



UNION COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



OUR COMMITMENT

Health Commissioner | Recognition | Financials



Dr. Jason E. Orcena
Health Commissioner

FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

2022 will be remembered by our team as the year of re-entry. A year where we slowly transitioned from 24/7 pandemic response work to the day-to-day work of public health. While we maintained all pillars of our pandemic response - disease reporting, vaccination, and testing, most of our staff re-energized efforts on many community initiatives that had been paused.

During 2022, our health planners returned to work on community health infrastructure initiatives like trail development, healthy food access, and understanding transportation barriers. We reconvened community committees to begin the process of updating the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan; foundational workgroups which help identify how we continue to make progress toward the goal of healthier, longer lives for all Union County residents. The nursing staff restructured clinics

and increased service offerings and hours. Environmental health staff focused on improving the customer experience and efficiency within permitting programs. Time was allotted to resume strategic planning for our agency and focus on employee recruitment and retention, and the arduous task of seeking reaccreditation was completed.

2022 welcomed many new faces to our team, individuals with a passion to serve and energetic ambition. We grieved the loss of long-time colleagues and friends from years past. We had a change in leadership within our Environmental Health division as Director Marcia Dreiseidel, 35-year veteran within our office, celebrated retirement and Adam Schultz, sanitarian with our office for 9 years, stepped into the Director role.

As we reflect on 2022, we are reminded of the deep appreciation we have for our community. The residents we serve and the partners

we rely on every day. Nothing in public health is done alone. Every achievement rests on the shoulders of strong partnerships. The businesses, community organizations, elected officials, first responders, government offices, healthcare providers, non-profits, schools, and committed volunteers we work with every day are too numerous to name here. Without the active support of each of these valued partners we could not achieve our goals. This is just as true today as it was 103 years ago when the Union County General Health District was formed. ■

“To our valued partners, we thank you for the countless hours and resources you’ve dedicated to helping us achieve our goal of helping the residents of Union County live longer, healthier lives.”

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UCHD staff, volunteers and community partners celebrate our community’s pandemic response efforts outside the Union County Fairgrounds barn where more than 20,000 COVID vaccinations were given.

Cover Photo: A young Richwood resident purchases local apples, cider and honey at the Richwood Farmers Market. In 2022, UCHD’s partnership with the Village of Richwood and the Richwood Trail Blazers to improve food access and increase physical activity opportunities was featured by the Ohio Department of Health’s Creating Health Communities program as part of an initiative to spotlight physical activity in rural Ohio.

BOARD OF HEALTH



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Employee of The Year: Cindy Whetstine

Ms. Cindy Whetstine is the 2022 Employee of the Year. As the nursing secretary, Ms. Whetstine is the voice and face every client sees and hears. She is known for her positive attitude, willingness to help, and eagerness to learn. She is quick to adjust internal procedures in an effort to improve patient experiences and improve internal efficiency. She has excellent follow through and is timely in the completion of tasks. Of note in 2022, Ms. Whetstine went back to school and earned a certificate in medical billing, establishing herself as a tremendous asset in ensuring accurate and consistent billing practices within our Nursing Division. Congratulations to Ms. Cindy Whetstine. ■



Nursing Secretary Cindy Whetstine (center) trains nursing students from the Ohio State University College of Nursing during an April 2021 COVID drive thru vaccination clinic at the Union County Fairgrounds.



Union County EMA volunteers pause for a photo after a 2021 COVID vaccination clinic. UCHD leaned heavily on the staff and volunteers of the UCEMA for logistical support and traffic control at COVID vaccination clinics and community testing events.

Partner of the Year: Union County Emergency Management Agency

We proudly recognize the Union County Emergency Management Agency (UCEMA) as our 2022 Partner of the Year. Under the leadership of Director Brad Gilbert, the UCEMA staff and volunteers have been indispensable partners throughout the COVID response. Early in 2020, Director Gilbert and staff left their offices and temporarily moved into the Union County Emergency Operations Center within the Union County Health Department. Over the next three years, the UCEMA staff and volunteers answered our call for assistance time and time again. They stood in snow and freezing temperatures at vaccination clinics and through summer heat waves during community testing events. They provided the supplies and human resources needed to ensure a successful community response to the pandemic. To the staff and volunteers of UCEMA, we thank you for your never wavering support. ■

Years of Service Recognition: Susie Knox and Diane Morrison



Ms. Susie Knox, Public Health Nurse, celebrated 20 years of service to the Union County Health Department. Ms. Knox works within our immunization clinic and leads many of our programs aimed at giving babies great starts including newborn home visiting, safe sleep initiative, and breastfeeding support. ■



Ms. Diane Morrison, Administrative Assistant, marked 10 years of service at the Union County Health Department. Ms. Morrison is one of the friendly faces or voices you'll see or hear at our front desk and serves as our Deputy Registrar, recording births and deaths occurring within Union County. ■

OUR COMMITMENT

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT – CALENDAR YEAR 2022

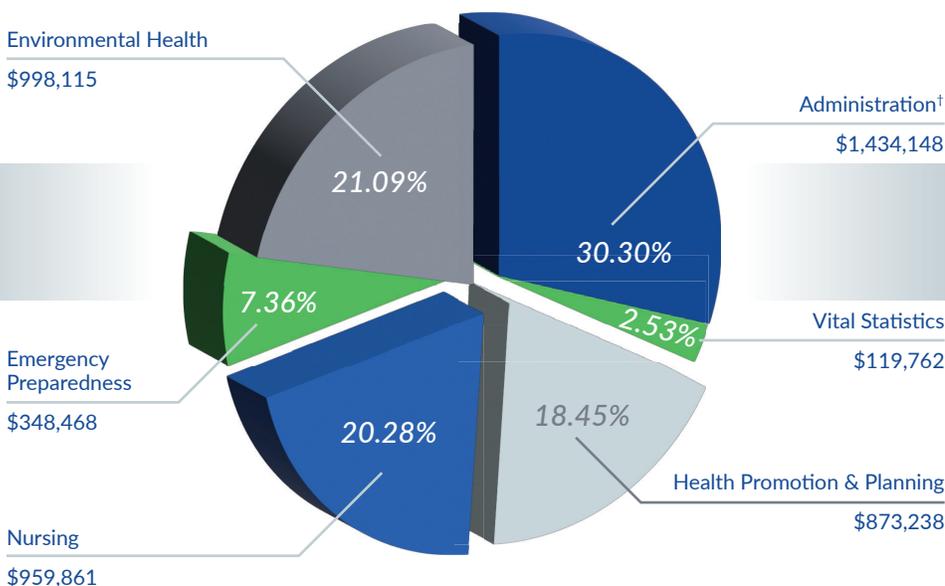
Statement of Revenues*

Levy Receipts & Rollbacks	\$2,117,853.69	40.51%
Grant Receipts (State, Federal, Private)	\$1,800,387.34	34.44%
Permits, Licenses, Fees, Fines, Special Assessments	\$703,726.05	13.46%
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$145,776.61	2.79%
Contracts and Other Charges for Services	\$138,127.01	2.64%
Nursing Fees (Including Medicare Reimbursement)	\$119,008.58	2.28%
Vital Statistics Fees	\$91,988.00	1.76%
Reimbursements, Refunds, Misc. Other Receipts	\$69,901.72	1.34%
State Subsidy	\$40,992.38	0.78%
Total Revenue (Excludes Inter-fund Transfers)	\$5,227,761.38	100.00%

Statement of Expenditures*

Personnel	\$3,084,006.54	65.15%
Operating	\$1,449,231.15	30.62%
Equipment	\$114,943.17	2.43%
Remittances to State of Ohio	\$85,413.28	1.80%
Total Expenditures (Excludes Inter-fund Transfers)	\$4,733,594.14	100.00%

EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION



FINANCIAL NOTES

- UCHD continues to diversify our revenue stream, bringing \$1.8 million in grant funding into our community (34% of all revenues).
- UCHD ended 2022 with an unencumbered cash balance of \$4,431,967 (about 264 days of operating expenses).
- Successful audits of 2019, 2020 & 2021 were returned in 2022. As of 2020, UCHD moved into a single year audit cycle with more than \$750,000 in federal grant dollars expensed annually. This threshold was exceeded even before adding COVID response grants.
- Our fiscal team issued 618 purchase orders and cut 900 checks in 2022.

*All numbers are unaudited.

†Includes building rent and technology costs.

2022 VITAL STATS*

Births Recorded

Male	299
Female	289
Total	588

Deaths Recorded

Male	193
Female	254
Total	447

Leading Causes of Death

Heart disease	114
Cancer	80
Respiratory disease	64
Dementia	51
Failure to thrive	32

*Reflects only births and deaths which occur within Union County.

UCHD issued 2,031 birth and 2,085 death certificates in 2022.

Vital registrars noted two trends: 1) home births are steadily climbing; 2) more residents are choosing to receive end of life care at home.

Nursing Team Re-Focuses Efforts

The COVID pandemic put an unprecedented demand, both in terms of volume and response duration, on our entire UCHD team. For our nursing division, the pandemic response meant a significant disruption in the delivery of routine clinical services. In fact, for nine out of 12 months in 2021, regular public health nursing services were shuttered or ran at significantly reduced capacity in order to provide COVID vaccination. Even throughout 2022, as normal clinical operations resumed, waves of pandemic advancements, like bivalent boosters to protect against variants or expansion of COVID vaccine eligibility to younger age groups, would arrive. With each wave, our switchboard would light up and regular services would be reduced to accommodate the demand from our community.

Our public health nurses are proud to be a cornerstone of the pandemic response, but have also enjoyed spending time in 2022 strategizing how to re-energize our other important services. Services like reproductive health and wellness, childhood and adult immunizations, newborn home visiting, breastfeeding support, newborn safe sleep, and the Children with Medical Handicaps program.

In 2022, overall visits to our nursing clinic were up 67% from 2020 when the pandemic forced all but critical services to be suspended. Our reproductive health and wellness clinic is slowly recovering with just over 900 patients seen in 2022 (still down from more than 1,100 visits prior to the pandemic). Childhood immunizations administered remains below pre-pandemic levels. Utilization of support and assistance programs such as newborn home visiting, breastfeeding support, and newborn safe sleep continue to be low.

To help improve access to routine public health nursing services, UCHD undertook three significant endeavors in 2022. First, a telehealth option was added so existing patients could access some of our basic clinical services from the comfort of their home. Second, UCHD expanded upon an existing strong partnership with West Central Community Correctional Facility (WCCCF). UCHD's public health nurses now provide reproductive health and wellness and basic preventative healthcare for residents of WCCCF on a weekly basis to supplement the ongoing care WCCCF's medical team provides. Third, 25 off-site vaccination clinics were provided to increase ease of vaccination for high-risk populations (such as older adults, residents in congregate care, and persons with disabilities) and several local employers. ■

2022 SUCCESSES

- added telehealth option for some services
- expanded expertise in medical claims and billing
- expanded partnership with West Central Community Correctional Facility to increase reproductive health and wellness visits
- 25 offsite vaccination clinics provided to high-risk populations (older adults, persons with disabilities, etc.) and worksites
- 2,720 COVID vaccinations administered (approx. 36,000 doses administered since first clinic on Dec. 23, 2020)

Milk Bank Collection Site Has Great First Year

The OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank opened a drop site within the Union County WIC office in April 2022. The goal was to make it easier for interested local mothers to donate milk. All milk collected goes to the OhioHealth milk bank and is primarily used for infants in the NICU. In its first eight months of operation, the Union County drop site collected 2,835 oz of donated milk. ■



Pictured left to right at the opening day of the Union County milk bank drop site are WIC staff members Linda Wolcott, Sara Bayless, Mani Syar; Chris Smith with OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank; Lauren Robinson, WIC Director for Delaware, Morrow & Union Counties.

