

PAULDING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023 Annual Report

800 E. Perry St.
Paulding, OH 45879
419-399-3921
www.pauldingcountyhealth.com

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A YEAR OF CHANGE

2023 marked a year of change at the Paulding County Health Department. On May 11, 2023 an announcement was made that ended the COVID-19 pandemic! Although the pandemic was over, guidelines for isolation and quarantine were yet to be completely lifted. The nursing staff continued to monitor numbers and document cases as they were reported. Our staff continued to focus on the planning and implementation of programs to improve the health and safety of our residents.

As we all transitioned back to “normal”, PCHD staff worked with community partners along with Moxley Public Health for the 2023 Community Health Assessment. Thank you to Paulding County Hospital as a co-sponsor to this assessment. Also, a huge thank you to all of our partners, residents and businesses that completed the survey, participated in focus groups, which all aided in the success of the assessment! The support for a healthy tomorrow for our community was felt in this project.

The Paulding County Health Department began embarking on a new challenge over the next few years. Ohio law requires that all health departments be accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). It is considered the standard of Public Health across the nation. In 2023, staff were actively involved in the beginning stages of the process, including the development of multiple plans that will be implemented in 2024.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I share with you the 2023 Annual Report of the Paulding County Health Department. We look forward to working with all of you in the future and serving the residents of Paulding County by providing excellent services.

Respectfully,

Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., REHS

Deputy Health Commissioner

ABOUT US

Mission: To protect, promote, and improve the health, safety, and quality of life of the Paulding County Community.

Vision: To enhance the health and wellness of the community we serve.

Values: RESPECT: Respect, Excellence, Safety, Professional, Educate, Collaborate, Trust

All individuals deserve to be treated with **respect**

All PCHD staff will strive for **excellence**

Safety of the citizens is a focus of the community

All PCHD staff will act in a **professional** manner

PCHD will strive to **educate** the community

PCHD will **collaborate** with community partners

PCHD is the **trusted** source for the community

Board of Health

The Paulding County Board of Health serves as the governing board for the Paulding County Health Department and WIC. The Board of Health holds meetings on the last Tuesday morning of each month at 7:30 am. For more information, visit our website at www.pauldingcountyhealth.com or call the Health Department at 419-399-3921.

Members of the 2023 Board of Health include:

Mr. Christopher Bercaw, President

Mr. Ronald Schmidt, Vice-President

Mr. Dennis Miller

Mr. Jacob Shaffer

Dr. Wendell Spangler



Pictured left to right: Ronald Schmidt, Jacob Shaffer, Dr. Wendell Spangler, Christopher Bercaw and Dr. Joseph Kuhn, Health Commissioner. Absent: Dennis Miller

STAFF

In 2023 the Paulding County Health Department and WIC staff consisted of ten staff members.

Dr. Joseph Kuhn, D.O.	Health Commissioner / Medical Director
Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., REHS	Deputy Health Commissioner / Director of Environmental Health
William Edwards	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Robin Gonzales	Fiscal Officer / Registrar
Kristen Kurilec	Director of WIC
Barbara VanArsdalen	Director of Nursing
Sophia Mobley	WIC Clerk
Andrea Schlueter	WIC Breastfeeding Peer Helper
Lisa Ruschel	Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Lindsey Manz	Public Health Nurse
Chelsea Kipfer	Billing Specialist and Accreditation Coordinator

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health Division is responsible for the oversight of eleven various programs. Those programs include: Food Safety, Rabies Surveillance, School Sanitary Inspections, Jail Sanitary Inspections, Sewage Treatment Systems, Private Water Systems, Public Swimming Pools and Spas, Campgrounds, Public Health Nuisances, Smoke Free Workplace and contracting with Ohio Department of Commerce for Manufactured Home Parks.

Sewage	Food	Jail Inspections	Private Water
Smoke Free Workplace	Manufactured Home Park Inspections	Rabies Surveillance	School Inspections
Swimming Pools	Campgrounds	Nuisances	General Environmental

Each of these programs support our mission and vision in one way or another. Citizens can go to a restaurant or purchase food at our grocery stores knowing that the facilities are at minimum annually inspected. Individuals can go to our community pool and know that the facility has been inspected against health and safety regulations. Residents with private water systems have safe water to drink because the health department permits, inspects and tests water from wells and ponds. EH Specialists have aided in cleaner water because the new septic systems have on-site treatment and are permitted and inspected at installation. The Environmental Health staff work daily to assure that Paulding County Health Department’s vision to enhance the health and wellness of the community we serve is achieved!



