Fayette County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Fayette County Public Health
317 S. Fayette Street
Washington Court House, OH 43160
Visit our website: faycohd.org

Fayette County Public Health has achieved national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation is a rigorous process that shows our commitment to quality and performance improvement, collaboration, and public health practice. We are proud to have our work and programs nationally recognized and remain committed to the health and well-being of our community.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



LEIGH N. CANNON, MPH
Health Commissioner

2024 was my second full year serving as the Fayette County Health Commissioner. After nearly serving 20 years to Fayette County Public Health (FCPH), working through two pandemics, I can admit 2024 finally felt more normal. A new normal, but normal nonetheless.

In 2019, we applied for Public Health Accreditation (PHAB), which is a national recognition focusing on advancing public health performance. During this time, a previous Ohio governor required all Ohio health districts to become nationally accredited by the year 2020. Ohio being the only required state in the nation, Ohio excels in accreditation efforts and public health performance at a national level.

Leading up to our initial submission, we spent countless hours preparing, updating policies, training staff, and building a more robust infrastructure. Then COVID -19 graced us or doomed us, you pick, in 2020, halting our continued process of becoming accredited. This very long pause did not stop us from jumping right back in and picking up where we had left off.

In 2023, we resubmitted our application. With all the changes we made during the pandemic, we wanted our work to reflect how much we have grown since the initial process began. An assigned site team reviewed our submission and offered a few corrective actions for us to be considered by the PHAB board for accreditation. We took a year to submit our corrective action plan, as building data targets and collecting data takes time.

I am pleased to announce that at the end of 2024, we became an official PHAB-accredited health department. This really came at a great time as we really needed a positive boost recognizing our efforts in a world where public health rarely gets the credit it deserves. Hard work does pay off.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the staff of Fayette County Public Health. Through several tough years, we remained one team. Their dedication to staying with public health really tells the true story. Many health departments across the state dealt with a huge loss in the public health workforce over the last several years, but FCPH has retained most of the staff from prior to the pandemic. This shows our resilience and dedication, although we do not want to live through that experience again any time soon, preferably never.

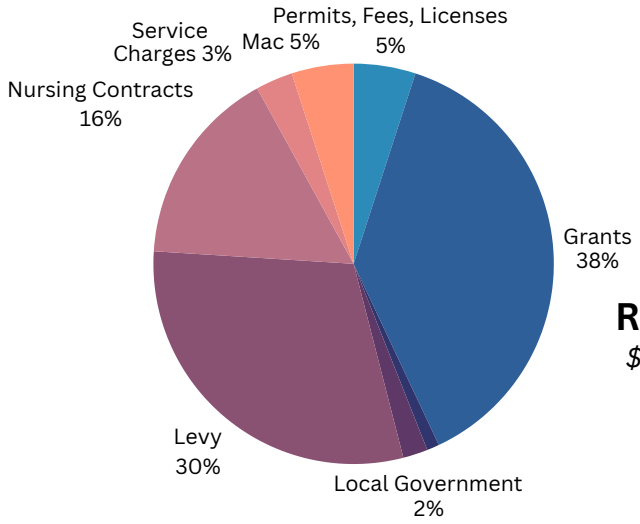
Additionally, we have a wonderful 5-member Board of Health. I thank them all for their willingness to serve and for bringing their expertise to our agency. We are led by the best!

Lastly, thank you to our wonderful community. We are all here because of all of you. We value your support and continued loyalty to our programs and services.

Respectfully,

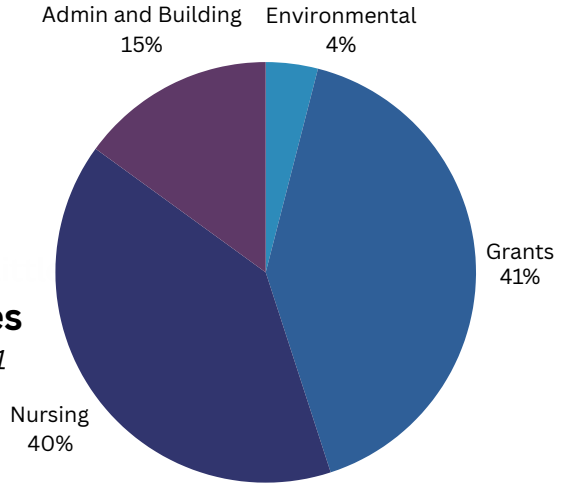
Leigh N. Cannon, MPH
Health Commissioner

Financial Report



Revenue
$4,173,075

Expenses
$4,071,101




Brian Jenks, DO


Kristy Bowers


Wayne Roberts


William Stevenson, MD


Staci Hamilton, M Ed

Board of Health


James McWeeney, MD

Medical Director

In 2024, Fayette County Public Health staff reviewed and revised the agency's mission, vision, and values as part of the strategic planning process.

2024 District Advisory Council Subdivisions

- Bloomingburg Village
- Concord Township
- County Commissioners
- Green Township
- Jasper Township
- Jefferson Township
- Jeffersonville Village
- Madison Township
- Marion Township
- Milledgeville Village
- Octa Village
- Paint Township
- Perry Township
- Union Township
- Wayne Township
- City of Washington

Mission

Fayette County Public Health strives to protect our community, placing emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention.

Vision

Working together for a healthy community.

Values

Respect: We will create a culture that encourages our employees to conduct themselves in a courteous, conscientious and respectful manner in the workplace, where diversity and equity is appreciated and encouraged

Collaboration: We will work together to solve problems, make decisions and achieve common goals, both within our organization and with our partners.

Responsibility: We all have a responsibility to create a supportive, encouraging and motivating environment through embracing change, being visionary and involving others in the decision-making process.

Quality: We strive to increase our knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain high standards of service that are recognized by our community health partners.

Accountability: We value the public's trust and encourage personal responsibility in the provision of services to meet the needs of our clients with responsive efforts.



NEW PROGRAMS



Family Connects

FCPH was selected as one of the initial communities in 11 counties to be served by a new universal nurse home visiting program, Family Connects. This evidence-based program offers all new families in the community a nurse home visit around three weeks after the family brings their baby home. Marissa Ratliff, BSN, RN, is the nurse home visitor.

Similar programs have a proven track record of reducing infant mortality. In places where these programs have been implemented, rates of child protective services investigations have decreased by 44 percent, and mothers showed a 30 percent drop in postpartum depression and a 50 percent reduction in emergency room visits.

Preconception Nurse Home Visiting

In 2024, Fayette County Public Health began a program for women and men of childbearing age to receive a voluntary, in-home, individualized visit from a registered nurse. Marissa Ratliff, BSN, RN, is the nurse home visitor.

The nurse shares information and resources about reproductive health, birth control, healthy lifestyles, chronic disease prevention, mental health, breastfeeding support, and smoking cessation. She can also, upon request, make referrals to primary care, postpartum care, or other community services or programs, provide information about local resources, and assist with a reproductive life plan.



