

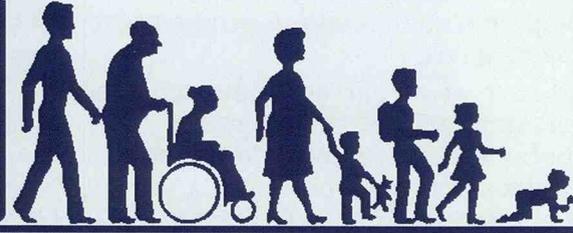
From the Health Commissioner

This past year was one of transition for our department. Our Registrar of Vital Statistics, Holly Kouskouris retired after 50 years of service and our Environmental Health Specialist, Duane Oyster retired after 34 years of service. We thank them for their public health service to the community. Kim Nelson moved to the Registrar of Vital Statistics position from her Clerk, Deputy Registrar position and we welcomed Naomi Davis as our new Clerk/Deputy Registrar.

This will be my final annual report. After 41 years as health commissioner and 45 years of public health service I will be retiring on June 30, 2025. It has been my privilege to serve the Alliance community as health commissioner. I've worked with so many wonderful public health professionals, board of health members, city officials and public health partners. There certainly have been challenges, but I would like to believe that we demonstrated our professionalism and dedication to keeping the community safe during those times. I hope I have left the Alliance community a healthier place.

Randall M. Flint, REHS, MPH
Health Commissioner

PHN



Public Health Nursing

The nursing division continued to focus on the opioid issue in 2024. Our department applied for a grant to The OneOhio Recovery Foundation. The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is a private non-profit organization created at the direction of Ohio's state and local leaders to distribute 55 percent of the funds our state will receive from the pharmaceutical industry as a consequence of its role in the national opioid epidemic. The Foundation will work with local interests to support substance misuse prevention, treatment and recovery efforts and invest funds to support these efforts for Ohioans into the future. The Foundation will allocate as much as \$51 million in the 2024 Regional Grant Cycle, with funding opportunities for a diverse range of Ohio-based organizations, including non-profits, for-profits, and government entities who are on the frontlines of Ohio's opioid battle.

There were 1,400 grant applications that applied to receive OneOhio Recovery Foundation Ohio's opioid settlement dollars. In accordance with these guidelines, the One Ohio Recovery Foundation is committed to ensuring all Foundation funding awards support evidence-based, forward-looking strategies for the purposes of prevention, treatment, recovery, and abatement of substance use and co-occurring disorders. We are pleased to announce that OneOhio Recovery Foundation awarded us for the project titled SWAP (Stark Wide Approach to Prevention) Syringe Exchange Program in Region 6 for 12 months. This will allow us to provide services in the community to decrease blood borne infectious diseases such as Hepatitis C and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus).

Our public health partnerships with Stark Mental Health & Addiction and Recovery (StarkMHAR), Treatment Alternatives for Street Crimes (TASC) and The Alliance Commons is essential for success in preventing opioid overdose deaths. Our department is continuing to provide Project Dawn Naloxone Kits available for free. We have also trained other staff members to be able to provide Naloxone kits as well. In 2024, we distributed 226 Project DAWN Naloxone Kits. We also provided training at the University of Mount Union this past year. One of our goals this year was to place Nalox boxes throughout the community. We have placed them at the University of Mount Union. Clothed In Righteousness has a box placed outside of their facility and Grinders Restaurant, YWCA, Alliance for Children and Families and the homeless shelter also have Narcan available.

Moving forward, our goal continues to have an honest conversation about substance use, treatment, and educate the community about all of the services that are available before, during, and after treatment in our community. An update on our Harm Reduction Unit that was placed at the Alliance Commons in August of 2023, has proven to be a great resource. The Harm Reduction machine dispensed 1,167 units. The unit provides Narcan, safe sex kits, wound care kits, hygiene kits as well as fentanyl test strips and personal protective equipment (PPE). It is free and easily accessible by following the instructions for a PIN on the unit.



Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division works toward improving the health and well-being of our community through education, inspection programs, safe housing, demolition of condemned and blighted structures and mosquito control programs to name a few.