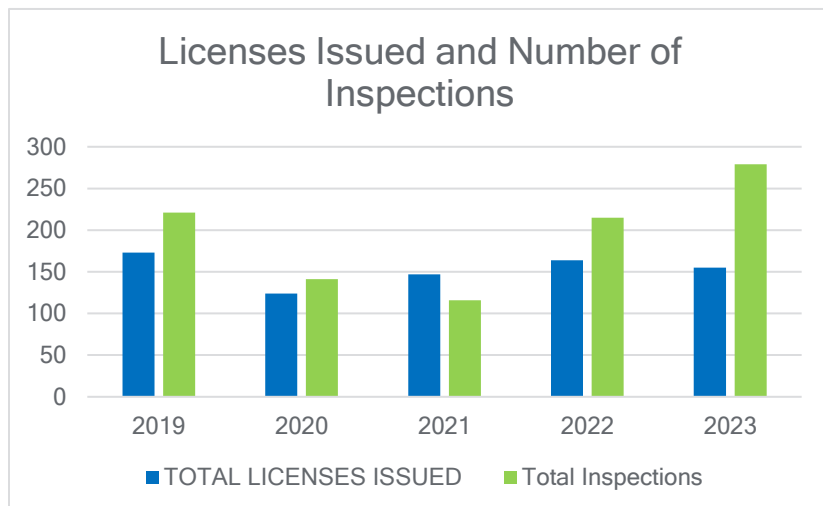
Trends of the Environmental Health Division

Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Food Licenses	173	124	147	164	155
Total Food Inspections	221	141	116	215	279
Pools and Spa Licenses	4	3	3	3	4
Campground Licenses	5	5	5	5	5
Sewage Permits	49	30	33	21	23
Private Water Permits	34	37	29	31	30
Water Samples		224	148	125	80
Animal Bites	39	38	36	18	36
Nuisances		33	21	1	7

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

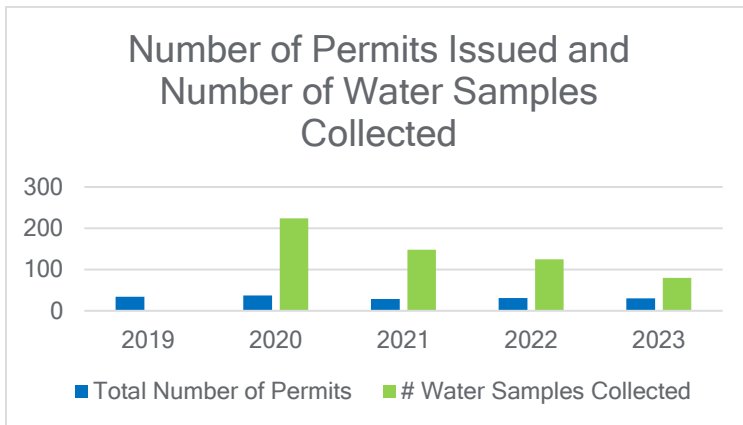
The Paulding County Health Department is approved by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture to conduct the Food Safety Program on their behalf. The program is surveyed by those agencies to ensure compliance with the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Surveys include an administrative review of all procedures, licensing, documentation, and previously a field evaluation to assess the staff’s knowledge of the rules, and ability to accurately observe and document inspections. Legislation was passed in late 2023, which changes the survey methodology for staff knowledge. EH specialists working in the food program will complete a 50-question test in place of the field portion. Our EH Specialist conducts inspections at food service operations, retail food establishments, mobile and temporary food vendors, vending machines, and micro-markets.

With the exception of Covid-19 years, the number of inspections is greater than the number of licenses issued. This is due to the inspection frequency requirement of risk levels. For example, risk level 4 facilities will have a minimum of 4 inspections, whereas risk level 1’s will have 1.



