



# Annual Report 2021

## COVID-19: Still with us, but we have tools to fight this pandemic.

In the 2020 Annual Report previous Health Commissioner Kathy Luhn stated that COVID-19 was the pandemic of our generation. COVID-19 created many impacts across the country as cases surged and receded in 2020. By the end of 2020 two vaccines were approved for use to provide protection from COVID-19. The initial vaccine rollout in 2021 was slow and limited to individuals who were first responders and those over the age of 65. Scheduling challenges existed to ensure individuals could receive their second dose of the vaccine for best protection from COVID-19 while still providing first doses to each new round of individuals eligible to receive the vaccine. As advancements in vaccine manufacturing were made, more and more doses became available in the community. Additionally, a third vaccine was approved in March 2021 which required only a single dose for full protection from the virus.

By the end of March 2021, every resident of Ohio 16 and older was eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Allen County Public Health expanded our off-site vaccination clinic to become one of around a dozen state-supported mass vaccination clinics in Ohio. Through the work of the staff at Allen County Public Health, Allen County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers and the Ohio National Guard this clinic was able to vaccinate over 1,100 individuals in a single day, up from a maximum of 500 doses a day just two months earlier.

Our COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Allen County, and across the country, was successful and led to a decline in the number of individuals infected, hospitalized and dying from COVID-19 as we moved into the summer months of 2021. Additional medical advancements in 2020 and 2021 included the expanded use of monoclonal antibodies in the community which would reduce the potential someone who had COVID-19 would be hospitalized or pass away from the virus. By the end of 2021, two antiviral medications were approved by the FDA which could be prescribed to individuals to further reduce their risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19. At-home COVID-19 tests were also provided in the community to allow individuals who had symptoms of COVID-19 to take a test in their home and get a result within 15 minutes.

As the fall arrived cases increased from the new Delta variant of COVID-19. Infections from this variant led to many more hospitalizations and deaths in the community. New challenges were presented to Allen County Public Health as booster doses were authorized for individuals who received any of the three authorized vaccines. ACPH opened a second off-site vaccination clinic and provided booster doses to over 2,000 individuals in the community. Cases remained steady but high through the end of November and then spiked dramatically with the introduction of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 to Allen County in December 2021 and January 2022. As we move into 2022 I remain hopeful that our best days are ahead of us in the pandemic. We have many tools, both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical, in our belt to fight this pandemic.

I want to thank everyone in the community for all the sacrifices you made over the past two years of this pandemic. Your actions saved many, many lives. Second I want to thank the staff at Allen County Public Health for all the additional work they put in over the past two years with case investigation, contact tracing and working at vaccine clinics. Last, I want to thank Kathy Luhn for her leadership at Allen County Public Health. Her 33 years with the agency and 9 years as Health Commissioner made this agency stronger and helped us weather the different storms Public Health has faced and will continue to face in the future. As your new Health Commissioner I hope to build on this strength and continue to promote and protect the health of everyone working and living in Allen County.

Be Safe,



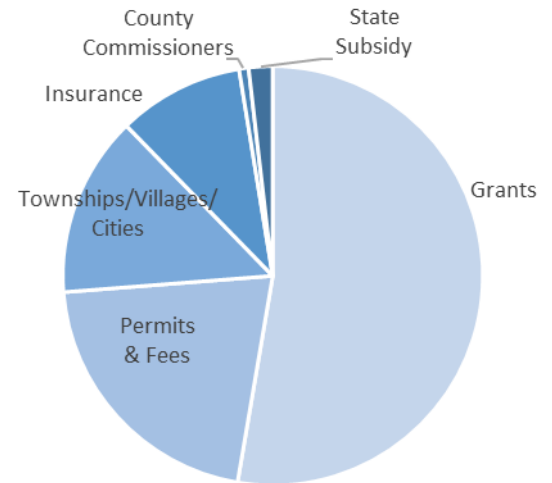
Brandon Fischer  
Allen County Health Commissioner

ALLEN COUNTY DATA	2020	2021	2022*	TOTAL*
COVID-19 Cases	8,650	12,608	6,041	27,299
Hospitalizations	593	826	246	1,665
Deaths	175	218	76	469
Immunizations (ACPH administered)	n/a	20,734	672	21,406

