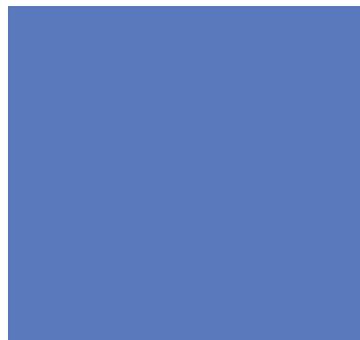
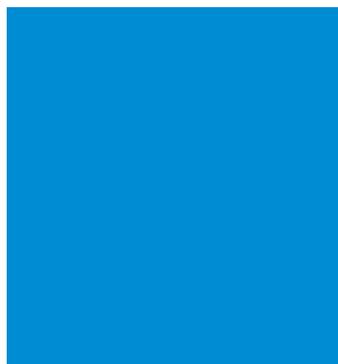




2025 Annual Report

Inspiring Better
Choices for Health



A Message from the Health Commissioner

Dear Community Members,

It continues to be an honor serving Henry County as Health Commissioner. Entering into my 6th year on the job (and 12th at the health department) I thank the staff and Board of Health for their unwavering service, our dedicated partners for their commitment to overall well-being, and the community for their trust in us.

Though public health is a difficult field to describe in a few words, the overall premise of our public service is to **Prevent, Promote, and Protect**.

Throughout this report you will see many of the ways the dedicated health department staff do just that.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in building a healthier place for all.

Joy Ermie, MPH

Health Commissioner



PREVENT

- Adolescent Health Resiliency
- Car Seat Checks & Distribution
- Cribs for Kids
- Immunizations
- Naloxone Distribution
- Traffic Safety Education
- Help Me Grow Home Visiting
- Complex Medical Help
- Water Testing



PROMOTE

- Breastfeeding Support
- Community Health Data
- Community Health Coalitions
- Health Education
- Henry County Cares
- School Nursing



PROTECT

- Animal Bite Investigations
- Campground Inspections
- Disease Investigation
- Emergency Preparedness
- Fatality Reviews
- Nuisance Investigations
- Public Pool Inspections
- Restaurant Inspections
- Septic System Inspections & Permits
- Birth & Death Certificates

About Henry County Health Department

Henry County Health Department (HCHD) has been serving Henry County for 105 years and has six sections that support our services. These sections are:

- **Administrative Services**
- **Community Health Services**
- **Environmental Health**
- **Henry County Cares**
- **Help Me Grow Home Visiting**
- **Public Health Nursing**

A seven-member Board of Health oversees the operations and sets the policies of the Health Department.

It is the responsibility of the Henry County District Advisory Council (DAC), which is made up of the chairman of each township, mayors of each village, and a county commissioner, to appoint the Board of Health members during the annual meeting, held at the end of each March.

The Board of Health must have one physician and three at-large members represented. The Board then appoints a Health Commissioner as its executive officer to direct the daily operations of the department and to carry out all orders of the Board and the Ohio Department of Health.



Board of Health

- Scott Buddelmeyer
- Melinda Fritz, MD
- Mark Lange
- Joel Miller*
- Ginny Minnick
- Joel Stier
- Char Weber
- Ryan Zachrich

*Joel Miller was a BOH member until June 2025

Medical Director

Anna McMaster, MD



Get in Contact with HCHD

 1843 Oakwood Ave. Napoleon, Ohio

 @henrycountyhealthdepartment

 419-599-5545

 @henrycountyhealthdepartment

 healthdept@henrycohd.org

 @HenryCountyHD



Community Health Improvement



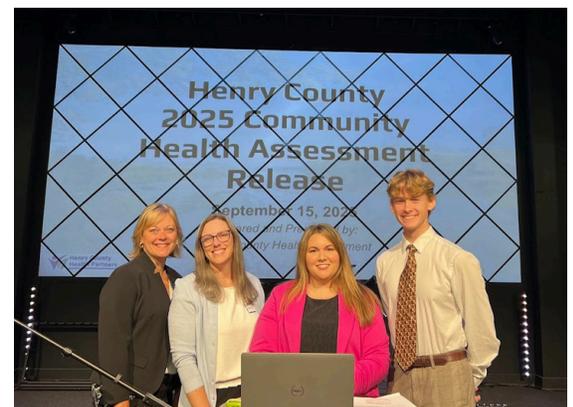
Henry County Health Partners, facilitated by the Henry County Health Department, completed the 2023–2025 Community Health Improvement Plan which focused on Access to Care, Housing, Mental Health, and Substance Misuse.

