

February 2023



**SANDUSKY COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

2022

SANDUSKY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT



SANDUSKY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



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Vision

Sandusky County Public Health is committed to being a trusted leader in maintaining optimal health and safety for all Sandusky County residents.

Mission

Sandusky County Public Health is dedicated to meeting the needs of our residents by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the environment through high-quality cost-effective services.

Values

- Provide responsive and timely communication and acting as a trusted resource of health information
- Working collaboratively with partners and communities to improve health and support a strong public health system
- Maintaining a qualified professional work force dedicated to fulfilling their roles
- Providing the highest quality services through individual efforts and teamwork
- Identifying and minimizing health disparities
- Being sensitive to cultural factors influencing health
- Honoring the public's trust and maintaining the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and ethics



Board of Health Members

From left to right: Bob Gross, John Zimmerman, Dr. Regina Vincent-Williams, Nan Smith, Ryan Zimmerman, Dr. John Yuhas, Dean Auxter.
Not Pictured: Jim Mason



Administrative Staff

From left to right: Deb Agee, Director of Nursing, Martha Bowen, Director of Environmental Health, Bethany Brown Health Commissioner, Bryleigh Wolf, Director of Support Services, Marsha Overmyer, Office Manager



Medical Director

Dr. Jennifer Greenslade-Hohman, MD

Letter from the Health Commissioner


2022 was another year of continued challenges and progress. The staff at the Sandusky County Public Health Department continued to work diligently to perform their duties while still performing contact tracing, case investigations, COVID-19 vaccination clinics, and educating the community on changes with COVID-19 recommendations.

Throughout all the shifts with COVID-19, the staff slowly started to reduce the COVID-19 response in some areas. With restrictions being reduced, staff began to focus more on COVID-19 vaccine clinics and less on contract tracing. Some internal practices were kept due to increasing efficiency and client requests such as using technology to provide needed clinic services or home visits and zoom software to host trainings and meetings. These changes have made some of our services more easily accessible to our clients.

Efforts were more focused on our Community Health Improvement Plan priorities of Mental Health and Addiction, Maternal and Infant Health, and Healthy Behaviors. The staff continued to be creative to ensure that we safely provide our needed services for the community.

Be assured, that your Public Health Department will continue to strive to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities while continuing to provide the programs we have always offered.

Last year continued to be a long and somewhat frustrating year and we thank you all for your cooperation and support. Please know that you don't always see us in the news, but we are constantly working behind the scenes to continue our commitment to ensuring the health and safety of the residents of Sandusky County. Let's try to make 2023 a brighter year for everyone.



Bethany Brown MSN, RN
Health Commissioner



Community Health Improvement Plan



Sandusky County will focus on the following three priority factors and priority health outcomes over the next three years:

Priority Factors

- Health Behaviors

Priority Health Outcomes

- Mental Health and Addiction
- Maternal and Infant Health

Cross-Cutting Strategies

- Increase Early Identification of Mental Health Needs Among Youth
- Implement School-based Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs
- Implement Shared Use (Joint Use Agreements)
- Implement School-Based Nutrition Education Programs
- Implement Complete Streets
- School-Based Physical Activity Programs and Policies
- Increase Access to Transportation
- Increase Recruitment for Mental Health Professionals

The plan also includes considerations related to social determinants of health and the underlying causes of health inequities. This CHIP contains an overview of national and state requirements driving local health planning efforts, a description of the County's health priorities and associated outcome measures as selected by community partners, the framework and infrastructure that supports continued action, and a summary of how the plan will be monitored and updated.

Strategic Plan 2021- 2026

Sandusky County Public Health began the Strategic Planning Process in the summer of 2021. This plan is following the guidance of reaccreditation requirement provided by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This strategic plan follows the progression from the 2018–2021 plan.



