



TUSCARAWAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Tuscarawas County
Health Department**



MISSION

As a leader in public health, the Tuscarawas County Health Department prevents diseases, promotes health, protects the environment, and strives to create health equity for all through education, enforcement, and empowerment.

VISION

Sustainable Environment.
Healthier Families.
Thriving Communities.



Find us on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.



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Services

- Animal Bite Investigation
- Birth and Death Certificates
- Camps, RV, and Recreational Parks Program
- Car Seat Program
- Child Injury Prevention Program
- Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program
- Communicable Disease Reporting
- Early Childhood Safety (Safe Beginnings) Program
- Falls Prevention Program
- Food Safety Program
- Health Education and Promotion
- Immunizations (Vaccines)
- Medical Office (Including Primary Care Services for Acute and Chronic Illnesses)
- Mosquito Control Program
- Nuisance Control Program
- Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone)
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Public Swimming Pools and Spas Program
- Rabies Surveillance Program
- Reproductive Health and Wellness Program
- Solid Waste Program
- Tattoo and Body Piercing Program
- Tobacco Use Prevention Program
- Water Safety Program (Well and Septic)
- WIC Program (Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program)

A note from the Health Commissioner...

March 2024

Dear Tuscarawas County Community,

As I reflect on our progress in 2023, I offer my deep appreciation for the privilege of serving you through our many public health programs and services. Together, our dedicated professionals strive to build a sustainable environment, healthier families, and thriving communities right here in Tuscarawas County. Furthermore, our Board of Health and staff also remain deeply committed to serving county residents with excellence through our efforts to prevent serious illness and injury, promote optimal health, and protect safe sources of water and food.



With the official end of the Federal Public Health Emergency Designation for COVID-19 on May 11, 2023, much of the year was centered on restoring our connection with Tuscarawas County communities. We enjoyed opportunities to attend or conduct events and health fairs from Bolivar to Newcomerstown, from Sugarcreek to West Chester, and most county communities in between. Our staff prevented serious flu and COVID-19 illnesses through special vaccination drive-up events, including our record-breaking flu drive-up event with 144 immunizations administered. We promoted good health by adding evening medical appointments two days a week, investigating over 2,000 communicable diseases, and sharing more than 100 health and safety tips through our social media pages. We protected the environment through the collection of 17 tons of scrap tires and the collection of hazardous waste products from 204 vehicles. We even helped pet owners prepare for emergencies by supplying more than 500 pet emergency preparedness bags for the community. Then, as respiratory illnesses began to increase in late fall, we distributed more than 2,000 special infection prevention bags to help community members weather cold and flu season. Please take a little time to read through this annual report to learn more details about our services and accomplishments during 2023.

I am thankful and honored to lead our talented, hard-working public health team in serving you, the valued citizens of Tuscarawas County.

Please know that even with the accomplishments of this past year, our organization remains committed to continuous improvement. We will not rest on our laurels. We will always look for new ways to enhance our programs and add or strengthen community services to better meet your needs. We will maintain and enhance our working relationships with our many partner organizations and community leaders who assist us in meeting our goals and making our progress possible.

As always, your input and suggestions are welcome as we work to focus on our strategic priorities of community focus and engagement, and organizational infrastructure improvements. I am thankful and honored to lead our talented, hard-working public health team in serving you, the valued citizens of Tuscarawas County.

Sincerely,

Katie Seward, MPH, CHES
Tuscarawas County
Health Commissioner

Thank you to Empower Tusc for naming us "Organization of the Year" for 2023.



Tuscarawas County Health Department's 2023 Community Impact At-A-Glance

At the Tuscarawas County Health Department, we are here to serve you. Here are some of the community impacts we made in 2023.



4,205
Medical
Appointments



4,997
Birth and Death
Certificates
Issued

\$1,580,764.18
Grant Funds
Received



163
Septic
Permits
Issued

85
Well Water
Permits
Issued

70
Families Served
Through the
Safe Beginnings
Program

**Our TCHD
professionals are here
to build a sustainable
environment, healthier
families, and thriving
communities right here in
Tuscarawas County.**


17
Tons of
Scrap Tires
Collected

173
Animal Bites
Investigated

1,111
Naloxone (Narcan)
Kits Distributed



1,205
New
WIC
Clients



3,301
Vaccines
Provided



169
Car Seats
or Boosters
Provided

102
Child Safety Gates
Distributed

8,075
Mosquitoes
Collected & Tested

1,030
Food Safety
Inspections
Completed

230
Clients Served
Through Children
with Medical
Handicaps Program

218
COVID-19 Tests
Conducted



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Financial Health

In 2023, TCHD provided \$53,303 in charity health care through sliding fee discounts.

Financial Stewardship

Financial stewardship and accountability are priorities of the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD), and we are grateful for the 25% of our 2023 revenue that was provided through levy funding. At the end of 2023, TCHD had grown by five staff persons over the previous year with 65 (49.24 full time equivalent between full and part-time staff) public health professionals.

* Please note that at the time of report publication, the financial data included herein had not yet been audited for Fiscal Year 2023.

**2023
Beginning Balance:
\$7,563,753**
**Ending Balance:
\$7,158,420**



Accreditation Statement

The Tuscarawas County Health Department earned National accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in the Spring of 2019. In 2023, the agency continued to meet the high standards and performance measures while striving to improve overall department operations to work toward maintaining accreditation.

As a Nationally accredited health department, TCHD maintains a level of organizational performance that aligns with nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards.



LARGEST EXPENSES	2021	2022	2023*
	(% change from previous year)	(% change from previous year)	(% change from previous year)
Salaries	\$2,095,363.98 (+4%)	\$2,295,611.73 (+9%)	\$2,545,517.71 (+11%)
Fringe (health insurance, PERS, Medicare, unemployment, workers compensation)	\$549,105.00 (-3%)	\$717,443.89 (+23%)	821,265.75 (+15%)
Service Contracts	\$773,003.10 (+26%)	\$929,576.24 (+17%)	790,501.27 (-15%)
Office, Building, & Program Supplies	\$329,260.80 (+44%)	\$254,123.22 (-30%)	707,292.79 (+179%)
GREATEST REVENUE	2021	2022	2023*
	(% change from previous year)	(% change from previous year)	(% change from previous year)
Grants	\$2,078,546.89 (-11%)	\$1,991,609.28 (-4%)	1,580,764.18 (-22%)
Tuscarawas County Auditor (includes real estate levy)	\$1,735,509.18 (-26%)	\$1,492,650.90 (-16%)	1,559,386.90 (+5%)
Environmental Health Fees	\$671,709.00 (+8%)	\$785,276.84 (+14%)	746,163.63 (-5%)
Medical Office Fees	\$527,858.14 (+3%)	\$473,815.87 (-11%)	444,385.22 (-7%)

