

# **WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2024**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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## OUR TEAM

### HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Oscar Hernandez III, MBA, REHS

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Nathan Hoffer, RN  
Tammy Riegsecker, RN  
Kelsea McNeil, RN

### VITAL STATISTICS

Alyssa Hauer, BS  
Ashley Rathke  
Kathy Lamberson  
Cyndi Stoller

### FINANCIAL OFFICER

Sandy Shirkey

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

### HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Katie Brown, MPH, CHES, CPST  
Sara Casper, BS, CPST, CHES  
Michael Wright, MPH  
Bethany Coutz, OCPSA

### MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Glen Seaman, MD

### WIC

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

## CONNECT WITH US

### Montpelier Office

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Montpelier, OH 43543  
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### Website

[williamscountyhealth.org](http://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 Letter from Oscar Hernandez III, Health Commissioner**

Last year was a year of transition for the Williams County Health Department (WCHD), marked by our continued commitment to excellence. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Williams County following James D. Watkins, our former Health Commissioner. He established a strong foundation during his many years in public health. Life takes us many places and continue to wish James the very best. This year, we also welcomed Nathan Hoffer, Kailea Holbrook, and Katie Brown into leadership positions after the long-standing service of Rachel Aeschliman, Brad Price, and Victoria Smith. I look forward to watching our new leaders grow in their roles as they work towards enhancing the quality of life in our community and building stronger relationships.



This year we would like to celebrate the following events and the important external and internal partners that made this possible:

- The Williams County Board of Health pursued an operation, renewal 1.00 mil levy in November 2024. We are pleased to report that the levy passed and are thankful to the Williams County community for their continued, valuable support;
- The WCHD submitted application for Re-Accreditation to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Our Health Education team positioned the WCHD with a best-in-class application with only two of eighty measures opened for re-evaluation. The WCHD anticipates final decision for Re-Accreditation in May 2025;
- We are excited to welcome Cyndi Stoller and Kelsea McNeil to our team, concluding the year with one vacancy each in Environmental Health and Health Education & Preparedness. We continue to prioritize staff development through our Leadership and Staff Development Institute, which brought 3rd party trainers to help us meet our community where they are; &
- With the assistance of Mayor Carrie Schlade and the City of Bryan, we will be relocating our Bryan office to better accommodate our WIC participants, ensuring we meet them at convenient times.

We have achieved numerous successes, from Sara Casper building lasting relationships with all schools with in MyPlate, Shannon Trausch collaborating with the Williams County Engineer to remove unused tires from our environment, celebrating Becky Hill for her 40 years of service in W.I.C, to Ashley Rathke and Kathy Lamberson preparing for a transition to the Ohio Vital Record System.

The WCHD is proud to acknowledge the achievements of our entire staff. I celebrate each team member for their contributions that make Williams County a wonderful and healthy place to live. With a bright future ahead, we look forward to showcasing our incredible services in new and innovative ways.

Wishing you the best of health,  
Oscar Hernandez III, MBA, REHS

# 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: John Drinnon, John Waterston, Tammy Bernath  
Front row from left to right: Dr. Lydia Schmidt, Megan Hall, Cheryl Boldman, Dee Custar  
Not pictured: Sharon Tarr*



# 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.



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.

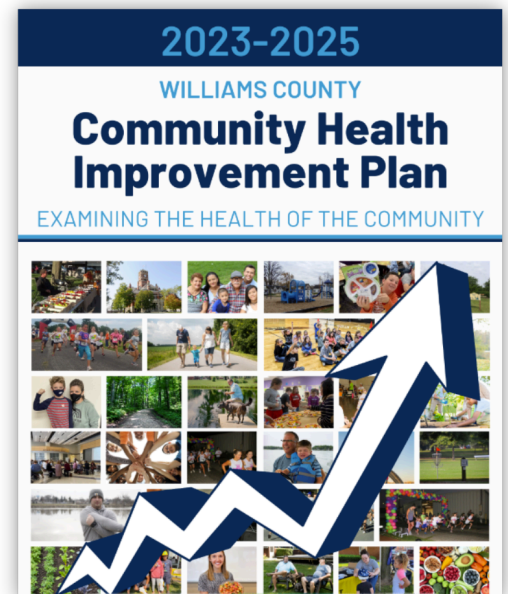
The Williams County Health Department has accomplished many things over the past 100 years so that everyone can have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being! As public health progresses over the next 100 years, we will continue to pursue our vision to shape the healthiest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