WIC Farmers Market Coupons

In 2024, WIC participated in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP, a coupon program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

WIC clients who were interested in participating received a $30 coupon book for use at the market. There were 100 coupon booklets given out in the inaugural year. The Fayette County Farmers' Market Manager, David Persinger, was instrumental in helping to bring this program to Fayette County.

Converse With A Nurse

FCPH offered a new program designed to increase access to health education and opportunities for physical activity. "Converse with a Nurse" features a short educational session followed by a question and answer session. The program is offered at no cost and is open to anyone 18 or older.

Darci Moore, Certified Nurse Practitioner, and Janessa Williamson, RN, CLS lead the sessions. This program is for anyone who would like to find support and encouragement for healthier living.

Healthy Kids

The Healthy Kids program is a class that promotes a healthy lifestyle for children in 4th and 5th grades. The health educator shares education about nutrition and exercise to encourage an early start to better health. This program started in 2024 and two sessions were offered, one at Rose Avenue Dream Center and one at the Fayette County YMCA.

Wellness Matters Series

Fayette County Public Health presented three collaborative education sessions as part of a series of educational opportunities offered as a collaboration between the Help Me Grow home visiting program and the preconception health and wellness program, introduced in 2024. Topics included managing chronic disease, healthy living, and mental health. The Help Me Grow Home Visiting program and the clinical division collaborated on these sessions and also worked with outside partners including OSU Extension - Fayette County.





NEWS



Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program re-accredited

Fayette County Help Me Grow has been re-accredited as a provider of high quality home visiting services to pregnant families and families with infants and young children by Healthy Families America. Help Me Grow is a parent support program in Ohio that is run by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY). The program was previously administered by the Ohio Department of Health.

Home VIsitors help parents in caring for a new baby, ensuring the baby is receiving the nutrition needed, promoting healthy child development, and coping with a myriad of other potential stresses, such as financial, housing, partner relationship, etc., that may become heightened with an addition to the family.

Children with Medical Handicaps program is now the Complex Medical Help program

CMH Program is now officially known as the as the Complex Medical Help program. There are no changes to the program, aside from the name itself.

CMH links individuals with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps individuals and their families obtain payment for needed services. It is a state-administered program that operates within ODH.

CMH promotes early identification of individuals with special health care needs and treatment by appropriate health care providers. Major components of the program include: conducting quality assurance activities to establish standards of care and to determine unmet needs of individuals with special health care needs and their families; funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions; collaborating with public health nurses and local health departments to assist in increasing access to care; supporting service coordination for individuals with selected diagnoses; and assisting individuals and their families to access and utilize appropriate sources of payment for services.

Holly Johnson, BSN, RN, is the CMH Coordinator at FCPH.

WIC celebrates 50 years; updates branding



The WIC Program celebrated 50 years of service in 2024. The Women, Infants, and Children Program is a supplemental food and nutrition program that provides services to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to the age of 5.

WIC helps keep families healthy by providing food, education, and referrals to other needed programs in the community. The program also helps women achieve a healthy pregnancy outcome through prenatal education and reduces infant mortality by reducing chances of low birthweight babies and complications.

WIC adopted a new logo in 2024, consistent with statewide Ohio Department of Health branding.











THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

FCPH staff deliver vital services directly to the community through onsite visits, home visits, and outreach in various community settings. This approach ensures that individuals receive personalized care and support tailored to their specific needs. Services may include health education, screenings, immunizations, and wellness checks, all designed to promote health and prevent disease. By meeting people where they are—whether in their homes, schools, or community centers—public health staff increase accessibility and foster stronger connections, ultimately improving health outcomes and empowering community members to take charge of their well-being.



The FCPH Nurse Practitioner and Certified Medical Assistant provide medical health and oversight to youth residents at the Ranch of Opportunity. Tasks include sick visits, physicals, review of lab work, and referrals for outside services.



Our health educator took her show on the road as she presented “Healthy Kids” to 4th and 5th graders at Rose Avenue Dream Center and the Fayette County YMCA.



FCPH staff worked with FACT (Fayette Advocating Change Together), an advocacy group affiliated with the Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities, for an educational session on healthy habits, covering everything from good hygiene habits to a hands-on demonstration of how to make a healthy smoothie.



Many services are provided in the home, especially for expectant parents and families with infants and toddlers. Help Me Grow Home Visiting, Family Connects, and Baby Massage are all services provided in the home.



The Help Me Grow Home Visiting program got out into the community for socializations. Washington Fire Department, Carnegie Public Library, and MT Schools were a few of the hosts.





OSU Extension-Fayette County collaborated with the Help Me Grow Home Visiting program as well as the preceonception program. Classes were held at different locations in the community, including the extension office, the health department office, and the playground at MIami Trace Local Schools.

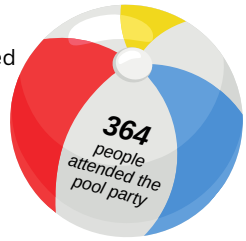
OUTREACH

Community Health Fair & Family Fun Day

The Community Health Fair & Family Fun Day was held in June. It was the 32nd year for the event, which offers free and reduced price health screenings as well as free family fun activities. This was the first year that the FCPH Reproductive Health and Wellness Program offered screenings. The staff spoke with 20 families and gave 1 exam. Better Vision, Better Hope program doubled their capacity in 2024. Other offerings from FCPH included information, health education, hearing and vision screenings.

Splash Bash Pool Party

Fayette County Public Health hosted a Community Pool Day at the Jeffersonville Pool in June. There were games and prizes, and FCPH distributed information about public health programs, including immunizations, reproductive health and wellness, Help Me Grow, and more. Parents were encouraged to schedule their child(ren)'s back-to-school immunizations, and residents were asked to complete the Community Health Assessment survey.



Farmers Markets

From June to October, Fayette County Public Health occupied the community booth at the local Farmers' Market on the second Saturday of every month. Information and education was offered about public health programs.

Fayette County Fair

FCPH staffed the emergency trailer at the Fayette County Fair from Monday - Friday. Each day featured a different department and theme, highlighting services and programs.

Health Fairs and Local Events

Fayette County Public Health staff attended health fairs and events for local businesses and organizations. At these events, staff provided activities, information about programs, and health education materials. Events attended in 2024 included Washington City School District's Block Party, Farm & Field Day, Miami Trace Back to School Bash, and more.

A Light in the Dark - Glow Walk for Suicide Prevention Awareness

The 2nd annual "Light in the Dark" Glow Walk for suicide prevention awareness drew approximately 285 people at Miami Trace High School on Saturday, October 5. A Community of Hope: Fayette County Suicide Prevention Coalition sponsored the event, intending to reduce the stigma of talking about mental health and seeking support and to increase awareness of local resources and support. In addition to the walk, local organizations and agencies were there with tables, resources, and information.

