

# Annual Report 2023



# Richland Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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# A Note from the Health Commissioner

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to present the annual report for 2023. At Richland Public Health, our commitment to our community has driven the organization's success.

In 2023, we developed a new Strategic Plan to guide our efforts over the next three years. As part of this work, we revised our Mission, Vision, and Values to more closely align with our evolving community needs. Our staff, board and community members provided input throughout the Strategic Planning process.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Julie Chaya*

Dr. Julie Chaya  
Health Commissioner, Richland Public Health

## Mission, Vision, & Values



### **Our Mission**

To advance and improve our community and environment through quality public health.



### **Our Vision**

To become the healthiest community through equitable prevention, education, and environmental health services.



### **Our Values**

**Accountable:** We make evidence-based decisions and follow through on our commitments.

**Collaborative:** We work as a team to provide innovative solutions.

**Inclusive:** We provide fair and equitable access to attain optimal health.

**Customer-focused:** We understand the needs of our customers and go above and beyond to serve them.

**Respectful:** We demonstrate care, concern for others, and ensure everyone feels valued.

# Strategic Priorities

Five priorities were identified through the Richland Public Health strategic planning process. These include:



1) Evolve programming and services to support population change and growth.



2) Expand outreach opportunities.



3) Elevate communication and collaboration.



4) Engage staff and community members to advocate for health equity.



5) Ensure financial transparency and viability to support growth.



# Richland Public Health: Board & Leaders

## Board of Health

The Board of Health at Richland Public Health (RPH) plans or authorizes the department's activities. Board meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of the month (except when closed for a Federal Holiday) at 6:00 p.m. at 555 Lexington Avenue. Meetings are open to the public and the agenda provides an opportunity for public comment. Board members serve five-year terms. There are no term limits.

## Richland Public Health Board Members 2022-2023



Chelsia DeRenard  
MSN, APRN, FNP-C



Thelda Dillon



Abra Dunn



Stuart Durbridge, DVM



Robert Exten, MD



John Leech, DDS



Matthew Maiyer, RPh



Dave Remy



Cathy Sapp  
MBA-HM, BSN, RN



Jean Swartz



Ary Van Harlingen



Violet Wetzel

# Richland Public Health Leadership Team



**Dr. Julie Chaya**  
Health Commissioner



**Dr. Daniel Burwell**  
Medical Director



**Anita Douville**  
Human Resources  
Director



**Joe Harrod**  
Environmental Health  
Director



**Tina Picman**  
Women, Infants, & Children  
Director



**Amy Schmidt**  
Public Health Nursing & Clinic  
Director



**Kevin VanMeter**  
Finance, Registrar  
Director



**Andrea Wildenthaler**  
Community Health & Prevention  
Sciences Director

# Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics division has maintained records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1909 (excluding the City of Shelby). RPH can provide certified birth certificates for anyone born in Ohio. Death certificates are available for individuals who have passed away in Richland County (excluding the City of Shelby). This division maintains statistics on births, deaths and causes of death to assist in planning health programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