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

## Adolescent Health Grant



In October 2023, the Williams County Health Department (WCHD), in collaboration with Henry and Putnam counties, was awarded funding through the Ohio Department of Health's Adolescent Health and Resiliency Project. This initiative, known as NORY (Northwest Ohio Resilient Youth), was developed to take a regional approach by engaging multiple Northwest Ohio health departments in strengthening support systems for adolescents.



The goal of NORY is to equip adults who work with youth to be trauma-informed and to foster safe, supportive connections between adolescents and trusted adults within the community. By expanding the network of professionals who understand the impact of trauma and the importance of resilience, NORY aims to create a more supportive environment for young people.



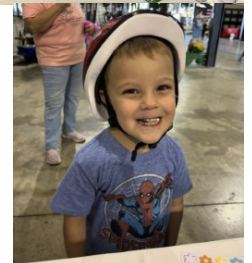
Since receiving the grant, Williams County has trained over 30 professionals in trauma-informed care, ensuring that more youth-serving adults are prepared to provide the guidance and stability adolescents need. By prioritizing these connections, NORY is helping to build a foundation for long-term adolescent well-being and resilience across Northwest Ohio.

## Williams County Fair Booth

At the 2024 Williams County Fair, the Williams County Health Department hosted a booth to engage with the community and provide valuable health resources. This allowed us to connect directly with residents, share important public health information, and offer hands-on activities that promote overall well-being.

Throughout the fair, we distributed information and materials covering all department services, including health education, environmental health, nursing, ECHO, WIC, and vital statistics. These resources helped inform the community about available programs and services designed to support individual, family, and community health.

In addition to educational materials, we offered interactive activities each day to encourage community participation. These included blood pressure screenings, free bike helmets with a decorating station, safe RX bottles for secure medication storage, and car seat safety demonstrations to educate parents on proper installation and use.





# 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 2024, WCHD participated in the 4th 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.



The logo for the 4th Annual Four County Suicide Prevention Breakfast features a stylized sun or flower icon in teal and yellow.

**4TH ANNUAL FOUR COUNTY  
SUICIDE PREVENTION  
BREAKFAST:  
A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

Prevent suicide through awareness and bring hope to our community. Learn about suicide prevention and the resources available in the four county area. This year, there is an emphasis on youth mental health. Discover how you can make a difference.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO COME**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH**  
**8:00AM - 12:00PM**  
Sign-in & breakfast begin at 8:00am  
Presentation begins at 8:30am

**NWO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**  
205 NOLAN PKWY  
ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

The logo for the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition features a stylized sun or flower icon in teal and yellow.**Four County  
Suicide Prevention Coalition**  
Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Williams  
[www.4countysuicideprevention.org](http://www.4countysuicideprevention.org)



# 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.

**70 OBB car seats distributed**

**25 seat checks completed**

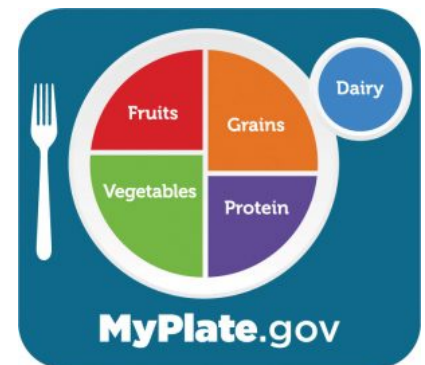
**3 trainings presented**



## 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 session, and students receive a physical MyPlate to utilize at meals as well as a \$10 voucher to purchase produce at a local grocery store.



