

DATE: February 9, 2024
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: Agenda for February 13, 2024

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **February 13, 2024** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -January 2024

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -January 2024

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Air Quality- James Nymberg, Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Approval of the Health Commissioner to Issue Refunds of Fees Received by the Health Department Related to Licenses for the Sale of Tobacco Products as Set in MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-03 Due to the Recent Veto Override of House Bill 68
3. Approval of Agreement Between Butler County General Health District & CMHD-Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with Moxley
4. Approval of Agreement Between Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio (County) on behalf of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services-Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency
5. Approval of Personnel Appointment-Brandy Barner, Environmental Health Specialist In Training
6. Approval of Personnel Appointment-Stephanie Leon, Administrative Assistant
7. 2023 Annual Report

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024 at 7:30am

It is the policy of the City of Middletown to make all public hearings and meetings accessible to all persons, in accordance with state and/or federal laws. If you have a disability which requires accommodation in order for you to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact us at 425-7851 or 425-7705 (TDD) at least forty-eight hours prior to the time of the meeting to advise the need for accommodation, and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the same.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
January 9, 2024

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on January 9, 2024.

Members Present

Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Ruth Lolli
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to excuse Ms. Sibcy from the Board of Health meeting.
Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

Ms. Phillips Carter introduced the board to Mayor Elizabeth Slamka. As the Mayor of the City of Middletown, Mayor Slamka will serve as the President of the Board of Health.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2023

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the December 2023 minutes.
Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-December 2023

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that the City has switched to a new finance system. The financial report is unavailable at the time of this meeting.

Education Presentation- Sleep Apnea-Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine provided the board with an overview of sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is defined as pauses in respiration while sleeping which causes decreased oxygen levels and increased carbon dioxide levels. There are three different types of sleep apnea: obstructive, central and mixed.

Obstructive sleep apnea is caused by a narrowing in the airway, being overweight, allergies or enlarged tonsils. Central sleep apnea is a neurologic malfunction of breathing that typically appears in childhood.

Signs and symptoms of sleep apnea include: excessive daytime sleepiness, loud or disruptive snoring, pauses in breathing, headaches and waking up frequently throughout sleep. Risk factors include: sex (males are at a higher risk), obesity, being over age 40, large neck circumference, family history, smoking, alcohol and premature birth.

To diagnose sleep apnea, physicians gather the patient's history and perform a physical. Sleep history and sleep studies may also be used to confirm the diagnosis.

Complications resulting from sleep apnea include: hypertension, atrial fibrillation, congestive heart failure, cardiovascular disease, accidents (such as falls or motor vehicle accidents) and Alzheimer's Disease.

Treatment options include: lifestyle modifications (such as proper diet and exercise to maintain a healthy weight), changing sleep positions, CPAP machine, oral appliance, surgery and implantable devices.

Discussion

Mayor Slamka asked how sleep apnea could be prevented in physically fit people.

Dr. Jennewine explained that often times it runs in their family history and cannot be prevented.

Dr. Zollett added that patients are now tested more frequently than in years past.

Dr. Jennewine added that there are probably cases of overdiagnosis.

Ms. Phillips Carter asked what specifically about prematurity leads to an increased risk of sleep apnea.

Dr. Jennewine stated that it is due to brain development not being all the way complete at the time of birth.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that PHAB's Annual Report response was included in the board packet.

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she will be providing information to the City Manager and new council members in an effort to move forward with capping tobacco retailers.

Ms. Ealy informed board members that as of January 9th, 47 of the 70 tobacco retailers in Middletown have paid and been issued their Tobacco 21 license.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

There were no travel authorizations requested.

Review of ODH Medicaid Administrative Claiming "MAC" Local Health Department Process Claiming

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to the board that ODH disperses funds to local health departments (LHDs) each time LHDs initiate Medicaid activity.

2024 Election of President Pro Tem

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to elect Jeff Bonnell as President Pro Tem of the Board of Health.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Richmond, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

2024 Board of Health Roster

Ms. Phillips Carter informed board members that the BOH roster was included in the packet and asked members to confirm that their information is correct.

2024 Board of Health Committees

The Finance Committee will be comprised of the following: Mayor Slamka, Ms. Sibcy, Ms. Kash and Mr. Richmond. The Personnel Committee will be comprised of the following: Mayor Slamka, Dr. Zollett, Mr. Bonnell, Ms. Lolli and Ms. Miller.

2023 4th Quarter Report

The 2023, 4th Quarter Report is included in the Board of Health packet for board members review. The 2022, 4th Quarter Report is included for year-to-year comparison. Ms. Phillips Carter noted that while overdose deaths are down compared to the previous year, deaths by suicide have increased.

Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

Ms. Phillips Carter informed Mayor Slamka that "Board Member Topic-Open Discussion" had been added by Mayor Condrey to the BOH agenda each month.

Mayor Slamka presented the book, "The Garden Next Door" to board members, asking if there has been any conversations with Middletown City School District about gardens.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there have been conversations of starting community gardens throughout Middletown on empty lots. Ms. Phillips Carter continued that while discussions have been underway, it may be beneficial to hold a strategic meeting with City Council.

Mayor Slamka stated that it would be a great opportunity to connect different organizations in a multi-functional, multi-faceted way and believes it could be beneficial to involve the schools as it would also be beneficial to mental health.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter provided board members with an update on community events that are taking place. The Point In Time (PIT) count will be held January 23rd. This count is conducted annually to gather a count of the homeless population.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Dreamkeepers will be hosting a film festival January 15th at Sorg Opera House.

Ms. Phillips Carter provided board members with a list of shelters that will be providing the unhoused with shelter this year.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed board members that CMHD is currently looking to fill the positions of Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training as well as an Administrative Assistant. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she would like to find someone bilingual to fill the Administrative Assistant position as that would greatly benefit the community and the health department.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the December Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	24
COVID-19	425
CPO	1
Gonococcal Infection	10
Hepatitis B	2
Hepatitis C	7
Influenza-associated hospitalization	4
Pertussis	3
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	1
Syphilis	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that there was an increase in respiratory illnesses throughout December. Hospitalizations for the flu increased, mostly among unvaccinated adults and children. Ms. Corbin stated that CMHD is encouraging everyone to receive their flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is available to board members, Ms. Corbin stated to reach out if board members are interested.

Ms. Corbin stated that Middletown is in the path of totality for the eclipse that will occur in April. In the coming months CMHD will be providing more information to community partners regarding the eclipse and safety precautions that need to be taken.



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio
Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Ms. Corbin informed the board that a disaster preparedness table top exercise will be held in February. The exercise will simulate a chemical emergency surge and local health departments will work with surrounding hospital systems.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that plans have been approved for the following facilities: Middletown High School Common Grounds Coffee Shop, Summit on Manchester Road, Lakeside Inn and Irie Smoothie Bar.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD found 3 mobile food trucks operating without water, 2 of which were also operating without a license. Ms. Ealy stated that CMHD is making sure to inspect new mobiles they see operating throughout the city. Mobiles are only required to be inspected once per year, but health departments can inspect more often.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD is on track to have all inspections completed by February 29th, the end of the licensing period.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 AM. The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2024 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department

January 2024 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$8,475 Revenue Earned for January 2024
- 725 Certificates Sold for January 2024
- 41 Burial permits Processed for January 2024

Environmental

- \$9,456 Revenue Earned for January 2024
 - Including \$5,000 Tobacco21 Revenue

Indigent Services

- \$3,799 Spent of the \$20,000 Budget for Indigent Services for 2024
- 5 Applications approved
 - 0 OD's
 - Zero dollars in Reimbursements from the Embalmer's Association Program which ended May 2023

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027 - \$445,000
 - Multi-year project to support the development of current and future public health workforce
 - Award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity specific training.
 - *\$13,217.37 - Deposited to date*
- Tobacco21 (T21) 8/01/2023-7/31/2025 - \$86,415
 - Two year grant through Interact for Health to support T21 program - *\$46,415.00 Deposited to date*
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/2023-6/30/2024 - \$24,361.62
 - Deliverable based pass-through with BCGHD - *\$2095 Deposited for the Year*
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC Billing) 1/01/2024-12/31/2024
 - Yearly agreement. Payments approved quarterly – *No Deposits for 2024 until the end of the first quarter*

State Subsidy

- Annual LHD State Subsidy for Accredited Health Departments in the amount of \$19,350 was received and deposited on 1/30/2024.

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 1/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$600,840.00	\$38,608.22	\$38,608.22	\$562,231.78	\$0.00	\$562,231.78	6.43%
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51211	PERS	\$84,118.00	\$6,643.03	\$6,643.03	\$77,474.97	\$0.00	\$77,474.97	7.90%
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	\$24,034.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,034.00	\$0.00	\$24,034.00	0.00%
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$103,148.00	0.00%
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	\$8,712.00	\$244.41	\$244.41	\$8,467.59	\$0.00	\$8,467.59	2.81%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,941.00	\$135.20	\$135.20	\$1,805.80	\$0.00	\$1,805.80	6.97%
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Personal Services Totals:	\$822,793.00	\$45,630.86	\$45,630.86	\$777,162.14	\$0.00	\$777,162.14	5.55%
ACCT TYPE: 52								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIM	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$63.67	\$2,936.33	2.12%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,640.00	\$35.46	\$5,604.54	0.63%
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	\$41,085.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,085.00	\$983.75	\$40,101.25	2.39%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$55,771.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,771.00	\$0.00	\$55,771.00	0.00%
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$11,855.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,855.00	\$1,333.00	\$10,522.00	11.24%
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	ACCT TYPE: 52 Totals:	\$136,351.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$136,351.00	\$2,415.88	\$133,935.12	1.77%
ACCT TYPE: 53								
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$157.99	\$2,342.01	6.32%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53102	HARM REDUCTION SUPPLI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$11.40	\$188.60	5.70%
228.450.53510	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPM	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00%
228.450.53620	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%
	ACCT TYPE: 53 Totals:	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$169.39	\$3,230.61	4.98%
ACCT TYPE: 54								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 1/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIA	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	0.00%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54360	OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	ACCT TYPE: 54 Totals:	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	0.00%
ACCT TYPE: 59								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	ACCT TYPE: 59 Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	DEPT: 450 Totals:	\$967,344.00	\$45,630.86	\$45,630.86	\$921,713.14	\$2,585.27	\$919,127.87	4.98%
228 Total:		\$967,344.00	\$45,630.86	\$45,630.86	\$921,713.14	\$2,585.27	\$919,127.87	4.98%
266	AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT					Target Percent:	8.33%	
DEPT: 450								
Personal Services								
266.450.51110	SALARIES AND WAGES - H	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Personal Services Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	DEPT: 450 Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
266 Total:		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
Grand Total:		\$987,344.00	\$45,630.86	\$45,630.86	\$941,713.14	\$4,834.27	\$936,878.87	5.11%
						Target Percent:	8.33%	

City of Middletown

Revenue Report

Accounts: 100.228.51110 to 266.450.51110

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 1/31/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND				Target Percent:	8.33%
DEPT: 000						
ACCT TYPE: 43						
228.000.43310	PHHS GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	\$9,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,300.00	0.00%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	\$14,334.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,334.00	0.00%
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	\$123,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$123,000.00	0.00%
	ACCT TYPE: 43 Totals:	\$175,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175,300.00	0.00%
ACCT TYPE: 44						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$56,591.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,591.00	0.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$108,130.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108,130.00	0.00%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	\$620.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$620.00	0.00%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$63,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	0.00%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	0.00%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,700.00	0.00%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	0.00%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$215.00	0.00%
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	ACCT TYPE: 44 Totals:	\$284,546.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$284,546.00	0.00%
ACCT TYPE: 46						
228.000.46780	MISCELLANEOUS	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 1/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
	ACCT TYPE: 46 Totals:	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%
ACCT TYPE: 49						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	0.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	ACCT TYPE: 49 Totals:	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	0.00%
	DEPT: 000 Totals:	\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$703,846.00	0.00%
228 Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$703,846.00	0.00%
Grand Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$703,846.00	0.00%
					Target Percent:	8.33%

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE
BUTLER COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT AND
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the Board of Health of the Butler County General Health District, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," and the City of Middletown Health Department, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor."

WITNESS TO:

WHEREAS, the public health leadership in each of the respective health districts of Butler County and the cities of Hamilton and Middletown desire to work together to accomplish the Butler County Community Health Improvement Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and agreements herein contained, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

Section 1. Scope of Services

A. Contract Requirements

1. Contractor will coordinate with the Board to complete the Butler County Community Health Improvement Plan.
2. The contractor will share the cost of conducting the Butler County Community Health Improvement Plan at the rate of 13% of the total cost of \$18,000.00 based on the contractor's population.
3. The final product, a Butler County Community Health Improvement Plan, in addition to any data collected, shall be the property of the Butler County General Health District, City of Hamilton and the City of Middletown.

Section 2. Term

This agreement shall be effective from the date it is executed by the parties and shall continue in effect through **August 31, 2024** unless terminated as provided in this Agreement. Services eligible for payment under this Agreement shall be performed on or after **January 1, 2024** through **August 31, 2024**, and which are timely invoiced as provided in this Agreement.

Section 3. Compensation and Method of Payment

A. Compensation:

1. The Contractor agrees to pay the Board up to but not in excess of **\$2,340.00**, as full and complete compensation for the Contractor's share of the cost of the Butler County Community Health Improvement Plan.
2. Payment will be reimbursed upon submission of quarterly invoices and supporting documentation by the Board to the Contractor.

B. Method of Payment:

1. Payment will be made by the Contractor as the Board submits quarterly invoices for the reimbursement of expenditures for activities performed under this Agreement.
2. Any periodic payments from the Contractor specified in this Agreement will be contingent upon performance of contractual obligations to date, including the proper receipt of supporting invoices, reports, statements, or any other supporting information as required by the Contractor in this Agreement.

Section 4. Amendments

Any revisions in the Agreement will require the express approval of the Board and the Contractor, and shall be by written instrument signed by an authorized representative of each party.

Section 5. Termination

This Agreement may be terminated with or without cause and without liability by either party by sending a written notice of termination to the other party thirty (30) days prior to the date of termination (hereinafter, the "Termination Date") set forth in the notice. If this Agreement is terminated, the Contractor agrees to pay the Board for all work performed and expenses incurred up to the Termination Date. Upon termination, the Board shall provide the Contractor with all documents (written, digital, electronic, etc.) produced up until the Termination Date.

Section 6. Conflict of Interest

The Contractor agrees that no officer, employee, or agent of the Board who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and carrying out of the program, nor any immediate family member, close business associate, or organization

which is about to employ any such person, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Contractor or in this Agreement and the Contractor shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance with this provision.

Section 7. Notices

Service - This Agreement requires that all notices shall be personally served or sent by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties as follows:

To the Board:

Health Commissioner
Butler County General Health District
301 S Third Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

To the Contractor:

Health Commissioner
City of Middletown Health Department
One Donham Plaza
Middletown, OH 45042

Section 8. Waiver

This Agreement shall be construed in a manner that a waiver of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute or operate as a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any other provisions, nor shall any failure to enforce any provision hereof operate as a waiver of such provision or of any other provision.

Section 9. Severability

This Agreement shall be severable, so if any part or parts of this Agreement shall for any reason be held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, all remaining parts shall remain binding and in full force and effect.

Section 10. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and any Exhibits attached hereto contain the entire contract between the parties as to the matters contained herein. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this Agreement shall be of no force and effect.

This space intentionally left blank

Section 11. Authority

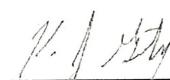
The persons signing this Agreement represent and warrant that they are authorized to represent their respective parties and to execute this Agreement on behalf of the party that they represent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board and the Contractor have executed the Agreement on this _____ day of _____, 202__.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE
BUTLER COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH
DISTRICT
Tax ID 316000061
301 S 3rd St.
Hamilton, OH 45011

Motion # 2023-12-009

Approved as to Form Only

 12/15/2023

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

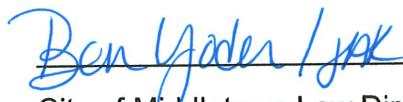


Erik Balster, MPH, REHS, RS
Health Commissioner

CITY OF MIDDLETON
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Board of Health President

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
City of Middletown Health Commissioner


City of Middletown Law Director

AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL SERVICES

I. INTRODUCTION

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 20_____(the "Effective Date") by and between the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio (County) on behalf of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services – Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (HCDOES-SWOAQA), representing Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties pursuant to Resolution No. 2822 of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, and the Middletown Board of Health (MIDD BOH).

II. RECITALS

Both HCDOES-SWOAQA and the MIDD BOH hereto have expressed a desire to cooperate in the control and abatement of air pollution problems. Both parties understand and agree that air pollution problems must be studied and attacked on a regional, rather than a local, basis.

In recognition of the MIDD BOH's stated mission "to preserve, protect, and improve the health of Middletown residents," HCDOES-SWOAQA agrees to investigate air pollution that is identified as a concern.

The MIDD BOH has adopted Local Air Pollution Control Regulations consistent with those of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 3704: Air Pollution Control, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Sections 3745-14, 3745-15, through 3745-23, 3745-31, 3745-71, 3745-73 through 3745-75, 3745-76, 3745-77 through 3745-79, 3745-105, and 3745-114 as these Sections may from time-to-time be amended.

HCDOES-SWOAQA is already carrying out a comprehensive air pollution control program throughout the region and is presently a contract agency for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OhioEPA).

It is the MIDD BOH's desire to contract with the County for HCDOES-SWOAQA to act on behalf of the MIDD BOH for controlling and abating the problems of air pollution for the MIDD BOH.

III. OBLIGATIONS

For and in consideration of mutual promises, understandings, covenants and agreements hereinafter set forth and in consideration of the air pollution services further described herein, the parties do mutually agree as follows:

A. COUNTY OBLIGATIONS

Section 1. This contract establishes the County, through its agency, HCDOES-SWOAQA, as the air pollution control agency of the MIDD BOH. HCDOES-SWOAQA is hereby designated and authorized as the representative and agent of the MIDD BOH to perform all services within the MIDD BOH pertaining thereto, including but not limited to the following: the collection of air pollution related fees; the investigation of potential violations and the initiation of enforcement actions in appropriate courts of jurisdiction; the issuance of consent orders, which may include appropriate civil penalties and stipulated penalties; the enforcement of Local Air Pollution Control Regulations adopted by the MIDD BOH; state and federal laws for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and the

performance of services; and, relevant rules and regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Section 2. The County, through its agent, HCDOES-SWOAQA, shall collect and use air pollution related fees as authorized by state, federal, and other laws, ordinances and rules which may be adopted by the MIDD BOH.

Section 3. The County shall provide an annual report to the MIDD BOH pertaining to the operations of HCDOES-SWOAQA affecting the MIDD BOH.

B. MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF HEALTH OBLIGATIONS

Section 1. The MIDD BOH authorizes the County, through its agent, HCDOES-SWOAQA, to provide all management, technical, engineering, and enforcement services including, but not limited to, ORC Chapter 3704: Air Pollution Control, OAC rules (as adopted by the Middletown Board of Health, Resolution No. 01-96), and rules adopted and orders made pursuant to other ordinances or rules for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution control within the City of Middletown.

Section 2. The MIDD BOH authorizes the County to enter into agreements with the OhioEPA and other governmental and nongovernmental bodies to obtain funds to carry out those duties delegated to the County to be carried out within the MIDD BOH's jurisdictional area.

IV. TERM; TERMINATION

This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue for a period of five (5) years (the "Term"). The parties may agree in writing to extend or renew the Agreement upon the expiration of the initial Term. This Agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties. Either party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement by providing three (3) months' prior written notice of such termination to the other party by Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested.

V. NOTICES

Any notices required hereunder by either party shall be in writing and mailed or delivered to the County and the Middletown Board of Health at the addresses as follows:

- A. Brad Johnson
Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services-SWOAQA
250 William Howard Taft Road - First Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-2660
- B. Health Commissioner
Middletown Board of Health
One Donham Plaza
Middletown, Ohio 45042-1901

VI. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Both parties shall perform all work and services described herein as an independent contractor and not as an officer, agent, servant, or employee of the other. No person performing any of the work or services described hereunder shall be considered an officer, agent, servant, or employee of the other, nor shall any such person be entitled to any benefits available or granted to employees of the other.

VII. CONFIDENIALITY

All parties shall comply with requirements established by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (Privacy Rule 45 CFR Part 160 and Subparts A and E of Part 164) regarding safeguarding and protecting individually identifiable health information (Protected Health Information or PHI). It is the intention of the parties that the provisions of this Section reflect the requirements of HIPPA, as adopted, amended and interpreted from time-to-time.

