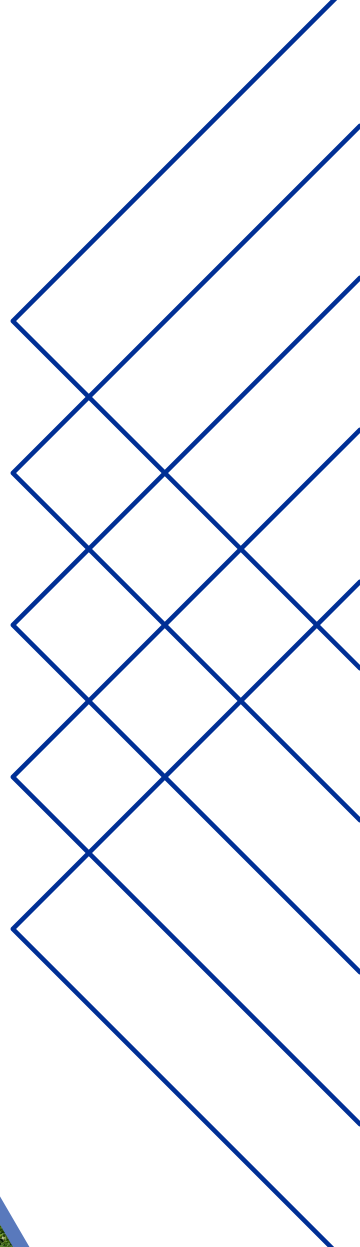




2024 Annual Report



**Inspiring Better
Choices for Health**

A Message from the Health Commissioner

Dear Community Members,

It is my privilege to present the 2024 Annual Report of Henry County Health Department. This report reflects our continued commitment to safeguarding and enhancing the health and well-being of every individual in our community.

Over the past year, our department has remained steadfast in our mission to inspire better choices for health. Whether addressing public health emergencies, advancing preventative care, or fostering partnerships across sectors, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to meet the evolving needs of our residents.



This year, we made strides in expanding our services with the introduction of a mobile clinic. Appropriately named HOWIE—Health On Wheels Is for Everyone—this 25-foot unit features two exam areas and brings public health services directly to our community. Additionally, our health department administered 3,398 vaccines, conducted 435 environmental inspections, and connected with Help Me Grow, Henry County Cares, and Complex Medical Help clients nearly 4,000 times. These achievements were made possible through the dedication of a top-notch staff, collaboration of community partners, local leaders, and, most importantly, the trust and engagement of the people we serve.

As we look forward, we remain committed to our values, Being Creative; Empowering Employees; Always Improving; Working as One; Accepting All; and Supportive Environment. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I invite you to review this report to learn more about our work and the impact we've made in 2024.

It is my honor to serve you as Health Commissioner.

In health,

Joy Ermie, MPH
Health Commissioner

Board of Health

Joel Miller, President

Ryan Zachrich, President Pro-Tempore

Scott Buddelmeyer

Melinda Fritz, MD

Mark Lange

Joel Stier

Char Weber

Medical Director

Anna McMaster, MD



Community Health Improvement

Henry County Health Partners, a diverse group of organizations and individuals coming together to improve the health of all Henry County residents, facilitated by Henry County Health Department, made significant progress toward reaching objectives outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). CHIP is a plan to strengthen local community efforts to improve the health and well-being of all who live there. The plan utilizes the health assessment data to identify focus areas to address. Below is a highlight of progress made by each workgroup in 2024:



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

OBJECTIVE: Increase the number of Henry County residents getting preventive care by providing equitable health care services people use and understand by 2028.

STRATEGIES: Increase culturally competent healthcare workforce across the county including in underserved communities, develop healthcare workforce, and reduce barriers and improve local access to health services.

2024 PROGRESS: Henry County Health Department addressed the gap in immunization services with the closure of Rite-Aid. The public health nursing department worked with various partners to ensure they were still provided flu and other vaccines on-site and continued to educate the community on the importance of vaccination. Henry County Hospital expanded their primary care office with the additional of several doctors including a pediatrician. This increases the total of primary care providers proudly serving Henry County residents. Also, Henry County Health Department's mobile unit, HOWIE was out in the community providing health education, naloxone, and vaccinations over 14 times this year! Over 200 vaccines were given through HOWIE this year with plans for additional outreach in 2025.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths by 2028.

