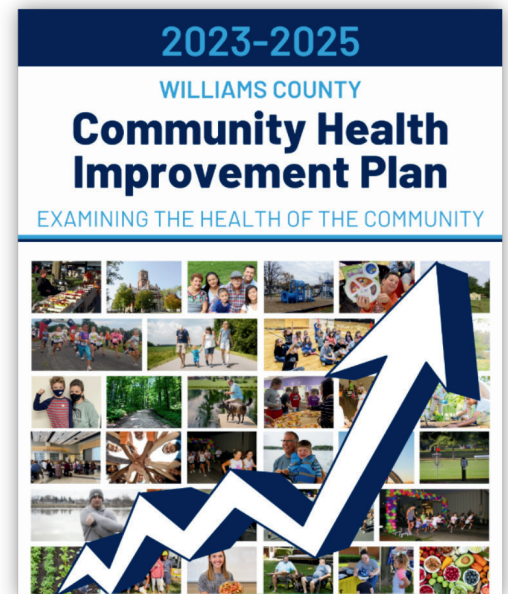
The Williams County Health Department has accomplished many things over the past 100 years so that everyone can have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being! As public health progresses over the next 100 years, we will continue to pursue our vision to shape the healthiest and safest community in the lives of Williams County's residents.

HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

The Health Education and Preparedness (HE&P) Division promotes health and wellness within the Williams County community by providing population-level services to prevent chronic diseases and unintentional injuries, provide health and education services, and to promote adolescent, child, and adult health through evidence-based initiatives. The HE&P division also works to prepare Williams County for emerging public health concerns and to increase community involvement in order to achieve health equity. The HE&P division also oversees the coordination of partners and state agencies in order to collect and analyze local data for effectively designing, implementing, and evaluating community-wide health initiatives and programs.

2023–2025 Community Health Improvement Plan

Using the 2022 Williams County Community Health Assessment data, the Williams County Health Partners worked to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A CHIP is a community-driven, systematic plan to address issues identified in the community health assessment (CHA). The purpose of the CHIP is to describe how community stakeholders and organizations will work to improve the health of the county. Priorities for the plan are developed by community members and local organizations based on the results of four assessments. The 2023–2025 Williams County CHIP priorities align with state and national priorities and focus on mental health and addiction, health behaviors and built environment, and access to care. The report was published in 2023. The Williams County Health Partners have met quarterly to collaborate on CHIP priorities and will continue to work together through the end of this CHIP cycle.



Cover page for the 2023–2025 Community Health Improvement Plan

Strategic Planning



2024–2026 WCHD Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan serves as a guiding document for WCHD, outlining our commitment to the health and well-being of the Williams County community.

Priorities Include:

-  Improve staff recruitment, retention, and development
-  Increase community member and partner outreach and engagement
-  Improve communications efforts
-  Assure financial and operational viability

In 2023, the Williams County Health Department and stakeholders developed the 2024–2026 Williams County Strategic Plan. WCHD partnered with the Ohio State University's Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Evaluation Studies (HOPES) to facilitate the process. Through environmental scans, surveys, meetings, and discussions, the WCHD identified four priorities to address:

- Staff Recruitment, Retention, & Development
- Community Member & Partner Outreach & Engagement
- Communications Efforts
- Financial & Operational Viability

The plan was adopted by the Board of Health on December 19, 2023.

HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Breaking the Stigma: Mental Health, Addiction, & Trauma Breakfasts

The Williams County Health Department hosted two community events in 2023 featuring renowned speaker, Dr. Gretchen Clark Hammond, PhD, MSW, LSW, LCDCIII, TTS. Community members and partners from diverse local agencies were in attendance as Dr. Hammond discussed the role of trauma and social determinants of health in the development of substance use & mental health disorders, the signs of chronic stress, compassion fatigue, and how to utilize wellness strategies. The event also focused on recovery-oriented systems of care and stages of recovery. The events were held on January 19th and October 6th.



Register for a Trauma & Mental Health Training:

Breaking the Stigma:

Mental Health, Addiction, & Trauma

October 6th, 2023

Join renowned speaker, Dr. Gretchen Clark Hammond, as she discusses the role of trauma and health in the development of substance use & mental health disorders, the signs of chronic stress, compassion fatigue, and how to utilize wellness strategies.



