



# Massillon City Health Department

## 2024 Annual Report



**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

**Publication Date:** February 21, 2025

# A Note From the Health Commissioner

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Terri Argent, REHS  
Health Commissioner



The word I would use to best describe the Health Department's work done in 2024 would be *outreach*. By participating in numerous events across the Massillon community, we were able to extend our services to a wide range of neighborhoods. Our Outreach Coordinator, Katie, worked with community partners, while our Language Services Coordinator, Katia, engaged with Spanish-speaking residents to connect them with the resources they requested.

Our partnership with the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank enabled us to distribute diapers to new moms, while our community garden supplied fresh produce to anyone in need. We plan to expand both programs and continue offering outreach services throughout 2025. Please notify the Health Department if you are aware of any unmet needs within our community.

Terri Argent  
Health Commissioner

# Vital Statistics

In 2024 we are thrilled to have settled into our new building. Customers are enjoying our welcoming lobby and ease of purchasing birth and death certificates. Currently our Vital Statistics department has access to all Ohio birth records, but only Massillon City death records. We are excited to announce that our access will be widened in the next year. We are currently in training for the Ohio Vital Records System (OVRs). This system will replace the existing IPHIS/EDRS application, providing an updated and improved platform for managing vital records in Ohio. The major convenience to this updated system is that patrons will be able to obtain any Ohio birth or Ohio death certificate from our office. If a record is needed from a different state, customers can visit [www.vitalcheck.com](http://www.vitalcheck.com) to order them online.

Along with providing birth and death certificates, our Vital Statistics division can help with establishing paternity and correcting errors on records. We are also responsible for registering Massillon home births. Lastly, we may be able to assist with your genealogy requests. We maintain a comprehensive collection of Massillon birth and death records dating back to the 1800's. We are always pleased to support you in research if needed.

## 2024 Massillon Birth Vital Statistics

Home Births filed 6

1,663 birth certificates were issued

## Leading Causes of Death In 2024

Cardiac/Heart Disease .....	113
Alzheimer's/Dementia .....	65
Cancer .....	51
Pulmonary/COPD/Emphysema .....	32
CVA/Stroke.....	18
Renal/Kidney Disease .....	9
Other/Natural Causes .....	12
Drug Overdose.....	6
COVID-19 (primary cause) .....	1
Parkinson's:.....	4
All other causes.....	36
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>347</b>

## 2024 Massillon Death Vital Statistics

Deaths filed 347

Fetal Deaths filed 0

1,535 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

- Nutrient dense foods including fruits and vegetables, whole grains and proteins
- Referrals for families to valuable community programs
- Breastfeeding help and guidance provided by a Dietitian or lactation team member
- 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

## A celebratory year!

The National WIC program celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. The Ohio WIC theme for the celebration was "50 Years of Feeding WIC Families". The Massillon WIC office joined in the celebration in many ways. Bulletin boards with nutrition education messages adorned the lobby promoting healthy eating and special birthday messaging. Staff encouraged participation in appointments by offering special giveaways beginning in March for National Nutrition month and continuing throughout the summer months. These giveaways included cookie cutters donated by the State of Ohio WIC office, spring and summer outdoor play toys, donated by WIC and Health Department staff members, and healthy snack foods donated by CareSource.

Our annual farmers market event was a real party this year! Kids donned birthday hats, participated in scavenger hunts, face paint and carnival games all while learning about fresh produce and gathering healthy recipes! Bike helmets were distributed by Safe Kids Stark County, to all children in attendance through a grant through State Farm and Safe Kids also offered car seat fittings to all participants. We were so grateful to have so many community partners in attendance, including the Massillon Library Bookmobile, SPARK and CareSource, and of course we would have no farmers market at all without John Hershberger and his wonderful family providing our fresh produce! The birthday party was such a big hit it may become an annual party- who says you just need a milestone to celebrate.

