

LICKING COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2025



NEWARK

675 Price Rd.
Newark, OH 43055
(740) 349-6535

PATASKALA

621 W. Broad St.
Pataskala, OH 43062
(740) 755-4520



www.lickingcohealth.org

ANNUAL
REPORT



FROM HEALTH COMMISSIONER, CHAD BROWN

In 2025, our staff continued working to make our services more mobile and accessible for residents across Licking County. Our mobile clinic provided services throughout the county, with events held in Newark, Pataskala, Hebron, Buckeye Lake, and other communities. We also expanded the scope of our mobile services beyond immunizations. Residents were able to receive car seats, Narcan, disease screenings, and a variety of other public health services. We look forward to continuing this work in 2026 with even more services available on the road.

We also remained focused on addressing the growing concerns related to Lyme Disease in our county. Licking County experienced its highest number of Lyme Disease cases in 2025, prompting our staff to intensify surveillance efforts and expand education to help residents better understand local risks.

Our team continued to implement our Strategic Plan and make progress toward its goals, all aimed at protecting our residents and strengthening our department. I am honored to work alongside such a dedicated group of professionals each day. LCHD remains committed to providing high-quality services to our community. We take an “Every Customer, Every Day” approach to public health, and we will continue to do our best to serve you in 2026.

Chad Brown, MPH, REHS
Licking County Health Commissioner

LEADERSHIP TEAM



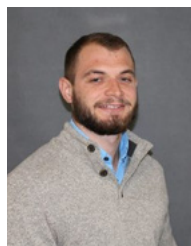
Chad Brown, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner



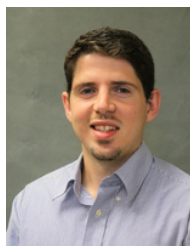
Kari Jones, BSN, MBA, RN
Director of Personal and
Community Health



Todd Kirkpatrick, MS, RD, LD
Director of Maternal and Child
Health



Scott Morris, REHS
Director of Outdoor
Environmental Health



Traven Wood, MS, REHS
Director of Indoor
Environmental Health



Bri Perkins, CHES®
Director of Health
Promotion



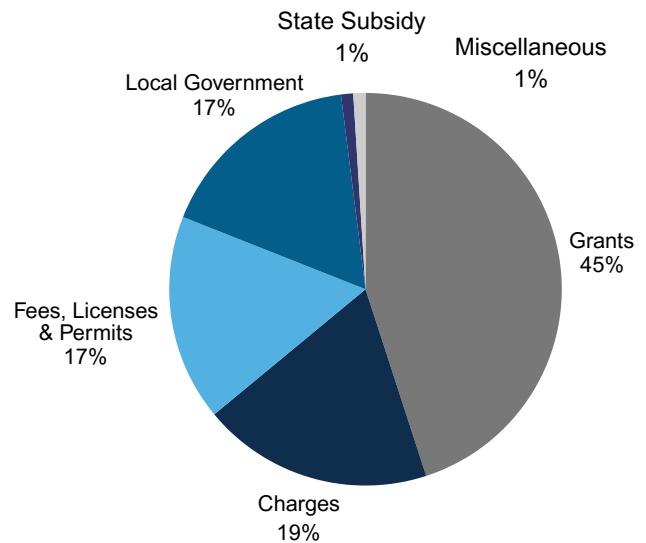
Taunja Dudgeon
Director of Fiscal
Services

ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Licking County Health Department is funded through a diverse mix of revenue sources that help sustain its public health programs and community services. The largest share comes from grants (45%), which support many of its prevention and outreach initiatives. Additional funding is generated through charges for services, fees, licenses, and permits, and local government support, creating a balanced structure that allows the department to provide accessible, community-focused health services across Licking County.

INCOME BY CATEGORY



VITALS REPORT*

*Individuals with a Licking County Address

Licking County Births

TOTAL BIRTHS	1,856
Mothers Age Under 18	12
Mothers Age 18-20	80
Home Births	53

Licking County Deaths

TOTAL Deaths	1,871
Death by Suicide	34
Deaths by Overdose	18
Deaths by Accident	71
Deaths by Homicide	1

