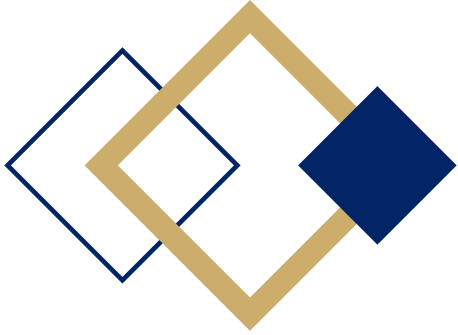


**ZANESVILLE
MUSKINGUM
COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Zanesville-Muskingum County



Health Commissioner Corey Hamilton served as the President of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) in 2023-2024. Corey is shown with Ben Robison, Wood County Health Commissioner and 2024-2025 AOHC President.

FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Dear Muskingum County Residents, Businesses, and Local Government Partners,

As I look back on 2024, I can't help but be proud of the way the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department serves our communities. You'll see the highlights of the great work staff do in this report. Public Health practice is broad. From responding to the tornado which swept through Frazeytsburg and the storm in Avondale, to helping women through a healthy pregnancy and then offering services and supports so our youngest residents get a healthy start in life, to partnering with other community organizations to combine and multiply resources to address needs that are too complex to resolve individually. We're fortunate to serve a community that works together toward making Muskingum County the healthiest place to live, learn, work and play. Thank you for your support and partnership.

Corey Y. Hamilton, MS, RD, LD

2024 Board of Health

Jennifer Agin, CPA, MT

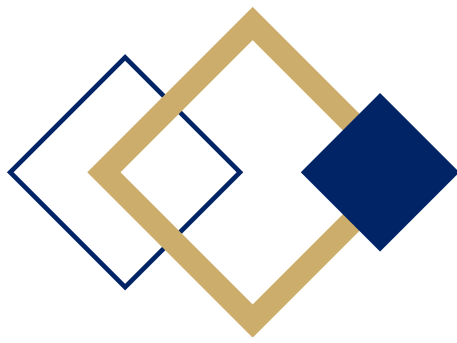
James Brown, Esq.

Paul Nestor

Abby Nguyen, DBA, MBA,BSN, RN

James Shepherd, MEd, CIT

Callie E. Crider, DO



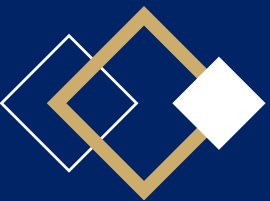
FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Fortunately, most of the challenges of the pandemic have receded to the rearview mirror. The past year brought a return to many of the typical public health issues, challenges, and opportunities. Just a few of the topics that garnered my attention included the opiate crisis with all its attendant issues, recreational marijuana, environmental lead toxicity, mercury toxicity, infectious diseases (such as Listeria, Rabies, Tuberculosis, STIs, Respiratory viruses, COVID, Pertussis, RSV, and Avian Flu), and heat and cold weather health risks. Going forward, I anticipate all of these topics, and the many that are unmentioned, to continue to be important.

I also see new challenges, primarily coming from afar. Though we will still heavily rely on our here-to-fore trustworthy and evidence-based resources for information and guidance, there is cause for concern. We have a politically charged environment that is also surrounded by social media pundits, providing at least the potential for state and federal recommendations to be influenced by something other than science. Thus, careful attention to the details and data that have driven those recommendations is important now more than ever. At ZMCHD, we are fortunate to have excellent inhouse resources, with people who are willing to ask for advice and critically evaluate recommendations. They place us in a good position to provide the best service to our county.

There are ongoing current concerns, such as the avian flu epidemic and concerns about the future of our (national) vaccination programs that we will be wrestling with in the immediate future, with many unknowns in front of us. But, looking forward with a critical eye and an open mind, I am optimistic that we will continue to provide the excellent service to our county residents that they have come to expect.

Jack Butterfield, MD



STRATEGIC PLANNING



MISSION

To use best practices to prevent illness, protect our health, and promote well-being.



VISION

Muskingum County is the healthiest place to live, learn, work, and play.



VALUES

- Respect diversity and practice inclusion.
- Be accountable, ethical, and equitable.
- Practice continuous process improvement.
- Be helpful, adaptive, and take pride in providing excellent service.
- Engage with our communities and work as a team to achieve desired results.

Purpose

The Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department Strategic Plan informs Muskingum County residents, partnering agencies and organizations, and staff of the following:

- Where our agency is headed over the next five years (2023 to 2027)
- What we plan to achieve
- How we will achieve it
- How we will monitor and measure our progress

The Strategic Plan provides a guide for making decisions and appropriately allocating resources to meet local needs and priorities.

Priorities

Workforce Development

- Build a Team
- Enhance Leadership Skills
- Enhance Staff Competencies

Community Engagement

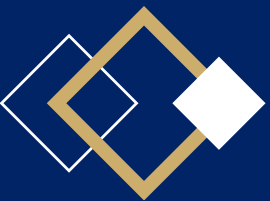
- Enhance relationships with community partners
- Engage the target population
- Monitor the Community Health Improvement Plan

Program Evaluation

- Ensure Program Evaluation
- Performance Management & Quality Improvement

Progress

Currently in the implementation phase, the strategic plan continues through 2027 with the collaborative work of staff at ZMCHD. The strategic plan work group meets quarterly for progress updates, education on tools being used, and to work on planning projects. Team leads for each priority area meet with smaller work groups throughout the year on their objectives. Highlights included competency assessments for all staff regarding their knowledge of public health foundational capabilities, and the completion of several program evaluation projects.



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Erin Wood, BS, Chief Administrative Officer

ADMINISTRATION

In 2024, ZMCHD had an operating budget of approximately \$7,325,930. As seen in our fiscal report, the levy is 43% of our revenue. We want to thank our community for all of their support to allow us to keep providing our services to you. Our agency works hard to be good stewards of our levy, local monies, and grants. Being fiscally sound has us operating in the black.

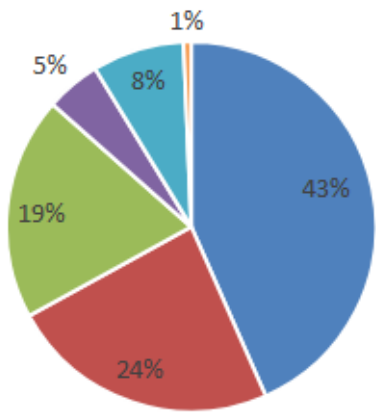
Jacqueline Layton, BS, Fiscal Specialist

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

ZMCHD budgets for revenue and expenses for the current year and has cash that is carried over to the next year. Our goal is to keep cash available for any contingencies that may arise (disasters, loss of revenue source, grant funding match, etc.) By the end of the 2024 operating period, the fund balance was \$6,150,182.