STRATEGIES: Distribute Naloxone and provide education to reduce overdose deaths. Continue Quick Response Team efforts to encourage admission to recovery. Provide a Loved One's Support Group. Provide upstream initiatives to prevent substance misuse.

2024 PROGRESS: The Quick Response Team (HCHD, law enforcement, OhioGuidestone) continued its work by referring individuals to treatment and supporting those with substance use disorder and their loved ones. To further increase access to naloxone to reduce overdose deaths, 5 naloxone access cabinets were installed at local gas stations and truck stops. Additionally, based on feedback from the workgroup, all naloxone kits distributed through the Project DAWN program contain fentanyl test strips. The workgroup also continues to host Overdose Awareness Day, which was attended by over 180 people this year.

MENTAL HEALTH

OBJECTIVE: Reduce Henry County youth and adults with depression, and reduce Henry County youth and adults contemplating, attempting, and completing suicide by 2028.

STRATEGIES: Increase awareness of mental health, suicide, and depression. Increase awareness of community mental health resources. Increase community mental health resources. Fatality reviews for overdose and suicide.

2024 PROGRESS: Ohio Guidestone opened two behavioral health urgent cares serving the four county region of Henry, Defiance, Fulton, and Williams. One is located in Napoleon and the other in Defiance. Both of these urgent cares offer screenings, assist with families in crisis, provide resources for substance use and mental illness. Additionally, training continued to occur throughout Henry County to increase awareness of mental health and provide tools to assist those in crisis. Over the last year, Maumee Valley Guidance provided Signs of Suicide program in each of the four schools districts serving just over 1,500 students and the mental health first aid courses to a total of 97 residents. The health department provided adolescent resiliency training to 128 adults.

HOUSING

OBJECTIVE: Increase the availability of temporary housing solutions and develop affordable quality housing by 2028.

STRATEGIES: Increase the availability of temporary housing to reduce homelessness and increase affordable quality housing.

2024 PROGRESS: Agencies across Henry County continue to refer to NOCAC for housing assistance. At this time funds for Homelessness Prevention through the NOCAC program have been distributed. NOCAC continues to assist where possible and screen individuals for housing needs in the community. The workgroup continues to raise awareness about housing issues affecting residents in the community, including Together We Can Make A Difference hosting a community housing meeting in October.

Addressing Community Needs

Making Health Mobile

In 2024, HCHD rolled out our new mobile unit! “Health on Wheels Is for Everyone” or HOWIE, has gone out into our community to reach residents where they are. Having a mobile unit provides access to resources that the health department offers in locations throughout Henry County. This increases our ability to reach those who may face transportation barriers, conduct targeted outreach, and reduce gaps in healthcare and health education access.

There are two exam rooms inside HOWIE, which have allowed our Public Health Nurses to take vaccines out into the community. There were 12 vaccine events with HOWIE in 2024, that administered 201 vaccines to both adults and children. The PHN department also provided 348 vaccines in the community through 20 additional mobile opportunities.

HOWIE was also out in the community this year providing health education, materials, and information on other local resources at events including the Henry County Fair, Campbell’s Soup Family Day, Safety Day, and more. Project DAWN distribution events were also held with HOWIE, to provide naloxone kits and education to the community.



Adolescent Health Resiliency (AH) Grant



The Adolescent Health Resiliency (AH) grant received by the health department aims to equip adults who work with adolescents to be trauma-informed and to provide opportunities for safe and supportive connection to the community. Research has shown having a caring and stable relationship with a trusted adult can prevent childhood adversity, buffer against the harmful effects of trauma, and promote healing. The grant focuses on providing education on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma, resiliency, and how we as a community can support youth in our

community. Through a collaboration between Henry, Williams, and Putnam County health departments, the Northwest Ohio Resilient Youth Project, or NOROY, was established. To date, HCHD has conducted Adolescent Health Resilience trainings throughout the county, with 128 adults trained in trauma-informed care and resilience-based communication tools to support adolescents. The entire NOROY group has trained a total of 212 of adults. The team is working to add more health departments in the northwest Ohio region as partners to expand the reach of this program to more adults who work with youth.