TOP BABY NAMES OF 2025



Girl Names

Amelia
Charlotte
Ava
Evelyn
Harper



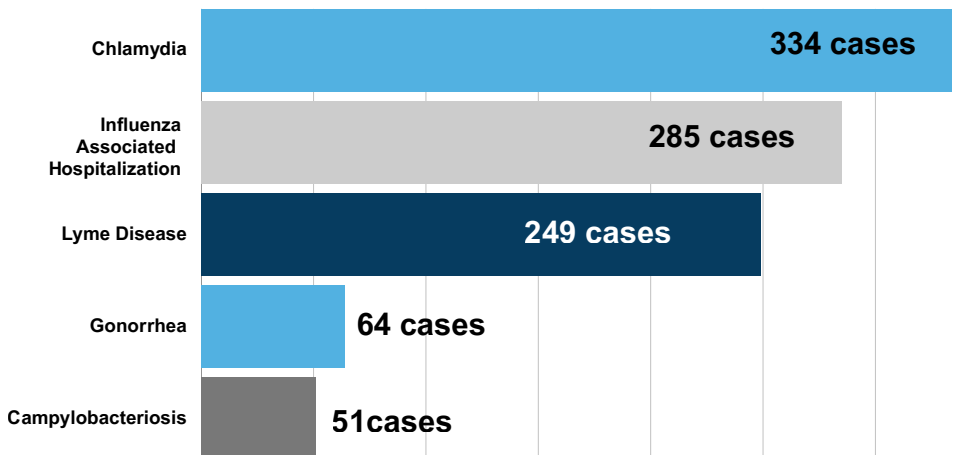
Boy Names

Oliver
Grayson
Cooper
Elijah
Levi



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORT

TOP 5 REPORTABLE DISEASES IN LICKING COUNTY



Total Reportable Diseases in Licking County = 1,334

Influenza - Seasonal (IRIS Project) = 4,891

WELLNESS SERVICES

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM



Our Maternal and Child Health Division aims to eliminate health disparities, improve birth outcomes, and improve the health status of Licking County's women, infants, children, youth, and families.



HOME BASED EARLY HEAD START HEAD START HOME VISITS

Home Based Early Head Start / Head Start Home Visits provide in-home early childhood education and parenting support to income-eligible families with children under five, delivered by trained home educators who help strengthen child development, family routines, and school readiness.

Our educators completed 1,971 visits in 2025.



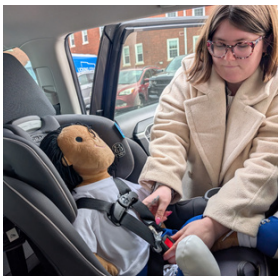
Women, Infants, and Children Program

- WIC (Women, Infants, & Children) Average Caseload
 - LC Health Department | Price Road **1,618**
 - Buckeye Lake **36**
 - Johnstown **33**
 - Pataskala **374**
- WIC grocery store sales (at stores in Licking County) **\$3,019,334.99**

HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

ACCESS TO CARE

3,019 Uber Health ride opportunities were provided to Licking County residents to support transportation to medical appointments in 2025.

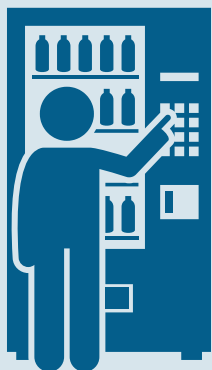


CHILD SAFETY

244 child passenger safety seats were distributed to families across Licking County in 2025.



DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION & HARM REDUCTION INITIATIVES:



HARM REDUCTION VENDING MACHINES

- Four free harm reduction vending machines were installed in Licking County in 2025.
 - LCHD installed two harm reduction vending machines providing naloxone, hygiene kits, and fentanyl test strips at Family Health Services and Licking County Alcohol Prevention Program
 - The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) installed two naloxone-only vending machines at Interstate 70 rest stops in Licking County.
 - 5,658 boxes of naloxone were distributed via the four vending machines in 2025.

OPERATION BRIDGE

LCHD, in partnership with Mental Health Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties (MHRLK) and the Ohio Department of Public Safety Office of Criminal Justice, hosted its first Operation BRIDGE (Bridging Recovery and Interdiction Data Gathering Enforcement) event. Operation BRIDGE brings together law enforcement and treatment providers in a coordinated effort to:

- Reduce the supply and demand of substances
- Prioritize treatment access for eligible individuals
- Connect community members with supportive resources
- 27 community vendors were present, providing information and resources
- 208 individuals were reached through this event
 - 11 individuals were connected to treatment
 - 32 individuals were referred to treatment



Safe Storage Education & Material Distribution

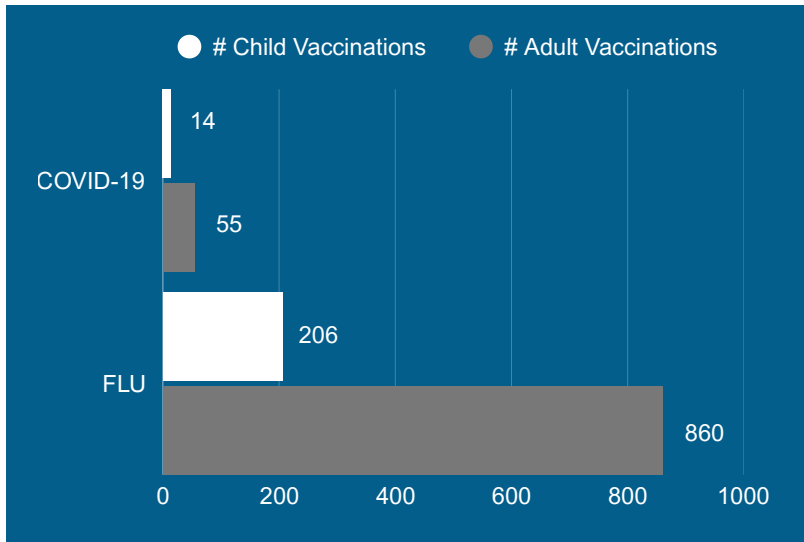
- 204 families were reached through safe storage education efforts in 2025
- Materials Distributed:
 - 98 safer lock boxes
 - 72 safer lock bottles
 - 110 pill minders
 - 44 firearm locks