Dr. Gretchen Clark Hammond,
PhD, MSW, LSW, LCDCIII, TTS



WHEN: October 6, 2023, 8-11am
WHERE: Bryan Eagles
(221 S. Walnut Street, Bryan)
REGISTER: bit.ly/TraumaMHEvent

Breaking the Stigma event attendees featuring Dr. Gretchen Clark Hammond, PhD, MSW, LSW, LCDCIII, TTS.



HEALing Communities Study

NIH
HEAL
INITIATIVE

HEALing Communities Study
Ohio

Williams County was selected to participate in the HEALing Communities Study (HCS), a research grant with the overall goal to reduce opioid-related deaths. An ECHO Coalition HCS Workgroup was developed in 2022 with partnering agencies involved in communications, intervention, and data committees throughout 2023. In 2023, partners distributed naloxone, expanded services to include Medication for Opioid Use Disorder, developed educational materials, reduced barriers for accessing treatment, and hosted community events. The workgroup met monthly to discuss the strategies and progress. The grant was completed in December 2023 and over \$741,000 was spent in Williams County over the course of the study.

HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

4YourMentalHealth Campaign

The #4YourMentalHealth campaign utilizes billboards, social media, TV streaming ads, and targeted emails to share coping skills that help to improve mental health. The ads target Williams, Henry, Fulton, and Defiance County residents by zip code. In 2022, the campaign expanded to include the development of a new website and new ads using email, OTT streaming TV, 13ABC commercials, targeted internet ads, and more. The campaign also partnered with the Suicide Prevention Coalition to create 3 billboard designs sharing the Crisis Text Line and Suicide Prevention Lifeline.



A Collaboration
between the Four County ADAMHS Board
& the Four County Area Health Departments



Landing page for the new 4YourMentalHealth website



One of the 4YMH billboards that was displayed in Williams County

Suicide Prevention Coalition

The Williams County Health Department recognizes the need to improve mental health in our community. WCHD partners with the Suicide Prevention Coalition to increase awareness, decrease stigma, and provide resources to those who need help. In 2023, WCHD participated in the 3rd Annual Four County Suicide Prevention Breakfast that was held for representatives from schools, churches, courts, businesses, and other sectors. The event was used to bring awareness about the issue of suicide in our community and provide community members with resources to help others.



SPONSORED BY: NWOESC, ADAMHS Board, Four County Area Health Departments



HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Child Passenger Safety Program



CPSTs Sara Casper (left) and Katie Brown (right) with Greg, the training doll.

The Child Passenger Safety program works to prevent injury and improve the safety of all youth while in motor vehicles. Our certified child passenger safety technicians (CPST) have completed extensive training on the selection, use, and installation of car seats and work to educate caregivers on these topics. CPSTs provide free educational sessions and car seat checks to any individual transporting children in car seats. Through the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) program, free car seats and hands-on education are provided to families in Williams County.

58 OBB car seats distributed

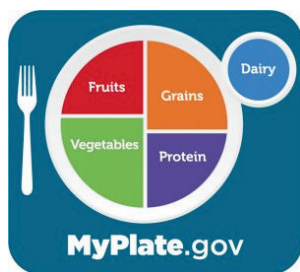
15 seat checks completed

3 trainings presented



3rd Grade MyPlate Nutrition Program

The 3rd Grade MyPlate Program is funded by the Four County ADAMhs board, in partnership with United Way, in order for the Williams County Health Department to educate children about healthy nutrition habits to reduce childhood obesity and improve mental health. The program is implemented in 3rd grade classrooms in Williams County schools. The program includes 4 interactive educational sessions, and students receive a physical MyPlate to utilize at meals as well as a \$10 voucher to purchase produce at a local grocery store.



Session 4 of 3rd Grade MyPlate, Edgerton, Spring 2023



295 students



16 classrooms



7 schools



Session 3 of 3rd Grade MyPlate, Montpelier, Halloween 2023

HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Community Outreach

During the summer, bike helmets were given to children for free at multiple community events. The helmets were awarded by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics as part of the "Put a Lid On It" campaign. Helmets were distributed at Montpelier's Registration Blitz, Montpelier's National Night Out, Bryan's Bike to the Bridge event, Kaleb McLaughlin Ride to Remember event, and the Williams County Fair. Williams County children were properly fitted for helmets and learned about bike safety and proper helmet use.