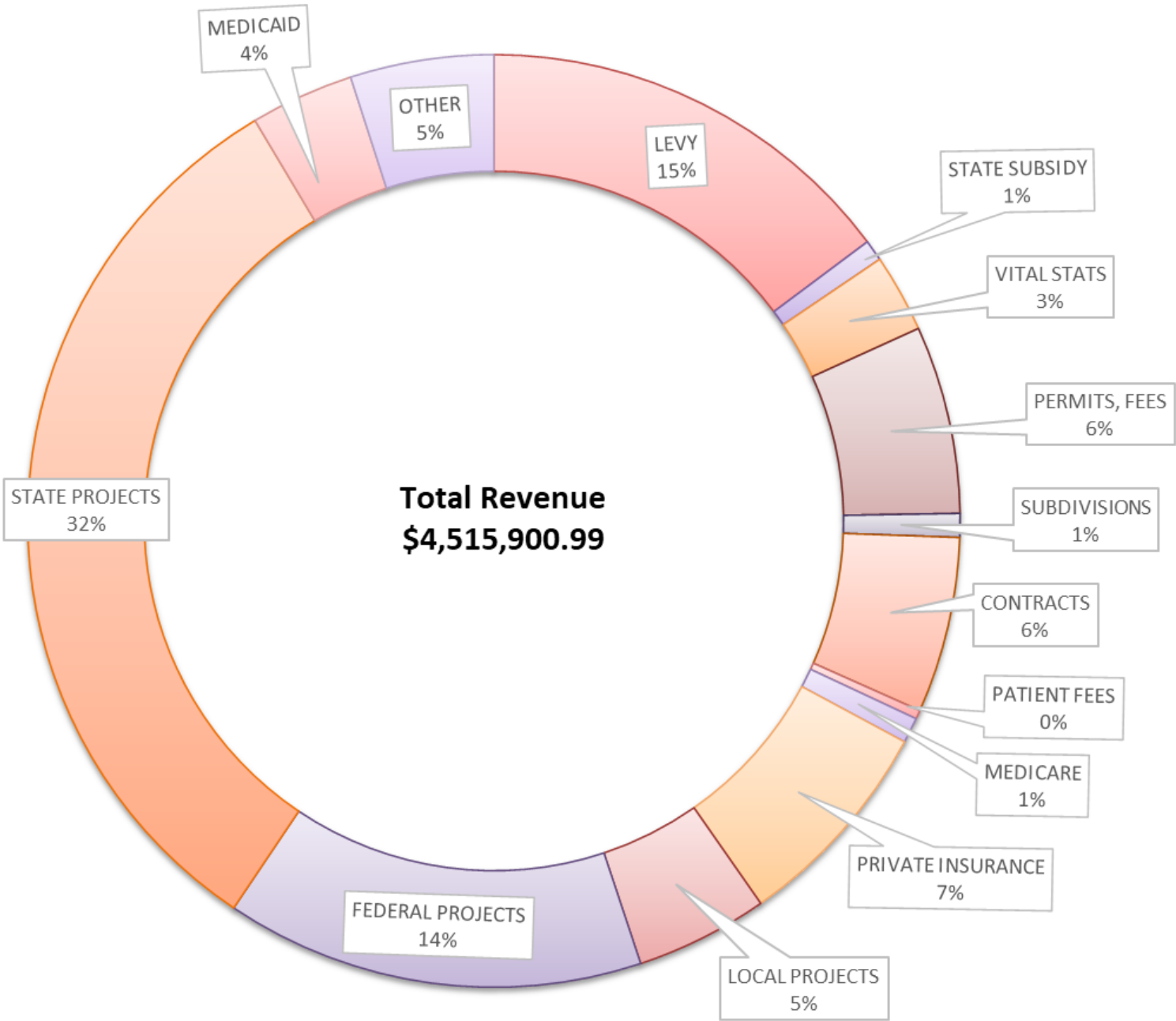
The Strategic Plan aligns with both the 2020–2023 SHIP and 2021–2023 Sandusky County CHIP by making community engagement a priority and completing specific CHIP-rated strategies in which SCHD is the lead agency. SCHD also supports partner organizations, such as the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties, in the following CHIP priority areas: mental health and addiction, health behaviors and maternal and infant health.

Strategic Priorities

The Strategic Planning Committee reviewed all the information over several months that was gained through surveys, the CHIP, SHIP, QI plans, SWOT analysis and Performance Management Plan. The committee then selected five strategic priorities to focus on for the 2022–2026 Strategic Plan.

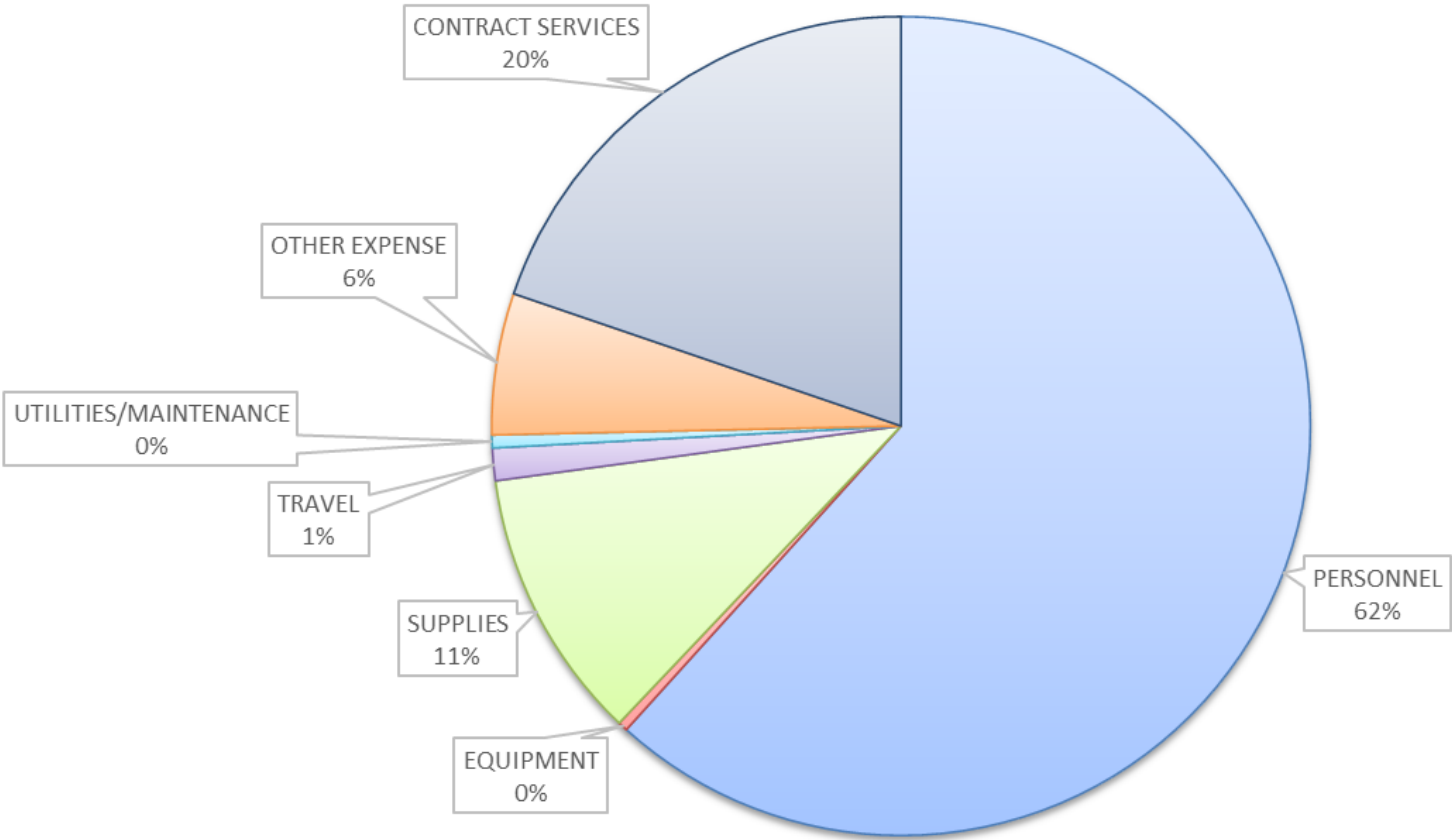
1. Culture of Quality
2. Workforce Development
3. Information Management
4. Fiscal Viability
5. Communication Engagement and Resources