Tuscarawas County Vital Statistics

Top 5 Causes of Death in Tuscarawas County by Year

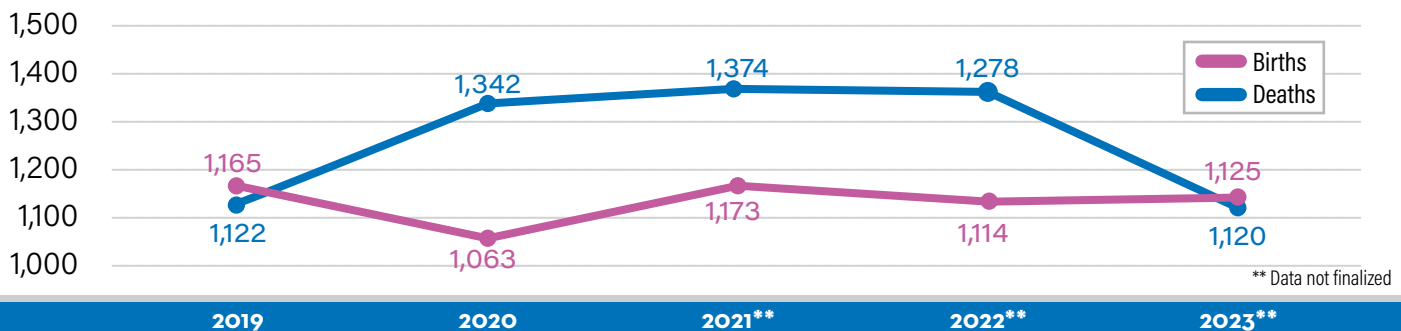
	2021	2022	2023
1	All Other Diseases (Including COVID-19) 462	All Other Diseases (Including COVID-19) 297	Heart Disease/Stroke 322
2	Heart Disease/Stroke 350	Heart Disease/Stroke 295	All Other Diseases (Including COVID-19) 241
3	Cancer 195	Cancer 230	Cancer 212
4	Accidents (Including Motor Vehicle) 79	Respiratory Illness (Excluding COVID-19) 100	Respiratory Illness (Excluding COVID-19) 81
5	Respiratory Illness (Excluding COVID-19) 75	Alzheimer's Disease 75	Diabetes 50



New in 2023:
Birth and death certificates
can now be purchased online at
www.tchdnow.org

2023 Tuscarawas County Vital Statistics	
	TOTAL
Registered Births	1,125
Registered Deaths	1,120
Birth Certificates Issued	2,672
Death Certificates Issued	2,325
Fetal Death Certificate Issued	1

Tuscarawas County Resident Births and Deaths by Year





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Promoting Good Nutrition & Healthy Families Through WIC



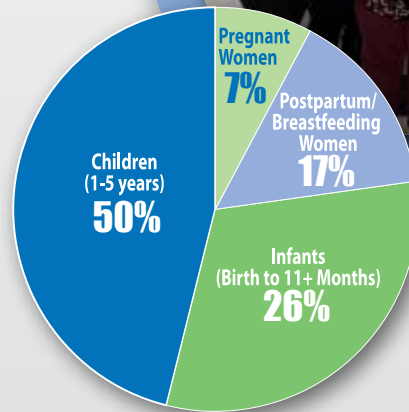
**Department of
Health**

Women, Infants, and
Children Program (WIC)

2023 WIC Statistics

Total WIC Visits	5,627
New WIC Clients	1,205
Percentage of Infants on WIC who were breastfeeding at birth	59%

WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The program helps income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women as well as infants and children up to five years of age who are at risk for health problems due to inadequate nutrition. WIC serves clients five days a week at our Dover location and one day a month at Dennison thanks to a partnership with Trinity Health System Twin City Medical Center.



**2023 WIC
Participants
By Category**



Protecting Families

Throughout 2023, Tuscarawas County Health Department staff enjoyed several opportunities to participate in health fairs and special events to reach more than 3,000 residents with educational messages related to TCHD services as well as injury and disease prevention tips.

Pack ' N Plays through Cribs for Kids Program

	2021	2022	2023
Pack ' N Plays Provided	42	58	96

Car Seat Statistics

TCHD provides car seat safety and installation education and free car seats or boosters to income-eligible families through the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program. Additionally, anyone (regardless of income) can receive a free car seat check to make sure car seats are correctly installed.

	2021	2022	2023
Booster Seats Distributed	8	16	25
Convertible Seats Distributed	80	118	144

Safe Beginnings Statistics

Safe Beginnings is a grant-funded program from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund that provides safety education and concrete safety equipment for income-eligible families of children from birth to age 3.