Kids receiving free helmets at the 2023 Williams County Fair



Katie Brown implementing the Pretty Poison presentation at Bryan Safety Town

The WCHD also offers "Pretty Poison" presentations for preschool and kindergarten-aged children. In 2023 staff visited students at Bryan Safety Town and Kindergarten classes at Edon to present on poison safety. Students learned to "Stop, ask first" before touching, eating, or drinking anything an adult has not given them. Overall, 6 safety town classrooms and 3 kindergarten classrooms received the program in 2023.

Maternal and Child Health Program

The WCHD had continued funding through the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program Grant through October of 2023. The grant uses a combination of federal and state monies to offer public health services for the maternal and child health populations. The focus of the grant was on adolescent health evidence-based resiliency projects to support the identification and implementation of prevention activities.

Based on input from an advisory committee and the growing need for adolescent vaping prevention in Williams County, an evidence-based program, CATCH My Breath, was selected for implementation. The CATCH My Breath program was implemented in Bryan City School and Edon Schools. In 2023, 130 students in 6th-8th grade participated in the program.



HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Preparedness

The Emergency Preparedness program helps Williams County to prevent, prepare for, and respond to health-related emergencies by creating local plans and partnerships. Public health emergency planning encompasses all aspects of planning for health and natural emergencies and coordination of agency response to a wide variety of scenarios. The health department works to engage the whole community and its partners to create strong connections that make us all safer and build a state of community preparedness.

Emergency Response Plans & Exercises



WCHD staff practicing how to respond to a public health emergency.

The Williams County Health Department participated in the 2023 Ohio Department of Health Medical Countermeasures Full-Scale Exercise in October. The exercise was used to practice the state's ability to distribute materials to regional drop sites in order to respond to a substance being released in a county. The exercise also helped local health departments review plans to ensure that they would be prepared to respond in the case of an emergency. The WCHD partnered with the Williams County Emergency Management Agency, Bryan Truckline, and regional health departments for this exercise.

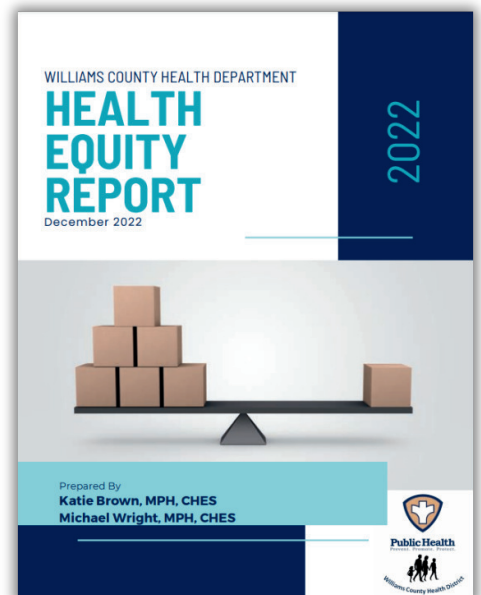
Health Equity Report

The Williams County Health Department finalized the Health Equity Report and was approved by the Board of Health in early 2023. This report examined the different health factors that influence health among the nine census tracts in Williams County.

Topics and themes covered in this report include:

- Williams County Demographics
- Economic Vitality
- Neighborhood & Physical Environment
- Education Access & Quality
- Social & Community Experiences

The Health Equity report can be used to develop targeted population health interventions to areas in Williams county that need them.



HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

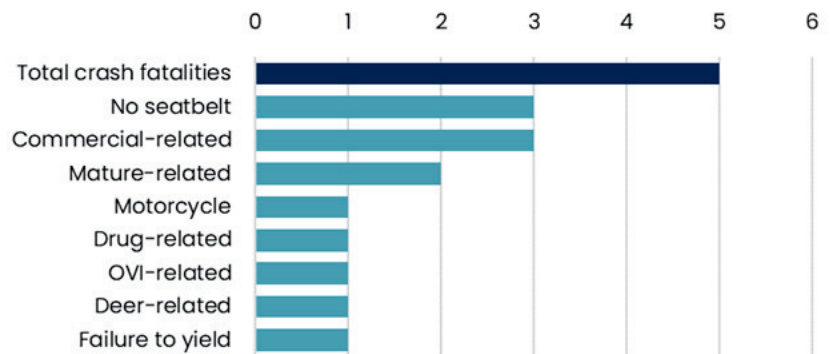
Safe Communities Coalition

Williams County Safe Communities is a data driven initiative to save lives and reduce traffic related injuries by building collaboration between state, county and local community partners. Williams County Safe Communities promotes traffic safety awareness countywide focusing on the following four areas:

1. Impaired driving / drugged driving
2. Seat belt usage / "Click It or Ticket" initiatives
3. Distracted driving
4. Motorcycle awareness
5. Youthful Driver (15 1/2 - 24)

In 2023, there were a total of 1,124 crashes. There were 27 serious injuries suspected, 134 minor injuries suspected, 49 possible injuries, and 99 with property damage only. 5 crashes were fatal.

Crash fatalities causes in Williams County in 2023



5 traffic fatalities in Williams County

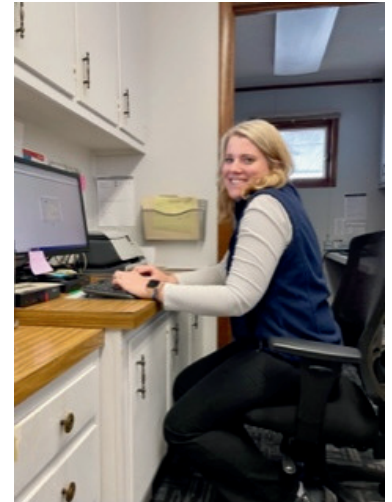
- 1 alcohol related (OVI)
- 3 without seatbelt use
- 1 motorcycle fatality
- 2 mature driver related



Williams County community members interacting with the Safe Communities booth at the 2023 Williams County Fair.

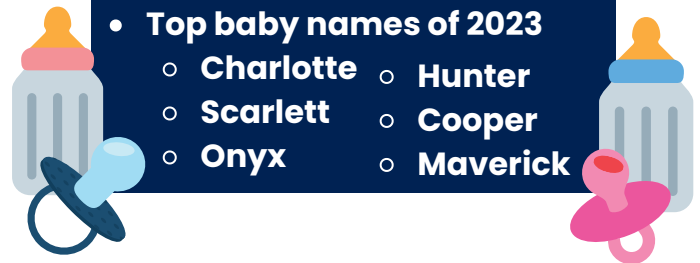
VITAL STATISTICS

The Williams County Health Department maintains birth and death records occurring in Williams County beginning in 1909 to present. The Vital Statistics division is able to issue certified birth certificates for anyone born in the state of Ohio. Vital Statistics electronically maintains all birth records filed in Ohio after December 20, 1908 and an index of all death records filed in Ohio after January 1, 1964. In 2023, there were 1,324 birth certificates issued and 1,212 death certificates issued.



2023 Births

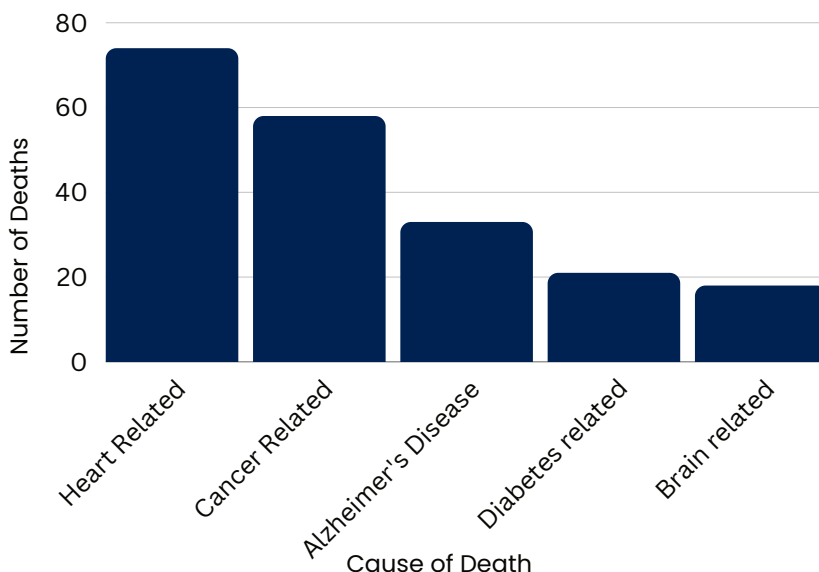
199 babies were born in Williams County to Williams County residents in 2023.*