2022 Board of Health Funds



2022 Board of Health Funds

Total Expense
\$3,336,591.71



Clerical Support and Vital Statistics

In 2022, there were a total of 182 births in Sandusky County, including 4 home births. A total of 525 deaths occurred in Sandusky County.

There were 2,469 certified copies of birth certificates issued and 2,124 certified copies of death certificates issued in 2022.

With statewide issuance of birth certificates, a certified copy of an Ohio birth certificate may be obtained from any Local Registrar. Certified copies of death certificates can only be accessed from the Local Registrar in the county the death occurred.

Sandusky Co Public Health issues certified copies of birth/death certificates from Monday- Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The cost is \$25.00/certified copy.



Public Health Nursing



Public health nursing practice focuses on population health, with the goal of promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the public's health. Public Health Nurses comprise the largest segment of the professional public health workforce. By working with whole communities, public health nurses are able to educate people about health issues, improve community health and increase access to care. SCPH has nine Registered Nurses (RNs) providing services to the county.

The Sandusky County Public Health nurses are directly engaged in our immunization clinics, COVID-19 clinics, flu clinics, TB Control Program, and Reproductive Health and Wellness clinics; providing services to over 5,000 clients a year. This is in addition to five other programs, services, and coalition groups led by the Public Health Nurses.

Immunization Clinics



Sandusky County Public Health is the largest provider of vaccinations to infants, children, adolescents, and adults in the county. The goal of the immunization program at Sandusky County Public Health is to reduce and potentially eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases among the county's residents. The nursing staff provided services for 1,927 clients with 4,044 immunizations administered. Sandusky County County Public Health participates in:

- Vaccines for Children Program, provided by the Ohio Department of Health
- The statewide immunization registry IMPACT SIIS
- The Get Vaccinated program, which is designed to improve and sustain childhood and adolescent immunization rates and to reduce vaccination coverage disparities in Ohio. This goal is accomplished through public health nurses working with immunization providers to adopt quality assurance methods to increase vaccination use, identifying and addressing any immunization disparities, and working with schools to assure that immunization levels are high.
- The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program, through which public health nurses work with healthcare providers and hospitals to prevent the transmission of hepatitis B from mother to infant. Our nurses work to ensure that all pregnant women are screened, and that infants of women who test positive receive the appropriate prophylaxis and case management follow up.



Getting immunized is important to protect yourself, your child, and to protect those around you. Vaccines are the best way we have to prevent infectious diseases. Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough are still a threat. They continue to infect U.S. children, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths every year. Outbreaks of preventable diseases occur when vaccination rates drop. If children aren't vaccinated, they can spread disease to other children who are too young to be vaccinated or to people with weakened immune systems, such as transplant recipients and people with cancer. This could result in long-term complications and even death for these vulnerable people. If we stopped vaccinating, diseases that are almost unknown would stage a comeback. Before long we would see epidemics of diseases that are nearly under control today.



Flu Clinics – In 2022 a total of 530 flu vaccines were administered to infants > 6 months old, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.



COVID-19 Clinics – SCPH administered 1,579 doses of COVID-19 vaccine in 2022. This includes 642 doses of the new bivalent booster that became available in the fall.

If you or someone you know is interested in our immunization program, or would like to make an appointment, call (419)334-6367

Tuberculosis Testing and Surveillance

Public Health Nurses administered 154 TB skin tests in 2022, with no positive reactors. There were no confirmed cases of TB reported to Sandusky County Public Health.

The TB Program is not limited to the number of TB tests administered. The scope of the program involves surveillance, referrals, and consulting with multiple health care providers, including hospitals and the Ohio Department of Health. Any positive test result and/or suspected case, whether seen through the health department, or referred from another health care provider, involves a thorough investigation, and follow up. This can take several weeks. A confirmed case of active TB requires intensive case management lasting months to a year, as compliance with treatment must be assured.



Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program

The Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program is a health care program provided through the Ohio Department of Health. CMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need.

CMH promotes early identification of children with handicapping conditions and treatment of those children by appropriate health care providers.



CMH provides assistance to children with special health care needs and their families who meet the medical and financial eligibility criteria. Assistance is provided to children under the age of 21 who have special health care needs and are residents of the State of Ohio.



Major components of the program include: conducting quality assurance activities to establish standards of care and to determine unmet needs of children with handicaps and their families; funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions; collaborating with public health nurses to assist in increasing access to care; supporting service coordination; and assisting families to access and utilize appropriate sources of payment for services for their child. In 2022, Sandusky County Public Health nurses provided services to 227 children who are active on the CMH diagnostic, treatment, and/or service coordination program.

If you have questions about the CMH Program please call (419) 334-6377. A Public Health Nurse would be happy to assist you and answer any questions.