	2021	2022	2023
Cribs Provided	16	32	38
Mattresses Provided	21	47	47
Sheets			42
Sleep Sacks			3
Childproofing Safety Kits Provided	20	24	55
CO2/Fire Alarms Provided	22	27	42
Toddler Beds Provided	8	18	9
Furniture Anchor			25
Fire Extinguisher			27
Oven Door Lock			37
Strollers Provided	18	11	
Safety Gates Provided	24	65	102
Thermometers Provided	28	13	24
Baby Monitors	19	30	72

Promoting Health & Preventing Disease

2023 Communicable Disease Report For All Tuscarawas County Residents

	2021	2022	2023	Trend based on previous 3-year average
VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES				
Haemophilus influenzae	1	3	4	WORSENERD
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	NO CHANGE
Hepatitis B Acute/Chronic	2	2	1	IMPROVED
Influenza - Hospitalized	2	92	18	IMPROVED
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	0	4	23	WORSENERD
Strep Pneumoniae	9	13	11	IMPROVED
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	3	1	IMPROVED
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS				
Chlamydia	292	205	226	WORSENERD
Gonorrhea	59	42	33	IMPROVED
OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES				
Campylobacteriosis	10	2	4	WORSENERD
CP-CRE	1	2	0	IMPROVED
Cryptosporidiosis	2	4	2	IMPROVED
Cyclosporiasis	1	0	0	IMPROVED
Dengue	1	0	0	NO CHANGE
E. Coli	2	0	2	WORSENERD
Giardia	0	4	1	IMPROVED
Hepatitis C - Acute/Chronic	32	21	23	WORSENERD
La Cross Virus	1	1	1	NO CHANGE
Legionellosis	8	1	4	WORSENERD
Listeria	0	0	1	WORSENERD
Lyme Disease	39	17	43	WORSENERD
Meningitis - Viral	2	5	0	IMPROVED
MIS-C associated with COVID 19	3	0	0	IMPROVED
Salmonella	5	12	16	WORSENERD
Shigellosis	1	0	1	WORSENERD
Streptococcal A	2	9	19	WORSENERD
Tuberculosis (TB)	2	0	2	WORSENERD
Vibriosis	0	1	0	IMPROVED
Yersiniosis	2	1	1	NO CHANGE

Community Health Services include:

- Adult Care
- Children With Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program
- Communicable Disease Reporting & Contact Tracing
- COVID-19 Testing
- Family Planning
- Flu Testing
- HIV Prevention Treatment
- Immunizations
- Pregnancy Testing
- Reproductive Health
- Sports & Work Physicals
- STI/STD Testing



“For the first time, I feel like I actually click with my healthcare provider and she hears me.” -Medical Office Patient

2023 Medical Services At-A-Glance

• COVID-19 Immunizations	1,056
• COVID- 19 Tests	218
• Clients Served Through Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program	230
• Family Planning Visits	1,058
• Flu Vaccines	501
• Flu Tests	218
• Immunizations (Including Flu & COVID-19)	3,301
• Total Rural Health Clinic Visits	4,205



The Tuscarawas County Health Department investigated **2,025** communicable diseases in 2023.