Mental Health Conference: Means Matter

A Community of Hope: The Fayette County Suicide Prevention Coalition hosted a spring conference for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. FCSPC partnered with local, regional, and state agencies to bring education to Fayette County about how we can reduce the risk of death by suicide by reducing access to lethal means. Topics for the conference include "Arm Yourself For the Conversation" and "QPR Gatekeeper Training - Question, Persuade, Refer" and there was a resource fair. Presenters included Mark Leach, shooting range and training manager at Vance Outdoors, and Jeenee Morrison, Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator for the Chillicothe Veterans Administration.

Community Flu Clinics

Clinical staff provided 13 community flu clinics in 2024.

- Head Start
- Halliday Lumber
- County Offices
- County Engineer's Office
- Miami Trace Local Schools
- Ranch of Opportunity
- Seton Hall
- Sugar Creek
- Twin Oak Dairy Farm















COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH



FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ALLIANCE

The Fayette County Community Health Alliance is a collaborative, community-based group whose efforts are aimed at improving the quality of life for residents of Fayette County. The coalition is structured with a steering committee focused on specific health priorities.

Coalition efforts are driven by a vision of educating and empowering individuals and families in order to achieve a thriving, engaged, and resilient community. Keeping in mind the values of collaboration, integrity, equity, and equality, the FCCHA is focused on raising awareness and ultimately improving the health and wellness of the residents of Fayette County through the ongoing cooperation and focus of its community leaders, local health care providers, and citizens.

FAYETTE COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH ALLIANCE

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT
Completed in 2024

The Fayette County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a collaboration among local agencies to capture the current health concerns and strengths of the county. The support and engagement of the Fayette County community, by participating in interviews and providing input during the survey and public comment process, is invaluable for this assessment.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN
Planning begins in 2025

The CHIP is Fayette County's roadmap to address the health challenges identified in the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA). Given the scope and complexity of health challenges within Fayette County, the CHIP framework is constructed of crosssector partnerships and alignment to meet a manageable set of goals to improve health outcomes for those that live in Fayette County. By working together in partnership, the community can improve health outcomes by building programs, collaborations, and services through a focused effort on addressing the major health factors identified in the CHA.

Issues identified in the most recent CHA and CHIP led to the creation of these task forces to address issues facing the community.

- CHRONIC ILLNESS
- MENTAL HEALTH
- SUBSTANCE USE
- ACCESS TO CARE
- CANCER

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Healthcare Coalition

The FCPH PHEP grant and the hospital grant require the formation of and participation in the Healthcare Coalition. The objective of this is to coordinate emergency response between healthcare facilities in the county and ensure that everyone has the proper plans in place without recreating the wheel.

Child Fatality Review

The Fayette County Child Review Board meets annually to review deaths of persons 17 and under. County Child Review Boards were created to decrease the incidence of preventable deaths by promoting cooperation between groups that serve children. The Fayette County Coroner, Director of Children's Services, Deputy Coroner, Fayette County Sheriff, Paint Valley ADAMH Board Executive Director, and a Public Health Representative. The Fayette County Health Commissioner chairs the board. The board makes recommendations on how some deaths could be prevented by public education and working with other agencies that serve children.

Ambulatory Advisory Committee

The ambulatory advisory committee consists of employees from FCPH, employees from local businesses, and community representatives. The committee meets once a year on the 1st Tuesday in April. The purpose of the meeting is for FCPH employees to share updates and services with outside members. Those members may then go into the community with resources for the public to be aware of and utilize at FCPH.

FCPH is represented on the following community coalitions, boards and initiatives.

- Adena Fayette Medical Center Community Council
- Ambulatory Advisory Committee
- Cedarville University School of Nursing Advisory Council
- Central Ohio Public Information Network (COPIN)
- Central Ohio Region Executive Committee
- Central Ohio Region Public Health Workgroups
- Children Offered Resources Early (CORE) Early Childhood Collaborative Council
- Commission on Aging Board
- Community Action Commission Board
- FAITH in Recovery
- Fayette County Prevention Coalition
- Community Health Fair & Family Fun Day Committee
- Fayette County Child Fatality Review Board
- Fayette County Community Health Alliance
- Fayette County Continuum of Care
- Fayette County Family and Children First Council
- Fayette County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Greene County Smoke-Free Coalition
- Head Start Interagency Council
- Litter Prevention and Recycling
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Ohio National Environmental Health Association
- Ohio Association of Health Commissioners
- Ohio Public Health Association
- OSU Fayette County Extension Advisory Board
- OSU Fayette County Extension Public Health Americorps
- Solid Waste District Policy Council
- State WIC Directors' Association State
- HMG Directors Association
- United Way of Fayette County
- YMCA Board of Directors

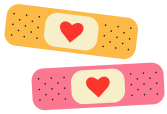




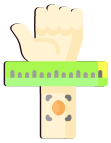


BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL



1850
Immunizations Given



83
TB Skin Tests



690
Reproductive Health & Wellness Visits



102 Vivitrol Injections Given



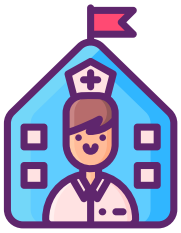
69 Preconception Nurse Home Visits



139
Clients - Complex Medical Help Program

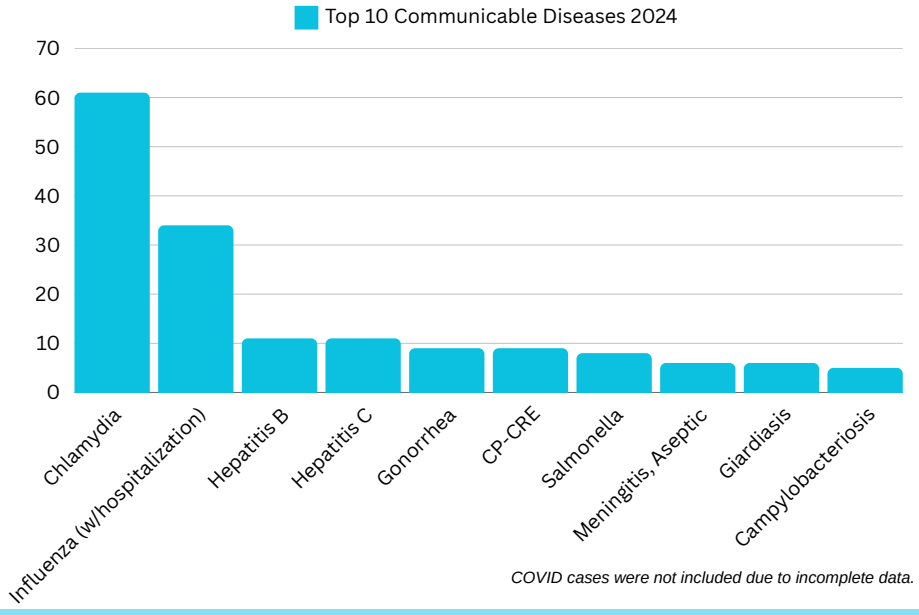
United Way
United Way of Fayette County

United Way funded screenings
Weight checks: 618
Blood pressure screenings: 197



Public Health School Clinic Nursing

Clinic Visits: 48,114
Students screened: 4,670
Nurse hours: 10,098.7



COVID cases were not included due to incomplete data.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Converse with a Nurse: 21 participants
Healthy Kids: 15 participants
Rolling Rimples: 127 participants
Safe Sitters: 14 youth trained









The amount of weight lost by the participants of the Rolling Rimples programs is equal to that of a fully grown adult male tiger!

