

## From the Health Commissioner

2025 was a year for accomplishments. After serving our community for 41 years, Randy Flint retired as the Alliance City Health Commissioner. We are extremely grateful for his commitment, compassion, and service over the past four decades. Randy was accomplishing great things, even as he was leaving. In May of 2025, Randy and the Health Department achieved Accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

In addition to becoming accredited, the Health Department developed, and is implementing the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan which will focus on better serving the community. Our dedicated team has compiled the following three goals for the next three years:

- Evaluate programs and services;
- Staff development; and
- Enhance our business process.

As a team, we will be evaluating our programs and services to assure that we are addressing our community needs and core functions. As we determine the needs, it is imperative that our staff is well versed and knowledgeable. Therefore, the second goal is to make sure that our staff is informed, trained, and stocked with the necessary tools to provide the services that are essential. This all ties into the final strategy, our process. We are making improvements to our day-to-day technology factors to make daily operations more efficient. These changes include updating software to become more efficient. The efficiency will allow us to mainstream data on a virtual basis.

Finally, I want to thank our Board of Health for not only tackling the routine operations, but always looking to make the Alliance City Health Department better. Your support and passion are truly appreciated by the staff and myself.

**Randall C. Ruszkowski, REHS, MPH**  
Health Commissioner

# PHN



## Public Health Nursing

The nursing division continued to focus on the opioid issue in 2025. The funds that we received for the grant from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation were used to help the Alliance City Health Department support substance misuse, prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts for Ohioans who are fighting an opioid battle.

Our SWAP (Stark Wide Approach to Prevention) Needle Syringe Program is up and running. Our goals are to work towards prevention, treatment, recovery, and abatement of substance use and co-occurring disorders. Allowing us to provide services in the community to decrease blood borne infectious disease prevention program such as Hepatitis C and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). Our programs also offer community members many other services, including: general healthcare screenings and infectious disease testing, vaccinations, education about overdoses and safer injection practices, referrals to medical care, counseling and substance use disorder treatment, distribution of naloxone to decrease opioid-related overdoses and deaths.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, participants in syringe exchange programs are five times more likely to enter drug treatment programs. They are 3.5 times more likely to stop injecting drugs. Research also shows that more than 90 percent of syringes distributed are returned. Generally, statistics show that the programs do not increase drug consumption. Moving forward, our goal continues to provide education about substance use, treatment within our community and all of the services that are available before, during, and after treatment. Our Harm Reduction Unit that was placed at the Alliance Commons in August of 2023 is still providing to be a great resource.



We also will be available to apply for the upcoming regional grant cycle from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation for the second round of funding. The Foundation will allocate for the 2025-26 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 frontline of Ohio's opioid battle.

# Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division works toward improving the health and well-being of our community through education, inspection programs, nuisance complaints, safe housing, demolition of condemned and blighted structures, and the mosquito program.

As part of our food safety programming, the Environmental Division has conducted ServSafe Manager and Ohio Person-in-Charge courses. Participants can take an in-person class and exam, or a proctored exam upon completion of an online course.

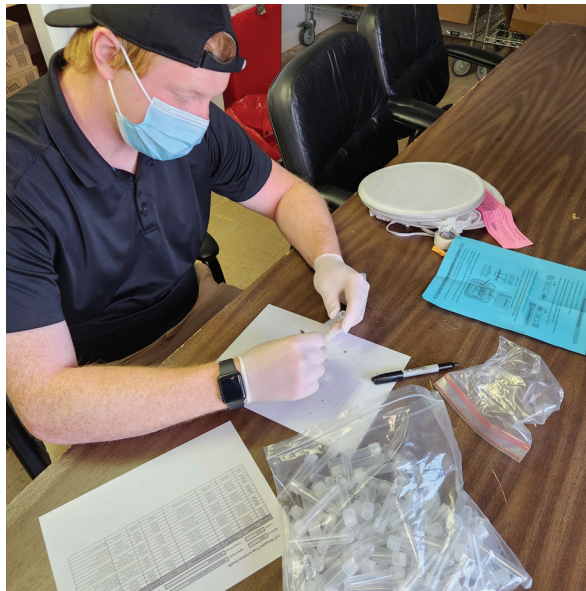
During 2025, staff conducted a grease prevention program. Food operations were educated on grease prevention strategies, and an inventory was developed to identify the locations of grease traps and cleaning timelines for food operations.