Child Fatality Review Board (CFR)

The Sandusky County Child Fatality Review Board meets annually, as mandated by Ohio law, with the purpose of decreasing the incidence of preventable deaths in children less than 18 years of age. To accomplish this, the review board:

- Promotes cooperation, collaboration and communication between all groups, professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children
- Maintains a comprehensive database of all child deaths that occur in the county in order to develop an understanding of the causes and incidences of those deaths
- Recommends and develops plans for implementing local service and program changes to the groups, professions, agencies or entities that serve families and children that might prevent child deaths
- Reports aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning child deaths to the Ohio Department of Health

In 2022, 4 child deaths occurred and were reviewed by the board.

Reproductive Health and Wellness Program

Since 1973, Sandusky County Public Health's Reproductive Health and Wellness Program has been providing a broad range of services related to achieving and preventing pregnancy, assisting women, men, and couples with achieving their desired number and spacing of children.



We offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to individuals at a very high risk for HIV infection. Studies have shown that PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV if it is used as prescribed. The cost of PrEP is covered by many health insurance plans, and a medication assistance program provides free PrEP to people with limited income and no insurance to cover PrEP care. As an HIV prevention provider in 2022, we provided PrEP to 6 patients, and referred 8 patients to the medication assistance program.

Our Reproductive Health and Wellness program is also a provider for the Ohio Department of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, which assists women in navigating cancer screenings. The project helps with finding providers and community resources, and answers questions about insurance use, appointment scheduling and more. In addition, the program offers no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic testing to qualified participants. In 2022 our staff assisted 18 uninsured women with enrollment in the program to receive cancer screenings they would not have had access to otherwise.

2022 Statistics	
Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Gonorrhea	43
Chlamydia	192
Syphilis	4

We have clinics in both the Sandusky County and Seneca County Health Departments and offer after-hour clinics every Thursday in Fremont. Fees are based on income, and services are available to both women and men. Medicaid and many private insurances are accepted. If you, or someone you know, are interested in our Reproductive Health Clinic, please call (419) 334-6355.

Reproductive Health & Wellness Clinic Schedule			
Fremont	2000 Countryside Drive	Tuesday & Wednesday Thursday Friday	8:00a-4:30p 8:00a-6:00p 8:00a-2:00p
Tiffin	71 South Washington Street Suite 2	Monday	9:00a-3:30p

Welcome Home Newborn Visit and Cribs for Kids

The Newborn Welcome Home Program was established through the collaboration of the Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition. Funding for this valuable program has been provided by the generosity of the United Way of Sandusky County. The program consists of a free home visit by a public health nurse to answer questions related to newborn care as well as provide education on safe sleep for infants. This provides an opportunity to make referrals to area community resources as needed.



The Newborn Home Visit program works in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Cribs for Kids and Safe Sleep Program. This program works to reduce infant sleep related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of safe sleep for babies by providing a portable crib for those who otherwise cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep.



Sleep related infant deaths are among the most preventable of infant deaths. By following the ABC's (Alone, on the Back and in a Crib) infants can live optimally for the first year of life.

Sandusky County Public Health remains committed to preventing accidental death among infants. In 2022, a total of 54 cribs were delivered to families throughout the county who needed a safe sleep environment for their infant. For more information on the Welcome Home program and the Cribs for Kids program, call 419-334-6377.



Infant Safe Sleep



Baby sleeps safest alone, on their back, in a crib.

Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition

The Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition was established in 2015 to improve maternal health and birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality in Sandusky County. The work of this Coalition has made an impact in reducing infant deaths in Sandusky County. Coalition members include:

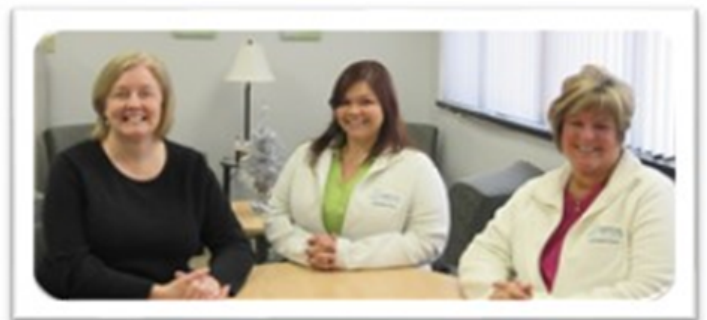
- Sandusky County Public Health
 - ProMedica Memorial Hospital
 - Bellevue Hospital
 - NOMS Healthcare
 - GLCAP
 - Help Me Grow
 - Department of Jobs and Family Services
 - Family and Child First Council
 - Mental Health and Recovery Services of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot County
- This coalition of community members meets quarterly to examine risks, health disparities, barriers to care, education, and health programs.



Help Me Grow Home Visiting & Early Intervention

Help Me Grow serves children in both the Home Visiting and Early Intervention programs from pregnancy through three years of age.

Home Visiting is a voluntary, evidence-based parent support program that encourages early prenatal and well-baby care, as well as parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development to share their thoughts about parenting, ask questions, and receive reliable information based on their individual family needs or topics of interest. Topics may include, but are not limited to: healthy pregnancies, baby and child health, breastfeeding, nutrition, immunizations, child growth and development, discipline, toilet training, child safety, household safety and local resources. Our home visitors are certified, well-trained and help empower parents with skills, tools and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their children. All young children deserve the same opportunities to realize their full potential in life, regardless of economic, geographic, and demographic considerations. The parenting education and child development resources provided to families allows them to maximize this critical period of development in their child's life, providing a foundation for lasting success. Home Visiting program goals and benchmark domains are: improvement in maternal and newborn health, reduction in child injuries, abuse, and neglect, improved school readiness and achievement, reduction in crime and domestic violence, and improved family economic self-sufficiency.