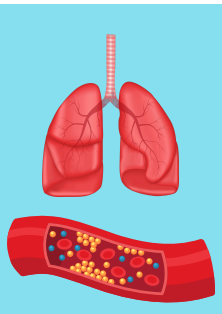


Total Pounds Lost: 476.4

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Certificates Issued: 1455
Death Certificates Issued: 1050

Total Live Births: 8 (4 city, 4 county)
Total Deaths: 320 (180 city, 94 county, 46 out of county)

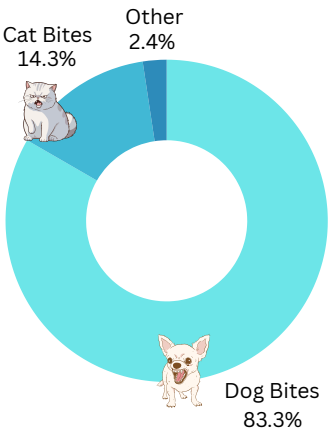


Top 5 Causes of Death:

- Chronic lower respiratory diseases
- Forms of chronic ischemic heart disease
- Cerebrovascular diseases
- All other forms of heart disease
- Malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus, and lung

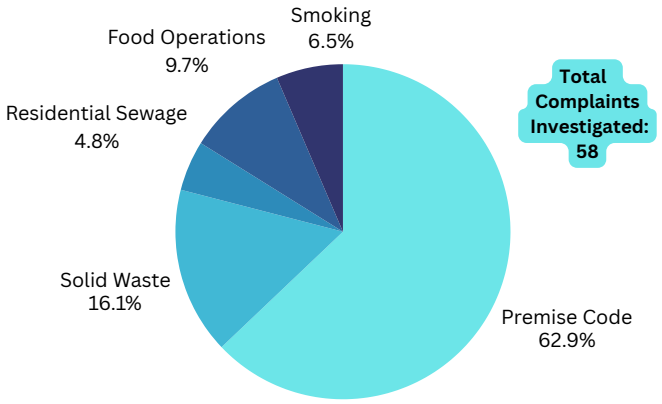
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

INVESTIGATIONS



Total Bites Reported: 42

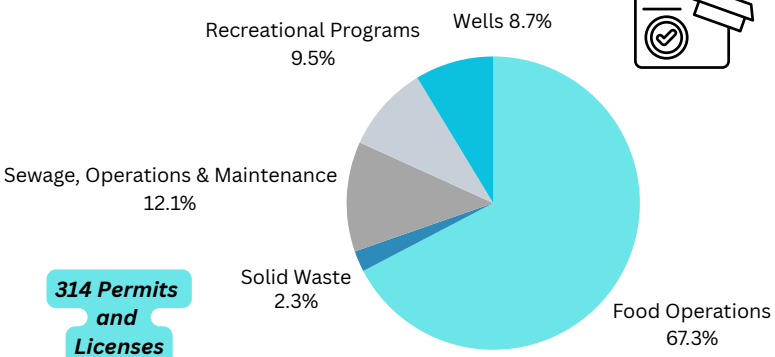
0 specimens submitted were positive for rabies



Total Complaints Investigated: 58

LICENSING AND PERMITTING





314 Permits and Licenses Issued

INSPECTIONS

420 restaurant inspections

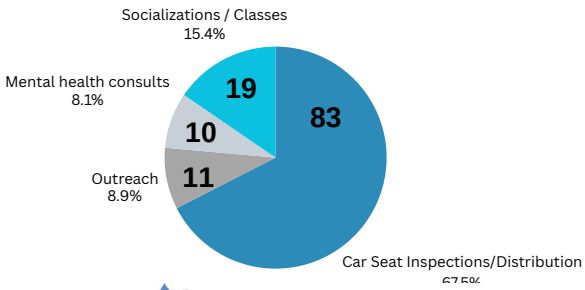
287 Inspections of Mechanical and Discharging Treatment Systems

33 recreational program inspections (swimming pools, spas, campgrounds, tattoo establishments)

HELP ME GROW

Home Visits: 3343
Families Visited: 162
Socializations: 191 participants

Most Help Me Grow services are delivered in the home. Below are other activities of the program that occur in community based settings.



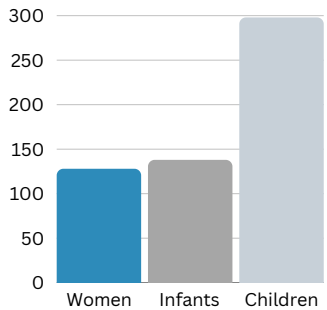
Healthy Families America — AFFILIATE —

parents as teachers AFFILIATE

Ohio Department of Children & Youth
Help Me Grow

WIC

Total Clients: 564





Pregnant: 46
Postpartum: 48

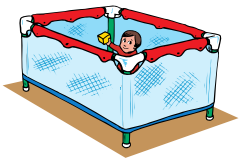
Breastfeeding: 34
Exclusively: 17
Partially: 17



755 contacts made to breastfeeding moms

Ohio Department of Health
Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

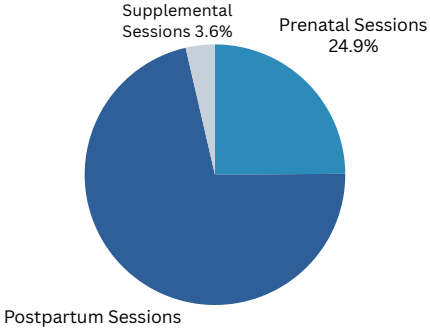
OTHER



Cribs for Kids: 42 cribs distributed

Moms Quit For Two Participants: 13





Breast & Cervical Cancer Project
22 women served

Milestones

The following employees celebrated milestone employment anniversaries with Fayette County Public Health in 2024.

20 years of service


Megan Batson


Sharon Gibbs


Missy Smith


Heidi Phipps

10 years of service


Shawna Chace


Sara Randolph


Beth King


Stacey Mathews


Ashley Roberts

5 years of service


Shelby Hughes


Lisa Marting

Summers, Armstrong retire

Terry Summers retired from the Fayette County Board of Health following 38 years of service to the community.

Sandy Armstrong, vital statistics registrar, retired from Fayette County Public Health after a nearly 23-year career.