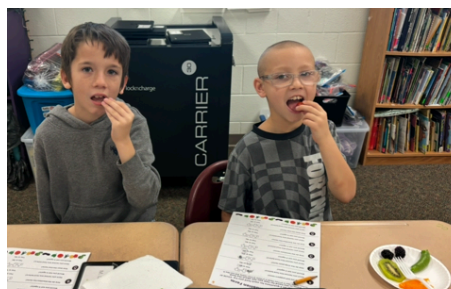
**435 students**



**23 classrooms**



**8 schools**



2 Bryan students trying a cherry tomato  
Session 4 of 3rd grade MyPlate, Spring 2024

Session 4 of 3rd Grade MyPlate, North Central, Spring 2024



# 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, Bread of Life Community Centers back to school event, and the Williams County Fair in 2024. Williams County children were properly fitted for helmets and learned about bike safety and proper helmet use.



Kids receiving free helmets at community events



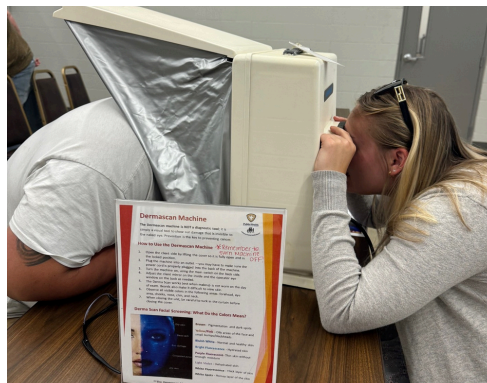
Katie Brown implementing the Pretty Poison presentation at Edon Elementary

The WCHD also offers "Pretty Poison" presentations for preschool and kindergarten-aged children. In 2024 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.

## Sun Safety

As part of our ongoing community outreach, the Williams County Health Department hosted a Sun Safety Lunch and Learn at Bard Manufacturing. This event focused on educating employees about the importance of sun protection and skin health.

A key feature of the event was the Derma Scan, a tool that reveals underlying sun damage not visible to the naked eye. Participants had the opportunity to see firsthand the effects of UV exposure and learn practical strategies for protecting their skin, including the use of sunscreen, protective clothing, and regular skin checks.



Workers at Bard Manufacturing looking into the dermascan



# HEALTH EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

## 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.

Significant funding was secured this year, supporting the expansion of our programs and outreach efforts. These funds enhance our ability to provide vital services, strengthen community partnerships, and implement initiatives that promote public health and well-being.

The Youth Leadership Program saw increased student involvement, empowering youth to take the lead on projects and raise awareness about substance abuse and mental health. Student Youth-led programs have been implemented in six of our school. Nine students attended training conferences in Delaware, OH, and Chicago, IL, to strengthen their leadership skills and enhance their ability to lead community projects.



Students attended the "We are Change" rally in Columbus



22 YLP students attend the youth fall retreat.

# 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.

## Access to Care Report

The Williams County Access to Care Assessment is a thorough evaluation designed to identify barriers that prevent residents of Williams County from receiving medical and mental healthcare services. This assessment focuses on the healthcare system within Williams County, as well as the community agencies that provide direct care and support to help residents access these services. By identifying the gaps and obstacles in healthcare access, the health department can work more effectively with local providers and community agencies to address these issues and implement strategies to improve overall care.

### Williams County Access to Care Report

2023

## Main Findings:

### Physical/Medical Health

1. **Affordability- 80.6%**
2. **Accessibility- 58.3%**
3. **Accommodation- 47.2%**

Top 3 barriers to accessing medical healthcare:

- Affordability
  - Cost/no insurance
- Accessibility
  - No transportation
  - Distance
- Accommodation
  - Could not get time off work
  - Too long of a wait for an appointment
  - Inconvenient appointment times

### Mental Health

1. **Acceptability- 80.6%**
2. **Affordability- 69.4%**
3. **Availability- 55.6%**