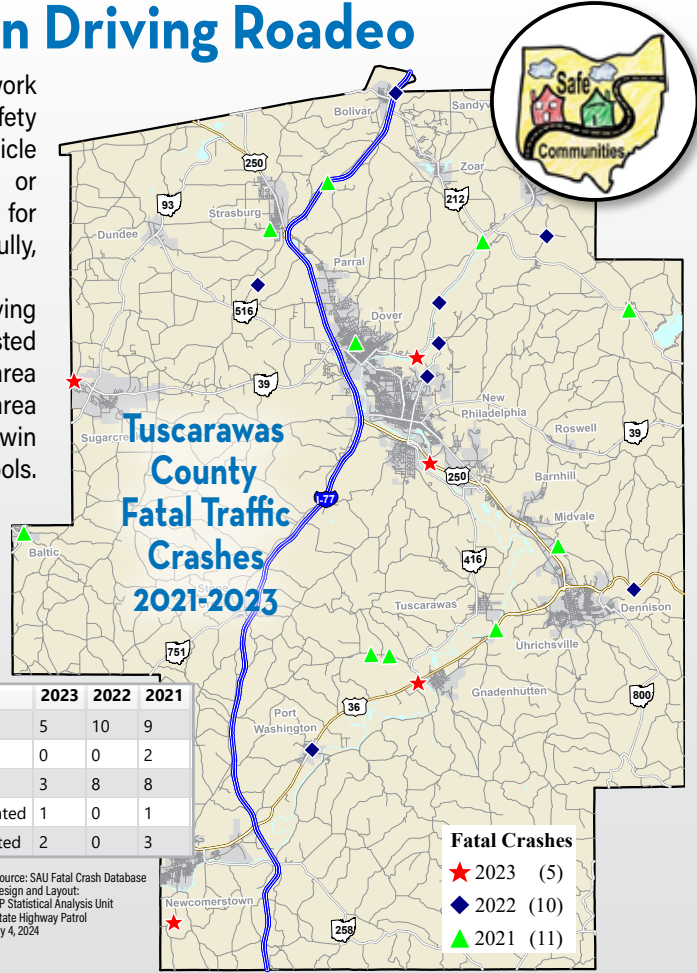


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Traffic Safety & Teen Driving Rodeo

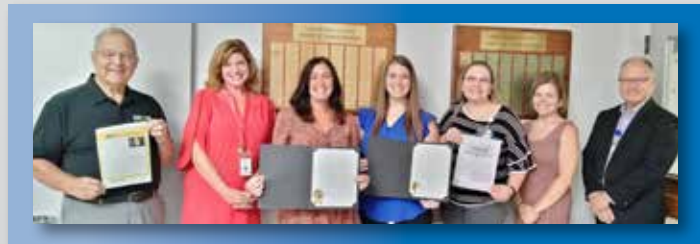
Throughout 2023, TCHD continued work with community partners to promote traffic safety messages to aide in the prevention of vehicle accidents. Safety messages included Click It or Ticket; Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over; Look Out for Motorcycles; and Stay Alive, Don't Text & Drive. Thankfully, fatal crashes decreased in 2023 from the previous year.

After a three-year hiatus due to the Pandemic, the 26th Annual Teen Driving Rodeo returned on April 13, 2023 at the Tuscarawas County fairgrounds. Hosted by the Tuscarawas County Health Department in partnership with numerous area organizations, the event featured high school student teams from seven area schools who competed in safe driving tests and maneuverability courses to win cash and bragging rights for themselves and their schools. The Safety Rodeo helped young drivers learn better driving skills, learn the rules of the road, and think more carefully about their actions while driving.



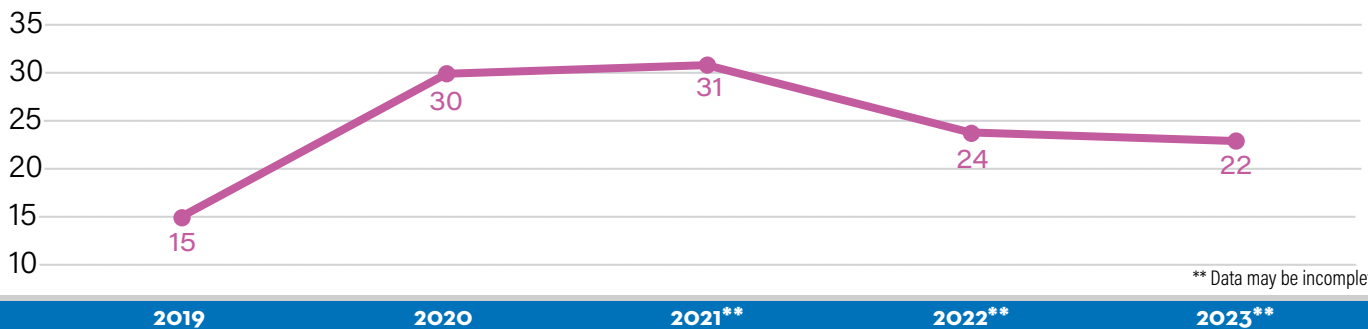
Preventing Overdoses with Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone)

Project DAWN is a community-wide naloxone (also known as Narcan) distribution program that provides free naloxone kits and education for those who struggle with addiction and any community member who wants to help save lives by reversing overdoses. Training topics include how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a drug overdose and how to use naloxone to quickly reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug.



