

# GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER & ADMINISTRATOR

Change, Hope, and Goals. Those are the words I would use to describe Geauga Public Health (GPH) as we move into 2022. Change, the appointment of Dr. Jeffery Cameron as Health Commissioner and Adam Litke as Administrator as well as the upcoming move to the new County building. Hope, GPH continues to rebuild relationships and forge new relationships with partners throughout the County. Goals, GPH remains steadfast in its goal to provide the best services to the residents of Geauga County and to set the gold standard in terms of stewards of the tax payers dollars.

As we look forward to 2022, 2023 and beyond I know the GPH team will continue to rise to the occasion, no matter how large. The GPH team, led by Carol Straniero (Director of Nursing) and Alta Wendell (Director of Administration), have shown that they and their respective teams will always prioritize the health and safety of Geauga County residents above all else. Our team at GPH stands steadfast in our mission to promote a healthy community now and into the future.

In 2021 our County saw previously unimaginable hurdles, roadblocks, and hardships but through all of that we saw individuals stand out who provided leadership and support that was desperately needed. I would like to acknowledge a few of those people.

The GPH Board of Health, Richard Piraino, David Gragg, Patricia Levan, Lynn Roman, and Ashley Jones for their dedication and support of the GPH team.

Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid for service as Interim Health Commissioner.

Thomas Vencel from Geauga County Emergency Management Association for his service with COVID-19 clinics.

Jennifer Felker, Superintendent of the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve for her support and leadership.

Gauga County Commissioners, Timothy Lennon, James Dvorak, and Ralph Spidalieri for their continued support and leadership.

County Administrator, Gerry Morgan for his continued support with the move to the new building.

County Prosecutor James Flaiz and the County Prosecutor team for their insight and support.

County Auditor Charles Walder and the ADP team for their support.

Lastly, a thank you to the GPH team who continues to give 110% and largely does a job unnoticed by most.

Adam Litke



Administrator  
Gauga Public Health

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Dr. J. Jeffery Cameron, Health Commissioner



Adam Litke, Administrator

# OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES



Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) provides child safety and booster seats among low-income Geauga County families. This program also includes Child Passenger Safety training for proper installation of the car seats for families and guardians.

2021

8 car seats distributed

15 car seat checks conducted



Picture of the car seat check event that took place at Geauga Public Health in August 2021.

# PROJECT DAWN

Project Dawn is an overdose education and naloxone distribution program. Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug.



2021

140 naloxone kits distributed



Picture of Health Educator, Kane, distributing Naloxone kits at the West Woods Farmers Market.

# SAFE COMMUNITIES



Geauga Public Health Safe Communities Coalition works to use data to save lives and reduce injuries through collaboration among state, county, and local partners.

Safe Communities participates in multiple community outreach events throughout the year. For all of the summer events, over 2,000 people were reached in 2021. One of the largest summer events was the National Night Out (NNO) that took place in Chardon Square. NNO is a community-police awareness-raising event that took place on August 3rd. During this event 326 people were reached.



Picture of Health Educator, Magaly, at a Safe Communities event at the Chardon Farmers Market.



Picture of Magaly, at a Safe Communities event at the Car Show.



Picture of Magaly, at the Safety Town Program organized by the Burton Village Council, Burton Village Police Department, and Burton Volunteer Fire Department.

## Summer 2021

Reached over 2,000 people during the summer outreach events in Geauga County

# VACCINATIONS



2021

52 Homebound COVID-19 vaccines were administered

COVID-19: 18,312 total doses administered  
Johnson & Johnson: 130 doses administered  
Pfizer (5-11): 200 doses administered  
Pfizer (12 and older): 1,905 doses administered  
Moderna: 16,077 doses administered



Picture at one of the Drive-Thru clinics: Tom - previous Health Commissioner, Adam - Administrator, Carol - Director of Nursing



Picture of the volunteers that assisted with multiple COVID-19 clinics held by Geauga Public Health, including the Director of Nursing Carol, and previous Nursing Supervisor Abigail.

2021

6 Drive-thru clinics held at the Burton Fairgrounds

**TB Skin Tests:** 18 tests conducted

**Other Vaccines Administered:** 662 total doses administered.

Hepatitis A, pediatric dose accounts for 12.8% of the total doses administered

## CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS PROGRAM (CMH)

CMH promotes early identification, diagnosis, and treatment of children with special health care needs. Geauga Public Health assists with identifying Geauga County children with special health needs, informing families about the program, and referring children to CMH providers for diagnosis. All of the Geauga Public Health nursing services are approved for every child in the program. There are 3 main components of this program: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Service Coordination.

2021

76 Children in Treatment  
20 Children in Diagnosis  
75 clients contacted by GPH

In 2021, there was an increase in communicable disease cases reported to Geauga Public Health compared to those reported in 2020.

# REPORTABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE SUMMARY

## Campylobacteriosis

Cases of Campylobacteriosis increased from 13 to 22 between 2020 and 2021. Campylobacteriosis is a foodborne illness; spread by ingestion of the bacteria from undercooked meats, contaminated food or water, or from contact with infected pets, livestock, or family members.

Campylobacteriosis can be prevented by:

- Making sure that meat is cooked thoroughly, to the recommended internal temperature of 165°F
- Washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water before preparing food and eating food, and after using the toilet

## E. Coli

Cases of E. Coli increased from 3 to 6 between 2020 and 2021. E. Coli is a foodborne illness; spread by the ingestion of the bacteria from contaminated beef or when other foods are contaminated with the contaminated meat juices.

E. Coli can be prevented by:

- Proper hand hygiene
- Washing fruits and vegetables well under running water, unless the package says that they contents have already been washed
- Cooking:
  - Beef steaks and roasts to an internal temperature of 145°F
  - Ground beef and pork to an internal temperature of 160°F
- Avoid cross-contamination in food preparation areas

## Lyme Disease

Cases of Lyme Disease increased from 8 to 22 between 2020 and 2021. Lyme Disease is a tickborne illness, caused by a bacteria that is transmitted by a bite from an infected tick.

Lyme Disease can be prevented by:

- Using EPA-registered insect repellants
- Avoiding wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter, these are areas where ticks are more likely to be found
- Tucking pants cuffs into sock tops when doing outdoor activities
- Check you clothing for ticks before entering your home
- Check your body for ticks after being outdoors

## Salmonellosis

Cases of Salmonellosis increased from 7 to 11 between 2020 and 2021. Salmonellosis is primarily a foodborne illness caused by a bacteria. However, it can also be spread by coming into contact with infected pets, livestock, or family members.

Salmonellosis can be prevented by:

- Refrigerating or freezing perishable foods, prepared foods, and leftovers within 2 hours
- Washing your hands after contact with animals, changing diapers and using the toilet.
- Making sure all meat and egg dishes are cooked thoroughly

Disease	2021	2020
Campylobacteriosis	22	13
Chlamydia	159	171
Coccidiomycosis	1	0
COVID-19	9654	4439
Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	2	1
Cyclosporiasis	1	0
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	6	3
Giardiasis	5	3
Gonorrhea	28	31
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	1	0
Hepatitis A- Acute	2	3
Hepatitis B	9	4
Hepatitis B- Perinatal Infection	0	0
Hepatitis C- Acute	0	0
Hepatitis C- Chronic	40	55
Hepatitis E	0	0
Influenza-Associated Hospitalization	1	68
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality	0	0
LaCrosse Virus Disease	1	0
Legionellosis	4	8
Listeriosis	1	0
Lyme Disease	22	8
Malaria	0	0
Measles	0	0
Meningitis-Aseptic/Viral	2	2
Meningitis-Bacterial (Not N. Meningiditis)	1	4
Meningococcal Disease	0	0
MIS-C	2	0
Mumps	1	1
Mycobacterium Other Than TB	0	0
Pertussis	3	3
Psittacosis	0	0
Q Fever	0	0
Salmonellosis	11	7
Shigellosis	1	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	0	0
Streptococcal- Group A Invasive	5	2
Streptococcal- Group B Newborn	1	1
Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)	1	0
Streptococcal- Invasive Pneumonia	2	2
Syphilis	2	2
Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Varicella	4	2
Vibriosis	0	0
West Nile Virus	1	0
Yersiniosis	1	1
Zika Virus Disease	0	0

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Geauga Public Health Sanitarians are responsible for inspecting and permitting sewage treatment systems for Geauga County. The Sanitarians ensure that: the equipment is working correctly, the equipment and location of the sewage system is safe, and that any potential environmental hazards have been assessed.

**2021**

486 Lot Evaluations completed

**2021**

658 For Sale of Property Evaluations completed

**2021**

445 Sewage Permits Issued

Geauga Public Health Sanitarians are the first line of defense against foodborne illnesses, by inspecting food vendors (Food Service Operations, Food Vending Machines, Mobile Food Operations, and Food Establishments). During an inspection, the Sanitarians look for any health code violations or improper handling of food.

The Sanitarians are also responsible for licensing the all of the food service operations and food establishments in Geauga County.