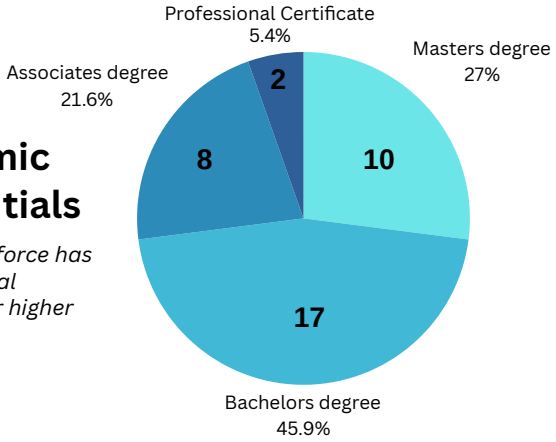




WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

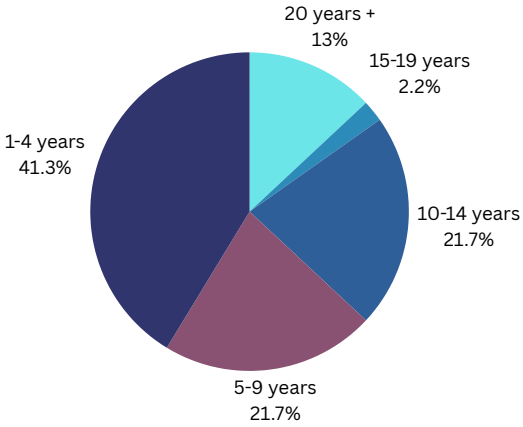
Employees

Fulltime: 40
Part time: 6



Academic Credentials

80% of workforce has a professional certificate or higher



Tenure

58.7% of workforce has been with FCPH for 5 years or longer

All Fayette County Public Health staff members are encouraged to attend seminars, workshops, or college to keep education and job information current.

Staff members who hold state licensure or certification are required to complete professional development to maintain the licensure and certification.

In addition, staff complete monthly training and attend local and statewide trainings and conferences provided throughout the year.

An annual employee retreat offers FCPH staff an opportunity to get together and participate in professional development and team building.

An employee engagement committee meets monthly to plan activities to boost employee morale and retention.

Milestone anniversaries are recognized on social media and staff slideshows.

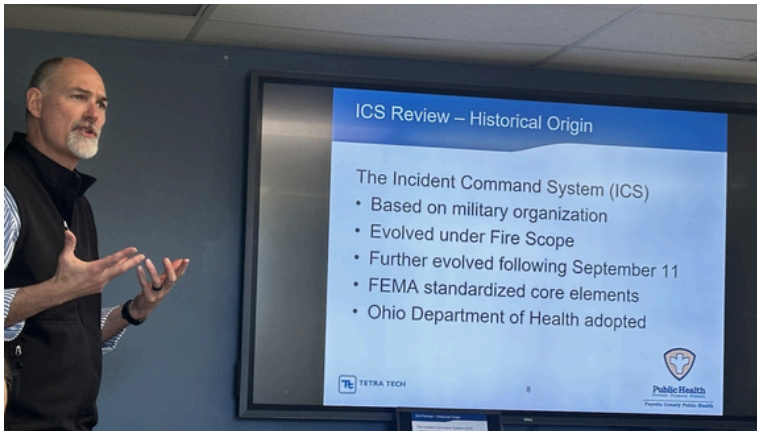
Staff received ongoing education in the following areas in 2024:

- HIPAA
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Ethics
- Anaphylaxis

Staff also completed job-specific trainings and college courses required for credentialing.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and staff actively engaged in partner exercises throughout the year, fostering collaboration with local, regional, and state partners. These exercises showcased FCPH's commitment to building a resilient community through coordinated efforts with diverse stakeholders.

The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator completed deliverables for the most recent Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant, including a chemical response tabletop exercise and the creation of an Administrative Response Plan.

PHEP Activities:

- Testing of redundant communications
- Completion of an updated community partner list
- Planning for Points of Dispensing
- Updated Crisis Communications Plan and Pandemic Flu Plan
- Conducting trainings for staff, first responder agencies and community partners.

PHEP Partnership Activities:

- Eclipse Planning Tabletop Exercise with local coalition partners.
- Chemical Surge response with the Regional Coalition that included participants from 15 Central Region counties.





FCPH staff participated in a tabletop exercise with community partners in January, in preparation for the April 8, 2024 eclipse.

Practice makes perfect: Transforming panic into preparedness through emergency drills

Emergency exercises are simulated emergency situations that help people learn how to respond to emergencies. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant requires these exercises to be done periodically to:

- Evaluate the ability of emergency management systems to operate in stressful situations
- Validate plans, policies, and procedures
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Identify resource gaps

What are the different types of drills?

Tabletop exercises

- A discussion-based session where participants review roles, procedures, and responses to an emergency
- A facilitator guides participants through a simulated emergency scenario

Functional exercises

- A simulated emergency environment that tests and evaluates emergency functions
- Involves key decision-makers and various levels of government, response organizations, and industry
- Focuses on exercising plans, policies, procedures, and staff members

Full-scale exercises

- A multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional exercise that simulates a real event
- Involves the mobilization of emergency personnel, equipment, and resources
- A highly stressful environment that tests emergency management systems
- The most complex and resource-intensive type of exercise



An exercise at the Emergency Operations Center

CLINICAL SERVICES

Public health clinical services play a crucial role in enhancing community well-being by providing accessible preventive care, education, and treatment for various health conditions. These services focus on early detection and management of diseases, thereby reducing healthcare costs and improving population health outcomes. Public health clinical services foster healthier communities and empower individuals to take charge of their health. Additionally, they facilitate collaboration between healthcare providers and community organizations, ensuring a comprehensive approach to public health challenges. Overall, these services contribute significantly to the prevention of illness, promotion of health, and enhancement of the quality of life for diverse populations.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING

Staff investigates reports of communicable diseases to help prevent the spread of the disease and assist with treatment if necessary.

This activity is essential in preventing the spread of communicable diseases.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations provide one of the most effective means of preventing the spread of disease. As the major provider of childhood immunizations, the health department has a key role in the prevention of major childhood illnesses. Services are offered both at the office and through onsite community clinics.

CHOLESTEROL SCREENINGS

Cholesterol checks are performed on the first Tuesday of every month by appointment only. This is a fasting test.

This service is free to Fayette County residents.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The goal of the Reproductive Health and Wellness program is to enable families to choose if and when to have children. Clients will see a Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP) who can prescribe birth control, perform gynecological exams, and test for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

SCHOOL NURSING

The health department provides school nursing services to all schools located in Fayette County. Nurses are available to review student health and immunization records, perform hearing, vision, and scoliosis screenings and referrals, and provide other services as needed.

HYPTERTENSION

The nursing staff provides blood pressure (BP) monitoring for any resident of Fayette County.