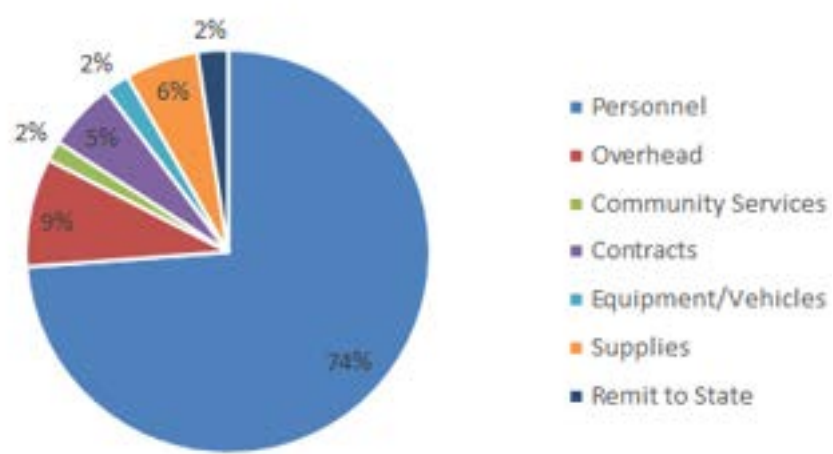
2024 Revenue = \$7,281,245

- Levies
- Fees
- Grants
- Intergovernmental (Local & State)
- Contracts
- State Subsidy

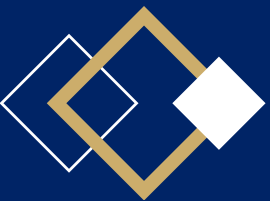


The following charts show income, and expenses ending December 31, 2024.

2024 Expenses = \$6,789,486



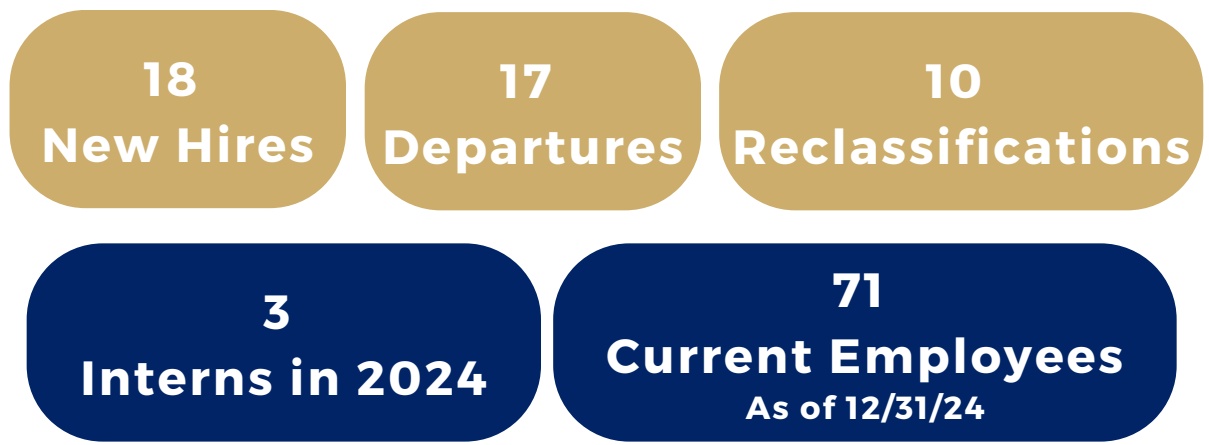
A detailed copy of the annual financial report statement is available on request.



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2024**

Shelbi Van Meter, Human Resources Coordinator

HUMAN RESOURCES



ZMCHD Employee Accomplishments



ZMCHD employees Lori Burnell, and Carrie Williamson graduated from Leadership Muskingum. Shown here with the rest of the 2024 graduation class.

Monica Batteiger received a 2023 Jenco Award that recognizes unsung heroes for her work with Drug Free Muskingum.

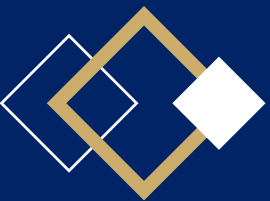


Women of Achievement winners Ann Hollingsworth for the Josephine Phillips Health Care Award, and Cassandra Settles for the Ethel Granger Schultz Young Adult Award pictured with several coworkers from ZMCHD.

Celebrating 20+ Years of Service with ZMCHD

Let's Celebrate

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Corey Hamilton (20) | Jennifer Hiestand (24) |
| Ann Hollingsworth (22) | Jennifer Murrey (24) |
| Jason Tilton (22) | Adam Dickerson (26) |
| Anita Wright (24) | Erin Wood (29) |
| Ann Gooden (24) | Kristine Medley (31) |



Dusty Ziemer, Registrar

VITAL STATISTICS

**ANNUAL
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2024**

Top 3 Girl Names

Lainey/Laynee (13)
Ellie (8)
Olivia (7)

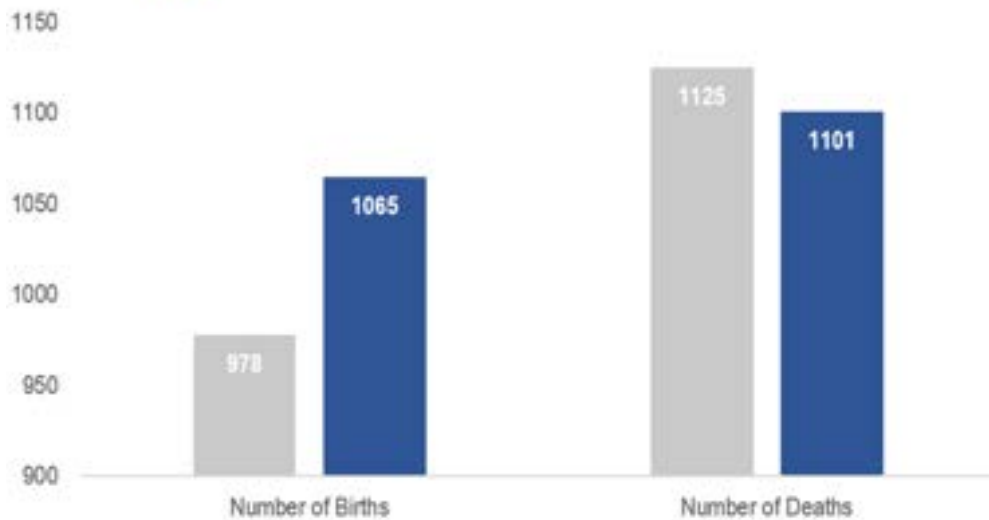
Top 3 Boy Names

Hudson (12)
Maverick/Mavrik/Mavryk (11)
Greysen/Grayson/Greyson (10)

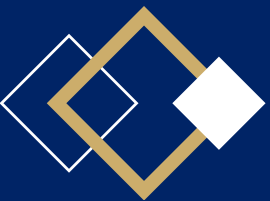
Birth & Deaths

The graphic below shows births and deaths in the county between 2023 and 2024. Over the last two years, births in Muskingum County have increased by 8.9%, while deaths have decreased by 2.1%. This can be seen in the total population of the county from about 86,113 individuals in 2023 to 86,496 individuals in 2024, which is about a 0.4% increase in total population.

Deaths in Muskingum County decreased by 2.1% from 2023 to 2024, while births increased 8.9%



Birth Certificate Issued	4,448
Death Certificates Issued	5,006
Burial Permits Issued	1,004



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Erin Wood, BS, Chief Administrative Officer

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) coordinates with healthcare and emergency medical service providers on preventing, detecting, quickly responding to, and recovering from any type of emergency that impacts your health, particularly those emergencies whose scale, timing, and unpredictability threatens to overwhelm routine capabilities.