VIII. WAIVER

This Agreement shall be construed in a manner that a waiver of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute or operate as a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any other provisions, nor shall any failure to enforce any provision hereof operate as a waiver of such provision or of any other provision.

IX. LAW TO GOVERN

This Agreement is entered into and is to be performed in the State of Ohio. Both parties agree that the law of the State of Ohio shall govern the rights, obligations, duties and liabilities of the parties to this Agreement and shall govern the interpretation of this Agreement.

X. FORUM SELECTION

Both parties acknowledge and agree that all state courts of record sitting in Hamilton County, Ohio and Butler County, Ohio, shall be the exclusive forum for the filing, initiation, and prosecution of any suit or proceeding arising from or out of, or relating to, this Agreement, or any amendment or attachment thereto.

XI. AMENDMENT

This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a written contract duly executed by the parties hereto or their representatives.

XII. ENTIRETY

This Agreement and the Exhibits attached hereto contain the entire contract between the parties as to the matters contained herein. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this Agreement shall be of no force and effect.

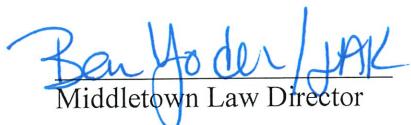
XIII. SEVERABILITY

This Agreement shall be severable, so if any part or parts of this Agreement shall for any reason be held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, all remaining parts shall remain binding and in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, both parties have executed this Agreement on this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF HEALTH

Approved as to form:


Ben Yoder/JAK
Middletown Law Director

By: _____
Jackie Phillips, MPH, BSN, RN
Health Commissioner

By: _____
President, Middletown Board of Health

HAMILTON COUNTY

By: _____
Brad Johnson
Director, Hamilton County Department of
Environmental Services

By: _____
Jeff Aluotto
Hamilton County Administrator

Date: February 13, 2024
To: City of Middletown Board of Health
CC: City Manager, Personnel, Finance
From: Jackie Phillips Carter, Health Commissioner

The City of Middletown Board of Health approves the conditional appointment of Brandy Barner in 2024. The appointment of this candidate is conditional upon passing the required medical tests and background check.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Recommended Position</u>	<u>Recommended Pay Range</u>
Brandy Barner	Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training	Range 184-A Annual Salary \$47,872.24

Elizabeth Slamka
City of Middletown Board of Health President

Date: February 13, 2024
To: City of Middletown Board of Health
CC: City Manager, Personnel, Finance
From: Jackie Phillips Carter, Health Commissioner

The City of Middletown Board of Health approves the conditional appointment of Stephanie Leon in 2024. The appointment of this candidate is conditional upon passing the required medical tests and background check.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Recommended Position</u>	<u>Recommended Pay Range</u>
Stephanie Leon	Administrative Assistant	Range 184-A Annual Salary \$47,872.24

Elizabeth Slamka
City of Middletown Board of Health President

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community
to Live, Work and Play

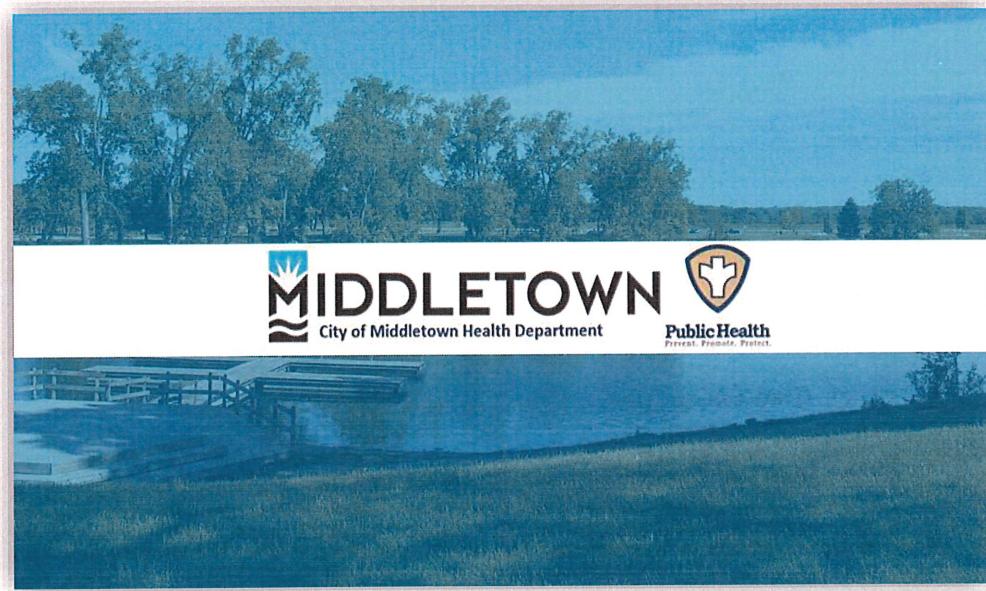


City of Middletown Health Department

2023 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Department Overview	3
Mission Statement	4
Vision Statement	4
Values	4
Health Commissioner	4
Organizational Chart	5
Board of Health Roster	6
Board of Health Meeting Dates	6
Selected Causes of Death Report	7
2023 Maternal Child Health Services	8
2023 Communicable Disease Report	9
2023 Fund Summary	10
2023 Proforma Projections-Revenue	11
2023 Department Statistics	12



Department Overview

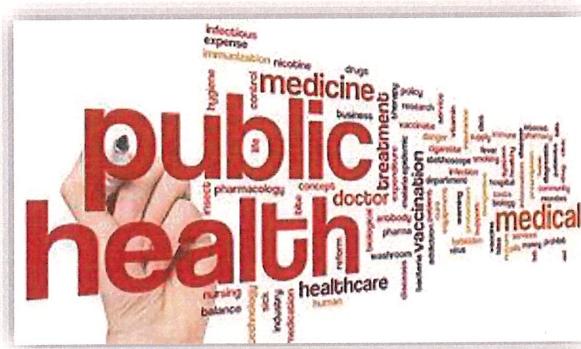
The City of Middletown Health Department provides services to all residents of the City of Middletown and surrounding counties. All services are provided in accordance with State of Ohio statutes.

The Vital Statistics Division provides birth certificates from anywhere in the State of Ohio and death certificates for deaths occurring in the city limits of Middletown.

The Environmental Health Division of the City of Middletown Health Department assures a safe and healthy environment by monitoring and licensing all food related facilities; restaurants, grocery stores, vending locations, mobile units and temporary events, like the Ohio Balloon Challenge. We investigate food borne illnesses within the city limits. We have responsibilities regarding private water supplies, new installation and inspections of on-site sewage systems and surveys. We monitor school environments, body art and piercing establishments, as well as inspecting the city jail. We investigate animal bites for our Rabies Control Program. We license and monitor all public pools (apartment complexes, health clubs, etc.) We are involved with emergency response planning and emergency response training activities. Additionally, we provide Smoking Ban enforcement as mandated by Ohio State Law. In an effort to ensure proper training and enforcement of the restrictions on sales of tobacco products to those under the age of 21, City of Middletown Health Department Board of Health approved the Tobacco 21 (T21) ordinance in November of 2022. The T21 ordinance requires all retail establishments to be licensed to sell tobacco within the city of Middletown, effective January 1, 2024.



The City of Middletown Health Department provides information to the community regarding a wide variety of health issues, environmental food safety and health and wellness programs.



Public Health Accreditation is a voluntary national program developed to measure Health Department performance against an established set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. Overseen by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, PHAB modeled its accreditation requirements on the Ten Essential Public Health Services to ensure all applicants meet or exceed an established baseline of quality and

services. Although this program is voluntary on a national level, all health departments operating within the State of Ohio are required to gain accreditation status with the Public Health Accreditation Board. City of Middletown Health Department achieved accreditation on November 4, 2022.

The City of Middletown Board of Health plays an important role in our public health system. They provide oversight and guidance for our health department. They approve public health priorities for our community. By

operating at the local level, the board of health is closer to the community whose health they are charged with protecting. Their local nature makes boards of health an integral part of improving and promoting population health. The City of Middletown Board of Health directs our department in many areas such as: policy-making, rulemaking.

Mission, Vision & Value Statements

Mission

The City of Middletown Health Department's Mission is to Promote and Protect the health and wellbeing of all Middletown residents.

Vision

A healthy, safe and thriving community where all people have equitable access to quality health care, food, housing, transportation, education, recreation, employment and community services

Core Values

Community partnerships, equity, respect, diversity, inclusion, open-mindedness, empathy, innovativeness, dignity and trusted connections.

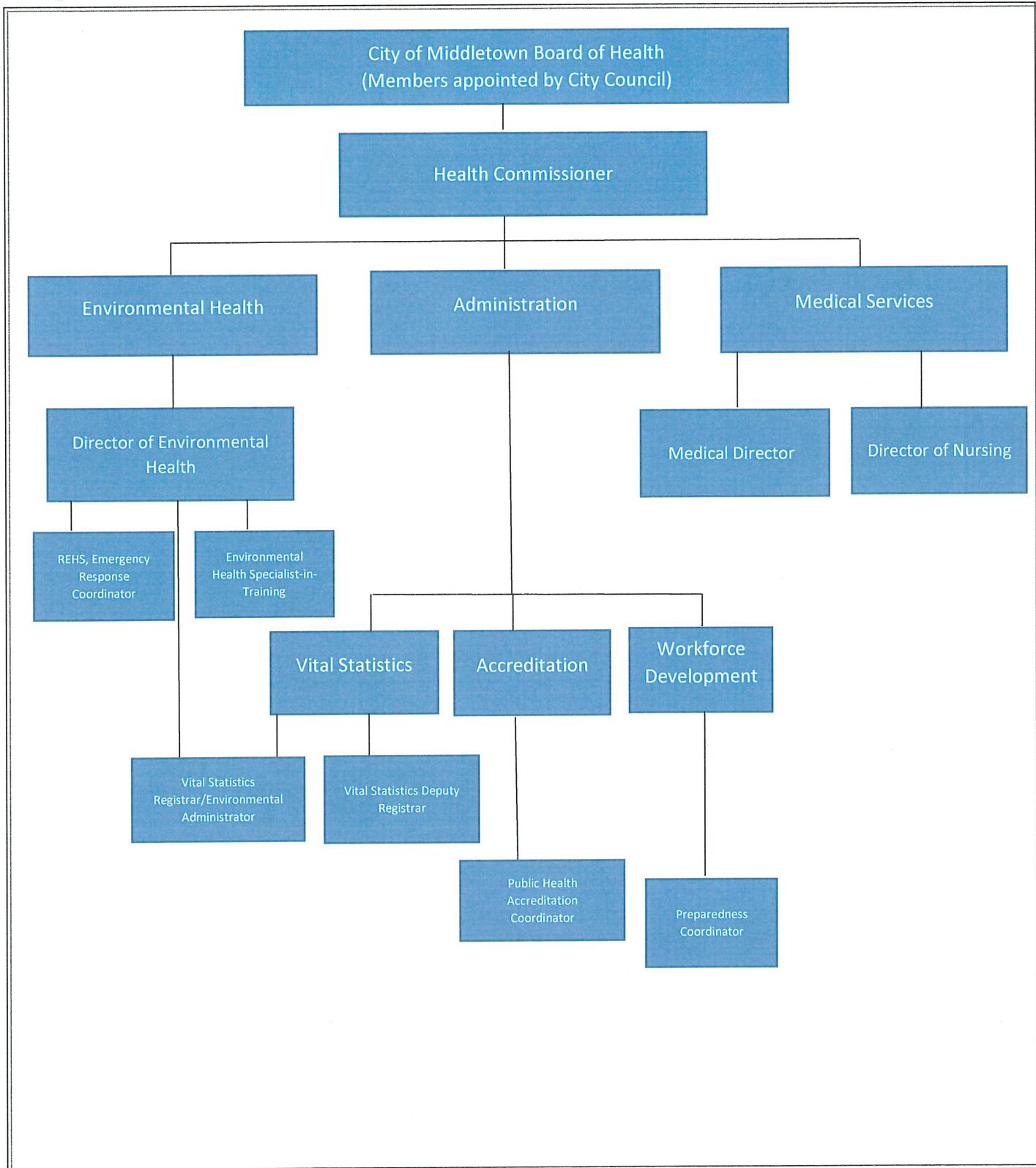
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Health Commissioner



Mrs. Jackie Phillips Carter is the Health Commissioner for the City of Middletown. She has worked in the healthcare field for over 30 years, joining the Health Department in 1997 in Middletown. She is a current member of the Ohio Public Health Association, the Southwest Ohio Health Commissioners Association, as well as many other boards within the community. Jackie received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Miami University and her Masters in Public Health from Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University.

Organizational Chart 2023



Board of Health Roster 2023

President (Ex-Officio)

Nicole Condrey, Mayor

President (Pro-Tem)

Jeff Bonnell

Members

Joseph Richmond, MBA
Benefits Consultant

Amy Sibcy
Business Owner

Sally Kash, RN, MSN
Community Nurse

Dr. Scott Zollett, MD
Physician

Ruth L. Lolli
Outreach Specialist

Jeff Bonnell
Funeral Director

Emily Miller
Infectious Disease Prevention

6

Secretary

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Commissioner of Health

Board of Health Meeting Dates 2023

January 10, 2023
February 14, 2023
March 14, 2023
April 11, 2023
May 9, 2023
June 13, 2023
July 11, 2023
August 8, 2023
September 12, 2023
October 10, 2023
November 14, 2023
December 12, 2023

**Agendas are distributed the Friday before each meeting. For further information, call (513) 425-1818 or (513) 425-7854.*

Selected Causes of Death Report

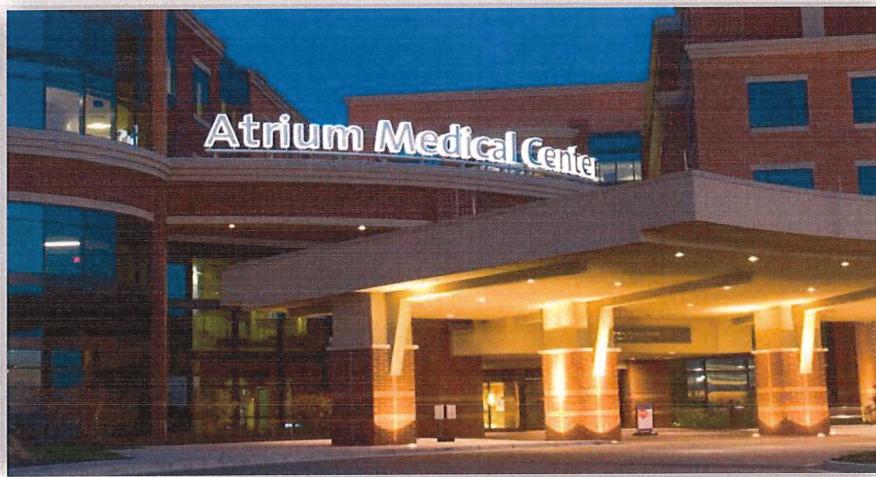
Selected Causes of Death 2023 Middletown Residents		2022	2023
Category	Included Causes	Total	Total
Coronavirus 2019	COVID-19	36	5
Neoplasms	Cancers	85	81
Human Immunodeficiency Virus	N/A	0	0
Endocrine	Nutritional & Metabolic Deficiency	27	16
	Kidney disease/Failure	16	13
Aging	Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease	16	19
	Failure to Thrive	30	38
Nervous System	Meningitis, MS, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's	2	3
Circulatory System	Hypertensive Heart Disease	8	6
	Ischemic Heart Disease	3	3
	Acute Myocardial Infarction	64	69
	Other Forms of Heart Disease	114	103
	CVA, Hemorrhage, Embolism	10	3
	Atherosclerosis	4	7
Pneumonia	N/A	17	16
Respiratory System	Respiratory Arrest, Lung DS, Bronchitis, COPD	52	50
Septicemia	N/A	9	12
Complications of Pregnancy	Childbirth, Puerperium	0	0
Stillbirth	N/A	6	6
Mortality in Infancy	Prematurity, SIDS, Co-Sleeping	1	2
Homicide	N/A	1	4
Suicide	N/A	5	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	N/A	3	7
Accidents due to falls	N/A	4	8
Drug Overdoses	N/A	51	29
Fire	N/A	0	1

Maternal Child Health Services

Atrium Medical Center



Atrium Medical Center	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Live Births	969	956	930	884	856	916	862
Stillbirths	6	6	4	9	3	6	6
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Deaths	5	7	6	2	5	1	2





City of Middletown Health Department



From The City of Middletown Health Department

Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Reportable Communicable Diseases 2023

Disease	1 st QTR	2 nd QTR	3 rd QTR	4 th QTR	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	
COVID-19	537	129	343	887	1896	6639	
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Candida auris	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Campylobacteriosis	0	2	4	2	8	6	
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	2	0	2	0	
Haemophilus influenza (<i>Invasive Disease</i>)	1	1	0	1	3	3	
Hepatitis A	1	0	1	0	2	1	
Hepatitis B-Acute/Chronic	7	7	8	11	33	23	
Hepatitis C-Acute/Chronic	25	23	16	19	83	107	
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	2	0	0	4	6	59	
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	0	1	0	1	1	
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meningitis-bacterial (<i>Not N. Meningitidis</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Salmonellosis	1	0	0	0	1	3	
Streptococcal-Group A-Invasive	0	5	3	1	9	7	
Streptococcus Pneumoniae-Invasive	2	3	1	4	10	11	
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meningitis Aseptic/Viral	0	2	0	1	3	2	
Pertussis	0	0	0	5	5	2	
Varicella	0	0	4	0	4	3	
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	1	8	4	0	13	2	
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)	1	0	1	2	4	0	
Giardiasis	0	0	1	0	1	2	
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Shigellosis	0	0	1	0	1	1	
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sexually Transmitted Infections		1 st QTR	2 nd QTR	3 rd QTR	4 th QTR	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Chlamydia Infection	65	71	77	62	275	333	
Gonococcal Infection	14	28	34	30	106	156	
Syphilis	3	3	4	2	12	5	



MIDDLETOWN
City of Middletown Health Department



Public Health
Permit Health Accredited

From The City of Middletown Health Department

Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

FUND SUMMARY FOR FUND 228

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
BEGINNING BALANCE: JANUARY	\$853,206	\$796,597	\$553,009
REVENUES:			
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$289,302	\$264,563	\$175,300
Charges for Services	\$346,801	\$302,433	\$284,546
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$136,729	\$235,002	\$44,000
Transfers	\$103,500	\$0	\$256,591
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$876,332	\$801,998	\$760,437
TOTAL RESOURCES:	\$776,332	\$801,998	\$703,846
EXPENDITURES:			
Personal Services	\$694,474	\$780,034	\$822,793
Contractual Services	\$123,274	\$257,262	\$136,351
Commodities	\$10,398	\$3,400	\$3,400
Capital Outlay	\$4,796	\$4,800	\$4,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$832,942	\$1,045,496	\$967,344
ENDING BALANCE: DECEMBER 31	\$796,597	\$553,099	\$289,601

City of Middletown Health Fund						
Budgeted Year 2024						
	2024		2023		2022	
	January	2024	December	%	December	%
	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD of Actual	YTD Actual	YTD of Actual
Beginning Cash Balance Jan. 1st	\$553,099	0%	\$796,597	100%	\$853,206	100%
REVENUES:						
HIV Grant	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
State Health Subsidy	\$9,300	0%	\$29,430	100%	\$9,335	100%
Bureau of Medical Handicaps	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$700	0%
COVID-19 Crisis Response Grant	\$0	0%	\$158,398	100%	\$24,022	100%
Workforce Development	\$123,000	0%	\$76,735	0%	\$105,040	0%
COVID-19 Contact Tracing Grant	\$0	0%	\$0	100%	\$0	100%
Other Grants	\$43,000	0%	\$0	100%	\$150,707	100%
Vital Statistics	\$108,131	0%	\$107,060	100%	\$113,798	100%
Vital Statistics Shipping Charges	\$0	0%	\$0	100%	\$0	100%
Paternity Affidavits	\$200	0%	\$163	100%	\$440	100%
Immunization Clinics	\$3,000	0%	\$0	100%	\$0	100%
FSO/Vending Licenses	\$620	0%	\$640	100%	\$624	100%
FSO Restaurant Licenses	\$63,000	0%	\$67,945	100%	\$44,111	100%
Food Establishment Licenses	\$22,000	0%	\$27,603	100%	\$16,712	100%
Household Sewage	\$3,500	0%	\$1,629	100%	\$4,741	100%
Food Safety Classes	\$90	0%	\$1	100%	\$0	100%
Swimming Pools/Spas	\$5,700	0%	\$5,701	100%	\$6,307	100%
Tattoo Licenses	\$1,500	0%	\$1,530	100%	\$2,313	100%
Park & Camp Licenses	\$215	0%	\$217	100%	\$213	100%
MAC Billing	\$20,000	0%	\$35,000	0%	\$0	0%
Miscellaneous Income	\$44,000	0%	\$235,002	0%	\$140,928	0%
Reimbursements	\$0	0%	\$0	100%	\$0	100%
Transfer from City Tax	\$256,591	0%	\$54,942	100%	\$156,342	100%
From Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$703,846	0%	\$801,998	100%	\$776,333	100%
EXPENDITURES:						
Personal Services	\$822,793	0%	\$780,034	100%	\$694,474	100%
Contractual Services	\$136,351	0%	\$257,262	100%	\$123,274	100%
Commodities	\$3,400	0%	\$3,400	100%	\$10,398	100%
Capital Outlay	\$4,800	0%	\$4,800	100%	\$4,796	100%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$967,344	\$0	\$1,045,496	100%	\$801,377	100%
REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES:	-\$263,498	-27%	\$243,498	23%	\$56,609	7%
Less Previous Year's Encumbrances	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	\$289,601	30%	\$553,009	53%	\$796,597	99%

2023 Department Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS	2022 YTD	2023 YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	916	862	Food Service Operations (FSO)	452	476
Death Certificates Filed	1187	1035	Retail Food Establishments (RFE)	169	187
Birth Certificates Issued	4594	3979	Sewage	41	9
Death Certificates Issued	4310	3917	Schools	42	40
Indigent Cremations Services	33	34	Vending Locations	21	22
			Temporary FSO/RFE	40	72
DEATHS			Mobile FSO/RFE	17	18
Accident			Complaints	49	53
• Drug Overdose	51	29	Smoking	8	4
• Falls	4	8	Swimming Pools	104	121
• Motor Vehicle	3	7	Tattoo	7	9
Homicide	0	4	Temp Park/Camp	4	6
Suicide	5	8	Jail Inspection	1	1
Could Not Be Determined	0	0			
COVID 19 Related Deaths	36	5			
Pending Investigation	9	6	ANIMAL BITES		
			Dog	92	95
FOOD SAFETY TRAINING			Cat	4	17
Number of Attendees	0	6	Raccoon/Groundhog/Bat	2	2

Health Commissioner Notes

January 2024

T21 Update:

- Provided CM with requested info re T21 and capping
- Senate overrides Gov veto on all flavored tobacco, met with law dept 1/29
- Will have board vote on sending letter along with payment reimbursement informing facilities of suspension/rescinding ordinance.