PRIVATE WATER PROGRAM

This program oversees the construction of new and altered drinking water systems such as ponds and wells. All these systems require a permit from the local health department before work can begin. The majority of new private water systems use well water as their water source versus pond water or hauled water. An alteration to an existing private water system can include the following activities: adding or changing a filtration or disinfection device, extending the distribution line to a new building or dwelling; disconnecting a water source from a service connection; converting a well with a buried seal to a well with a pitless adaptor or well house installation; extending a casing to above ground; deepening a well; repairing, extending, or replacing any portion of the inside or outside casing or wall; conversion of an agricultural well or test well to a private water system. Water samples are collected for each new or altered private water system. Water samples are also collected for citizens or local businesses by request.

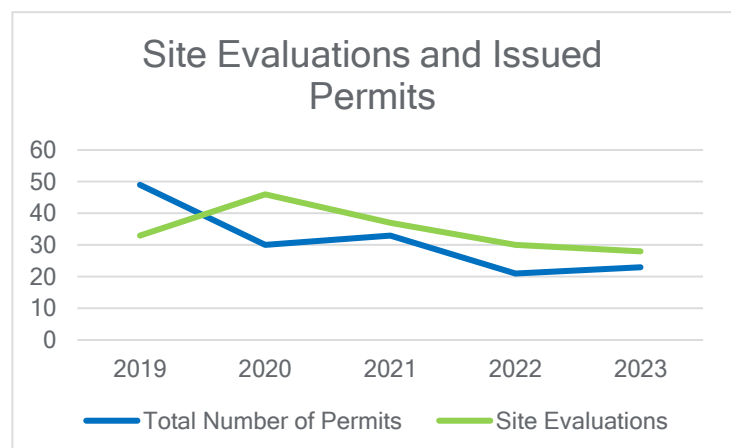


The chart shows the number of permits issued and number of water samples collected since 2019. As noted in the chart the number of water samples being collected is gradually declining. The number of permits has remained steady, therefore, the decline in water samples is due to the reduction in requests from citizens.

SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM PROGRAM

Since 2009 Paulding County Health Department has applied and received funding to provide assistance to homeowners for the repair and replacement of their sewage treatment systems. Almost 1.5 million dollars has been distributed to aid with the repair or replacement of system for Paulding County residents! Paulding County Health Department will continue to apply for funding as the state agencies allow.

The number of site evaluations and permits has been in a continual decline for the past several years. Although we do not know the exact reason why this is occurring, it can be assumed the effects of pandemic and economy have played a factor in the housing market. The number of new builds has decreased over that time.