PHEP activities include the following:

- planning drills and exercises such as the annual Drive-Thru Flu/COVID Shot Clinic;
- creating proactive education related to communicable disease;
- reviewing emergency plans;
- staff trainings;
- attending meetings and activities for the Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry Healthcare Coalition, and the SE/SEC Regional Healthcare Coalition.

SEVERE WEATHER TIPS

- 1. Have a plan**
Where will you go?
What will you do?
How will you communicate?
- 2. Be weather aware**
Check forecasts daily.
Follow weather-related social media accounts.
Sign-up for weather alerts.
- 3. Download weather apps**
Emergency: Severe Weather App.
Severe Weather Alerts.
The Weather Channel - Radar.
- 4. Have an emergency kit**
Water, Food, Flashlight, Pre-charged battery pack for mobile phone, Medical supplies, Medications, Weather radio, Clothes, Multi-tool, Family and emergency contacts, Money.

Public Health
Severe Weather Unit

During 2024, the PHEP team welcomed two new members: Jacob Graham, the new PHEP Coordinator, and Brandon Francis, the new Regional PHEP Coordinator. They work alongside Jacob Wilson, Emergency Preparedness Staff Support.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

Why have an Emergency Preparedness Kit?
Emergencies can happen quickly and without warning. Being prepared increases your chance for survival.

What is an Emergency Preparedness Kit?
It's a pre-staged stockpile of supplies (3-14 days worth) that is easy and quick to access in case of an emergency. It could be transportable (go-bag) or staged in your safe space.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS BY THE OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY:

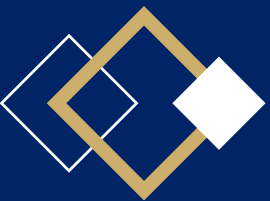
- Water -- 1 gallon per person per day
- Food -- nonperishable, ready-to-eat
- Radio -- battery or hand-crank
- Medications
- Multi-purpose tool
- Important documents
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Cell Phone and charging device
- First aid kit
- Family/emergency contact info
- Extra cash

Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department
740-454-8700 www.zmchd.org

Public Health
Severe Weather Unit



The PHEP team conducted preparedness education classes free to the public while also creating various educational materials shared on ZMCHD socials. PHEP managed logistics for the Zanesville City Half Marathon, responded to the Frazeytsburg tornado, a residential mercury spill incident, and coordinated a warming and cooling shelters plan with local partners.



Carol Howdysshell, MSN, RN, Director

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL

Communicable Disease Prevention & Control works in partnership with the community to promote health and quality of life and to protect the public from the spread of communicable diseases and the health impact of emergencies.

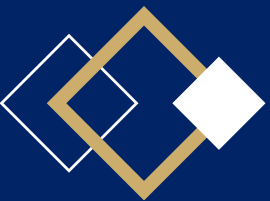
Epidemiology collects and analyzes data on cases and outbreaks of communicable diseases. We work with community partners in healthcare settings and educational institutions on mitigation and infection prevention.



The table below lists the top ten causes of death in Muskingum County in 2024. The category of “Diseases of the heart” was the top cause of death with 231 total deaths. This particular cause of death was in the top ten in 2023. While heart diseases and malignant neoplasms account for the majority of deaths in 2024, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer’s, cerebrovascular diseases, and diabetes continue to be in the top ten leading causes of death from year to year.

Leading Cause of deaths

Leading Causes of Death Muskingum County 2024			
No.	Leading Cause of Death	Death Count	Mortality Rate*
1	23 Diseases of heart (I00-I09,I11,I13,I20-I51)	231	267.06
2	15 Malignant neoplasms (C00-C97)	222	256.66
3	45 Accidents (UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES) (V01-X59,Y85-Y86)	66	76.30
4	30 Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47)	64	73.99
5	25 Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)	62	71.68
6	22 Alzheimer's disease (G30)	38	43.93
7	18 Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	37	42.78
8	28 Influenza and pneumonia (J09-J18)	30	34.68
9	36 Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (K70,K73-K74)	18	20.81
10	38 Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (N00-N07,N17-N19,N25-N27)	17	19.65



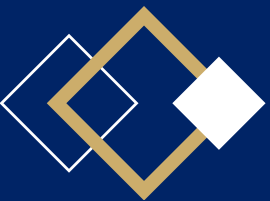
ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Reportable Conditions

Muskingum County had a total of 2,277 reportable conditions in 2024. These conditions are populated to the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) for case investigation by the local health department (LHD). COVID-19 continues to be the most common reportable condition, with 1,672 cases in 2024, though down from 3,294 cases in 2023. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, are also large contributors to the total cases of the year. In 2024, diseases that are not typically seen, such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and cyclosporiasis, were reported.

Count of Reportable Conditions Muskingum County 2024		
Reportable Condition	Cases in 2024	5-year average*
Campylobacteriosis	17	3.4
Chlamydia infection	184	36.8
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0.2
COVID-19	1672	334.4
CPO	1	0.2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	0.2
Cryptosporidiosis	22	4.4
Cyclosporiasis	1	0.2
STEC	1	0.2
Giardia	6	1.2
Gonorrhea	33	6.6
Haemophilus influenzae	3	0.6
Hepatitis B - chronic	6	1.2
Hepatitis C	44	8.8
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1	0.2
Influenza - ODHL Results	5	1
Influenza-associated hosp.	114	22.8
Legionellosis	2	0.4
Lyme Disease	94	18.8
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0.2
Pertussis	11	2.2
Salmonellosis	10	2
Shigellosis	1	0.2
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	9	1.8
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	1	0.2
Streptococcus pneumoniae	22	4.4
Syphilis	13	2.6
Varicella	1	0.2
Grand Total	2,277	

*5-year average rate per 100,000 population



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

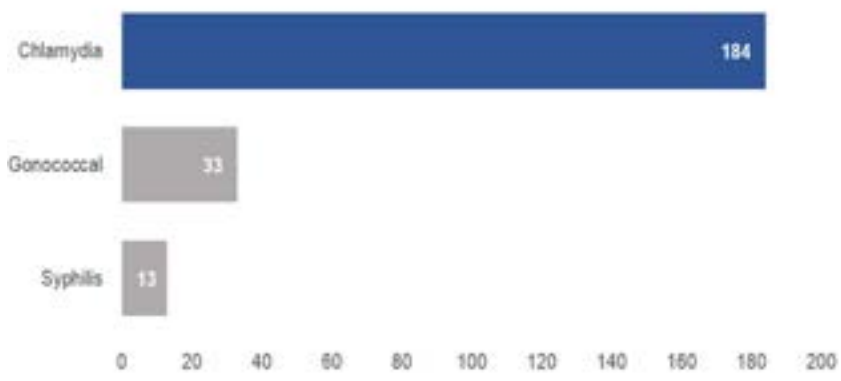
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

STIs make up a vast majority of reportable cases in Muskingum County. In 2024, chlamydia was the majority of STIs reported, making up 80% of all STIs in the county.