BPs are routinely offered at the health department office and also at Job and Family Services, Seton Hall and the Commission on Aging.

VIVITROL

Program staff works with the local probation departments and counseling services to provide a comprehensive road to recovery. Patients must complete required counseling sessions and strive to maintain a drug-free lifestyle while on Vivitrol therapy.

CHILDHOOD LEAD

Lead levels over 3.5 warrant an inspection from ODH staff to evaluate and test the home environment.

When the lead levels are under 3.5, FCPH staff meets with the parents to give them lead reducing tips, education, and follow-up to make sure lead levels go down.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education plays a pivotal role in improving community well-being by promoting knowledge and healthy practices across all age groups. The health educator and other health department staff deliver learning experiences on health topics, to provide people with knowledge, skills, and tools to live healthier lives. Health education and promotion programs work to empower individuals and communities to take control of and improve their health.

FAT FIGHTERS

This program is open to adults who would like support in their weight loss fitness journey. The program offers encouragement, motivation, discussions, weekly recipes and occasional prizes.

ROLLING RIMPLES

Rolling Rimples is a weight loss program sponsored by FCPH and United Way of Fayette County. During the 3-month program, the health educator visits participating businesses for weigh-ins and to offer information and education about nutrition.

SAFE SITTERS

Children entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade learn proper methods of caring for young children.

They are also taught CPR, First Aid, and safe procedures for providing childcare in the home.

HEALTHY KIDS

The healthy kids program (new in 2024) is a class that promotes a healthy lifestyle for children in 4th and 5th grades.

The class offers discussions about nutrition and exercise to encourage an early start to better health.

CONVERSE WITH A NURSE

A Certified Nurse Practitioner and the Health Educator teach sessions about healthy lifestyles.

This program is free and open to anyone over the age of 18.

MATERNAL, CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH

Fayette County Public Health programs offer services from preconception through childhood to ensure moms, dads and babies in Fayette County get off to the best start possible. These programs reduce infant mortality, increase school readiness and development, and provide caregivers with the most up-to-date and evidence-based parenting and health education.

PRECONCEPTION

Women and men of childbearing age can receive an in-home, individualized visit from a registered nurse.

WIC

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children helps eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to 5 years of age.

FAMILY CONNECTS

Offers support to every new mom and family right after they come home with their new baby, to answer questions or address concerns they may have, as well as connect them to any clinical or community support they need. This is offered at no cost, and all Fayette County infants under 12 weeks old are eligible.

HELP ME GROW

A system of supports for pregnant women and caregivers with new babies.

Services and supports are provided through home visiting, developmental screenings, and connections to community resources in order to improve maternal and child health; prevent child abuse and neglect; encourage positive parenting; and promote child development and school readiness.

BABY MASSAGE

A certified infant massage instructor teaches parents and caregivers proper techniques to massage a baby's tummy, legs or other areas to provide relief from pain caused by gas, constipation, or teething. For babies who are 6 weeks or older, and who are not yet crawling.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

A peer helper who has been on WIC and has personal breastfeeding experience gives mother-to-mother information and support which helps mothers reach their breastfeeding goals. Peer Helpers connect with families, help with common concerns, and give encouragement.

CRIBS FOR KIDS

The mission of Cribs for Kids® is to prevent infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep for their babies and by providing portable cribs to families who, otherwise, cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep.

MOMS QUIT FOR 2

Families who enroll in this program attend 4 prenatal smoking cessation sessions. and take a monthly breath test to prove that they are tobacco-free.
If they stay smoke-free after the baby is born, they can receive a monthly diaper gift card for up to 12 months.

COMPLEX MEDICAL HELP

The Complex Medical Help (CMH) program is a program dedicated to assisting families and children (under 25 years old) with special needs in obtaining special care and services. Public health nurses assist with the application and offer support and coordination for participating families.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Offers a multitude of services to men & women before and after childbearing age. Comprehensive services include wellness exams, STD testing, pap and pelvic exams, testicular and prostate exams and more. An after-hours clinic is provided on the third Wednesday of the month.

IMMUNIZATIONS

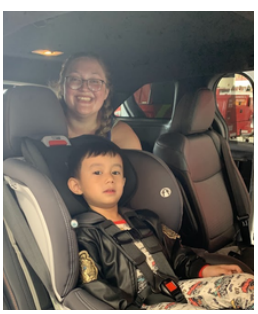
Immunizations provide one of the most effective means of preventing the spread of disease. As the major provider of childhood immunizations, the health department has a key role in the prevention of major childhood illnesses. Services are offered both at the office and through onsite community clinics.

CAR SEATS

Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB), provides child safety seats and booster seats to eligible low-income families.

Child Passenger Safety Technicians are available to provide community education and to assist caregivers with proper installation of their child's car seat.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The environmental health division assesses and addresses environmental factors that affect public health. They work with other agencies and the community to ensure a safe and healthy community

Environmental health department responsibilities include evaluating air, water, soil, and food for potential health risks; assisting with disease outbreak investigations; assistance with the planning of sewage disposal systems and housing standards; inspection and enforcement of health and safety at work, and control noise and water protection through the testing and monitoring of water supplies, and ensuring private water systems are safe.

FOOD SAFETY

Prevention of food-borne illness and conditions that cause illness ~ including preparation, transportation, storage, and serving by system of periodic inspections, plan review, operator education, and regulation enforcement.

CAMPGROUNDS

Ensure the minimal risk of injury, disease, and vector exposure to persons utilizing camps through periodic inspections, education of operators, enforcement of regulations in all areas of sanitation and safety.

HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Reduce the risk of infectious diseases transmitted by improperly or inadequately treated sewage through permitting, site evaluation, system design, installation inspections, operational inspections, soil surveys (disposal and replacement areas), lot splits, and subdivision review.

NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

Abatement of nuisances from conditions caused by people that may enable the spread of disease, create accidental hazards, discomfort, property depreciations, or any other conditions that are related to health or safety by investigating nuisance complaints.

OHIO SCHOOL INSPECTION PROGRAM

Provide the schools with ways to maintain and improve the environment of their facilities to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment through inspection of the school from offices to the classrooms, and playgrounds, looking for health and safety hazards.

MOSQUITOES, TICKS AND RODENTS

Reduce the risk of infection from vector-borne diseases (such as West Nile Virus, St. Louis encephalitis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme disease) by providing information to the public regarding prevention and monitoring of mosquito and tick populations and environmental conditions that would harbor the breeding of such vectors.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Ensure all sewage treatment systems are working correctly and not polluting the environment by permitting and inspecting private septic systems on a regular basis based on the complexity of the system. These inspections are required in the sale of any properties with well & septic systems.

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

Prevent the spread of waterborne diseases, related illnesses, and accidents at public swimming pools and spas through periodic inspections, education of operators, enforcement of regulations, monitoring of chemicals, water quality, and equipment.



PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS

Assure safe water to users of private water supplies by permits to install and alter private water wells.

Evaluation of existing wells is an ongoing service. The department samples and inspects wells before properties are sold. Defects must be corrected prior to the sale of the property.

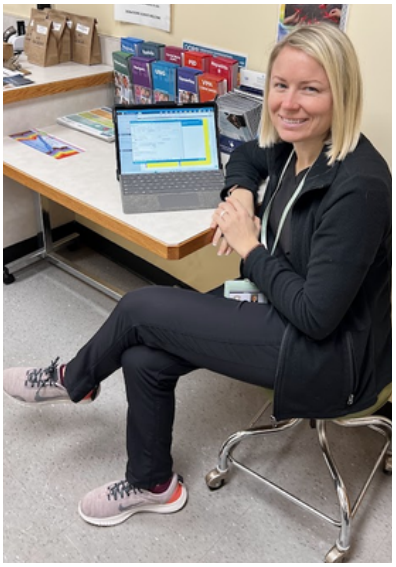
RABIES MONITORING

Protect the public from the spread of rabies and promote awareness of the dangers of rabies by monitoring of a nationwide immunization program, quarantine isolation and observation during bite cases (both human and animal), and suspect case animal head submissions to the Ohio Department of Health for clinical testing.

SOLID AND INFECTIOUS WASTES

License and inspect the Fayette County Transfer Station, Construction, Demolition Debris Facility, Closed Sanitary Landfill, and Tire Collection Facility to assure compliance with rules adopted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, regular inspections are conducted of infectious waste generators located in the county.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY WELLNESS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE TECHNOLOGY



Fayette County Public Health adopted an electronic medical records system in December of 2023.

Director of Nursing Ashley Roberts, RN, reflects on how this shapes the services provided to the community and fulfills the vision of Fayette County Public Health, “working together for a healthy community.”

Why did FCPH switch to electronic records?

Originally, we began the switch to electronic medical records (EMR) because of a grant requirement. As we began the process, we quickly learned the benefits of using an EMR. Documentation is more thorough, our patients have a better and faster way to access their own personal health records, and our billing practices are more efficient with better tracking capabilities.

What have been the challenges for staff?

The biggest challenge for staff was learning how to use the EMR. Up until this point, most of our documentation for services and visits at FCPH has been on paper. So just learning where things are located within the system, ensuring we address all required areas of a visit within the documentation, and completing registration requirements was quite the task and we are still learning more each day!

Have there been challenges for patients?

For the most part, our patients are happy with the switch because we now have less paperwork to complete by hand. Previously, if a patient was seen for a Reproductive Health and Wellness visit, we had a five to six page paper packet to be completed before they saw the provider. With the new system, the information that we used to gather in the packet has been integrated into questions within the visit so the patient has little to no paperwork to complete.

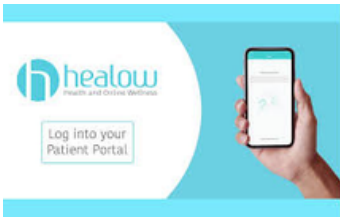
What have been the benefits for staff?

While we still have growing pains, the workload for the staff in comparison to using paper charts has decreased drastically. The time required for documentation has been cut down, especially for our certified nurse practitioner, and that is also a benefit to patients by freeing up more time for patient care.

What have been the benefits for patients?

A major benefit is that they have less paperwork to complete. Another benefit is that they can now create a Healow account where they can view their visit information, including things like their vaccination record, which makes their medical information much more readily available to reduce continuity of care issues. They can have access to that information quickly and present it to other providers when needed.

Through all of the challenges, switching to electronic medical records has been a tremendous help in our ability to schedule and efficiently see patients as well as meet grant requirements. By implementing this new system, we are working towards achieving a healthy community by addressing our community members’ basic needs, working together with them to promote healthy lifestyles, and reducing potential barriers to care. We are also building trust and respect with our community members, practicing empathy with our clients, and collaborating with other providers to work towards a common goal of creating a healthy community.



Healow is the online app to access your electronic medical record for Fayette County Public Health

Channels of Communication



Fayette County Public Health continued to promote services and provide education through social media, local media outlets, the website, and by providing flyers and information to community partners.

This year, FCPH added short-form video on Facebook Reels as a way to provide health education and reach new audiences.

CLEARER FUTURES: PARTNERING FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

In 2024, the “focus” was on protecting eyesight. Thanks to our community partners, FCPH was able to provide financial assistance for vision exams and prescription eyewear, ISO-certified glasses for viewing the April eclipse, and vision exams and eyewear at the Community Health Fair & Family Fun Day. FCPH staff continue to provide vision and hearing screenings for students at the schools and for adults at the health fair.



FCPH and Fayette Travel & Tourism partnered to provide 7500 ISO-certified eclipse viewers to community members in preparation for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Fayette County was outside of the path of totality but residents were still able to view a partial eclipse.



FCPH collaborated with Optique Family Vision and Better Vision, Better Hope to provide free vision screenings and glasses to 48 people at the Community Health Fair in June.



FCPH provides vision and hearing screenings to students at Fayette Christian School, Miami Trace Local Schools, and Washington Court House City Schools.

United Way of Fayette County

United Way of Fayette County and the Jeffersonville Lions Club provide support for eligible individuals who need prescription eyewear.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK















IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH RURAL HEALTH CARE COLLABORATION

Partnerships are essential in rural health care. Fayette County Public Health works with other counties in Ohio to pool and share resources to provide services to improve patient health.

Help Me Grow - Clinton County

The Fayete County Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program was approached by the Ohio Department of Health to oversee the program in Clinton County. The program started by serving nine families.



Public Health Clinic Nursing - Ross County

The FCPH clinical staff collaborates with Adena schools to provide substitute public health clinic nursing services.

Reproductive Health and Wellness - Madison County

Our CNP and CMA provide reproductive health and wellness services through a Title X grant to the community in Madison County.

Cribs For Kids and Moms Quit for 2 - Highland County

The Highland County Community Action Organization serves Fayette County. The mission of Cribs for Kids® is to prevent infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep for their babies and by providing portable cribs to families who, otherwise, cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. The Moms Quit for 2 Program helps mothers stop smoking during pregnancy.



Cribs for Kids

Epidemiology - Union County

FCPH contracts with an epidemiologist at Union County Health District who works to prevent, identify, and mitigate outbreaks of infectious diseases within Fayette County. The epidemiologist, along with the FCPH communicable disease nurse and clinical staff, monitored disease trends, conducted disease investigations and contact tracing, issued health alerts and provided infection control guidance to patients, affected worksites or community locations, and healthcare providers.

BCCP - Licking County

The Central Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project is based out of Licking County Health Department, but serves 14 counties including Fayette.

BCCP promotes the early identification of breast and cervical cancer with a goal of improving outcomes and reducing deaths due to these cancers. The program is a high-quality breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic program offered at no cost to eligible women, who are scheduled for services with providers in their area.

