



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022



*Inspiring Better Choices  
for Health*

# A Message from the Health Commissioner



For Henry County Health Department, 2022 was a year of re-establishing what public health looks like after a global pandemic. All staff were excited to get back out in the community offering services and education at fairs, festivals, and events. Our mobile vaccine clinic hit the streets and homebound vaccination visits saw an upswing. Henry County Health Department staff pushed themselves to meet the demands of their clients as the aftermath of social isolation and economic downturn affected so many after the past two years.

By getting back out in the community, re-engaging with partners, and moving forward with community wide initiatives we were able to hear from many voices that guided our way this past year. As you will read in the next few pages, a health department does more than most people realize. There is a reason why health departments can be found in each county in Ohio, and even in many cities around the state. A health department draws a picture of health for the community by surveying residents, gathering resources, and identifying gaps in services. Of course, we do not do the work alone. We rely heavily on community partnerships and promote all the great services that are provided by others in the county.

Health stretches far beyond just what you do for yourself, it is affected by every aspect of your life. It's about where you live, the air you breathe, the water you drink, the education you obtain, the way you spend your day, and the safety of your surroundings. Henry County has so many wonderful attributes that contribute to our overall wellness. We have beautiful open spaces, walking paths, a river to enjoy, fresh produce growing around us, wonderful social service agencies, and a health department dedicated to serving all residents.

Please take a few minutes and review many of the things we do for our community in this report. As always, feel free to contact us at anytime at [healthdept@henrycohd.org](mailto:healthdept@henrycohd.org), visit us at [www.henrycohd.org](http://www.henrycohd.org) or call 419-599-5545 to ask us questions or to learn more. We continue to be grateful for the community we serve, the partners we collaborate with, and the bright future ahead.

In health,

Joy Ermie, MPH  
Health Commissioner

Joel Miller, President  
Ryan Zachrich, President Pro Tempore  
Marilyn Bremer  
Scott Buddelmeyer  
Melinda Fritz, MD  
Sharon Miller  
Char Weber

## BOARD OF HEALTH

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# Strengthening the Health Department

## REACCREDITATION

The Henry County Health Department successfully achieved national reaccreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on August 25, 2022. The department is one of only seven reaccredited health departments in the entire state and the first in northwest Ohio. The department was initially accredited through PHAB on March 8, 2016. Feedback from the reaccreditation process showed “Henry County Health Department is a high functioning health department, exemplifying what the accreditation process is meant to do – improve activities and programs across the department, work to build community coalitions to take action to make meaningful progress on community health issues, and create a culture where continuous improvement is embedded in the fibers of everything the department does”. Additionally, achieving reaccreditation shows Henry County residents the commitment of the department to continue striving to better meet the health needs of those who live, work, and play in our communities. This recognition shows staff’s continued dedication to preventing injuries, protecting against diseases, promoting healthy choices, and improving overall health for all residents of Henry County.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

A community health assessment identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. The Health Department is the lead agency for conducting the health assessment and has been leading this process since 1999. In 2022, the department utilized the updated Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, which was updated to further embed health equity and community engagement. As part of this work, the department sought to increase the number of residents responding to the Community Health Status Assessment. This assessment collects quantitative data on the status of your community such as demographics, health status, and health



inequities. Increasing the number of respondents allows for a more accurate representation of the county. This was achieved by mailing a letter containing a survey link to adults aged 18 and older to all residential and PO Box holders in the county and publicizing the survey through a media campaign. For youth, an online survey in grades 6-12 in each of the four public schools was conducted. Both of these efforts led to more residents responding to the survey creating a more accurate picture of the health status of adults and youth in the county. Additionally, the department conducted a community profile assessment where key informant and focus group interviews were held to gather insights, expertise, and views of those living in different areas in the county. Through this work, the department learned about the unique attributes of each township and ways each community came together.

These assessments, along with other data collected by the health department is used to create a robust community health assessment report. This report is then used by the department, hospital, social service agencies, government entities, schools, residents and other various groups to inform programs and services. Additionally, a community-wide coalition facilitated by the health department focusing on improving health in the county, Henry County Health Partners, utilizes the information to carry out the Community Health Improvement Plan.