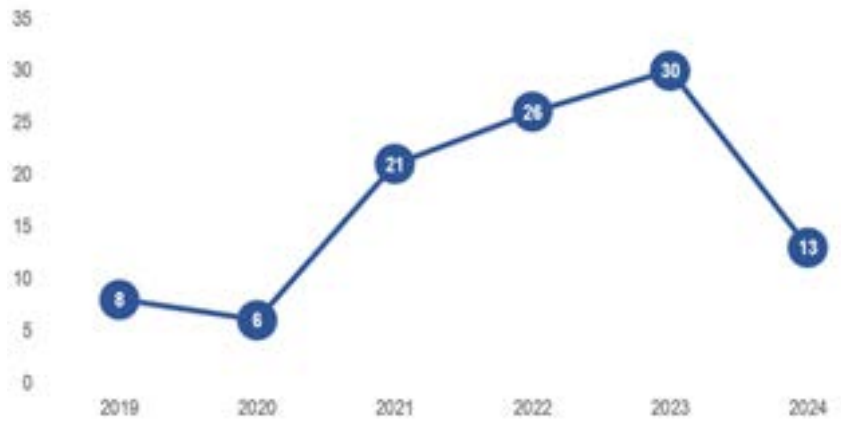
Females account for 73% of all reported STIs in 2024. Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were seen more often in women than men. STIs may be seen more commonly in females due to differences in anatomy between the sexes with females being more vulnerable. Also, females typically have more routine doctor appointments with opportunities for screenings than males. Males are also more likely to be asymptomatic for chlamydia and gonorrhea, even during an infection.

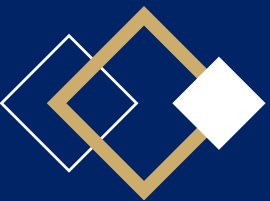
There was a total of 230 STIs reported in Muskingum County in 2024. The majority of STIs took place in individuals ages 19-29 years, accounting for 65% of all STI cases. Children 18 years and younger account for 10% of total STI cases. The age range for STIs in 2024 was 14-67 years.

Over **80%** of STI cases in Muskingum County in 2024 were **chlamydia**



Muskingum County Syphilis cases **increased 275%** between 2019 and 2023, but saw a **57% decrease** in 2024.



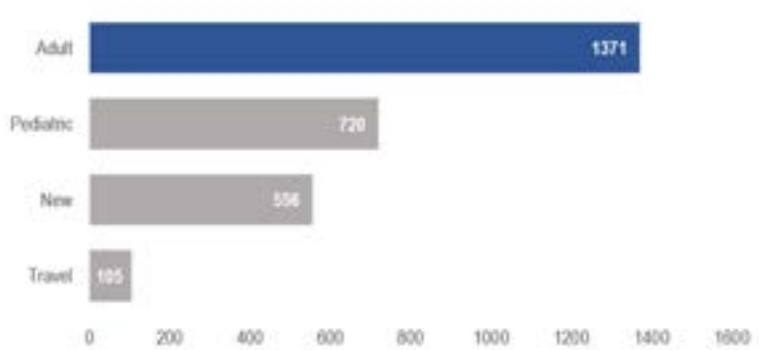


ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Vaccinations

We administer state-supplied and privately purchased vaccinations to people of all ages who are due for vaccinations to prevent disease and protect health. We assess vaccination status of children, and sponsor vaccination clinics in our community. We also provide vaccinations, prevention medication, and travel health education for international travelers.

Adults accounted for 49.8% of vaccine patients seen in 2024.

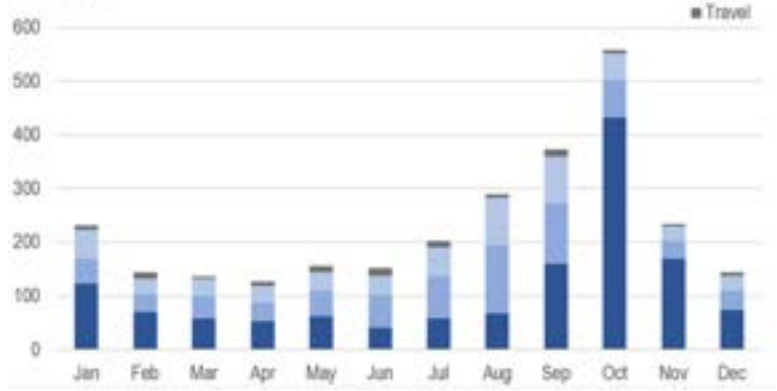


Our annual drive thru Flu and COVID-19 clinics in October are nearly half of our total Flu and COVID-19 vaccines for the year.

Top Vaccines Given in 2024

- COVID-19
- Flu
- Boostrix (Tdap)
- Menveo (Meningococcal)
- Gardasil (HPV)

20% of all vaccine patients in 2024 were seen in October.



Nurses in the Community



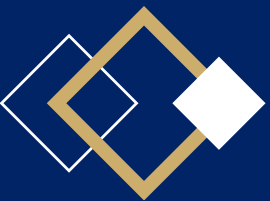
Health Department staff providing youth vaccine records to the community at the Kindergarten Backpack Event.



Ohio University Zanesville Nursing students in green scrubs help vaccinate the community at the October Drive Thru clinic.



Health Department nurses organizing vaccine during a clinic.



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Ann Hollingsworth, MAE, REHS, Director

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

You can see the hard work of our dynamic service area both inside the walls of ZMCHD and out in the community. Our many projects include harm reduction, strategic planning, performance management, program evaluation, tobacco prevention, accreditation, workforce development, community engagement, community health assessment, community health planning, and work on various coalitions and committees. In 2024, we added 2 health educators and 3 health planners to our team!

Community Health Assessment (CHA)

A new CHA project began in 2024. These are performed about every 3 years. A community health survey has been underway since fall of 2024 for Muskingum County residents. These results, along with responses from focus groups held in 2024, will be used for a final report which will be available in 2025. The health priorities indicated as needs for improvement will be used to develop our next Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will begin in 2026.

CDC Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Mission: Empower residents by addressing community needs and removing systemic barriers to achieve better health outcomes.

Purpose: Guide future community health initiatives by actively involving the focus population from the start.

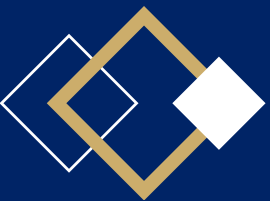
Goals:

- Increasing the use of community resources and volunteer engagement,
- Enhancing outreach to priority populations to ensure they receive necessary support,
- Improving planning processes to reduce the duplication of efforts and streamline resource allocation.

Projects:

HMCN: Listen, Learn, & Improve Project, Which aims to engage disparate groups to improve their barriers and empower residents, Putnam Housing Project, Murals, The volunteer hub “Muskingum Friends in Action.” Go to zmfriends.voly.org 13





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Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

The current CHIP runs through the end of 2025. Work groups on priorities are led by their respective coalitions, Collective Impact, Creating Healthy Communities, Housing Advisory Group, and Muskingum County Literacy Council. Progress is shared during the Healthier Muskingum County Network (HMCN) and can be found on the “Progress Tracker” dashboard at zmchd.org. The HMCN has grown to 50+ agencies and organizations.