Syphillis and HIV Investigations and Contact Tracing- Portsmouth City Health Department

A Disease Intervention Specialist collaborates with FCPH to provide services that include HIV/Hepatitis C screenings and testing, referrals to PrEP/PEP, HIV care and treatment, and provides sexual health education.



Administration and Staff

Health Commissioner
- Leigh N. Cannon, MPH

Fiscal
- Stacey Mathews, *Fiscal Officer*
- Charity Lanning, *Billing Specialist / Deputy Registrar*

Nurse Practitioner
- Darci Moore, CNP

Director of Nursing
- Ashley Roberts, RN

Nursing
- Amy Friel, RN, *Immunization Coordinator*
- Holly Johnson, BSN, RN, *Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Coordinator*
- Erica Dumford, CMA, *Reproductive Health and Wellness Coordinator*
- Ashley Ruth, RN, *Communicable Disease Nurse*
- Marissa Ratliff, BSN, RN, CLC, *Preconception Health Home Visitor*

Miami Trace Local School Clinics
- Melissa Fout, RN, *Lead Nurse*
- Melissa Reed, BSN, RN, *High School*
- Amanda Brown, RN, *Elementary*
- Whitney Foor, LPN, *Middle School*

Washington Court House City School Clinics
- Holly Johnson, BSN, RN, *Lead Nurse*
- Ashley Karnes, LPN, *Cherry Hill*
- Lindsey Rose, BSN, RN, *Middle School*
- Siobann Stoughton, BSN, RN, *Belle Aire*

Director of Environmental Health
- Brian King, BS, *Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS)*

Environmental Health
- Shelby Hughes, *Environmental Clerk*
- Scherika Brinson, BS, *Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS)*
- Eric Newcomer, *O&M Coordinator, Environmental Technician*

Clerical Director
- Cathy Smith, *Immunization Clerk*

Clerical Staff
- Heidi Phipps, *Registrar*
- Donna Butler, *Receptionist*

Vital Statistics
- Heidi Phipps, *Registrar*
- Sandy Armstrong, Registrar *(Retired March 2024)*

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Megan Batson, BS, REHS

Public Information Officer
- Missy Smith, MA

Accreditation / Workforce Development Coordinator
- Jackie Lewis, M Ed

Health Educator
- Janessa Williamson, RN, CLS

Special Projects Coordinator
- Harley Dawson, BS

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator
- Ethan T. Johnson, MPH, MSOH

Director of Help Me Grow
- Sharon Gibbs, BA

Help Me Grow
- Karen Creel-Lakes, BA, *Home Visiting Supervisor*
- Liz Deis, BS, *Supervisor, Home Visitor, Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Coordinator, Child Passenger Safety Technician*
- Jackie Lewis, M Ed, *Home Visitor*
- Shawna Chace, BA, *Home Visitor, Child Passenger Safety Technician*
- Beth King, M Ed, *Home Visitor, Child Passenger Safety Technician*
- Molly Gruber, BA, *Home Visitor, Child Passenger Safety Technician*
- Ellyse Sparkman, BA, *Home Visitor, Child Passenger Safety Technician*
- Jennifer Woods, BSS, *Home Visitor, Child Passenger Safety Technician*
- Sara Randolph, M Ed, *Home Visitor*
- Heather Hoppes, M. Ed., *Home Visitor*
- Kasey Armstrong, *M. Ed., Home Visitor*
- Jessica Haines, *M. Ed., Home Visitor*

Director of WIC
- Karyn Tucker, RD, LD

WIC
- Lisa Marting, *Clerk*
- Janessa Williamson, RN, CLS, *Breastfeeding Coordinator*
- Katelin Jones, *Peer Helper*

REVIEWS

I can think of dozens of examples in the last year of someone going above and beyond to support a family-dropping off a needed item, making a referral or advocating for a family with a doctor or other community partner, making sure that a family had holiday help when they had a need or sending a supportive message to a family who was struggling.

~Employee Satisfaction Survey Feedback, February 2024







Always enjoy providing outreach to the community through clinics. This allows FCPH to show how well we work together, how wonderful our staff does at planning mass events and just in general, how wonderful our staff is.

Employee Satisfaction Survey Feedback, February 2024



I love everything about this place the staff and everything. The main people I ever see are Erica and Darci, I've been going here for years. I have even drove as far as it was two hours just because of how great they are, and refuse to change. Darci always goes above and beyond for me always telling me, to call anytime for questions. I grew such a good bond with her and the staff. Even if I didn't have insurance, I'd pay out of pocket to go to them.

Haley J., 5 star Google Review, January 2025



Falkyn was so happy to see Miss Beth yesterday. She's not only our Help Me Grow Home Visitor, she's a piece of our puzzle! May will be our last visit and I have cried several times these last few months at the thought of losing her. She is such an amazing human being. She has been by my side through this whole autism journey. She has shaped me to become a better mother, she praises me and celebrates my sobriety anniversary yearly.

She tells me all the time that she has learned so much from me and is able to understand addiction now and see how important recovery is.

It really does crush my heart that we only have four more visits left. This woman is so incredibly important to me. She has been with us since he was a few months old. How do you have someone in your life for 5 years and then they'll just be gone?

Beth has been my rock in so many ways, she probably doesn't even realize it! She gives me strength and wisdom. The impact she has made on our lives is immeasurable. Thank you God for blessing us with this amazing person and we are sure are going to miss you when our time is up!

-Brooke C., Help Me Grow mom, Facebook post, January 2025

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

WE ARE ALL PUBLIC HEALTH

As part of the 2024 strategic planning process, Fayette County Public Health staff reviewed and revised the mission, vision and values of the department. The new vision, “Working Together For A Healthy Community,” reflects FCPH’s commitment to working with community partners to ensure a safe and healthy community for all. During public health week in April 2024, many of our community partners participated in a campaign to show their support for public health.



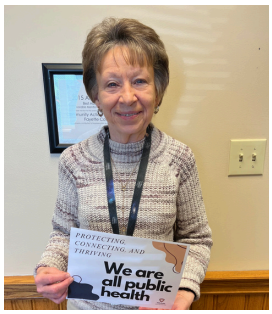
Farmers’ Market



Carnegie Public Library



Ohio State University Extension - Fayette County



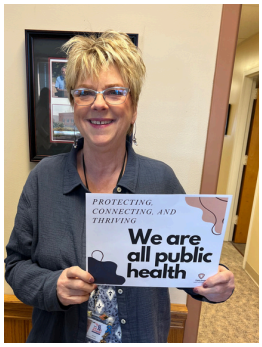
Adena Fayette Medical Center



Community Action Commission Governing Board



Fayette County YMCA



Department of Job and Family Services



Washington Court House City Schools



Miami Trace Local Schools



City Council
The Playground Project



Board of Elections



FACT (Fayette Advocating Change Together)
Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities