2025

Annual Report

Mission & Vision

Dedicated to the physical, social, and mental well-being of all who live, work, learn and play in Ashtabula County, we are committed to building a trusting relationship with our community, reducing health disparities, providing high-quality services, making those services accessible and imparting the value of public health on those we serve each day.

Ashtabula County Combined Health District
Board of Health Members

Dr. Harlan Waid Jr.
Board President

Rebecca Robinson, MSN, RN
Board Vice-President

Duane Marcy
Board Member

Robert Russell
Board Member

Barbara Klingensmith
Board Member

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Hello Friends and Partners in Health,

In public health, we often speak of doing more with less—but there comes a point where "less" becomes a barrier to protecting the community we serve. This year's report comes at a critical juncture for the Ashtabula County Health Department as we navigate unprecedented fiscal constraints while maintaining our commitment to the health and safety of every resident.

Our Funding Reality

The Ashtabula County Health Department operates on three primary funding streams: property tax revenue (39% of our budget), service fees (50%), and grants (11%). This funding structure supports essential public health services at a per-resident investment of $11.90—a figure that tells an important story when placed in context.

Our neighbors in Lake County invest $40 per resident in public health services. Across Ohio, the average investment stands at $24 per resident. Ashtabula County residents receive public health protection at half the state average and less than one-third of what comparable neighboring communities provide. Despite this reality, our dedicated staff continues to deliver restaurant inspections, safe drinking water oversight, disease surveillance, immunizations, and emergency preparedness—the foundational services that protect our community daily.

Mounting Pressures

The challenges we face are compounding. This past year, the new administration reduced our budget by $50,000—funding that had been approved by Congress and allocated for public health services. At the federal level, grant opportunities that traditionally supported local health departments have been significantly minimized, eliminating a funding stream we could once rely upon to supplement core operations.

We have already raised service fees in recent years, reaching a point where further increases risk creating barriers to access for the very population who need our services most. Our operational expenses have been reduced to essential minimums. The Board of Health has made the difficult decision to freeze all staff salary increases, asking our workforce to absorb inflationary pressures while maintaining the high standards of service our community deserves.

The Path Forward

Our current property tax levy of $795,000 represents the backbone of public health infrastructure in Ashtabula County. It funds the inspectors who ensure safe food

service, the nurses who respond to disease outbreaks, the environmental health specialists who protect our water supply, and the preparedness coordinators who stand ready for emergencies. These are not optional services—they are the invisible safety net that most residents never see but depend upon every day.

As partners in health, we bring this financial reality to our District Advisory Council not as a surrender, but as a call to partnership. The question before us is clear: Can Ashtabula County sustain comprehensive public health protection at current funding levels? And if not, what are we willing to do to bridge the gap?

This annual report demonstrates what we have accomplished with limited resources. It also illuminates what becomes at risk when the foundation supporting public health continues to erode. We invite you to examine our work, engage with our challenges, and join us in charting a sustainable path forward for public health in Ashtabula County.

Together, we can ensure that "doing more with less" remains a testament to our efficiency and dedication—not an excuse for what we could not protect.

Jay Becker, MPH

Jay Becker, MPH
Health Commissioner

Administration

Throughout 2025, the Administrative division faced and evaluated opportunities for collaboration. The Administrative Division actively contributed to the Access to Care Workgroup, one pillar of the Community Health Improvement Plan, advised the Healthy Ashtabula County Board of Directors through the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Planning processes, as well as provided updates at the monthly Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team (ACPHAT) meetings.

During the year, the Ashtabula County Health Department successfully administered several key programs, including Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Get Vaccinated Ohio, the Harm Reduction Grant, the COVID-19 Enhanced Operations Grant, the Public Health Workforce Grant, and Medicaid Administration Claiming. The Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) also administered the COVID-19 Enhanced Operations Grant for a short period of 2025, before the federal administration changed their priorities and pulled back the funding. ACHD was also awarded the Ohio EPA Environmental Education Grant for a new, Clean Water Ashtabula program, which took place in 2025.

Notably, the Administrative team prioritized the well-being of all staff members. Leveraging grants and collaborating with other division directors, the team continued staff retention bonuses, a Sunshine Committee, and updated numerous personnel policies. The Sunshine Committee plays a significant role in fostering a positive workplace environment by keeping track of employees' birthdays and other life events. This initiative allows the entire organization to express gratitude and support for one another, with each employee receiving a card signed by all colleagues for life events.

The Ashtabula County Health Department Administrative Division is also involved in participating in several health-related committees and meetings. These include: the quarterly Vital Statistics Regional committee meeting; the monthly Ashtabula County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings, the Ashtabula County Family and Children First Council meetings, the Healthy Ashtabula County Board of Director meetings, the Healthy Ashtabula County General Membership meetings, the Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team meetings, the Ashtabula County Health Department Accreditation Team meetings, and Ashtabula County Health Department Board of Health meetings; and the weekly Association of Ohio Health Commissioners meeting, the Ohio Department of Health call, and the Ashtabula County Health Department Directors meeting. The administrative staff of the Ashtabula County Health Department look forward to serving the residents of Ashtabula County in 2026.

District Valuations & Fees

	VALUATION	FEES
ANDOVER TWP	$62,573,681.00	$23,021.84
ASHTABULA TWP	$188,533,278.00	$69,364.36
AUSTINBURG TWP	$96,629,875.00	$35,551.65
CHERRY VALLEY TWP	$26,810,213.00	$9,863.90
COLEBROOK TWP	$31,588,663.00	$11,621.97
DENMARK TWP	$24,729,746.00	$9,098.46
GENEVA TWP	$22,620,392.00	$33,382.71
HARPERSFIELD TWP	$109,438,431.00	$40,264.12
HARTSGROVE TWP	$49,977,510.00	$18,387.51
JEFFERSON TWP	$68,238,052.00	$25,105.85
KINGSVILLE TWP	$47,099,869.00	$17,328.78
LENOX TWP	$44,126,938.00	$16,234.99
MONROE TWP	$58,315,397.00	$21,455.15
MORGAN TWP	$28,625,275.00	$10,531.69
NEW LYME TWP	$31,378,952.00	$11,544.81
ORWELL TWP	$43,969,764.00	$16,177.17
PIERPONT TWP	$29,717,787.00	$10,933.64
PLYMOUTH TWP	$62,502,388.00	$22,995.61
RICHMOND TWP	$24,815,310.00	$9,129.94
ROME TWP	$36,624,287.00	$13,474.65
SAYBROOK TWP	$233,382,604.00	$85,865.13
SHEFFIELD TWP	$47,421,946.00	$17,447.28
TRUMBULL TWP	$52,405,222.00	$19,280.71
WAYNE TWP	$21,566,101.00	$7,934.51
WILLIAMSFIELD TWP	$38,492,607.00	$14,162.04
WINDSOR TWP	$67,322,986.00	$24,769.19
GENEVA CITY	$126,569,636.00	$46,566.96
ANDOVER VILLAGE	$24,817,397.00	$9,130.71
GOTL VILLAGE	$55,386,192.00	$20,377.45
JEFFERSON VILLAGE	$78,747,942.00	$28,972.61
N KINGSVILLE VILLAGE	$87,473,186.00	$32,182.76
ORWELL VILLAGE	$28,664,411.00	$10,546.09
ROAMING SHORES VILLAGE	$108,285,810.00	$39,840.05
ROCK CREEK VILLAGE	$11,234,351.00	$4,133.29
TOTAL	$2,160,820,872.00	$795,000.00

FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2025

Receipts:

Licenses, Permits, Donations, Fees, Projects, etc.	$1,460,563.89
Federal/State Fund	
BCMH - Public Health Nurse Consultation =	$0.00
State Subsidy =	$37,491.45
Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) =	$47,313.19
Solid Waste =	$84,588.78
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) =	$76,921.00
Naloxone Grant =	$48,500.00
Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO)=	$22,696.00
Enhanced Operations =	$90,317.83
Public Health Workforce =	$240,855.71
Total Federal/State Fund	$648,683.96
Private Insurance Billing	$207,272.08
Total Receipts	**$2,316,519.93**

Expenditures:

District Board of Health	$399,559.73
Federal/State Fund:	
BCMH - Public Health Nurse Consultation =	$0.00
State Subsidy =	$1,870.17
Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) =	$0.00
Solid Waste =	$78,000.00
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fund (PHEP) =	$10,225.93
Naloxone Grant =	$6,348.58
Get Vaccinated Ohio (GVO) =	$1,769.58
Enhanced Operations =	$2,341.39
Public Health Workforce =	$16,452.40
Total Federal/State Fund	$117,008.05
Private Insurance Billing	$158,050.78
Wages and Benefits	$1,661,983.32
Total Expenditures	**$2,336,601.88**

Tax Duplicate for Health District (Real Estate, Personal Property & Public Utility)	**$2,160,820,872.00**

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics unit of the Ashtabula County Health Department collects important information and data concerning births, deaths and diseases in Ashtabula County. This unit works closely with the public, funeral homes, Ashtabula County Coroner's Office as well as other government offices in the collection and provision of vital statistics data.

The Vital Statistics unit at the Ashtabula County Health Department continues to electronically create birth records for births that take place outside a birth facility (e.g. home births). The birth record is then electronically approved or disapproved by the Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics Registration unit. Once approved, the birth record is then available for certified copies. We saw a slight increase in home births in 2025.

We no longer manually file death certificates, also known as paper records. Most all death certificates are filed electronically by the physician, with any paper records now being electronically sent to the state by funeral directors.

We have switched to the new OVRS (Ohio Vital Records System) going live with birth certificates in August and with death certificates in October. For the most part these transitions went smoothly, due to much support and training from the Ohio Department of Health and their Helpdesk. Funeral directors must file and pay for burial/cremation permits online through the VitalChek System. Permits must be paid to the district where the death occurred. Death certificates may now be obtained statewide instead of only in the district where the death occurred. Funeral directors may order death certificates online to be issued by us for mail or counter pickup. We continue to serve funeral homes and the public at the counter.

Our online orders through VitalChek, especially for birth certificates have greatly increased. Initially, we would have an order every week or so. Now there are multiple orders daily. Birth certificate sales have increased over last year by almost 600 certificates. Death certificates are also available through VitalChek.

Both birth and death certificates have a new look with the new paper design by a new supplier. However, the new paper has a significantly higher cost than the previous design.

We strive to provide our customers and our partners with the best service possible.

Vital Statistics

Live Births Recorded in County Health District (Home Births) – 27
Male – 9
Female –18

Deaths Recorded in County Health District – 610
Male – 320
Female – 290

CAUSE OF DEATH – 2025	
Heart and Arteries	183
Cancer	111
Disease of Brain	102
Disease of Respiratory System	9
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	41
Accidents	20
Cerebral Hemorrhage	9
Cerebral Hemorrhage & Thrombosis	4
Pneumonia	9
Overdose-Accident	9
Disease of Kidney/Urinary System	9
Suicide	14
Natural Causes	4
Infectious Disease	37
Disease of Liver	9
COVID-19	0
Homicide	4
Disease of Digestive System	8
Disease of Blood	1
Diabetes	8
Alcoholism	7
Diseases of Central Nervous System	3
Genetic Disease	3
Nutritional & Metabolic Disease	1
Cause Pending	5
Total	610

CERTIFIED COPIES OF BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES – Issued by the Ashtabula County Health Department in 2024

1,463 Birth Certificates

2,427 Death Certificates

121 Burial/Cremation Permits

RABIES SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The following listing is a tally of all specimens tested in 2025 for rabies through the Ohio Department of Health Rabies Surveillance Program. The surveillance program consisted primarily of testing animals following an exposure or potential exposure. This tally also includes the testing of animals submitted after showing abnormal behavior or signs of illness. The specimens tested were from Ashtabula County, Ashtabula City and Conneaut City Health Districts from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Specimen	Amount Tested	Negative	Positive	Unable to Determine
Dogs	2	2	0	0
Cats	6	6	0	0
Cows	1	1	0	0
Bats	13	12	0	1
Raccoons	2	2	0	0
Skunks	1	1	0	0
Squirrels	1	1	0	0
Totals	26	25	0	1

GROUND BAITING 2025

As in the past, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services Program in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health distributed oral rabies vaccination in 11 eastern Ohio counties (Ashtabula, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Geauga, Harrison, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties). Distribution of the rabies vaccine-laden baits by air and ground took place between August 17, 2025, and September 16, 2025. This area baiting included Ashtabula County Health District, Ashtabula City Health District and Conneaut City Health District.

The oral rabies vaccine is used to vaccinate wild raccoons, foxes, skunks, and coyotes against rabies. The vaccine provides protection against rabies infection to these animals for one year.

ANIMAL BITES

The following listing is a tally of all animal bites reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department for 2025. Reported animal bites are investigated, quarantines established, and rabies tests conducted, as required. Reports received on animal bites occurring outside the Ashtabula County General Health District are referred to the appropriate health department.

*Of the 147 reported animal bite cases investigated, 34 biting animals were rabies vaccinated prior to the bite incident. 93 biting animals were NOT rabies vaccinated (or vaccination status was unknown) prior to the bite incident. The remaining 20 reported incidents involved wild animals.

Animal Bite Cases Investigated by the Ashtabula Co. Health Dept.	
Domestic Dogs	89
Domestic Cats	38
Other/Wild Animals: Raccoons—4 Bats—3 Cow—1 Squirrel—1 Unknown/animal type not reported—2	11
Total Reported Animal Bite Cases Investigated	**138**
Non-Bite Cases Investigated (Animal Exp or Other Exposure): Bat—8 Skunk—1	9
Total HDIS Animal Bites & Non-Bite Cases Investigated	**147**
Out-of-Area Bite **Cases Reported** to the Ashtabula County Health Department then referred to other health departments	47
Total Animal Bite Investigations, Non-Bite Investigations, and Cases Reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department	**194**
The following cases are included in the 2025 animal bites investigated/reported to the Ashtabula County Health Department:	
Referred to the Ashtabula City Health Department	35
Referred to the Conneaut City Health Department	5
Referred to other health departments	7
Total Referred to other health departments	**47**
Bite case animals tested at the lab for rabies	
Dogs	4
Cats	1
Raccoon	1
Bat	1
Total	**8**
All 8 samples tested negative for rabies	
Non-Bite (pet/human exposure) case animals tested at the lab for rabies	
Bats	8

Total	**8**
7 samples were negative for rabies, 1 sample returned inconclusive due to the condition of the sample	

Environmental Health

2025 was a very busy and productive year that brought many changes to the Environmental Health division. After nearly a year of planning and meetings with township officials, we updated our **General Requirements for Sanitation** on June 1, 2025. These local rules have been around for decades but were due to be overhauled because of dated language and rule changes. Officials provided their input and were united in their desire to be able to determine the frontage and acreage for building new homes in their respective townships. The result was that ACHD dropped its frontage and acreage requirement for all townships except for those that have no zoning. Lots must still meet all state and local health regulations and receive zoning approval before sewage permits are issued to protect the health and safety of our residents.

On August 1, 2025, the ACHD took local authority over the **small flow on-site sewage treatment systems program from Ohio EPA**. This allows the ACHD to issue sewage permits for systems that treat not more than 1,000 gallons per day. These permits could include vacation rental cabins, businesses, a home with a business, or other standalone buildings.

ACHD also received a **$50,000 grant from the Ohio EPA, Ohio Environmental Education Fund**. This grant provided funding to residents for water sampling, sewage inspections, and educational workshops. It was designed to ensure residents have clean water to drink and reduce the runoff of poorly treated sewage entering our environment. To get the word out, flyers were mailed to 15,000 homes, and multiple presentations, newspaper articles and online advertising were conducted. We soon had a very positive and overwhelming response from the public with 239 submissions. We had 190 water samples and 181 sewage evaluations requested and 105 workshop participants attended 1 of 6 educational workshops. 40% of all water samples tested unsafe and 46% of all sewage systems failed. Through treatment of the wells and retesting, most residents were able to achieve a safe sample. Many residents repaired or replaced their sewage systems thereby reducing up to 6.6 thousand gallons per day or 2.4 million gallons per year of poorly treated sewage from entering the waterways of Ashtabula County.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency conducted a solid waste survey of the ACHD. This survey evaluated the administrative and field inspection components of our solid waste program. The OEPA found that the **ACHD is in substantial compliance** and is approved to administer and enforce the solid and infectious waste and construction and demolition debris laws and rules in Ashtabula County.

Lastly, 2025 brought an end to our long-standing **Plumbing Division** here at ACHD. All plumbing permits and inspections are now managed by the Ashtabula County Building Department.

The tally on the following page provides an overview of the number and type of inspections our staff performed in 2025. Environmental Health Specialists normally spend a large amount of time inspecting food service operations, sewage systems, and dealing with solid waste nuisances. Other duties include water sampling and inspection of bathing beaches, campgrounds, swimming pools, landfills, schools, manufactured home parks, tattoo and body piercing establishments, dog bites, and various other environmental inspections.

Environmental Health Statistics

Home Sewage Treatment System Installers Registration	51
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Evaluation Applications	229
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspection for Real Estate Transactions	45
Andover	*1*
Ashtabula	*1*
Austinburg	*2*
Cherry Valley	*1*
Dorset	*2*
Geneva	*1*
Jefferson	*3*
Kingsville	*1*
Lenox	*1*
Monroe	*2*
Morgan	*4*
New Lyme	*2*
North Kingsville Village	*1*
Pierpont	*2*
Plymouth	*3*
Richmond	*2*
Rome	*3*
Saybrook	*6*
Sheffield	*4*
Trumbull	*1*
Williamsfield	*1*
Windsor	*1*
Home Sewage Treatment System Permits Issued	117
Andover	*1*
Ashtabula	*8*
Austinburg	*6*
Cherry Valley	*1*
Colebrook	*1*
Denmark	*6*
Dorset	*1*
Geneva	*13*
Harpersfield	*4*
Hartsgrove	*8*
Jefferson	*4*
Kingsville	*4*
Lenox	*4*
Monroe	*3*
Morgan	*1*
North Kingsville Village	*6*
New Lyme	*2*
Orwell	*8*
Pierpont	*1*

Plymouth	*3*
Richmond	*3*
Rome	*4*
Saybrook	*6*
Trumbull	*7*
Wayne	*2*
Williamsfield	*2*
Windsor	*7*
Home Sewage Treatment System Inspections	702
Home Sewage Treatment System Site Inspections	400
Home Sewage Treatment System Consultations	200
Home Sewage Treatment System Service Provider Registrations	22
O & M Existing Sewage Treatment System	44
Home Sewage Treatment System Abandonment Permit	45
Ashtabula	*6*
Austinburg	*2*
Cherry Valley	*1*
Denmark	*1*
Geneva	*9*
Hartsgrove	*1*
Jefferson	*1*
Kingsville	*4*
Lenox	*1*
Monroe	*1*
North Kingsville Village	*2*
New Lyme	*2*
Orwell	*2*
Plymouth	*2*
Saybrook	*7*
Trumbull	*2*
Williamsfield	*1*
Windsor	*1*
Private Water System Permits Issued	62
Andover	*3*
Austinburg	*3*
Colebrook	*1*
Denmark	*2*
Dorset	*2*
Geneva	*1*
Harpersfield	*2*
Hartsgrove	*5*
Jefferson	*4*
Lenox	*2*
Monroe	*6*
Morgan	*1*
Kingsville	*1*
New Lyme	*1*
Orwell	*5*

Pierpont	*1*
Plymouth	*2*
Rome	*2*
Saybrook	*1*
Sheffield	*1*
Trumbull	*5*
Wayne	*3*
Williamsfield	*2*
Windsor	*7*
Private Water System Inspections	123
Water Hauler Registrations	3
Bacterial Water Samples Taken	243
Andover	*14*
Ashtabula	*13*
Austinburg	*24*
Cherry Valley	*9*
Denmark	*7*
Dorset	*8*
Geneva	*11*
Harpersfield	*12*
Hartsgrove	*3*
Jefferson	*18*
Kingsville	*11*
Lenox	*14*
Morgan	*3*
Monroe	*6*
New Lyme	*6*
Orwell	*3*
Pierpont	*9*
Plymouth	*22*
Richmond	*1*
Rock Creek	*1*
Rome	*4*
Saybrook	*14*
Sheffield	*4*
Trumbull	*12*
Wayne	*2*
Williamsfield	*8*
Windsor	*4*
Chemical Water Samples Taken	5
Andover	*1*
Cherry Valley	*2*
Denmark	*1*
Jefferson	*1*
Complaint Inspections	839
Complaints Received	125
Andover	*12*
Ashtabula	*35*

Austinburg	*5*
Cherry Valley	*1*
Denmark	*3*
Dorset	*1*
Geneva	*13*
Harpersfield	*6*
Hartsgrove	*1*
Jefferson	*7*
Kingsville	*9*
Monroe	*4*
Morgan	*2*
New Lyme	*1*
Orwell	*2*
Pierpont	*2*
Plymouth	*3*
Richmond	*3*
Rome	*2*
Saybrook	*10*
Trumbull	*2*
Windsor	*1*
Septage Hauler Registrations	18
Septage Pumper Inspections	12
Camp Operation Permits Issued	24
Andover	*1*
Austinburg	*1*
Geneva	*2*
GOTL Village	*2*
Harpersfield	*2*
Hartsgrove	*1*
Kingsville	*1*
Monroe	*2*
Morgan	*1*
New Lyme	*1*
North Kingsville Village	*1*
Orwell	*1*
Richmond	*1*
Saybrook	*3*
Wayne	*1*
Williamsfield	*3*
Resident Camp Permits	5
Harpersfield	*1*
Morgan	*1*
North Kingsville Village	*2*
Windsor	*1*
Public Bathing Beach Licenses Issued	6
Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool Licenses Issued	50
Andover	*4*
Austinburg	*3*

Geneva	*1*
GOTL Village	*14*
Harpersfield	*5*
Jefferson Village	*1*
Morgan	*1*
New Lyme	*1*
North Kingsville Village	*3*
Orwell	*1*
Richmond	*1*
Rome	*4*
Saybrook	*6*
Wayne	*2*
Williamsfield	*3*
Swimming Pool, Spa, Special Use Pool, & Bathing Beach Inspections	51
Construction & Demolition Debris Inspections	559
C & DD Applications	92
School Inspections	29
Manufactured Home Park Inspections	22
Solid Waste Disposal Facility Licenses Issued	3
Ashtabula	*1*
Geneva	*1*
Denmark	*1*
Solid Waste Disposal Facility & Compost Facility Site Inspections	5
Food Service Operation & Food Establishment Licenses Issued	531
Andover	*36*
Andover Village	*11*
Ashtabula	*61*
Austinburg	*30*
Cherry Valley	*1*
Colebrook	*1*
Denmark	*2*
Dorset	*4*
Geneva	*86*
GOTL Village	*59*
Hartsgrove	*11*
Harpersfield	*30*
Jefferson	*55*
Kingsville	*4*
Monroe	*8*
Morgan	*16*
North Kingsville Village	*7*
Orwell	*31*
Pierpont	*6*
Richmond	*1*
Rome	*9*
Saybrook	*40*
Trumbull	*2*
Wayne	*1*

Williamsfield	*9*
Windsor	*10*
Food Service Operation & Food Establishment Inspections	793
Food Service Operation Consultations	92
Food Service Operation Plan Reviews	24
Andover	*4*
Ashtabula	*4*
Geneva	*5*
Harpersfield	*1*
Hartsgrove	*1*
Jefferson	*3*
Kingsville	*1*
New Lyme	*1*
Saybrook	*1*
Trumbull	*1*
Windsor	*2*
Vending Machine Licenses Issued	36
Andover Village	*2*
Ashtabula	*5*
Austinburg	*2*
Denmark	*1*
Geneva City	*3*
Geneva	*2*
GOTL Village	*1*
Harpersfield	*1*
Jefferson	*3*
Jefferson Village	*5*
Kingsville	*1*
North Kingsville Village	*3*
Monroe	*1*
Orwell Village	*1*
Rock Creek Village	*1*
Sayrbook	*2*
Sheffield	*1*
Williamsfield	*1*
Vending Machine Inspections	52
Tattoo & Body Piercing Licenses	6
Ashtabula	*2*
Geneva	*1*
Geneva City	*1*
Harpersfield	*1*
Jefferson Village	*1*
Tattoo & Body Piercing Inspections	3
Inspections w/ Health Commissioner or State/County Agency Personnel	13
Public Meetings, Lectures, Landfill Conferences & Trainings Attended	55
Meetings w/ Federal, State, and Local Agencies	12
Meetings w/ County Agencies & Organizations	12
Animal Bite Field Investigations	6

Other Environmental Health Consultations – Water, Schools, Institutions, Rabies, Mold, etc.	52

Plumbing	
Plumbing Permits Issued	230
Plumbing Plan Reviews Issued	46
Plumber's Registrations Issued	96
Plumbing Permit Checks	253
Plumbing Schematics and Blueprints Checked	325
Plumbing Inspections	678
Plumbing Complaints	11
Plumbing Consultations	122
Plumbing Investigations	37
Meetings Attended	132

Public Health Nursing

The primary focus of public health nursing is to promote health and prevent disease for entire population groups. During 2025, the nurses were challenged with preventing disease in the community as well as maintaining basic public health measures and education. Our nursing staff took to the townships, villages, and community at large to reach as many people as possible. Utilizing our mobile clinic approach, we attended multiple health fairs, the RAM clinic, the Ashtabula County Fair, The PRIDE festival, and many schools, libraries, and halls. Our goal was to get and keep the residents of the county, mostly children, on track with their required immunizations and prevent disease. It was also to educate the public on many diseases, illnesses, and public health challenges going on currently, and into the future.

During 2025, the nurses provided many influenza vaccination clinics, including several drive-thru clinics. We continued our focus on family health in times of gathering, mental wellness, and developing plans for a healthy Ashtabula County in 2026. The nursing division (nursing clerks, nurses, epidemiologist, health educator) and the rest of the team that supports all that nursing does in the community, continue to be resilient and work tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver for the county, the community, and its residents.

Immunizations

In 2025, Ashtabula County Public Health Nurses administered 2,006 adult immunizations and 1,712 immunizations to children/adolescents. Our Nursing Division staff members held 84 flu clinics during the fall and winter of 2025 at various settings in the community, private businesses/organizations, and at our main office location. The ACHD is a Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider, a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children birth through the age of 18 who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian, or Alaska Native. We also operate the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant which seeks to improve and sustain vaccination coverage among children and adolescents, and to reduce vaccination coverage disparities in Ohio. ACHD is also a provider for several private health insurances. Please contact our Nursing Division for more vaccine information, schedule an appointment or to inquire about having an immunization clinic at your business or organization at 440-576-6010, option 2.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's leading infectious diseases and can be deadly. Up to 13 million people in the United States are living with inactive or latent TB infection. Without treatment, 1 in 10 people with latent TB infection will develop active TB disease. The only way to know for sure if you have inactive TB is to get tested. The Ashtabula County Health Department's Tuberculosis Program provided 145 tuberculin skin tests in 2025 and evaluated 8 patients for latent and active tuberculosis. Of the 8 patients

evaluated, 4 required treatments for latent TB. The priority of the TB program in Ashtabula County is aimed at eliminating TB within the county, and ultimately within the state of Ohio. The goals of the program include Identifying and treating those persons with active Tuberculosis, finding and screening those persons who have been in contact with active TB patients and providing them with appropriated treatment, and screening high-risk populations to detect persons who are infected with latent TB, who may benefit from therapy to prevent progression to active TB disease. If you have questions regarding TB or to schedule a TB skin test, contact our TB Program at 440-576-6010, option 2.

Lead Monitoring

The Ashtabula County Health Department, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health, monitors elevated lead levels in children in our district. There is no safe level of lead in the blood. Any confirmed level of lead in the blood is a reliable indicator that a child has been exposed to lead. Under Ohio law, all blood lead test results are required to be reported to the Ohio Department of Health. The ODH Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program follows cases regarding all blood lead levels of 3.5 or greater. ODH and ACHD provide lead education regarding potential environmental sources of lead exposure, potential health effects, and hazards associated with renovating pre-1978 homes. Medical management is provided until a child's blood lead level is below 3.5. In Ashtabula County for 2025, we had 20 cases of elevated lead levels that met criteria to follow, and 3 of those cases were able to be closed during the year. There are programs for qualified individuals that can assist with lead abatement in the home. For more information on lead or testing, contact our lead program at 440-576-6010, option 2.

Complex Medical Help (CMH)

The Complex Medical Help (CMH) program is a health care program within the Ohio Department of Health. CMH links families with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need. CMH views the local public health nurse as an essential member of the health care team. At the Ashtabula County Health Department, we are the link between the resources provided through ODH and the families that need them. We perform home visits, phone calls, consultations, and guidance throughout the process to assist in the care of children. During 2025, we provided case management to 22 children in the county. For more information regarding the CMH program, call 440-576-6010, option 2.

Prevent Blindness Ohio (PBO)

Prevent Blindness Ohio (PBO) is dedicated to addressing the challenge to prevent blindness and preserve sight through wise investment of community support. The goal of the Vision Care Outreach Program (VCO) is to reduce the incidence of unnecessary vision loss and impairment by providing access to a donated system of comprehensive

vision care services for uninsured or underinsured adults and children in Ohio. When Ohioans apply for or renew their license plates, they will be asked if they want to contribute $1 to the fund and it will be added to their fee. These dollars go directly to helping pay for eye exams, eyeglasses, and visits for residents in our county to receive sight saving care. During 2025, we helped 43 people address the challenge to prevent blindness and preserve sight. For more information on Prevent Blindness, call 440-576-6010, option 2.

Project DAWN/Harm Reduction

Ashtabula County has a rate of 22.7 deaths per 100,000 population for unintentional drug overdoses. In 2025, our county had 22 overdose deaths, a 0% change compared to 2024, with 63% of those deaths associated with fentanyl and 40% of deaths associated with xylazine. Xylazine is commonly used as a veterinary sedative not intended for use on humans and is becoming more common in overdose deaths. Males, specifically white males, have consistently been impacted more with overdose deaths each year. The Ashtabula County Health Department has implemented the Project DAWN program since 2017. Project DAWN is a network of Ohio-based drug overdose education and Naloxone distribution programs. Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a medication that can block the effect of opioids, like fentanyl, and reverse an overdose. Ashtabula County Health Department's Project DAWN Program provides take-home Naloxone kits, fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, a syringe drop box, and Syringe Service Program (SSP) to community members, free of charge. Our program has progressively increased community Naloxone distribution every year since its inception from 46 kits in 2017 to 4,821 kits in 2025. Naloxone distribution has increased 166% from 1,807 kits in 2024 to 4,821 kits in 2025 by means of new community partnerships and a naloxone vending machine installed in Ashtabula County due to a collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Another tool we gained to help fight fentanyl overdose in late 2023 was fentanyl test strips meant to test for the presence of fentanyl in substances to help warn people who are unaware that they may be exposed to it. We distributed 650 test strips throughout 2025. For 2026, we plan to implement xylazine testing strips into the community that have been provided by Project DAWN, partner with additional community partners to increase harm reductions services to communities in need and increase harm reduction education in high-risk areas. For more information or to obtain a Narcan kit, or on any other harm reduction services, call 440-576-6010, option 2.

Communicable Disease Investigation

The Ashtabula County Health Department's Communicable Disease Investigation team, a part of Nursing Services, oversees surveillance and reporting of communicable diseases in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health and CDC guidelines. Throughout 2025, the staff faced challenges related to respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV, engaging with schools, providing information, and aiding in decision-making. In spring of 2025, the division worked together to address and

contain two Measles outbreaks within Ashtabula County. These efforts included epidemiological investigations, implementing control measures, and testing and assessing ill individuals. Emphasizing the importance of vaccination, the department encourages residents to stay up to date. The communicable disease team worked with hospitals and long-term care facilities to control the spread of multi-drug-resistant organisms such as Carbapenem Producing Organisms and Candida Auris. The team also worked on suspected food-borne and vector-borne illnesses, including Lyme Disease, Campylobacteriosis, and Salmonellosis. An intern from the University of Memphis assisted the communicable disease team in tick collection and education. These efforts included posting tick collection stations at four high-traffic, wooded wetlands around Ashtabula County and dragging for ticks at parks and orchards. Looking ahead to 2026, the Communicable Disease Prevention Staff aims to continue serving the community.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

During 2025, ACHD's preparedness efforts continued to be supported by the PHEP grant. Each year, the Ohio Department of Health, with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, identifies a series of Emergency Preparedness activities for Local Health Departments to undertake to bolster local, state, and ultimately national readiness to respond to and recover from incidents which impact the health of our communities.

