

2025

ANNUAL

IMPACT REPORT



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County & programmatic data submitted in this report are considered preliminary and are subject to change as additional data is processed, verified, or jurisdictionally reassigned as necessary. This is especially applicable for data from years 2023-2025.

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LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Over the past year, our team has taken a close look at who we are, how we serve, and where we need to grow. This report reflects that journey. It tells the story of an agency that is strengthening its foundation so we can deliver public health services that are visible, trusted, and effective for the people of Lucas County.

Public health often works quietly in the background. It's present in safe restaurants, healthy pregnancies, immunized children, rapid outbreak response, and support for families navigating complex health challenges. Behind each of these outcomes are dedicated professionals who show up every day with a shared commitment to prevention, protection, and partnership.

This year, much of our focus has been on strengthening the systems that allow us to serve you more efficiently. We've improved internal processes, enhanced financial oversight, invested in workforce development, and deepened collaboration with community partners. While this work may not always make headlines, it is essential. Strong infrastructure enables us to respond quickly in a crisis, steward public dollars responsibly, and sustain the programs our community relies on.

At the same time, we continued advancing key public health priorities. From maternal and child health to environmental health, from chronic disease prevention to overdose response, our work remains grounded in data and driven by the needs of our residents. We have leaned into partnerships, recognizing that meaningful progress happens when public health, healthcare, schools, local government, and community organizations work together.

We also recognize challenges remain. Health disparities persist and housing conditions, environmental exposures, behavioral health needs, and access to care continue to shape outcomes across our county. This report does not shy away from those realities. Instead, it reaffirms our commitment to addressing them with focus, transparency, and accountability.

I'm proud of the team behind this work and deeply grateful to our Health District Advisory Council, Board of Health, community partners, and residents for their trust and collaboration. Public health succeeds when we move forward together, and our progress reflects that shared commitment.

As you read this report, I hope you see both the impact of efforts and the path ahead. We are strengthening an agency that is prepared, resilient, and closely connected to the community it serves.

The work continues- and we are ready.

Respectfully submitted to the community of Lucas County, Ohio, the place we live, work, and play.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karim Baroudi". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Karim Baroudi, MPH, REHS

Public Health Commissioner

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Community,

Public Health is everyone's business. It affects people's lives in a myriad of ways. Health Departments have an overview of the county environment to which they serve. Whether it is health care or social services, nutrition, or ready access to safe housing, each life is touched by public health initiatives.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department 2025-2027 Strategic Plan was developed with input from staff, medical providers, community stakeholders, and the Board of Health. It is the foundation of our work and provides guidelines and goals to address particular issues which affect our residents. Implementation of this plan began last year and continues with regular assessments to evaluate our progress. The staff is committed to promoting the health and well-being of our communities. So many social factors contribute to the breakdown of a healthy life and the partnerships fostered by the Health Department within our communities are vital to our success.

The Toledo-Lucas County Board of Health is charged with oversight of the vast number of services provided to the jurisdictions we serve. The members of the Board are representatives of their communities and the experience of the citizens within our county. We each offer a different perspective related to the jurisdiction we represent. These diverse outlooks and opinions are invaluable to the effectiveness of our Board.

There have been funding changes over the last year. Some grants have expired and there is no apparent renewal opportunity at this point. We are hopeful that our Federal and State legislatures will appreciate the necessity of public health initiatives and how necessary it is to continue the programs that the grants support.

The Board of Health has a goal to be more involved in bills being presented to our state elected officials. Our Legislative Committee has identified multiple Ohio House and Senate bills that directly affect the lives of our residents. Together with Health Commissioner Baroudi, we are being proactive by contacting representatives, senators, and related health associations to explain our position on these bills. We are hopeful that we can familiarize the members with potential issues arising from future legislation.

Through the generosity of our jurisdictions, we will soon be moving to our new building. We will be proud to welcome our patients and clients to more beautiful, comfortable surroundings. Our staff and clients will have ready parking, which will help immensely. The Administration and staff are already working diligently to ensure a smooth transition.

We appreciate the support and collaboration we have received and look forward to a healthier year for all of Lucas County.