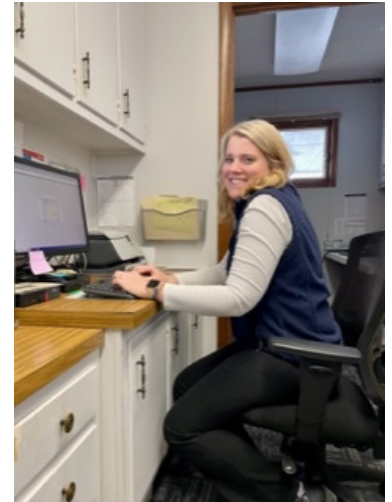
Top 3 barriers to mental healthcare:

- Acceptability
  - Embarrassed to seeking services
  - Stigma of seeking services
  - Fear
- Affordability
  - Could not afford to go
  - Co-pay/deductible too high
- Availability
  - Unaware of services available
  - Unaware of telehealth services
  - Could not find a provider



# 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 2024, there were 1,274 birth certificates issued and 1,335 death certificates issued.



## 2024 Births

**189 babies were born in Williams County to Williams County residents in 2024.\***

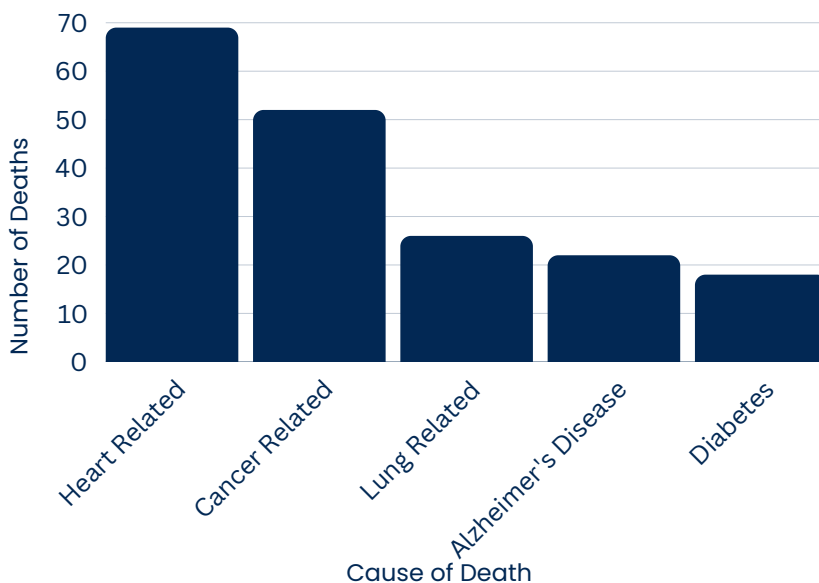


### • Top baby names of 2024

- Lainey
- Willow
- Paisley
- Elias
- Oliver
- Weston



## 2024 Causes of Death



## 2024 Deaths

- **313 people died in Williams County in 2024\*\***
  - 5 suicides
  - 5 overdose deaths
  - 4 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 2024. Senior center, school, and workplace vaccination clinics were also held.

Overall, the WCHD was able to provide 14 school immunization clinics, 7 senior center flu immunization clinics, and 4 industry flu immunization clinics. These clinics exist so we are able to improve access for all Williams County residents.

**1897 immunizations were provided in 2024.**



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 band-aids

# 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.



**159 children served in 2024 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.



- **29 children followed in 2024 to monitor their elevated lead levels**
  - **26 cases of elevated blood lead levels 3.5–10 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.

- **62 boxes of Narcan nasal spray were distributed Williams County**
- **4 boxes were given to Multi Area Narcotic Task Force**
- **33 boxes were given to Police Departments**
- **25 boxes were given to EMS**