Early Intervention is a voluntary, evidence-based program that provides coordinated services to parents of young children with disabilities and/or developmental delays. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. EI builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist parents and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday routines. It is a collaborative, home and community-based system where the family and a team work together to provide ongoing support to the child and family. An EI Service Coordinator first meets with the family to gather info about the child, discuss concerns and priorities regarding development and shares information about resources in your community. They work directly with the family to coordinate a developmental evaluation and services, if needed. Eligible children are assigned an Early Intervention Primary Service Provider to begin visits in a child's everyday routine and natural environment. The Primary Service Provider model's techniques to encourage development in the area(s) of need identified by the family. These services build confidence and competence for the parent/caregiver so they are able to continue what they have learned and incorporate these activities into their family routine. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.

NOTE: at the end of 2022, the Early Intervention Program transitioned from Sandusky County Public Health to the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Referrals may still be made as noted below.

In 2022, Sandusky County Ohio Early Childhood Programs received **250 referrals** and **903 home visits** were made to families. If you are interested in the Early Childhood programs offered, or may know of a family who may benefit, please call 419 -334-6383 or 1-800-755-Grow (4769). Referrals can also be made online @ <https://odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/ochids/public/refer>



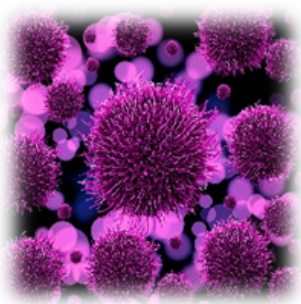
CONCERNED
about your child's
development?

ACT EARLY!
1-800-755-GROW
OhioEarlyIntervention.org

Communicable Diseases

Communicable disease control is a core function and responsibility of public health and is delegated to local health departments in Ohio. The health department conducts epidemiology and surveillance for communicable/infectious diseases. Sandusky County Public Health's epidemiologist monitors the health status of the county by investigating, analyzing, and mitigating disease outbreaks and emerging health threats.

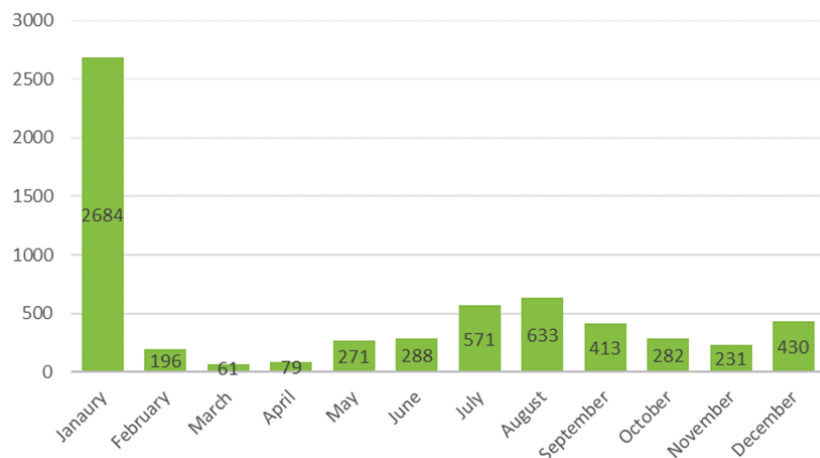


Ohio Revised Code requires that certain diseases of public health concern be reported to the local health department. These reports are used to protect the public's health by quickly identifying outbreaks, tracking disease numbers and trends, and offering a snapshot of the community's health. Examples of some of the illnesses spread person-to-person include COVID-19, mumps, whooping cough, and chicken pox. This list also includes food related illnesses from organisms like Salmonella and E. coli. Sandusky Public Health staff investigate and follow up on all reports of communicable diseases to prevent the spread of those diseases. In 2022, 6,285 individual reports for 25 diseases or conditions were received and investigated. Additionally, 10 disease outbreaks were investigated and resolved.

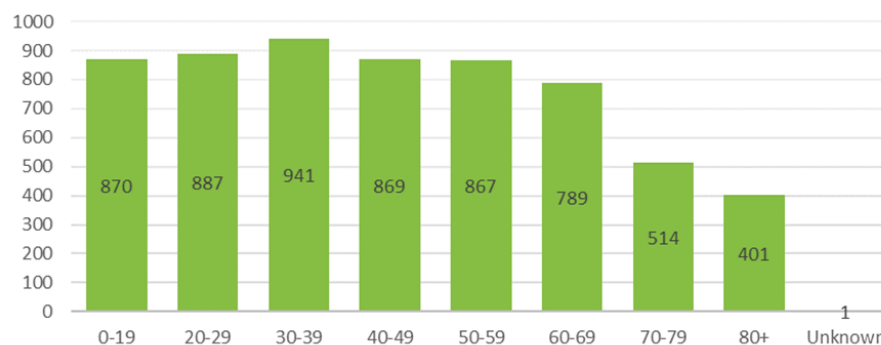
The most common conditions reported among Sandusky County residents in 2022 (excluding chlamydia and gonorrhea) are shown below:

REPORTABLE CONDITION	REPORTED CASES
COVID-19	6,139
Influenza Associated Hospitalization	44
Hepatitis C	44
Campylobacteriosis	10
Cryptosporidiosis	6

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES BY MONTH OF ONSET IN SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO; 2022



COVID-19 CASES BY AGE GROUP SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO; 2022



COVID-19 CASES BY SEX SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO; 2022



163

COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS

37

COVID-19 DEATHS

Emergency Preparedness



A public health emergency is any event or situation demanding immediate action on the part of the public health system to prevent disease and injury or maintain public health within the community. Emergencies can be natural or man-made. Sandusky County Public Health creates and maintains plans for all types of emergencies, and works closely with the Sandusky County Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, hospitals, law enforcement, and other local and regional partners. The Sandusky County Healthcare Coalition and Sandusky County Local Emergency Planning Committee are two preparedness groups that the health department participates in.

Training and exercises are a large part of the health department's emergency preparedness program. These exercises prepared us well for emergency and disaster events. Health department staff attended trainings on a variety of topics, including mass dispensing, volunteer management, and the Incident Command System (ICS.)

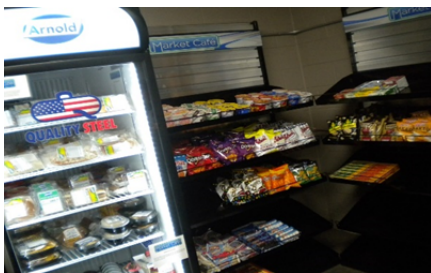


Environmental Health

Greetings from your Environmental Health Division. Our staff for 2022 consisted of Martha, Nina, Trevor, Matt, and Travis (summer). We are behind the scenes in many aspects of your life from public swimming pools, beaches, campgrounds, body art facilities, rabies control, deed transfers, school buildings, private water wells, household sewage treatment systems just to name a few of programs we license and inspect. You don't always see us, but we are out there everyday working to protect the health & safety of our communities here in Sandusky County.



405 total food licenses were issued with 610 inspections completed last year. In addition, 19 pool licenses, 5 beach licenses, 8 body art licenses, 14 campground licenses were issued. Pools, beaches, and campgrounds all received a minimum of 2 inspections during the season. 166 rabies control cases were investigated. Water samples included bacterial & E Coli testing plus nitrate/nitrite screenings. 21 school buildings were inspected for safety.



On the sewage side of the news, 31 site/soil evaluations and 31 design reviews were completed, and 39 permits were issued for household sewage treatment systems. If you are looking to buy property or purchase an existing home, please check our website for a handout indicating which county offices cover which topics and what questions you should be asking before the purchase is completed.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, 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; reduces infant mortality by reducing the incidence of low birth weight (infants under 5 ½ pounds are at greater risk of breathing problems, brain injuries and physical abnormalities), and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets.

WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, yogurt, cheese, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables, and iron-fortified infant formula and baby food; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs.

In 2022, our WIC program served 718 new participants in Sandusky County. The average caseload per month was 865 participants, and an average 42 referrals were made monthly to prenatal and pediatric health care or other maternal and child health and human service programs. Our breastfeeding rates remained strong with an average of 50% of all postpartum women on the WIC program initiating breastfeeding their infant in the first month of life, and 43% continuing to exclusively or partially breastfeed.

We were happy to welcome our participants back into the office in May of 2022 for full appointments while still offering appointments over the phone for those who prefer not to bring their infants or children into the office.



If you or someone you know would benefit from the WIC programs supplemental foods, nutrition expertise, and excellent breastfeeding help and support, please call our office at 419-334-6363, we'd be glad to help!

In 2022 we were able to return to some community outreach events! During the summer we attended the Downtown Fremont Farmers Market to distribute our seasonal Farmers Market Coupons, provided nutrition education and a fun nutrition game at the Grove Fest, Fremont Community Cookouts, and ProMedica Family Fest. Every August we celebrate Breastfeeding Awareness Month by providing breastfeeding goodie bags to newly delivered Mothers at both ProMedica Memorial Hospital and The Bellevue Hospital. You may have also seen a couple of our WIC billboards in your community! We look forward to being able to attend all of these events again in 2023!



The Bellevue Hospital



ProMedica Memorial Hospital



Sandusky County
Public Health



Billboards



Health Planning and Education

The Health Planning and Education Division strives to engage and empower individuals, families, and the community to make positive changes towards a healthy and active lifestyle. Division goals are driven by the Community Health Improvement Plan priorities and strategies selected through a network of collaborative partnerships.



Much of the work of the division is focused on health promotion, prevention activities and population level change; the health educators also facilitate and host many community trainings, events, presentations, and collaborative meetings. The Health Planning and Education Division uses a variety of evidence-based strategies and promising practices to increase the likelihood of behavior change. Funding for programming comes from a variety of sources including state and federal grants, program allocations, and local mental health levy dollars.

Substance Abuse Prevention

MISSION: The Prevention Partnership Coalition builds a healthier community by preventing and reducing substance abuse in Sandusky County.



The Prevention Partnership Coalition (PPC) Members recognize that large-scale change requires broad cross-sector collaboration and coordination. As an organization that specializes in connecting members and providing community outreach, the PPC has become an essential resource for local organizations seeking to work together to reduce substance abuse and other risky behaviors while improving overall community wellness. PPC funding comes from the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services and local Mental Health and Recovery Service's levy dollars. Additional funds are leveraged from other grants and local agencies.

Major Accomplishments in 2022

Provided 2,500 Deterra Bags to community members as a new form of medication disposal for those who may not be able to access Take Back Boxes. Deterra users place unused or unwanted medications in the bag, add water, and shake the bag to start the deactivation process. The bag is then placed in the trash for environmentally safe disposal.

Through Grant Funding PPC has established an Online Narcan Training / Mail order program free of charge to anyone living in Sandusky County by going to www.scpublichealth.com/save-a-life. This program is a register Project Dawn Program, in 2022 SCPH has distributed 62 Narcan kits.

Through Grant Funding PPC has been able to start a Naloxbox Program, training employees of community organizations, hotels, and gas stations how to properly administer Narcan. A box is mounted on the wall for public use if the need arises.

Naloxbox Program

Throughout 2022 Sandusky County Public Health's Prevention Partnership Coalition (PPC) was able to continue it's Naloxbox Program funded by the PIRE grant. This program gives our health educator the ability to train employees of community organization, hotel staff, and gas station employees on how to properly administer Narcan. The box is mounted on the wall for public use if the need arises. In Sandusky County the following establishments/agencies have Naloxboxes:

- Beacon Behavioral,
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness),
- Fremont Municipal Court,
- Sandusky County Department of Job & Family Services,
- Terra State Community College,
- Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services,
- Surest Path Recovery Center,
- Great Lakes Recovery Center,
- Engineered Plastic Components Inc.,
- Sandusky County Sheriff's Office,
- Juvenile Detention Center,
- Legends Recovery Center of Ohio,
- Mental Health & Recovery Services Board,
- Herman Funeral Homes, &
- TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime).



Safe Communities

Safe Communities is a program under the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Safe Communities receives funding from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. SCPH received \$42,500 in 2022. The goal of this program is to work with local groups and law enforcement to reduce traffic fatalities and focus on seven initiatives that serve to advance projects in specific traffic safety areas. Initiatives include:

- **Traffic Fatalities** – all fatal crashes occurring in Sandusky County are reviewed. Countermeasure recommendations are developed to prevent future crashes of a similar manner.
- **Impaired Driving** – works to prevent motorists from driving distracted or alcohol impaired through innovative programs, awareness campaigns, education, and enforcement.
- **Motorcycle Safety** – increase awareness of motorcycle safety issues among motorcyclists and general motorists through education, awareness campaigns, and promotion.
- **Seat Belt Use** – to increase seat belt use in Sandusky County from 97% to 98% through education and enforcement.

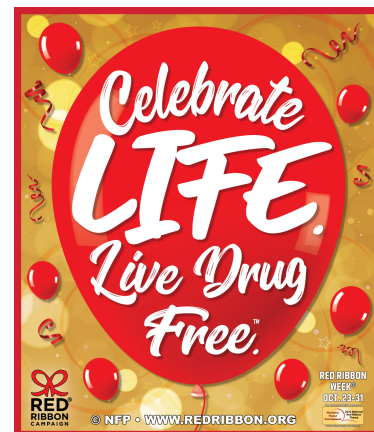


Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated October 23-31 every year. Wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle and to pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camearena.

All of Sandusky County schools participated in this yearly event during October 24-28 by doing dress days and giving handouts and information for students and parents. The elementary schools all received a box of prizes such as earbuds, cups, drawstring bags, red ribbons, pencils, stickers, playground balls, footballs, and basketballs.

We were also able to hold our annual Red Ribbon Week event, "Spook"tacular. We held this event in conjunction with Terra State Community College on October 27th and had about 300 people attend the event that was a safe space to allow youth to trick or treat, play games, learn about the dangers of risky behaviors, and most importantly have fun!

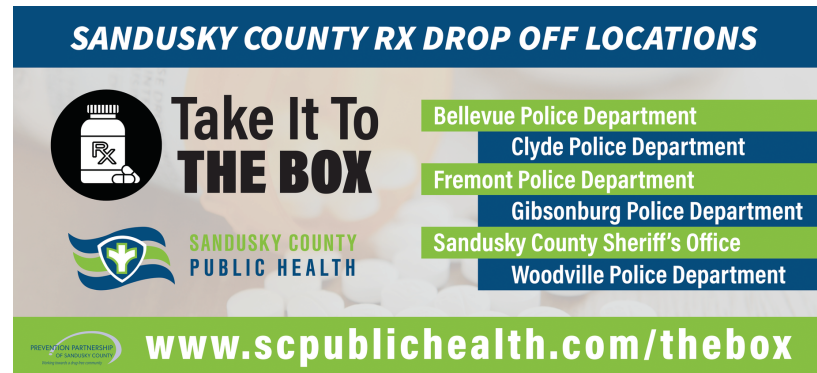


40 Developmental Assets

The Prevention Partnership Coalition works to decrease youth substance use by implementing the 40 Developmental Assets Program in Sandusky County Middle Schools. This program, created by the Search Institute, has shown that the more assets youth have the less likely youth are to engage in risky behaviors like substance use, and the more likely they are to become successful adults. Each year students are selected from Sandusky County Middle Schools to be a part of their school's asset team. In 2022, 4 schools were awarded grants to implement Asset Teams within their schools. Those awarded were Fremont, Gibsonburg, Bellevue, and St. Joe Central Catholic Middle schools.

Take it to the Box

Prescription drug abuse and heroin use is on the rise in our nation, and Sandusky County is not immune from this issue. The Prevention Partnership Coalition was instrumental in placing six permanent drop locations for unwanted, unused, and expired medications throughout the county for the safety and well-being of community members. In addition, letters and materials on the awareness of safe and proper ways to dispose of medication are mailed twice yearly to physicians, pharmacies, human resources, churches, realtors, and many more.



PAX Good Behavior Game and PAX Tools

PAX Good Behavior Game is an evidenced-based preventative intervention that teaches students self-regulation, self-management, and self-control. Using this tool in classrooms has proven to decrease negative behaviors, and to increase classroom instructions time. Pax has shown to decrease the number of youths who use alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and decrease the number of youths who report suicidal thoughts or ideation. PAX Tools is a program for parents and youth workers to teach self-regulation outside of the classroom. The focus of the program for 2022 was to get more daycares and preschools using the same program as the schools in Sandusky County.



Stigma

In the discussion of stigma, Sandusky County Public Health and the Prevention Partnership Coalition are working collaboratively with Ohio University and many counties throughout Ohio to tackle the issue of stigma when it comes to the opioid epidemic. The collaborative work is also targeted towards decreased drug misuse, and promoting treatment, recovery, and prevention.