Grant OHIZ/Middletown Connect

- Meeting with Ambassadors of all Census tracks
 - Wildwood
 - Amanda
 - Rosa Parks
- Calendar for Middletown Connect

BC Housing Meetings Continue

- Butler County Continuum of Care Program Initiative
- 12/12 Met with Tami Ecton- Serve City, Commissioner Carpenter, Dr Rasmus, Dr. Moss and other Housing representatives
- Will add sub-committee for the PIC try to get a better picture of the # of unhoused
- Find out what is the scope of Hope House
- Next meeting January 9th-1p
- PIT Count 1/23/2024-Homeless Count

BC Cares

- Continue to meet every Wednesday at 1p to discuss community issues-Eclipse planning, homelessness, grants, CHA, staffing, events, hospitality, economy, Marijuana legalities.
- Preliminary report for PIC was 1200 vs last year 215 for Butler Co entirely

One Ohio Opiate

- Met 1/4/24
- RFP completion
- Press Conference tba

BC 2M Lead Grant

- Met with Dave Fehr, Jeff Diver, Scott Tadych re: lead grant
- Ohio EPA project for service line inventory due October 2024, will have better idea of lead status
- Plan to meet again once data is collected

PHAB

- CHIP meeting with consultants and Butler County, Hamilton City and Middletown City health departments
-

Senior Citizen Update

- Committee Bob Nolan-presented at strategic meeting
- RFP process to be announced
- Valentine week starts-make own valentines
- Boiler replacement
- Electrical sign operating now/will keep off until we control messaging

Internal/External Meetings and Tasks

City of Middletown

- Indigent/Unclaimed Services and activities
- Interviews for environmental and administration positions
- Continue to Meet w/ CM and assistant CM's
- City Council Strategic Meeting
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meetings
- YWCA Board Meeting
- CenterPoint program committee
- Centerpoint Emergency Board Meeting
- BC Board of Development and Disabilities
- Middletown Connect Core Meetings
- Infectious Disease meetings
- Video for MLK Gala



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

January of 2024

Jordan Luttrell-Freeman, MPH
Luttrell-freemanj@butlercountyohio.org

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 1,985
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Influenza-associated hospitalizations, Gonococcal infection and Hepatitis C.

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, January 2023 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	47,482	417.8	-	-
Butler County	1,845	472.6	1.131	1.08-1.185

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 13.1% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (January 2023)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	1,271	460.6	↓ 22.2% from December 2023 (n=1633)
Middletown City Health Department	302	591.8	↓ 36.6% from December 2023 (n=476)
City of Hamilton Health Department	412	650.0	↓ 22.0% from December 2023 (n=528)
Butler County (all inclusive)	1,985	508.5	↓ 24.7% from December 2023 (n=2,637)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (January 2023)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	29	↓ 19.4% from December 2023 (n=36)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	140	↑ 12.0% from December 2023 (n=125)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	12	↓ 7.7% from December 2023 (n=13)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Tetanus, and Varicella)	1,774	↓ 27.5% from December 2023 (n=2,446)

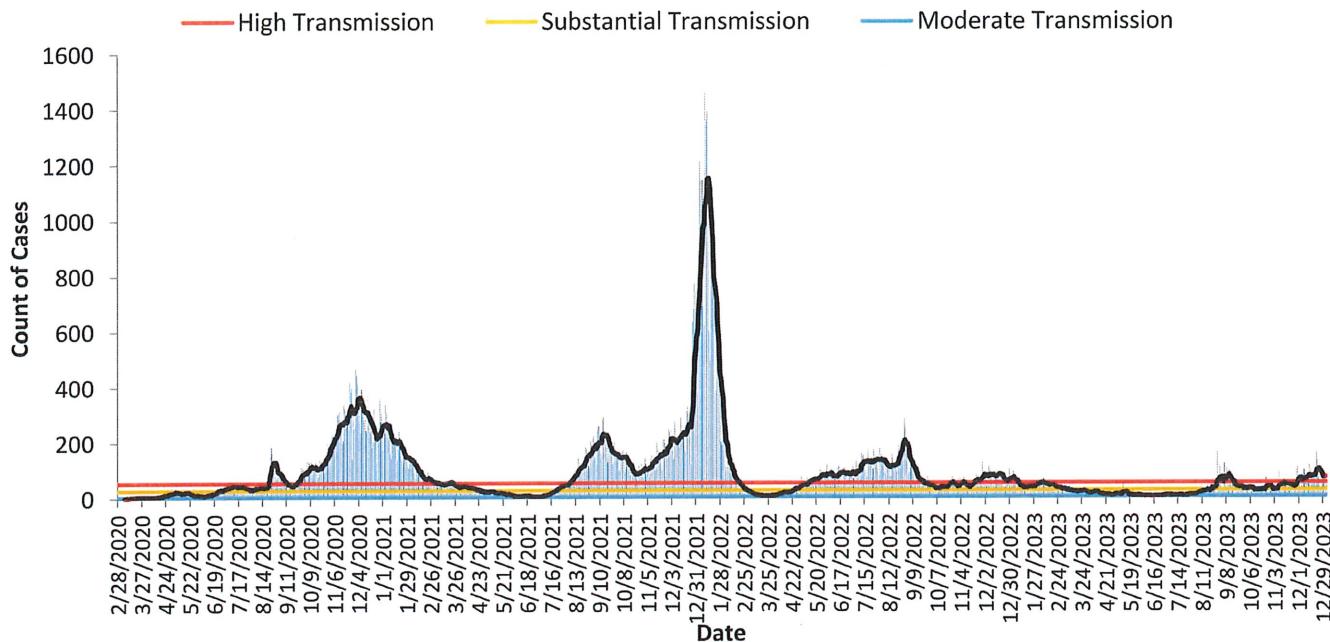
*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of January 1-31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 1/4/2024.

Table 4.* Diseases Reported in Butler County (January 2023)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. auris	2	0	0	2
Chlamydia infection	55	28	26	109
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1	1	2
COVID-19	1091	218	352	1661
CPO	4	0	0	4
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	0	0	1
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1	1
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	0	1	0	1
Gonococcal infection	15	6	6	27
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1	1	0	2
Hepatitis B	7	3	1	11
Hepatitis C	9	6	3	18
HIV	1	1	0	2
Influenza-associated hospitalization	57	26	7	90
Lyme Disease	2	0	0	2
Malaria	2	0	0	2
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	1	2
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	0	1	2
Meningococcal disease	0	0	1	1
Pertussis	5	2	4	11
Salmonellosis	1	1	0	2
Shigellosis	4	1	0	5
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	3	4	2	9
Streptococcus pneumoniae- invasive	3	1	0	4
Syphilis	1	0	3	4
Tuberculosis	2	0	0	2
Total	1,271	302	412	1,985

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2020-2024*



*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of January 1 -31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 1/4/2024.

Butler County Reportable Disease Surveillance

Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2018 through 2022 and provides a 5-year average column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 6.* Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2019–2024)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 Year Avg.	Up to 1/31/2024
Amebiasis	1	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	2	0	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	0	0	1	13	37	10.2	2
Campylobacteriosis	45	30	35	48	49	41.4	0
Chlamydia infection	1,631	1,512	1,406	1,359	1321	1,445.8	109
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	26,420	39,521	49,323	12192	31,864	1,655
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	4	10	11	12	93	26	3
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	2	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	4	6	5	7	7	5.8	1
Cyclosporiasis	2	0	0	1	3	1.2	0
Dengue	1	0	1	1	0	<1	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	11	14	15	17	17	14.8	1
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	1	1	1	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	4	14	7	13	10	13
Gonococcal Infection	732	651	480	473	413	549.8	27
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	10	7	6	11	18	10.4	2
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	1	0	1	<1	0
Hepatitis A	104	2	1	0	2	21.8	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	109	67	85	78	82	84.2	6
Hepatitis C - acute/chronic/perinatal	552	486	434	390	280	428.4	18
HIV	24	17	58	38	35	34.4	2
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	325	266	18	306	70	197	86
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	17	10	9	15	1	10.4	0
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	2	<1	0
Lyme Disease	3	2	0	2	2	1.8	0
Malaria	2	2	1	3	4	2.4	2
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	25	9	14	10	10	13.6	1
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	4	3	3	11	10	6.2	2
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	-	15	7	1	7.7	0
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	4	0	2	0
Mumps	1	0	0	0	0	<1	0
Pertussis	38	13	3	3	5	12.4	9
Salmonellosis	32	20	26	34	54	33.2	2
Salmonalla Paratyphi	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	0
Shigellosis	7	8	3	6	7	6.2	5
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	2	0	1	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	24	27	24	34	39	29.6	6
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	0	1	0	1	1	<1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	59	31	33	40	43	41.2	4
Syphilis (all stages)	11	17	23	45	66	32.4	3
Tuberculosis (active)	8	6	7	8	7	7.2	2
Varicella	14	1	5	8	19	9.4	2
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	1	0	2	2	3	1.6	0
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Yersiniosis	1	0	1	2	4	1.6	0

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of January 1 -31, 2024 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 1/4/2024.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

Figure 1: Fairfield SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024



Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024

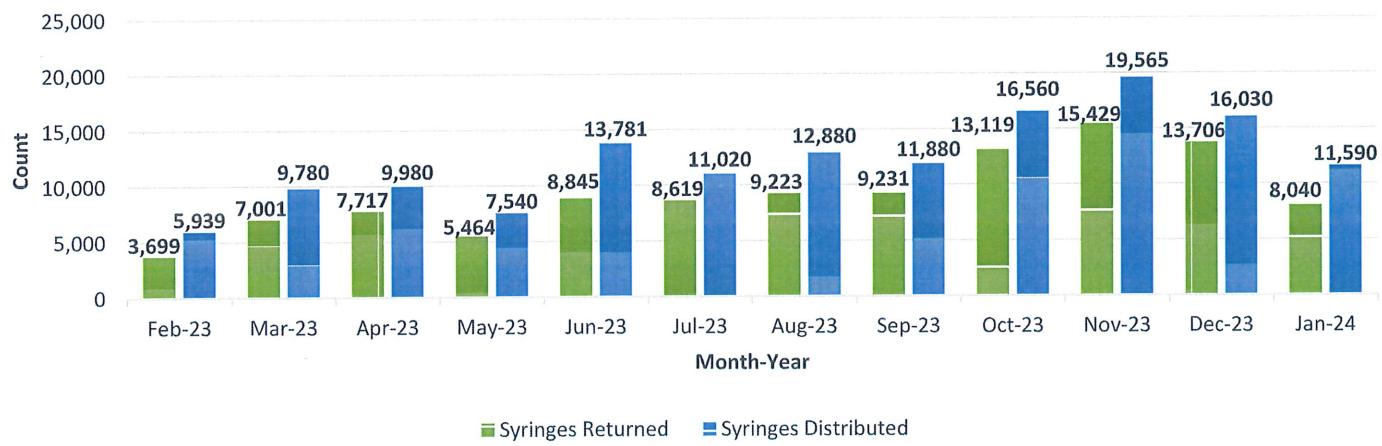


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Fairfield SSP Site for January 2024

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	7,400	10,870	68.08%
Clermont County, OH	90	90	100.00%
Hamilton County, OH	390	430	90.70%
Montgomery County, OH	60	100	60.00%
Warren County, OH	100	100	100.00%
Total	8,040	11,590	69.37%

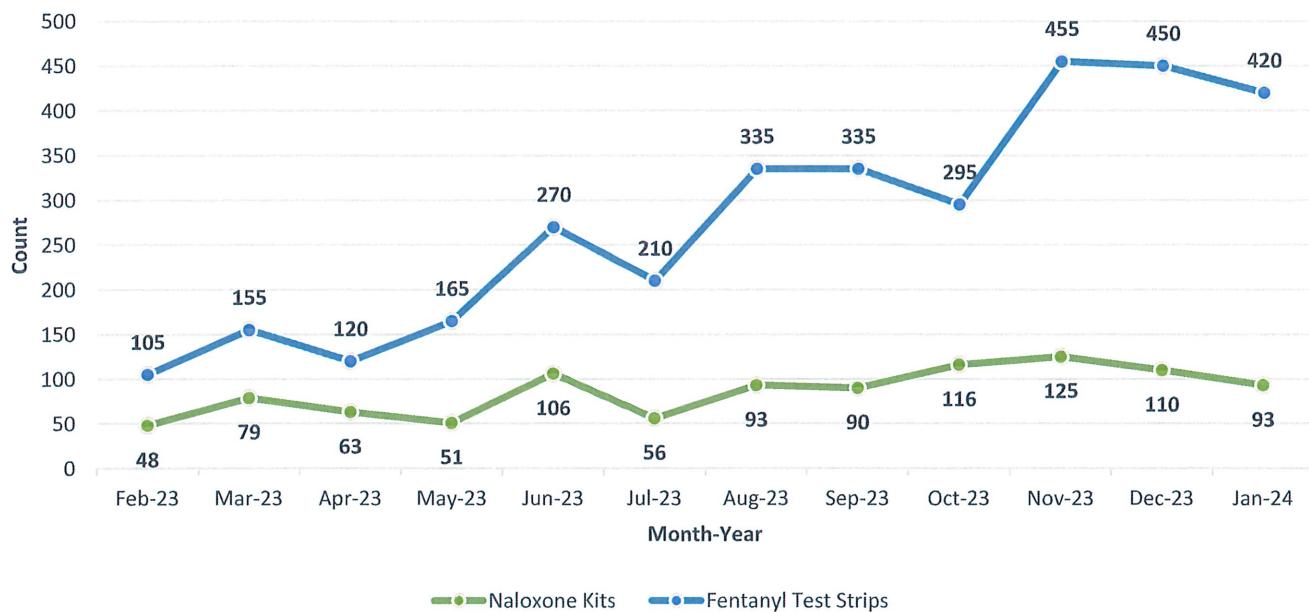


Butler County
General Health District

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Fairfield SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for January 2024

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	2,010	2,970	67.68%
45013	3,500	5,010	69.86%
45015	660	900	73.33%
Hamilton Total	6,170	8,880	69.48%
Middletown			
45042	80	240	33.33%
45044	650	1090	59.63%
Middletown Total	730	1,330	54.89%
45014 - Fairfield	0	80	0.00%
45050 - Monroe	500	580	86.21%
Butler County Total	7,400	10,870	68.08%

Figure 3: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



Source: Butler County General Health District - Fairfield Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained January 25, 2024



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Butler County General Health District

Figure 1: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Week for January 2024



Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024

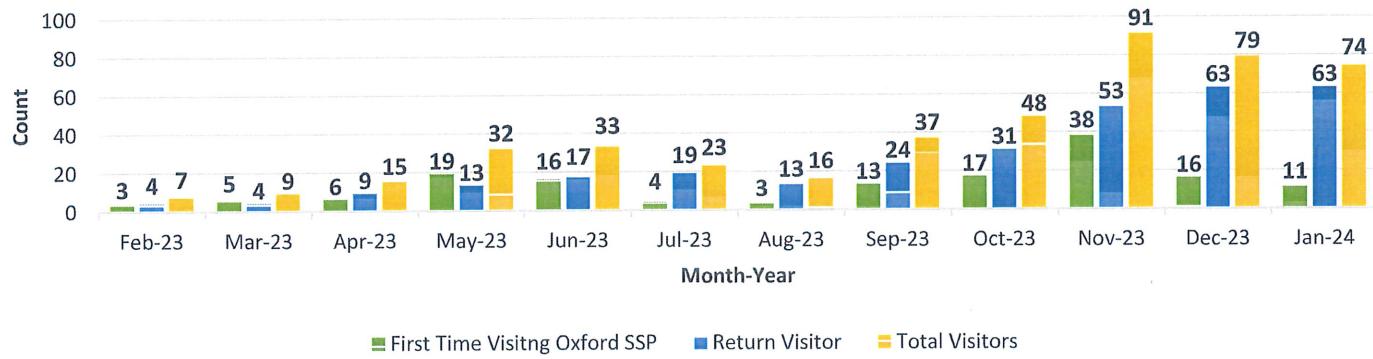
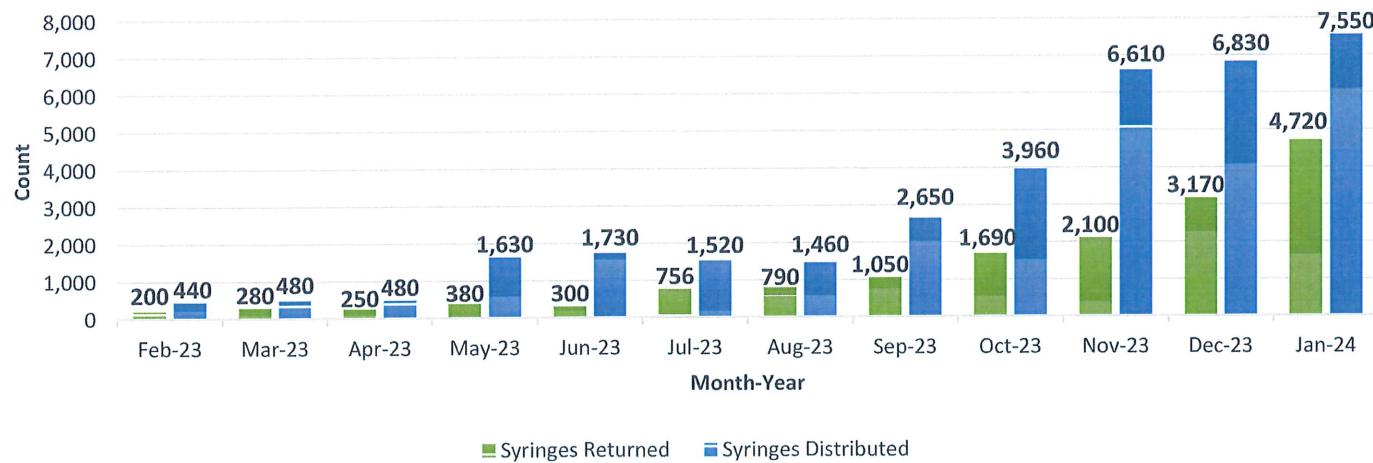


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



Source: Butler County General Health District - Oxford Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained January 31, 2024

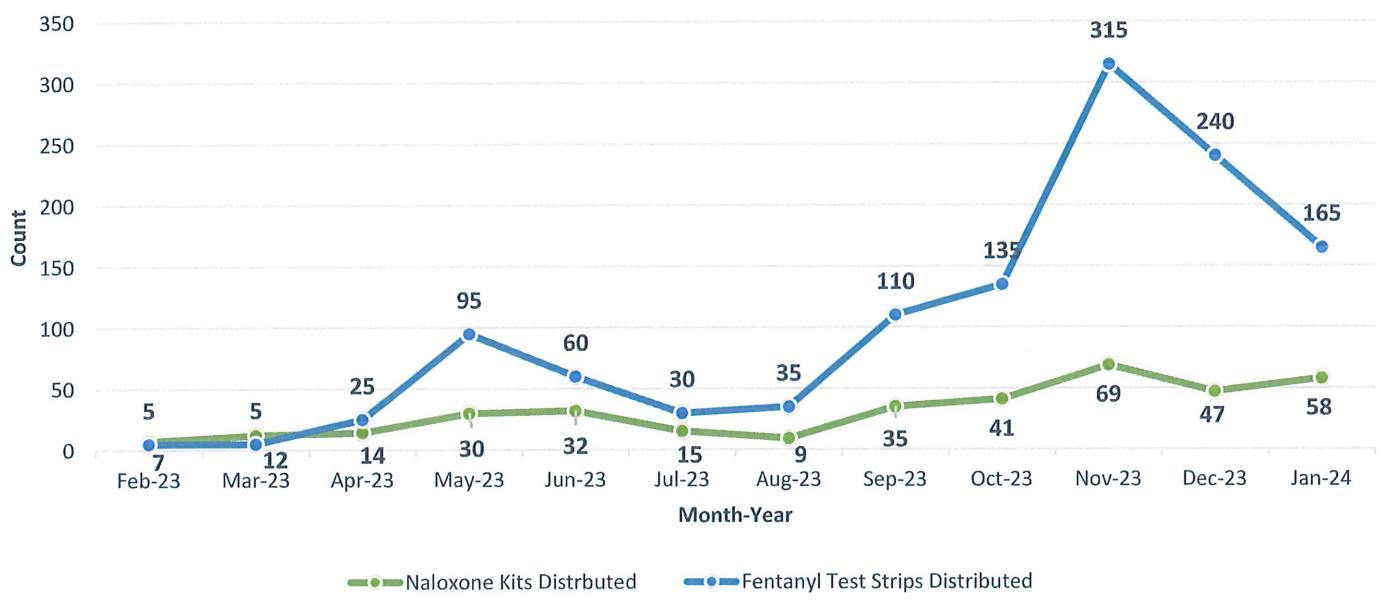


Butler County
General Health District

Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code – City/County for the Oxford SSP Site by Visitors' Reported Home Residence for January 2024

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	960	2,090	45.93%
45013	640	1,160	55.17%
45015	1,060	1,100	96.36%
Hamilton Total	2,660	4,350	61.15%
Middletown			
45042	500	500	100.00%
45044	150	490	30.61%
Middletown Total	650	990	65.66%
45014 - Fairfield	0	40	0.00%
45056 - Oxford	1,410	2,070	68.12%
45067 - Trenton	0	40	0.00%
Hamilton County	0	60	0.00%
Butler County Total	4,720	7,550	62.52%

Figure 4: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



Source: Butler County General Health District - Oxford Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained January 31, 2024

City of Middletown Health Department

January 2024

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	72	72
Death Certificates Filed	99	99
Birth Certificates Issued	314	314
Death Certificates Issued	411	411
Indigent Cremation Services	5	5

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	0	0
Falls	0	0
Motor Vehicle	0	0
Exposure to Elements	0	0
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	0
Homicide	0	0
Suicide	0	0
COVID-19 Related Deaths	2	2
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	0	0

**Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that died inside of city limits only

Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	34	34
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	13	13
Prelicense/Consultations	6	6
Sewage Inspections	0	0
School Inspections	0	0
Vending Locations	1	1
Temporary FSO/RFE	0	0
Mobile FSO/RFE	1	1
Complaints	4	4
Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	0
Swimming Pools	0	0
Tattoo	0	0
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	0
Jail Inspection	0	0
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees	3	3
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Animal Bite Events

Dog	4	4
Cat	1	1
Bat	0	0
Raccoon-Animal Exposure	0	0



City of Middletown Health Department

Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For January 2024

Business Name		Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1	City Tavern	1/25/2024	X							Observation will be conducted in Feb
2										
3										

Notes:
Billy T's owes \$1200 in fines, unpaid.
Buster's Bar owes \$200 in fines, unpaid. **This facility is closed for business and is for sale.**



A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

Complaint Information from Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency for Middletown for 2023

Year	Date	Locality	Pollutant	Street Name	Suspected Facility
2023	13-Dec-23	Middletown	Particulate	Lefferson Rd	
2023	01-Dec-23	Middletown	Odor	Jacoby Avenue	NA
2023	28-Nov-23	Middletown	Fugitive Dust	Oxford State	Stein, Inc.
2023	27-Nov-23	Middletown	Particulate	Lawn Ave	NA
2023	23-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Grant Ave	NA
2023	12-Oct-23	Middletown	Fugitive Dust	Oxford State	Stein
2023	06-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Grand Ave.	NA
2023	05-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Bernice Ave	Middletown Coke
2023	04-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca St.	Middletown Coke
2023	04-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Andrew St	Middletown Coke Company
2023	04-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Lawn St.	Middletown Coke
2023	04-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Crawford St.	Middletown Coke Company MCC
2023	04-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Morgan St.	Middletown Coke Corporation
2023	02-Oct-23	Middletown	Particulate	Wanetta St.	NA
2023	30-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca St.	NA
2023	27-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Donham Plaza	NA
2023	22-Sep-23	Middletown	Open Burning		MAGGS TREE SERVICE
2023	21-Sep-23	Middletown	Odor		Odor - Cleveland Cliffs
2023	17-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca Street	NA
2023	16-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Navaho Street	Cleveland Cliffs
2023	14-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Andrews Street	NA
2023	11-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca	Cleveland Cliffs
2023	09-Sep-23	Middletown	Particulate	Bobby Drive	N/A
2023	09-Aug-23	Middletown	Particulate	NA	NA
2023	08-Aug-23	Middletown	Odor	Bendel Dr	NA
2023	04-Aug-23	Middletown	Particulate	Ottawa	Cleveland Cliffs
2023	31-Jul-23	Middletown	Odor	Ottawa	Cleveland Cliffs



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Year	Date	Locality	Pollutant	Street Name	Suspected Facility
2023	28-Jul-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew	Middletown Coke
2023	19-Jul-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew St	NA
2023	15-Jul-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew Street	SunCoke/Middletown Coke
2023	07-Jul-23	Middletown	Particulate	Elk Creek Rd	NA
2023	29-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew Street	NA
2023	25-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew Street	NA
2023	17-Jun-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca	NA
2023	15-Jun-23	Middletown	Particulate	Ottawa St	NA
2023	14-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Stone Ridge Lane	NA
2023	07-Jun-23	Middletown	Particulate	Ottawa St	NA
2023	07-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Stone Ridge Lane	NA
2023	07-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Ambergreen	Suncoke/Middletown Coke
2023	07-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Woodgate Court	NA
2023	07-Jun-23	Middletown	Odor	Hollytree Drive	Suncoke/Middletown Coke
2023	07-Jun-23	Monroe	Odor	Stone Ridge Lane	Suncoke/Middletown Coke
2023	05-Jun-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca	NA
2023	03-Jun-23	Middletown	Particulate	Seneca Street	NA
2023	02-Jun-23	Middletown	Particulate	Ottawa	NA
2023	02-Jun-23	Monroe	Particulate	Niederlander Lane	Middletown Coke Company
2023	26-May-23	Monroe	Odor	Hocking Meadow Circle	NA
2023	24-May-23	Middletown	Odor	Ottawa	NA
2023	24-May-23	Middletown	Other	Todhunter Road	Texas Eastern Pipeline - Todhunter Terminal
2023	13-May-23	Middletown	Odor	Niederlander Lane	NA
2023	12-May-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew Street	NA
2023	12-May-23	Middletown	Particulate		NA
2023	09-May-23	Middletown	Particulate	Ottawa	NA
2023	08-May-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrew St.	Middletown Coke Company



Year	Date	Locality	Pollutant	Street Name	Suspected Facility
2023	29-Apr-23	Middletown	Odor	NA	NA
2023	20-Apr-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrews St	NA
2023	15-Apr-23	Middletown	Open Burning		508 Regent Drive
2023	14-Apr-23	Middletown	Open Burning		3130 Yankee Rd
2023	12-Apr-23	Middletown	Odor	August Ave	NA
2023	31-Mar-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrews Street	NA
2023	15-Mar-23	Middletown	Particulate	Oxford State Rd	Stein
2023	09-Mar-23	Middletown	Fugitive Dust	Oxford State	Stein
2023	02-Mar-23	Middletown	Odor	Niederlander Lane	SunCoke
2023	01-Mar-23	Middletown	Fugitive Dust		Stein/TMS
2023	18-Feb-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrews St	NA
2023	16-Feb-23	Middletown	Odor	Andrews St	NA
2023	25-Jan-23	Monroe	Particulate	Lebanon	Sample material is mold
2023	19-Jan-23	Middletown	Fugitive Dust	Oxford State	Stein
2023	18-Jan-23	Monroe	Odor	Niederlander	NA
2023	10-Jan-23	Middletown	Fugitive Dust	Oxford Middletown	NA
2023	02-Jan-23	Middletown	Other	Yankee Road	NA

4-NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS from Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency for Middletown for 2023

NOV Date	Name	Premise Number	City	County	Discovery Date	Entry of NOV Stars	ROV / EAR	Notes (size)	Current Status
4/10/23	Middletown Coke Company	1409011031	Midtn	Butler	3/22/23	4/10/23	NOV	SO2 3 hour average and 24 hour	Resolution of Violation issued on 5/16/2023.
5/2/23	Rainbow Env. Services	Asbestos	Midtn	Butler	4/24/23	5/2/23	NOV/ROV	Failure to update notification project complete, last NOV 12/8/23	Notification updated on 4/27/2023. Violation resolved.
9/13/23	Stein	1409010908	Midtn	Butler	8/30/23	9/14/23	NOV	Recordkeeping violations, failure to submit reports	Local Findings & Orders will be issued.



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio
A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

NOV Date	Name	Premise Number	City	County	Discovery Date	Entry of NOV Stars	SharePoint	ROV / EAR	Notes (size)	Current Status
11/21/23	Stein	1409010908	Midtwn	Butler	11/21/23		11/21/23	NOV	Failure to submit PER	

2023 Ohio Annual Animal Exposures Survey

This survey will be used to estimate human rabies exposures by analyzing animal exposure events. We are no longer asking for data on post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and submission of data for "Other Domestic/Wild Animal Exposures" is optional. If you have already submitted your bite report, please re-submit the data using this survey. This is the only source of information collected that documents the work that Ohio local health departments do to protect residents from rabies. This data emphasizes the importance of continued surveillance and investigation of all potential rabies exposure events.

The survey will close at 5pm on March 1, 2024. There will be an option to save your responses as a PDF file at the end of the survey. A copy of your responses will also be emailed to you shortly after it has been completed.

If you need additional time, please contact the Zoonotic Disease Program at zoonoses@odh.ohio.gov.

Thank you!

Survey Instructions

[Attachment: "2023 Animal Bite Survey Directions.pdf"]

List health jurisdiction(s) covered	City of Middletown
Name of person completing form	Sarah Chaney
Position title (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Health commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental health director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanitarian or Sanitarian-in-training <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiologist <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Phone number	(513) 425-7849
E-mail address	sarahc@cityofmiddletown.org

2023 DOG EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from DOG, BITES	98
Number of human exposure events from DOG, NON-BITES	0
If "0", please choose one of the two choices:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no human exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to DOGS	0
If "0", please choose one of the two choices:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Total events, DOG	98
Total number of persons exposed, DOG	102

2023 CAT EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from CAT, BITES 14

Number of human exposure events from CAT, NON-BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to CATS 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no exposures
 We do not collect this information

Total events, CAT 14

Total number of persons exposed, CAT 14

2023 FERRET EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from FERRET, BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of human exposure events from FERRET, NON-BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to FERRETS 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no exposures
 We do not collect this information

Total events, FERRET 0

Total persons exposed, FERRET 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

2023 LIVESTOCK EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from LIVESTOCK, BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of human exposure events from LIVESTOCK, NON-BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to LIVESTOCK 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no exposures
 We do not collect this information

Total events, LIVESTOCK 0

Total persons exposed, LIVESTOCK 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

2023 RACCOON EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from RACCOON, BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of human exposure events from RACCOON, NON-BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to RACCOONS 1

Total events, RACCOON 1

Total persons exposed, RACCOON 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

2023 SKUNK EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from SKUNK, BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of human exposure events from SKUNK, NON-BITES 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:

There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to SKUNKS 0

If "0", please choose one of the two choices:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Total events, SKUNK	0
Total persons exposed, SKUNK	0
If "0", please choose one of the two choices:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no human exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information

2023 BAT EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from BAT, BITES	0
If "0", please choose one of the two choices:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no human exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Number of human exposure events from BAT, NON-BITES	1
Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposure to BATS	0
If "0", please choose one of the two choices:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Total events, BAT	1
Total persons exposed, BAT	1

[OPTIONAL] 2023 OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMAL EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS, BITES	0
If "0", please specify:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no human exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Number of human exposure events from OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS, NON-BITES	0
If "0", please specify:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no human exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposures to OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS	0
If "0", please specify:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information
Total events, OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS	0
Total persons exposed, OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS	0
If "0", please specify:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no human exposures <input type="radio"/> We do not collect this information

[OPTIONAL] 2023 OTHER WILD ANIMAL EXPOSURES

Number of human exposure events from OTHER WILD ANIMALS, BITES 0

If "0", please specify: There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of human exposure events from OTHER WILD ANIMALS, NON-BITES 0

If "0", please specify: There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

Number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) from exposures to OTHER WILD ANIMALS 0

If "0", please specify: There were no exposures
 We do not collect this information

Total events, OTHER WILD ANIMALS 0

Total persons exposed, OTHER WILD ANIMALS 0

If "0", please specify: There were no human exposures
 We do not collect this information

2023 TOTALS**(DOES NOT INCLUDE OPTIONAL REPORTING COUNTS)**

Total number of BITES 112

Total number of NON-BITES 1

Total number of OTHER EVENTS (ANIMALS) 1

Total number of PERSONS EXPOSED 117

Butler County OneOhio
Local Governance Board
January 4, 2024
MINUTES

In Attendance:

Dr. Scott Rasmus, Chair, BCMHARSB
Cindy Carpenter, BC Commissioner
Neil Cohen, Cohen Recycling
Lynda O'Connor, Lakota School Board
Jackie Phillips-Carter, Middletown Health Commissioner
Major Mike Craft, BC Sheriff's Office
Gary Salmon, Township Association
Stephanie Harris, Secretary, Volunteer

Called to Order 1:08 p.m.

- The December 4 minutes were reviewed
 - A motion was made by Cindy Carpenter and Seconded by Lynda O'Connor to approve the minutes with changes discussed
 - All in favor, motion carried
- RFP – Next Steps
 - Submit to County Administrator for Commissioners' consideration
 - Dr. Rasmus will set up meeting with County Administrator Boyko to submit
 - Continued discussion on the role of the MHARS Board
 - If the RFP comes out of the Commissioners' office, it will then go to the MHARS Board for evaluation
 - \$1.3 million in OneOhio funds are in the bank at the County
 - Quality Assurance – good outcomes with chosen projects
 - Pursuant to Dan Ferguson, we must choose five different categories of projects
 - Dr. Rasmus will set up meeting with him for further clarification and discussion
 - Possibility of holding a press conference when we issue RFP
- Region 14 Meeting
 - Will be held January 23, 2024, in person in Lebanon, Ohio
 - The OneOhio Foundation will be developing RFP process and hiring positions moving forward
 - Mayor Moeller sent a letter to the Foundation regarding being top-heavy administratively
 - Dr. Rasmus will be attempting to connect with Gretta Mayer
 - Formula – waiting to see what the state is doing with distribution

- News Article
 - A Miami student reached out to Dr. Rasmus to do an interview regarding OneOhio Settlement Funds, which was published in Miami's Political Review
- Project Evaluation
 - Dr. Rasmus has rubric for our county, which has been edited and will be forwarded to County Administrator Boyko
 - From the original MOU, funds can be used for all types of addiction, not just opioids
- Our next meeting will be held on February 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' conference room
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Harris

ONEOHIO REGIONAL FUND BALANCES

As of April 30, 2023



SUMMARY

In late March 2023, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation received its first opioid settlement payments from three different defendant groups, totaling more than \$58 million. At its April meeting, the Board of Directors approved allocations for the first round of settlement payments received, which set aside more than \$51 million for region project grants. All regional allocations below include a portion of the Year 1 & Year 2 Distributor settlement payments and the Year 1 & Year 2 Janssen/J&J settlement payments, which totaled \$34,648,406 and \$20,045,814, respectively. The table below outlines current OneOhio regional fund balances based on the Regional Share percentage established in the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding.

OneOhio Region	MOU Regional Share %*	Distributor Settlement Allocation	Janssen/J&J Settlement Allocation	Current Regional Fund Balance
REGION 1	11.352740%	\$3,681,827.78	\$2,130,119.26	\$5,811,947.04
REGION 2	9.376910%	\$3,041,042.78	\$1,759,393.49	\$4,800,436.27
REGION 3	3.685690%	\$1,195,312.95	\$691,547.59	\$1,886,860.54
REGION 4	4.702820%	\$1,525,180.22	\$882,392.10	\$2,407,572.32
REGION 5	2.145470%	\$695,801.42	\$402,555.50	\$1,098,356.92
REGION 6	2.697630%	\$874,873.43	\$506,157.50	\$1,381,030.93
REGION 7	5.628690%	\$1,825,450.79	\$1,056,113.46	\$2,881,564.25
REGION 8	8.196580%	\$2,658,247.83	\$1,537,927.70	\$4,196,175.53
REGION 9	5.373750%	\$1,742,770.74	\$1,008,278.97	\$2,751,049.71
REGION 10	2.787170%	\$903,912.31	\$522,957.93	\$1,426,870.23
REGION 11	3.269990%	\$1,060,496.53	\$613,549.64	\$1,674,046.17
REGION 12	2.257740%	\$732,211.91	\$423,620.76	\$1,155,832.67
REGION 13	4.840720%	\$1,569,902.81	\$908,266.34	\$2,478,169.15
REGION 14	14.030320%	\$4,550,198.59	\$2,632,514.65	\$7,182,713.25
REGION 15	3.762910%	\$1,220,356.31	\$706,036.41	\$1,926,392.72
REGION 16	1.282540%	\$415,943.03	\$240,643.60	\$656,586.63
REGION 17	3.142490%	\$1,019,146.78	\$589,626.76	\$1,608,773.54
REGION 18	4.671380%	\$1,514,983.85	\$876,493.00	\$2,391,476.86
REGION 19	6.794450%	\$2,203,520.52	\$1,274,845.48	\$3,478,366.00
TOTAL	100.0%	\$32,431,180.57	\$18,763,040.15	\$51,194,220.72

*Cuyahoga and Summit counties are not eligible to receive OneOhio Recovery Foundation funds from the distributor settlement and the Janssen/J&J settlement because they settled with the defendant groups before the national settlement was reached. The Regional Share calculations above have been adjusted to remove Cuyahoga Co.'s percentage from Region 3 and Summit Co.'s percentage from Region 5, with the new total reallocated across the remaining regions. Organizations within Cuyahoga and Summit counties may apply for Foundation funds.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY CALENDAR



2024

January



Meetings

Amanda Community Ambassador Meeting-

January 25 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

February

Meetings

Park Board Meeting-

Monday, February 12 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Wildwood Community Ambassador and Partner Meeting-

Thursday, Feb. 22 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Amanda Community Ambassador and Partner Meeting-

Thursday, Feb. 29 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Rosa Parks Community Ambassador @ Bethlehem Lutheran-

Monday, Feb. 19 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

March

Meetings

Wildwood Community Bus Tour-

Thursday, Mar. 21 from 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Amanda Community Bus Tour-

Thursday, Mar. 21 from 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Rosa Parks Community Ambassador @ Bethlehem Lutheran-

Monday, Mar. 18 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

April

Meetings

Wildwood Community Walk-N-Talk-

Saturday, Apr. 20 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Amanda Community Walk-N Talk-

Saturday, Apr. 27 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Rosa Parks Combined Community Ambassador with HIP (Partners) @ Miami University Middletown-

Wednesday, Apr. 17 from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

May

Meetings

Wildwood Community Ambassador Meeting-

Thursday, May 16 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Amanda Community Ambassador Meeting-

Thursday, May 23 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

June



Events

Youth Summit-

June 7 @Miami University Middletown

TBD:

Community Clean Ups

Community Celebration

Ambassador Trainings

MONTHLY



Meetings

School Board Meetings-
Second Mondays

City Council Meetings-
Second Tuesdays

Wildwood Meetings are @Wildwood Elementary

Amanda Meetings are @Amanda Elementary

Community

Restoration

Pride

Connection

Health

Engagement

Neighborhood

diversity, equity & inclusion:

A Call to Action

On April 12th, 19th, 26th and May 3rd, The City of Middletown Health Department staff will attend “The Diversity Workshops”, facilitated by Dr. Bennyce E. Hamilton. This training will be funded through the Workforce Development Grant awarded by the state. The training is designed to help staff expand their knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion and gain a deeper understanding of unconscious bias and its impact in order to better interact with the community which they serve.

The DEI workshops will be presented in four parts:

- Introduction to Diversity -we will look at what diversity really entails and address the misconceptions about the word.
- Bias (in its many forms) in the Workplace -we will examine different forms of bias, how and when it shows up, and ways to address it when it does show up;

- Blind Spots: Awareness and Mitigation -Blind spots occur when we allow our emotions and thoughts (usually unconscious) to influence or result in behaviors that can be harmful to us or others. When we become aware of their existence then we can mitigate them and their effects;
- Belonging -Belonging takes place when people have a sense of being secure, recognized, affirmed, and accepted equally such that full participation is possible. We will examine a variety of ways to create that for all residents in the Middletown Health Department.

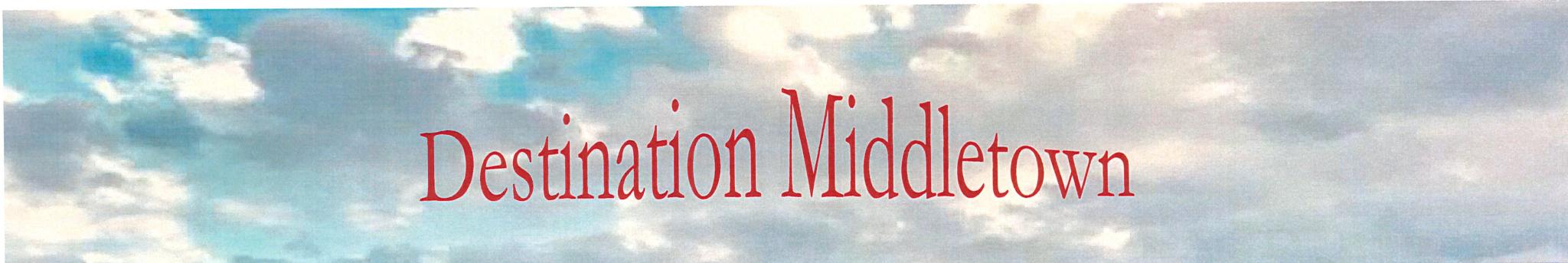
Upon completion, participants will:

- Understand the lenses through which you see and experience the world, and how those lenses can be tinged with unconscious, implicit bias.
- Have an increased understanding of power dynamics and privilege, and the barriers they create for full participation.
- Be able to identify implicit bias and micro aggressions when they play out in real life, and how to begin the work of interrupting them.
- Have an increased sense of their own biases and a plan for continued self-education.
- Better understand the challenges you face in recruitment and retention of marginalized members.
- Understand how you will contribute to an inclusive environment that opens doors to full participation.

Facilitator Biography:

Dr. Bennyce Hamilton is the Regional Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Miami University. There she coordinates educational, cultural, and social programs for faculty, staff, students and community members. As Title IX coordinator she is the first responder for victims of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, sexual harassment and stalking for the regional campuses.

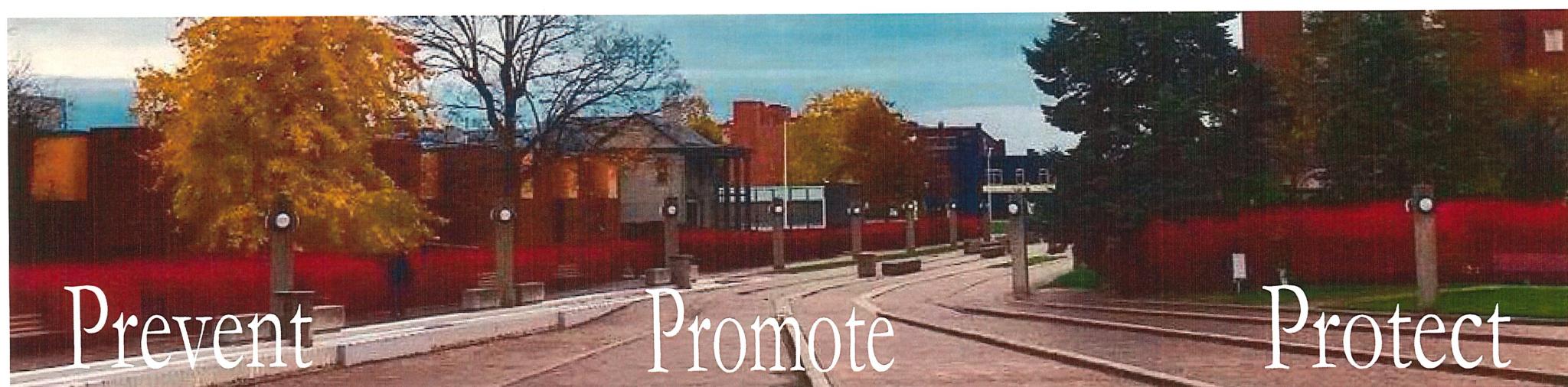




Destination Middletown



CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2024 GOALS



Prevent

Promote

Protect

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Expand the City of Middletown public health workforce to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Hire two team members to fill existing openings (administrative and environmental) and hire at least one bi-lingual administrative team member.

Current budgeting and grant funding supports the hiring and expansion of our public health workforce to meet the needs of today and the future.

Workforce Development Grant 2023-2027.

Q1



Middletown
CONNECT

Connecting for Better Health!



Engage and Connect with our residents in the Wildwood/Amanda areas with our second Walk &Talk.

Overcome barriers that prevent youth, families and individuals from getting health care in a timely manner. Support faith-based resource networks strive to improve park grounds, access to fresh food and an increase in feelings of overall safety in our communities.

Proactively lead change by addressing the root causes of health inequities and shaping programs, policies and practices to drive substantial improvements in health care and access to care.

A core team of representatives working directly with system leaders and residents.

Q2

WALK WITH A DOC

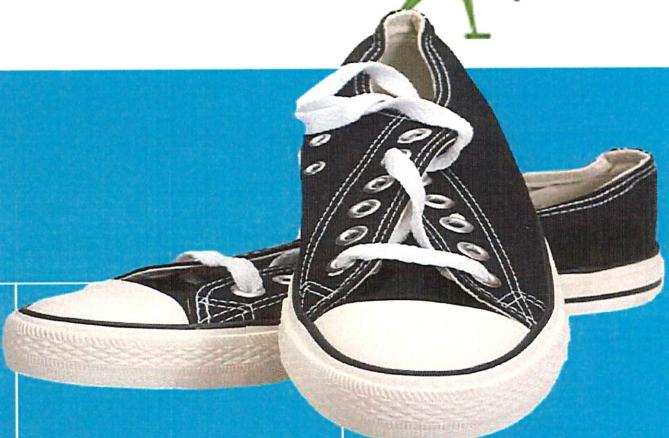


Inspiring our community through movement and conversation. With the goal to make health and happiness accessible to everyone with our first Walk with a Doc.

This is a simple and sustainable program. It is our goal ensure that individuals from every background and identity feel welcomed, encouraged, and appreciated.

We commit to continually working to identify, acknowledge, and dismantle inequities in our community to ensure change is made and those who feel underserved and marginalized have equal opportunities.

Local doctors, healthcare providers and/or medical students in partnership with Middletown Connect.



Q3

ELIMINATION OF HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Healthy communities is much more than what we think, it is:
- Mental stability
- Spiritual
- Physical
- Economic
- Education
- Safety
- Security
- Connectivity.....
 - And so much more



RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS

THRIVING ECONOMY

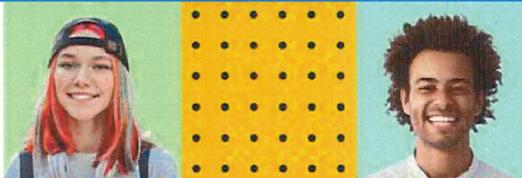
HEALTH AND SAFE LIVING

STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY

EDUCATION-RELATED ACTIONS

+
Our
Future
Health



Destination Middletown Comprehensive Plan

A.1, A.2,A.3,A.4

A.12,A.15,B.7,C.1,C.2,C.3,C.4,C.5,C.6,C.7,C.8,C.10,C.12,C.15,D.2,E.8,F.1F.3

Achieving health equity by valuing everyone equally. Address avoidable inequalities, historical & present injustices.

Work toward establishing neighborhood food security ie stores or outlets in target neighborhoods that to increased access to healthy foods

Establish neighborhood business/retail relationships to increase access to healthy foods

Middletown Connect & Destination Middletown

Q4

2024 PIT COUNT

JANUARY 23, 2024 INTO JANUARY 24, 2024

Meeting Place: 2052 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011

New Training: 1/23/2024 @ 7:30 PM

Meet Time: 7:45 PM

Start Time: 8:00 PM

Goal End Time: 1:00 AM

Counting Us App., will be used for the count. If anyone would like to set up an account to assist your team please go to <https://countingus/> and the set up key is OHBOS2024. If you know of an area that needs added please drop a pin on the app so we can ensure that no camp goes uncounted.

I am looking for teams of four together for the night of count, which will allow each team to cover a quadrant of the county. There are two to three shelters that are not in the HMIS system that will be covered this year also instead of trying to gather the data the day after. I am also looking for one or two volunteers to start reaching out to local schools to see if we can gather data on homeless teens in the area and or families living in a hotels.

Blessing bag donations are greatly appreciated.

Contact

Alexis McKee: amckee@communityhealthalliance.com

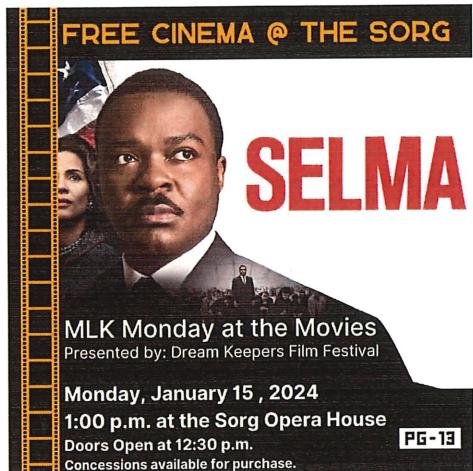
Cell: (513)883-4181

Greetings,

You are invited to join **Dream Keepers Film Festival Group** for our inaugural film highlighting the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The MLK Monday at the Movies event is on January 15th at 1:00 pm. This event is **FREE** and will be held at the Sorg Opera House in Middletown.

The Dream Keepers Film Festival Group was formed by people with a shared interest in learning from the past while looking to the future. Though we seek to one day visit historical landmarks, progress starts at home.

Loving “thy neighbor” has always been a complex challenge. Dream Keepers seek to confront this challenge through film. “Now more than ever we need to talk to each other, to listen to each other and understand how we see the world, and cinema is the best medium for doing this” (Martin Scorsese). So, it is through film and discussion that we will do the work to make loving “thy neighbor” a reality.



Please share this invitation with your neighbor!

With Warmth,

The Dream Keepers Film Festival Group

“The hero generally gains little or no reward for his sacrifice — it is the community that gains.” ~ Howard Suber

Thank you to our sponsors: Community Building Institute (CBI), MAMA, NAACP, Middletown Connect, and friends of the Dream Keepers Film Festival Group.

Total Eclipse

APRIL 8, 2024

ECLIPSE INFORMATION FOR FUNERAL HOMES

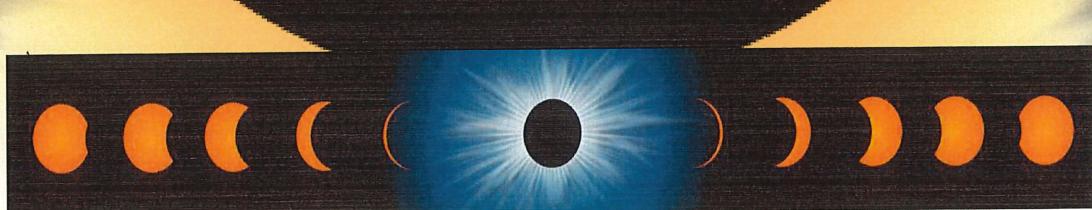
On Monday, April 8, 2024, at roughly 3 PM, people within Montgomery County as well as the surrounding Miami Valley will experience a total solar eclipse. Totality (darkness) will last between 2 to 4 minutes. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099. *It's expected that this event will bring large numbers of individuals into our area.*

What is the concern?

- Large crowds are expected to show up for a once-in-a-lifetime event.
- A previous eclipse in the USA (2017) had more than 5 million people show up.
- Expected traffic jams could last up to 13 hours after the eclipse.
- Rural roads may see increased traffic with drivers unfamiliar with local road conditions and may travel at a high rate of speed. Please be aware of children and pets.
- The possibility for cell phones and Wi-Fi to be significantly impacted.

Expectations/Planning Preparation

- Never look directly at the sun, including during an eclipse.
- Consider blocking out funerals on April 8th, especially in the afternoon.
- Expect employees to have long delays driving to and from work.

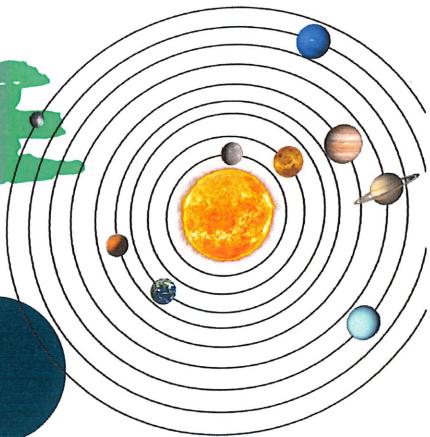




Total Eclipse

APRIL 8, 2024

ECLIPSE INFORMATION For Schools



On Monday, April 8, 2024, at roughly 3 PM, people within Middletown as well as the surrounding Counties will experience a total solar eclipse!

Totality (darkness) will last between 2 to 4 minutes. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099!

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- Expected traffic jams could last up to 13 hours after the eclipse.
- Rural roads may see increased traffic with drivers unfamiliar with local road conditions and may travel at a high rate of speed. Please be aware of children and pets.
- The possibility for cell phones and Wi-Fi to be significantly impacted.

Expectations, Planning & Preparation

- Travel with water, medications and other needed supplies in case you encounter an extended delay on the roadways.
- Begin the day with a fully charged mobile phone and carry extra power devices.
- Never look directly at the sun, including during an eclipse!
- Use eclipse glasses that meet ISO 12312-2 standards.
- Expect up to 3-4 hour delays for bus runs in the afternoon.
- Avoid field trips on the day of the event, especially in the afternoon.
- Expect delays in parents picking up kids due to traffic.
- Expect employees to have long delays driving to and from work.





SAFE VIEWING OF A SOLAR ECLIPSE

The next total solar eclipse will cross North America on **April 8, 2024!** Eclipses are a unique opportunity for observation and science. If you get a chance to see it, make sure to take care of your vision during the eclipse.



IS STARING AT THE SUN BAD FOR YOUR EYES?

Yes. Watching a solar eclipse is a memorable experience, but looking directly at the sun can seriously damage your eyes. Staring at the sun for even a short time without wearing the right eye protection can damage your retina permanently. It can even cause blindness, called solar retinopathy. Ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, or homemade filters are not safe for looking at the sun.



HOW TO SAFELY WATCH A SOLAR ECLIPSE:

Eclipse glasses can be used to watch a solar eclipse safely. They must meet a very specific worldwide standard known as ISO 12312-2. There have been reports that some companies are selling counterfeit products labeled as if they conform to international safety standards (ISO). Do not search for eclipse glasses on the internet and buy whatever pops up in the ads or search results. Check the [American Astronomical Society list of reputable vendors](#) whose products conform to ISO standards and buy from one of them.

How do I use ISO approved eclipse glasses to protect my eyes?



Carefully look at your eclipse glasses before using them. If you see any scratches or damage, do not use them, as they will not protect your eyes.



Help children to use eclipse glasses correctly. If you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on and put your eclipse glasses on over them.



Eclipse glasses should first be used to look at a lamp or light bulb, to ensure that it can't be seen. Only the sun should be visible through genuine eclipse glasses.



Before looking up at the bright sun, cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses. After glancing at the sun, turn away and remove your filter—do not remove it while looking at the sun.



The only time that you can look at the sun without eclipse glasses safely is during the moment of total eclipse. As the moon covers the last 1% of the sun over the course of a minute or so, daylight fades by 10,000 times. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, "when the moon completely covers the sun's bright face and it suddenly gets dark, you can remove your solar filter to watch this unique experience. Then, as soon as the bright sun begins to reappear very slightly, immediately use your solar viewer (eclipse glasses) again to watch the remaining partial phase of the eclipse".

I don't have eclipse glasses. Are there other ways to safely view the solar eclipse?

Another way to see the eclipse is through a pinhole projection or video display. A pinhole viewer lets you project an image of the sun onto another surface, like paper, a wall or pavement. The image of the sun is safe to look at throughout the eclipse. [Learn how to make a pinhole projector](#) or shop for one of these safe-viewing devices. The eclipse can also be viewed on the web, on social media, on NASA apps, and on YouTube <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/livestreams>.

Can I look at the solar eclipse through unfiltered binoculars or take a photo with my unfiltered cellphone camera?

No, even if you are wearing eclipse glasses or holding a solar viewer over your eyes at the same time, the intense solar rays coming through unfiltered camera, telescope, or binoculars will damage the solar filter and your eyes. Never look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other similar devices. A special solar filter must be attached to the front of your telescope, binoculars, or camera lens. Talk with an expert astronomer if you want to use a special solar filter with a camera, a telescope, or binoculars.

How do I know if I damaged my eyes during the eclipse?

If your eyes feel a little funny after an eclipse, it may not be a sign of solar retinopathy. Damage from the eclipse is unlikely to cause pain or discomfort in your eyes because the retina does not have any pain nerves. Instead, you would notice visual symptoms within four to six hours. But some may notice symptoms after 12 hours.



What are the symptoms of eye damage from an eclipse?



Blurry vision



Headache



A blind spot in your central vision in one or both eyes



Increased sensitivity to light



Altered color vision



Distorted vision, in which a straight line looks bent, or a door jamb looks curvy

What should I do if I experience eye symptoms and I am concerned that I may have eye damage?

It is important to see your ophthalmologist (eye doctor) if you experience difficulties with your vision. An ophthalmologist will take a scan of the eye to see the extent of any damage. There is no treatment for solar retinopathy. Many people recover after three to six months, but some will suffer from permanent vision loss, in the form of a small blind spot and distortion.

Is it safe to clean eclipse glasses?

Eclipse glasses may be wiped clean with any soft, nonabrasive microfiber cloth. Baby wipes and other wet wipes are not suitable. Cardboard must be kept dry; if it gets wet, it will swell and likely detach from the lenses. Do not use water, glass cleaner, or any other solvents or liquids to clean cardboard eclipse glasses.

Total Eclipse

APRIL 8, 2024

ECLIPSE INFORMATION Nursing Homes



On Monday, April 8, 2024, at roughly 3 PM, people within Middletown as well as the surrounding Counties will experience a total solar eclipse!

Totality (darkness) will last between 2 to 4 minutes. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099!

It's expected that this event will bring large numbers of individuals into our area.

What is the concern?

- Large crowds are expected to show up for a once-in-a-lifetime event.
- A previous eclipse in the USA (2017) had more than 5 million people show up.
- Expected traffic jams could last up to 13 hours after the eclipse.
- Rural roads may see increased traffic with drivers unfamiliar with local road conditions and may travel at a high rate of speed. Please be aware of children and pets.
- The possibility for cell phones and Wi-Fi to be significantly impacted.

Expectations, Planning & Preparation

- Travel with water, medications and other needed supplies in case you encounter an extended delay on the roadways.
- Begin the day with a fully charged mobile phone and carry extra power devices.
- Never look directly at the sun, including during an eclipse!
- Use eclipse glasses that meet ISO 12312-2 standards.
- Avoid field trips on the day of the event, especially in the afternoon.
- Expect employees to have long delays driving to and from work.



Ohio among top 10 worst states in the U.S. for worst health in Forbes study

CLOSER LOOK

By **Gretchen Cuda Kroen** - Advance Ohio Media

January 27, 2024

CLEVELAND — A recent Forbes Advisor study has found that when comparing 21 health metrics across 50 states, Ohio ranks ninth from the bottom. That's right.

Ohio made the top 10 list for having the worst health.

The metrics fell into three categories: disease risk factors and prevalence, substance abuse, and lifestyle habits and health outlook.

Given that Ohio has some amazing medical centers and some of the best health care in the world, it's worth having a look at what the worst performing states have in common, to see where Ohio is missing the mark.

Contributing largely to Ohio's low rankings were smoking and drugs.

An estimated 20% of Ohioans are smokers, putting the Buckeye State fifth worst on the smoking list. In addition, Ohio takes the No. 5 spot for most addicted states, including cigarettes, vaping, alcohol and illicit drugs.

West Virginia was the least healthy state, followed by Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Kentucky.

Smoking, obesity, diabetes, cancer and opioid overdose deaths all tended to be higher in the states with the worst health.

For example, West Virginia is home to the highest percentage of adults who smoke (21%) and the highest percentage of obese adults (41%). The state also has the highest rate of both diabetes deaths and drug overdose deaths.

Mississippi residents on the other hand have the highest rate of hypertension (43.9% of adults) and the shortest life expectancy (73.63 years). The Magnolia State also has the highest rate of deaths caused by cancer, hypertension, kidney disease and stroke.

It's also worth noting that eight of the top 10 least healthy states are in the South: West Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Ohio and neighboring Indiana are the exceptions.

Hawaii took the tops spot as the state with the healthiest residents, followed by Utah, Connecticut, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Colorado, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Washington, New York and Idaho.

Although many factors negatively impact overall health, smoking and other addictive behaviors certainly play a big role.

Using national data from the Wisconsin Public Health Institute's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a team from Universal Drugstore analyzed the percentage of adult smokers, excessive drinkers, illicit drug users and e-cigarette users in each state to reveal where in the US is most affected by common addictive substances.

It turns out, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Arkansas have the highest percentages of smokers in their states — just ahead of Ohio — and they also have some of the worst health.

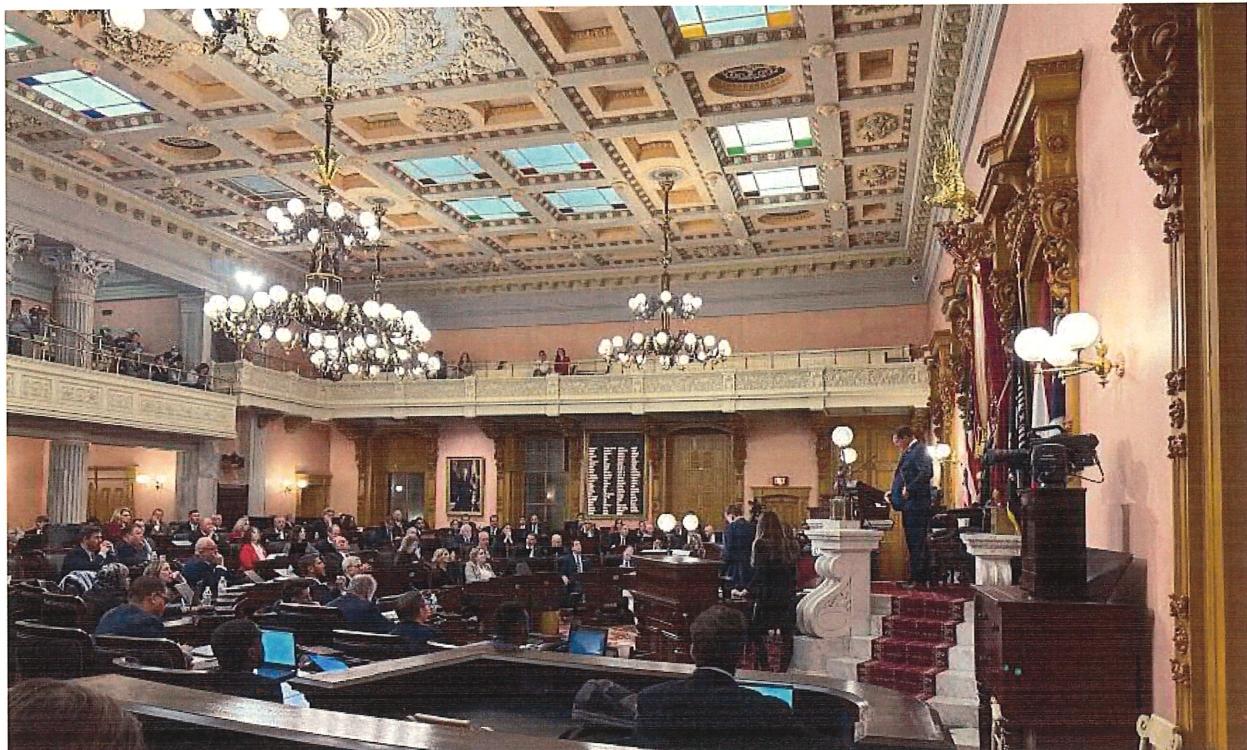
In fact, nine out of top 10 states with the worst health are also in the top

10 states with the highest number of smokers.

By comparison, a mere 12% of the residents of Hawaii smoke, 8% smoke in Utah, 13% in Connecticut, 14% in Minnesota, and 11% in Massachusetts — all well below the U.S. national of 16%.

House Republicans override veto of ban on Ohio communities from banning flavored tobacco sales

The Statehouse News Bureau | authorBy [Karen Kasler](#)
publishedDateHeading December 14, 2023 at 1:26 AM EST



The Ohio House votes to override a veto of a ban on communities banning flavored tobacco on Dec. 13, 2023

After a few weeks of wrangling for the needed 3/5 majority, Republicans in the House have overridden a veto on a provision in the state budget that prohibited communities from banning sales of flavored tobacco. It now goes to the Senate.

It's further fueling the debate about uniform rules for businesses versus the home rule power of local governments.

Four Republicans joined all Democrats in voting against the override. Supporters of the veto have said it's about protecting kids from flavored tobacco and vapes, which can taste like candy. House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) is concerned about taking power away from communities on some issues and not others.

"I think anytime we're talking about the preemption issue, we are violating home rule and Ohio as a home rule state. And I think that is something that we should protect as much as possible," Russo said. "And this is just one more example, I think, of the folks here in Columbus thinking that they know best for communities and cities and putting themselves in front of what our local officials—they are on the ground, they are hearing from constituents and then being able to adapt to the needs of those their communities and their constituents."

Republicans have approved bills that ban communities from banning plastic bags, and have banned cities from using traffic cameras except under strict conditions. A Republican-proposed bill to make changes to Ohio's new recreational marijuana law would allow communities to ban pot sales. And a court fight continues over whether communities can make laws on guns that are stricter than state laws.

But Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) has said it's about fairness to businesses and referenced that proposal that would allow communities to ban sales of marijuana.

"It's kind of similar to the marijuana—how do you protect children from these types of things that you don't want them to be able to buy and all of that sort of thing? I think the best way to do it is from a statewide perspective," Stephens said.

This is the second veto of this proposal from Gov. Mike DeWine, who [struck a bill banning local bans](#) of flavored tobacco in January and then vetoed the provision when it was [added to the state budget](#) in July. DeWine has suggested a statewide ban, but that hasn't been proposed.

Ohio Legislature puts tobacco control in the state's hands after DeWine's veto

The new law will take effect in roughly 90 days, though it's not yet clear how that could affect local governments that have any stricter tobacco rules in place.

Author: Associated Press

Published: 5:36 PM EST January 24, 2024

Updated: 5:54 PM EST January 24, 2024

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Local governments in Ohio can no longer regulate tobacco in their communities after the Republican Legislature overrode on Wednesday GOP Gov. Mike DeWine's veto [of a budget measure](#) that puts regulation instead in the hands of the state.

The measure, [vetoed in 2022](#) before reappearing in the state budget, says regulating tobacco and alternative nicotine products should be up to the state, not municipalities. It also prevents communities from voting to restrict things like flavored e-cigarettes and sales of flavored vaping products.

The new law will take effect in roughly 90 days, though it's not yet clear how that could affect local governments that have any stricter tobacco rules in place.

Lawmakers passed the 2022 legislation days after Ohio's capital city, Columbus, cleared its bans on the sale of flavored tobacco and menthol tobacco products, which would have been enacted in early 2024. Toledo and Beckley have similar bans.

Anti-tobacco advocates, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and DeWine himself harshly criticized the override as a win for the tobacco industry, saying it enables addiction in children as tobacco and vaping

products made with fruit or candy flavors becomes more popular and accessible to kids.

Opponents of the measure also say it violates Ohio's home rule provision, which allows local governments to create their own ordinances as long as they do not interfere with the state's revised code.

Those against the measure have also expressed fear that it will wipe out other local tobacco restrictions entirely. Leo Almeida, government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, told The Associated Press that, as written, the law is too broad.

"Taking local control away from the people who are trying to improve public health is a big mistake," Almeida said.

Senate President Matt Huffman said Wednesday that legislators have carefully reviewed the language with the Legislative Service Commission, a nonpartisan agency that drafts bills for the General Assembly and don't believe it impacts all possible tobacco restrictions local governments could pass.

Proponents of the measure tout it as a way to maintain uniformity for tobacco laws and eliminate confusion for Ohioans. They argue the state should have control rather than communities because restrictions on the products would affect state income as a whole.

DeWine has maintained that the best way to ensure uniformity in these laws would be a statewide ban on flavored tobacco.

At least two states, California and Massachusetts, have passed statewide bans on selling all flavored tobacco products.

House overrides DeWine veto of H.B. 68

Gender affirming care for minors blocked by GOP supermajority.



Rep. Jena Powell, R-Arcanum, speaks in support of overriding Gov. Mike DeWine's veto Wednesday. "It's an exciting day here in the state of Ohio," she said after the vote. Avery Kreemer / Staff

BY Avery Kreemer - STAFF WRITER

A GOP supermajority in the Ohio House voted Wednesday to override Gov. Mike DeWine's veto on a bill that would block transgender minors from undergoing hormone treatments and receiving gender affirming surgeries.

The bill would also forbid transgender girls from participating in girls' and women's school sports.

The 65-28 vote was more than enough to clear the three-fifths bar required to override a veto.

The motion now heads to the Senate, which doesn't meet again until late January.

If enacted, the Save Adolescents From Experimentation Act would disallow common gender affirming care treatments. Those treatments include hormones to stave off the effects of puberty; masculinizing or feminizing hormones to reverse the effects of puberty; and gender affirming surgeries including genital reconstruction (known as “bottom” surgery) and double mastectomies or breast enhancements (known as “top” surgery).

The law does contain a provision to allow minors already undergoing medical care to continue their hormone treatments.

Wednesday's proceedings — the third time the House voted overwhelmingly to approve House Bill 68 — displayed a significant disconnect between Ohio's Republican governor and its Republican-dominated legislature.

At the tail end of 2023, DeWine defended his veto saying that hormone treatments have saved the lives of minors in the state and should be allowed to continue.

He later moved to ban gender affirming surgeries on minors and set standards on gender affirming care through executive order that advocates have suggested would greatly limit the accessibility of care.

The bill's primary sponsor Rep. Gary Click, R-Vickery, a Baptist pastor in northern Ohio, said he was upset when DeWine used the term “gender affirming care.” The lawmaker called it a “superstitious slogan.”

"It teaches that there is some gender that is distinct from your sex," Click said on the House floor. "There's no science to prove that; there's no blood tests, there's no DNA tests, it's just someone who comes in and tells you that you have to accept it as real."

House Democrats reiterated their staunch opposition to the bill, largely on the grounds that they believe it would take away from parental rights and that it would negatively impact transgender minors who, if the bill were to go into effect, will be blocked from beginning their medical transition at a young age.

"H.B. 68 is a bill that will lead to an increase of deaths and an increase in families having to leave Ohio to give their kids the best care possible," said Rep. Anita Soman, D-Dublin, an OBGYN for over 30 years.

The bill also contains the Save Women's Sports Act, which blocks transgender girls from participating in women's and girls' scholastic sports — an initiative House Republicans believe is essential to protect women athletes and their opportunity, while chamber Democrats believe is needlessly exclusionary.

Local Rep. Jena Powell, R-Arcanum, said she has worked for years to get the legislation through.

"It's an exciting day here in the state of Ohio. We've been working a very long time on this crucial piece of legislation," Powell told this news organization. "We're really excited for Ohioans and our hope is that the Senate takes it up very quickly and passes it so Ohioans can be protected."

House bill would up fines for underage tobacco sales

Hamilton lawmaker: Legislation borne of vape usage concern.



The Ohio House on Wednesday approved House Bill 258, which would increase fines for repeatedly selling tobacco products to minors and apply the public nuisance law to places where such sales occur.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY AVERY KREEMER - STAFF WRITER

TOP STATE STORY

The Ohio House voted 80-6 Wednesday to approve a bill that would raise the punitive fines for repeatedly selling tobacco products to Ohioans under the age of 21.

Bill sponsor Rep. Sara Carruthers, R-Hamilton, told this news organization that the bill was borne out of her concern over the high prevalence of nicotine vape usage among underage students, a worry shared by law enforcement and school officials within her district.

"You can find (vapes or cartridges) in any school, in the bushes, you can find them in the bathrooms, you can find them anywhere," Carruthers said. "One of the schools had a plumber come out at least once a week because kids were flushing (vape) cartridges down the toilet, which was costly to the school."

Current law sets the fine for improperly selling tobacco products to underage customers at "up to" \$250, which scales to "up to" \$500 by the third violation.

According to a bipartisan analysis of the proposal, House Bill 258 would mandate a minimum fine of \$250 for first violation; a fine "up to" \$500 for the second; a mandatory \$500 fine for the third; a mandatory \$1,000 fine for the fourth and a mandatory \$1,500 fine for the fifth.

Carruthers said current law doesn't do enough to incentivize business owners to verify customers' age.

"(Shops) are being penalized, it's just a very low penalty and they're just kind of laughing it off," the Butler County Republican said.

Talawanada High School Principal Scott Davie attested in committee that teen use of vapes during school hours has become a pertinent issue. According to him, it's driven some districts to invest in "vape detectors" and more security personnel, but in tight-budget districts like his, it's fallen on existing teachers and staff to confiscate the devices.

“Although we are actively implementing proactive measures — enforcing regulations, redirecting our disciplinary approach, and exploring cost-effective solutions — these efforts predominantly focus on the enduser and fall short of addressing the issue at its root: the point of sale,” Davie told the House Civil Justice Committee last November.

With its passage, the bill now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

With frigid temperatures expected, Butler Co. homeless shelters make adjustments

SHALOM seeking lunch providers, chaperones Sunday through Wednesday.



Serving Homeless Alternate Lodging of Middletown (SHALOM) in December 2019.

SHALOM has operated locally since its founding in 2002.
CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

Butler County homeless shelters, with frigid temperatures predicted for the next several days, are making adjustments in hopes of keeping those living on the streets safe.

Homelessness remains a much-debated and expensive problem in the county as agencies and local police departments continue searching for solutions.

On a given night last year, there were 10,654 homeless people in Ohio, according to the HUD's 2022 report. Of those, 3,214 were families with children, 703 were unaccompanied homeless youth and 633 were veterans.

One shelter in Middletown is allowing residents to spend the day inside and one in Hamilton group has opened its "cold shelter" that's used when temperatures drop below 32 degrees.

A church-based homeless agency in Middletown is allowing those being served to remain inside in the coming days as frigid temperatures are expected.

Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging Of Middletown (SHALOM) is seeking volunteer assistance in serving current guests from Sunday through Wednesday, according to Bill Fugate, volunteer coordinator.

Fugate said SHALOM has received the "blessing" of Pastor Damon Curtis at Tytus Avenue Church of God to allow the homeless to stay in the church all day. Typically, the homeless are transported from the host church back to SHALOM's office at First United Methodist Church, 120 S. Broad St., every day at 8 a.m.

SHALOM is seeking individuals or groups to provide and serve a lunch meal on these days, Fugate said. The group also is in need of chaperones to volunteer from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. during these days.

The lunch meals can be as simple as soup and sandwiches or anything else of your choice, Fugate said.

For more information, contact SHALOM at shalomhomeless@gmail.com or 937-304-5175.

SHALOM has operated in Middletown since it was founded by Roy and Pat Ickes in 2002.

It receives no government assistance and averages about 35 clients a night, Fugate said.

Serve City in Hamilton offers 50 beds, 37 for men, 13 for women and they're "consistency full," said Executive Director Tammi Ector.

It also offers 20 beds designated for the "cold shelter" that opens when temperatures drop below freezing, she said.

Bobby Grove, executive director of Haven House in Hamilton, said since his agency houses families, the number of residents remains the same throughout the year. He doesn't expect to see an increase this winter.

Haven House has 122 bed spaces, but because families aren't placed in the same sleeping area, the capacity typically can be much smaller, he said. Grove said before COVID-19, Haven House averaged 20 to 25 residents a night, a number that has jumped to 33.

Hope House's two missions, a men's and women's shelter in Middletown, expect to see an increased demand for lodging during the winter, said Tim Williams, executive director.

Hope House's men's facility, 1001 Grove St., includes a 50-bed emergency shelter, administrative offices, additional counseling and case management offices, meeting spaces, a chapel, a recreation room, a dining room with a commercial kitchen, a private intake office, and a health counseling room for nurses and visiting doctors.

Williams said Hope House continues working with the Middletown Division of Police to find spaces when people are found sleeping in homeless camps in the city.

Contact this reporter at Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Law could increase kids' exposure to marijuana

Professionals fear pot will become a social norm



Christopher Fyffe talks about marijuana, kids and the dealers he saw "on every corner" growing up in Dayton. Now, even with medical marijuana dispensaries, Fyffe says he sees people continuing to turn to black market dealers due to lower prices. The best way to get kids out of contact with black market dealers is to cut out the black market as much as possible.

MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

JOURNAL-NEWS IN-DEPTH

With the legalization of marijuana in Ohio, many are watching to see how this will impact kids, because while use of marijuana will still be illegal for those under 21 years of age, drug prevention experts expect marijuana to become more accessible to minors.

Marijuana use in teens and kids can impact their development and health, say health providers, who are also concerned with marijuana use becoming a social norm.

Some say it's already a social norm and accessible to kids due to illegal street weed being available for years.

"Growing up as a kid, marijuana was more available than alcohol or cigarettes," said Christopher Fyffe of Dayton. "This is because some black market dealers don't care if they sell to kids, kids sell to other kids, etc. The only way to reduce access of marijuana to kids is to reduce the financial incentive dealers have by selling to them."

The Journal-News spoke to multiple voices taking part in this wider conversation around the impact of marijuana legalization on kids, as well as looked to states and regions that have already legalized the drug.

The main consensus among the differing opinions is that everyone wants kids to be safe.

Damaging developing brain pathways

Marijuana, also called cannabis, weed, pot or dope, refers to the dried flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds of the cannabis plant, the Centers for Disease Control says. The cannabis plant contains more than 100 compounds, or cannabinoids, like

tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is "impairing or mind-altering," the CDC says.