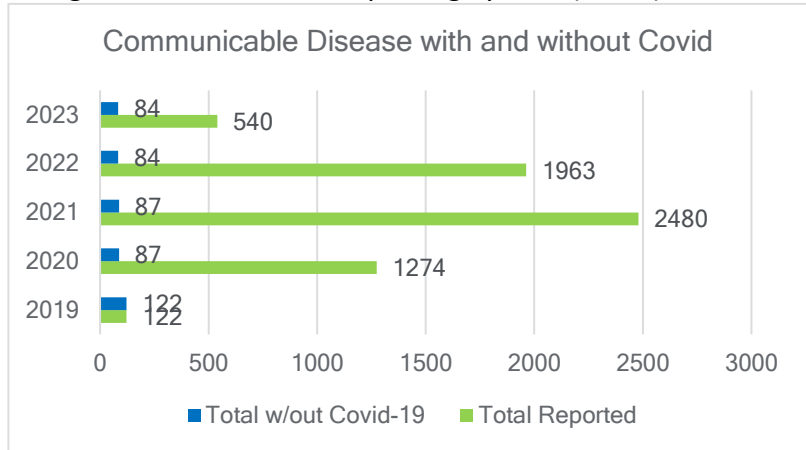


NURSING

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

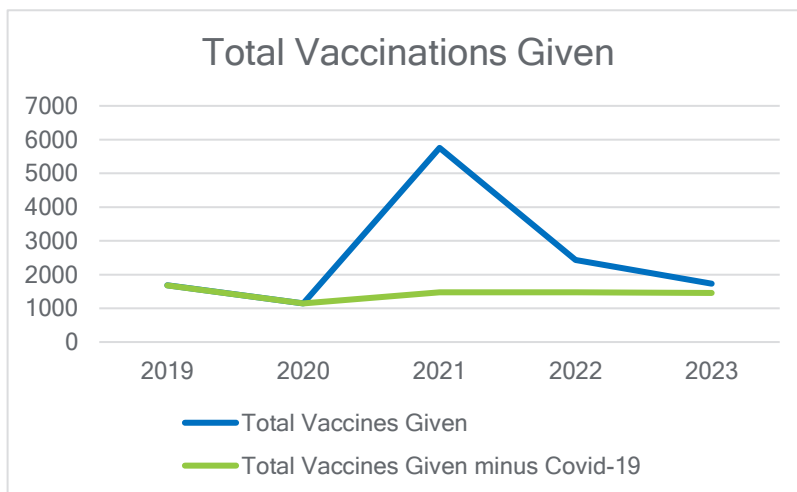
The PCHD investigates all reportable diseases defined by the Ohio Department of Health. Diseases are reported to PCHD by providers and laboratories as required by the Ohio Revised Code. They are written one of three ways: mail, fax, or through the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) online.

Investigation can include patient interviews, contact tracing, education, and follow-up as described by the Ohio Infectious Disease Control Manual. All information gathered is entered into ODRS for tracking and control purposes. The goal of the program is to stop the spread of the disease.



VACCINATIONS

PCHD currently carries all ACIP-recommended vaccines. There are three divisions to the immunization program. The first is the Vaccine for Children Program through the Ohio Department of Health. This program offers free or low-cost vaccines for children who are on Medicaid, underinsured, or without insurance. Similar to this is another program, Adult 317. This program is also through the Ohio Department of Health and offers free or low-cost vaccines for adults who do not have insurance or are underinsured. We also have privately purchased vaccines for those who have insurance. PCHD accepts most insurance. All vaccinations are recorded in our electronic health record system, HDIS, and the Ohio Impact Statewide Immunization System, allowing healthcare providers access to patient records. Vaccines are currently offered on Tuesdays from 8:15 am to 3:45



pm. Additional times and days may be added if needed. If appointment times are missed, patients are contacted to reschedule. Billing is completed through the electronic billing system Quadax. The demand for vaccines severely dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic but is slowly rising again. The percentage of fully vaccinated children continues to be below average in Ohio.

TESTING AND INVESTIGATION



As part of our clinical services, PCHD does Mantoux TB testing, blood pressure checks, and head lice checks. These services are offered to help improve the health of our community. TB testing is \$20.00. There is no charge for blood pressure and lice checks. In 2023, the nurses at PCHD completed 40 TB tests, 26 blood pressure checks, and six head lice checks.

Lead cases are reported to PCHD and passed onto the Ohio Department of Health's Lead Control Division for investigation and monitoring.

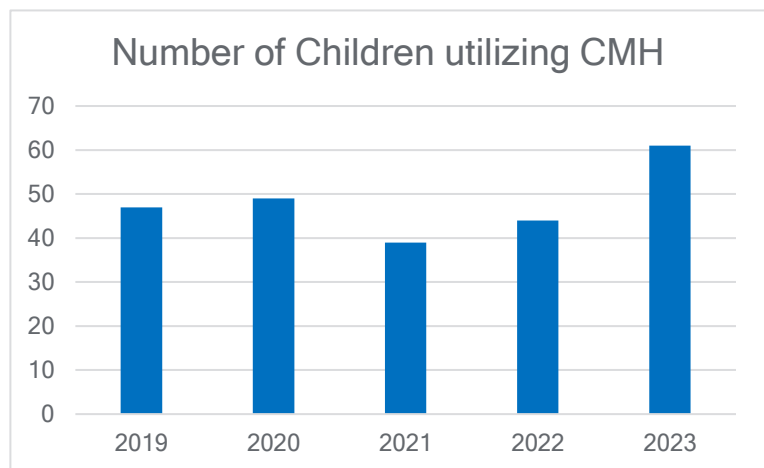
PCHD also completed the Child Fatality Review Board as required by Ohio law. The Ohio CFR Program was formed to understand better how and why children in our county die, and to take action to prevent other child deaths. The purpose of the local Child Fatality Review Board is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths. Ohio records data from the National Child Death Review Case Reporting System online is used for investigations. The board meets yearly in spring. For 2023, Paulding had 3 child fatalities.

