



**Health Department**



# Massillon City Health Department



**Mission:** The mission of the Massillon City Health Department is to help promote and protect the health and well-being of the citizens in the Massillon community.

**Vision:** A community where all residents have access to services to achieve a healthy lifestyle (both mentally and physically).

**Our values:**

**M-**Mission and vision driven

**C-**Community focused

**H-**Health equity for all

**D-**Disease prevention and education

# A Note From the Health Commissioner

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Terri Argent, REHS  
Health Commissioner



2023 was a year of positive changes for the Massillon City Health Department. On January 23rd, 2023, the Health Department moved our location to 611 Erie St. S. The renovated building offered more space for growth of staff and to provide more programs for the community. Early in the year we welcomed 2 new employees, Mindy Edwards, Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics and Heather Houston, Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training and Certified Pool Operator in our Environmental Health Division.

With the help of a Workforce Development grant, we brought on 2 new positions, Katie Markham, Outreach Coordinator, and Katia Bautista Macotella, Language Services Coordinator. Both new positions have created new community partnerships, allowed the staff to participate in more local outreach events, and assisted our non-English speaking residents with our services.

Some of the new partnerships introduced in 2023 were the Health Department partnering with Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank to offer supplemental diapers for families in need. We also partnered with the Massillon Senior Center to develop a Senior Citizens Program, cohosting and attending 2 senior health fairs.

The Health Department staff began training in diversity, equity and inclusion to eliminate health inequities in the Massillon community. We plan on further trainings to better serve all of the citizens of Massillon, increase access to care, and create a comfortable environment for everyone to receive our services. Please visit our website and our Face Book page to learn about all of the many programs that the Massillon City Health Department provides.

Stay Healthy,  
Terri Argent

# Vital Statistics

This year we hired a new employee in our Vital Statistics Division, Mindy Edwards. She is our Deputy Registrar and Administrative Assistant, you will see her at our front desk welcoming clients or you will speak with her on the phone when you call in! Mindy is a wonderful addition to our staff. In January of this year we moved into our new location, the building is very functional for our needs and we have a very accessible lobby for people coming in to see us. Our division is working towards digitizing all of our death record books, this will make the process of death record requests more streamlined.

The Vital Statistics division has records for births that occurred in the State of Ohio and for deaths that occurred in the Massillon City limits. All vital record requests are a simple process, you fill out a small application with basic information and the cost of a certified birth or death certificate is \$25.00. We only need proof of who you are if obtaining a death record and would like the social security number on the record. Birth or death records can also be ordered online through [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com) from many health departments across the country. We register Massillon home births in Vital Statistics as well. You can come to our office to establish paternity as well. If you have a legal name change established you can bring your signed and sealed paperwork from the court to our office and we will send it to the state for you.

## 2023 Massillon Birth Vital Statistics

Home Births filed 3

1,628 birth certificates were issued

## Leading Causes of Death In 2023

Cardiac/Heart Disease 90

Cancer 64

Alzheimer's/Dementia 57

Pulmonary/COPD/Emphysema 27

CVA/Stroke 17

Drug Overdose 11

Renal/Kidney Disease 9

Failure to Thrive 9

Liver/Cirrhosis 9

Sepsis 7

All other causes 27

**Total 327**

## 2023 Massillon Death Vital Statistics

Deaths filed 327

Fetal Deaths filed 0

1,402 death certificates were issued

# WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants, and children (WIC) helps income eligible pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding women, infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition.

WIC provides

- Nutritious health foods
- Referrals for families to valuable community programs
- Breastfeeding help and guidance
- Offers feeding and nutrition support for families with infants and young children

Dietitians and lactation consultants offer individual support for all families, especially those with unique nutrition, eating and feeding needs. WIC helps families combat food insecurity and nutrition-related health problems, including obesity and diabetes.

WIC promotes healthy pregnancy outcomes by:

- providing or referring to support services necessary for full-term pregnancies
- reducing the incidence of low birth weight
- provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets

Research has shown that WIC participation dramatically lowers infant mortality among Medicaid beneficiaries. In an additional effort to reduce infant mortality, all infants on the WIC program are screened for a safe sleep environment. Staff at the Massillon WIC office can offer all qualifying participants a free pack and play to ensure that all infants have a safe place to sleep.