• Top baby names of 2023

- Charlotte
- Scarlett
- Onyx
- Hunter
- Cooper
- Maverick

2023 Causes of Death



2023 Deaths

- **293 people died in Williams County in 2023****
 - 5 suicides
 - 6 overdose deaths
 - 3 COVID-19 deaths

*Births that occurred in WC to non-WC residents are excluded from the data.

**These data are provisional and subject to change should additional data become available.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Public health nurses strive to promote health and wellness within the Williams County community through a variety of services and programs. Public health nurses provide adult and childhood immunizations, investigate infectious diseases, provide education to families about lead poisoning in children, and connect children with special healthcare needs and their families with comprehensive care and services through the Children with Medical Handicaps Program.

Immunizations

The WCHD was able to offer immunizations in our office and at community locations in 2023. Senior center, school, and workplace vaccination clinics were also held.

Overall, the WCHD was able to provide 6 drive thru school immunization clinics, 7 senior center flu immunization clinics, and 7 industry flu immunization clinics. These clinics exist so we are able to improve access for all Williams County residents.

1817 immunizations were provided in 2023.



WCHD public health nurses at one of our senior center flu immunization clinics

Back to School Immunization Clinics with the Williams County Health Department

Edgerton Local Schools Open House

Tuesday, August 15th
5:30pm - 7pm

217 E. River Street
Edgerton, Ohio 43517

Appointment Required



Give us a call at 419-485-3141 to
schedule an appointment today!



Back to school immunization clinic patients showing off their bandaids

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

ECHO Coalition



Educating Communities on Healthy Opportunities (ECHO) is a substance use prevention coalition serving Williams County since 2017. Substance Use Prevention Coalitions are partnerships of many sectors in a community that gather collaboratively to solve the community's problems and guide the community's future. The coalition seeks to decrease the root causes of substance use disorders by increasing a healthy community, family, peer group, and school that make it more likely that a person will not use substances.

The ECHO Coalition has two goals:

1. Establish and strengthen collaboration in the community to prevent substance abuse.
2. Reduce youth marijuana, prescription drug, and alcohol use.

\$125,000 was awarded to the ECHO coalition by the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. The program funds community-based coalitions that engage twelve sectors of the community to prevent youth substance use.

- "Hidden in Plain Sight" was used to educate over 1,500 parents
- 200 students used the Escape the Vape educational kit
- 3 parent education presentations
- 260 local community partners supporting



Students working together to solve the "Escape the Vape" kit



Students traveling to trainings and conferences to build their peer education skills.



Over the course of 2023, 255 local students have participated in conferences, retreats, training, programming, and councils at their local schools, traveling as far as Dallas, Texas to build their skills to educate their own peers.



Mackenzie Frame, a sophomore at North Central High School, was selected to serve on CADCA's National Youth Advisory Council. We congratulate Mackenzie on this exceptional honor!

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Children with Medical Handicaps

The Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH) links families of children with special health care needs to a network of CMH approved providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need. CMH promotes early identification of children with medical conditions and treatment of those children by CMH approved health care providers.



94 children served in 2023 through the CMH program

Childhood Lead Poisoning

There is no "safe" level of lead in the blood – any confirmed level is an indication that the person has been exposed. Guidance was changed at the end of 2023 that children with levels above 3 mcg/dL should be monitored to increase the number of children being followed. Lead poisoning has no treatment or cure and can leave individuals with permanent cognitive damage and delays.



- **21 children followed in 2023 to monitor their elevated lead levels**
 - **18 cases of elevated blood lead levels 5–9 mcg/dL**
 - **3 cases of elevated blood lead levels 10+ mcg/dL**

Narcan Distribution to Law Enforcement and EMS

Narcan is an opioid overdose reversal drug intended to prevent overdose deaths. Administering Narcan restores normal breathing to someone who has overdosed within 2–3 minutes.