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS

CMH is an Ohio Department of Health program that provides medical payment assistance for children and young adults aged 25 and under with life-altering conditions. The program is also available to adults with Cystic Fibrosis who qualify financially. CMH is always the "payor of last resort," paying what the clients' primary and secondary insurance or Medicaid doesn't cover.

Public health nurses at PCHD help clients enroll in the CMH program, assist families with paperwork, complete comprehensive assessments of the children, provide referrals to participating providers, collaborate with local resources like Help Me Grow, and do home visits yearly to maintain the child's enrollment in the program and assess for needs.

PCHD is compensated through ODH to cover the staff time required for the program. The program has several divisions, including diagnosis, treatment, metabolic formula, cystic fibrosis, and service coordination. In 2023, PCHD worked with 61 clients. Thirty-four are on the treatment program. Twenty-five are on the diagnostic program, one on the Cystic Fibrosis program, and one on the Metabolic Formula program.



OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES CAR SEAT PROGRAM



PCHD nurses are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST). Barbara VanArsdalen, RN is the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) coordinator for Paulding County. OBB provides the health department with 16 convertible car seats every 3-4 months. Occasionally, PCHD will receive a small allotment of booster seats. The convertible car seats, which fit newborns to around age 5, are available for children who are a participant of WIC program or are financially eligible for the WIC program. Booster seats are available for clients ages 4-12 who received Medicaid or are financially eligible for Medicaid. Clients not currently on WIC are referred to WIC. A donation of \$20 for convertible seats or \$5 for a booster is requested but not required. Parents or guardians interested in a car seat for their child must make an appointment, watch a car seat education video, attend hands-on training, and then install the car seat in their vehicle with the assistance of the CPST. Before the parent and child leave, the seat is checked for a secure installation and proper child harnessing. Car seat installation checks on existing car seats can be scheduled by appointment for any family, regardless of income, for no cost. A certified CPST completes all checks. In 2023, 47 car seats were given out, and 15 existing car seats were checked. Through donations for seats, we received \$298.00.

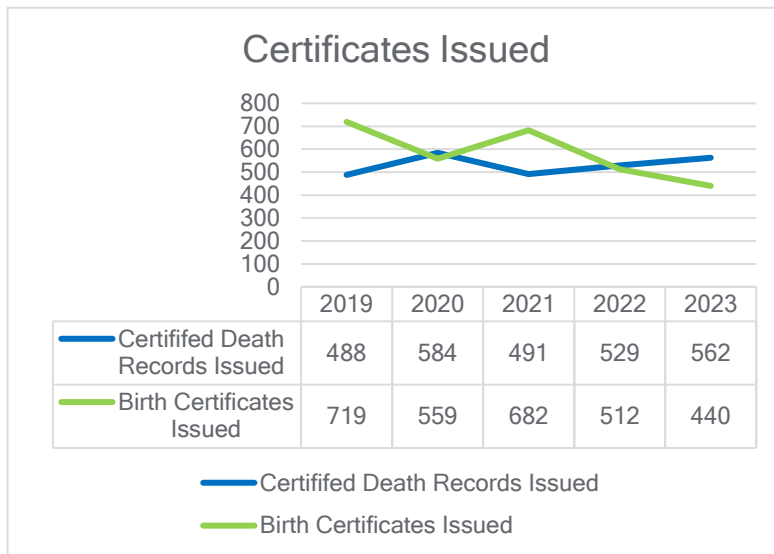
PROJECT DAWN

Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) is a network of opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution programs (OENDP) coordinated by the Ohio Department of Health. PCHD is a distribution point to individuals and some first responders. To increase the availability and to save lives in our community, Naloxone is offered at no charge. Individuals can come in during regular business hours to obtain a kit. They are asked to complete a simple short form that obtains their generic information. The recipients are educated on using Naloxone. In 2023, PCHD distributed ten kits to individuals and 9 to first responders.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS

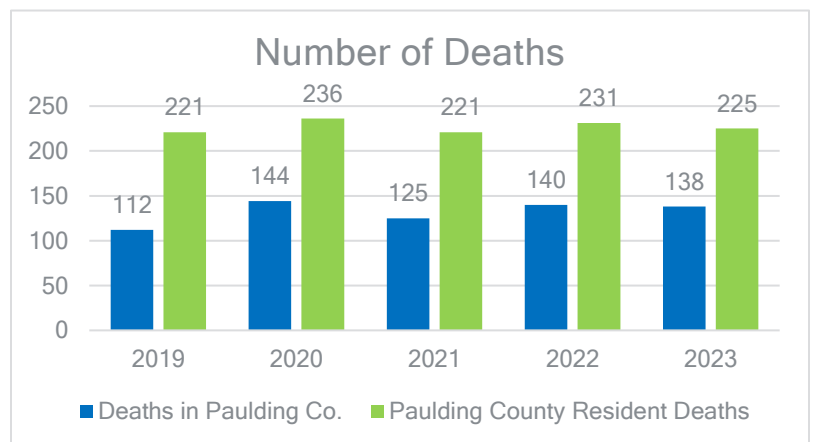
The Paulding County Health Department registrar is responsible for filing all birth and deaths that occur in Paulding County with the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Since 2011, Ohioans have been able to obtain a certified copy of any Ohio birth record at the local health department. Birth records are available from 1908 to present. However, death certificates can only be obtained from the county in which the death occurred. In 2023, the Paulding County Health Department issued 440 birth certificates and 562 death certificates.



The number of births certificates being issued has steadily declined. This may be contributed to the many individuals obtaining their birth certificates due to the requirements needed to obtain a driver’s licenses. The change has been in effect for many years and therefore, the need for the certificate is decreasing. The number of death certificates issued has remained steady or increased. This can be contributed to the number of deaths remaining similar in the past five years.

RATES

The table reflects the number of deaths of both residents of Paulding County and also the number of deaths that have occurred in Paulding County. As the chart reflects, the numbers have remained steady overall.



CAUSES OF DEATH

There were 225 Paulding County residents that passed in 2023. There were 138 deaths that occurred in Paulding County, although some of them may not have been Paulding County residents.

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH	
Diseases of the Heart	50
Cancer	40
Not a leading cause (Causes not meeting state requirements)	34
Cerebrovascular Disease	18
Diabetes	13
Chronic lower respiratory disease	13
Alzheimer's disease	12
Accidents (motor vehicle, falls, fire & noxious substance)	11
Intentional self-harm	7
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis (kidney diseases)	5
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4
Covid-19	4
Septicemia	3
Hypertension & hypertensive renal disease	2
Other	9
TOTAL	225

This chart documents the leading causes of death of Paulding County residents. It does not reflect the causes of death of individuals that passed in Paulding County, but did not reside in Paulding County.

Diseases of the Heart and cancer have been the leading causes of death in Paulding County for more than the last 10 years. In 2023, it marks the lowest number of deaths caused by Covid-19 at 4. Since the pandemic began in 2020, there have been 91 total Covid-19 deaths. This is a trend that we are thankful to see decreasing!

*This data is provided by the Ohio Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.

WIC

Women, Infant and Children, also known as WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, and infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. The program improves pregnancy outcomes by providing or referring to support services necessary for full-term pregnancies; reducing infant mortality by lowering the incidence of low birth weight (infants under 5 ½ pounds are at greater risk of breathing problems, brain injuries, and physical abnormalities) and providing infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets.

WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support. Participants are given access to supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as, cereal, eggs, milk, yogurt, whole grain foods, peanut butter, juice, beans or peas, cheese, tofu, fruits, and vegetables, infant cereal, baby food, and iron-fortified infant formula. WIC also provides referrals to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs such as, Head Start, Help Me Grow, Hands of Hope, Medicaid and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

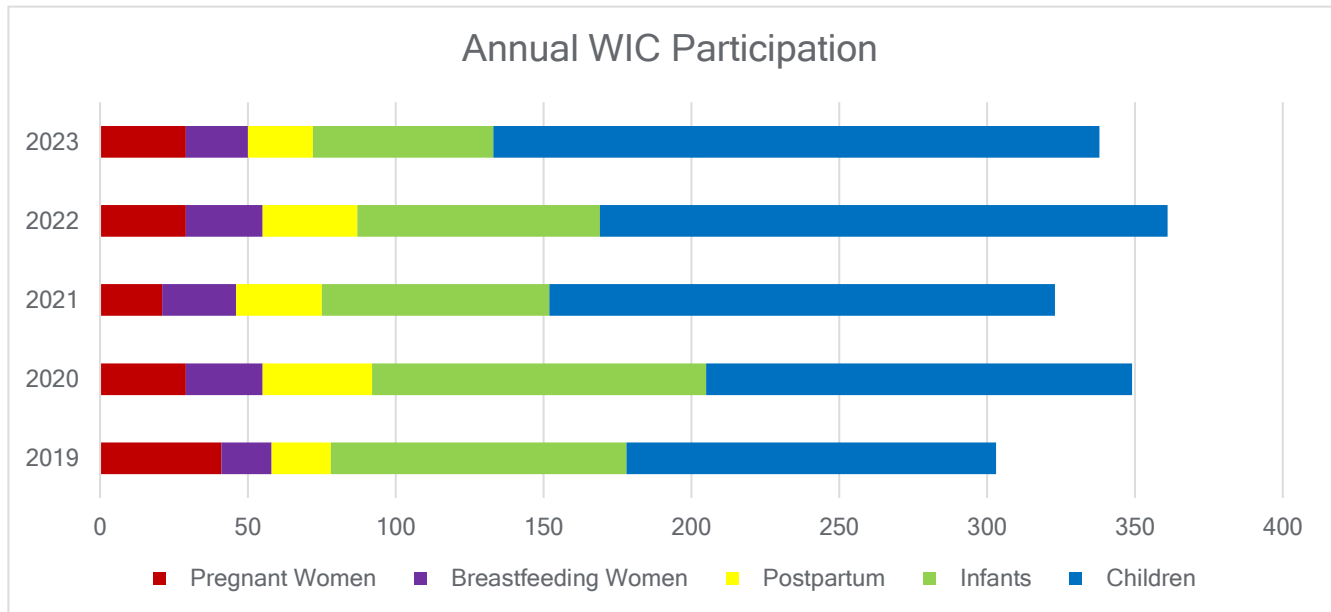
WIC is funded through a grant provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This grant must be applied for annually. In 2023 WIC received a grant for \$135,246.00. Paulding County WIC was also awarded an additional \$1,000 this past year through the United Way of Paulding County's Community Impact Grant to help service children and families within the community and promote nutrition education.

BREASTFEEDING PEER HELPER PROGRAM

The Breastfeeding Peer Helper program is designed to enhance the breastfeeding support services provided by WIC. Breastfeeding peer helpers are women in the community with personal breastfeeding experience. They provide mother-to-mother breastfeeding education and support which in turn helps mothers successfully reach their breastfeeding goals. Peer helpers assist by establishing a connection with families, helping mothers in managing common concerns, ongoing encouragement, and offering comfort outside the usual workday. The development of the Breastfeeding Peer Helper program has increased breastfeeding initiation and duration rates among the WIC population. There are breast pumps available for breastfeeding moms. These pumps are free of charge to WIC participants.

WIC WORKS!

The Paulding County WIC office currently serves 338 participants (as of 12/31/23) monthly. The following is a breakdown of participants groups.