# Combating Infectious Diseases

## COVID-19



2022 continued the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, much was learned about the the spread of the disease. While COVID-19 continued to circulate globally, thanks to more tools including advancements in treatment and an updated booster COVID-19 severity was reduced and therefore created a significantly lower risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death compared to earlier in the pandemic. The health department staff and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers worked to provide the latest COVID booster vaccine to residents by holding mobile clinics and special clinics at the health department. Slowly throughout 2022, these tools helped residents, staff, and the overall community move to a point where COVID-19 no longer severely disrupts our daily lives.

## MONKEYPOX

In late May 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began investigating a confirmed case of monkeypox in the United States. By the end of August, monkeypox cases were identified in all 50 states. While no cases were reported in Henry County, staff worked to educate local providers and the public on signs, symptoms, and spread. With monkeypox normally occurring outside of the United States, this increased the attention of the importance of travelers vaccines. Our nurses worked to re-establish our travelers vaccine clinic as it had been limited due to COVID. This service offers vaccinations needed for travel overseas to help prevent residents from getting diseases not often found in the U.S.

### HENRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRAVELERS VACCINES

Traveling soon? Make sure you have all the vaccines you need. Henry County Health Department can provide you with important vaccines you need to protect yourself from diseases.

- Vaccines Offered:
- Typhoid Fever
- Yellow Fever
- Rabies
- Routine Vaccinations

Call us today to schedule your appointment!  
419-599-5545



## MEASLES

A measles outbreak started occurring in central Ohio beginning in early November 2022. This outbreak was associated with a childcare facility leading to children primarily being affected. As measles is very contagious and the outbreak starting before the Thanksgiving holiday, staff worked to educate residents about the situation. Additionally, since measles is a vaccine-preventable disease, education highlighted the importance of measles vaccination for children. While no cases occurred in Henry County during the outbreak, it helped raise awareness of infant and child immunizations and their role in preventing disease within a community.

### VACCINATION SCHEDULE

**WHY VACCINES MATTER**

Thanks to widespread vaccination programs, several diseases that can infect our children have been eliminated. However, outbreaks of preventable diseases still occur and threaten the health of our children every day.

Immunizations against these serious diseases are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

**SKIPPING VACCINATION IS A SERIOUS RISK**

Children that are too young to be vaccinated or have health conditions are vulnerable to dangerous, even deadly infections. If we stopped vaccinating, even the few cases we have in the United States could very quickly lead to thousands of cases.

BIRTH	2 MONTHS	4 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B DTaP Hib PCV13 IPV	RV DTaP Hib PCV13 IPV	Hepatitis B RV DTaP Hib PCV13 IPV
12 MONTHS	15 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	4 YEARS
Hepatitis A Hib MMR Varicella	DTaP	Hepatitis A	DTaP IPV MMR Varicella
11-12 YEARS	16-18 YEARS	Hib- haemophilus influenzae type B PCV13- pneumococcal conjugate vaccine IPV- inactivated polio vaccine MMR- measles, mumps, rubella DTaP- diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis RV- rotavirus vaccine Tdap- tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis HPV- human papillomavirus MenACWY- meningococcal ACWY Men B- meningitis B	

Children 6 months and older are encouraged to receive an annual influenza vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine.

# 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 2022:



## 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.

**2021 PROGRESS:** Identified need for additional community health worker and changes to funding system. Recognized need to promote community health worker (CHW) services through local healthcare providers and community leaders. Hired Spanish speaking community health worker.

**2022 PROGRESS:** Henry County Cares, the community health worker program (CHW), has grown through partnership referrals from Henry County Hospital and Community Health Services. An additional bilingual staff was hired. New funding was established, and partnership growth was evident in the increase of partner referrals and education. Henry County Hospital worked with partners, including local schools, to promote healthcare workforce development.

## SUBSTANCE MISUSE

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

**STRATEGIES:** Establish naloxone education and distribution plan. Create a Quick Response Team.

**2021 PROGRESS:** Launched Project DAWN - began distributing naloxone kits and training individuals on how to use them. Began planning process for Quick Response Team.