Education & Literacy

Enterprise Muskingum was launched in 2024 to enhance cradle-to-career readiness in education. MCLS introduced an adult literacy specialist program tailored to individual reading needs by meeting people where they are at. Community support for literacy initiatives included a fundraiser by Red Rose Tattoo that raised \$10,000 for this program.



Health Behaviors

This year we hosted a community scavenger hunt “Learn as You Grow” in partnership with Muskingum County Literacy Council, Urban Greens, Muskingum County Library System, and various community partners. This activity promoted awareness of our community gardens and literacy by having families going to the gardens, reading the clue and completing the scavenger hunt.



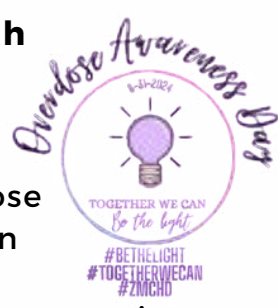
Housing & Homelessness

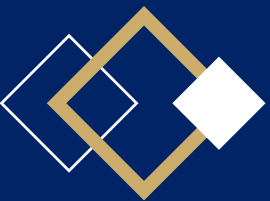
During 2024, we reached our goal of a 2% increase in Housing Choice Voucher program (Section 8) usage with Zanesville-Metropolitan Housing Authority. In April, we partnered with them to do a community clean up day in the Putnam area and Coopermill Manor. ZMCHD, ZMHA, and volunteers from other organizations including those without housing participated.



Behavioral Health

ZMCHD hosted a Community Prevention Overdose Awareness event in August. The event included over 20 community partners such as the Wilds, Y on the Fly, and community resources. The family friendly event was open to everyone. They were able to play fun games at the booths and learn more about community resources. They could also make a light to place outside of the courthouse in memory of someone lost to an overdose.





ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Harm Reduction and Prevention/ Project DAWN

ZMCHD is a registered Project DAWN program, providing life-saving Naloxone (opioid overdose reversal nasal spray) to the community. In 2024, we provided 2,584 kits to community members, 246 kits to first responders, trained 1,499 people, and had 297 overdose reversals reported. Highlights of our year included the first overdose awareness education family event and the 5th annual celebration of life walk, "Be the Light" (below).



Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review (OFR/SFR)

The OFR/SFR committee consists of members from many sectors of the community who engage with people struggling with substance use and/or behavioral health issues. Quarterly, overdose and suicide deaths from Muskingum County were reviewed to address contributing factors to prevent future deaths. Recommendations from 2024 included increasing peer supporters and family & youth resources, implementing next-of-kin interviews, and an anti-stigma campaign.

In 2024, Muskingum County had:

29

Overdose Deaths

&

14

Suicide Deaths

Average age:
41.9
40.4

% Female	% Male
31%	69%
29%	71%

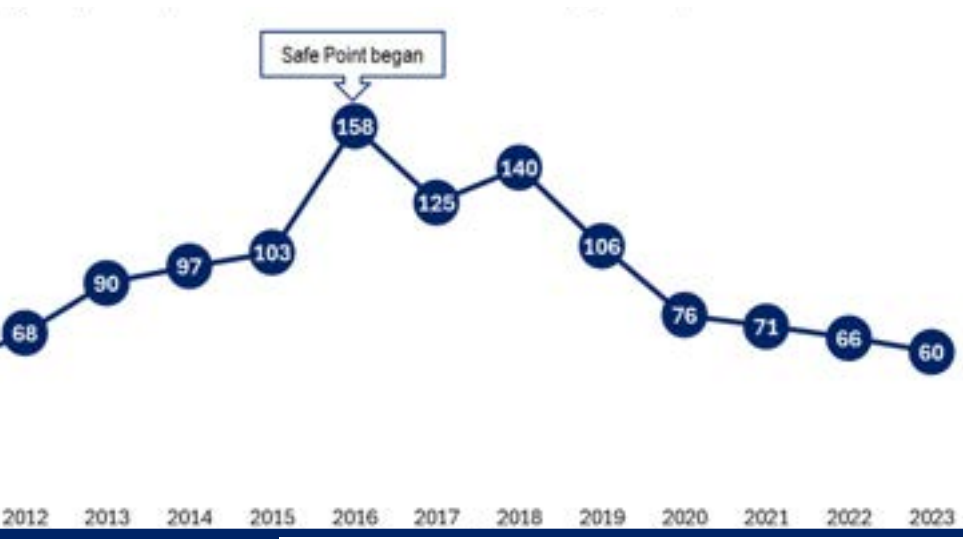
% Black	% White
21%	79%
0%	93%
7% Unknown	

Toxicology
% Overdose decedents positive for:
Any opioid: **86%**
Fentanyl: **69%**
Fentanyl & Meth: **41.4%**

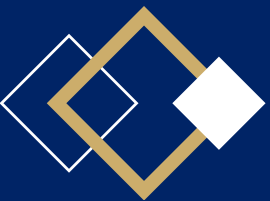
Method of Death
Suicide decedents
Firearms: **50%**
Suffocation: **50%**

Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program

New Hepatitis C cases in **Muskingum County** peaked in 2016 but have been trending downwards.



Safe Point is ZMCHD's bloodborne infectious disease prevention program aimed to decrease the spread of diseases. It also provides education on treatment options and linkages to care. In 2024, Safe Point served 110 individuals at 627 service encounters. As a one to one syringe exchange, over 17,000 needles were safely disposed and 572 naloxone kits were provided. While factors other than Safe Point have impacted our county's decrease in viral Hepatitis C cases, we hope that it has been a contributing factor. **15**



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Tobacco Use Prevention

Youth at Eastside Community Ministries completed the “Through Your Eyes” project which was showcased at the Muskingum County Fair. Middle school students in the county took part in tobacco education and created posters like the one below from an East Muskingum student. Staff participated in several community events like the South Zanesville Business Assoc. Christmas Parade, and a Trunk or Treat at the Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority (see our #stayvapefree backdrop below). We hosted our annual Kick Butts Day where 26 students from Zanesville High School took action to clean up the community around their school.



Hope Givers

A new group, Hope Givers, launched in 2024. It is a group of Muskingum County community members who work at local organizations. Their goals are to strengthen support for agencies and people experiencing homelessness, implement hands-on support initiatives, promote self-care and well-being, and measure impact to ensure sustainability. Their first project was creating and delivering 120 treats, which included self-care tips, to Christ’s Table for their holiday party in December.

Creating Healthy Communities

Creating Healthy Communities is a new, 5-year grant at ZMCHD. Strategies for it include multi-use trails, community gardens, and food banks/pantries. A coalition was formed in 2024 with various community partners to prioritize projects for each strategy. Surveys are being created by the coalition to gather community feedback regarding each strategy. Additionally, onsite visits to food banks and pantries has begun.



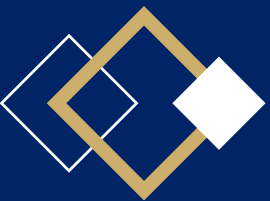
Community Engagement & Performance Management staff at the South Zanesville Business Association Christmas Parade.



Amanda Goldsmith at the annual Drive Through COVID/Flu Vaccine Clinic.



New staff member, Kris Headley, with her dog, Fetch.