- Collaborative efforts improved access by connecting agencies and the HCHD Community Health Worker (CHW) program to help residents overcome barriers related to language, transportation, and insurance. Henry County Hospital added providers and enhanced prescription labeling, OhioGuidestone launched Ready Care Clinics, Recovery Services of NW Ohio started drop-in hours, and HCHD expanded outreach through a new mobile unit.
- Housing partners strengthened understanding of local needs, improved homelessness documentation, and identified future funding opportunities.
- Mental health initiatives included creating a countywide resource guide, advancing the Let's Talk awareness campaign, and expanding Mental Health First Aid, Critical Intervention Team (CIT), and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training.
- Substance misuse efforts increased community access to naloxone, expanded the regionally recognized QRT model, and added supports for families affected by overdose while promoting treatment and recovery services.

These accomplishments are thanks to the work completed over the three-year period by Henry County Health Partners, a diverse group of agencies and individuals coming together to improve the health of all Henry County residents.

Community Health Assessment Rollout

In September 2025, HCHD staff presented the Community Health Assessment (CHA) findings to stakeholders and residents. The CHA organizes local health data into three areas highlighting the county's health status, strengths, and challenges. These health data are utilized by Henry County Health Partners to determine priorities for the upcoming community health improvement cycle.



Bethany Wachter, MPH, Dr. Krista Westrick-Payne, PhD, and Lukas Wise compiled the assessment using resident surveys, feedback gathered through focus groups, and community data. Key 2025 CHA takeaways included heart disease, lung disease, and cerebrovascular disease as leading causes of death; adults reporting an average of 5.5 poor mental health days in the past month; and a 43% adult obesity rate, which exceeds state and national levels. Community feedback also noted limited sober social options and the prevalence of alcohol-centered events.

To see the full 2025 Community Health Assessment Report visit <https://henrycohd.org/cha/>.

Partnerships

Working alongside local partners allows us to amplify our reach, share resources, and strengthen the health of our community. By collaborating with community organizations, schools, nonprofits, local law enforcement, and more, we ensure that public health efforts are coordinated, responsive, and rooted in the needs of the people we serve.



In the pictures above, Safe Communities Coalition members from local law enforcement, first responders, and Henry County Hospital participated in the **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Event** providing attention to safe driving in Henry County.

At the **2025 Overdose Awareness Day**, there were a variety of partner organizations providing resources, speaking, and showing up for those in our community impacted by overdose.



Staff went to the **Campbell's Soup health fair** providing blood pressure checks, vaccines, and education.



At the **Taking It to the Streets event**, HCHD partnered with Henry County Hospital to bring physicians directly to residents. Other partners provided resources for the event, including Maumee Valley Guidance and St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Partnerships

Partnerships impact all parts of HCHD, including our employee wellness! The HCHD Wellness Committee hosts “Lunch & Learns” where staff can take their lunch breaks and learn something new, explore their creativity, and more!

Nature’s Nursery came to teach us about the work that they do in the community and brought some of their animal ambassadors, including Jefferson (the American Kestrel) and Lefty (the Eastern Box Turtle)!



Soaring Arts Studio came to teach painting classes. In the pictures to the right, staff created a starry night scene inside a forest and during another session we made snowmen!



Raising Awareness

All year long, HCHD staff shine a spotlight on key health topics. Whether we’re wearing colors in support or providing education in the community, our mission remains the same: Inspire Better Choices for Health.



Red for American Heart Month



Green for Mental Health Month



Yellow for Suicide Prevention Day



Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Addressing Community Needs

Complex Medical Help (CMH)

Complex Medical Help (CMH) is an Ohio Department of Health program available to families in Ohio, through the work of local health department nurses. CMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payments for the services their children need.

Through the CMH, there are three programs to help children with special health care needs and each program focuses on a different area of specialty.

- Diagnostic Program- children can receive services for up to nine months (per diagnosis), to rule out or diagnose a special health care need or establish a plan of treatment.
- The Treatment Program- children can receive services for one year, for treatment of an eligible condition. If the child remains eligible, services can be renewed until the child reaches age 25.
- The Service Coordination program- a limited program available to children, with specific conditions, who are seen by a team of providers approved by CMH for service coordination.

HCHD Public Health Nurses work with families in the CMH program to identify eligible children, fill out forms and explain paperwork, locate CMH-approved providers, and make referrals to doctors, pharmacies, durable medical equipment providers, and other services.