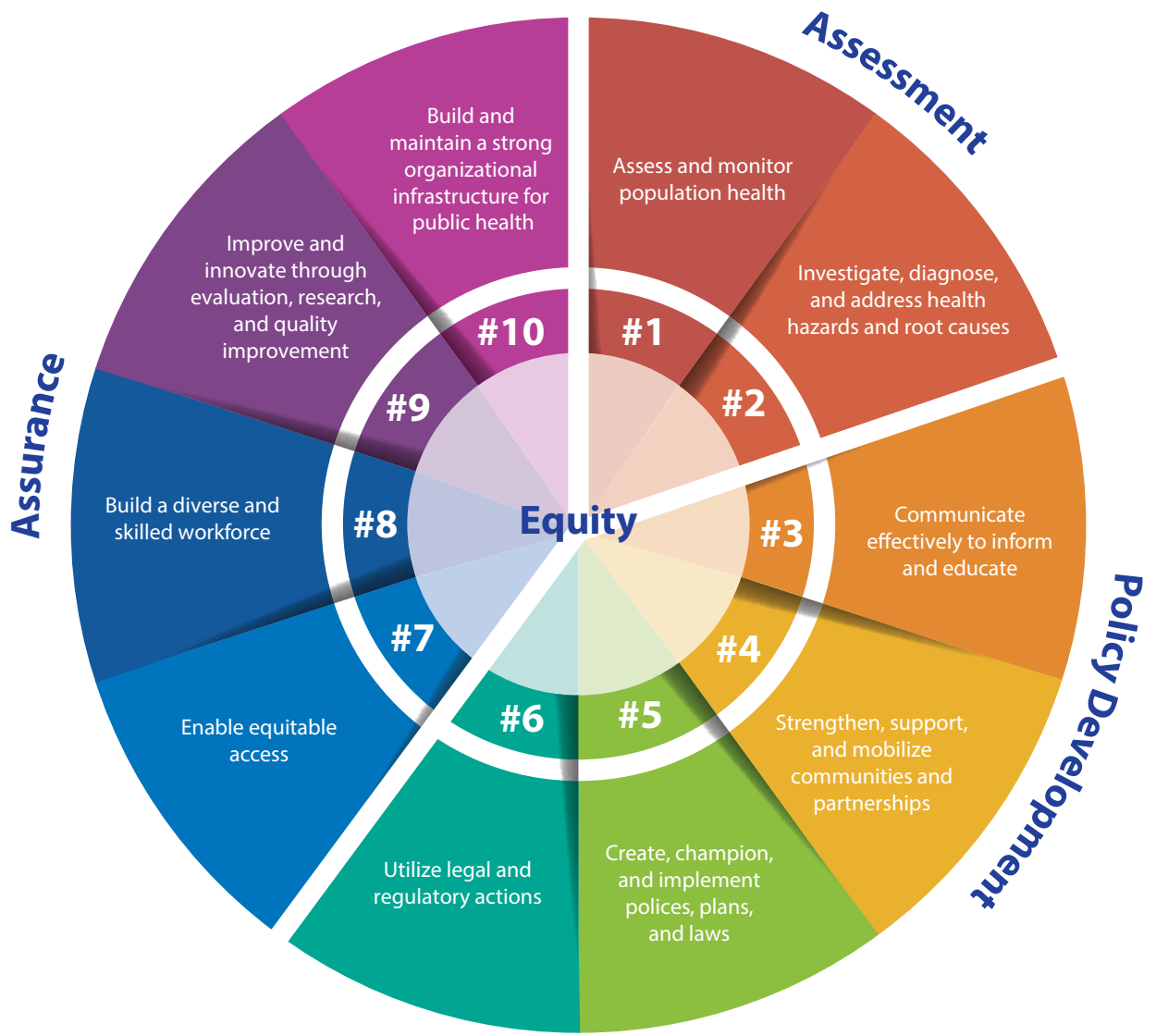
Barbara Sarantou

President, Toledo-Lucas County Board of Health 2025

2025 PRESIDENT

TLCHD MODEL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) champions the Public Health 3.0 model through strategic planning, policy, and programming to ensure every resident has an equitable opportunity to achieve their best health. Effective public health service delivery requires evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches that prioritize addressing the social determinants of health impacting every person’s ability to be healthy. Such efforts emphasize the importance of health equity, cross-sector collaboration, and innovative policies and programs to address the complex physical, social, behavioral, and environmental conditions influencing community health.



As TLCHD strengthens its core public health services, the department remains committed to addressing the broader factors that shape the health and well-being of Lucas County residents. By received the 10 Essential Public Health Services and focusing on social determinants of health in 2026 and beyond, TLCHD is driving meaningful improvements in how public health services are received—ensuring they meet the real needs of the community and support a county where everyone can live, thrive, work, and play.

DEPARTMENT SERVICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A dedicated staff of **130+ professionals** deliver nearly **100 programs** and services across Lucas County. This work is accomplished through the following departments:



Administration is led by the office of the Health Commissioner, providing strategic leadership and oversight for the agency, guided by a shared mission, vision, and values. The administrative branch supports essential functions including fiscal stewardship, human resources, legal compliance, plus a reliable information technology and communications infrastructure to ensure effective daily operations while advancing organizational development.



Childhood Wellness is dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of youth in Lucas County. Efforts focus on care coordination to improve birth outcomes, providing reproductive health education and services, reducing infant mortality, enhancing youth traffic safety, and strengthening overall family health. Programs also include nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referrals to community resources, and other supportive services to help families thrive.



Environmental Health focuses on the natural and built environments and their impact on health in Lucas County. In partnership with local, state, and national agencies, staff monitor and regulate beaches and swimming pools, food service operations, pest and nuisance complaints, sewage treatment systems, schools, water quality, and solid waste facilities. The Environmental Health team also leads efforts to prevent and reduce childhood lead poisoning, along with addressing other environmental health concerns that affect the safety and well-being of our community.



Innovation, Quality, and Informatics spearheads continuous quality improvement initiatives across all service areas within the department, strengthening performance, accountability, and outcomes. It also bridges public health practice and academia to support workforce development and train the next generation of public health professionals. The team plays a critical role in monitoring and mitigating the spread of infectious diseases within our community and ensures readiness to respond effectively to public health threats through comprehensive emergency preparedness planning and response efforts.



Nursing & Clinical Services delivers direct patient care and population-based health services to support the well-being of our community. Services include immunizations to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases, harm reduction and overdose prevention initiatives to reduce the impact of substance use and bloodborne infections, HIV and STD prevention and counseling, and comprehensive reproductive health and wellness care. The division also provides health promotion programs and supportive resources for seniors and children with complex medical needs, ensuring access to essential services across the lifespan.

STATUTORY OPERATIONS MANAGED BY TLCHD & THE BOARD OF HEALTH

TLCHD operates under statutory authority granted by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and are charged with protecting and promoting the health of the communities they serve. These statutory obligations establish the framework for public health governance, enforcement authority, and essential services at the local level.

The Health Department is also required to provide core public health services, including health education, prevention programming, plus community health assessment and planning. TLCHD collaborates with state agencies, healthcare providers, schools, and emergency management agencies, along with community partners to address priority health issues while ensuring compliance with state plus federal regulations.

Local Boards of Health are statutory entities responsible for enforcing state health laws, adopting local regulations, and abating nuisances to protect public health. Key obligations under the ORC include inspecting food service operations, controlling contagious diseases, and ensuring environmental safety. They must meet monthly, appoint a health commissioner, and complete required continuing education.

2025 BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

- Barbara Ann Sarantou, **President**
- Amr Elaskary, CPA, CFE, **Vice President**
- Cheryl Crowder, RN, BSN
- Sonia Flunder-McNair
- Ted Kaczorowski
- David Karmol
- Paul J. Komisarek
- Richard L. Munk, MD
- Susan Postal, EMT-P
- Johnathon Ross, MD
- Matthew Sapara
- Donna Woodson, MD



2025 BY THE NUMBERS

SNAPSHOT



Reproductive Health & Wellness

Visits: **2,765**

Clients served: **1,620**

Wellness exams, birth control, pregnancy testing and counseling, reproductive life planning, STI testing and treatment and emergency contraception.



