



**AUGLAIZE COUNTY**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*prevent. promote. protect.*

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

---

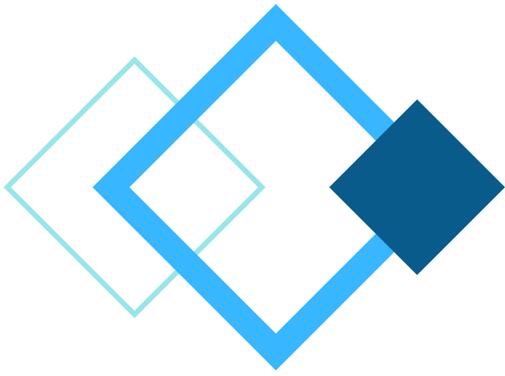
Auglaize County  
Health Department

 419-738-3410

 [www.auglaizehealth.org](http://www.auglaizehealth.org)

 [information@auglaizehealth.org](mailto:information@auglaizehealth.org)

 813 Defiance St., Wapakoneta, OH 45895



**VISION:** Auglaize County Health Department will be a leader in guiding the community to a healthier and safer future.

**MISSION:** To create a healthier Auglaize County through exceptional public health services focused on promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting those who live, work, and visit our community.

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

The Auglaize County Health Department (ACHD) has completed 104 years of operation and we will continue our efforts to better our community.

ACHD has always strived to be a trusted source of information for Auglaize County and will continue to do so. In recent years, there has been an increase of inaccurate and misleading information being shared through social media. Unfortunately, this misinformation has caused damage that will impact our community for years to come. Vaccination rates for children have dropped in recent years and there has been an increase in vaccine preventable disease amongst younger children both locally and nationwide.

Many diseases that were once common are rarely seen today because of vaccines. Because of their absence, it is easier to think these diseases are not serious threats and vaccines are no longer needed. These diseases are serious and are not gone. They are just kept in check by vaccines. Many children could become seriously ill and, in some cases, die from vaccine preventable diseases. That's why it is vitally important for parents to ensure their children are up to date on their vaccines prior to starting kindergarten.

A website, created by the United States Department of Health & Human Services, offers unbiased information and studies for parents to read and decide the best steps for their children: <https://www.hhs.gov/letsgetreal>. Parents have many big decisions to make for their children and it's important to have access to trusted sources of information.

The ACHD staff and myself look forward to continuing our long tradition of providing trusted services to our Auglaize County residents. Please make sure to see our other programs highlighted in this Annual Report or visit our website for additional details.

Sincerely,  
Oliver Fisher MS, REHS  
Auglaize County Health Commissioner

Board of Health Members		
President	Daniel Harpster, DVM	Waynesfield
Vice President	Kimberly Prueter	New Bremen
Members	Thomas Freytag, MD	Wapakoneta
	Kay Schmiesing	Minster
	Kyle Maus, DO	Wapakoneta

As established by Ohio Law, the Board of Health is the policy making body with authority to adopt regulations and implement programs to promote public health within the district.

Members are appointed by the District Advisory Council (DAC), which has the responsibility of appointing Board of Health members and bringing concerns and recommendations on health issues to the Board's attention. The DAC meets annually and is composed of the chairman of each township trustees, the mayor of each municipality, and the president of the Auglaize County Board of Commissioners.

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

For the past nine years, we have discussed the requirement for Auglaize County to adopt an Operations and Maintenance Program for all existing systems in the county. Last year, the environmental health staff completed a survey of the public's opinions on how this program should be ran. There were some positive points, but the resounding response was that the Operations and Maintenance Program seemed like a "money grab" and was an unnecessary expense for the community.

After this survey, we revised Operations and Maintenance to something that would:

- Be respectful of private property rights
- Be cost effective
- Be beneficial to the homeowner
- Be beneficial to the environmental
- Meet the State of Ohio requirements

After carefully considering these points, the following program was developed. For the Operations and Maintenance Program, there will be two types of O/M permits. The first permit will cover systems that utilize motors to treat the sewage. This will add less than 20 new systems to the current annual aeration permits. The systems that use motors to treat their sewage will continue to be charged \$30.00 per year for the health department to complete an inspection or hire a private company to do the inspection annually.