The Massillon WIC office is small, friendly, and client centered. We strive to offer the best care for participants in a fast and efficient manner. Benefits are issued electronically for ease and convenience in the stores and a shorter time in our office. This year we were able to roll out new forms to update participant charts with a limited amount of questions, further streamlining and shortening appointments! Our staff cares for our participants and strives to establish client centered goals for each participant that will empower them to make changes in their everyday lifestyle for the betterment of their children's overall health.

2023 Numbers and Data-

- Fruit and vegetable vouchers were increased throughout WIC's 2023 fiscal year. This offering of additional fresh fruits and vegetables aligns the WIC food package with expert dietary recommendations.
- Average Monthly Caseload: 752- servicing 106% of assigned caseload
- New participants served throughout 2023: 603 additional fruits and vegetables to our participants and the same amount benefiting our local farmers!
- Farmers market benefits: distributed 128 voucher booklets totaling \$3,840.00 of additional fruits and vegetables to our participants and the same amount benefiting our local farmers!





# Public Health Nursing

2023 was a year of growth, adaption, and change for the Nursing Division. We began the year with moving into our new health department that includes a handicap accessible waiting room and two large clinic rooms that accommodate our diverse clientele. An exciting and innovative addition to our new building was a Harm Reduction vending machine that allows for 24/7 access to Naloxone, wound care kits, safe needling dispensing containers, condoms and other items that were done in partnership with StarkMHAR and Stark County TASC. We also expanded our Harm Reduction Program by adding additional Naloxboxes in the community, providing Narcan to the Massillon City Police Department to carry when on shift, and increasing our Harm Reduction outreach to local community agencies.

COVID-19 continued to be a part of the daily workload in the Nursing Division. We provided COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured and insured adult and children along with informational outreach on vaccine safety and availability of vaccines. COVID-19 outbreaks in Long Term Care Facility, Group Homes, and Daycares were ongoing throughout the year. Nursing staff partnered with our epidemiologist to provide up to date resources and information to assist with outbreak response. While this added to our workload, it allowed us to strengthen our relationships with these different community agencies.

Walsh University senior students shadowed staff for 6 weeks learning about the role of Public Health Nurses in the community as well as how the Health Department as a whole collaborates to accomplish our community initiatives. Being preceptors to the next generation of nurses and educating them on the value of public health was a rewarding way to share our knowledge. Our Public Health Nurses continued to be part of many workgroups and coalitions such as the Opiate Addiction Task Force, The Healing Community Study, Multi Drug Resistant Workgroup with Ohio Department of Health, and Massillon City School Obie Mobile.

An exciting, new program in the nursing division for 2023 was HIV testing for high risk individuals in our community. Nursing staff completed virtual modules, a one day training simulation, and shadowing with an established tester to become an HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral site through the Ohio Department of Health. This new program allowed us to continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community and provide much needed resources.

## Immunizations Administered

Hib	17	MMR	18
COVID-19	141	MMRV	31
DTaP	37	Pediarix	24
Hepatitis A	84	Polio	42
Hepatitis B	71	Prevnar 13	17
HPV9	141	Rotavirus	6
Influenza	152	TD	0
Kinrix	10	Tdap	99
MCV4	148	Varicella	36

Total Number of Vaccines Administered **1,084**

Safe Sleep Class Attendees: 7

HIV Testing: 3

Naloxone Kits Distributed: 40

## Children with Medical Handicaps

Home Visits (virtual) 37

Case Load 107

## Tuberculosis Clinics

TB Tests Administered 46

Positive Reactors 0

# Communicable Disease Report

*Communicable Disease:* All reportable communicable diseases in Ohio are required to be reported to their respective jurisdictional health department, under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3701-3. The nurses enter communicable disease in a database, perform investigations and surveillance on certain diseases, and are a resource for many different community agencies and businesses in the city who have questions about reportable disease.