REPORTABLE DISEASES IN UNION COUNTY, 2022

Nearly 90 contagious diseases are reportable to public health officials per Ohio law (OAC 3701-3). These diseases are chosen due to the severity of the disease (like Ebola) and/or because of the potential for epidemic spread within a community (like COVID-19). Diseases that meet one or both of these criteria are often viruses that are new to people or are affecting people in new ways such as Mpox (Monkeypox). Or, diseases that could indicate potential contamination of food or water such as salmonella or Legionnaires. Other diseases, like Lyme disease transmitted through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, are tracked as the vector's range expands. Many diseases for which we have vaccines against, such as Measles, Mumps or Rubella, are also reportable so we can monitor how these previously common diseases are now impacting people. Finally, some diseases such as sexually transmitted infections are reportable so we can understand how treatment and community level education efforts are working.

Some diseases, like strep throat or hand, foot and mouth disease, are not reportable unless an outbreak of linked cases is identified. During these outbreaks, public health communicable disease teams assist in prevention and education efforts as well as provide appropriate treatment recommendations.

In an average year, UCHD investigates approximately 250-300 cases of reportable diseases. Each of these cases requires follow-up interviews, data collection, education, referrals for treatment and resources, and coordination of specimen collection if needed. During the three years of the COVID response, UCHD has investigated nearly 22,000 COVID cases. ■

Class A Reportable Diseases	# Cases*
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	7,324
Measles	1
Mpox (Monkeypox)	1
Class B Reportable Diseases	# Cases*
Campylobacteriosis	12
Chlamydia	98
Coccidioidomycosis	1
Carbapenemase-Producing Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE)	4
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1
Cryptosporidiosis	1
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	4
Giardiasis	3
Gonorrhea	20
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B (including delta)	5
Hepatitis C	31
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1
Influenza-Associated Hospitalization	18
Legionnaires' Disease	1
Lyme Disease	3
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	4
Pertussis	1
Salmonellosis	11
Streptococcal Disease - Group A, invasive	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive antibiotic resistance	2
Syphilis	3
Varicella	4
Yersiniosis	1
Grand Total	7,560

* Based on county of residence at time of reporting. Does not include cases among persons incarcerated within Union County. Case counts include confirmed, probable and suspected cases with exception of COVID-19 in which only confirmed and probable cases are included. Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System

2022 NURSING, INJURY PREVENTION & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STATISTICS

COVID Vaccinations	2,720	WIC Nutrition Assistance Visits	3,273
Childhood Immunizations	1,335	Families served by CMH (Special Healthcare Needs)	310
Adult Immunizations	1,151	HUB Clients (Insurance Enrollment & Access to Care)	62
Reproductive Health Visits	936	Prescription Assistance	\$7,293
TB Tests	46	Narcan Kits Distributed	535
Car Seat Checks & Distributions	75	Fall Prevention Home Safety Checks for Older Adults	110
Breastfeeding Support Visits	73		
Vision & Hearing Screenings	22		
Newborn Home Visits	9		
Cribs Distributed (Safe Sleep)	1		

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion & Planning Division has welcomed many new faces and lots of passion and energy to our team. Our health planners can often be found behind the scenes working collaboratively with partners and chairing community coalitions. Much of their work involves infrastructure

and policy development with the overarching goal of making the healthy choice the easy choice. Our team of smiling faces often serve as community facilitators, working to bring great ideas, great partners, and great passion together. The mission in its simplest form is to fight chronic diseases and reduce injuries. Initiatives our health

planners are working on include reducing the burden of chronic disease through access to healthy food, movement opportunities, and tobacco cessation; overdose prevention; traffic and pedestrian safety; and looking at the transportation needs of residents within our community. ■