OHYES! Survey

Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey (OHYES!) is a youth survey designed to measure the health risk behaviors and environmental factors that impact youth health and safety. The survey gathers information on issues like alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, unintentional and intentional injuries, physical health, activity and well-being, and related environmental risk and protective factors. OHYES! is an important source of needs-assessment data for school districts, community-based organizations, local health and human service agencies, and state agencies. The survey results will allow tracking of progress toward local, state, and federal education and health-related goals. Trends in patterns of behavior over time may be identified using the information from the OHYES!. State-level results may also be used to compare national and other state-level results. State agencies, local health and behavioral health organizations, prevention providers, community coalitions, community safety networks, and others use this information to guide policies and programs that serve youth.



Parents Who Host Lose the Most

This campaign's key message reminds parents that it is unsafe, unhealthy, and unacceptable—and, in many communities, illegal—to provide alcohol for underage youth. It decreases young people's access to alcohol by reducing the number of parents willing to provide alcohol for young people. Over time, it reduces the likelihood teens will drink alcohol and suffer the health effects that come from underage drinking.

The campaign includes fact cards, stickers, posters, yard signs, banners, and more items to help

educate our community about the health and safety effects of underage drinking and share with them the facts that every parent should know about social hosting. There is also a campaign in Sandusky County showing support for our graduating seniors to stay alcohol-free and remain that way as prom and graduation approaches and our community leaders support them staying alcohol-free.

Tobacco, E-Cigarette, and Vape Prevention and Cessation

The following data related to tobacco use was provided by the 2019–2020 Sandusky County Community Health Assessment:

60% of Sandusky Co. tobacco users have attempted to quit smoking in the last year.

7% of youth are current tobacco users and 14% of youth report using an electronic vapor product in the last 30 days.

SCPH has been working to promote tobacco cessation, prevention, and policy change within the community based on the data above. SCPH worked with Gibsonburg Schools to create an alternate to suspension program for first time middle school and high school vape offenders. SCPH worked with Millenia Housing to provide secondhand smoke and indoor air education for those living in Millenia Housing properties.

SCPH also provided education and information dissemination about tobacco related topics including vaping for local agencies, organizations, and community events.

SCPH worked with NAMI Northwest to complete a 5-year strategic plan to help combat tobacco use in those with behavioral health disorders. Those objectives include increased access to nicotine recovery services, education about nicotine use and behavioral health, ensuring everyone is screened for nicotine use at intake, nicotine recovery toolkits to assist in quit attempts, and mass media campaigns.

Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program

The Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program at Sandusky County Public Health (SCPH) was established in 2015 in an effort to prevent and reduce chronic disease in Sandusky County. Funding for this program is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and administered by the Ohio Department of Health. Through cross-sector collaboration, CHC is implementing evidence-based strategies in Sandusky County communities that improve access to and affordability of healthy food, increase opportunities for physical activity where residents live, learn, work and play. Health equity is an important piece of the CHC program to ensure all people in a community have access to affordable, inclusive, and quality infrastructure and services that allow them to reach their full health potential.

The CHC Vision is "Vibrant Ohio communities where everyone has access to healthy food and opportunities for active living".

The CHC Mission is "Activating community-led solutions to create sustainable change in policies, places, and population health".

CHC Principles

Sustainable and Equitable Investments

CHC invests in policies, projects, places, and people to create and sustain equitable, inclusive opportunities for healthy eating and active living.

Self-Awareness and Empathy

Everyone involved in CHC prepares to engage in the work by strengthening self-awareness and empathy.

Community-led Solutions

Community members experiencing health inequities or social marginalization partner with CHC to amplify their collective power and lead solutions for their community.

Organizational Partnership

Organizations partner with CHC to align with and direct resources toward community members' vision and priorities.

Coordinator Responsibility

CHC Coordinators approach their relationships and the work with humility, transparency, dependability, and respect for others



Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program

Major Accomplishments in 2022:

- Worked with TRIPS Transportation Services, the City of Fremont, Fremont City Schools, Walmart and other community stakeholders to determine 2 locations along the TRIPS shuttle service routes to purchase and place 2 bus shelters. Installation is set to be done in Spring 2023.
- Technical assistance provided to promote the TRIPS Fremont shuttle service on 2 local radio stations.
- Worked with Legends Recovery Center in Green Springs to improve on-site healthy food and beverage options available to employees.
- Provided technical support to the Village of Gibsonburg to write a Complete Streets Policy to help village officials, transportation planners and engineers to evaluate the needs of all road users regardless of age, ability, or method of transportation. The Village adopted the Complete Streets Policy in May 2022
- Sidewalk improvements made in Gibsonburg with 10 curb ramps with detectable warning devices installed near Hilfiker Elementary school on W. Yeasting St.
- Two radar speed sign installed in Gibsonburg to improve pedestrian safety near the schools. One installed near the elementary school on W. Yeasting Street, and one was installed near the high/middle school on Ste. Rte. 300.
- Participated in Street Play Saturday and the ProMedica Health Fair to teach children how to grow their own food. 109 children were taught how to plant tomato, cilantro, or basil seeds. Children were given instructions on how to care for the seeds and watch them grow into plants. Free produce and herb seed packets were made available to adults at these events to encourage growing their own produce and herbs.
- Collaborated with the state Put A Lid on It program to distribute free bike helmets and road safety information to 212 community members of all ages.



Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program

Bike Helmets – bike rodeo –
Cub Scouts Troop 309 Clyde



Street Play Saturday

Gibsonburg Pedestrian
Infrastructure Improvements



Department Directory

Billing (419) 334-6374

Environmental Health (419) 334-6373

Emergency Response (419) 334-6315

Epidemiology (419) 334-6312

Fiscal Director (419) 334-6378

Health Education (419) 334-6377

Help Me Grow (419) 334-6362

Immunizations (419) 334-6367

Nursing (419) 334-6377

Vital Statistics (419) 334-6377