## Certificates & Permits

*Purchased or provided in 2023*

**Total Certificates & Permits Issued**  
= 10,065

**Birth Certificates**  
= 4,797

**Death Certificates**  
= 4,575

**Burial Permits**  
= 693



## Births in Richland County in 2023\*

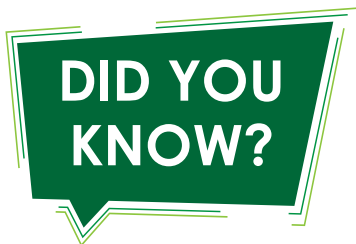
**Total Births**  
= 969

**Hospital Births**  
= 883

**Non-Hospital births**  
= 86

**Repeat Births**  
= 784

*\*Note: Total birth statistics include the City of Shelby*

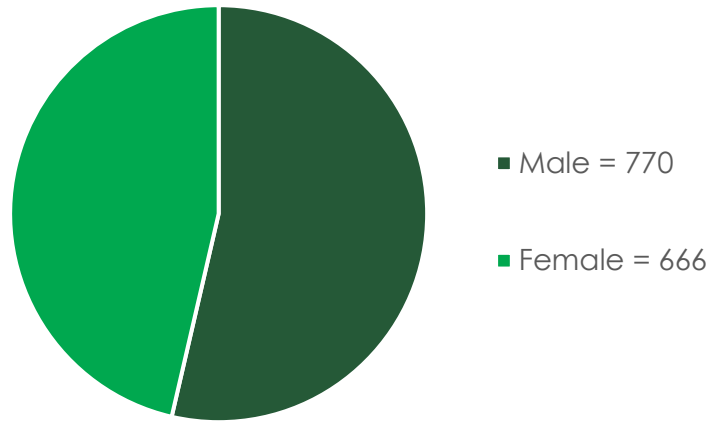


*If you were born in one of Ohio's 88 counties, you can purchase your birth certificate in person or online from Richland Public Health:*  
[Richlandhealth.org/personal/birth-death-certificates](https://richlandhealth.org/personal/birth-death-certificates)



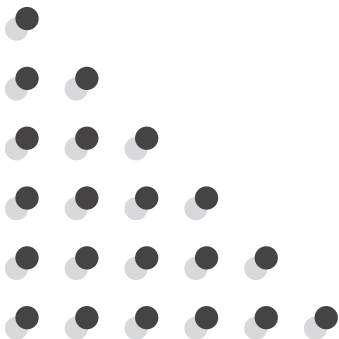
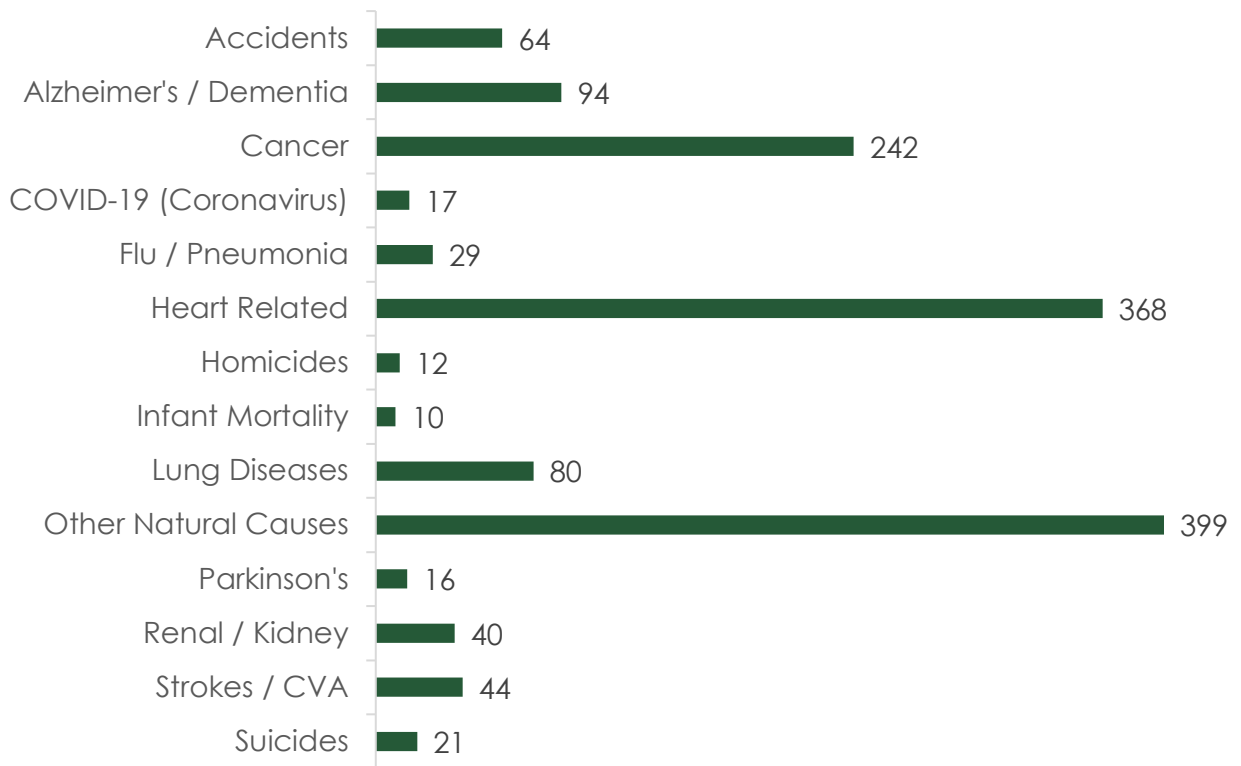
# Deaths in Richland County in 2023\*

**Total Deaths**  
= 1,436



## Causes of Death

*\*Note: Total death statistics include the City of Shelby*





# 2023 Financial Report

Richland Public Health operates within an annual budget approved by the Board of Health. RPH is funded in several different ways, with most of the funding derived from levies, federal and state grants, and fees/licenses. Payroll/benefits and operating costs account for the majority of the expenditures. While expenses were higher than revenue in 2023, the loss was mitigated by our healthy cash flow reserve. The overall financial outlook is positive, and we look forward to continuing to provide quality public health services in our community.

Revenue	Total \$7,122,596	Percentage
Levy	\$2,543,297	36%
State/Federal Grants	\$2,318,653	32%
Fee/License	\$1,471,545	21%
State Rollback/Utility	\$315,852	4%
Contracts	\$294,946	4%
Other	\$111,549	2%
State Subsidy	\$66,754	1%

Expenses	Total \$7,222,321	Percentage
Public Health Nursing	\$2,764,234	38%
Environmental Health	\$2,284,885	32%
CHPS – Community Health & Prevention Sciences	\$963,180	13%
WIC – Women, Infants, & Children	\$941,498	13%
Vital Statistics	\$268,524	4%

2023 Budget	Total \$8,253,879
Payroll/Fringes	\$5,086,103
Operating	\$2,338,776
Equipment/Building	\$829,000



**2024 will bring an exciting new addition to RPH! The purchase of a new generator will ensure our services are accessible to our community members as expected – even during times of power outages. This was a planned investment and has been accounted for in the 2024 budget.**

# Human Resources

The RPH team is the secret to our success! Talent retention and succession planning were top priorities in 2023. All positions were staffed headed into the new year (and remain so).



Investment in talent continues to be a focus for the RPH leadership team.

In 2024, RPH will be reviewing software options for a new HR management system (HRMS). A new system will provide improved people management processes and aid in the new associate experience including onboarding and easier accessibility to information. In addition, the system will help streamline workforce development and performance evaluation processes.

In 2023, Sherry Smith, MS, BSN, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor (pictured on the right) was recognized by public health colleagues across the state and by the Ohio Public Health Association in recognition of her service and leadership in public health.



# Community Health & Prevention Sciences

Community Health & Prevention Sciences (CHPS) is the art and science of studying and assessing community health needs. This includes organizing and providing comprehensive community health services and developing educational healthcare programs to promote health and prevent disease. RPH is committed to reducing the leading preventable causes of illness, disability, and death and promoting community health in Richland County.

## Richland AED Program

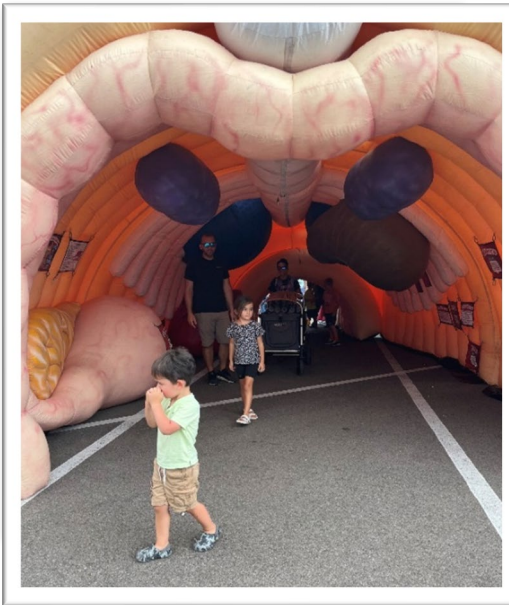
In collaboration with the Richland County Foundation, RPH is providing education, training, device assistance, digital resource support, and SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest) incidence monitoring in Richland County. The initiative provides free AED devices, supplies, training, and education to any Richland County youth-serving organization that hosts physical activities or sporting events. An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It is a sophisticated yet easy-to-use medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm, and if necessary, deliver an electric shock or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.