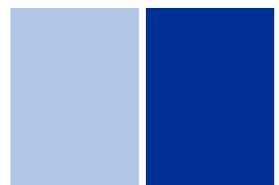
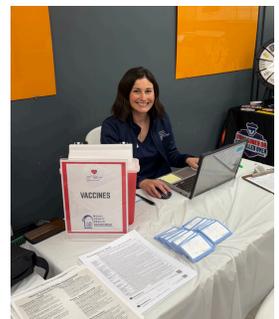
Throughout 2025, the CMH program held five outreach events across the county and guided two Henry County Hospital physicians to enroll and become active CMH providers.

Vaccine Viewpoint

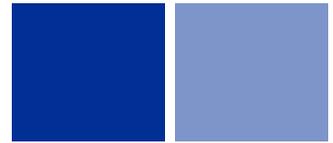
Vaccines have received significant public attention in recent years, which is understandable given their essential role in protecting individual and community health. With so much information available, sometimes conflicting, HCHD aims to clearly share its position.

We believe that vaccinating children and adults is one of the most effective preventive health measures. Vaccines are safe, well-studied, and effective in protecting individuals, families, and the broader community from serious illness. Recommended schedules are based on decades of rigorous research and ongoing safety monitoring. We recognize that healthcare decisions are personal, yet these choices also affect the wider community, especially infants, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems who rely on community protection.

Our goal is to provide clear, evidence-based information so families can make informed decisions, and we encourage anyone with questions to speak with their healthcare provider. This position reflects our responsibility to safeguard the health of the entire community.

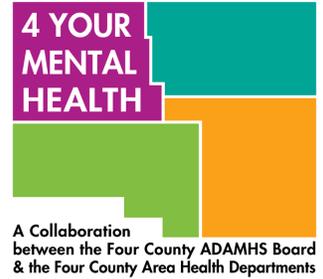


Addressing Community Needs



CredibleMind

CredibleMind was launched in August of 2025, providing free, confidential mental well-being resources to the four-county area. The Four County ADAMHS board and the four area health departments (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams) brought this resource to the area to encourage all residents to take an active role in their mental well-being journey.



The CredibleMind website provides residents with assessments, practices, blogs, podcasts, articles, videos, and community resources. This website is for everyone. Whether you are looking to find a way to cope with a stressful situation, communicate with someone experiencing a difficult time, or just feeling down – this website has something for you. Users can save resources and get more personalized content each time they visit after creating an account. Create your account at 4YMH.crediblemind.com.



From the launch of CredibleMind in August of 2025 to the end of December 2025, 3,486 users connected with the website across the four-county area. Available 24/7/365, the CredibleMind resource brings easy to obtain mental well-being resources to Henry County and the surrounding area, encouraging residents to take charge of their mental health.



Meeting Residents Where They Are

Meeting the needs of the community means ensuring HCHD is meeting residents where they are, both figuratively and literally. Connecting with people in places they find comfortable helps build trust and improves access to services. Through events such as Taking It to the Streets, Storytime & Supporting Kids Health, and Hamler Fest, staff offered convenient opportunities for residents to receive health education, vaccines, and other resources. Recognizing that transportation can be a barrier in rural communities, HCHD uses its mobile unit, HOWIE (Health On Wheels Is for Everyone), to bring services directly to individuals and support healthier outcomes across the county. We continue to meet people where they are through our Homebound Vaccine program, Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Henry County Cares. Through these programs HCHD staff visit families and residents in their homes to provide services and connect them to needed resources.



Community Engagement

Community engagement is a large part of the work we do to Inspire Better Choices for Health. Check out some community events from 2025, where the health department staff shared and educated on resources and services.



Safety Day at Kid's Kingdom



Operation BRIDGE



Henry County Fair



Overdose Awareness Day



Senior Center Health Fair



Click It or Ticket at Patrick Henry

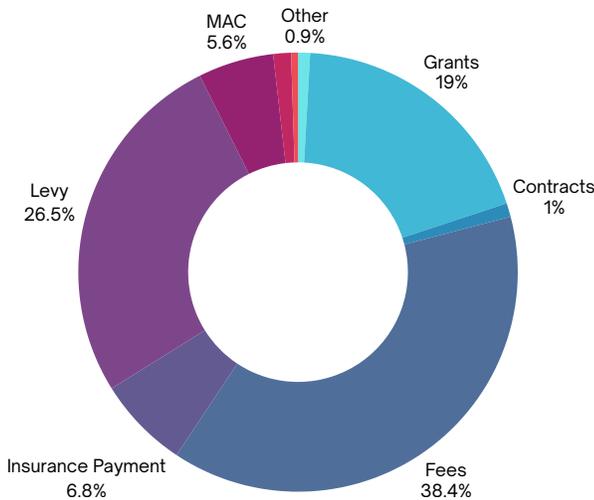


Taking it to the Streets Event

2025 Financial Report

Along with our financial information below, it is important to recognize the financial funding that we have lost throughout 2025. Several grants were cut in funding at all levels of government, creating a ripple effect down to the local level.