In 2022, TCHD distributed **553** naloxone kits to the community and recorded **62** overdose reversals. In 2023, the program grew with **1,111** naloxone kits distributed and **81** overdose reversals recorded.

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Tuscarawas County Residents



Protecting the Environment

The Tuscarawas County Health Department works behind the scenes to protect the environment. Environmental health (EH) specialists inspect restaurants, grocery stores, campgrounds, tattoo and piercing establishments, and swimming pools. EH specialists permit drinking water wells, septic systems, and solid waste landfills. They also work to correct nuisance situations that are reported by the public.

Food Safety: The Food Safety program licenses and regulates all food service operations and retail food establishments including restaurants, grocery stores, mobile, temporary, and vending machine operations to assure that all comply with applicable laws.

Water Safety (Well and Septic):

Point of Sale Inspections of well and septic systems are completed by environmental health specialists. Evaluations of new and replacement home sewage treatment systems are completed by water quality environmental health specialists.

Camps, RV, and Recreation Parks:

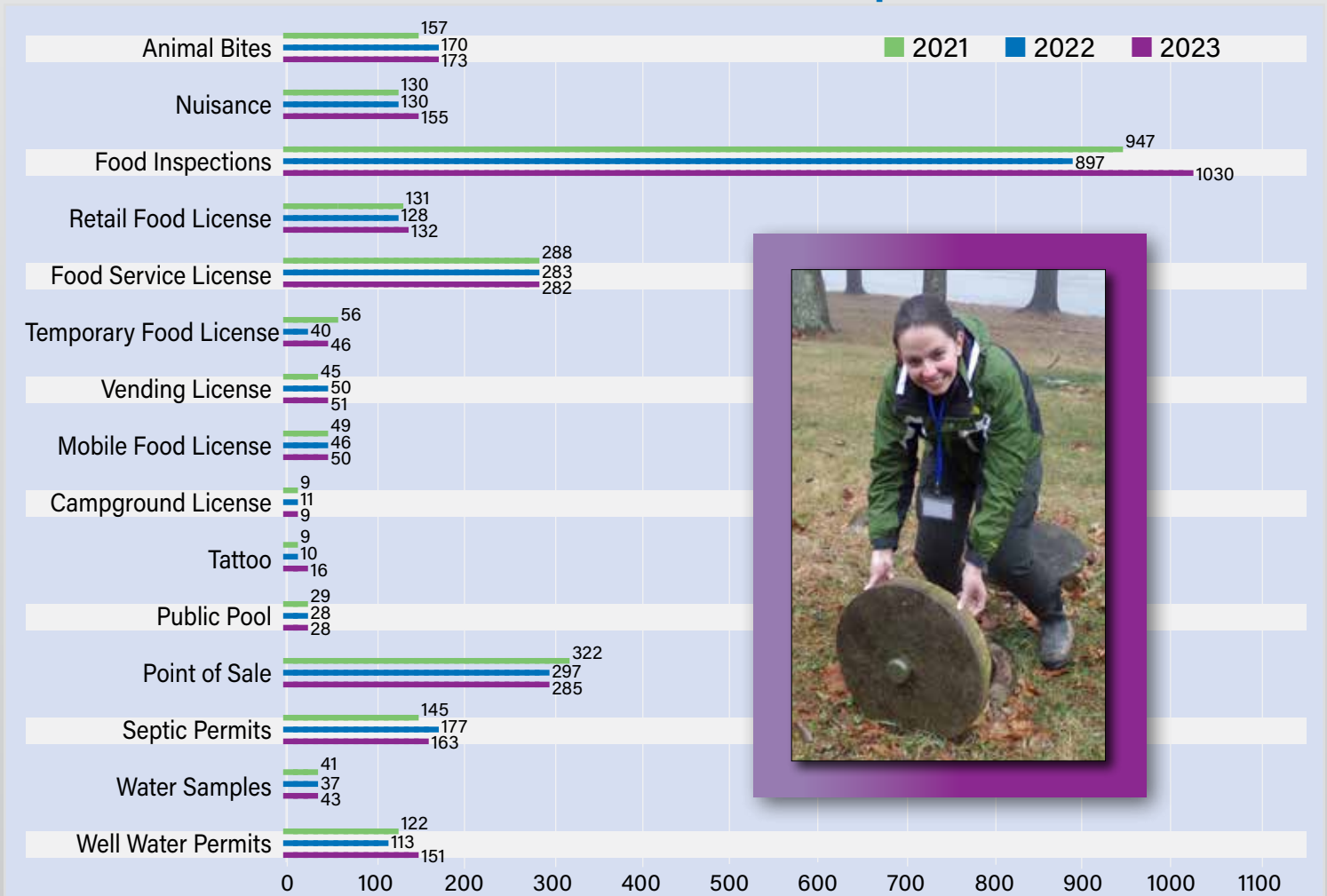
The goal of this program is to reduce potential risk for the spread of communicable disease as well as injuries and assure that parks and camps are maintained in compliance with laws and rules through inspections.