In 2023, the program had 31 participating partners, distributed 28 AED machines, and trained 201 participants in Richland County. The program's popularity and growth has driven the need for two health educators to pursue continuing education certifications in 2024. For additional information, visit <https://richlandhealth.org/richland-aed/>



## Healthy Eating Active Living



Through the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), RPH worked with Richland County Transit to assess their current policies, systems, and environmental strategies for healthy eating and active living in the community. In 2023, steering committees were established with the goal of increasing community awareness of health initiatives. Using data from the RPH Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), the committee updated public transportation to include safe routes to healthy food options.

Under the Food Service Guidelines of the HEAL grant, RPH worked with partners to install water bottle filling stations to support healthy beverage options in three locations. Two additional partners received new food coolers, external signage, and education on the healthy food guidelines to help facilities develop practices and processes that are healthier and more sustainable, while creating food environments that make nutritious options easier to access.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

***RPH has introduced a new program, PUP! PUP stands for Pick Up Poop. All dog owners can “do” the right thing and scoop poop when walking and in your own backyard. Our goal is clean water and PUPing is our law.***

***To learn more and take the pledge, visit <https://richlandhealth.org/pup/>.***

# Environmental Health

Environmental Health is the branch of public health that focuses on relationships between people and their environment, promotes human health and well-being and fosters healthy and safe communities. RPH specialists work to advance policies and programs to reduce chemical and other environmental exposures to protect and provide communities with healthier environments. The primary role of the environmental staff is to prevent human illness or injury through public education, regulation, and advocacy.

## Most Impactful Environmental Health Programs of 2023



- Food Safety
- Vector (Mosquito Control) Program
- Animal Bite Investigations
- Solid Waste Nuisance Investigations

## Food Safety Program

The food safety program at Richland Public Health licenses and routinely inspects food service operations, retail food establishments, vending machine locations and mobile food operations. Temporary food licenses are issued to facilities that want to operate for up to 5 days at an event. Environmental Health Specialist's review and approve plans for new food facilities to check for code compliance and safe food handling and processes.

***RPH conducts inspections for both permanent and temporary facilities in a variety of programs during large community events. A few events that kept our team busy were:***

- Bellville Street Fair: 47 Food Vendors
- Inkarceration: 36 Food Vendors, 29 Body Art Vendors
- Prairie Peddler: 27 Food Vendors per weekend for two weekends
- Blueberry Festival: 16 Food Vendors

**DID YOU KNOW?**



## Vector (Mosquito Control) Program



RPH makes preventing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases a priority. RPH educates the community on ways to protect themselves from mosquito bites and ways to eliminate mosquito habitats found on their property. During the 2023 season, Environmental Health Specialists and seasonal employees set 200 mosquito traps throughout the county. The truck mounted mosquito sprayer was used to target adult mosquitoes in areas where the mosquito trap numbers met established thresholds or mosquitos tested

positive for West Niles Virus. Of the 11,035 mosquitos submitted by RPH for testing, ten (10) identified groups were positive for West Niles Virus.

## Bug Bags

RPH also developed Bug Bags to educate the community on the best habits to protect themselves, families, and properties from vector-borne diseases. Each bug bag contains a brochure that explains how to identify ticks, best practices to prevent tick bites, symptoms of tickborne diseases, and when to seek medical attention from a health care provider. A reusable tick removal kit with small, medium, and large sized tools for safe removal of a whole tick from humans or pets was also included. Deet free mosquito repellent wipes and Natural DT mosquito larvicide tablets to control mosquito maturation in areas that cannot be emptied such as ponds, gutters, water gardens, bird baths, and standing water were also accessible to community members in the Bug Bags.

Over 500 Bug Bags were distributed to community members at 17 events in 2023, reaching a large section of the population. We will continue to distribute Bug Bags in 2024.



# Private Water Systems, Sewage Treatment Systems & Plumbing

## 1. Private Water Systems (PWS):

RPH conducts site visits to validate application layouts and issues permits for installing new or altered private water systems. During a final onsite inspection, the PWS is checked for health code compliance and a water sample is collected to be analyzed by the water quality laboratory.