REVENUES:

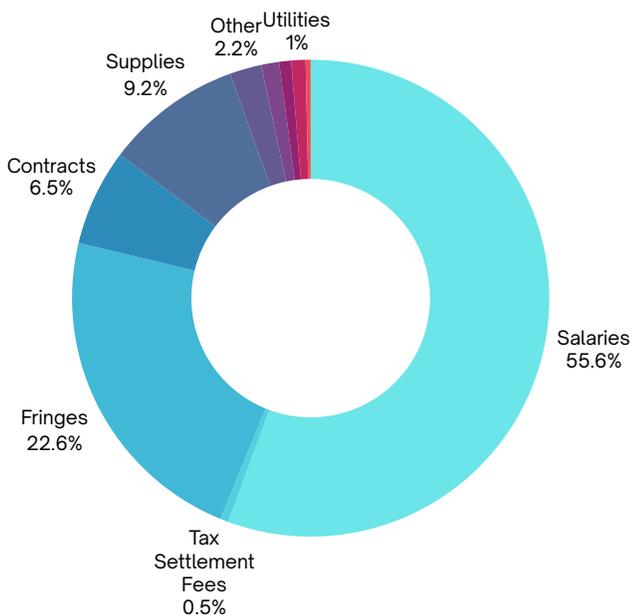


REVENUE:

- **Fees:** Patient fees, Self Pay, Environmental Health Fees, Vital Statistics **(38%)**
- **Levy (27%)**
- **Grants:** Safe Communities, Emergency Preparedness, Integrated Harm Reduction, Adolescent Health Resiliency, Workforce Development, Bridge Vaccination, Get Vaccinated, Enhanced Operations, Cribs for Kids **(19%)**
- **Insurance Payment:** Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance **(7%)**
- **Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) Reimbursement (6%)**
- **Other:** Donations, Cash advance paybacks, Internals reimbursements **(1%)**
- **Contracts (1%)**
- **State Subsidy (1%)**
- **Vital Statistics (1%)**

\$3,451,210
REVENUE

EXPENSES:



EXPENSES:

- **Salaries:** Salaries only **(56%)**
- **Fringes:** PERS, Medicare, Health and Liability Insurance **(23%)**
- **Contracts:** Software, Custodial, Office Equipment **(7%)**
- **Supplies:** Medical, Office, Field Supplies, Vaccines, Cleaning **(9%)**
- **Other:** Cash advances/transfers **(2%)**
- **Travel:** Mileage, Meeting Expenses **(1%)**
- **Equipment:** Vehicles, Computers **(1%)**
- **Utilities:** Electric, Water, Gas, Telephone, Internet, Refuse **(1%)**
- **Advertising:** Print, Radio, Social media **(0.3%)**

\$3,453,850
EXPENSES

Staff Spotlight

Our staff is the heart of our organization, and they are the driving factor for Inspiring Better Choices for Health. Check out some of our achievements from throughout the year!



Trae Gulgin, Lukas Wise, and Bethany Wachter presented at **NACCHO 360** in Anaheim, California, on technology and data modernization in rural health departments.



Amanda Mazur became a **Certified Lactation Counselor** to provide breastfeeding support.



Maggie Wielinski, Vanessa Williams, and Allyson Smith attended the Ohio Public Health Association's **2025 Public Health Nursing and Epidemiology Conference** in Kent, Ohio.



Susan Davis, Margarita Concepcion, and Jessica Ames attended the **National Association of Community Health Workers 2025 Conference** in Columbus, Ohio.