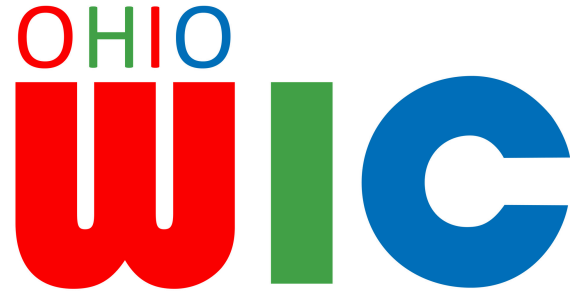




# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

## 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 39 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.



Women, Infants, and Children Program



WIC Breastfeeding booth at the Williams County Fair

- 683 clients served in 2024
- 416 new certifications
- 175 average participants each month
- 45 breast pumps issued
- 71% of participants breastfeed
- \$2,520 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	



Flyer advertising the grief support group



# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

## Infectious Disease

**205 total cases** of infectious diseases were reported to the Williams County Health Department in 2024. 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, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

**17** **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.

**465** Food inspections were completed

**31** Food plan reviews were completed

## Recreational Programs

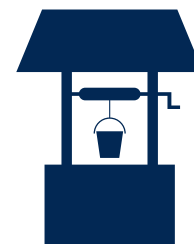
Public and commercial swimming pools and spas are a source of leisure, recreation, exercise, and therapy for many residents throughout our county. Each facility is licensed and inspected by the Environmental Public Health Division to assure pool safety for the public. Campgrounds, body art facilities,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



68 well permits were issued in 2024

# 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 2024, we have invested \$1,501,296.54 back into the Williams County community to replace

failed septic systems. The results of this project have so far resulted in the removal of approximately 10.3 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 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program has successfully completed the fifth year of its initial five-year plan. This milestone marks the enrollment of the final group into the O&M Program. In the fall of 2024, mailings were sent to Group 1, which includes Madison, Millcreek, and Northwest Townships, among others, inviting them to apply for their first renewal cycle.

**42**

Septic site reviews

**41**

Septic permits issued

**41**

Lot split applications

**1016**

Septic system operation  
permits issued

**43**

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 2024, the WCHD hosted a Christmas Lights Recycling event where residents were able to recycle their old or broken holiday lights.

On September 19th and November 16th, the WCHD hosted an event where residents could recycle tires. Over 384,000 pounds of tires were recycled, which is over 12,750 tires.




**FREE Electronics Recycling Event**

**ACCEPTED ITEMS:**

- Small Kitchen Appliances
- External Hard Drives/ Memory Devices
- Modems
- Flat-Panel Monitors & TVs
- DVD Players/ VCRs
- Ram
- Credit Card Machines
- Cellphones\*
- Wire (romex, extension cords, Christmas lights, etc.)
- Towers
- Laptops
- Office Phones
- Printers\*
- Copiers\*
- Stereos
- Speakers
- Mouses
- Game Systems
- Circuit Boards
- Routers

Logos: Public Health, WILTONKICK

Social media post for the Electronics Recycling Event



**FREE Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Event**

With the Williams County Health Department & ERG Environmental Services

**Date:** October 12th, 2024 **Time:** 8am - 12pm

**Location:** Williams County Health Department  
310 Lincoln Ave, Montpelier OH 43543

**First come first serve**

**ACCEPTED ITEMS:**

Corrosives	Aerosols
Misc. Cleaners and Toxics	Automotive Fluids
Batteries (mixed household)	Solvents/ Flammable
Fluorescent Lamps	Oil Based Paint
PCB Ballast	Latex paint
Lithium Batteries	Reactive/ Oxidizers
Propane tanks	Smoke Detectors
Clean Sweep Pesticides	Fire Extinguishers

Logos: Public Health, ERG ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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

Social media post for the October Hazardous Recycling Event.

On June 12th and October 12th, the WCHD held a Household Hazardous Waste Recycling event. Between both events, 34,571 pounds were recycled, which is just over 17 tons.

On April 22nd, the WCHD held a electronics recycling event. 8 tons of electronics were recycled, which is just over 16,000 pounds.