- **82 doses of Narcan nasal spray distributed to law enforcement in Williams County**
 - **4 doses of Narcan were administered by law enforcement**



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

W.I.C.: Women, Infants, and Children is a nutrition education program that has served families with children less than 5 years old and pregnant women for 38 years in Bryan and Montpelier. W.I.C. provides nutrition and breastfeeding education; supplemental, highly nutritious foods; referrals to prenatal/pediatric healthcare, maternal and child health programs, and health & human service programs; and immunization screenings and referrals. Participants can also use a debit card to redeem benefits at local grocery stores.



WIC Breastfeeding booth at the Williams County Fair

- 699 clients served in 2023
- 512 new certifications
- 277 average participants each month
- 40 breast pumps issued
- 52% of participants breastfeed
- \$2,400 of coupons given to use at Local Farmers' Markets

- Increased dollars in vouchers for fruits & vegetables

Grief Recovery Method Programming

This year, the Williams County Health Department began offering free grief recovery method (GRM) programming. Our GRM Specialist leads 3 different evidence-based programs:



This program is for those who prefer to work face to face with a trained and certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist 1-on-1, rather than in a group setting. This 7-meeting format utilizes the same proven materials as the group programs in a more private setting.



This group offers a safe, evidence-based environment for griever to take effective and lasting action, no matter the type of loss experienced. The group meets once per week for 8 weeks.



This 4-week program is designed to teach parents, and others who work with children, the necessary tools to help children effectively deal with their broken hearts, no matter the loss they are facing.

Grief Support Group

Our support groups offer a safe, evidence-based environment for griever to take effective and lasting action, no matter the type of loss experienced. These groups are led by Grief Recovery Method Specialists, trained and certified by the Grief Recovery Institute. The group meets once per week for 8 weeks. There is no cost for participating in these group support sessions.

For more information about the group, please call Brittany at 419-485-3141 ext. 123.

GROUP MEETING DATES		WHERE: Bryan Library, 107 E. High St. Bryan, OH 43506
Monday, September 26	Monday, October 24	TIME: 6:00pm-8:00pm
Monday, October 3	Monday, October 31	
Monday, October 10	Monday, November 7	
Monday, October 17	Monday, November 14	



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Scan the QR code or visit
bit.ly/Griefsupportgroup
to register by Friday, September 23rd.



Flyer advertising the grief support group

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Infectious Disease

232 total cases of infectious diseases were reported to the Williams County Health Department in 2023. The illnesses listed below are caused by bacteria, viruses, and parasites and are reportable to a health department. These germs can infect people and make them sick. These illnesses can be prevented if proper precautions are taken.

Infectious diseases can be prevented with safe health habits like proper hygiene practices, vaccines, safe water and food, and safe sex practices.

Infectious Disease Cases in Williams County, 2023

25 **GI Infections from food, water, or animals**
Including Campylobacter, Salmonella, Giardiasis, Hepatitis A and E. Coli

135 **Sexually Transmitted Infections**
Including Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis

36 **Vaccine Preventable Infections**
Including COVID-19 hospitalization, Influenza hospitalization, Varicella (chickenpox), and Streptococcus pneumoniae invasive.

23 **Bloodborne Infections**
Including Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C

2 **Infections from Insects**
Including Lyme Disease and Dengue

11 **High Risk Invasive Diseases**
Including Meningitis, Streptococcal invasive, Legionellosis, Haemophilus influenzae, and Carbapenemase



WCHD investigates what is making people sick. We work hard to stop illnesses from happening in the first place or before people get sick.

It is important that our community has safe food, water, air, and fewer infectious diseases for everyone's personal health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Public Health (EPH) Division is responsible for implementing a broad range of programs that are designed to protect and promote public health throughout Williams County. Through inspections, investigations, consults and education the goal of the EPH Division is to maintain compliance with regulations while providing the best possible service to the residents of our county.

Food Safety Program



The Environmental Health Division is responsible for the licensing and inspection of food service operations, retail food establishments, and foodborne illness outbreaks.