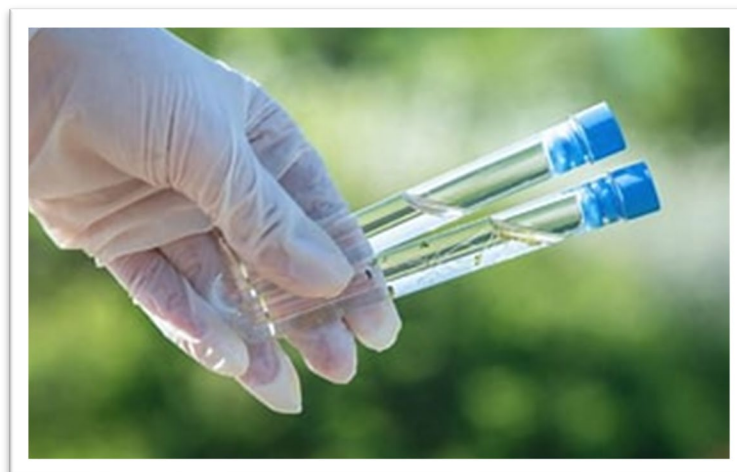
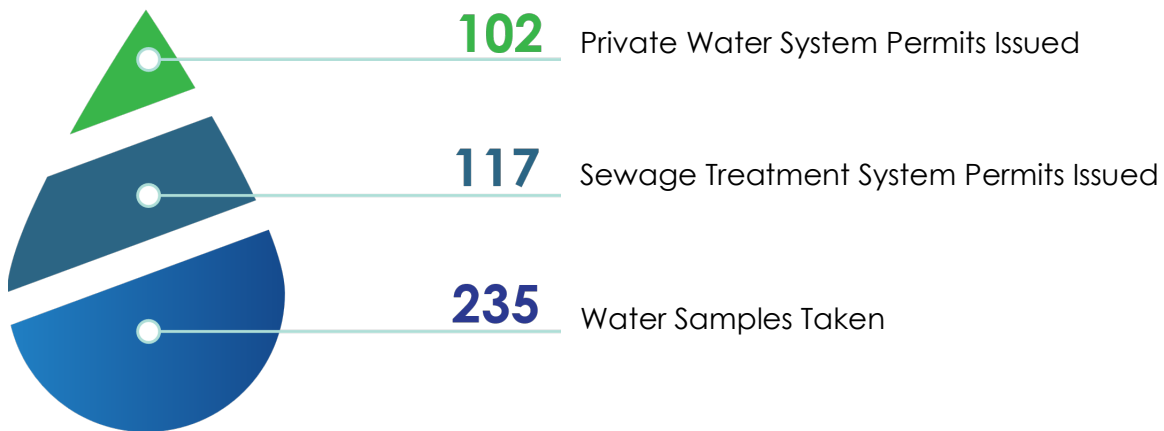
## 2. Sewage Treatment Systems (STS):

RPH provides site reviews, permits and inspections for new, replacement or altered systems, and investigates complaints/malfunctioning systems.

## 3. Plumbing:

RPH issues permits for residential and commercial plumbing. Ohio State-Certified Plumbing Inspectors work with registered plumbers and homeowners to ensure all plumbing installations are in compliance with the code. RPH issued 534 residential permits and 393 commercial permits. RPH also offers classes for registered plumbers to obtain required continuing education units.

### 2023 By the Numbers



# Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences. The public health registered nurses at RPH work within our community focusing on assessing not only the health conditions of individuals, but also the other social determinants of health that also impact well-being. Along with their assessment skills comes the ability to promote health and wellness, prevent disease and the spread of infectious diseases, and work to improve the overall quality of life.

These nurses identify health problems, implement plans of care and/or referrals to needed services, and evaluate the services to ensure they are delivered in a manner that will provide health equity to all. RPH public health nurses provide their services in a variety of settings - clinics, neighborhood satellite clinics, schools, homes, community centers, senior centers, churches, and fire stations. In addition, RPH is involved with 18 different community collaboratives. The RPH epidemiologist leads the communicable disease team to work with local health care providers and the Ohio Department of Health to control the outbreaks and the spread of communicable diseases. Public health nurses also provide leadership in emergency responses related to biological or public health threats.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Home visits are an essential piece of public health nursing. Caring for individuals in their homes has been around for centuries. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lillian Wald invented the term public health nursing, to distinguish and value the type of nursing that was done in the community, settlement houses, and schools.*

## Transformative Newborn Care Prenatal & Newborn Home Visits

As part of the organization's ongoing commitment to community health, RPH offers free home visits for Richland County parents. Families receive expert advice and guidance from an RPH registered nurse in the comfort of their home. RPH specialized staff visits residents before their child's birth or while their baby is a newborn up to eight weeks old and provides a comprehensive assessment.