Childhood lead screening and case management

269 services

Including blood lead tests, case management, risk assessments, and education.



Childhood and Adult Immunizations:

6,214

Vaccination clinics were hosted both on-site and through mobile outreach efforts.



Outbreak investigations completed: **61**

60.7% occurred within healthcare-associated facilities



Naloxone Kits

Distributed: **16,176**

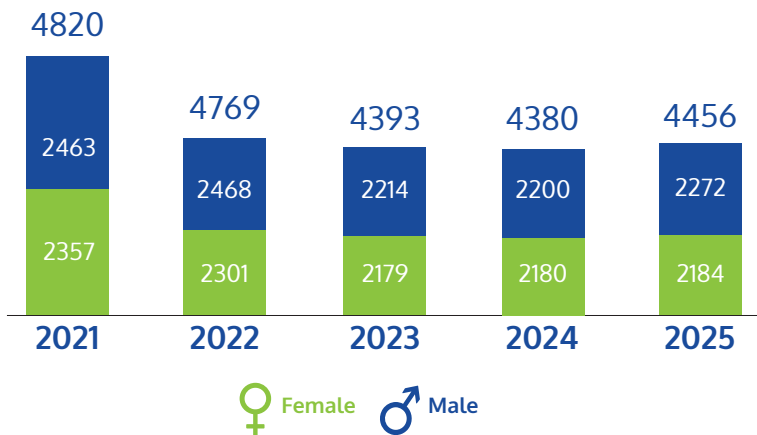
VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and death data is reported for Lucas County residents and does not include residents of other jurisdictions who were born or died within Lucas County. The 5-year Top Ten causes of death chart illustrates the continued impact of heart disease and cancer on our community. Other causes, such as chronic lung disease, cerebrovascular diseases/stroke, diabetes, and chronic liver diseases/cirrhosis are all on the relative-rise year to year.

2025 Lucas County Resident Deaths:

4,852

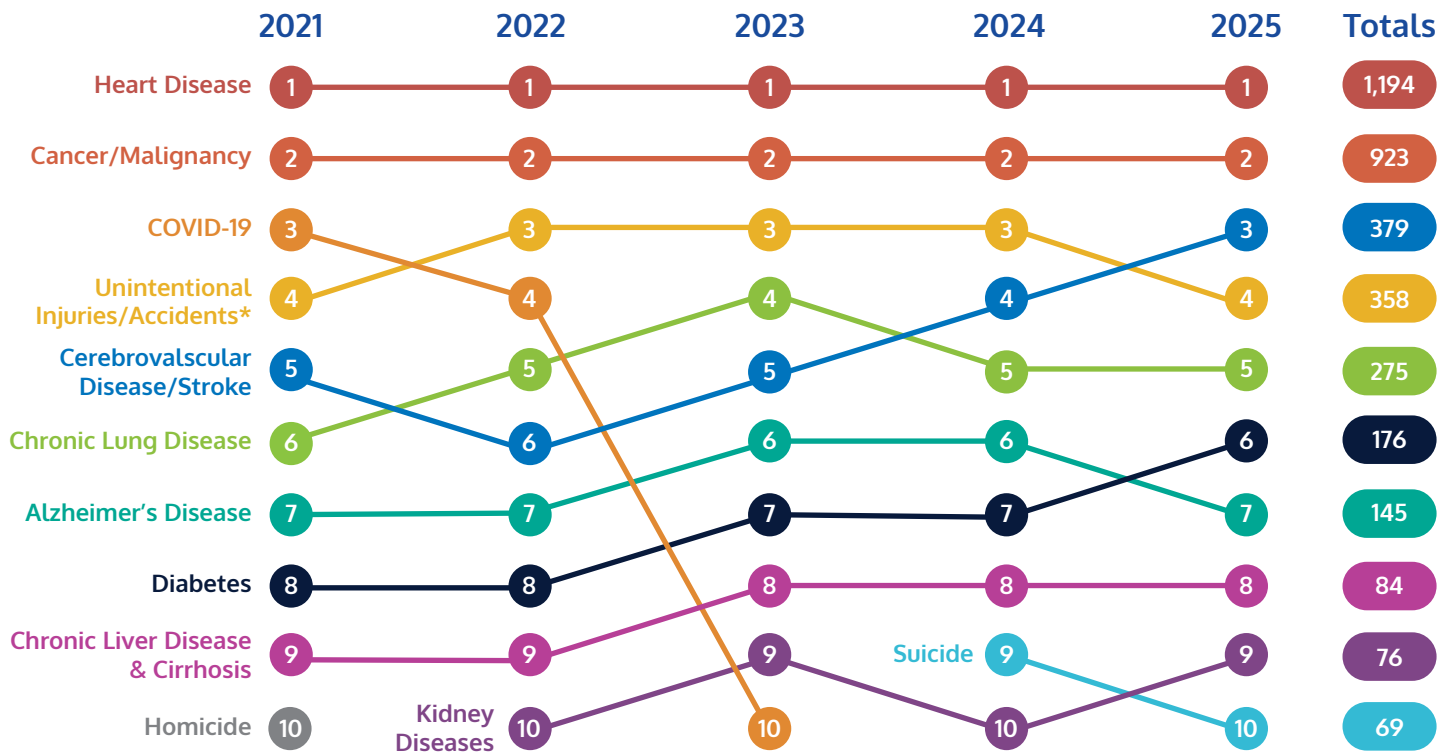
Lucas County Resident Births



In 2025, Chronic Diseases accounted for **51.79%** of all Lucas County Resident Deaths, up **7.35%** from 2021

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Top 10 Causes of Death for Lucas County Residents by Year



* Unintentional Injuries/Accidents includes opioid overdose deaths, motor vehicle deaths, and other accidental deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The State of Ohio recognizes **more than 88 diseases** and infectious agents that pose a severe threat to the public's health.

- Lucas County epidemiologists responded to 1 or more cases of **38** Class A, B, C reportable diseases in 2025.
- In the last 5 years, TLCHD has responded to 1 or more cases of **47** reportable diseases.