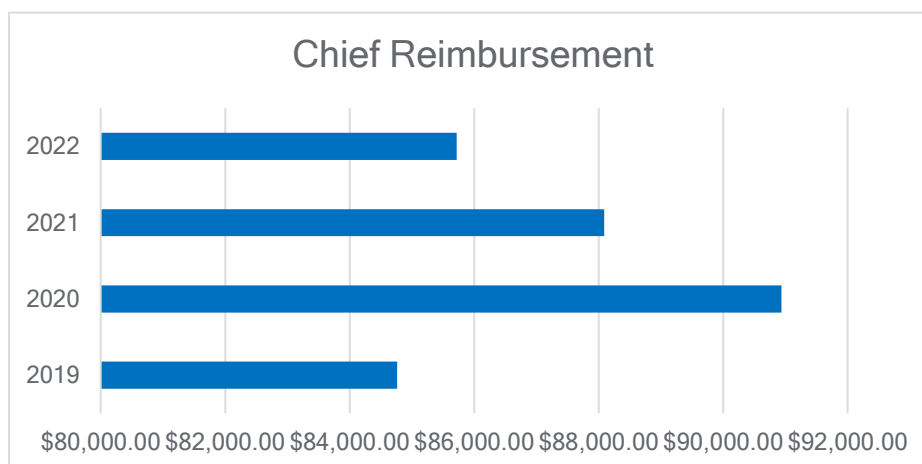


FARMER'S MARKET

Farmer's Market coupons have been offered to Paulding County WIC participants since the summer of 2004. Coupons are worth \$25 and can be redeemed at WIC approved farm markets for fresh fruits and vegetables during the months of June through October. This program is extremely popular with our WIC participants.

WHO PROVIDES WIC FOODS?

Chief is the only facility in Paulding County that accepts WIC. The reimbursement for Chief has remained steady over the years as many participants utilize the local retailer. 2023 data was not available at the time the report was generated.



ACCREDITATION

In 2012 the Ohio General Assembly established the Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures. This committee was responsible for researching Public Health and then providing recommendations for policy changes that would improve local public health services. The requirement for all the local health departments to meet the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) eligibility requirements and become accredited was recommended by the legislative committee.

The Paulding County Health Department is now embarking on the journey of accreditation! The PCHD staff worked hard in 2022 to develop numerous plans to meet the initial requirements to apply for accreditation. Staff began by selected a mission, vision and values for the agency. The new mission of the Paulding County Health Department is “ To protect, promote, and improve the health, safety, and quality of the Paulding County Community.” The vision of the agency is to enhance the health and wellness of the community we serve. The values of the agency and staff are respect, excellence, safety, professional, educate, collaborate and trust. The following are plans, policies or requirements of accreditation that PCHD staff completed in 2023. All plans and policies are reviewed and approved by the board of health. The plans and policies will be routinely reviewed and updated as needed.

- The staff Personnel Manual was updated and approved by the board of health.
- Job descriptions were rewritten and updated to meet PHAB requirements and approved by the board of health.
- The 2024-2026 Strategic Plan was developed and reviewed by PCHD staff. The Strategic Plan includes goals and objectives for the agency for the next three years. The priorities selected include: Communication, Financial Stability, Accreditation and Proficient Workforce.
- A Communication Plan will assist the staff with better communication protocols and templates to utilize for all communication from PCHD.
- The Quality Improvement Plan provides education and guidelines for the staff when working on Quality Improvement projects. The plan details types of tools to utilize as well as goals and objectives for the next year.
- The Workforce Development Plan includes surveys from county partners, board of health members and staff. The plan will assist the agency with training needs for the staff in the future.
- Numerous policies were provided to the board for review and approval.

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) was a huge undertaking that began in mid-2023. The CHA includes interviews from Key Informants, Focus Groups and citizen surveys. The plan will be finalized in 2024, followed by the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

FISCAL

The Paulding County Health Department is funded by various avenues. These avenues include fees for services, grants and levies. Paulding County Health Department continues to seek funding opportunities that will align with our Strategic Plan and the CHIP.

Cost analysis is required for Environmental Health programs when changing fees. The cost analysis assures that the agency is not overcharging for the service being provided.

Balance as of January 1, 2023 \$1,654,293

REVENUE	
Paulding County Tax Levy	\$265,190
Other Local Government Funds	\$92,696
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	\$880,268
Service Fees	\$212,874
Misc. Grants/Receipts	\$7,122
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,458,150

EXPENDITURES	
Administrative Costs	\$813,163
Supplies (Medical, Office, Program)	\$105,269
ODH Grants	\$197,384
WPCLF Grant	\$62,783
Share to State	\$21,988
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,200,314

Balance as of December 31, 2023 \$1,913,724

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