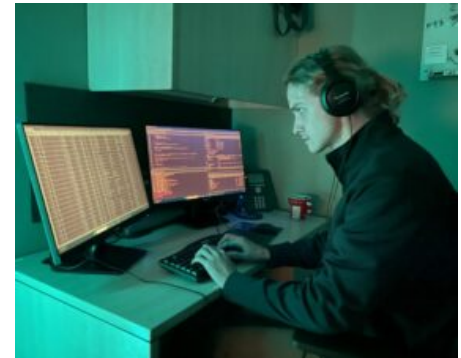
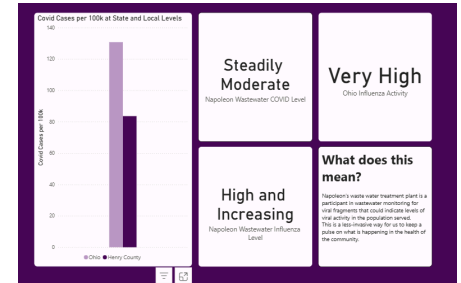
Addressing Community Needs

Health in Data

Data is an important part of public health as it informs decision-making, drives education topics, and helps track health trends. Having data available helps both individuals and organizations make informed decisions for their health, by understanding the trends that exist in their community and what they mean for individuals and public health.

HCHD has been working to make health data available to our community by creating health dashboards and reports that make the information easy to read and understand. These tools show data specific to Henry County, informing residents to the trends happening in the area.

These dashboards include data on current trends in respiratory health (COVID-19 and Influenza cases) and can be found on our website. Information is also being reported for schools, with reports on absenteeism, vaccinations, and more.



The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, that is organized locally to improve the health and safety of communities. MRC Volunteers work to improve local emergency response capabilities, build community preparedness and resilience, and promote public health within the community.

Henry County MRC Volunteers have both medical and non-medical backgrounds, allowing for a variety of volunteer opportunities and trainings. In 2024, MRC Volunteers were providing health education and resources at Malinta Fest, Henry County Fair, Overdose Awareness Day, and Immunization Nights. MRC Volunteers with medical backgrounds worked with our Public Health Nurses to provide immunizations throughout the community and educate on preventing the spread of germs with youth. Henry County MRC also received a grant in 2024, the MRC STTRONG Grant, to strengthen our unit through trainings, recruitment, and community engagement.