### Topics Include:

- Mom health
- Emotions
- Infant feeding
- Sibling rivalry
- Community information
- Rew roles
- Baby's growth
- Development questions

To learn more, visit <https://richlandhealth.org/personal/newborn-home-visits/>



## Home Visit Statistics

Total Home Visits = 152



**57**

Newborn Home Visits



**52**

Prenatal Visits



**43**

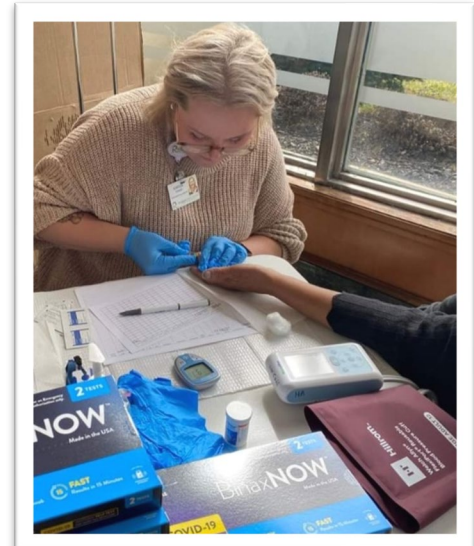
High Risk Visits

From these visits and phone conversations, **1,031 referrals** were generated to mental health, medical and social services in Richland County.

To learn more about the Public Health Nursing programs offered, visit <https://richlandhealth.org/departments/public-health-nursing/>.

## **Richland Public Health Clinic**

With an increase in communicable diseases, the Clinic provided immunizations for children, teens, and adults. Travel immunizations and consultation were available to individuals traveling internationally.



# Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) is federally funded through the USDA. The WIC program aims to safeguard the overall health of qualifying pregnant, breastfeeding, postpartum women and for infants and children up to age 5 who are at risk by providing supplemental foods, health care referrals and nutrition education. Administered in all 50 states, WIC is the nation's premier and most cost-effective public health nutrition program. With the return of in person appointments in May of 2023, we are proud to support WIC families in our community with access to healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and more.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Currently, WIC serves 53% of all infants born in the U.S.*

## **The WIC Program Provides:**

- Individualized nutrition education by Registered Dietitians.
- A wide variety of nutritious foods purchased with the WIC EBT card at WIC-approved stores.
- Breastfeeding counselors who educate and support breastfeeding mothers.
- Referrals to healthcare and social service agencies.
- Farmer's Market coupons worth \$30 redeemable at local summer Farm Markets

## **The Benefits of Good Nutrition are Key!**

**WIC provides highly nutritious foods** including milk, eggs, yogurt, iron fortified cereals, infant formulas, fresh, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables, whole grain foods, peanut butter, cheese. Canned tuna or salmon is available for breastfeeding moms.

## **WIC Eligibility**

If you are a pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum woman, have kids under the age of 5, are at nutritional risk and receive SNAP or Medicaid or meet the WIC Federal Incomes Guidelines for earned income, you will qualify for WIC!



For more information on our WIC program, visit <https://richlandhealth.org/departments/wic/>

Follow us on RPH WIC Facebook page  
@ WIC Richland-Ashland





***In May of 2023,  
RPH returned to  
in person WIC  
appointments!***

The USDA authorized higher Fruit and Vegetable benefits for WIC participants in FY'23.

Lower benefits (\$9 - \$12 per month) were replaced with the following increased amounts per month:

- Children - \$26
- Postpartum Women - \$47
- Pregnant & Fully/Partially Breastfeeding Women - \$52
- WIC participants receive cookbooks/snacking tips with ideas on how to incorporate more fruits and vegetables in their diets.