Pools, Spas, Beaches: Inspected to minimize safety hazards, reduce potential risk for disease transmission, and assure that waters are in compliance with ordinances.

Nuisance: Environmental health specialists investigate septic, food, water, school, tattoo parlor, piercing, and solid waste nuisance complaints.



Environmental Services and Inspections





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**Tuscarawas County
Health Department**

Meet Cody

During the summer of 2023, the Tuscarawas County Health Department gained a very special new "staff" member, Cody. Obtained from a reputable breeder in Tuscarawas County, Cody is a red golden retriever who volunteers as a facility dog in training at TCHD.

He loves people and spends most of his day receiving lots of love and treats. While Cody primarily assists TCHD staff by boosting morale and lowering workplace stress, he also enjoys visiting and serving other locations in the community. In October 2023, Cody helped calm children who attended TCHD's drive-up events to get flu and COVID-19 vaccines. In November, he spent time at Tusky Valley to comfort students and staff.



Community Health Worker

The Tuscarawas County Health Department partners with Bridges to Wellness to provide a community health worker to assist individuals in need of resources such as smoking cessation, insurance assistance, mental health services, primary care, or linkages to social service agencies. Bridges to Wellness is a non-profit organization out of Access Tusc that collaborates with other organizations in the community to deploy Community Health Workers to assist the most vulnerable populations. A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has a close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison to link clients with health/social services and improve the quality and cultural competence of the service delivery. In 2023, under the direction of the TCHD Clinical Supervisor, our community health worker served 81 clients including those of varying populations: pregnant women, adults 50 and over, pediatric clients, and newborn children.



Community Events

From Back to School events to the Tuscarawas County Fair and more, our TCHD staff participated in more than 30 community events across the county in 2023. We also enjoyed hosting some special tours of our building, including an educational event for Indian Valley eighth grade students, a tour for newly elected County Commissioners, and special community pick-up events for 500 pet emergency preparedness bags and over 2,000 infection prevention bags to help the community.



"Thank you for being such a good steward of our health."