As part of our new outreach programming, the environmental staff became certified ServSafe Managerial instructors and proctors and will be offering food safety managerial courses. Participants can take an in-person class or a proctored exam upon completion of an online course.

We continued to survey, larvicide and adulticide mosquito populations throughout the community with the assistance of a summer intern. Our program was enhanced by receipt of a grant from the Ohio EPA which allowed additional mosquito control products to be purchased along with seasonal staff to assist with our program. Public Health Interns from the University of Mt. Union this year assisted with our Food Service Safety Program, educational programming, customer satisfaction surveys and mosquito control program.

We continue to collaborate with academic institutions through their internship programs to improve our environmental health programs and provide a public health experience for the students. Students develop and implement protocols to enhance our programs and services.

The Environmental Health Division and the Nursing Division continue to offer CPR programs to provide basic life support training for agencies in the community. This program continues to be well received by our community partners.



Injury Prevention



We received a total of 12 referrals for the Safe Sleep Cribs for Kids program. Seven classes were completed resulting in 9 cribs provided and one Cribette crib was replaced due to damage. We continue to provide a sleep sack, fitted crib sheet, Sleep Baby Safe and Snug book, along with educational materials for all safe sleep clients. Clients are also provided information about our Newborn Home Visit (NBHV) program upon completing the safe sleep class.

(continued on page 4)

2024

Vital Statistics

Total Deaths.....	254
Infant Deaths (less than 1 year).....	0
Fetal Deaths.....	0
Certified Copies of Births Issued... 1,546	
Certified Copies of Deaths Issued... 1,028	
Burial/Cremation Permits.....	194



Immunization Clinic

Number of Clinics.....	149
Immunizations Administered... 390	

Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV

Number of Clinics.....	50
Number of Visits.....	166

Influenza and COVID-19 Clinic

Number of Clinics.....	71
Immunizations Administered .. 185	

Tuberculin Skin Testing

Number of Skin Tests.....	105
Number of tests read.....	85

WIC Program

Number of Clinics.....	237
Number of Visits.....	3,086

Home Visits

Children with Medical Handicaps Visits	6
Newborn Visits.....	3

Lead Program

Elevated Levels Reported.....	9
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Cribs for Kids

Cribs Classes.....	8
Cribs Distributed.....	8



COVID-19.....	382
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Chlamydia.....	125
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Gonorrhea.....	28
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Influenza A.....	17
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Campylobacter.....	16
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Hepatitis C Chronic.....	7
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Strep Pneumoniae.....	4
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Cryptosporidia.....	3
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Group A Streptococcus.....	3
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Lyme Disease.....	3
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Salmonella.....	3
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E. coli O157:H7.....	2
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Hepatitis B.....	2
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Influenza B.....	2
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Syphilis.....	2
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Giardia.....	1
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Legionella.....	1
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Hepatitis A.....	1
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HIV.....	1
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Meningitis-Viral.....	1
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Perinatal Hepatitis B.....	1
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Tuberculosis.....	1
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Varicella.....	1
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Heart Disease.....	88
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Pulmonary Disease.....	33
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Cancer.....	32
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Dementia/Alzheimer's.....	30
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Failure to Thrive.....	15
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Cerebrovascular.....	12
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Liver/Cirrhosis.....	9
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Sepsis.....	8
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Kidney Disease.....	7
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Drug Overdose.....	6
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Parkinson's.....	3
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Pneumonia/Influenza.....	3
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Accidents.....	3
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COVID-19.....	1
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Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage..	1
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Suicide.....	1
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Multiple Sclerosis.....	1
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Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.....	1
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Reported Communicable Diseases

Leading Causes of Death

HIV Counseling And Testing

The Alliance City Health Department is part of Region 5 for the Ohio Department of Health's HIV Prevention Program. Region 5 includes Stark, Carroll, Harrison, Tuscarawas, Coshocton, Holmes and Wayne counties.

The HIV Prevention Program provides funding to community-based organizations and public health districts to provide prevention interventions for the following target populations:

- Persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Youth
- High-risk heterosexuals (HRHS)
- Injection drug users (IDUs)

Any client seeking HIV testing will meet with a testing counselor. Our agency utilizes a rapid HIV test method in our clinics. The test requires a drop of blood from the finger with results in 20 minutes. If the initial test is reactive, a second type of rapid test will be done for verification. The client will then be referred for linkage to care through our partners at Canton City Public Health.

Our HIV program consist of more than just testing. We provide risk reduction counseling and referrals to local organizations that can assist with addressing barriers such as health benefits navigation, mental/ behavioral health services, and social services. We also provide education about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) which is a daily pill that can help prevent HIV. Clients who are interested in PrEP are referred to the Early Intervention Services Navigator, through Canton City Public Health. They will then assist clients with further education, linkage to a provider, and assistance with the medical costs surrounding PrEP.

In 2024, we received marketing funding that was able to be utilized for multiple billboards in our jurisdiction and to run a successful Spectrum Reach marketing campaign for streaming services and internet. We were able to fine tune the marketing to priority zip codes with Spectrum Reach.

ACHD encourages anyone who has questions or is in need of testing to call our department. You can also find more information on our website and Facebook page.



Alliance City Health Department

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Alliance, Ohio 44601

Phone: (330) 821-7373

Web Site:

www.cityofalliance.com/health

 visit us on facebook

Alliance City Health Department 2024 Financial Report

2024 Income

Vital Statistics/Administration

Birth and Death Certificates... 66,977.85
Workforce Development .. 160,925.96

Nursing and Clinics

Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant... 15,190.00
Medicaid Reimbursement.. 2,326.85
CMH Reimbursement 922.00
Private Insurance/Client Fees... 3,749.67
MAC Program 12,773.63
WIC Program 136,368.21
HIV Prevention 27,721.06

Injury Prevention..... 2,500.00
COVID-19 4,578.83
Crib for Kids 525.00
Client Fees..... 3,772.00

Environmental Health

Food Licenses 37,019.78
Plumbing Registration
and Permits..... 15,800.00
Swimming Pool Licenses... 4,062.50
Environmental Health Fines ... 72.03

Body Art Licenses 825.00
Mosquito Control Grant 7,000.00
Reimbursements..... 810.60
Solid Waste Hauler Licenses. 200.00
State Subsidy..... 3,965.37
Total Income 508,086.34

2024 Expenditures

Administrative and
Vital Statistics 426,874.35
Public Health Nursing
Clinics/Grants 518,690.46
Environmental Health ... 239,310.63
Total Expenditures 1,184,875.44

Environmental Health Statistics for 2024

Licensing Programs

Food Service/Retail Food Op... 145
Mobile Food Service 12
Temporary Food Service..... 19
Vending Locations 8
Swimming Pools..... 15
Plumbing Contractors 39
Body Art Establishments 8

Food Protection Programs

Food Service/
Retail Food Inspections..... 315
Food Service/
Retail Food Consultations 38
Mobile, Vending and
Temp. Insp. 46
Plan Reviews and Consultations.. 15

Nuisance Control Program

Number of Complaints..... 97
Number of Inspections..... 39
Number of Consultations 5

Rabies Control Program

Number of Bites/
Exposures Reported..... 76
Number of Bites/Exposures
Investigated..... 76
Specimens Tested for Rabies 5
Rabies Positive Animals..... 0
Post Exposure Rabies Treatment.. 1

School Program

Number of Inspections..... 17
Number of Consultations 2

Plumbing Program

Permits Issued 52
Number of Inspections 82

Housing Program

Number of Complaints..... 25
Number of Inspections..... 65
Number of Consultations 17
Demolitions 9

Swimming Pool Program

Number of Inspections..... 28
Number of Consultations..... 16

Mosquito Control

Larviciding Treatments..... 29
Mosquito Spraying..... 2

Body Art Program

Number of Inspections..... 6
Number of Consultations 2

Injury Prevention (continued)

We received 12 referrals for NBHVs in 2024. Out of the 12 referrals, we completed 2 visits with the remaining 10 referrals either declining or not responding to attempts to contact. All of the diaper bags full of care items for mom and baby originally from our THRIVE grant have been dispersed. We had a small number of donated baby care items, but not enough for clients. The Alliance Senior Center hosted a month-long collection of baby care items, including handmade blankets and hats. They collected 6 boxes of diapers, lotions, soap, diaper cream, bibs, booties, outfits, washcloths and more. Thanks to their generosity we now have plenty of supplies for assembling diaper bags to give to parents for our home visits.