"In any brain, what THC does is it blocks the pathways for communication between parts of the brain, and so in children from infancy on up until their brains are fully developed, closer to their mid-20s, the developing brain is building connections between parts of the brain," said Christine Murray, a behavioral health therapist at Dayton Children's.

Children's development includes building those connections in the brain, Murray said. Exposure to THC before children are finished developing can cause complications or roadblocks, she said.

"When someone is high, there are roadblocks in those connections, making it easier for people to maybe not think of past trauma or to kind of be hyper-focused and in the moment because they're kind of in one part of their brain and they're not accessing all those different parts," Murray said.

Impact of secondhand marijuana smoke

Whether it's secondhand smoke or a THC edible, THC can damage the pathways of the brain for children and young people who have much less developed pathways, Murray said.

"The most concern we have is for that brain development," she said.

Secondhand marijuana smoke also contains THC, which children can inhale if they are nearby. Recent studies have found strong associations between reports of having someone in the home who uses marijuana and the child having detectable levels of THC, according to the CDC.

Children test positive for THC when around others smoking and can get high, as well, Murray said.

Children exposed to THC are potentially at risk for negative health effects, though the CDC says more research is needed to understand how secondhand marijuana exposure may impact children.

Health risks for short- and longterm use

Even short-term marijuana use in kids poses a risk, doctors say. Those health outcomes could include worsening of underlying mental health conditions including mood changes and suicidal thinking, increased risk of psychosis, increased aggression, and increased problems with memory and concentration, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

For long-term use, the health risks include cannabis use disorder, breathing problems, and mental health problems, such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, anger, irritability, moodiness, and risk of suicide, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

A Columbia University study found that teens who use cannabis recreationally are two to four times as likely to develop psychiatric disorders, such as depression and suicidality, than teens who don't use cannabis at all.

"What research is showing is that the younger someone is exposed to THC, the more harmful those changes are, and so the changes can be anywhere from lung irritation to ... asthma-related issues and potentially future brain issues like lack of motivation, attention issues, memory, (and) even IQ issues can be permanent," Murray said.

Parents should also make sure any marijuana products they have in the home are not near children and are kept locked up like other things dangerous to kids, such as sharp objects, bleach, laundry chemicals, etc., Murray said. Parents and adults should also not smoke around their kids, in their home, or in the car, just like with tobacco smoke.

"There's residue to THC smoke, just like there is tobacco smoke," Murray said.

Dayton Children's has also seen patients with cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, which is a condition of severe and repeated periods of vomiting, she said.

Unregulated marijuana products also pose the risk of having other drugs mixed in without the knowledge of the user. Street weed or THC vapes have tested positive for drugs other than marijuana in drug screens, Murray said.

"I've seen drug screens for teenagers who insist that all they're using is weed.

I've seen cocaine come up, I've seen fentanyl come up, and I've seen (Oxycodone) come up in drug screens,"

Murray said.

Kids may also get candy or gummies from other people at school or elsewhere, so Murray advised parents to talk with their kids about not taking candy from other kids or adults.

Parental influence

Kids will look to the same coping mechanisms their parents use, Murray said, so adults should be wary of their actions influencing children in their lives.

Social norms and increased accessibility make the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition concerned that it may normalize the use of marijuana, Colleen Oakes, manager of the coalition, told the Journal-News.

"Now that it will be much more accessible and we may see adults using it more because it's legalized, if our youths see the adults in their lives using, it normalizes it and makes the youth more likely to use," Oakes said.

If marijuana is easily accessible to kids, this also puts them at higher risk for using and using at an earlier age, Oakes said.

Advertising, packaging and warning labels

The Montgomery County Prevention Coalition has concerns that advertising may be targeted toward kids, that products like candy or sweet foods with marijuana in them may appeal to kids, or even that children may mistake the products for regular candy.

The Montgomery County Prevention Coalition testified before the Ohio General Assembly's House Finance Committee in regard to H.B. 354, asking for advertising of marijuana products to be similar to that of alcohol and tobacco, so they cannot appear to be directed at minors.

"Social media or billboards in the community are not appropriate means of advertising adult-use recreational marijuana," the coalition's testimony says.

The coalition also called for marijuana products to have child-proof packaging and for labeling, dosage measurements, and clear information to be on the product.

H.B. 354 would modify adult use cannabis law, including those

restrictions on advertising, as well as levy a 10% tax on the gross receipts of licensed cultivators from the sale of adultuse marijuana.

H.B. 354 also continues the current law's 10% excise tax on the sale to consumers of adult-use marijuana, like with medical marijuana, although H.B. 86, would increase that to 15%.

H.B. 86 would also impose a 15% tax on illegal sales from unlicensed sellers to consumers, as well as allow counties, with voter approval, to levy up to a 3% excise tax on the retail sale of adult-use marijuana to support artistic, cultural, and entertainment opportunities.

What have other states seen?

Teenage marijuana use is at its highest level in 30 years, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry says.

Will legalization make it worse? At least one study suggests the answer is no, and it may actually lessen use among younger teens.

Using the Washington Health Youth Survey, researchers in one study published in the journal Prevention Science estimated that after recreational cannabis was legalized in Washington state, cannabis use prevalence in grade 8 decreased by 22.0%, in grade 10 prevalence decreased by 12.7%, and no effect in grade 12.

“These trends are consistent with those in states without recreational cannabis laws, suggesting legalization did not impact adolescent use prevalence,” the researchers said. This study was supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health.

What community has seen K

ids have already been exposed to illegal street weed for years, some community members say, and with legalization could also come change.

“When I was growing up, literally there were dealers on every corner, every other house,” said Fyffe, who grew up in the Dayton community and currently uses medical marijuana to help with his chronic pain.

Now as an adult, even with medical marijuana dispensaries, Fyffe sees people continuing to turn to black market dealers due to lower prices.

“Right now, the street price for marijuana in Ohio is at an all time low and often is cheaper than going to a medical marijuana dispensary,”

Fyffe said. Black market dealers hope lawmakers will place higher taxes on legal marijuana, he said, which would keep buyers coming back.

The way he sees it, the best way to get kids out of contact with black market dealers is to cut out the black market as much as possible, keeping legal marijuana affordable with a lower tax rate and allowing home grow.

“When medical marijuana came to Ohio, it took years to catch up to the black market, we do not need a repeat of this massive mistake. It is vital we keep the tax rate to a maximum of 10% — which may prove to already be too high — and to allow the cultivation of marijuana,” Fyffe said.

Fyffe hopes the conversation will continue on how best to protect kids and move the black market out with the availability of a legal market.

"It's just a very important issue for everybody, and it's something we definitely need to come to a good solution," Fyffe said.

Contact this reporter at 937- 503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

4 years after fire, demolition starts at Paperboard site

Middletown spending more than \$2M in grants to demolish buildings on 14-acre Verity Parkway site.



Crews start to demolish the former Middletown Paperboard complex on Wednesday, more than four years after it was destroyed by fire. Firefighters from multiple departments battled the fire that started on Jan. 1, 2020.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — When new Middletown Mayor Elizabeth Slamka drives by the former Middletown Paperboard site, she doesn't see the destruction done by the devastating fire that started more than four years ago.

"Possibilities and potential," she said when asked about the future of the 14-acre site. "It's very exciting. It's exciting to see what we can do, what we can create for Middletown."

Last week, heavy equipment started knocking down structures damaged in the fire that started on Jan. 1, 2020, and required mutual aid from several fire departments.

Late last year, City Council voted to authorize City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into an agreement with Renascent Inc. to provide the professional services at a cost of \$2.27 million, all covered by a \$3 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant the city received from the Butler County Commissioners.

Slamka said she was "grateful" for the financial support from the county.

The city requested qualification statements and proposals for furnishing material, equipment, and labor necessary in the demolition, removal, and disposal of the existing buildings at the former paperboard site on Verity Parkway.

The city received proposals from 10 companies with bids ranging from \$2,279,600 to \$5,492,500, according to city records.

The city's Volunteer Action Program manager, Burgess and Niple,

Inc., which was to be paid no more than \$442,500, assisted city staff as they verified references and conducted interviews with the lowest bidder.

Tom Mignery, senior hydrogeologist for Burgess & Niple and Ohio EPA certified professional, told council that all references were positive and reported that the company has been on time and on budget for their previous projects.

City staff also selected Burgess & Niple because of its familiarity with the Middletown area and its assistance to city staff with the Butler County ARPA allocation application, according to city documents.

Years ago, Burgess & Niple performed the demolition and remediation of Middletown Regional Hospital, according to its application.

Mignery said he feels “very solid about them” and Renascent Inc. has completed work without a lot of change orders.

He expects to see “significant progress” on the site by June 2024.

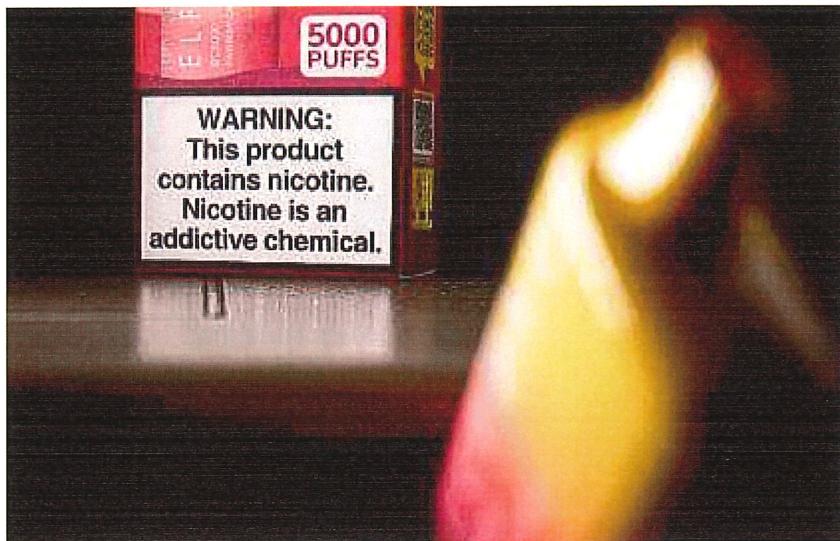
Once completed, the site, which has been described as “an eyesore” in the city’s gateway, will be ready for commercial/light industrial use, but not residential, according to Mignery.

On Jan. 1, 2020 fire was started when a homeless man living inside the building built a fire to stay warm.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Experts call for report on effects of vaping

Surgeon general should issue guidance, clarify messaging, they say.



A health warning on the package of a disposable vaping device. Many doctors say vaping nicotine is safer than smoking, but research on its effects is limited.

AP

BY MIKE STOBBE - ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP NATIONAL STORY

NEW YORK — Sixty years ago, the U.S. surgeon general released a report that settled a longstanding public debate about the dangers of cigarettes and led to huge changes in smoking in America.

Today, some public health experts say a similar report could help clear the air about vaping.

Many U.S. adults believe nicotine vaping is as harmful as — or more dangerous than — cigarette smoking. That's wrong. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and most scientists agree that, based on available evidence, electronic cigarettes are far less dangerous than traditional cigarettes.

But that doesn't mean e-cigarettes are harmless. And public health experts disagree about exactly how harmful, or helpful, the devices are. Clarifying information is urgently needed, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University.

"There have been so many confusing messages about vaping," Gostin said. "A surgeon general's report could clear that all up."

One major obstacle: E-cigarettes haven't been around long enough for scientists to see if vapers develop problems like lung cancer and heart disease.

"There's a remarkable lack of evidence," said Dr. Kelly Henning, who leads the public health program at Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Smoking and vaping

Cigarette smoking has long been described as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the annual toll at 480,000 lives. That count should start to fall around 2030, according to a study published last year by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, thanks in part to a decline in smoking rates that began in the 1960s.

Back then, ashtrays were everywhere and more than 42% of U.S. adults smoked.

On Jan. 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry released an authoritative report that said smoking causes illness and death — and the government should do something about it.

The report is considered a watershed moment: In the decades that followed, warning labels were put on cigarette packs, cigarette commercials were banned, governments raised tobacco taxes and new restrictions were placed on where people could light up.

By 2022, the adult smoking rate was 11%.

Some experts believe e-cigarettes deserve some of the credit. The devices were billed as a way to help smokers quit, and the FDA has authorized a handful of e-cigarettes as less-harmful alternatives for adult smokers.

Vaping's popularity exploded in the 2010s, among both adults but and teens. In 2014, e-cigarettes surpassed combustible cigarettes as the tobacco product that youth used the most.

By 2019, 28% of high schoolers were vaping.

U.S. health officials sounded alarms, fearing that kids hooked on nicotine would rediscover cigarettes.

That hasn't happened.

Last year, the high school smoking rate was less than 2% — far lower than the 35% rate seen about 25 years ago.

"That's a great public health triumph. It's an almost unbelievable one," said Kenneth Warner, who studies tobacco-control policies at the University of Michigan.

"If it weren't for e-cigarettes, I think we would be hearing the public health community shouting at the top of their lungs about the success of getting kids not to smoke," he said.

Vaping's benefits and harms

Cigarettes have been called the deadliest consumer product ever invented. Their smoke contains thousands of chemicals, at least 69 of which can cause cancer.

The vapor from e-cigarettes has been estimated to contain far fewer chemicals, and fewer carcinogens.

Some toxic substances are present in both, but show up in much lower concentrations in e-cigarette vapor than in cigarette smoke.

Studies have shown that smokers who completely switch to vaping have better lung function and see other health improvements.

"I would much rather see someone vaping than smoking a Marlboro. There is no question in my mind that vaping is safer," said Donald Shopland, who was a clerk for the committee that generated the 1964 report and is co-author of a forthcoming book on it.

But what about the dangers to people who have never smoked? There have been 100 to 200 studies looking at vaping, and they are a mixed bag, said Dr. Neal Benowitz, of the University of California, San Francisco, a leading academic voice on nicotine and tobacco addiction. The studies used varying techniques, and many were limited in their ability to separate the effects of vaping from former cigarette smoking, he said.

"If you look at the research, it's all over the map," Warner said.

Studies have detected bronchitis symptoms and aggravation of asthma in young people who vape.

Research also indicates vaping also can affect the cells that line the blood vessels and heart, leading to looks for a link to heart disease.

Perhaps the most cited concern is nicotine, the stimulant that makes cigarettes and vapes addictive.

Animal studies suggest nicotine exposure in adolescents can affect development of the area of the brain responsible for attention, learning and impulse control.

Some research in people suggests a link between vaping and ADHD symptoms, depression and feelings of stress. But experts say that the research is very limited and more work needs to be done.

Meanwhile, there's not even a clear scientific consensus that vaping is an effective way to quit smoking, with different studies coming up with different conclusions.

Clearing the air

Last month, the World Health Organization raised alarms about the rapidly growing global markets for electronic cigarettes, noting they come in thousands of flavors that attract young people.

In 2016, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy said efforts were needed to prevent and reduce e-cigarette use by children and young adults, saying nicotine in any form is unsafe for kids.

About four months before the report's release, the FDA began taking steps to regulate e-cigarettes, believing they would benefit smokers.

The agency has authorized several e-cigarettes, but it has refused more than 1 million product marketing applications.

Critics say the FDA has been unfair and inconsistent in regulation of products.

Meanwhile, the number of different e-cigarette devices sold in the U.S. has boomed, due largely to disposables imported from China that come in fruit and candy flavors.

But vaping by youths has recently been falling: Last year, 10% of high school students surveyed said they had used e-cigarettes in the previous month, down from 14% the year before.

Why the decline? "It's hard to say what's working," said Steven Kelder, a University of Texas researcher.

He mentioned a 2019 outbreak of hospitalizations and deaths among people who were vaping products with THC, the chemical that gives marijuana its high.

The illnesses were traced to a thickening agent used in black market vape cartridges, a substance not used in commercial nicotine e-cigarettes.

But it may be a reason many Americans think of e-cigarettes as unsafe, Kelder said.

Sherri Mayfield, a 47-year-old postal worker, remembers the 2019 outbreak and reports of rapid illnesses and deaths in youths. Vaping "absolutely" needs to be studied more, Mayfield said last week while on a cigarette break in New York with some co-workers.

"Cigarettes aren't safe" but at least it can take them decades to destroy your health, she said.

The surgeon general's office said in a statement that the 1964 report "catalyzed a 60-year movement to address the harmful effects of smoking" and suggested similar action was needed to address youth vaping.

Murthy's website, however, currently lists neither vaping nor smoking as a priority issue.

DeWine calls for ban or limit on sales of delta-8

NEW DETAILS

BY AVERY KREEMER - STAFF WRITER

Gov. Mike DeWine urged the Ohio legislature Wednesday to act quickly to either entirely ban sales of delta-8 in the state or at least age-limit sales to keep the psychoactive cannabinoid out of the hands of minors.

Largely seen as an alternative to high-THC recreational marijuana, delta-8 is one of the most popular of the hundreds of compounds known as cannabinoids that can be drawn from cannabis plants and one of only a handful that have been shown to give a user the feeling of being high.

To demonstrate how easy it is for minors to buy delta-8, Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Andy Wilson asked two 15-year-olds to buy some from a gas station convenience store in Clark County.

“Their instructions were not to be tricky and not to try to act older than they were. There was no doubt in looking at them that they were clearly underage,” said Wilson.

“In under 10 minutes and within 3 miles of their high school, the kids walked into a BP gas station and purchased THC gummies, with no questions asked.”

DeWine at a press conference Wednesday displayed the items they purchased. They included a gummy branded with NBA Star James Harden and cereal bars with logos ripped off from Frosted Flakes and Cocoa Puffs.

“When you package a product like this and make a product like this, it does appeal, in fact, to kids. This is exactly what the makers of this product are doing,” DeWine said.

“We know they’re harmful to kids, we know they’re readily available, and today, again, I’m asking the state legislature to take action. Local police cannot do anything, I cannot do anything without action by the state legislature.”

Delta-8 can be drawn from hemp, a low-THC cannabis cash crop that was legalized in the 2018 Federal Farm Bill. Since then, manufacturers have learned how to increase delta-8 yields, resulting in an influx of the product on the market.

But Ohio has largely left hemp regulation untouched.

In Ohio, there’s no age requirement for buying delta- 8 or any other hemp-derived product, though some stores are sure to card.

DeWine said his lawyers advised him he can’t enact age limits or other meaningful oversight by executive order, so he needs the legislature to act.

He said he’d be “very happy to have (delta- 8) banned,” entirely, but added that it’s up to the legislature.

Any move to regulate the product away from children — like the steps the state intends to take with recreational marijuana — would be satisfactory, he said.

DeWine also called for retail establishments selling delta-8 to take it off their shelves, which he called “the responsible thing to do.”

Also in attendance Wednesday was Gary Wenk, an emeritus professor of behavioral neuroscience at the Ohio State University who has studied cannabinoids for over 20 years.

The researcher said that the health effects of delta-8 are more or less identical with what's seen with recreational marijuana, with particular harm coming to younger users.

“The younger the brain the more harm is done. When the brain is developing, it is very vulnerable to the actions of THC and cannabinoids in general,” Wenk said.

He noted that the products have been shown to be particularly addictive for younger consumers and has been shown to cause children to have difficulty paying attention in class, bring emotional instability, cause learning challenges and cause minors to start “acting out” at home.

Any change to Ohio's hemp laws will likely be tied up in the state's continued attempts to alter Issue 2,

a citizen-initiated law that popularly legalized recreational marijuana.

A reform approved by the Senate and backed by DeWine awaits House action, but House leadership has clearly signaled that it intends to take its time to perfect any regulation.

Contact this reporter at 614-981-1422 or email avery.kreemer@coxinc.com.

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Middletown to vote on \$3.2M for aquatic center

Council votes 3-1 against spending \$25K on feasibility study at Tuesday's meeting.



Middletown City Council is expected to vote Feb. 6 whether to spend \$3.2 million in ARPA funds to build an aquatic center at the Atrium Family YMCA in the East End. The YMCA would pay for operating the center.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — Those living in the region may have another aquatic center option by the summer of 2025.

City Council heard the first reading of an ordinance authorizing City Manager Paul Lolli to negotiate a cooperative agreement with the Great Miami Valley YMCA for the construction and operation of a public aquatics park at the Atrium Family YMCA, 5750 Innovation Drive.

The ordinance will be voted on at the next City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 6 in Council Chambers, lower level City Building.

Two representatives, Tyler Roberts from the YMCA and Adriane Scherrer from SplashDown Middletown Water Park, made presentations before council during a Jan. 6 special meeting.

Middletown's two public swimming pools, Sunset and Douglass, closed many years ago due to escalating operating costs, and some people have expressed a need for an aquatic center in the city.