All other systems will be placed on an 8 year permit that will cost \$0.00. The environmental health team has selected 8 years because according to a study by The Ohio State University, the average house in Auglaize County should be pumped once every 8 years. All systems not on a city or county sewer district will be issued an O/M permit that will last for 8 years. The cost for these permits will be \$0.00 (zero dollars) for as long as possible. These permits will not require anyone from the health department to step onto your property. Property owners will only need to pump the system one time during the O/M permit period. A licensed sewage hauler will send the health department a report when this is completed.

Cooperation between the health department and community members will be essential for keeping the cost at \$0.00. The fee can only remain at zero dollars, if owners join us in keeping these systems working as long as possible. Please pump your system as soon as possible after receiving your O/M permit in the mail.

## O/M Township Rollout Schedule:

2026: Salem, Noble	2030: Logan, Pusheta
2027: St. Marys, German	2031: Duchouquet
2028: Washington, Jackson	2032: Union, Goshen
2029: Moulton	2033: Wayne, Clay

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS

Environmental Health 2024		
Food Protection (Licenses Issued)	Food Service Operations:	165
	Retail Food Establishment:	116
	Mobile:	21
	Temporary:	77
	Vending:	25
	Inspections:	641
Household Sewage Disposal	Site Evaluations:	23
	Permits to Install:	31
	Aerations Operation Permits:	202
	Inspections:	206
	Consultations:	16
	Service Providers:	11
	Installers:	24
Private Water	New Well Permits:	57
	Alteration Permits:	0
	Inspections:	65
	Water Samples Requested:	23
	Sealing Only Permits:	8
Health Nuisances	Investigations:	22
Parks/Camps	Campgrounds Licensed:	7
	Resident Day Camps Licensed:	2
	Inspections:	32
	Temporary Camps:	10
Public Swimming Pools	Pools Licensed:	30
	Inspections:	78
Solid Waste	Liquid Waste Haulers:	16
Rabies Control	Animal Bites Reported:	68
	Tested Animals for Rabies:	5
	Positive Rabies Test:	0
Schools	Facilities Inspected:	14
	Number of Inspections:	28
Body Art	Facilities Licensed:	7

# HEALTH PROMOTION AND PLANNING

In 2024, the Health Promotion and Planning Department was developed by combining emergency preparedness and community outreach into a single department. The Health Promotion and Planning Department was created as a way to streamline health education, public health accreditation, and public health emergency planning. The department's goal is to increase ACHD's presence in the community by increasing health education, participating and hosting community events, and continuing to perform outreach that is already happening.

The Health Promotion and Planning team runs the health department's social media accounts which have grown to include Instagram! These social media accounts are utilized to share health department events and information with the public. Visit our Facebook or Instagram for up to date event information and public health resources.

In 2023, the Auglaize County Health Department achieved initial accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. As an accredited health department, ACHD has proven their ability to provide essential public health services to county residents. The Health Promotion and Planning Department is responsible for continuing the Auglaize County Health Department's history of excellence by working towards reaccreditation in 2027!

The department is also responsible for emergency planning and coordination within the Auglaize County Health Department. Emergency planning at the health department is focused on biological incidents that may require a public health response such as a point of dispensing site (POD). Our full staff and administration are trained in several areas of public health emergency response. Additionally, our staff gets first hand experience running a POD during our yearly Flu Drive Thru Clinic at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds.

## HELP ME GROW HOME VISITING

Home Visiting is a voluntary, home-based program offered at no cost to your family. Our home visitor is a well-trained professional who uses a compassionate approach that offers information and support during pregnancy, and empowers you as the parent with skills, tools, and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of your child through the earliest years of a child's critical development.

The program is available for pregnant women and families with young children (birth to 3 years old). To learn more about the program or to refer a family, please call our office and ask for the Home Visiting Program.

# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The goal of the public health Nursing Department is to promote health and prevent disease throughout Auglaize County. To accomplish this goal, we work collectively as a team to provide the community with a variety of services to assist with their health needs. Programs we offer include Complex Medical Help (CMH), Communicable Disease (CD), and the Immunization Program.

The CMH Program, formerly known as the Children with Medical Handicaps Program, underwent a name change and is now known as the Complex Medical Help Program. Despite the name change, this program's main goal is to help families of children with special healthcare needs get linked to valuable resources to help them financially cover these medical needs. Additionally, the CMH Program saw the maximum age of eligibility for the program increase to 25 years old.

The Communicable Disease (CD) Program strives to keep our residents safe by monitoring and preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Our team works closely with community partners, nursing homes, and schools to provide the necessary education and tools to keep Auglaize County residents safe. Our communicable disease team is responsible for monitoring community levels of influenza, sharing resources about infectious diseases, and providing support during disease outbreaks.

Another essential program at the Auglaize County Health Department is the Immunization Program. Immunizations are said to be one of the most effective tools in preventing communicable disease and play a significant role in reducing illness. Our Immunization Program met a lot of challenges this year as we saw a large increase in misinformation spread throughout the community which ultimately led to an increase in vaccine hesitancy. This is particularly concerning as a decrease in community vaccination numbers leads to an increase in vaccine preventable diseases spreading throughout the community. In an effort to assist with the decreasing vaccine coverage, the Immunization Department made some changes to help encourage vaccination. A few examples include flexible scheduling on non-clinic days, walk-in appointments, on-site vaccination clinics, and attendance at community events to help provide education from trusted sources.

Moving into the new year, the Nursing Department has big plans to increase community based education efforts, increase partnership opportunities with community partners, and improve access to care opportunities for all communities within the county.

# WIC

## (WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN)

The goal of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) is to improve the health of pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, supplemental nutritious foods, iron-fortified formula, as well as referrals to healthcare and human services.

During the past year, the WIC Program co-hosted an annual breastfeeding latch-on event, provided WIC information to our local providers, offered a feeding station at the county fair, and began to promote the Mamava app. This app helps breastfeeding and pumping parents find approved lactation spaces wherever they go!

The WIC Program's goals for 2025 are to continue providing exceptional nutrition education to residents of Auglaize County, co-hosting and attending the latch-on event and community baby showers, and promoting agencies in our county that provide safe, comfortable, and private areas to breastfeed or pump. Come visit us at the Auglaize County Fair in 2025!

## VITAL STATISTICS

The Vital Statistics Department is responsible for filing and preserving Auglaize County's birth and death records from December of 1908 to present. The office is responsible for issuing statewide certified birth certificates and Auglaize County certified death certificates.

In 2024, the Vital Statistics Department raised the price of certified birth and death certificates for the first time in 15 years. The price has been raised from \$22.00 to \$25.00 effective July 1st. Additionally, it is now easier than ever to add a father to a birth certificate and does not require a notary! We can assist parents with this application process in office.

Vital Statistics 2024	
Total Births	292
Females:	124
Males:	168
Homebirths:	12
Sets of Multiples:	4
Total Deaths	410
Females:	204
Males:	206
Fetal Deaths:	7
Certified Copies Issued	3,009
Birth:	1,265
Death:	1,744
Burial Permits Issued	72

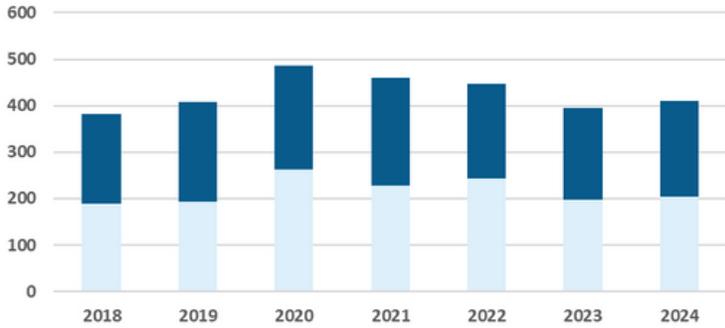
Leading Causes of Death in Auglaize County in 2024	
Heart Disease	136
Malignant Neoplasm	81
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	21
Alzheimer's Disease	19
Cerebrovascular Disease	17
Diabetes Mellitus	15
Accident (unintentional injuries)	12
Suicide	9
Essential Hypertension & Hypertensive Renal Disease	6
Parkinson's Disease	4
COVID-19	3