559 Food inspections were completed

28 Food plan reviews were completed

Recreational Programs

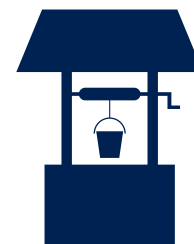
Public and commercial swimming pools and spas are a source of leisure, recreation, exercise, and therapy for many residents throughout our county. Each facility is licensed and inspected by the Environmental Public Health Division to assure pool safety for the public. Campgrounds, body art facilities, and schools are also inspected.



Private Water Systems (PWS)

The PWS program works to ensure that homeowners and businesses have properly constructed water sources that meet Ohio's sanitary regulations. The regulation of wells, springs, rainwater cisterns, hauled water storage tanks and ponds that provide potable water to fewer than 25 people per day and have fewer than 15 service connections are required to be permitted through WCHD.

The Ohio Department of Health released revised rules, effective January 1, 2020. The rules are filed under Ohio Administrative Code 3701-28 and requires any person working on a private water system (well, pump, pressure tank, pressure switch, etc.) to be a Registered Private Water Systems contractor with the Ohio Department of Health.



40 well permits were issued in 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

The WPCLF Program provides funds to low-moderate income families to assist with the replacement of failed septic systems. At the close of 2022, we surpassed the 1-million-dollar mark when combined with the additional funds awarded in 2021 through the H2Ohio Program. As of December 2023, we have invested \$1,360,885.53 back into the Williams County community to replace

failed, discharging septic systems. The results of this project have so far resulted in the removal of approximately 9.8 million gallons of wastewater per year from Williams County ditches, creeks, rivers, and other waterways. We anticipate funding to continue in the years to come and we will keep working to improve the overall environmental health of Williams County.



Sewage Treatment System Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program

In January of 2015, the Ohio Department of Health adopted new rules regarding private Sewage Treatment Systems (STSS) in Ohio. These rules require *all* local health departments in the state, including the Williams County Health Department, to develop and implement a local Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program to ensure regular maintenance and proper functionality of all systems in the county.

The Williams County O&M program completed year 4 of the initial 5-year plan, mailing Operation Permit packets to residents in Center and Pulaski Townships. Year 5 will include Bridgewater and Florence Townships.

32

Septic site reviews

21

Septic permits issued

43

Lot split applications

1037

Septic system operation
permits issued

29

Septic systems designed



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

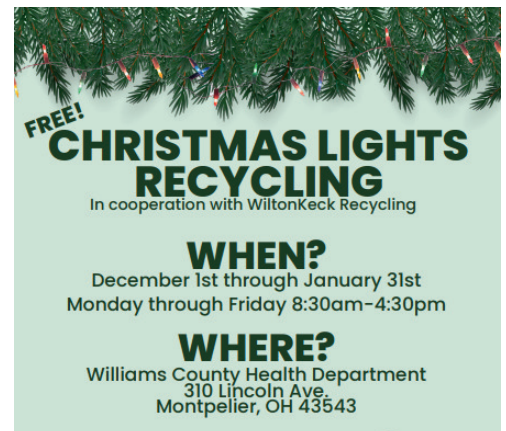
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Williams County Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Program is a comprehensive program designed to educate and increase public awareness about solid waste reduction and recycling. The program provides educational information and materials to promote the 3 "R's" Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle through media advertising such as newspaper, radio, and internet.

Recycling Events

In the Winter of 2023, the WCHD hosted a Christmas Lights Recycling event where residents were able to recycle their old or broken holiday lights.

On September 11th, the WCHD hosted an event where residents could recycle tires. Over 117,000 pounds of tires were recycled, which is over 8,000 tires.



Social media post for the Christmas Lights Recycling Event

On May 4th and October 19, the WCHD held electronics recycling events. 18 tons of electronics were recycled on May 4th and 10 tons of electronics were recycled on October 19th.

Tire Recycling Event

When: September 21st | 9am - 5:30pm
Where: County Engineer's Office
12953 County Road G, Bryan, OH 43506
Cost: \$1.00 per tire

Accepted Tires	Not Accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CarsPick up trucksLawn mowersMotorcyclesAll small tires	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Large tractorSemi truckLarge vehicleLarge farming equipment

Tires must be removed from the rim before being recycled.