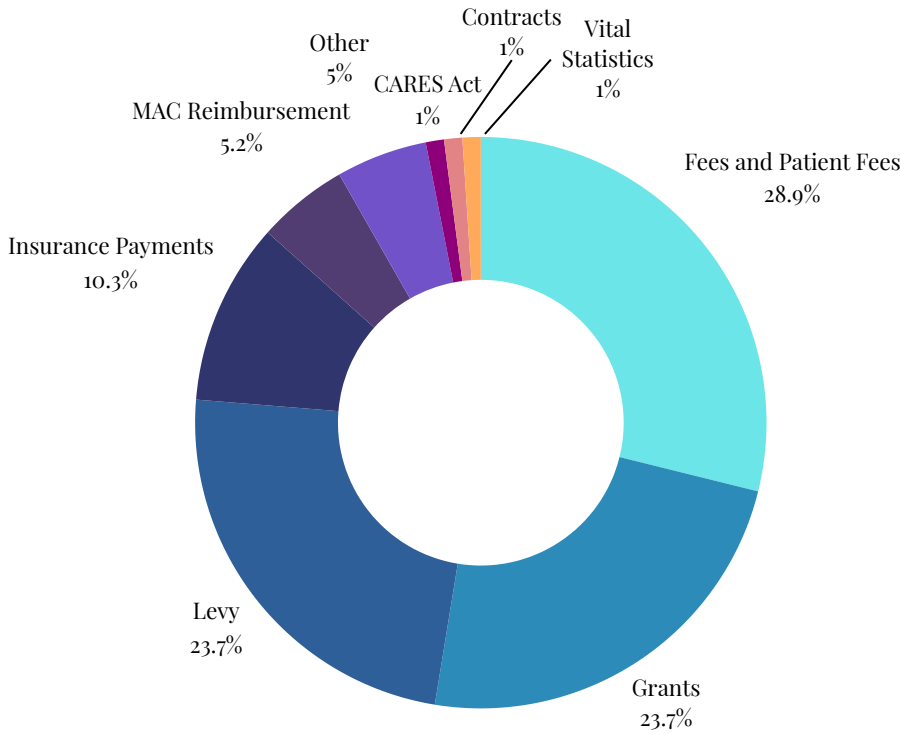
Serving Families

Rural areas tend to have less access to health education and health resources compared to urban areas. HCHD staff work to meet families and residents where they are to increase access to these resources, education materials, and our services. Help Me Grow Home Visiting staff provide in-home support to empower caregivers with skills, tools, and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their child. Additionally, these staff ensure kids are riding safe with car seats and safety checks, and providing resources such as formula, diapers, and pack 'n plays. Last year they served families across 5 counties through 1,760 visits. Henry County Cares staff work to connect families with a variety of resources including connections to medical professionals, establishing medical insurance, referrals to social service agencies and bilingual assistance for Spanish speakers. Last year they served 906 participants.



2024 Financial Report

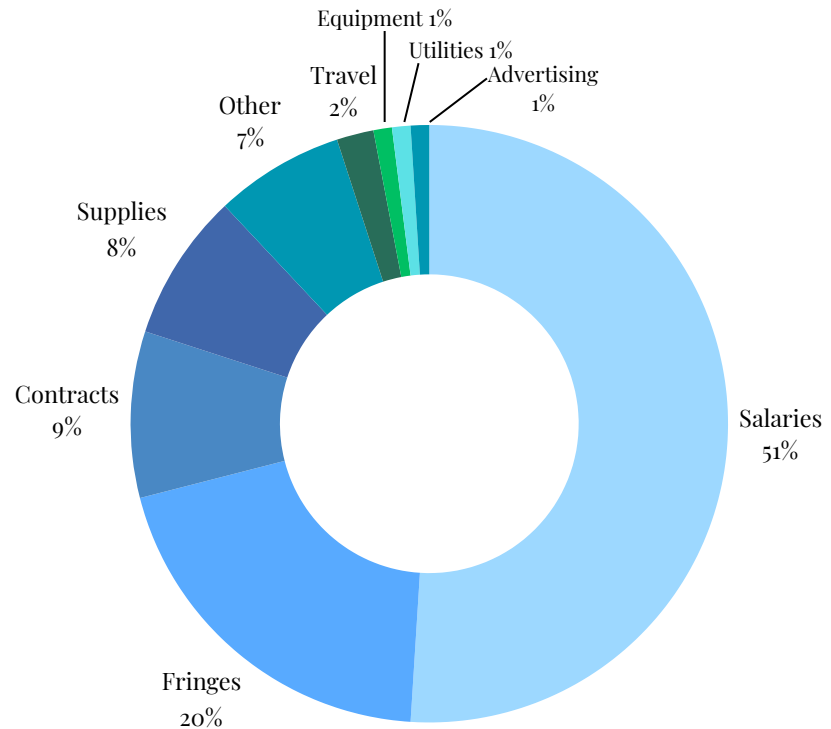
Revenue:



\$3,894,180
REVENUE

\$3,878,766
EXPENSES

Expenses:



REVENUE:

- **Fees:** Patient fees, Self Pay, Environmental Health Fees, Vital Statistics (28%)
- **Grants:** Safe Communities, Preparedness, Integrated Harm, Adolescent Health Resiliency, Vaccination Grant, Enhanced Operations, Workforce Development, Bridge Vaccination, Get Vaccinated, Cribs for Kids (23%)
- **Levy (23%)**
- **Insurance Payment:** Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance (10%)
- **MAC Reimbursement (5%)**
- **Other:** Donations, Cash advance paybacks, Internals reimbursements (5%)
- **CARES Act:** Henry County (1%)
- **Contracts (1%)**
- **Vital Statistics (1%)**

EXPENSES:

- **Salaries:** Salaries only (51%)
- **Fringes:** PERS, Medicare, health and Liability Insurance (20%)
- **Contracts:** Software, Custodial, Office Equipment (9%)
- **Supplies:** Medical, Office, Field Supplies, Vaccine, Cleaning (8%)
- **Other:** Cash advances/transfers (7%)
- **Travel:** Mileage, Meeting Expenses (2%)
- **Equipment:** Vehicles, Computers (1%)
- **Utilities:** Electric, Water, Gas, Telephone, Internet, Refuse (1%)
- **Advertising:** Print Radio, Social media (1%)