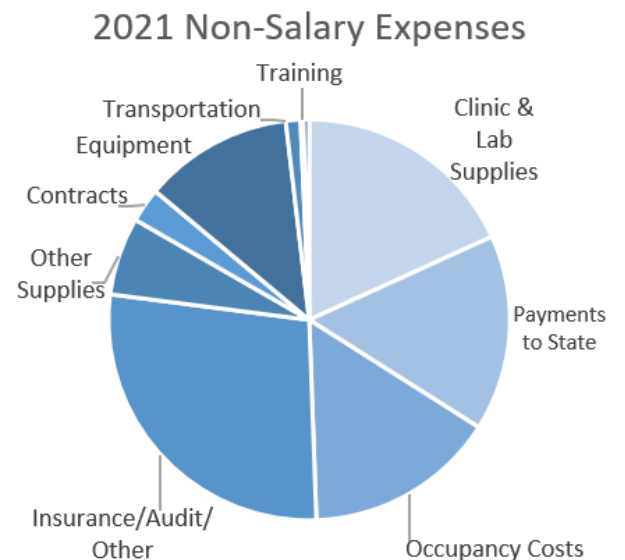
# FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

## PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

RECEIPTS	2020	2021
January 1 BALANCE	\$809,783	\$1,127,964
Grants & Contracts	\$2,319,641	\$2,569,601
Permit & Service Fees	\$976,758	\$1,027,499
Townships, Villages, & Cities	\$680,129	\$680,130
Medicaid/Insurance Reimb	\$274,923	\$473,645
County Commissioners	\$35,800	\$35,800
State Subsidy	\$52,508	\$89,837
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,339,759</b>	<b>\$4,876,512</b>
<b>BALANCE AND RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$5,149,542</b>	<b>\$6,004,477</b>



EXPENSES	2020	2021
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,947,842	\$3,192,819
Clinic Supplies	\$161,105	\$255,546
Payments to State	\$208,656	\$227,932
Building/Occupancy Costs	\$186,553	\$222,420
Other: Insurance, Audit, etc.	\$180,159	\$397,986
Other Supplies	\$85,832	\$90,520
Equip/Equip Repair/Service	\$192,558	\$173,460
Transportation	\$13,484	\$17,008
Contractual Services	\$28,862	\$39,962
Training/Continuing Ed	\$10,317	\$3,321
Lab Expenses	\$6,210	\$6,696
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,021,578</b>	<b>\$4,627,670</b>
<b>December 31 BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,127,964</b>	<b>\$1,376,807</b>



## **Nursing Services:**

Nursing Services staff continued to respond to the COVID pandemic throughout 2021. Public health nurses were busy conducting COVID case investigations along with administering COVID vaccines at our off-site mass vaccination clinics as well as at schools, businesses, and ACPH. While COVID case investigations required a great deal of our staff's attention, other reportable diseases also needed to be investigated. Telehealth services were incorporated into our Reproductive Health and Wellness Clinic services to provide our patients with an alternative way to obtain their care during the pandemic. Our Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) nurses continued to link families with a child with special needs to a network of providers who participate in the program and accept payment from the CMH Program as payment in full. Staff also continued to remind the community about the importance of routine vaccinations during the pandemic and continued to offer immunizations to ensure individuals remained up-to-date with their immunization status. Our nursing staff has worked heroically over the past two years addressing the COVID pandemic while at the same time responding to other disease reports and continuing to provide essential services that keep our community safe.

## **WIC Program:**

Allen County WIC clinic continued to provide nutrition education, breastfeeding support and supplemental foods to any pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding individual and child or infant family that met Ohio WIC's income guidelines. Supported by Federal and State waivers our office was able to use remote certification so that children and babies did not need to be seen in the Allen County WIC office - thereby lowering their risk of exposure to COVID-19 by eliminating the in-person WIC appointment. Allen County WIC's Facebook page [facebook.com/WICAllen](https://www.facebook.com/WICAllen) continued to keep our families up-to-date on local events as well as changes to the WIC food package. As always, the staff at the Allen County WIC office appreciated the chance to serve those individuals and families. We are grateful for all that shared part of their health and nutrition journey with us by participating in the Allen County WIC program.

## **Environmental Health Services:**

The official title for Environmental Health staff changed from "Sanitarian" to "Environmental Health Specialist". This is a welcome and long-coming change. ACPH staff continued efforts to bring the O&M program into compliance with ODH rules, and reviewed ways to make the program more self-sufficient and less of a drain to the General Fund. Throughout 2021, Environmental Health staff used \$110,052 worth of funds available through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund to connect 4 properties to sanitary sewers, install 3 new sewage treatment systems and make 2 sewage treatment systems repairs. This benefits Allen County by getting sewage violations corrected, saving enforcement efforts and eliminating maltreated discharges into our waterways. On December 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, Environmental Health staff conducted a ServSafe class with 23 attendees, and 13 passing. Two Environmental Health Specialists employed by ACPH took the test and passed with very good scores. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no surveys were conducted by the Ohio Dept. of Health or the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture on any of our mandated programs.