For more information, call Shannon at 419-485-3141 ext. 109.

10 tire requirement from OEPA



Social media post for the Tire Recycling Event.

The WCHD also repaired one of our recycling trailers to better serve our community. We now have two recycling trailers that are placed in different areas of the county monthly to accommodate recycling needs of our community.

FREE Electronics Recycling Event

With the Williams County Health Department, Oberlins, and Williams Soil & Water Conservation District

Date: October 19th, 2023
Time: 10am - 3pm
Location: USDA Bryan Service Center, 8222 SR 15 Bryan, OH 43506

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Computers + accessories	Cameras
Portable heaters	Stereos/radios/speakers
VCRs	Curling irons
Drills / Saws	Flat screen TVs
Sweepers	Coffee makers
Telephones	Stoves/washers/dryers
Fans	Any small electronics

NOT ACCEPTED:

Cathode ray tube (CRT) devices / TVs / monitors	Refrigerators / freezers / any item with refrigerant
	Air conditioners

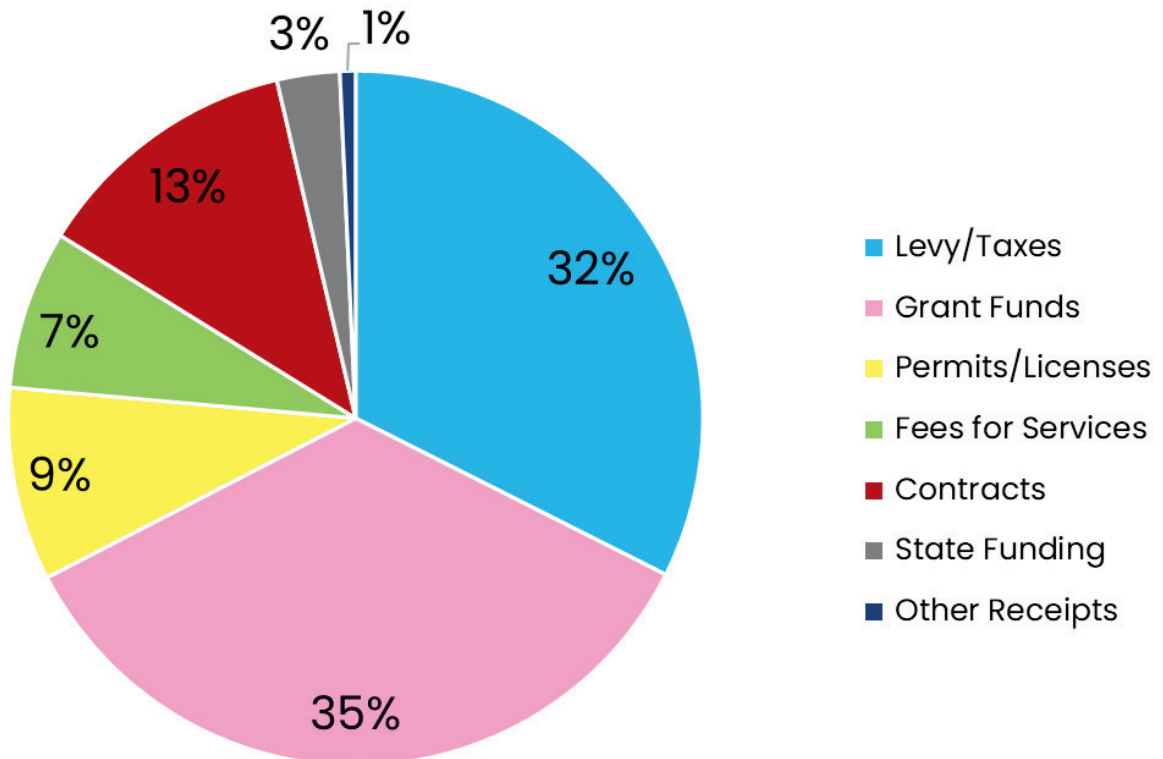
Questions? Contact Shannon for more information: 419-485-3141 ext. 109



Social media post for the October Electronics Recycling Event.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2023 Revenue YTD



2023 Expenses YTD