UCHD Mobility Manager Ashley Miller (right) awards the UC MOVES Coalition Golden Nugget award to Scott Martin (left), owner of Marysville Taxi Service, Union County's longest serving transportation provider. For over 22 years, Mr. Martin's service has helped Union County residents get to the grocery store, jobs, the airport and medical appointments. In 2022, the UC Moves coalition worked on ways to maximize use of existing transportation resources and identify the types of transportation needs local residents and businesses have.



The mother of Jarrod Spurlock holds a photo of her son who died on Mar. 28, 2020. Memorials like these were part of the Overdose Awareness Day held in Marysville by the Drug Overdose Prevention Coalition. Of note in 2022, UCHD started an Overdose/Suicide Fatality Review committee, and launched a social awareness campaign about the dangers of Fentanyl.



A participant in a February 2023 Matter of Balance class smiles while doing a leg strengthening exercise. Matter of Balance classes are one strategy the Older Adult Fall Prevention Coalition uses to help people feel confident on their feet and remain in their homes. In 2022, 110 home safety checks and 53 free or low-cost fall prevention modifications were made by the coalition. Six new Matter of Balance coaches were also trained.



UCHD supports local farmers markets like the Richwood Farmers Market pictured left. The Richwood Farmers Market saw a 35% increase in customers in 2022. The market also began taking SNAP and WIC cards, making the market accessible to more people. In 2022, UCHD and partners formed the Union County Food Council to explore food insecurity issues facing local families.



Shawn Sech, Director of Health Promotion at UCHD, fits a Safety Towner's helmet. UCHD and partners were excited to bring Safety Town back for kindergarteners in all three Union County school districts. Fairbanks and North Union Safety Towns were held as part of the school day in May and Marysville Safety Town was held in June 2022.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Health

Change In Environmental Health Leadership

While programs within the Environmental Health Division did not change significantly in 2022, several new faces joined our team and we bid a happy retirement to a long-serving veteran. Environmental Health Director Marcia Dreiseidel retired in May 2022 after 35 years of service at the Union County Health Department. Upon Ms. Dreiseidel's retirement, Adam Schultz, a sanitarian with UCHD for 9 years, took over the director role. Mr. Schultz brings experience in the food safety program and a passion for exploring how we can modernize environmental health permitting processes to more efficiently serve our businesses and residents. Mr. Schultz is a resident of Union County and brings a strong knowledge of our community to the position.

Two new staff joined our Environmental Health team in 2022. Lauren Meyer started at UCHD in October 2022 and is working primarily in our food safety program. Martha Nabwire started as a part-time Environmental Health Technician in January 2023. Ms. Nabwire is focusing her efforts in our private sewage treatment system operation and maintenance program. UCHD has been blessed to have a legacy of long serving environmental health staff, including secretary Joe Morris and director Paul Pryor who both retired within the past decade after serving more than 20 years. However, few staff have served more than 30 years at UCHD. In fact, Ms. Dreiseidel and fellow sanitarian Richard Miller (also with 35 years of service), are among our longest



Marcia Dreiseidel, Director of Environmental Health, retired in May 2022 after a 35-year career. For most of her career she worked with local restaurant operators imparting her passion for food safety.

tenured employees in UCHD's 103-year history; only behind Ms. Fern Berger, administrative clerk and vital registrar who served 43 years beginning in 1923. ■



Growth Continues to Keep Plumbing Inspector on the Go

Union County plumbing inspector Daniel Teets rarely is found in the office. Instead, he works out of the UCHD pickup truck, trekking across Union County. In 2022, Mr. Teets completed 2,525 plumbing inspections.