COMMUNITY & PUBLIC HEALTH - NURSING

Our Community & Personal Health – Public Nursing Division protects and promotes health across our community. Our team provides immunizations for children and adults, investigates and tracks sources of disease, supports families caring for children with complex medical needs, and educates teen and first-time moms. We staff the Community Health Clinic, serve as school nurses, provide home health visits, and operate our mobile clinic to expand access to care.

COVID & FLU VACCINATIONS



ROUTINE VACCINATIONS

(Excludes Covid & Flu)

Total number of clients served:	1,399
# of Vaccines administered to children:	2,509
# of Vaccines administered to adults:	476

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS



LCHD assisted **3,894 women** through the Breast & Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP).



As Licking County's designated Tuberculosis (TB) Control Agency, we provide TB testing for school admission, employment, and disease investigations. We ensure infected individuals follow treatment and limit public contact. **In 2025, LCHD administered 141 TB tests.**

The Complex Medical Health (CMH) program links children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps obtain payment for needed services. **LCHD assisted 607 children through this program in 2025.**



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Our Environmental Health Division investigates health problems and environmental public health hazards and enforces public health laws to protect the community. In 2025, the **Environmental Health Division completed 2,575 standard inspections across all programs** (Food, Body Art, Pools, and Campgrounds).

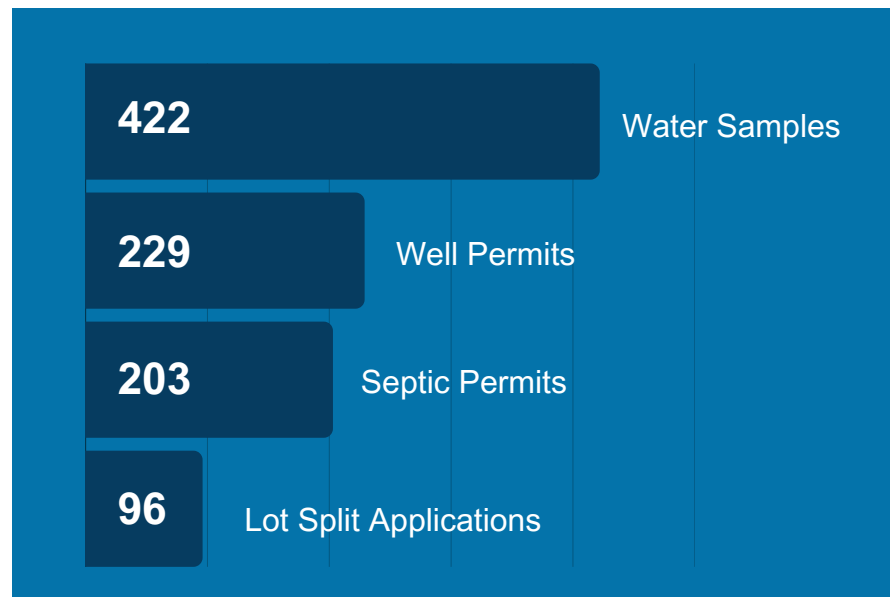
OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Outdoor Environmental Health work centered on protecting the community from environmental risks found in the natural environment. The team monitored mosquito populations and conducted targeted spraying to reduce the spread of vector-borne diseases, collected water samples to assess surface and groundwater quality, and oversaw permitting and inspections for private wells and household sewage treatment systems. These programs help safeguard local water resources and prevent environmental conditions that could impact public health.

BY THE NUMBERS



Mosquitoes trapped = 5,064
Miles sprayed for mosquitoes = 1,391



INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Indoor Environmental Health efforts focused on identifying conditions within homes, schools, and public buildings that could affect residents' well-being. Staff responded to concerns related to air quality, moisture and mold, ventilation, and other indoor hazards, providing guidance to help property owners correct issues and maintain healthy environments. These activities support safer indoor spaces and reduce the risk of illness linked to environmental factors.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,479** Food Safety Inspections, Re-Inspections and Consultations completed
- 103** Ohio Manager Certified in Food Protection Individuals
- 261** Food Safety Person-In-Charge Certified Individuals
- 11,036** Food Safety Violations identified
- 863** Recreational Water Violations identified