## **Hey Mom, Dad, Grandparents, & Guardians!**

Did you know many working families can qualify for WIC?

Check out the Federal Income Guidelines for WIC based on family size:

### **Monthly Gross Income**

Family of 2	\$3,041
Family of 3	\$3,833
Family of 4	\$4,625
Family of 5	\$5,418

WIC offices are located in Mansfield and Ashland.

In Richland County call 419-774-4560

In Ashland County call 419-289-3359



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

***RPH offers interpretive services for 44+ languages  
as well as for the hearing impaired.***

## Breastfeeding in the Workplace

In 2023 the team concentrated on giving Breastfeeding in the Workplace Toolkits to 14 Dental Practices in Richland and Ashland Counties. The Toolkits had information about Breastfeeding Laws and how to support their breastfeeding employees and patients including establishing a "Breastfeeding in the Workplace" policy, helping breastfeeding employees prepare to return to work and the creation or enhancement of a private room for breastfeeding /pumping breaks. A workplace which supports their breastfeeding moms are more likely to experience higher productivity, lower turnover rates, lower absenteeism, and lower health care costs.

**PUMP Act:** Passed by Congress in December 2022, went into effect April 4, 2023. The PUMP Act provided:

- Pumping breaks as often as needed.
- Private space for pumping/breastfeeding.
- Employers with 50+ employees must comply.
- Formal Complaint process in place with the US Dept. of Labor.
- Employers with 50 employees or less may be exempt if they can prove "undue hardship" if the law is enforced at their workplace.



# Public Health Services by the Numbers

RPH provides public health services throughout Richland County. From communicable disease investigation to immunizations and food inspections, RPH staff was there to make Richland County a healthier place to live and work.

## Communicable Diseases Reported in 2023

Campylobacteriosis	32
Chlamydia	408
COVID-19	3,475
Gonorrhea	170
Hepatitis B Chronic	14
Hepatitis C Chronic	79
Influenza Hospitalizations	26
Lyme Disease	31
Pertussis	15
Salmonellosis	18
Syphilis	44

*This is not a complete list and includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases reported 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023 according to AOC and ORC sections 3701.*

*RPH provides vaccines to individuals for protection from many Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD). The bolded diseases are those that we see in the community.*

## Immunizations Given at RPH in 2023 = 2,254

<b>COVID-19</b>
Diphtheria, Tetanus, <b>Pertussis (Whooping cough)</b>
Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)
Hepatitis A
<b>Hepatitis B</b>
<b>Influenza (Flu)</b>
<b>Measles</b> , Mumps, Rubella
Polio
<b>Pneumonia</b>
Rotavirus
Typhoid
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b>
<b>Zoster (Shingles)</b>



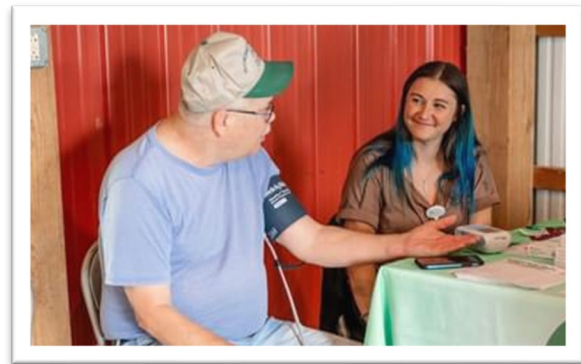
### **Public Health Clinic Services Delivered in 2023**

Clinic Appointments	1,879
Immunizations Given	2,254
Tuberculosis Skin Tests & Readings	536



### **Public Health Nursing Services Delivered in 2023**

Blood Glucose	299
Blood Pressure	411
Children w/ Medical Handicaps (CMH) Family (Contract Hours)	5,994
CMH Children Served	500
CMH Home Visits	186
Cholesterol	56
Community Health Screenings	1,097
Hemoglobin / Hematocrit	246
Newborn / Prenatal Home Visits	52
School Nurses (Contract Hours)	2,839.75