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Adam Dickerson, MS, REHS, Director

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The year 2024 marked a period of notable achievement and exciting growth for the Environmental Health service area, as we found new opportunities to enhance our programs and broaden their impact. Our team, including environmental health specialists, plumbing inspectors, and administrative staff, have worked alongside the health educator to ensure the smooth execution of daily operations, while also prioritizing environmental health education across the community.

While many of our core environmental programs remain consistent, we continually seek innovative ways to expand and refine our services to better protect the health and safety of those we serve. The personnel changes we experienced in 2024 reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening internal collaboration and maximizing our ability to meet the needs of our team and the public.

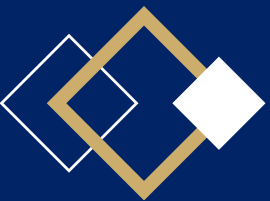
This past year, we celebrated the well-deserved promotions of Matt Hemmer and Michael Cruze, who stepped into the roles of Sewage Team Lead and Food Team Lead. Their leadership has proven invaluable, driving efforts to enhance consistency and efficiency within our food and sewage programs.

Health Educator, Carleigh West, earned her Environmental Health Specialist in Training license and began gaining hands-on experience conducting food inspections under the guidance of Michael Cruze.

The restructuring of our team and the successes we've achieved continue to inspire and motivate us, strengthening our commitment to advancing the capabilities of Environmental Health and ensuring our community remains a safe and healthy place for everyone.



Pictured: Darlene Powell, Adam Dickerson, Matt Hemmer, Michael Cruze, Jason Tilton, Samantha Wantz, Dalton Kirkbride, Bob Lewis, and Michael Hittle. Not pictured: Carleigh West & Sharon Gibbs



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Solid Waste

Properties that have trash and solid waste nuisance conditions are investigated and are required to be mitigated. Low-income households may qualify for funding to provide a dumpster to assist with the removal of solid waste, as seen in the photos to the right.

A common challenge faced within the solid waste program is hoarding disorder. Throughout the past year staff have dedicated time to learn about community resources that may be beneficial in managing hoarding disorder. Being mindful of this condition is crucial to the effectiveness of the solid waste program.



19

Complaints Investigated

4

Dumpsters Provided



“No Butts About It”

Tobacco & Hazardous Waste Education

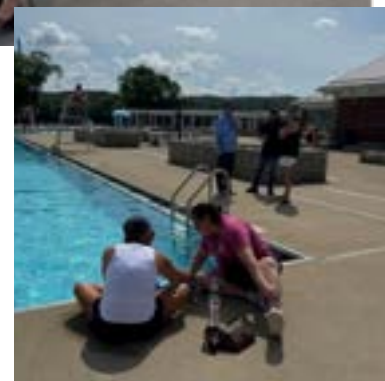
Environmental Health collaborated with the Community Engagement and Performance Management team to educate youth at Zanesville City Schools the harmful impacts of tobacco and nicotine use, not only to their health, but also to their environment. The event presented the opportunity to educate students on tobacco/nicotine health effects, pollution, and proper hazardous waste disposal methods.

Public Pool Inspections

Public pools and spas are inspected for proper disinfection levels, equipment integrity, and general safety.

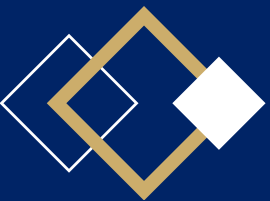
The annual pool workshop for pool operators provides a review of our county pools’ collective compliance from the previous year presented in a way to encourage improvements for the upcoming year. The previous presentation was done in collaboration with Martinelli Pools and Spas to offer a new perspective on the importance of proper pool water chemistry.

The workshop fostered discussion on necessary drowning prevention efforts needed within our community. The training has inspired an exciting project coming in 2025!



109

Public Pools Inspected



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Food Service Inspections

The food service program includes the licensing and inspection of food service operations, retail food establishments, mobile food services, temporary food services, and vending machines. Inspectors work diligently to complete all required inspections on schedule while educating food operators on the importance of food safety.

Three Person-in-Charge Food Trainings were conducted in 2024 to certify 60 individuals with their Level 1 Food Safety certificates. One of the trainings was held at Mid-East Career and Technology Centers, providing future restaurant and food service workers with essential knowledge on proper food handling practices.

1,251

Food Safety Inspections

704

Food Licenses Renewed

7

Facilities had Enforcement Action



Lead Poisoning Prevention

The lead poisoning prevention program addresses the risks of lead exposure in young children with blood lead levels at 3.5µg/dL or greater by providing prevention strategies to caregivers, supplying families with cleaning supplies and resources, and assessing homes through a lead exposure questionnaire. If a child's blood lead level reaches 10+µg/dL, an on-site investigation is conducted to identify potential sources of exposure.

30

3.5-<10µg/dL Cases

7

10+µg/dL Cases

Animal Bites & Mosquitoes

Animal bites remain a concern in the community. Domestic animals that bite a person must be evaluated, and owners are required to provide proof of a current rabies vaccination. Wild and stray animals, if captured, are tested for rabies to assess potential exposure risks.

There was even a rhino case this year!



265

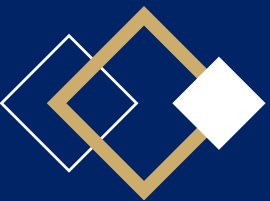
Animal Bite Cases



Mosquito trapping and spraying continue to be widely utilized services. Public awareness of mosquito and tick bite prevention increased through educational efforts at the 4-H Livestock Skillathon Event and the John McIntire Library, in collaboration with the OSU Extension Office.

62

Problem Areas Treated



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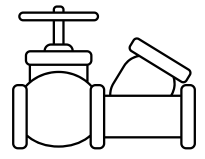
Plumbing Inspections

The plumbing inspectors ensure compliance with the plumbing code in residential and commercial buildings to help protect the community's drinking water. They conduct inspections across Muskingum, Perry, and Coshocton counties to uphold safety and sanitation standards.



1,270

Plumbing Inspections



2,952

Backflow Devices Tested

Backflow Prevention

Commercial backflow devices are required to be tested annually to ensure proper functioning and prevent contamination. Administrative staff work closely with plumbing inspectors to manage the backflow data system and send timely notices regarding testing requirements.

Sewage Inspections

The sewage program inspects private sewage treatment systems within the county, as well as investigating nuisance complaints. Environmental Health Specialists evaluate and approve system designs and oversee the installation of new and altered private sewage systems.

341

Sewage Inspections

Funding from the Ohio EPA is available to assist low-income households with sewage system repairs. In 2024, \$100,000 was allocated to support these repair efforts.

158

New Sewage Permits

2024 Highlights



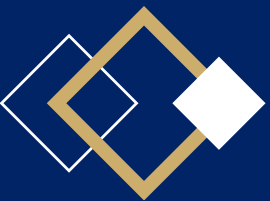
Before ↗

After ↘



A commercial septic tank in our area had been failing for years, posing a threat to the Muskingum River. With intervention from the Ohio EPA, the owners were able to install a new sewage treatment system, resolving a long-standing environmental health concern. This property, once the subject of persistent sewage complaints, is now fully compliant with regulations.

The Licking View Sewer Expansion Project is underway. The public sewer is expanding by about 140 homes and businesses. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2026. In the mean time, our office is busy guiding the public on their next steps and what permits are required.