The top reportable diseases by total number of cases (incidence) are reported below. The total incidence of all other reportable diseases is combined (HIV excluded).

Top 10 Class A, B, or C Reportable Diseases	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 vs 5 Year Average
COVID-19 (All) / COVID-19 associated hospitalizations	50,047	47,098	10,389	7,099	2,462/167	↓ 91.3%
Chlamydia Infection	3,005	3,006	2,882	2,503	2,426	↓ 18.4%
Influenza-associated hospitalization	Suppressed	460	128	551	832	↑ 82.5%
Gonococcal Infection	1,613	1,480	1,187	768	685	↓ 50.0%
Hepatitis C*	504	441	358	284	238	↓ 41.8%
Syphilis*	153	134	152	140	120	↓ 8.1%
Campylobacteriosis	48	64	90	91	117	↑ 72.6%
CPO*	17	18	40	55	85	↑ 193.1%
Hepatitis B*	75	86	74	58	63	↓ 12.0%
Salmonellosis	45	51	54	58	63	↑ 35.2%
All Other Reportable Class A, B, and C Diseases	175	237	257	319	291	↑ 25.1%

Data is reported current as of 2/9/26. Case counts fewer than are 10 suppressed. 5-Year trend comparison includes data from 2020-2024 for all diseases except Influenza, where 2020 and 2021 are excluded due to data instability and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Hepatitis B & C case counts include all perinatal, acute, and chronic cases. *CPO includes all confirmed and probable Carbapenemase-Producing Organism cases and confirmed Carbapenemase-Producing Organism Colonization Screenings. *Syphilis includes all congenital, early, primary, secondary, and unknown duration or late cases.

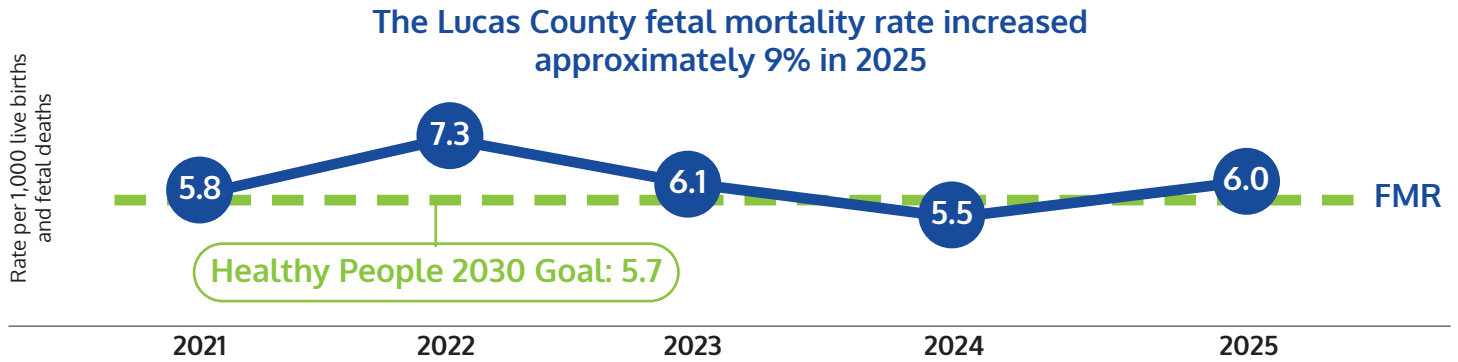
*Effective October 1, the State of Ohio released an updated reportable disease list, adding new reportable conditions and modifying others. COVID-19 was modified from all cases reportable to only hospital-associated COVID-19 cases reportable. Lucas County had 2,462 cases reported between 1/1/25 – 9/30/25 and 167 hospitalization-associated COVID-19 cases reported between 10/1/25 -12/31/25.

FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

Fetal and infant mortality rates are key public health metrics for tracking and improving maternal and child health. They help identify areas for intervention and monitor progress in reducing preventable deaths during pregnancy and early childhood. About **6 in 1,000 pregnancies** in 2025 ended in fetal death.

Fetal Mortality Rate

(FMR) is the number of fetal deaths per 1,000 live births.

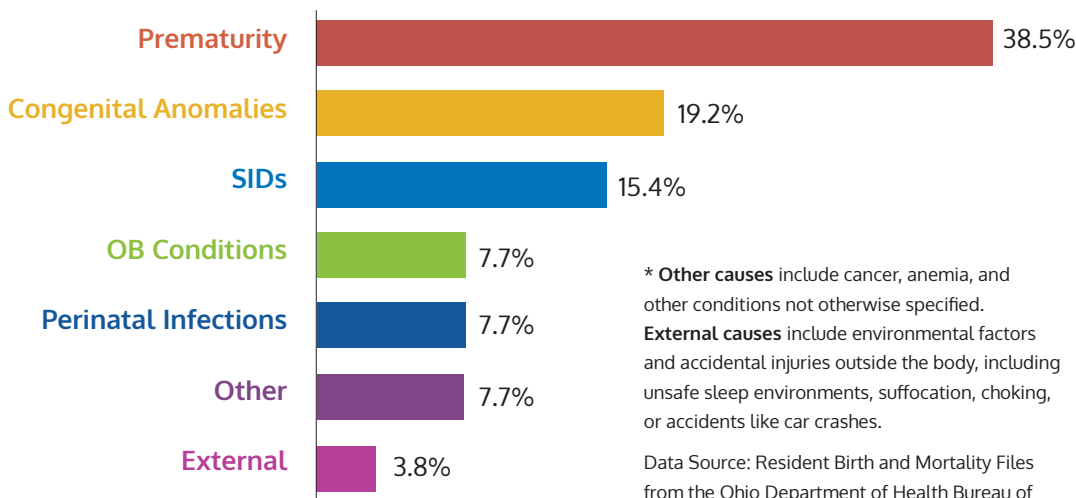


Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is the death of an infant before their first birthday. The Infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Non-Hispanic Black infants are 2.3 times more likely to die than Non-Hispanic White infants.