Communicable Disease Statistics (These diseases are reportable by Ohio Revised Code)			
<u>Disease</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Campylobacteriosis	5	2	10
Chlamydia infection	159	153	161
COVID-19 (call health department immediately)	3543	2885	890
CP-CRE/CPO	1	5	6
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	1
Giardiasis	1	0	1
Gonococcal infection	69	56	56
Haemophilus influenza, invasive disease	1	2	2
Hepatitis A	1	0	0
Hepatitis B, (including delta) - chronic	6	5	3
Hepatitis C, chronic	21	17	32
Influenza - associated hospitalization	1	28	20
Legionellosis	5	0	1
Lyme Disease	4	3	6
Meningitis, aseptic/viral	2	2	2
MIS-C assoc w/COVID-19	0	1	0
Monkeypox	0	1	0
Salmonellosis	3	3	6
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1	2	2
Tuberculosis	0	0	1

# Environmental Health

**The Environmental Health Division is responsible for the following program areas: foodservice, public health nuisances, body art, animal bites, school environmental health, public swimming pools, household sewage treatment systems, Smoke-Free Workplace Act, and vector control.**

**Foodservice:** All foodservice establishments in the City of Massillon are licensed and monitored for compliance with the State of Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. 2023 saw 248 operations licensed in the City of Massillon, 15 plan reviews were completed, 36 foodservice complaints were investigated, and 516 standard and follow-up inspections were conducted.

**Public Health Nuisances:** Examples of public health nuisances include the accumulation of garbage or rubbish, animal waste, mosquito breeding areas, rodent or pest infestations, discharge or surfacing of untreated sewage, etc.

**Body Art:** The State of Ohio defines Body Art as the practice of physical body adornment, including tattooing, permanent cosmetics, and/or body piercing. These facilities are licensed and inspected for operation and maintenance in order to protect the public from injury and to minimize the potential for disease transmission. In addition to the existing facilities, four new body art operations were licensed in 2023.

**Animal Bites:** According to Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-28, “Whenever a person is bitten by a dog or other non-human mammal, report of such bite shall be made within twenty-four hours to the Health Commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred.” Bites are reported to the health department by veterinarians, medical facilities, and individuals who were bit. Biting animals are quarantined for a period of not less ten days and are not released from quarantine until evidence is shown that the animal is healthy and has been properly vaccinated against rabies by a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Ninety-one bites were reported to the Health Department in 2023, with four specimens submitted to the Ohio Department of Health for rabies testing. Of the four specimens submitted for rabies examination, one specimen came back positive for rabies and required additional follow-up to protect public health.

**School Environmental Health:** The purpose of these inspections is to provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. Nine schools are inspected annually including one vocational school, one public high school, five public schools preschool-8th grade, and two nonpublic schools.

**Public Swimming Pools:** Public swimming pools are regulated under the authority of Chapter 3749 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Chapter 3701-31 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). These rules were created to help reduce risk to the public for water-related adverse health events such as injuries, drowning, and recreational water illnesses; however, these rules do not pertain to private residential pools. The Massillon City Health Department has six licensed swimming pools in its jurisdiction and now has an Environmental Health Specialist on staff who is also a Certified Pool Operator with seventeen years of aquatics experience.

**Household Sewage Treatment Systems:** In Massillon, the vast majority of our residents are connected to the sanitary sewer system; however, some properties in areas that do not have access to sanitary sewer have household sewage treatment systems. In conjunction with other agencies and departments, the Massillon City Health Department performs inspections, regulates contractors, educates homeowners, and enforces sewage regulations.

**Smoke-Free Workplace Act:** The statewide smoking ban prohibits smoking or vaping in public places, as well as places of employment. Complaints are followed up in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.

**Vector Control:** The Massillon City Health Department conducts surveillance and control activities to prevent mosquito borne disease transmission.



# Language Services

## **Katia Bautista Macotella/ Language Services Coordinator**

Katia Bautista was born and raised in South-east Mexico. She received her BA in Architecture from the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca in 2019 and relocated to Stark County at the beginning of 2023. Katia is a passionate advocate for language access, diversity and inclusion in community services.

She currently works for the Massillon City Health Department as the Language Services Coordinator providing:

- in-person interpreting services
- sight translations of documents
- written translations of health department and partners materials
- support filling out applications and questionnaires which facilitates the flow of communication between families and members of each division
- reminder calls for upcoming appointments and events

Working directly with limited-English proficient families from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, the coordinator splits most of her time interpreting for WIC clients and Nursing division patients' appointments. She has established a good working relationship with Massillon City Schools' district interpreter for those cases where contact information has not been updated or need a K'iche' interpreter in order to support communicative

autonomy for each party involved. She also collaborates with the Vital Statistics staff when families request birth certificates and affidavits of paternity or affidavits of correction. The broad spectrum of this position allows her to perform over the phone interpreting, interpreting for the Child Passenger Safety Technician demonstrations and attend events whom the Outreach Coordinator is involved with.