## 2024 Numbers and Data

- Fruit and vegetable vouchers were increased throughout WIC's 2024 fiscal year for all active participants
- Average Monthly Caseload: 761- servicing 104% of assigned caseload
- New participants served throughout 2024: 511
- Farmers market benefits distributed: 136 voucher booklets totaling \$4,080 of additional fruits and vegetables to our participants and the same amount benefitting our local farmers!

# Public Health Nursing

## 2024 Year in Review: Strengthening Programs, Expanding Reach

The Nursing Division had a productive and impactful 2024, focused on strengthening and expanding existing health initiatives while launching new programs to better serve our community. This year was marked by collaboration, innovation, and underscoring our commitment to improving public health outcomes.

### Expanding Essential Programs

Throughout the year, the Nursing Division continued to prioritize vital public health services. Our efforts in **HIV testing** and **immunization programming**—including seasonal, infant, and back-to-school vaccinations—ensured continued accessibility to life-saving preventive care for our community members. These programs have remained critical in addressing both routine and emerging public health needs.

We maintained strong partnerships with local and state communicable disease groups to ensure that our response remains coordinated and effective. These collaborative efforts have bolstered our ability to monitor and respond to communicable diseases in real time.

### Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

This year marked a significant expansion of our commitment to combat the opioid crisis. The Nursing Division joined the **HOPE Coalition**, a dedicated initiative focused on addressing and reducing opioid deaths within the African American community. To strengthen outreach efforts, we hired a **community peer navigator** to connect with individuals and families in the African American community through faith-based initiatives, offering support and resources directly to those impacted by opioid use.

Naloxone distribution saw a sharp increase in 2024, reflecting our dedication to ensuring this life-saving medication is readily available to those in need. This expansion represents a critical step in combating opioid overdoses and providing essential tools to save lives.

### Promoting Youth Health and Wellness

In response to the unique needs of our local youth, the Nursing Division introduced a new program this year: **sports physicals for high school students**. This initiative aimed to ensure that every student athlete who wanted to participate in sports had the opportunity to do so without barriers. By offering these physicals, we were able to support physical health, wellness, and access to opportunities for local youth.

We are proud of the strides made this year and are energized for what lies ahead.

#### Immunizations Administered

Hib	27	MMR	18
COVID-19	147	MMRV	37
DTaP	27	Pediarix	18
Hepatitis A	93	Polio	55
Hepatitis B	29	Pevnar 20	35
HPV9	157	Rotovirus	5
Influenza	170	RSV	7
Kinrix	4	Tdap	101
MCV4	149	Varicella	51

Total Number of Vaccines Administered **1,130**

Safe Sleep Class Attendees: 6

#### Tuberculosis Clinics

TB Tests Administered 45  
Positive Reactors 0

#### Project Dawn

Naloxone Kits 176

#### Children with Medical Handicaps

Home Visits (virtual) 42  
Case Load 119

# Communicable Disease Report

## Communicable Disease Surveillance and Prevention in 2024

Communicable diseases remain a critical focus of public health efforts in Ohio. Under **Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3701-3**, all reportable communicable diseases must be reported to their respective jurisdictional health department. The Nursing Division plays a vital role in this process by entering disease data into a comprehensive database, conducting investigations and surveillance on specific diseases, and serving as a key resource for local agencies and businesses with questions about reportable illnesses.

When analyzing the three-year trend for major communicable diseases, the most notable observation is a **decrease in reported COVID-19 cases**, signaling progress in managing the pandemic. However, the Nursing Division remains vigilant, continuing collaborative efforts with community members, local facilities, and other agencies to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Education also continues to be a cornerstone of these efforts. Through partnerships and outreach, the division provides resources and guidance to ensure the community is informed about prevention strategies and response measures. The Nursing Division remains committed to proactive measures to safeguard public health.

Communicable Disease Statistics (These diseases are reportable by Ohio Revised Code)			
Disease	2022	2023	2024
Campylobacteriosis	5	2	7
Chlamydia infection	159	153	182
COVID-19 (call health department immediately)	3543	2885	554
CP-CRE	1	5	6
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	2
Giardiasis	1	0	0
Gonococcal infection	69	56	44
Haemophilus influenza, invasive disease	1	2	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0
Hepatitis B, (including delta) - chronic	6	5	6
Hepatitis C, chronic	21	17	16
Influenza - associated hospitalization	1	28	29
Legionellosis	5	0	4
Lyme Disease	4	3	9
Meningitis, aseptic/viral	2	2	1
MIS-C assoc w/COVID-19	0	1	0
Monkeypox	0	1	0
Salmonellosis	3	3	1
Shigellosis	0	1	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive antibiotic, resistance unknown or non-resistant	2	4	5
Yersiniosis	1	1	2



# 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.** The Massillon City Health Department's Environmental Health Division includes two full-time Environmental Health Specialists that handle all aspects of Environmental Health for the City of Massillon.

**Foodservice:** 2024 saw two-hundred-fifty-one operations licensed in the City of Massillon, nineteen facility reviews were completed, twenty-four consultations were provided to operators, twenty-eight foodservice complaints were investigated, and four-hundred-ten standard and follow-up inspections were completed.

**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. Two-hundred-fifty-six complaints were submitted to the Health Department with all complaints receiving an inspection with follow-up as needed.

**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. Eight facilities are licensed in the City of Massillon, with each receiving an annual inspection, and no complaints were received in 2024.

**Animal Bites:** New to the City of Massillon in 2024 is our Animal Control Officer, Michelle Loy. Animal Control works closely with the Environmental Health Division in not only the Animal Bite program but also within the Public Health Nuisance program. Eighty-one animal bites or exposures were reported to the Health Department in 2024, with four specimens submitted to the Ohio Department of Health for rabies testing. One bat specimen from the City of Massillon came back positive for rabies and required additional follow-up to protect public health.

**School Environmental Health:** Nine schools are inspected annually including one vocational school, one public high school, five public schools preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and two nonpublic schools. Three of the schools will be closing at the end of the 2024/2025 school year and replaced with two new schools beginning with the 2025/2026 school year.

**Public Swimming Pools:** The Massillon City Health Department has six licensed swimming pools in its jurisdiction and an environmental health specialist on staff who is also a Certified Pool Operator. Each pool receives, at a minimum, two inspections each licensing period. In 2024, thirteen pool inspections were completed, and no complaints were received. The Health Department conducted a pool operator training for all operators in our jurisdiction, and a follow-up training is being planned for later in 2025.

**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. Seven complaints were investigated in 2024.

**Vector Control:** The Massillon City Health Department conducts surveillance and control activities to prevent mosquito borne disease transmission. The Health Department received a Notice of Inspection from the Ohio Department of Agriculture in October, and no deficiencies were noted by the inspector.

# Community Involvement

In 2024, the Massillon City Health Department's outreach program experienced remarkable growth, with over 40 community events attended. A highlight of the year was our new partnership with **Arrow Passage Recovery**. Their collaboration was invaluable, particularly in bringing volunteers to key events like the **Community Health Garden planting day**, **Overdose Awareness Day**, and **Fall into Wellness**.

This year, we also introduced a new initiative: The **Resource Navigator Program**. This service assists clients who come to the Health Department seeking community resources, ensuring they are connected to the support they need.

Among the many impactful programs, the **Community Health Garden** stands out. Over 330 pounds of fresh produce were harvested and distributed to **St. Joe's Soup Kitchen**, **TOSM**, **Walnut Hills**, **Salvation Army**, **Massillon City Schools Obie Mobile**, and the **SAM Center**.