Throughout the summer of 2025, the health department continued to survey mosquito populations, conduct larval control, adult control, and community outreach to reduce active mosquito populations. In addition to mosquito control, the staff conducted two tick surveys in the community.

We continue to collaborate with academic institutions through their internship programs to improve our Environmental Health programs and provide a comprehensive, hands-on public health experience for the students. This year, we had students from Youngstown State University, the University of Mount Union, and the University of Akron.

Lastly, the Environmental Division and the Nursing Division collaborate to continue offering American Heart Association CPR, First Aid, and Bloodborne Pathogen certifications.

We also hosted our annual Rescue Ready event, which provides training in Stop the Bleed, Hands-only CPR, Project Dawn (Naloxone administration), and Bloodborne Pathogens.



# Injury Prevention

Our Cribs for Kids/safe sleep program received 5 referrals, completed 7 classes and distributed 8 cribs. We even had a couple requests for toddler beds in 2025, but since we do not provide them, we referred them to Jackson Bear Hugs. We continue to partner with Stark County Health Department and Safe Kids for our Childhood Injury Prevention Grant.

We completed 2 booster/car seat checks for partners, Stuckey Interfaith Child-care Center and United Methodist Church Child Care. We are also partnering with FEMI for the Car Seat Basics program, which is a simple, self-guided online training program that reviews the basics of car seat safety.

We continue to attend as a presenter at the FEMI Diaper Days held every 2 months. We educate parents on home safety risks, services ACHD provides, and provide info on the Car Seat Basics program. Project DAWN continues to be an active program and service. In 2025, 64 people were trained to use naloxone, 14 kits were placed in Nalox boxes plus 239 kits equaling a total of 253 kits distributed! There were also 3 overdose reversals reported. We expect all those numbers to be higher in 2026. While we had a few phone calls regarding the Newborn Home Visit Program, no visits were completed for 2025.



2025

## Vital Statistics

Total Deaths.....	253
Infant Deaths (less than 1 year).....	0
Fetal Deaths .....	2
Certified Copies of Births Issued...	1,861
Certified Copies of Deaths Issued...	1,099
Burial/Cremation Permits .....	174



## Immunization Clinic

Number of Clinics.....	147
Immunizations Administered ...	297

## Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV

Number of Clinics.....	49
Number of Visits .....	155

## Influenza and COVID-19 Clinic

Number of Clinics.....	70
Immunizations Administered ....	57

## Tuberculin Skin Testing

Number of Skin Tests.....	79
Number of tests read.....	58

## WIC Program

Number of Clinics.....	244
Number of Visits .....	3,572

## Home Visits

Children with Medical Handicaps Visits	4
Newborn Visits .....	0

## Lead Program

Elevated Levels Reported .....	10
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## Cribs for Kids

Cribs Classes.....	7
Cribs Distributed .....	8



COVID-19 .....	9
Chlamydia .....	100
Gonorrhea .....	29
Influenza A.....	40
Campylobacter .....	5
Hepatitis C Chronic .....	10
Strep Pneumoniae .....	4
Cryptosporidia.....	0
Group A Streptococcus .....	4
Lyme Disease .....	4
Salmonella.....	5
E. coli O157:H7.....	3
Hepatitis B.....	3
Influenza B .....	0
Syphilis.....	4
Giardia .....	1
Legionella.....	5
Hepatitis A .....	0
HIV .....	0
Meningitis-Viral .....	1
Perinatal Hepatitis B .....	0
Tuberculosis.....	0
Varicella .....	0



## Reported Communicable Diseases

Number of Birth Certificates issued in 2025 .....	1,861
Number of Death Certificates issued in 2025 .....	1,099
Number of Burial/Cremation Permits issued in 2025.....	174

# 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)

ACHD tested 19 clients in 2025 with no positive results. All clients seeking HIV testing will meet with a testing counselor. Our agency utilizes a rapid HIV test, which requires a drop of blood from the finger. Results are available 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 consists 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. ACHD also provides education about PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), which is a daily pill that can prevent HIV. Clients who are interested in PrEP are referred to the Early Intervention Services Navigator, through Canton City Public Health Department. This is a vital tool to prevent HIV, as well as, consistent and correct use of condoms. Free condoms are available at ACHD.