*Published March 2025*

# PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS

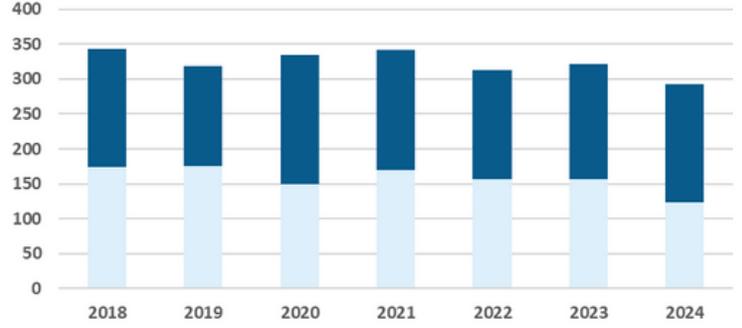
### Rates of Death by Gender

■ Females ■ Males



### Rates of Birth by Gender

■ Females ■ Males



## Public Health Services 2024

Reportable Diseases		1,221
	Class A:	0
	Class B:	1,210
	Class C/Outbreaks:	11
Non Confirmed Case Management		75
School Nursing	Vision Screenings:	218
	Kindergarten Screenings:	32
Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)	Avg Monthly Caseload:	156
	Total Client Visits:	194
Lead Case Management		0
Injury Prevention	Convertible Car Seats:	20
	Booster Seats:	4
Help Me Grow Home Visits		512

## Immunization Department 2024

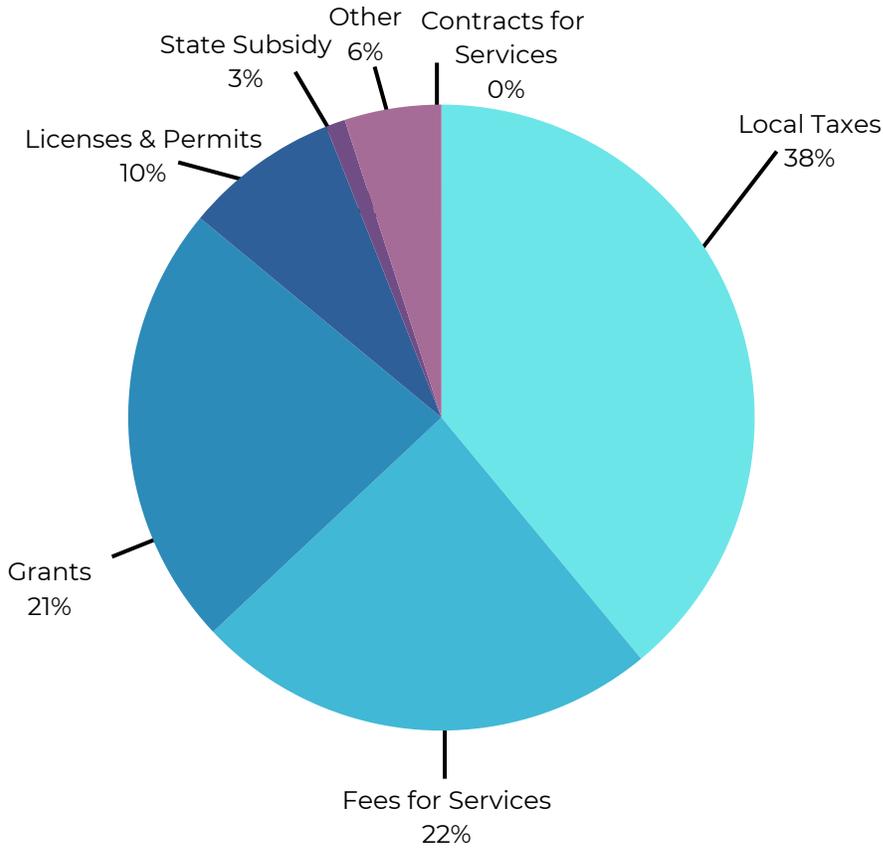
Clinics Held	165
Clients Served	2,027
Services Provided	3,925 (146 COVID-19   499 Flu   173 TB Skin Tests   3,107 Vaccines)