Leading Causes of Infant Death in Lucas County

In 2025, prematurity remained the leading cause of preventable infant deaths in Lucas County. Common risk factors for prematurity include high blood pressure, being over or underweight, smoking, delayed or absent prenatal care, plus maternal age under 20 or over 35 during pregnancy.



* **Other causes** include cancer, anemia, and other conditions not otherwise specified.
External causes include environmental factors and accidental injuries outside the body, including unsafe sleep environments, suffocation, choking, or accidents like car crashes.

Data Source: Resident Birth and Mortality Files from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Body Art

57 Licensed Establishments
99 Standard Inspections

Municipal Solid Waste Landfill

1 Licensed
7 Inspections

Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills

1 Licensed
10 Inspections



Schools

171 Number of schools (K-12)
341 Standard School Inspections

Infectious Waste Treatment Facilities

1 Licensed
6 Inspections

Compost Facilities

12 Registered
12 Inspections



Pools/Spas

338 Pool/Spa Standard Inspections
223 Licensed Public Pools and Spas

Environmental Assessments

55 Completed

Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS)

32 Permits for New Installation
72 Permits for Replacement Installation
31 Permits for Alterations
74 12-Month Inspections
152 Site Review Collected
3 HSTS Mortgage Inspections
159 Property Improvement Evaluations
17 Lot Split Reviews



Bathing Beaches

3 Standard Inspections
3 Licensed Public Bathing Beaches

Operation & Maintenance Permits Issued

95 New
87 Renewed

Private Water Systems

26 New Well Installation Permits
3 Well Alteration Permits
14 Well Sealing Permits
2 Private Water System Mortgage
Inspections
87 Water Samples Collected and Tested



Campgrounds

14 Licensed Campgrounds
6 Temporary Campgrounds
22 Standard Inspections

Stormwater Program

263 Inspections
271 Outfall Inspections

Semi-Public Program

255 Inspections
6 Reinspections
3 Aerator Unit Inspections

City of Toledo Livestock Permits

3 Livestock Variances Issued
7 Chicken Permits



Small Flow on Lot Sewage Treatment System

14 Inspections

Sewage Hauler Program

14 Companies
20 Trucks Inspected



Lucas County Jail Inspections

5 Standard Inspections



>3,793 food safety inspections

Across restaurants, mobile food units, school cafeterias, and other food service establishments, ensuring safe food handling practices to protect public health.

CARE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

Public health means meeting people where they are—understanding their lived realities and delivering support, information, and care in ways that fit their cultures, environments, and daily lives, rather than expecting them to adapt to the system. TLCHD welcomes all walks of life by fostering a safe, familiar, and respectful environment.



BRINGING CARE TO THE COMMUNITY

On June 27, NOSS partnered with the Reproductive Health and Wellness Clinic and Disease Intervention Specialists to host a National HIV Testing Day event at St. Lucas Lutheran Church. Central Outreach provided HIV, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis testing, while Equitas distributed Bombas socks. All individuals who completed testing received a medication lock bag from NOSS. The event also featured a mental health education session and offered supportive items for participants experiencing homelessness, including blankets, sleeping masks, and neck pillows.

ACCESSIBLE CARE

Walking Alongside the Journey to Healing

A Health Educator met with an individual to collaboratively explore strategies for better understanding and managing his emotions. It was clear he was carrying a lot and needed more than just information — he needed someone to truly hear him. Our team took the time to sit with him, listen without judgment, and meet him exactly where he was in that moment. Instead of simply handing him a list of resources, we walked alongside him. Staff personally reached out to several facilities, asked thoughtful questions, explored different options, and made sure every potential referral felt right to him. Throughout the process, we checked in often so he felt informed, supported, and empowered to make his own decisions. Together his options were carefully reviewed to find the best path forward — one that addressed both his substance use and his mental health needs. Because of our team's persistence and genuine compassion, a successful referral was made, and he was connected to the care and support he truly needed.

NORTHWEST OHIO SAFE SERVICES (NOSS) INCREASE LOCATIONS

To better meet people where they are, NOSS expanded into communities where participants live and seek support. Two new sites were added to increase access and reduce barriers to care. St. Lucas Lutheran Church in the 43609 zip code was selected because it is the second-highest zip code of residency among NOSS participants. Services were also launched at Neighborhood Health Association's Village Recovery Center in 43605, reestablishing a trusted, brick-and-mortar community presence where participants can connect with NOSS staff, receive testing, review injection practices, and strengthen linkage to care.

Community Reach Across Harm Reduction Programs



4,737 People Trained to Use Naloxone



39,089 Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed



41,480 Condoms Distributed



1,365 Overdose Reversals



886 Deterra Bags Distributed



297 Total Community Trainings/ Events Attended



14,148 Total People Reached



HARM REDUCTION VENDING MACHINE EXPANSION

We've added 10 new locations across Northwest Ohio to expand access to naloxone in our communities. Each site ensures naloxone is readily available, and may also offer additional resources based on local needs—such as fentanyl test strips, Deterra medication disposal bags, personal hygiene kits, and more.

MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE: WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

WIC is a nutrition support program serving eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, new mothers, infants, and children up to age five. The program promotes healthy pregnancies and early childhood development by improving access to nutritious foods and helping reduce risks such as low birth weight and infant mortality.

In addition to providing healthy supplemental foods, WIC offers nutrition and breastfeeding education, plus referrals to prenatal care and pediatric services, along with other health and community resources.



In 2025, WIC served **14,742 participants** at **8 locations** across Lucas County.

HANDS-ON HELP, WIC BREASTFEEDING SERVICES IN ACTION

Oversight of the Breastfeeding Support team transitioned from Mercy Health to TLCHD, creating new opportunities to strengthen and expand our maternal and child health services. By bringing this program in-house, we have been able to more fully integrate breastfeeding support into our existing programs and build greater capacity to serve families in a coordinated, inclusive way. Families now experience improved access, more flexible scheduling options, and a more unified approach to breastfeeding education and care—helping us better meet each family where they are and support their individual needs.