- Comment on Facebook page about infection prevention bag project

Tuscarawas County Health Department Received New Grant Funding to Add Community Services in Late 2023

Thanks to three new grant awards, Tuscarawas County children and older adults will benefit from new injury prevention programs, and families will have improved access to services that will pave the way for healthy pregnancies. The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) was awarded three new multi-year grants totaling \$295,000 from the Ohio Department of Health. Two of the grants will help prevent injuries in children and older adults and one grant will assist adults of childbearing age with health improvements.

Specifically, the new child injury prevention grant will reduce childhood injuries and deaths by enabling TCHD's public health educators to provide services to improve transportation safety for children through teen driving, bicycle, and pedestrian programming. The grant also enables staff to focus on reducing youth violence and child maltreatment. Through the new injury prevention among older adults grant, TCHD's public health educators will work with older county



residents to emphasize fall prevention strategies. Finally, TCHD's new preconception health and wellness grant will improve the overall health and well-being of county residents of child-bearing age by promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing barriers to care, providing access to health services, and encouraging the establishment of a reproductive life plan to improve maternal and child health outcomes before, during, and even after pregnancy.



COVID-19 Response Efforts

During 2023, Tuscarawas County Health Department continued with efforts to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 and prevent severe illness and hospitalization through the provision of drive-up COVID-19 tests, COVID-19 home antigen test distribution, COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinics, regular health communication messages, and more.

Even with the ending of the Federal Public Health Emergency designation for COVID-19 on May 11, 2023, we encourage taking steps to prevent serious forms of the illness. We recommend getting the COVID-19 updated vaccine, using at-home tests, staying home when you are sick whenever possible, and wearing a high quality mask when visiting older persons and those with chronic conditions.

COVID-19 Statistics for 2023:

- COVID-19 Immunization and Booster Doses Administered: 1,056 (4,145 in 2022)
- COVID-19 Tests Conducted: 218 (2,196 in 2022)
- COVID-19 Cases Diagnosed in Tuscarawas County Residents: 2,565* (7,919 in 2022)
- COVID-19 Related Deaths Reported in County Residents: 23* (100 county lives were lost to COVID-19 in 2022. Cumulative total of 558 Tuscarawas County resident lives lost to COVID-19 from January 2020 through December 31, 2023.)



* Data not yet finalized from the Ohio Department of Health

“Thank you for your outstanding service. I was glad to not have to get out of my car.”

- Comment on Facebook page about COVID-19 drive-up vaccine event



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**Tuscarawas County
Health Department**

MEDICAL CARE

Immunizations
Adult & Family Care
Reproductive Health

*Medicare, Medicaid,
& Private Insurance Accepted*

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children up to 5 years of age.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Car & Booster Seats
Cribs 4 Kids (Pack' N Plays)
Food Safety
Mosquito Control Program
Water Safety (Well & Septic)

**Contact us today
to learn more!**



Find us on Facebook,
Instagram, X, and YouTube.



The Tuscarawas County Health Department Cares for You!



**Your Tuscarawas County Health Department
is led by the following dedicated individuals:**



Katie Seward, MPH, CHES
Tusc. Co. Health
Commissioner



Reggie Stockert
Board of Health
President



Rebecca Mastin, BSN, RN
Board of Health
Vice President



Michael Cochran
Board of Health Member



Andrea Fanti, PhD, Ed.D
Board of Health Member



Jeri Middaugh
Board of Health Member



Dr. Walter W. Randolph III,
MS, MD
Board of Health Member



Tweed Vorhees
Board of Health Member



Daniel Blumer, DO
Medical Director



Jennifer Demuth, BSC
Director of Promotion
& Community Relations



Angela Frantz
Director of
Administrative Services



Amy Kaser, RN
Director of Nursing



Michael Kopko, REHS
Director of
Environmental Health
Services



Loretta Pinchek
Director of
Health Information
Services



Valerie Wilson,
MS, RDN, LD, CLC
Director of Maternal &
Child Health Services



Natasha Yonley,
MPH, CPH, CHES
Director of Prevention
Services



Chelsea Martin, BSN, RN
Clinical Coordinator

03/24 JD