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



## Alliance City Health Department

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Web Site:

[www.cityofalliance.com/health](http://www.cityofalliance.com/health)

visit us on facebook

## Alliance City Health Department 2025 Financial Report

### 2025 Income

#### Vital Statistics/Administration

BirthandDeathCertificates...76,090.65

Workforce Development... 159,922.80

#### Nursing and Clinics

Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant...8,655.00

Medicaid Reimbursement... 1,948.42

CMH Reimbursement.....156.00

PrivateInsurance/ClientFees...2,081.40

MAC Program ..... 10,670.40

WIC Program ..... 163,603.37

HIV Prevention .....7,312.41

Injury Prevention.....1,775.00

COVID-19 ..... 1,255.69

Crib for Kids ..... 450.00

Client Fees.....4,880.00

One Ohio Grant .....69,867.91

#### Environmental Health

Food Licenses ..... 40,896.04

Plumbing Registration  
and Permits..... 15,350.00

Swimming Pool Licenses... 4,477.50

Environmental Health Fines... 100.00

Body Art Licenses ..... 1,537.50

Solid Waste Hauler Licenses... 150.00

Smoke Free Ohio Inspection... 175.00

State Subsidy..... 3,965.37

**Total Income** ..... 575,320.46

### 2025 Expenditures

Administrative and

Vital Statistics ..... 442,049.46

Public Health Nursing

Clinics/Grants ..... 586,006.99

Environmental Health .... 253,950.50

**Total Expenditures** .... 1,282,006.95

## Environmental Health Statistics for 2025

### Licensing Programs

Food Service/Retail Food Op... 146

Mobile Food Service ..... 17

Temporary Food Service..... 26

Vending Locations ..... 8

Swimming Pools..... 15

Plumbing Contractors ..... 48

Body Art Establishments ..... 5

### Food Protection Programs

Food Service/  
Retail Food Inspections ..... 422

Food Service/  
Retail Food Consultations ..... 21

Mobile, Vending and  
Temp. Insp. .... 57

Plan Reviews and Consultations... 12

### Public Health Nuisance/Housing Program

Number of Complaints..... 151

Number of Inspections..... 116

Number of Consultations ..... 8

### Rabies Control Program

Number of Bites/  
Exposures Reported..... 82

Number of Bites/Exposures  
Investigated ..... 82

Specimens Tested for Rabies... 11

Rabies Positive Animals..... 0

Post Exposure Rabies Treatment... 2

### School Environmental Program

Number of Inspections..... 12

Number of Consultations ..... 1

### Plumbing Program

Permits Issued ..... 51

Number of Inspections..... 103

### Housing Program

Number of Complaints..... 27

Number of Inspections..... 33

Number of Consultations ..... 4

Demolitions ..... 0

### Swimming Pool Program

Number of Inspections..... 12

Number of Consultations ..... 3

### Mosquito Control

Larviciding Treatments..... 36

Mosquito Spraying..... 4

### Body Art Program

Number of Inspections..... 6

Number of Consultations ..... 1

### Smoke Free Ohio

Number of Inspections..... 1

# 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, pediatricians, car seat programs, and substance abuse programs.



The Alliance WIC completed over 3,500 appointments in 2025. Alliance city WIC maintained an average of 860 participants, 120 participants over our assigned 740! In 2026, WIC is looking forward to additional support staff shared between all of the Stark County WIC offices to assist with our increased caseload. We are so honored to be serving Alliance area families providing nutrition education and breastfeeding support to families.

## 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

# YOUR CHILD CAN GET WIC BENEFITS UNTIL TURNING 5 YEARS OLD.



## Personnel

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