In February 2023, the Board of Health approved a search for a second plumbing inspector in response to the sustained and steady growth in residential and commercial development within Union County. UCHD is continuing to closely monitor the demand being placed on the plumbing program and our ability to meet the needs of our community. Per requirements in Ohio law, plumbing permits and inspections are required for all new commercial construction. In Union County, plumbing permits and inspections are also required for new residential development. ■

As new development continues to pop up across Ohio, licensed plumbing inspectors like Daniel Teets are in demand.

Sewage Treatment System Operation Permits Will Need Renewed in Fall 2024

In compliance with statewide sewage rules, the Union County Health Department will send out renewal applications in the fall of 2024 for the operation of household sewage treatment systems. The renewal permit is valid for five years and payment is not required until Dec. 31, 2024. As a reminder, 2015 changes in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29

require permits to be renewed at least once every 10 years.

In 2022, UCHD resumed initial assessments of household sewage treatment systems which were paused to a large degree throughout the pandemic response. The assessment program began in response to the 2015 changes to Ohio sewage rules

and has been a multi-year project. The assessment is at no cost to the property owner and helps UCHD determine the types of systems in the ground and the status of each system. As of the end of 2022, approximately 70% of the assessments have been completed. ■

Mosquito Surveillance Detects West Nile Virus

Just over 10,800 mosquitos were trapped from across Union County and submitted to the Ohio Department of Health lab in 2022. Individual mosquitos trapped at the same time from the same location were grouped together to create 287 pools. Of the 287 pools, 16 had at least one West Nile Virus positive mosquito within the pool.

UChD shares this information with local healthcare providers for consideration when diagnosing a patient with compatible symptoms and with the public to increase awareness and encourage mosquito bite prevention. The State of Ohio also retains the data as part of the statewide vectorborne disease surveillance program.

Old discarded tires can create a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. To help eliminate these breeding grounds, UChD held our annual community tire collection event on Oct. 1 2022. Approximately 1,500 unwanted tires were collected at the event. UChD has applied for grant funds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to hold the event again in October 2023. ■



Mosquito traps like the one pictured here are placed throughout Union County during the summer months. Staff collect the mosquitoes, identify the species, and then submit the mosquitoes to the state lab for West Nile Virus testing.

Updates to Household Sewage Treatment Rules Adopted

In 2022, the Board of Health updated our local sewage rules which supplement the state sewage rules. The local rules outline policies for how we apply state requirements on items such as issuing renewal permits and ensuring systems are operating as intended. Updates included streamlining inspection cycles, granting authority to the Board of Health to adopt a sliding fee scale, adding effluent testing of failing systems to the environmental health fee schedule, and establishing minimum standards and procedures for domestic septage application. ■



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE STATISTICS

Well Permits Issued	124	Food Service Permits Issued	397
Water Quality Samples Taken	205	Food Service Inspections	845
Septic Permits Issued	133	Animal Bite Investigations	101
Septic Inspections	1,509	Nuisance Complaint Investigations	57
Add-on-Remodel (AOR) Reviews	132	Mosquito Surveillance Specimens	10,811
Plumbing Permits Issued	1,003	Tires Collected	1,500
Plumbing Inspections	2,525		
Public Facilities Permitted	60		

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT
& EDUCATION

NEWBORN HOME VISITS

CAR SEAT DISTRIBUTION
& SAFETY CHECKS

IMMUNIZATIONS

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL
HEALTHCARE NEEDS

SAFE SLEEP EDUCATION
& CRIB DISTRIBUTION

TOBACCO CESSATION

HOME SAFETY CHECKS
FOR OLDER ADULTS

WELL AND SEPTIC
PERMITTING & INSPECTION

ANIMAL BITE INVESTIGATIONS

NUISANCE COMPLAINT
INVESTIGATIONS

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

STI TESTING

HEALTHY PREGNANCY
PLANNING

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE
FOR WOMEN & MEN



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The Union County Health Department annual report is available for download at www.uchdclinic.org/annual-report. If you would like a printed copy of the annual report, please call or email us with your name and mailing address.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