Lolli said the city is committed to funding construction of the aquatics park in the amount of \$3.2 million, with all future operation and maintenance being the financial responsibility of the YMCA. The money will come out of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund, according to city documents.

Middletown has about \$1 million remaining in ARPA funds, according to Lolli. He said the city earmarked \$3 million in ARPA funds for downtown improvements, and the city is "not even close"

to spending that much money.

The city could divert \$3.6 million out of the general fund, giving the city as much as \$7.5 million to invest in the aquatic center project, according to Lolli.

City Council appears divided on the issue.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka wanted the city to spend \$25,000 on a feasibility study before a contract with the YMCA is finalized. She asked for a vote regarding the study and it failed 3-1 with her casting the only “yes” vote. Council member Jennifer Carter abstained, saying she’s on the YMCA board.

Council members Zack Ferrell, Paul Horn and Steve West II all expressed their support for the project to be awarded to the YMCA.

West said he was impressed by the YMCA’s “tangible proposal” last week and said the city doesn’t need to be in the aquatic center business.

“The last thing we need is to own and operate one of these,” West II said. “It’s money every year.”

Ferrell said building an aquatic center in the city “solves a need and a want” for residents.

Roberts, Great Miami Valley YMCA district executive director, said according to estimates from Patterson Pools, an aquatic center on the YMCA property would cost between \$2.7 million and \$3 million. That cost would be about \$1 million higher if the YMCA didn’t already have ample on-site parking and pumps to run its indoor pool, he said.

Once the city pays to construct the water park, the YMCA would assume all other expenses, Roberts said. He estimated those operating costs at \$250,000- \$300,000 annually.

The water park would include a double flume fiberglass water slide and other water features, he said.

Roberts said if the YMCA received council's approval, construction could begin in February or March with a completion date sometime in 2025.

Scherrer said it was "with a heavy heart" she learned of the first reading of legislation introduced Tuesday night concerning the placement of "a little more than an out-of-date pool" at the Atrium YMCA.

"This in spite of the work the board of directors of SplashDown Middletown has reflected in efforts to reassure our city leadership of the importance of public/private partnerships to our community," she wrote in an email to the Journal-News.

She called allocating \$3.2 million to "a faith-based organization is most certainly not what voters thought 'Quality of Life' tax dollars would purchase.

Once again the city government disrespects the citizens that work daily to provide them with paychecks, insurance benefits, etc."

In other news Clayton Castle was approved as the city's fourth communications manager in the last seven years. He will fill the vacancy created by the recent termination of Byron McCauley.

Castle will be paid \$66,092 annually, according to city documents. Prior to his appointment in Middletown, Castle worked as a public relations specialist at Northern Kentucky University.

He ran unsuccessfully for a City Council seat in November 2023 and was not selected to fulfill Rodney Muterspaw's unexpired term when he resigned in November.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

If you want City Council members and city staff to know how you feel about an aquatic center, send an email to Clerk of Council Amy Schenck at amys@cityofmiddletown.org.

Task force: Lease city's senior center to an operator

Middletown mulls 3 options for its Central Connections property.



Bob Nolan, a business consultant and tax specialist, made a presentation Saturday at Central Connections as part of a task force looking into possible solutions for the center.

RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

JOURNAL-NEWS IN-DEPTH

MIDDLETOWN — City staff, City Council members and residents heard recommendations from a task force regarding the future of city-owned Central Connections during a six-hour special meeting

Saturday.

After the city purchased the property last year for \$1.8 million with American Rescue Plan Act funds, City Manager Paul Lolli formed a task force of business leaders to “guide the city” he said.

The task force met for months, and Bob Nolan, a business consultant and tax specialist, made a presentation Saturday at Central Connections.

Nolan said the task force considered three options for Central Connections: Continue operating as it is with limited senior programs and no banquet services; leasing the property to a company that can run it as a senior center/event center; or selling the property.

The city has hired a part-time employee to oversee operations at Central Connections and reduced hours to 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed the cafe, he said. He estimates it will cost the city \$150,000 a year to operate the center.

Another option, Nolan said, would be for the city to sell the property for an estimated \$1 million to \$2.5 million, far lower than its value of \$4.5 million to \$5 million. If the building is sold, the city would have to locate another site for senior services and lose control of the property, he said.

Leasing the property to an operator was the recommendation from the task force, he said. He said the city should send out requests for proposals to determine if there is interest in a catering business leasing the building and operating the senior and event center.

The building at 3907 Central Ave. offers a kitchen that’s the “envy of any restaurant,” a banquet room with a 600-person capacity,

office space and additional room for senior activities, he said. Leasing to one operator “makes the most sense” because senior services and the event center would be under one roof, according to Nolan.

During one of the earlier task force meetings, Nolan called the event center “a gold mine for someone to open” and said there are “millions” of potential revenue dollars sitting there.

Later, he added the center could be “a shining star” in the city because of the potential to host events and meetings and rent office space.

The \$1.8 million purchase price, which is \$300,000 less than the property was appraised by the Butler County Auditor’s Office before the \$1.5 million renovations, was paid to Middletown Senior Citizens Inc., the owner of the property, Lolli said.

Council member Steve West II said the city purchasing the property “was the right move” because the seniors “have been through enough.”

He hopes the city gets out of operating the facility and it should look for a “name brand” company to operate the center so the city is “never put in this situation again.”

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka told the Journal-News on Monday that serving seniors was her top priority.

“We have to focus on them first,” she said.

Central Connections found itself in financial difficulty after then Executive Director Diane Rodgers was terminated in July 2023. She is under investigation for possible theft, though no charges have been filed, according to Middletown police.

This is the second time Middletown residents have invested in the center. Voters approved two five-year, 1-mill senior levies that generated \$7 million to provide or maintain senior services at the center. The levy expired on Dec. 31, 2022, after 10 years.

Counting the \$1.8 million purchase price, \$8.8 million in taxpayers' money has been spent on the center in the last 11 years.

Besides Central Connections, City Council also discussed city finances, economic development, city parks, fire stations and homelessness/substance abuse/mental health concerns during Saturday's meeting.

Discussing the police review study, the last item on the agenda, was tabled due to the length of the meeting, Slamka said.

CENTRAL CONNECTIONS: A TIMELINE

Nov. 6, 2012: Middletown taxpayers pass a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the Middletown Area Senior Center.

Aug. 16, 2015: The name of the Middletown Area Senior Center is changed to Central Connections.

May 2, 2017: Middletown taxpayers renew a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the center.

November 2021: Diane Rodgers is hired as executive director. She says she moved from Reno, Nev., where she oversaw a senior center and worked with the homeless population, to be closer to her daughter who lives in New York.

July 29, 2022: Rodgers signs for a mortgage loan through First

Financial Bank for \$450,000, then does a loan modification that increases the amount to \$650,000, according to the Butler County Recorder's Office.

Her signature and job title are listed on the loan that matures on July 29, 2024.

Nov. 1, 2022: Ribboncutting is held to celebrate the \$1.5 million in renovations of Central Connections, 3907 Central Ave.

Dec. 31, 2022: Senior citizens center levy expires after generating \$7 million over 10 years.

May 5, 2023: D.E.R. Development Co. files a lien against Central Connections, saying the company is owed \$266,594.52, plus allowable interest.

May 31, 2023: Rodgers files vandalism report at Central Connections.

Middletown police say that leads to the investigation of center's finances.

July 24, 2023: The Council on Aging terminates its three-year contract with Central Connections. Fifty employees are laid off.

July 25, 2023: Nearly 75 senior citizens and former and current employees of Central Connections attend a meeting in the café with Rick Fishbaugh, board president, and Rodgers.

July 27, 2023: Rodgers is terminated as executive director of Central Connections and escorted out of the building by Middletown police.

Aug. 3, 2023: During a special City Council meeting and after an

executive session, City Manager Paul Lolli announces council has agreed to move forward with the possible purchase of the Central Connections building and land and for an unknown amount that will come out of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund.

Aug. 5, 2023: In an email to the Journal-News, attorney Tyrone Borger, who is representing Rodgers, writes that he and his client have been "informed that there is an ongoing investigation.

As such, while my client would like to comment and clear up several misconceptions. She is taking my advice and refusing to comment on any allegations at this time."

Aug. 9, 2023: Middletown Police Chief David Birk says his department is working with the Ohio attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation into the criminal investigation into the finances of Central Connections.

Aug. 11, 2023: Central Connections announces more layoffs and the closing of the cafe and bar. The hours are reduced to 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Aug. 15, 2023: City Council votes unanimously to allow City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into a lease agreement with Central Connections. The lease is \$50 per month. By the end of 2023, the city has the right to purchase the building and property for \$1.8 million.

Aug. 21, 2023: Vincent "Scott" Smith, husband of the former executive director, arrested and charged with seven counts of passing bad checks, all felonies.

Aug. 23, 2023: Smith appears in Middletown Municipal Court for his arraignment. Judge James Sherron sets Smith's OR bond at \$5,000.

Sept. 6, 2023: A Middletown detective testifies that Smith's signature on the seven bounced checks doesn't match his signature on a court document. The charges against Smith are bound over to a Butler County grand jury by Middletown Municipal Court Judge James Sherron.

Sept. 19, 2023: Middletown City Council authorizes city manager to enter into an agreement to purchase Central Connections property for \$1.8 million, using ARPA funds.

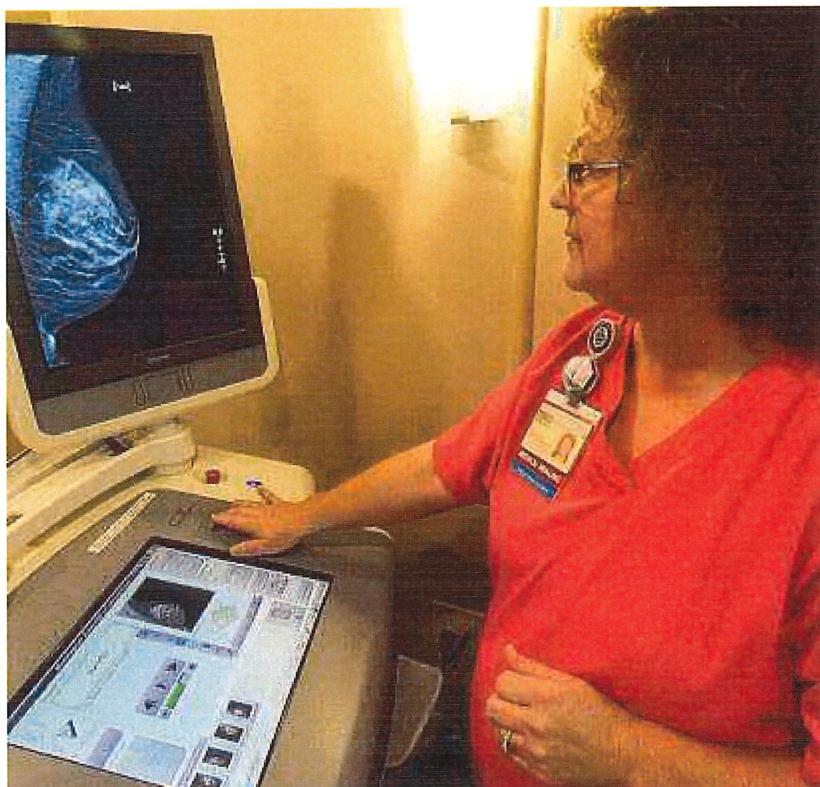
Oct. 4, 2023: A Butler County grand jury declines to indict Smith of passing bad check charges.

Oct. 12, 2023: City of Middletown closes on the purchase of Central Connections.

Jan. 20, 2024: During a special City Council meeting, a representative from a task force says the recommendation is for the city to lease the property to a company that can operate the senior center and event center.

Cancer deaths down, but cases up in younger people

Screenings, treatments have improved, but U.S. has dropped the ball on prevention, official says.



Shelly Robinson, mammographer for Premier Health mobile mammography coach, pulls up a 3D scan. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in women younger than 50.

MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Cancer deaths continue to decline, a new report says, resulting in over 4 million fewer deaths in the U.S. since 1991.

But the progress on mortality is offset by the fact that most top cancers are seeing increasing incidence rates, the American Cancer Society says. A little more than 2 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in the U.S. in 2024.

"We're encouraged by the steady drop in cancer mortality as a result of less smoking, earlier detection for some cancers and improved treatment," said Rebecca Siegel, senior scientific director of surveillance research at the American Cancer Society and lead author of the report.

But she said the nation still has dropped the ball on cancer prevention.

Incidence rates continue to rise for many common cancers, like breast, prostate and endometrial, as well as colorectal and cervical cancers in some young adults, the report says.

Rising colorectal cancer incidence has shifted mortality patterns in adults under 50. Two decades ago, colorectal cancer was the fourth-leading cause of cancer death in younger men and women, the report says.

Now, it's the first- and second-leading cause of cancer death for men and women, respectively.

Breast cancer leads in women under 50, with 2,251 deaths in 2021.

"The continuous sharp increase in colorectal cancer in younger Americans is alarming," said Dr. Ahmedin Jemal, senior vice

president of surveillance and health equity science at the American Cancer Society.

Local oncologists are also seeing younger patients on a more frequent basis.

"We see it routinely now," said Dr. James Ouellette, a surgical oncologist at Premier Surgical Oncology.

Potential factors could include diet, obesity, environmental factors and/or some other type of exposure that people have not historically seen.

"I don't know that we have ... a good answer," Ouellette said.

The increased cancer diagnoses could also be a delayed outcome from other factors in the past.

"The reason is not very clear," said Dr. Alejandro Calvo, a medical oncologist with Kettering Health.

"Some of the experts that look at all this epidemiology feel that they may be related to risk factors like obesity, because a lot of that generation born in the 1950s that is showing up with this earlier diagnosis of colorectal cancer, they'll have a high incidence of that.

When there are cancer-causing factors present, such as smoking, Calvo said there may be a 20- or 30-year delay before the incidence of cancer starts going up.

"One of the examples is tobacco. The tobacco epidemic started in the early 1900s. We did not see the high incidence of lung cancer until 20 or 30 years later," Calvo said.

Doctors are hopeful that less invasive screening methods may encourage more people get routine screenings, particularly people with a family history of colon cancer. Up to one-third of people diagnosed before 50 have a family history or genetic predisposition and should begin screening before age 45, this new report shows.

Doctors say increased screening efforts might be one reason for the decline in cancer deaths. There has also been reduction in smoking in the U.S., Calvo said.

"We also have significant improvements of treatment of cancer at all stages," Calvo said.

Treatments can include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, as well as certain targeted immunotherapies, he said. Doctors are also learning more about individual cases to provide more personalized medicine.

"We have a good idea of what generally works for a type of cancer, but the more we actually learn about the tumor very specifically, the better we are at trying to treat that person's specific tumor," Ouellette said.

Other significant findings in the American Cancer Society's report include findings in regard to cervical cancer.

Significant decreases in cervical cancer among certain groups is revealing the impact of the HPV vaccine.

"If you look at the women 30 to 44 years old, the incidence of cervical cancer was higher than expected.

Whereas, if you look at the group of women between 20-25, the incidence of cervical cancer was down 65%, and the only

difference in those two groups other than age is that the younger group had vaccinations for HPV," Calvo said.

Doctors are hopeful other HPV-related cancers will also continue to decrease because of the HPV vaccine.

"We've been adamant to get that implemented throughout the teen years.

It will take many years to see the effect of that," Ouellette said.

Additional facts from the American Cancer Society can be found at cancer.org.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S NEWEST REPORT

- Six of the top 10 cancers are increasing in incidence, as the projected number of new diagnoses in 2024 now tops 2 million (2,001,140) for the first time.
- Approximately 611,720 deaths from cancer are expected in the U.S. in 2024, which is about 1,675 deaths per day.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S., exceeded only by heart disease.

- The National Cancer Institute estimated that cancer-related medical costs in the U.S. were \$208.9 billion in 2020.
- The list price for many prescription medicines for cancer treatment is more than \$100,000 annually.
- Cancer-related costs to patients are estimated at \$21.1 billion, including \$16.2 billion in total out-of-pocket costs and \$4.9 billion

in patient time costs (travel to and from treatment, plus waiting for and receiving care).

- Cervical cancer incidence rates are decreasing steeply in women in their 20s, who were first to receive the HPV vaccine, but are increased in women 30-44 years old by 1.7% per year from 2012 through 2019.
- After decades of increase, cancer incidence in children has leveled off, although rates continue to increase among adolescents (ages 15-19 years), including a greater than 4% per year rise in thyroid cancer, much of which is likely overdiagnosis; the 15-year survival rate for thyroid cancer in adolescents is 99%.
- Mortality rates continue to increase by 2% per year for uterine corpus (endometrial) cancer, one of the few cancers with increasing mortality.
- Steeper increases in women of color are widening racial disparities for endometrial cancer, with the death rate now two times higher in Black women (9.1 per 100,000) than in white women (4.6 per 100,000).
- Cancer patients are getting younger: the proportion of diagnoses in people who are middle-aged (50-64 years) increased from 25% in 1995 to 30% in 2019-2020.

Homeless shelters see spike during recent extreme cold

Police departments in Oxford, Miamisburg brought those in need to Middletown shelter.



Robert McWhorter gets ready to head out for the day at Serve City homeless shelter on East Avenue, Hamilton, on Wednesday. Serve City allowed clients to stay inside the shelter throughout the day during last week's dangerous, bitter cold temperatures.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Serve City homeless shelter on East Avenue, Hamilton, and other shelters in the area saw an increase in attendance due to extreme cold over the last few weeks.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

Last week's frigid temperatures added to the demand for services in Butler County homeless shelters, according to officials.

Serve City in Hamilton opened its "cold center" and provided a warm place to stay for an additional 41 clients last week, when temperatures dropped near zero degrees, said Tammi Ector, executive director.

Due to the cold, Serve City allowed its clients to remain inside the shelter throughout the day, she said.

That also was the case at Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging of Middletown (SHALOM), according to Bill Fugate, volunteer coordinator.

Those who stayed at Tytus Avenue Church of God and were served by Berachah Church volunteers were permitted to stay at the church throughout the day instead of being transported downtown every morning, Fugate said.

During the first 21 days of SHA- LOM's hosting schedule, it has served 50 individuals in need of shelter, food, warmth and fellowship, he said. This total includes 37 men, 12 women and one child.

Many of those served were located by Middletown police officers and transported to the shelter, he said. SHA- LOM also received guests from Oxford and Miamisburg police officers who drove them to the shelter, Fugate said.

"Our local communities should be proud of the fact that so many local churches and volunteers are so willing to serve those who have little to give in return and are often ignored by many," Fugate said.

SHALOM has operated in Middletown since it was founded by Roy and Pat Ickes in 2002.

Besides those who stayed in the cold center, Ector said all 50 beds were full last week at Serve City. The shelter has 37 beds for men and 13 for women, she said.

Ector said Serve City provides "a critical service" to any individual who follows the rules and isn't considered a danger to other

clients.

"We don't want anyone to expire or be hospitalized," she said of opening the cold center. "We try to meet the needs to as many as we can."

On a given night last year, there were 10,654 homeless people in Ohio, according to the HUD's report. Of those, 3,214 were families with children, 703 were unaccompanied homeless youth and 633 were veterans.

Bobby Grove, executive director of Haven House in Hamilton, said since his agency houses families, the number of residents remains the same throughout the year.

Haven House has 122 bed spaces, but because families aren't placed in the same sleeping area, the capacity can be much smaller, he said.

Grove said before COVID-19, Haven House averaged 20 to 25 residents a night, a number that has jumped to 33.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

SHALOM HOSTING SCHEDULE

- Jan. 21-27: Quest Church, 6933 Hendrickson Road, Middletown
- Jan. 28-Feb 3: Crosspointe Church Of Christ, 5630 Ohio 122, Middletown
- Feb. 4-10: Holy Family Parish, 201 Clark St., Middletown
- Feb. 11-17: Stratford Heights Church Of God at Tytus Avenue Church Of God, 3300 Tytus Ave., Middletown

- Feb. 18-24: First Baptist/First Christian
- Feb. 25-March 2: First United Methodist, 120 S. Broad St., Middletown

LOCAL HOMELESS AGENCIES/PROGRAMS

HAVEN HOUSE

Address: 550 High St., Hamilton

Phone number: 513-863-8866

HOPE HOUSE MISSION

Address: 1001 Grove St., Middletown

Phone number: 513-424-4673

SERVE CITY

Address: 622 East Ave., Hamilton

Phone: 513-737-8900