**2021**

871 Food Safety Inspections conducted

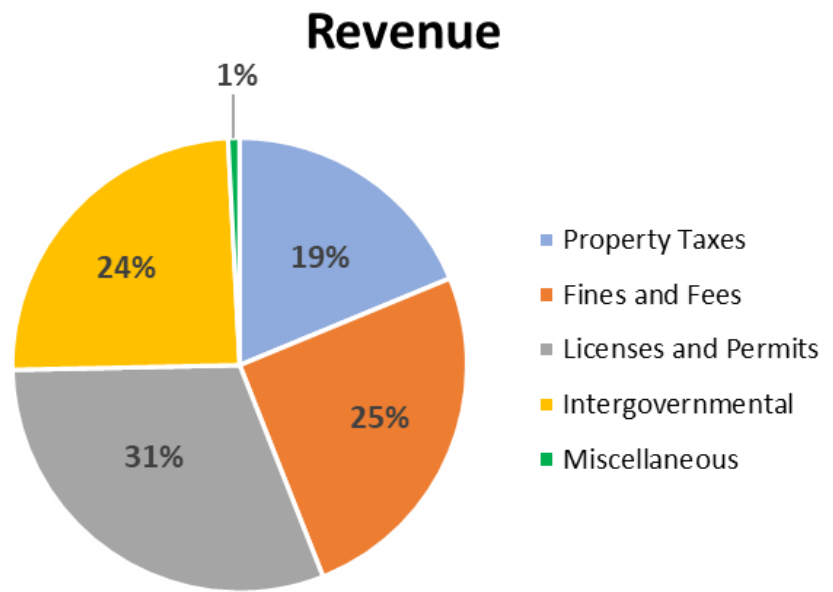
**2021**

495 Food Licenses Issued

# FINANCIAL REPORT

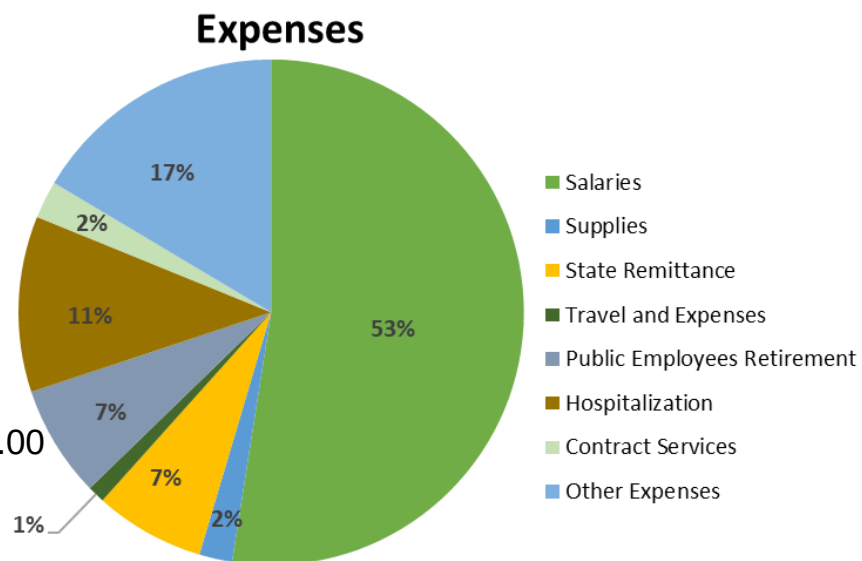
## Revenue

- Property Taxes: \$568,202.42
- Fines and Fees: \$764,679.00
- Licenses and Permits: \$927,693.00
- Intergovernmental: \$742,002.00
- Miscellaneous: \$24,968.00
- Total: \$3,027,544.42



## Expenses

- Salaries: \$1,387,481.00
- Supplies: \$55,797.00
- State Remittance: \$186,367.00
- Travel and Expenses: \$29,359.00
- Public Employees Retirement: \$189,249.00
- Hospitalization: \$297,522.00
- Contract Services: \$63,460.00
- Other Expenses: \$434,775.00
- Total: \$2,693,553.00

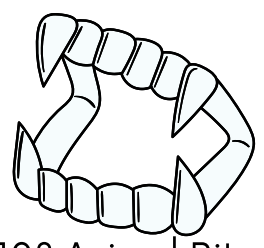


Note: Advertising and Printing (\$3,198), Workers' Compensation (\$1,091), and County and State Tax Expense (\$9,147), Equipment (\$16,360), and Medicare (\$19,747), were all below 1% of the total 2021 Expenses (\$2,693,553) and thus not included in the chart.



Lastly, in 2021 Geauga Public Health became 1 of 57 local health departments in Ohio that are accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board as of November 2021.

Excerpt from Achievement Letter: "Your national accreditation status lets your partners and community know that your organization meets national standards and provides services that all residents should come to expect from their health departments. Moreover, because the national accreditation program seeks to improve the quality and performance of all health departments, your participation in this program indicates your commitment to the continuous improvement of your health department's services."



108 Animal Bites Reported



Vital Statistics Issued:  
2,653 Birth Certificates  
5,231 Death Certificates



140 Naloxone Kits Distributed



445 Sewage Permits Issued



18,974 Vaccines Administered



495 Food Licenses Issued

# GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH

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