



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



*Inspiring Better Choices
for Health*

A Message from the Health Commissioner



I am pleased to present you with Henry County Health Department’s 2023 Annual Report. As you will read over the next several pages, all the work we do is focused on Inspiring Better Choices for Health leading to an overall healthier community.

Though this annual report is simply a snapshot of the many services we deliver, I think you’ll find it obvious the level of dedication across our staff. From our prevention work, to serving those with the greatest needs in our county, to linking residents with existing resources, the health department staff come to work each day with a fire in their bellies and passion in their hearts. The level of dedication expands beyond the walls of the health department to all of our wonderful partners in the county. It is only through this dedicated commitment to improved health that we can conduct our work to recognize and overcome challenges.

Henry County Health Department continues to be grateful for the community we serve, the partners we collaborate with, and the bright future ahead. Should you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns I am happy to talk with you. You may stop by the Health Department at 1843 Oakwood Avenue or call me directly at 419-591-3055.

It is my privilege to serve you as Health Commissioner.

In health,

Joy Ermie, MPH
Health Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH



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Strengthening the Health Department

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Henry County Health Department Strategic Plan defines for residents, partnering agencies and organizations, and our staff where our agency is headed for the next 5 years, how we plan to achieve those future goals, and our dedication to continuing to improve the community’s health. Henry County Health Department began the Strategic Planning Process in the summer of 2023. Wass Works Consulting was secured to assist the agency through the process. Health Department administration then selected a Strategic Planning Committee which represented a cross section of employees across the agency. As part of the process, an environmental scan was conducted looking at customer experiences, employee satisfaction, partner opinions, and an overall Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) by staff, Board of Health, and partners. Based on these results the Strategic Planning Committee analyzed emerging trends and current issues to develop priorities to focus on for the next five years. From those discussions the committee developed the following three strategic priorities areas: Workforce Development; Community Engagement; and Fiscal Viability. These 3 priorities will guide the goals of Performance Management, Workforce Development, and Quality Improvement activities moving forward. Based on these goals, objectives and action steps were developed to guide the health department in implementation.

OUR PRIORITIES



Workforce Development



Community Engagement



Fiscal Viability

LARGEST GRANT REVENUE

In 2023, the health department received it’s largest grant revenue in the last several years of \$787,958. Through grant funding, a large portion of operation expenses such as staff salaries, equipment, and supplies were covered which allowed levy funds to be utilized for more public outreach and necessary building expenses. This increase helped support education to students about disease prevention, enhance training for staff, and purchase a mobile unit to bring public health services to all areas of the county. Additionally, two new grants were awarded in 2023. The first is the Integrated Harm Reduction grant, through the Ohio Department of Health. This grant supports the work of enhancing and expanding community-based overdose education and naloxone distribution programs and other harm reduction services. The second new grant awarded was Adolescent Health Resiliency, which aims to equip adults who work with adolescents to be trauma-informed and to provide opportunities for a safe and supportive connection to trusted adults within the community. Both of these new grants help support the work of the Community Health Improvement Plan, which works to address top community issues including mental health and substance misuse.



Combating Diseases



TEACHING KIDS TO BE GERMBUSTERS

Stopping the spread of germs is an important way to prevent illness across the community. This is especially important in schools where germs can spread more easily. Our public health nursing department visited preschool and kindergarten classes in each of the four school districts and parochial schools. Students learned about the importance of handwashing, how germs are spread, the right way to wash hands, and ways to stop the spread of illness at school and home. Each student was able to try Glo Germ which turns the invisible into “germs you can see!” Several classrooms also received information on immunizations and how they work to keep them healthy. Every child received an age-appropriate book about immunizations to take home. The intention with the take-home books is for the conversation to occur at home between students and their parents about immunizations at an age-appropriate level. Through this effort, 648 students were educated this year on being a germbuster and ways to stay healthy.

HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

The Sewage Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program protects water quality by tracking and monitoring the proper operation and maintenance of household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) or “septic systems”. This program is required by the State of Ohio and ensures these systems are not harmful to the environment by creating a public health nuisance. When a septic system is not working properly it can pollute the ground and surface water leading to illnesses such as *E. coli* and gastroenteritis. In the Spring of 2023, the Henry County Board of Health adopted the local regulation directing how the O&M program would proceed and defined the operation permit terms and conditions. The program is only for households in Henry County that have a household sewage treatment system and is being rolled out to each township over the next five years.