**Tire Recycling Event**

**When:** September 19th | 9am - 5:30pm

**Where:** County Engineer's Office  
12953 County Road G, Bryan, OH 43506

**Cost:** \$1.00 per tire

**10 tire limit per vehicle**  
**No Tire Dealers**

<b>Accepted Tires</b>	<b>Not Accepted</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cars</li><li>Pick up trucks</li><li>Lawn mowers</li><li>Motorcycles</li><li>All small tires</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Large tractor</li><li>Semi truck</li><li>Large vehicle</li><li>Large farming equipment</li></ul>

**Tires must be removed from the rim before being recycled.**

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

Logos: Public Health, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, 10 tire requirement from OEPA

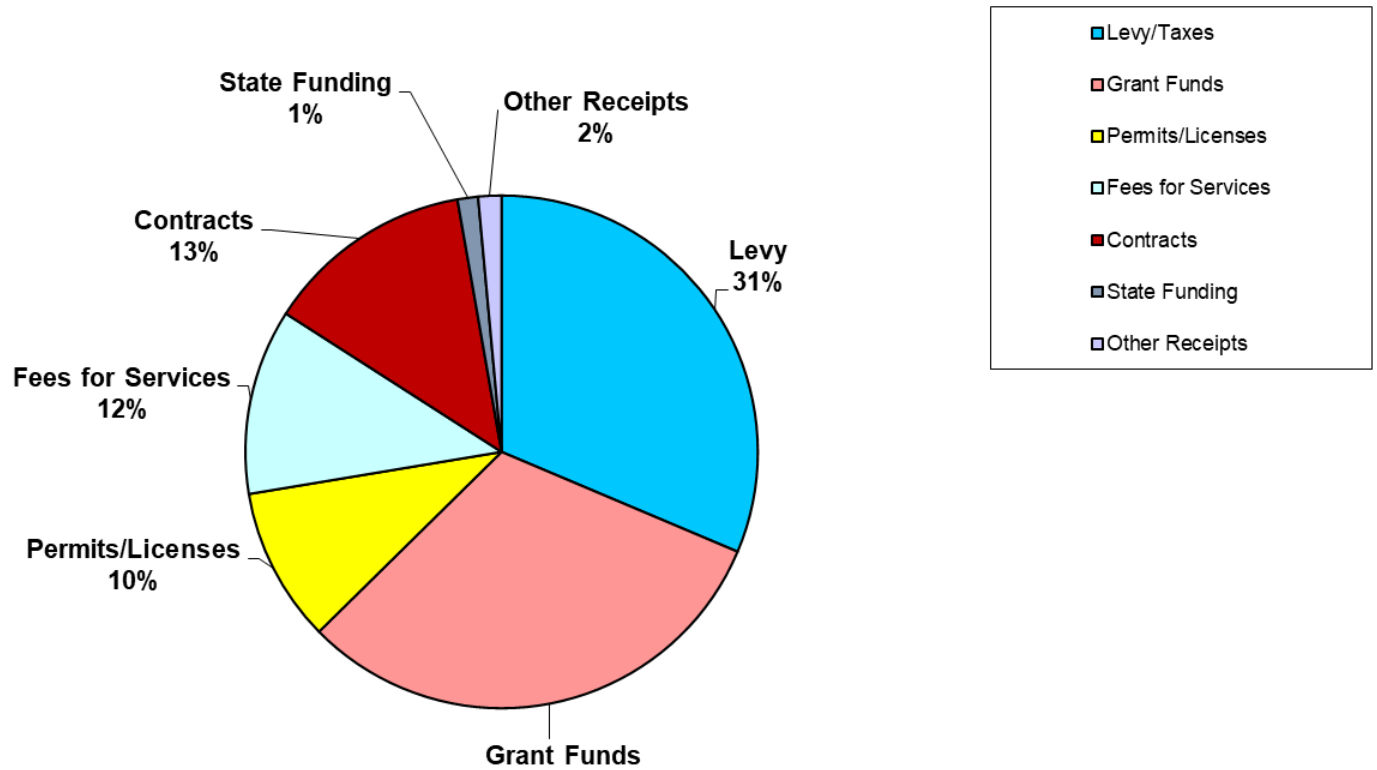


Social media post for the Tire Recycling Event.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2024 Revenue YTD



## 2024 Expenses YTD