**2022 PROGRESS:** Distribution of naloxone continued to spread throughout the community with 269 kits provided. Overdose Awareness Day was proclaimed by local leaders. Quick Response Team (QRT) team was created to reach out to substance users by breaking down barriers to recovery. QRT team is a partnership with HCHD, law enforcement, and Ohio Guidestone. Local residents began a support group, Finding Our Way..., for those experiencing loss due to overdose.

## ECONOMIC STABILITY

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve the economic stability of Henry County by creating a stable workforce through access to equitable jobs with opportunities for advancement, available daycare for all shifts, and affordable housing.

**STRATEGIES:** Develop sector-based workforce initiatives. Improve and expand childcare. Increase affordable housing.

**2021 PROGRESS:** Researched local daycare availability and needs. Evaluated Employee Advocate program to support residents obtain gainful employment. Worked with local leaders to survey and assess current housing options.

**2022 PROGRESS:** Partnership programming continued to advance education regarding local employment opportunities. Soul Food Café partnered with youth to grow employment experience and education. Barriers for daycare were identified and continue to be discussed and investigated. Work to increase affordable housing continues.

## 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.

**2021 PROGRESS:** Completed readiness assessment of suicide and depression. Developed plans to expand #4YourMentalHealth program. Identified NOCAC Resource Guide as listing for all services.

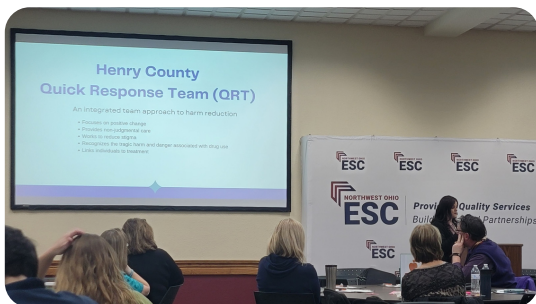
**2022 PROGRESS:** Henry County Resource Guide was completed and distributed throughout the county through hard copies, business cards, and QR code/online use. #4YourMentalHealth attended 10 community events to promote mental health resources. Suicide Prevention Coalition held annual breakfast targeted to schools and businesses.

# Addressing Community Needs

## REDUCING DRUG OVERDOSES



The substance misuse workgroup's overall goal is to reduce the number of unintentional drug overdoses in Henry County by 2028. In order to accomplish this, the group selected several strategies. One of which was the development of a Quick Response Team. A Quick Response Team, or QRT, provides confidential help for opioid overdose survivors by connecting them to treatment and recovery support services. Henry County's QRT was developed in partnership with the health department, local law enforcement, and Ohio Guidestone. The team consists of a public health nurse from the health department, a peer recovery specialist from Ohio Guidestone, and a deputy from Henry County Sheriff's Office. This team receives notification of an overdose and makes every effort to connect with the individual. The team provides education and encourages them to seek treatment. Since the team began, there have been 9 referrals, 13 contact attempts, 7 information packets left for individuals, multiple follow-ups, and 1 individual currently in treatment.



Another strategy was to establish a naloxone education and distribution program. Henry County Health Department became a registered Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) site that distributes free naloxone kits in 2021. Since this program was established, distribution of Project DAWN kits has greatly increased. During 2022, kits were distributed to residents, through training provided to social service agencies, and an established relationship with Ohio Guidestone Renewal Center. In 2022, 250 Project DAWN kits have been provided to the community and an additional 76 kits to first responders around the county.



## LINKING RESIDENTS TO SERVICES

Henry County Health Department, along with the access to healthcare workgroup, identified the need for a community health worker program back in 2016 to assist with improving access to healthcare for residents. Henry County Cares, the county's community health worker (CHW) program, leads clients down pathways to better health by becoming self-sufficient through effective coaching, positive engagement, linking to resources, and advocating to assist in meeting and sustaining their basic needs. In 2022, a need was identified to begin serving Spanish-speaking clients and two bilingual CHWs were added. Additionally the scope of the program was increased from assisting residents to access healthcare to 20 pathways of health, including but not limited to: adult learning, behavioral health, family planning, housing, immunization referral, establishing a medical home, medication assessment, social service referral, and tobacco cessation. Henry County Cares works closely with local healthcare providers and social service agencies to identify residents who can benefit from these services.