Preparedness activities involved updating and creating various plans, including the Risk Communication Plan, Non-Emergency Communication Plan, Administrative Preparedness Annex, and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions Plan. ACHD hosted a Chemical Surge Tabletop with local partners and responders as well as participated in partnering organizations exercises such as the Local Emergency Planning Committee and long-term care. Maintaining, updating, and at times, complete revisions of these plans are an ongoing duty requiring many hours of effort and collaboration with partners on all levels. To facilitate this, the Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team (ACPHAT) meets monthly to share information and ensure the alignment of goals and efforts wherever reasonable. This group allows many of the agencies who work together in emergency circumstances to develop a rapport and knowledge of each other's priorities, concerns, and capabilities.

Additional efforts will continue throughout the 2026 fiscal year with the development of the Emergency Response Plan Recovery Annex, a biological discussion-based exercise, an administrative preparedness tabletop, continued work for revitalization of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and the revision of the Medical Countermeasures Plan. ACHD is continuously adapting and will seek to improve from the lessons learned. ACHD seeks to bolster response and recovery capability with an all-hazards approach to be ready to lead or support Emergency Response efforts anytime public health is endangered.

Public Health Nursing Statistics

Immunization Clinics

Number of Standard Immunization Clinics	146
Number of Standard Vaccines Given	2,552
Number of Home/Residential Facility Visits for Vaccinations	115
Number of Amish Clinics	67
Number of Flu Clinics	84
Number of Patients Who Received Vaccines	2,085

Immunization Clinic Locations

Andover Twp	47
Ashtabula Twp	2
Austinburg Twp	1
Colebrook Twp	16
Geneva Twp	2
Harpersfield Twp	1
Hartsgrove Twp	8
Kingsville Twp	4
Monroe Twp	1
Orwell Twp	8
Pierpont Twp	2
Saybrook Twp	1
Williamsfield Twp	1
Windsor Twp	17
Andover Village	8
Orwell Village	9
Geneva City	9

Non-Immunization Clinics

Number of Wellness Clinics	46
Number of Wellness Patients	149
Number of Tuberculosis Clinics	53
Number of Naloxone Distribution Clinics	65
Number of Lead Home Visits	2
Number of Children with Medical Handicaps Home Visits	1

Additional Nursing Services and Statistics

- 1,015 people were educated on substance use/abuse
- Over 4,000 Covid-19 test kits were distributed. Free Kits from ODH came to an end in August 2025.
- 78 Specialty events and health education events in schools and health fairs were completed covering education on the harmful effect of smoking and vaping, hand washing, germs and disease spread, and dental and body hygiene
- ACHD initiated a Walking program that was held every Tuesday from 9a-10a May-October 2025 (weather permitting) to connect with our community to have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of all residents.

Reportable Condition	Count
Babesiosis	1
C. auris	5
C. auris - Colonization Screening	1
Campylobacteriosis	25
Chlamydia infection	112
Coccidioidomycosis	1
*COVID-19	456
*COVID-19-associated hospitalization	14
CPO	6
CPO - Colonization Screening	5
Cryptosporidiosis	6
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	3
Giardiasis	4
Gonococcal infection	15
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1
Hepatitis A	3
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	40
Hepatitis C - chronic	193
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1
Immigrant Investigation	2
Influenza-associated hospitalization	228
Legionellosis	6
Lyme Disease	83
Measles - imported from outside Ohio (call health department immediately)	3
Measles - indigenous to Ohio (call health department immediately)	15
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	4
Mumps	1
Pertussis	3
Salmonellosis	15
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	1
Syphilis - unknown duration or late	3
Tularemia (call health department immediately)	1
Varicella	8
Yersiniosis	1
Total	1,271

*In October 2025, reporting guidelines changed so COVID-19 was reportable for hospitalizations only.

Quality and Performance

Accreditation

2025 was Ashtabula County Health Department's (ACHD) third year as an accredited health department. In order to maintain accreditation status, a PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) annual report must be completed, as well as the work required to meet the five-year Reaccreditation mark. The PHAB Annual Report was submitted in December, and the health department remains in good standing with PHAB.

Community Health Needs Assessment & Improvement Planning

2025 was also the third year of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) cycle, where ACHD and 32 community stakeholders continued their work on Obesity Prevention, Mental Wellbeing, and Access to Care. Being the third and final year of the CHIP, the group also worked with contractor, Illuminology to create a new Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). ACHD remained the lead agency for all CHNA and CHIP activities, even though Healthy Ashtabula County (HAC) received its 501(c)(3) designation. The upcoming CHIP cycle, 2026-2028 will act as a transfer of responsibilities from ACHD to HAC.

Strategic Planning

The Community Health Improvement Plan and accreditation standards, as well as public health mandates and grant requirements, are some of the stipulations used to govern the ACHD Strategic Plan. The strategic plan guides the directors by outlining the long-term goals and strategies for the department. It communicates the Ashtabula County Health Department's vision, mission, and values, and specifies how ACHD will measure its progress and achieve its intended objectives.

ACHD directors held regular work sessions to evaluate progress and formulate the best course of action in each of the three areas of Quality & Performance. Completed and approved plans and documents are made available to the public via the ACHD and HAC websites.