Katie, a dedicated staff member, played a central role in several initiatives. She facilitated the distribution of 222 personal care bags to the unhoused and those in need. During this program the Health Department collaborated with community meals, food pantries, the **City of Massillon Police Department**, and the **Massillon City School District**. Additionally, as a community distribution partner site for the **Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank**, over 2,000 diapers were distributed monthly to Massillon families, with this number steadily increasing. We also held a Massillon vs Canton Diaper Duel which collected over 7,000 diapers & wipes.

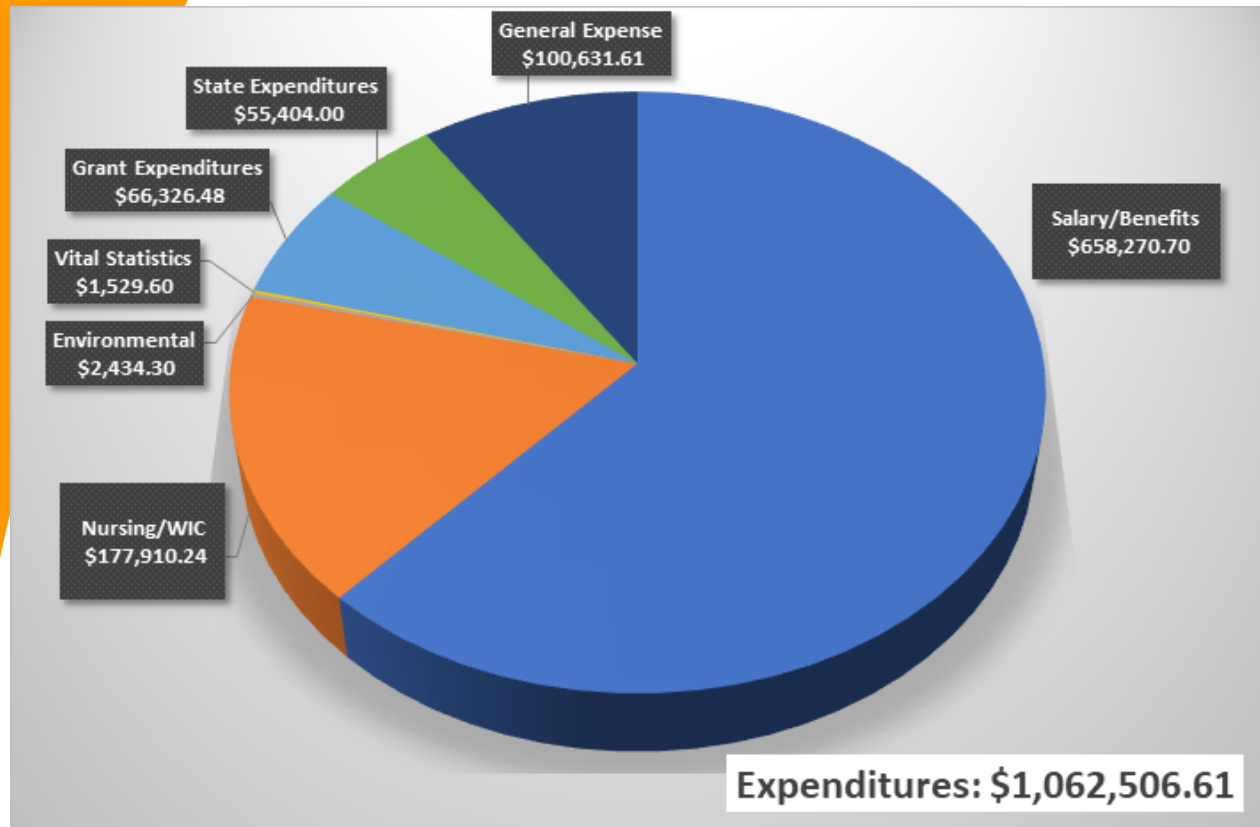
Katie and Vicki who are both Child Passenger Safety Technicians participated in car seat fitting stations at the Health Department during the WIC 50<sup>th</sup> celebration and Safe Kids Day. Events like these help ensure the safety of children in the community.