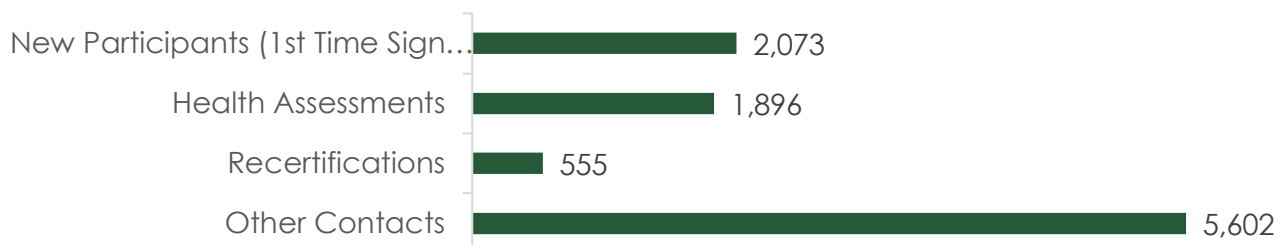
### **Food Inspections in 2023**

Food Facilities	1,457
Mobile	157
Temporary	107
Vending	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,769</b>



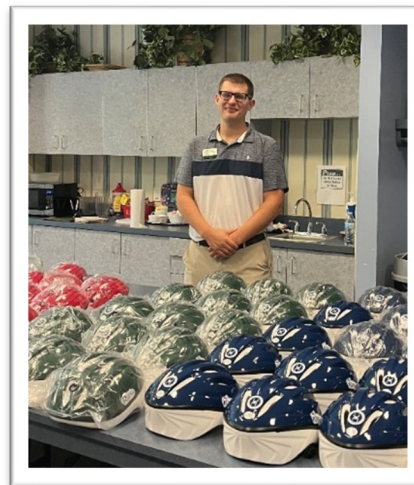
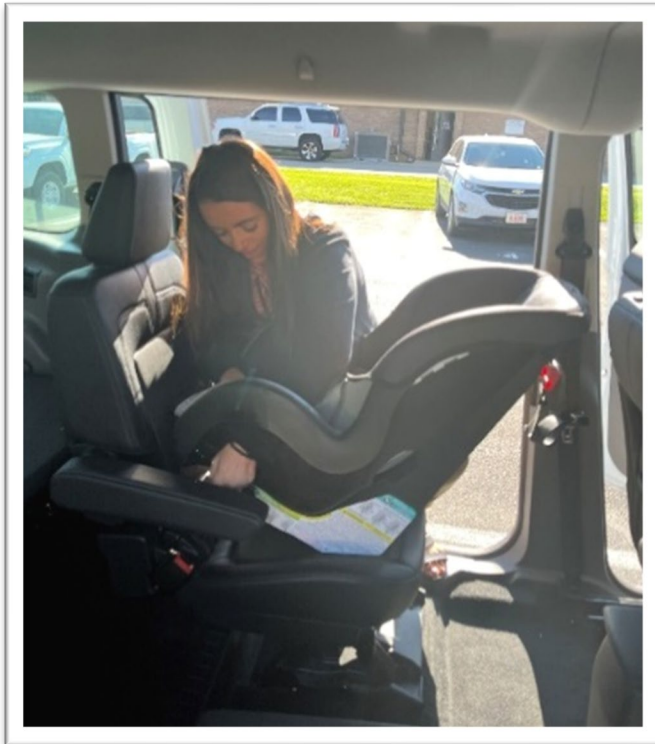
### **WIC Total Contacts (Ashland & Richland) in 2023**

Total = 10,126



## What Else Did We Do In 2023?

Bike Helmets Distributed	103
COVID-19 Test Kits Distributed	>10,000
Cribettes (Pack 'n Plays) Distributed	62
Dental Health Kits Distributed	850
Deterra Packets (Medication Disposal Pouch) Distributed	300
Menstrual Products Distributed	>12,000
Naloxone Kits Distributed	199
Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Car Seats Installed	70
Personal Car Seats Checked for Safety	40



## With Appreciation!

As we move into the future, RPH remains committed to enhancing the overall health of our Richland community. We express our gratitude to our patients, stakeholders, board, and dedicated staff for their continued support!



For questions, a copy of the monthly newsletter,  
or additional information, contact:

[chps@richlandhealth.org](mailto:chps@richlandhealth.org)  
419-774-4761  
[richlandhealth.org](http://richlandhealth.org)