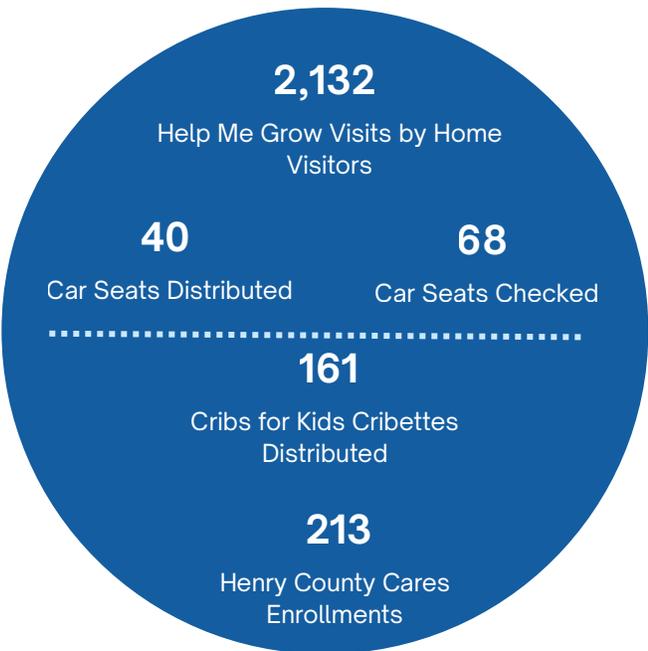
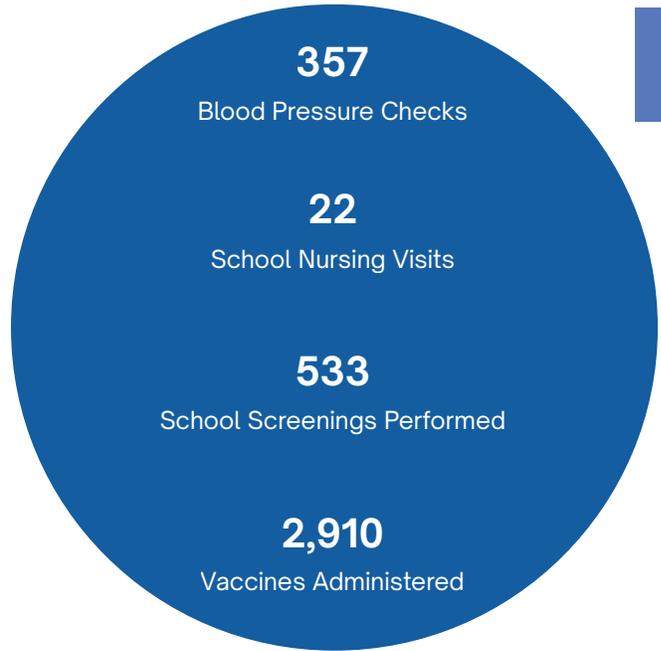
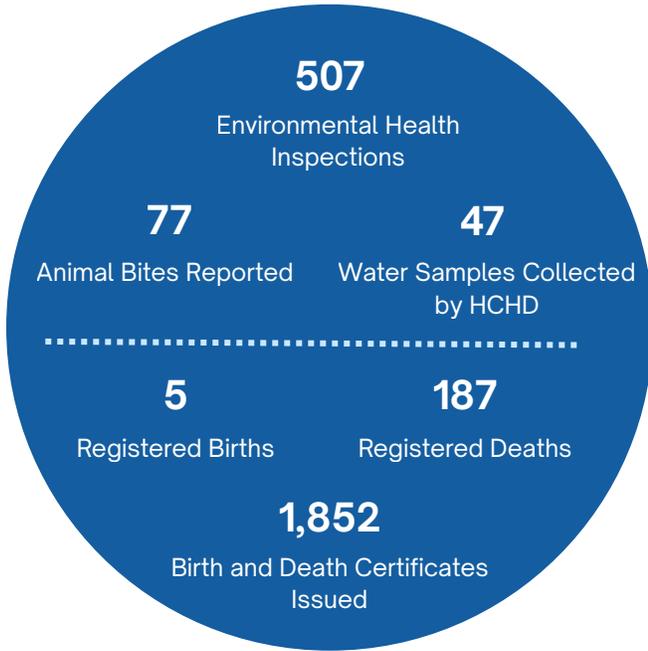
Emily Dearth received a scholarship to attend the **MRC Leadership Workshop** and **NACCHO Preparedness Summit** in San Antonio, Texas.



Jessica Buhрман and Marissa Hergert became certified for **Prenatal Fit Testing** to ensure proper seatbelt use while pregnant. Marissa also became **Safe Travel for All Children (STAC)** certified for adaptive transportation safety.

Tiffany Day and Joy Ermie presented a 3-part series on **Succession Planning for Public Health Agencies** in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

Health Trends in Henry County



- Leading Causes of Death in Henry County**
-
1. Heart Disease
 2. Cancer
 3. Unintentional injuries*
 4. Cerebrovascular Disease
 5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
- *includes motor vehicle crashes, drug overdose, drowning, fires, and falls

- Top Communicable Diseases Reported in 2025:**
-
1. COVID-19*
 2. Influenza Hospitalizations
 3. Chlamydia
 4. Gonorrhea
 4. Campylobacteriosis
- *It is important to note that as of October 1, 2025, the guidance on reporting COVID-19 changed. This change made only COVID-19 hospitalizations reportable.