The Massillon City Health Department's outreach efforts reflect their strong commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of Massillon residents, addressing basic needs, and promoting community health and safety.

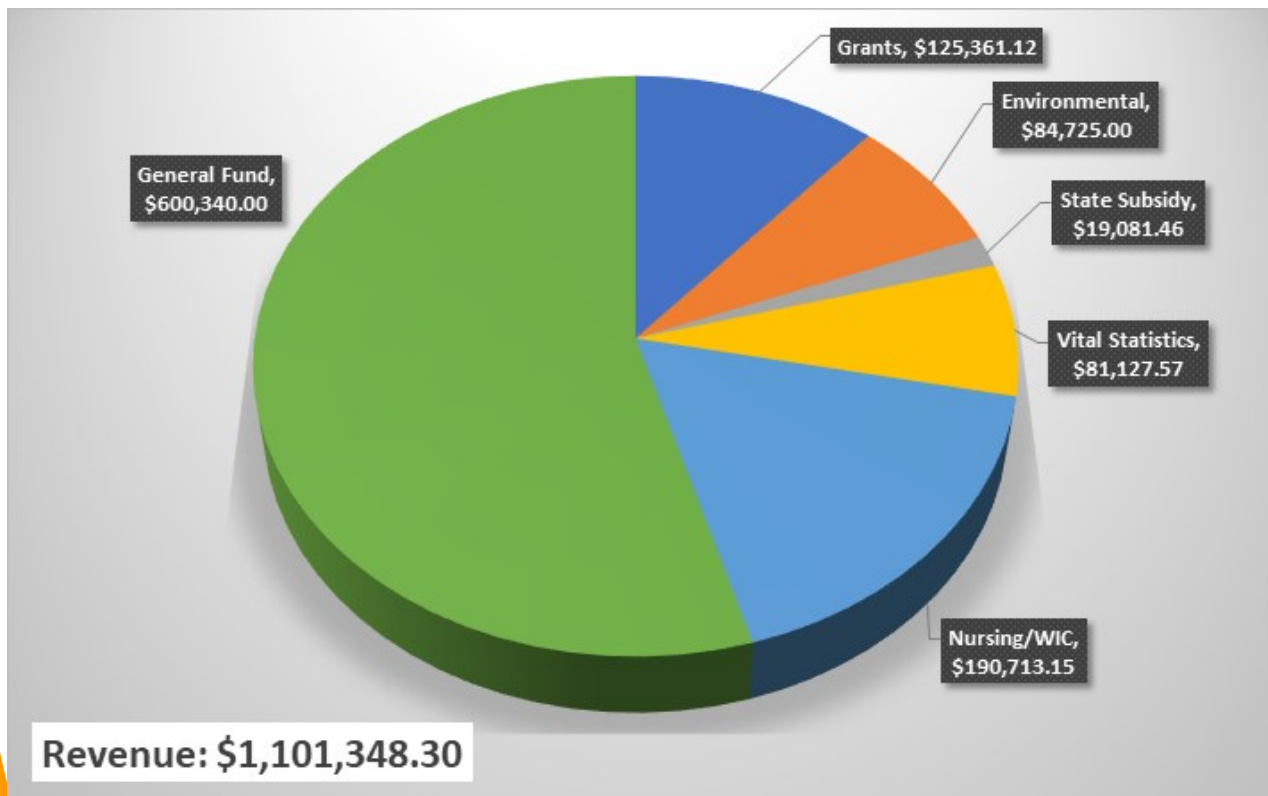


# Financial Report

## Expenditures



## Revenue







**611 Erie St S. Massillon, OH 44646**

**(330) 830-1710**

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

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

### **2024 Board of Health Members**

Board terms are staggered and expire on December 31.

Jamie Slutz, President; Cathi Heitger, 2027;

Sonia Glick, President Pro-tem, 2025;

Ann Palaski 2024; Margaret Elum 2026;

Michael Reed, 2028; 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.*