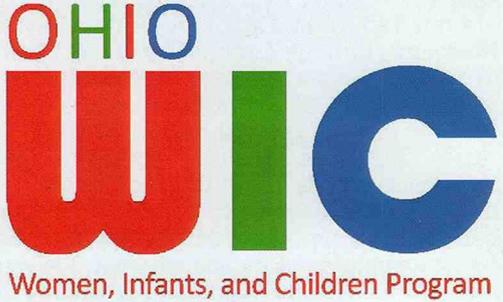
Car Seat Basics Education Course and Booster Seat evaluations are focus areas for injury prevention. Car Seat Basics is an independent, self-study, free, online course that allows caregivers to go through 4 short education segments that cover safe car seat use. It is easy to access and clients can work at their own pace with their progress automatically saved until completion. All 4 nurses completed the Car Seat Basics Course. Family Empowerment Ministries (FEMI) is a partner and will incorporate information about the course in their routine Diaper Days education series, of which one of our public health nurses is a presenter. WIC remains a course provider and offers course info to its clients. The Booster Seat evaluation partners are Stuckey Interfaith Childcare Center and United Methodist Church Preschool (UMCP). Both a booster seat evaluation and a car seat check were completed at Stuckey Interfaith. The same will be completed at UMCP in 2025. Potential partners in the upcoming year are Alliance Family Health Center and the Alliance Pregnancy Center. In partnership with Stark County Health Department, we participated in 4 car seat installation checks, with 2 at our health department.

Alliance City Board of Health

- Andrew D. Grove
Mayor, President
- Dr. Patricia Tucker, DVM
- Dr. Beth Canfield-Simbro, Ph.D.
- Tonia Burley, BSN, RN, CIC
- Rob Gress, MA
- Dr. Barbara Freshley, MD

WIC for Healthy Families

Ohio WIC is a federally funded program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that supports at risk and income qualified infants, children until age 5, and women who are pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding. We provide nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and supplemental food benefits, as well as countless health care referrals to programs throughout Stark County, including newborn home visits, immunizations, safe sleep, car seat programs, and substance abuse programs.



WIC completed over 3,000 appointments in 2024. In 2024, the Alliance WIC office maintained an actual caseload of over 850 active and enrolled participants. Our state assigned caseload was only 613 participants. We were so happy to start breastfeeding classes in person again offering 6 classes throughout the year for new moms. We are so honored to be serving Alliance area families providing nutrition education and breastfeeding support.

Personnel

A photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with several chimneys and a prominent tower on the right side. The building is surrounded by greenery. Overlaid on this image is a list of personnel names and titles.

Compton S. Girdharry, MD <i>Medical Director</i>	Randall M. Flint, REHS, MPH <i>Health Commissioner</i>	
Melissa L. Rudolph, FNP-BC, MSN, BSN, RN <i>Nursing Director</i>	Melissa K. Jackson <i>Public Health Nursing Clerk</i>	
Brittany N. Biller, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	Morgan D. Tarter, RD, LD <i>WIC Dietitian</i>	Leslie M. Shaffer, Ph.D., MPH <i>Accreditation Coordinator</i>
Emily E. Edwards, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	Elissa Powers <i>WIC Clinic Assistant</i>	Kimberly R. Nelson <i>Registrar, Vital Statistics</i>
Justin A. Haun, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	William R. Robinson, REHS, M.Ed. <i>Environmental Health Director</i>	Naomi K. Davis <i>Clerk, Deputy Registrar</i>
	Sarah E. Conley, REHSIT <i>Environmental Health Specialist</i>	