In November of 2023 Massillon's WIC division offered its first Hispanic Community Baby shower and parallelly the Environmental Health inspector led the first Person in Charge class offered to Spanish-speaking food service workers in December with the Language Services Coordinator as the interpreter for both events.

The coordinator is currently enrolled in a 40-hour medical interpreting training to better fulfill her role not only at the Health Department but also her professional goal of becoming nationally certified.





# Outreach Services

## **Katie Markham/ Outreach Services Coordinator**

Katie started at the Massillon City Health Department in Summer 2023. On any given day you might find her busy writing grants, or seeking out other vital funding opportunities. Some examples include reaching out to the Rotary Club to obtain more CPR kits as well as connecting with the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership for their Ohio Healthy Aging grant to assist our elderly population. Lastly, she has requested funds from Paul and Carol David Foundation to install a taller fence for the Massillon Community Health Garden. Meijer also contributed funds to support our personal care bags.

### Trainings/Classes:

- Child Passenger Safety Technician
- Narcan
- CPR
- First Aid
- Good Agricultural Practices for produce safety

She is currently involved with many programs such as the Community Health Garden which donated over 28lbs of fresh produce that was passed out at St. Joe's soup kitchen, TOSM in Walnut Hills, and Salvation Army. She facilitated the distribution of 224 personal care bags to the homeless and those in need at community meals, food pantries, and Massillon City School District. As a community distribution partner site for the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank at least 1500 diapers were given to Massillon families each month. In collaboration with other divisions at the health department, Katie helped organize 2 community baby showers for moms, moms to be, & caregivers who each received education and safety information. She created the Sock-tober sock drive that collected over 5 large boxes of socks that have been passed out at St. Joe's, SAM Center, and Family Living Center. She also coordinated a staff wellness event to make 2024 vision boards.

### Community events attended:

- National Night Out
- Obie Mobile end of Summer Block Party
- Fun Fest
- Fall into Wellness
- Faith In Action Health Fair
- Community Sharing at Salvation Army
- First Friday with Opiate Task Force

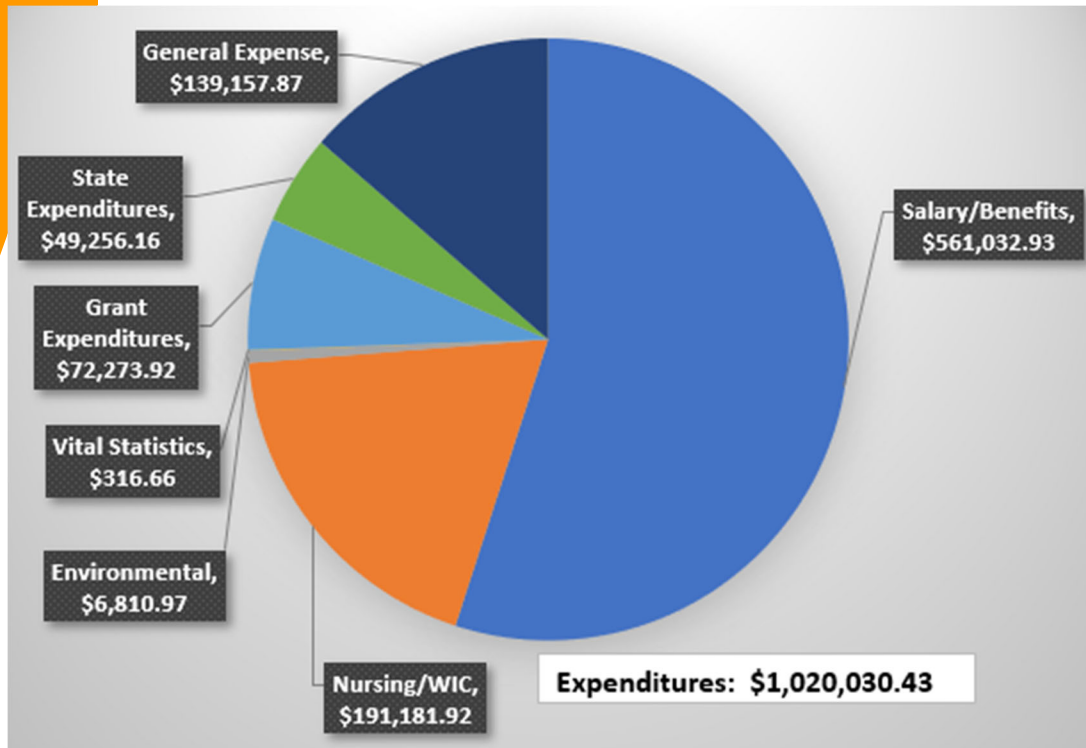
By joining the School Based Strategies for CHIP, Safe Kids day committee, and Stark County Refugee Response Committee, she will be creating additional community partnerships.