- **Expanded Access:** Services available M–F, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- **Patients Served:** 8,099 supportive breastfeeding encounters
- **Hands-On Support:** Lactation consultants and peer helpers assist with latch, milk supply, and returning to work or school
- **Choice & Flexibility:** Support for all feeding decisions
- **Barrier Reduction:** Breast pumps and community resource connections provided
- **Donor Milk:** 11,316 ounces collected and donated to OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank
- **Supporting Vulnerable Infants:** Donor milk distributed to NICUs and hospitals for critical nutrition



Impact:

Promoting a healthier start for mothers and babies in our community

ACCESSIBLE CARE

Impact In Action

A TLCHD Breastfeeding Peer Helper supported a 39-year-old expectant mother with a high-risk IVF pregnancy and possible preterm delivery who was also navigating anxiety following a previous infant loss. In addition to questions about breastfeeding, the mother had concerns about pregnancy, delivery, and newborn care. The Peer Helper provided individualized, evidence-based education on breastfeeding, pump use, and milk storage, while also offering compassionate emotional support and addressing trauma-related fears with patience and sensitivity. With this guidance, the mother chose to exclusively breastfeed her baby boy. The team assisted her in obtaining a breast pump and storage supplies through insurance, and she remains connected to breastfeeding services with plans for continued follow-up after delivery.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

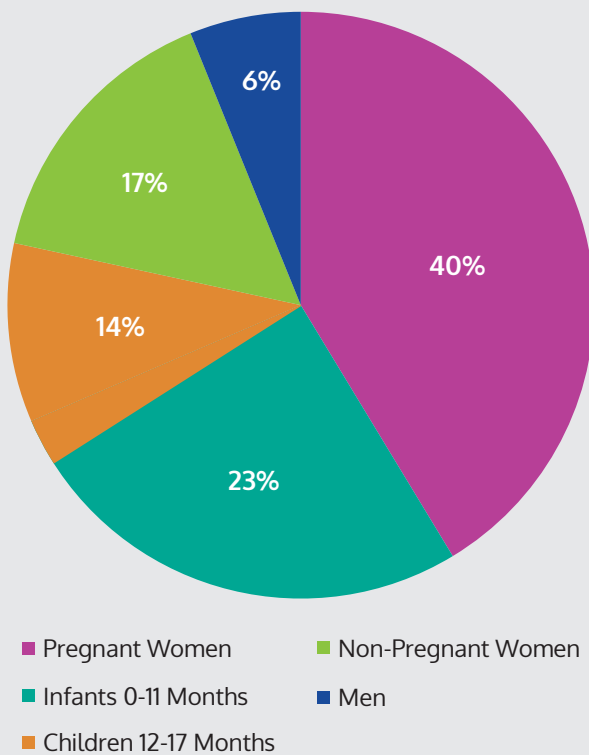


TLCHD's Healthy Start initiative is a free home visiting service that provides comprehensive, family-centered support to pregnant and postpartum women, fathers, and children under 18 months.

Community Health Workers lead the program's work, providing culturally responsive, trauma-informed care to participants. Their efforts resulted in a rise from 30% of participants completing postpartum visits in 2024 to nearly 75% of participants completing visits in 2025. Nearly 100% of clients were screened for depression and father participation in the program reached 136% of the program's goal.

In May 2025, the program expanded behavioral health services through a partnership with The Healing Place. Families can now access trauma-informed mental health care through home visits, group sessions, and telehealth. The program also encouraged vaccine uptake and efforts to prevent high blood pressure during pregnancy by using state immunization data and findings from local mortality reviews.

Healthy Start Clients Served in 2025



Listening First

Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the Maternal Child Health program have built trusted relationships with clients, through which several shared an interest in placing their babies for adoption. These CHW's worked closely with management to quickly gather resources and present clear options to the pregnant clients and their guardians. Referrals were made to The Pregnancy Center, where a Nurse Practitioner and attorneys are available to provide medical consultation and help facilitate private adoptions. Rather than responding with uncertainty, the team is committed to researching options and equipping each client with accurate information so she can make an informed decision. They will continue expanding resources to meet the unique needs of pregnant girls and women.



CRIBS FOR KIDS®

The Cribs for Kids program is designed to meet families exactly where they are, providing safe sleep support when and where it's needed most. When a family reports an infant sleeping in unsafe conditions—like swings, bouncers, or bed-sharing—they receive a crib the same day, helping create a safer sleep environment immediately. By staying responsive, mobile, and relationship-focused, Cribs for Kids® ensures that every family can access the care and resources they need to protect their baby's health.



682

Cribettes Delivered

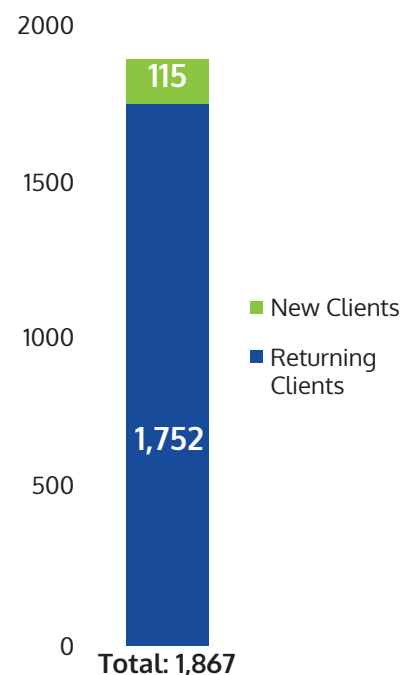
Path to Stability

A Community Health Worker's consistent advocacy helped a pregnant teen facing depression, unsafe housing, and school disengagement move toward stability. Living in an overcrowded and unsafe home, she struggled with shame and isolation. Through coordination with the local school district, health department, social services, and housing authority, a safer single-family home was secured for her family. The transition brought new challenges, including lack of furniture and safe sleep arrangements for her newborn. Through persistent outreach and collaboration, essential items, safe sleep education, and trauma-informed counseling were arranged. With ongoing support for basic needs and school engagement, the young mother is now in a safer environment, reconnecting with school, and beginning her healing journey.