GETTING RESIDENTS A MEDICAL HOME

Henry County Cares, the county's community health worker (CHW) program, leads clients down pathways to better health. Part of this work is connecting clients to the care they need including a medical home, assisting with transportation to appointments, and ensuring clients get medical services to prevent and reduce chronic diseases. Over the last year, our CHWs supported 729 clients in achieving better health including gaining health insurance, establishing a medical home, and getting connected to specialty care. This work ensures individuals receive preventative services to diagnose health issues, manage their chronic conditions, and achieve better health.



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 2023:



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.

2023 PROGRESS: Henry County Cares has continued to develop referral sources to reach the client that they can help the most. The hospital has created a streamlined process for local health care providers to request prescriptions and provider paperwork to the clients in their first language. This will increase understanding and compliance to improve overall health. The hospital, health department, and federally qualified health care centers are using online translation services with a tablet to provide more equitable and quality communication in a patient's first language. The health department and federally qualified health center have employed bilingual staff to better serve the increase Spanish speaking population.

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.

2023 PROGRESS: A newly formed group in January, this group initially studied data regarding homelessness and those unhoused in Henry County. They were able to identify Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) as the regional providers for those who are housing fragile through the Path Center and supportive housing programming. This group is looking at how those services are being utilized by Henry County. In addition, the group is also looking at strategies to increase quality and affordable housing in Henry County by reaching out and advocating to local, regional and state leaders.

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.

2023 PROGRESS: Continued to promote population mental health education and promote local resources through Suicide Awareness Breakfast, education booths, Mental Health 1st Aid training (youth & adults), #4YourMentalHealth campaign, and Peer to Peer at Patrick Henry Schools. Established Peer to Peer in Napoleon Area Schools. A new program, Grief Recovery Method, began to support those experiencing loss. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic opened in Henry County by Ohio Guidestone.

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.

2023 PROGRESS: 12 reversals = 12 lives saved. Funding was secured for naloxone distribution through an ODH grant. 401 kits distributed throughout the course of the year. A partnership was established with Henry County Hospital Emergency Department to distribute naloxone to patients. The Quick Response Team established in 2022, received 10 referrals from law enforcement and referred 2 to treatment. Overdose Awareness Day was celebrated including 150 community members and partners in attendance. Upstream initiatives were introduced in 2023 to reduce drug use, including a Substance Use Awareness Breakfast, *Dead on Arrival* video shared, and *Henry County, Let's Talk* introduced a common language for mental health and substance misuse to schools and community.

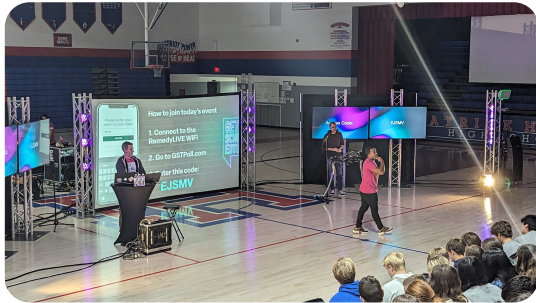
Addressing Community Needs



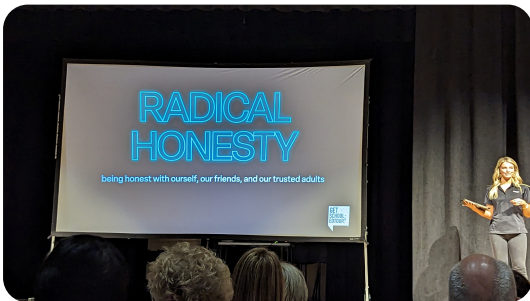
HENRY COUNTY, LET'S TALK

The Henry County, Let's Talk initiative was started by Henry County Health Partners, a coalition of organizations to improve the overall health of all residents. Based on data, the group recognized the issues faced by the county in both mental health and substance misuse. Their goal was to get people talking to improve community resilience through both school and community education events.

Over the course of six weeks, events were held for both youth and residents in each of the four school districts. These events were conducted by RemedyLIVE, a non-profit organization that uses the power of technology to create meaningful conversations around mental health. Both the community and youth events focused on educating on positive coping skills to better manage stress, anxiety, and overall mental health. The community events also offered the opportunity for residents to speak with representatives from local agencies providing behavioral health services and resources.



The Henry County Let's Talk initiative brought the community together to break down stigma surrounding mental health by establishing a common language between youth and adults and increase protective factors by building a strong supportive community. The program educated 355 adults and 2,097 students. The initiative is currently ongoing with a social media campaign encouraging community members to continue the conversation and use positive coping strategies to improve their mental health.



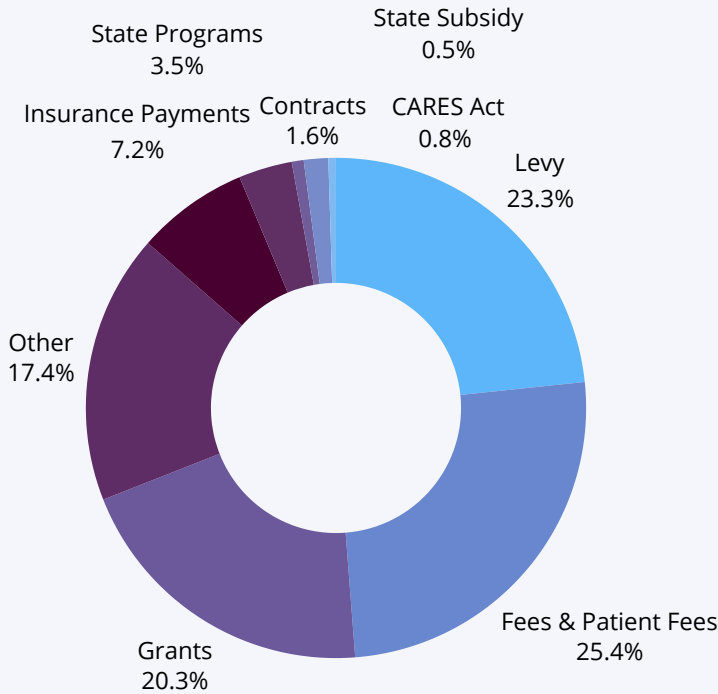
PROVIDING SAFETY ITEMS TO PARENTS

Children are our future and keeping them safe is a number one priority of parents and the community around them. Through a grant from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, our Help Me Grow families and other families in need are able to receive safety products. Many families in our program live in an apartment or rental space and do not have appropriate access to smoke or carbon monoxide detectors. Our experienced car seat technicians often encounter families with children riding in the wrong type of car seat or an expired car seat. These grant funds help provide proper safety seats, baby gates, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, child safety locks for cabinets, and first aid kits. Over the last year, 132 different safety items were distributed to Help Me Grow families and other families in need in Henry County. Additionally, our car seat technicians distributed 82 car seats to keep our Henry County kids riding safely. Through these efforts, more children in Henry County now have access to necessary safety items so they can live happy, healthy, and safe lives.



THE YEAR'S Financial Report

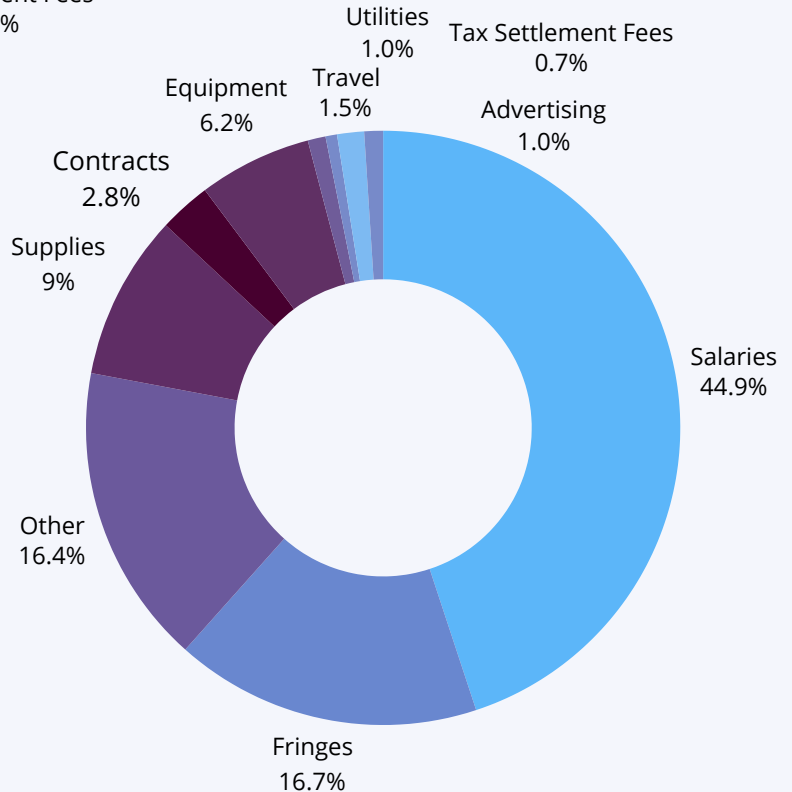
REVENUE



\$3,889,726
REVENUE

\$3,997,467
EXPENSES

EXPENSES

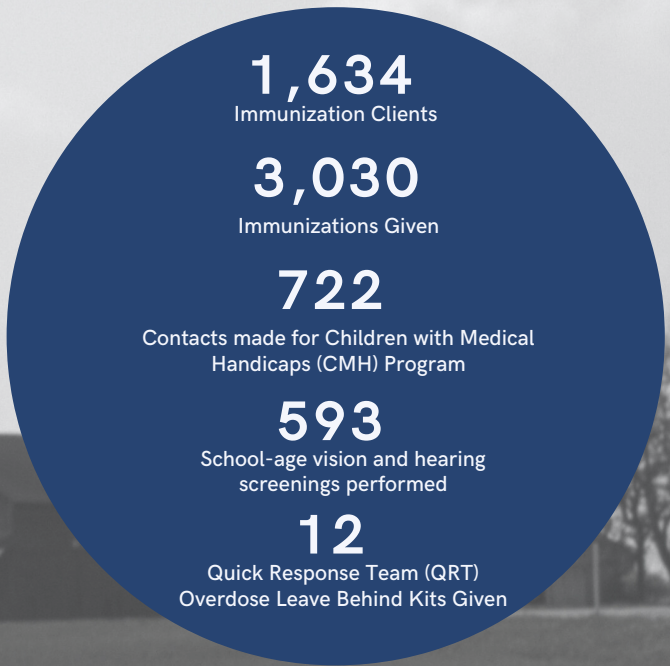
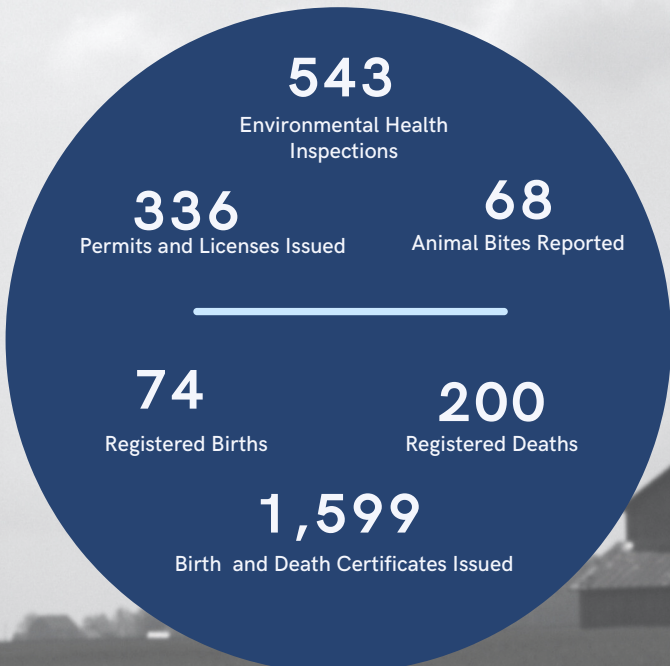


Revenue:

- 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 (87)
- 2. Cancer (61)
- 3. Accidents* (24)

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

Top 3 Communicable Diseases Reported in 2023:

- 1. Covid-19 (759)
- 2. Chlamydia (60)
- 3. Campylobacteriosis (13)