## **Prevention and Health Promotion Services:**

Health Promotion staff assisted with the pandemic response by operating information lines, producing weekly data updates and social media posts, contact tracing and helping at vaccine clinics. Staff also conducted many activities in the community that align with the CHIP and CHA priorities: work to decrease infant mortality by providing safe sleep spaces (portable cribs) for qualifying families, testing for and preventing the spread of HIV and other STDS, and providing naloxone kits to reverse drug overdoses from opioids. Prevention staff also collaborate in community efforts, such as the Family & Children First Council, Safe Communities, Activate Allen County, and the Bike/Ped Task Force.

## **Health Planning Services:**

Health Planning Services staff work in the areas of emergency preparedness, epidemiology, health ministries, and collaborative initiatives including the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program strengthens the ability to effectively respond to public health threats including natural disasters, biological, chemical, radiological events and infectious diseases. Epidemiologists monitor the health status of Allen County residents by investigating and containing emerging health issues and outbreaks, and in 2021 investigated over 75 outbreaks. The Health Ministries Program works with faith leaders to promote health in faith communities. Health Planning Services staff were actively involved in the COVID response, and coordinated the Allen County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in which over 100 volunteers provided more than 4,200 hours in volunteer time assisting with the spring and fall mass vaccination and booster clinics.

# 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2019	2020	2021
<b>Inspections</b>			
Water Systems	151	146	161
Sewage Systems	2,260	1,024	1,808
Recreational Camps/Parks	54	27	31
Manufactured Home Parks	29	26	35
Public Pools and Spas	122	70	93
Open Bathing Areas	9	10	9
Schools	107	53	76
Plumbing Systems	928	958	844
Food Service Operations	1,747	1,091	1,530
Food Vending	74	78	45
Tattoo/Body Piercing Service	36	32	48
<b>Investigations</b>			
Animal Bites	382	263	299
Environmental Complaints	250	248	262
Smoke-Free Complaints	22	10	5

Vital Statistics	2019	2020	2021
Births by County of Residence (Allen)	1,259	1,177	1,218
Deaths by County of Residence (Allen)	1,185	1,374	1,358
Birth Certificates Issued	7,486	6,475	7,238
Death Certificates Issued	6,207	6,983	7,266
(*2021 Data may not be complete)			

WIC PROGRAM	2019	2020	2021
MONTHLY CASELOAD	2,200	2,100	2,200
Women	557	525	534
Infants	764	746	775
Children	879	829	891

Prevention & Health Promotion Services	2019	2020	2021
Narcan Kits Distributed	316	288	378
Safe Sleep Spaces (cribs)	206	179	179
Moms & Babies First	85 clients	46 clients	91 clients
HIV Risk Assessments	373	63	142

Nursing Services	2019	2020	2021
<b>Immunizations Given</b>	6,685	4,016	25,306
Vaccines For Children	2,822	1,949	2,211
State Funded	320	154	139
Private Pay/Insurance	3,543	1,913	2,222
Pandemic Funded	n/a	n/a	20,734
<b>Family Planning Visits</b>	1,085	812	645
New Patients	344	222	200
TB Skin Tests	798	573	504
CMH Caseload	614	664	573
Communicable Diseases	1,461	11,035	14,297

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
 22 Political Subdivisions Reps  
 12 Townships  
 9 Cities & Villages  
 1 County Commissioner

**PARTNERS**  
 Health Care  
 First Responders  
 Local Government  
 Social Service Agencies  
 Community Groups

**WORKFORCE**  
 ACPH STAFF  
 53 Employees  
 32 Full-time  
 21 Part-time

**ACPH MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
 Christine Gaynier, MD

**ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

Wilfred Ellis, MD, President  
 Eric Kerner, Vice President  
 Marva Cowan  
 Scott Shutt  
 Ross Kauffman, PhD  
 Sherry Winegardner, PhD

[www.allencountypublichealth.org](http://www.allencountypublichealth.org)  
 Facebook: @AllenCountyPublicHealth  
 Twitter: @ACPublicHealth



219 E. Market Street  
 Lima, OH 45801  
 419-228-4457  
 After Hours: 419-228-4457