HEALTHIER AGING IN TRUSTED SPACES: THE 60+ PROGRAM IN ACTION

The 60+ Program meets older adults where they already gather and feel comfortable, serving 18 locations each month — including eight senior centers, nine subsidized senior housing complexes, and a monthly food bank in Jerusalem Township. At each site, participants receive one-on-one blood pressure checks and health screenings in a familiar, trusted setting. By showing up consistently, the program builds lasting relationships that open the door to meaningful health education and personalized support. This steady presence creates space for respectful, evidence-based conversations — helping address misinformation, including concerns about vaccinations and other highly publicized health topics — while empowering participants to make informed, healthier choices.



RESPONDING & ADAPTING TOGETHER

Building trust, sharing resources, and strengthening collective capacity encapsulates how our staff work to build resilience in our community every day. We work alongside our community to put plans into motion, so we can respond quickly and effectively to challenges as they arise.

FROM DETECTION TO CONTAINMENT: PUBLIC HEALTH OUTBREAK RESPONSE

When an outbreak is reported, our public health epidemiologists act quickly to protect the community. They start by gathering detailed information about the cases—who is affected, when symptoms began, and potential sources of exposure. Using this data, they identify patterns and determine the scope of the outbreak. Epidemiologists work closely with healthcare providers, laboratories, and other agencies to confirm diagnoses, trace contacts, and implement control measures such as vaccinations, quarantine/isolation, or public health advisories. Throughout the process, they communicate findings and provide guidance on prevention, while monitoring the situation until the outbreak is contained. This methodical, data-driven approach helps limit the spread of disease and keeps communities safe.



MMWR: RABIES

TLCHD staff were co-authors of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Article: *Human to Human Rabies Transmission via Solid Organ Transplantation from a Donor with Undiagnosed Rabies*, detailing the outcome of a multi-state human rabies investigation. TLCHD's investigation spanned nearly 200 hours of staff time over which the Epidemiology Program completed more than 250 risk assessments related to the investigation; 6% of potential contacts were recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis rabies vaccination.

PROMOTING GUN SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

In recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Day on Friday, June 6, TLCHD partnered with Veterans Affairs to distribute 119 free gun locks in our community. This partnership reflects the shared commitment to reduce gun violence and prevent avoidable tragedies through community education—particularly among families with young children and military veterans who face a higher risk of suicide.

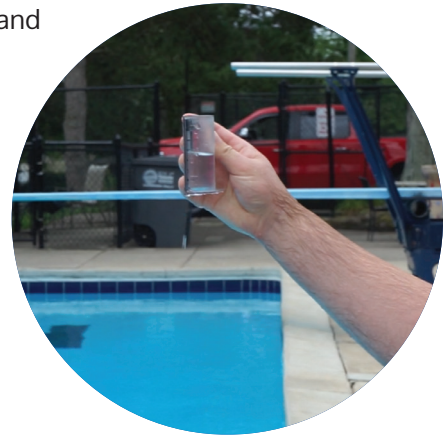




PARTNERING FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY SUMMER

Our inspectors partnered with City of Toledo pool staff to provide hands-on, poolside training focused on water chemistry testing, proper documentation, and key pool safety practices. The session brought together 27 City of Toledo pool employees and created an opportunity for shared learning and collaboration.

The City operates seven pools and splash pads within city limits, and our department works closely alongside city staff throughout the season to support consistent standards and ensure all facilities remain safe, healthy, and ready for the community to enjoy a successful summer.



STRENGTHENING REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

TLCHD staff joined county agencies and community partners for a regional tabletop exercise centered on a chemical surge scenario. The exercise helped us assess communication across agencies, evaluate regional readiness, and strengthen public health and healthcare surge response.

Preparedness staff also participated in the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency's Davis-Besse Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise. After a dry run in April, a federally evaluated exercise was held in May.

Federal guidelines require a full-scale radiological exercise every two years. These coordinated efforts bring partners together to strengthen collaboration and ensure Lucas County remains prepared for radiological emergencies.

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO SAFE INFANT SLEEP



During Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department convened healthcare partners, local elected officials, and members of the Childhood Fatality Review Board to reinforce the shared responsibility of preventing sleep-related infant deaths. A public press conference at the East Toledo Family Center emphasized that, while these deaths are among the most preventable causes of infant mortality, they continue to impact families in our community. By raising awareness and aligning leaders around consistent safe sleep practices, the initiative strengthened a unified commitment to protecting infants across Lucas County.

Learn about the ABC's of Safe Sleep



Adapting to Meet the Moment

TLCHD's Harm Reduction Health Educator approaches work with a focus on adapting to meet the moment and the needs of those being served. Through partnerships with Team Recovery and Midwest Treatment, TLCHD is working to expand services to better support individuals at different stages of readiness. During the monthly harm reduction trainings with in-patient detox groups, practical, judgment-free education on safer drug use and safer sex is provided, creating space for honest conversation and connection.

Opportunities for reflection are welcomed by inviting former NOSS participants and individuals connected to DART to share their experiences or send messages back to the teams who supported them. Many share that the program helped save their lives, or simply that they are still here and doing well. These moments serve as a reminder that adapting in real time and meeting people where they are can create meaningful, lasting impact — even when the results aren't immediately visible.

PREVENTING DISEASE

The Health Department plays a vital role in preventing disease through monitoring health trends, promoting healthy behaviors, reducing risk factors, and implementing programs to protect the Lucas County community.

PROJECT FIRSTLINE

In 2025, TLCHD implemented the CDC's national training and education initiative for frontline healthcare workers and infection control professionals in Lucas County. The goal of Project Firstline is to assess infection prevention and control (IPC) needs across healthcare facilities, strengthen collaborative relationships with those facilities, deliver IPC education and resources to enhance IPC knowledge and practices, and to create and maintain sustainable educational resources to support long-term IPC efforts.

The epidemiologist led initiative resulted in the creation of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Best Practices Toolkit, the Environmental Services (EVS) Best Practices Toolkit, and the Correctional Facilities Infection Prevention & Control Best Practices Toolkit for congregate care professionals in Lucas County nursing homes and correctional facilities. Additionally, the initiative distributed IPC signage and resources, while continuing to develop and deliver training for front-line workers in these facilities. These materials and trainings emphasize the why and how behind infection prevention practices with role-specific content.