## Top 5 Reported Diseases 2024

1	COVID-19
2	Chlamydia
3	Influenza
4	Campylobacteriosis
5	Gonorrhea

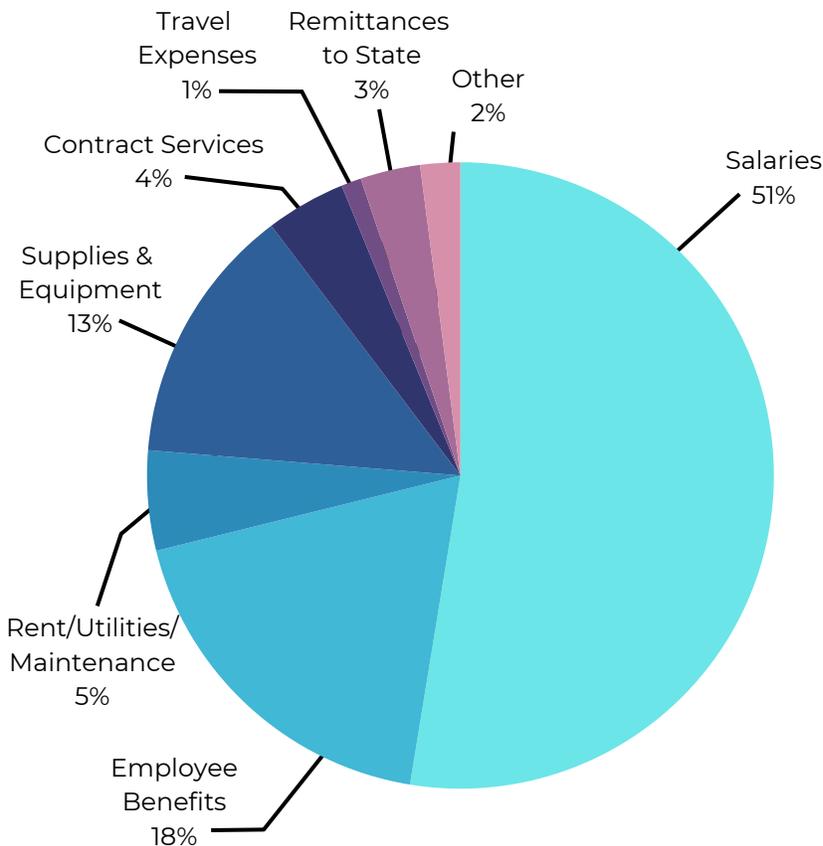
# INCOME & EXPENSES

## Income 2024



Income 2024	
Balance 01/01/2024	\$517,877.28
Local Taxes	\$837,014.44
Grants	\$516,502.59
Fees for Services	\$499,997.44
Licenses & Permits	\$170,631.79
Contracts for Services	\$1,429.00
State Subsidy	\$26,111.41
Other	\$93,232.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,662,796.15</b>

## Expenses 2024



Expenses 2024	
Salaries	\$1,124,265.50
Employee Benefits	\$403,433.02
Rent/Utilities/Maintenance	\$174,744.98
Supplies & Equipment	\$287,869.94
Contract Services	\$95,775.00
Travel/Meeting Expenses	\$27,699.13
Remittances to State	\$58,567.26
Other	\$38,737.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,211,119.41</b>