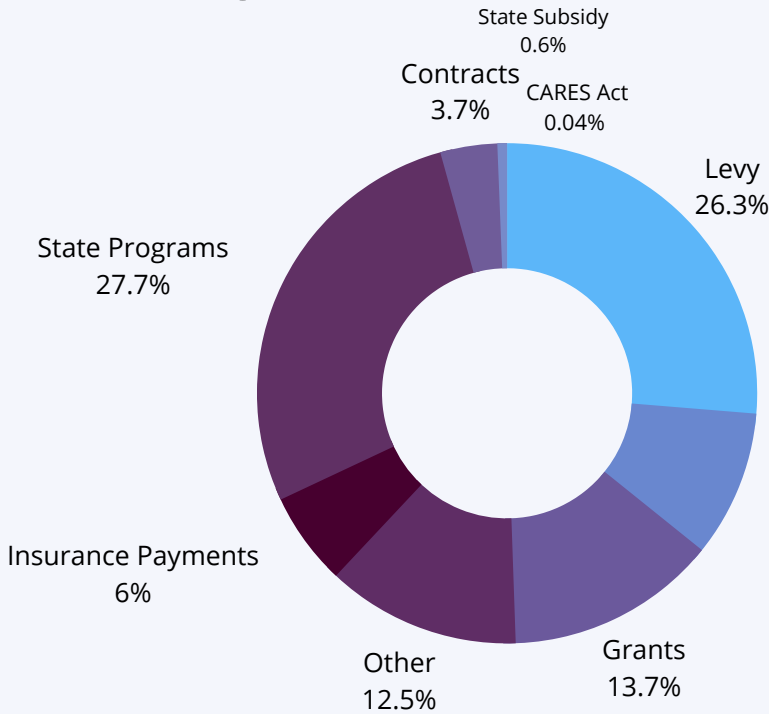


# THE YEAR'S Financial Report

**\$3,432,436**  
REVENUE

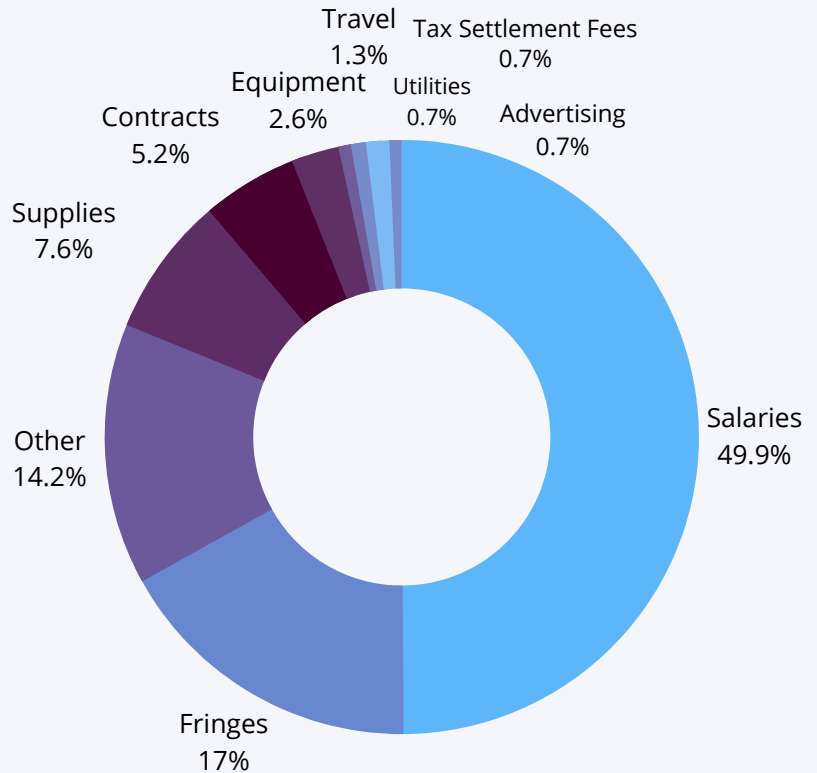
**\$3,408,440**  
EXPENSES

## REVENUE



Fees & Patient Fees  
9.5%

## EXPENSES

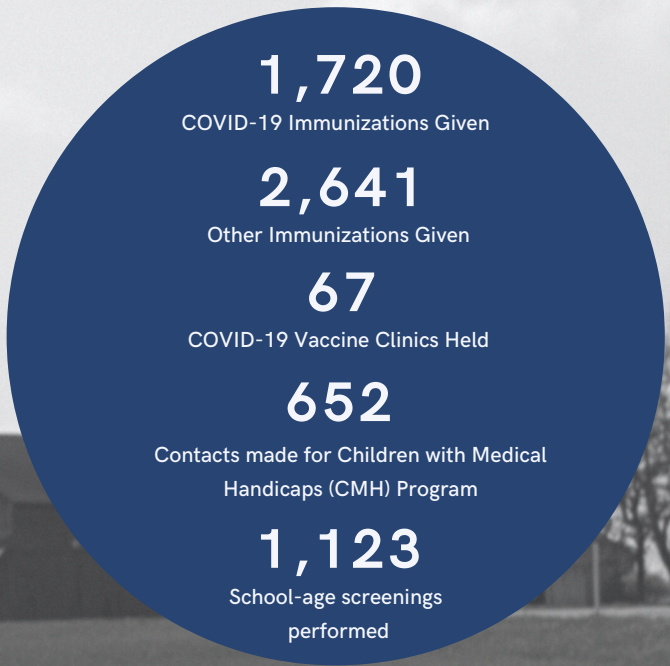
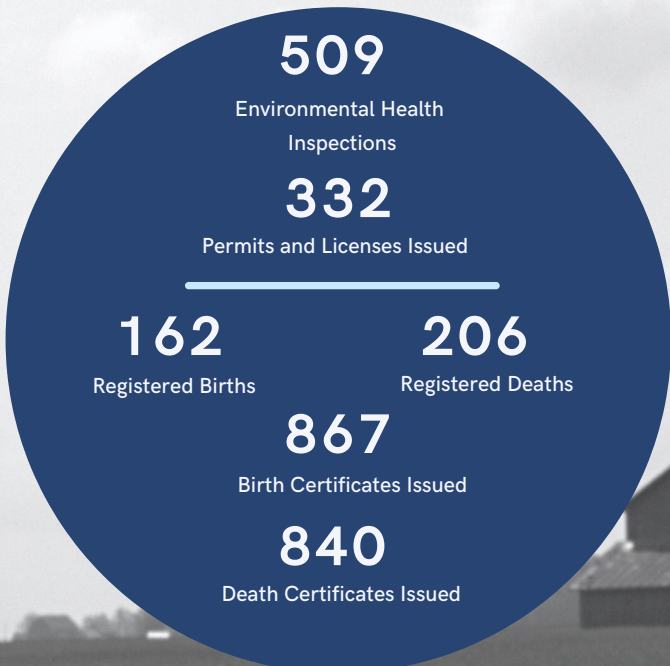


**Revenue:**

- Insurance Payment: Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance
- Levy: 1.2mil levy
- Other: Donations, Cash advance paybacks, Internal reimbursements
- State programs: CMH and Home Visiting
- Fees: Patient fees, Self Pay, Environmental Health Fees, Vital Statistics
- Grants: Preparedness, Safe Communities, Get Vaccinated, COVID-19 Response
- CARES Act: Henry County

**Expenses:**

- Salaries: Salaries only
- Fringes: PERS, Medicare, Health and Liability Insurance
- Supplies: Medical, Office, Field Supplies, Vaccine, Cleaning
- Equipment: Vehicles, Computers
- Contracts: Software, Custodial, Office Equipment
- Utilities: Electric, Water, Gas, Telephone, Internet, Refuse
- Other: Cash advances/transfers
- Travel: Mileage, Meeting expenses
- Advertising: Print, Radio, Social media



- Leading Causes of Death in Henry County**
1. Heart disease (77)
  2. Cancer (71)
  3. Covid-19 (19)
  4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases (17) and Cerebrovascular Disease (17)

- Top 3 Communicable Diseases Reported in 2022:**
1. Covid-19 (2,833)
  2. Chlamydia (52)
  3. Gonorrhea (16) and Hepatitis C (16)