Health Trends in Henry County

Leading Causes of Death in Henry County

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Unintentional Injuries* and Cerebrovascular Disease/Stroke

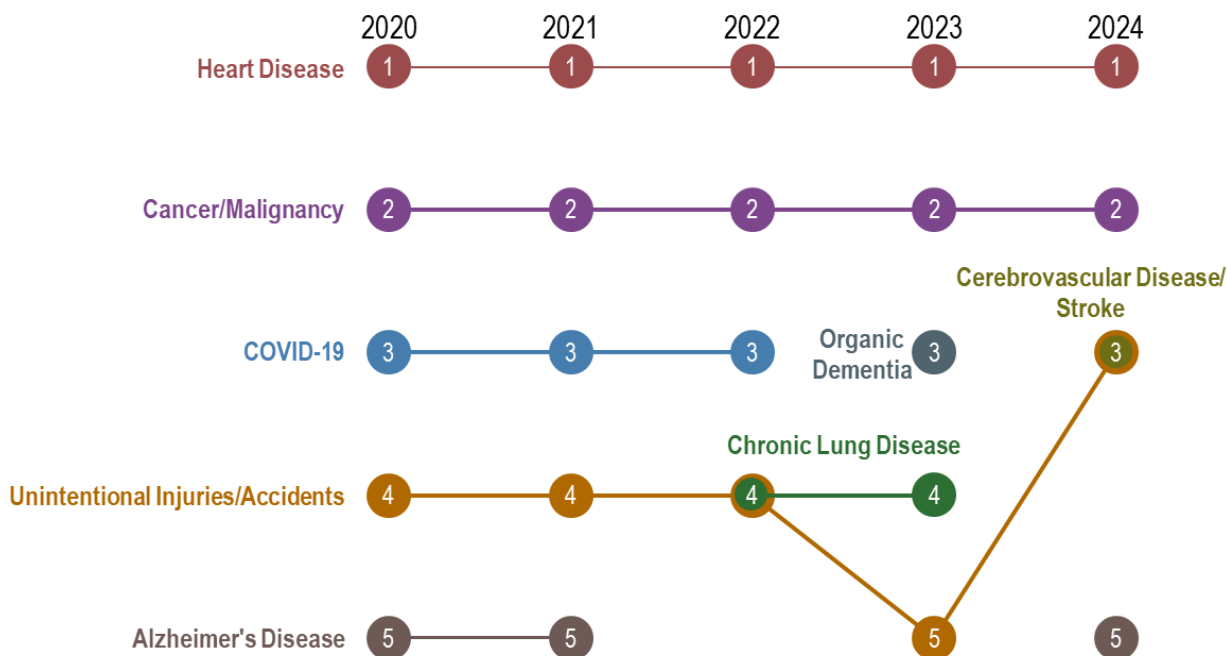
**includes motor vehicle crashes, drug overdose, drowning, fires, and falls*

Top 3 Communicable Diseases Reported in 2024:

1. COVID-19 (514)
2. Chlamydia (40)
3. Influenza-Associated Hospitalization (23)

5 Year Top 5 Leading Causes of Death in Henry County

This chart illustrates the leading causes of death for the past five years in Henry County. Overlapping circles indicate the same number of deaths for that year leading to a tie. With the data below, it is clear the impact that heart disease has a large impact on our residents. The chart also shows the impact that COVID-19 had on our community for three years.



335

Environmental Health Inspections

53

Animal Bites Reported

96.9%

Sewage Operation and Maintenance Permits Paid

906

Clients Enrolled in Henry County Cares

127

Cribs for Kids Cribettes Distributed

41

Car Seats Checked

1,702

Help Me Grow Visits

657

Death Certificates Issued

836

Birth Certificates Issued

325

Blood Pressure Checks

122

Active Clients for Complex Medical Help

622

School Screenings Performed

3,398

Vaccines Administered

227

School and Community Based Outreach Events

24

Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers

310

Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) Kits Distributed