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Carol Howdysshell, MSN, RN, Director

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Family & Community Health & Wellness (FCHW) service area largely provides services and programs for children, mothers, and families. While the main focus is on maternal and child health, additional services are available to a wider range of community members through social service support.

FCHW program staff work hard to directly support program participants over a longer period of time, connect residents to resources, and attend community events to share information. This is unique compared to other programs at ZMCHD that see participants for a short period. The stories of our participants lives improving as a result of their enrollment tell more about our impact than simple numbers do.

Success Stories:

A five-year-old child participating in WIC had a body mass index (BMI) that was well above the 97th percentile, mostly due to drinking large amounts of milk instead of eating regular meals. To improve his BMI, WIC staff worked with mom to set goals around nutrition and milk intake. The family was provided with education on healthy snacks, drinks, and information about the Farmers Market program. As a result, the child's BMI decreased to just above the 90th percentile, and they were more active and eating regular meals with less milk.



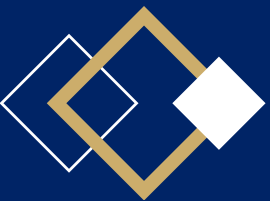
A public health nurse (PHN) worked with a mom who had been in prison and jail multiple times for drug charges. She shared a desire to change and wanted to raise her child. The mom was open to additional supports and even enrolled into a second program. The PHN worked with other programs to get letters of recommendation and helped the mom get a second chance at affordable housing through ZMHA. Since enrollment in Smart Choices Strong Families, she has maintained housing, substance use relapse prevention classes, and is raising her child. She has continued to rely on her support system and is doing great!

One of Help Me Grow's (HMG) clients was a mom with four children under the age of four. The mom worked full time, often overtime, to provide for her children. All four children were screened for signs of early developmental concerns. The Home Visitor noticed two of her children could benefit from being enrolled in additional support services, and were referred to ZMCHD's Early Intervention program. The mother thanked her Home Visitor for the referral. She said that HMG helped her to recognize small differences in her children's behaviors. Her Home Visitor made her feel like they understood and wanted to help.



A Bridges to Wellness (BTW) participant was living in a domestic violence shelter and was in recovery for substance use, which didn't allow them time to work. They had an eviction in the past, which made it hard to find affordable housing. A Community Health Worker helped her client navigate a difficult application and appeals process, and after working with BTW for three months the participant is now moved into safe and reliable housing at ZMHA. This was a huge success for our client!

*All FCHW programs have stories of success. These are just a few of our favorites from 2024.

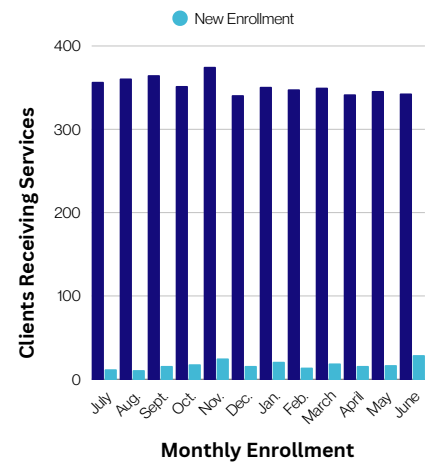


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Complex Medical Help (CMH)

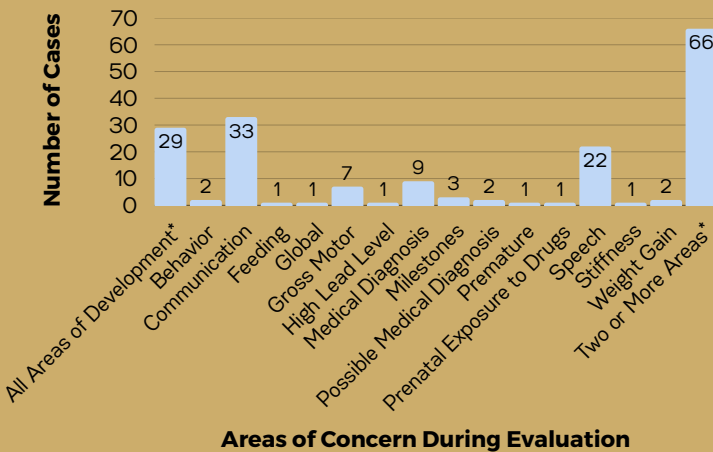
Complex Medical Help, formerly Children with Medical Handicaps, is a program sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health. CMH assists Muskingum County families with children who have special healthcare needs. In 2024, the Public Health Nurses (PHNs) supported over 475 families by coordinating services, assisting with applications and paperwork, completing home visits, and educating families. Additionally, the PHNs sent out over 1,000 educational newsletters throughout the year.

CMH Worked With Over 475 Families



* Continued Enrollment refers to children in the diagnostic or treatment stages.

Evaluated Over 180 Children:



*Children with "two or more areas of concern" or "all areas of development" as concern may have any combination of the other listed developmental delays, informed clinical opinions, or diagnosed medical conditions. Examples of medical diagnoses may include Autism Spectrum Disorder, Blindness, Brain malformation, Cerebral Palsy, Chromosomal abnormalities, Cleft lip/palate, Heart conditions, Cystic Fibrosis, Deafness, Epilepsy, FAS, HIV/AIDS, Muscular Dystrophy, NAS, Newborns born prematurely, 30+ day NICU stays or very low birth weight, Perinatal stroke, Spina Bifida, TBI, and more.

Early Intervention (EI)

Early Intervention is a coordinated, community-based service that promotes family-centered programs for children birth to three years of age and their families. EI provides service coordination, eligibility determination, identification of children with developmental delays, therapeutic interventions, and support as families navigate a system of supports for them and their child. In 2024, EI staff served over 650 children with a variety of medical diagnoses and developmental delays.



Home Visitors: Jessica, Andi, Supervisor Melissa, and Deidre

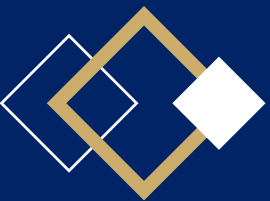
Healthy Families America (Help Me Grow or HMG) Home Visiting

The Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department's Help Me Grow program uses the Healthy Families America program of home visiting. This is a national, evidence-based home visiting model with activities and handouts for parents and families. Home visitors routinely screen children's development. This is to help with early identification of any potential developmental concerns.

In 2024, Help Me Grow staff supported clients through over 900 home visits. During home visits staff work with families on important topics, and activities.

EDUCATED FAMILIES ON THE TOPICS OF:

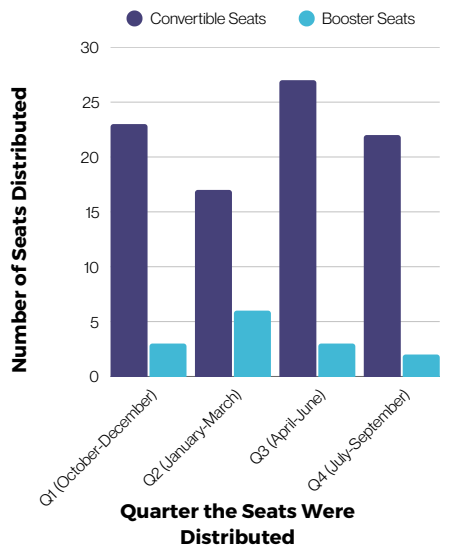
- Postpartum care
- Bonding with children
- Consoling your baby
- Baby's cues and signals
- Recognizing developmental milestones
- Practicing age and developmentally appropriate activities
- Basic baby care
- Feeding and sleeping
- Language and learning
- And much more!