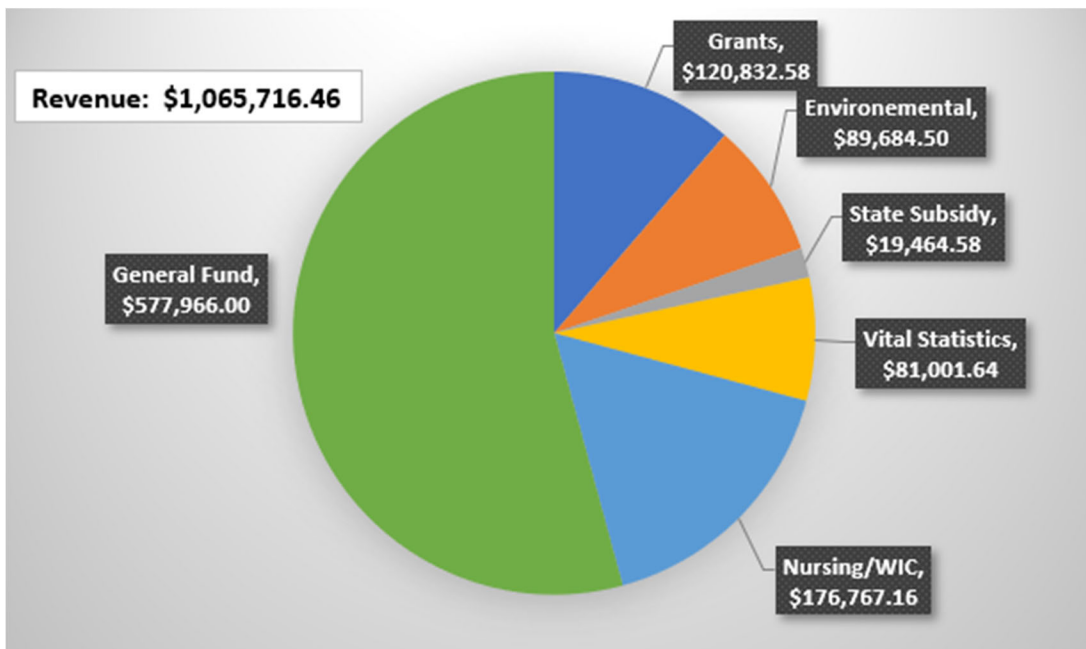


# Financial Report

## Expenditures



## Revenue



In 2023 we obtained funding through five different grant programs to support and offset our budget. The Health Department strives to find funding for our programs and projects. We work diligently to be mindful of our spending and increasing our revenue. Our financial team strived to spend our State Subsidy money to provide more programs for the needs in Massillon, we were successful in doing so. The Health Department was financially responsible in 2023.



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44646**

**(330) 830-1710**

**<https://massillonohio.gov/health>**

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**<https://www.facebook.com/>**



### **2023 Board of Health Members**

Board terms are staggered and expire on December 31.  
Kathy Catazaro-Perry, President; Cathy Heitger, 2027;  
Jeffrey Thornberry, President Pro-tem, 2023;  
Ann Palaski 2024; Dr. Sonia Glick-Ullum, 2025;  
Cyrus Ausar, 2026; Dr. S. Lata Wiggins, MD, Medical Director

*Board meetings are typically held at 3:30 pm in the Health Department  
Conference Room on the fourth Tuesday of each month.*

*Meetings are open to the public.*