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Car Seat Safety Program (Ohio Buckles Buckeyes or OBB)

OBB Distributed Over 100 Car Seats



Ohio Buckles Buckeyes is a program that provides free car seats to low-income families throughout Ohio. In 2024, OBB distributed over 100 car seats, including convertible car seats and booster seats. Families attend an educational class prior to receiving their seat(s), learning proper install and more.

Additionally, ZMCHD acquired Roth ID tags (pictured on the right) to provide to program participants. The tags can help first responders identify children's guardians in case of an emergency.



Cribs for Kids (CFK)

Cribs for Kids provides Graco Pack-n-Play cribs to families who do not have a safe place for their baby to sleep. The mission of this program is to prevent infant deaths that occur due to accidental suffocation, asphyxia, or other undetermined causes during sleep. In 2024, 102 primary caregivers were educated and provided with Pack-n-Play cribs. An additional 22 caregivers were also educated on safe sleep practices. Follow the ABCs of Safe Sleep: Infants should be Alone on their Back in an empty Crib.

Educated:

102

Primary Caregivers

And reached:

15

Fathers

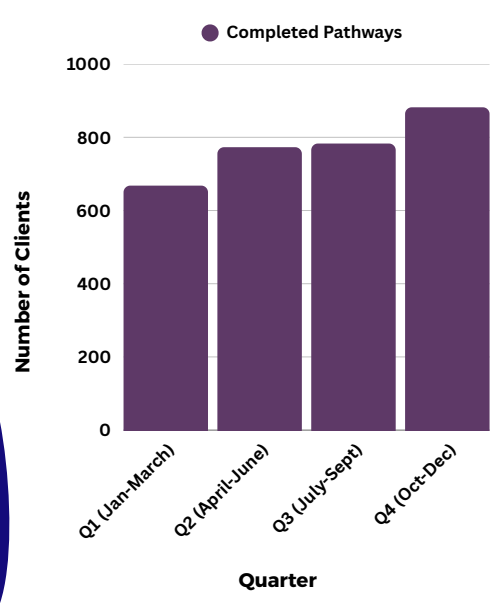
3

Grandparents

4

Others

Helped Clients Complete Pathways:



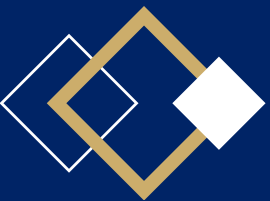
Bridges to Wellness (BTW)

Bridges to Wellness is a program of Access Tusc which links individuals who have medical, social, and educational barriers to resources in ten counties, including Muskingum County. The program's Community Health Workers (CHWs) serve as partners, advocates, and coaches for their clients, guiding them through a process to identify risks, and assign them to pathways. (See Examples of Pathways box on the left.)

In 2024, the CHWs regularly served over 60 clients each month, helping them work through pathways essential to their well-being.

EXAMPLES OF BTW PATHWAYS:

- Adult Education
- Employment
- Family Planning
- Food Security
- Health Coverage
- Housing
- Learning
- Medical Home
- Mental health
- Oral Health
- Postpartum
- Pregnancy
- Social Service Referral
- Substance Use
- Transportation
- And more!



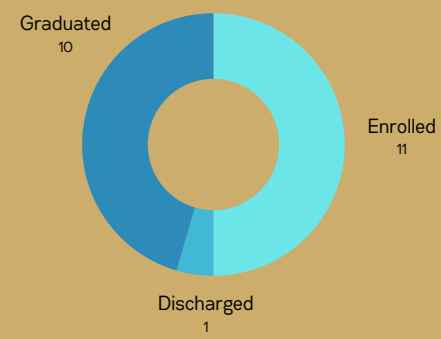
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Smart Choices Strong Families (SCSF)

Smart Choices Strong Families is a voluntary recovery support program for prenatal and postpartum women with substance use disorder. Providing education, support, and guidance continues to be the strength of this program as well as helping participants learn to advocate for themselves.

In 2024, there were approximately 18 participants who were actively enrolled in the program maintaining their recovery.

2024 Client Summary



"You helped me and my little family more than you know. I truly hope more moms take advantage of the program." -SCSF Graduate



Woman, Infants, & Children (WIC)

WIC provides nutrition education, breast-feeding education and support, supplemental foods, and referrals to maternal and child health and human service programs.

In 2024, WIC regularly served over 1,500 participants monthly, with over 400 participants seen in office visits every month. WIC also put on the Party in the Park event for women and families to enjoy vendors and community fun during Breastfeeding Awareness Month (see photo above).

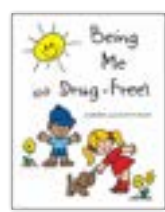
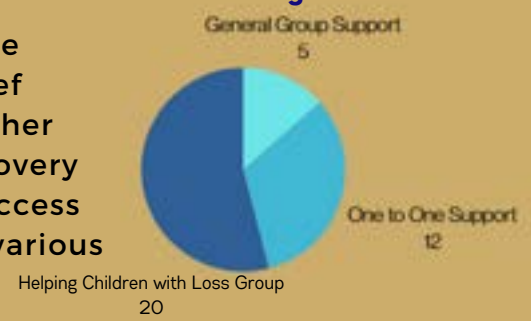
The Social Worker Addressed the Following Social Needs Most Often:

- Grief and Loss- Supported residents by offering group and 1:1 grief recovery program.
- Quality of Living Conditions- Supported residents by connecting them to resources to improve their residence.
- Access to Care- Supported by connecting residents to all types of medical care, behavioral care, and any other related services.
- Mental Health Disorders- Supported residents by connecting them to resources as various needs arose.

Social Worker

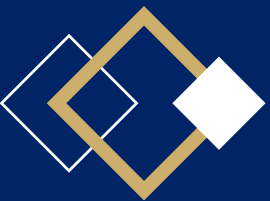
ZMCHD'S social worker helps people navigate resources to help with grief support, affordable housing, and other complex needs. ZMCHD's Grief Recovery Method program saw continued success with over 30 clients enrolled in its various formats in 2024.

Clients Enrolled in the Grief Recovery Method Program:



Ohio Health Improvement Zones (OHIZ)

In 2024, ZMCHD held focus groups with the community to brainstorm improvements to the Brighton, Eastside, Putnam and West Main neighborhoods that would address concerns from the 2023 OHIZ Community Survey. With substance use, safety, crime, housing and homelessness, and lack of services as the main issues of concern, ZMCHD used grant funding for substance use prevention materials to go to schools, lighting for walking paths at Putnam Landing Park, supporting youth via Project Blueprint, bike locks and water bottles, government identification from ECM, and adding more locations to the YMCA's Y-on-the-Fly program.



Engage with Us!

Tell us what we can do for you, what you think, what we're doing well, or how we can improve! There are many ways to get the conversation started:



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