HIV & SYPHILIS

Disease intervention plays a vital role on HIV and syphilis, reducing their impact on individual and community health. Because these infections may be asymptomatic, early testing, prompt treatment, and partner services are essential to interrupt transmission. Timely intervention improves health outcomes, prevents complications, and helps reduce new infections, strengthening overall public health in our community.



Syphilis

New syphilis diagnoses ranged from ages 15 to 87.

HIV

New HIV diagnoses ranged from ages 13 to 63. *Transmission is occurring at younger ages.*

In 2025, TLCHD:

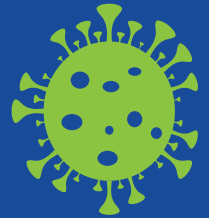


Increased HIV Testing by **168%** (from 19 in 2024 to 51 in 2025)

Increased Hep C Testing by **327%** (from 11 in 2024 to 47 in 2025)

- Identified 14+ positive cases and ensured all were connected to treatment.

Increased syphilis testing by **186%** (from 15 in 2024 to 43 in 2025)



HEALTHY HOMES: REDUCING LEAD EXPOSURE AND IMPROVING LIVING ENVIRONMENTS



The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention team—consisting of two lead risk assessors and a public health nurse—investigates cases involving children with confirmed elevated blood lead levels (≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$). The team conducts in-home risk assessments to identify sources of exposure, provides education on lead hazards, and recommends steps to reduce risks and lower blood lead levels. Visits include an eight-point healthy homes inspection, a questionnaire, and consultation with the child’s guardian.

Healthy Homes focus on creating safe, clean, and stable living environments that protect residents from health and safety hazards. By addressing risks such as moisture, pests, lead, poor air quality, contaminants, and home safety issues, the approach helps prevent illness and injury. Through education, inspections, and simple maintenance practices, Healthy Homes promote safer housing conditions and improve overall health for individuals and families.

IMMUNIZATIONS



The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department remains a trusted resource for immunizations for all ages. Expert nurses provide up-to-date vaccine education and counseling, while flu clinics are offered countywide each Fall. Year-round after-hours clinics give families flexibility to meet school vaccination requirements. Immunization staff also support local schools and providers to coordinate with the Ohio Department of Health for school vaccine reporting.

Preparing Travelers for Safe and Healthy Journeys

The Health Department's travel vaccine clinic offers pre-travel consultations, recommended and required immunizations, and destination-specific health guidance to help travelers stay safe and healthy while abroad. The clinic offers recommended and required vaccines (such as yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis A/B, and others), as well as guidance on malaria prevention, food and water safety, and insect precautions. The goal is to ensure travelers are informed, protected, and prepared for a healthy trip.

PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH ACCESSIBLE VACCINATIONS ACROSS LUCAS COUNTY

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department offers childhood vaccinations at familiar settings throughout Lucas County, providing immunizations recommended for children's health and school entry. These clinics make it convenient for families to access essential vaccines in frequented community sites including the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library locations across the county.

Childhood immunizations are essential for protecting children and adolescents from many infectious diseases, particularly because close contact in schools increases the risk of exposure. Schools with lower immunization compliance are more vulnerable to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses. The Get Vaccinated Ohio initiative aims to increase and sustain vaccination coverage among children and adolescents while reducing disparities in our community. TLCHD works closely with immunization providers to implement quality-assurance strategies that improve vaccine uptake, while partnering with schools to ensure immunization levels remain high.



148
Lucas County
schools received
training in 2025

STRENGTHENING & ADVANCING OUR CAPACITY



Supporting our team and the ways we serve our community through workplace well-being, encouraging professional growth, and thoughtfully stewarding public resources to advance our mission.



STAFF WELLNESS DAY

The For Employees by Employees (FEBE) staff enrichment group partnered with Administration to create a day focused entirely on our team. On a beautiful summer afternoon, we gathered at Sylvania's Olander Park to kick off a series of employee-centered activities designed to support connection and well-being.



Because promoting physical and mental health in the workplace truly matters to us, staff could choose what felt right for them — walking the one-mile loop around the park, painting on canvas, or writing an encouraging note to a colleague. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many sharing how much they valued the opportunity to relax, recharge, and connect with coworkers from across the agency.



SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE: PUBLIC HEALTH IT & OPERATIONS

In public health, the spotlight is often on frontline staff—but behind every clinic visit, inspection, and wellness program, is IT quietly keeping everything running. This past year, the team strengthened operations from the ground up. They implemented a new work order system using Freshservice, upgraded and deployed new PCs across departments, and guided major Accela and Healthspace transitions to ensure uninterrupted regulatory and environmental health services. They also built resilience by setting up a new backup server and deploying Veeam to protect critical data before a crisis could ever test it.

At the same time, IT streamlined daily operations and reduced costs by consolidating printing, launching a centralized print server with PaperCut, and deploying new copiers and ID card systems. They modernized infrastructure at the east WIC location with a new router and IP phones, launched a REDCap instance to support Childhood Wellness initiatives, preserved legacy Dentrix dental records in a secure virtual machine, and continued customizing the Aprima EHR to better support providers.

When systems stay online, data stays secure, phones connect, and providers can focus on patients instead of technology—that's the impact.

In public health, IT isn't just support. It's infrastructure, continuity, and trust—working behind the scenes so the community never has to think about what could have gone wrong.



LEADERS EMERGING AND DEVELOPING: EMPOWERING STAFF TO LEAD TODAY

Barb Jordan, Epidemiologist, and Chris Coakley, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, recently graduated from the Lucas County **Leaders Emerging and Developing (LEAD)** program. LEAD is designed to help high-potential staff build the skills, confidence, and influence to lead from wherever they are—regardless of title. The program highlights the meaningful impact these team members can have on their colleagues and the organization, fostering stronger collaboration and more effective service to the public.



2025 TEAM PERFORMANCE, EMPOWERMENT, AND ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Performance Made Simple:** New tool streamlines feedback and goal setting.
- **Skills for Success:** Training in Naloxone, Mental Health First Aid, and CPR for all levels.
- **Employee Voice:** Convened 7 focus groups with 58 front-line staff to improve satisfaction.
- **Faster Hiring:** Updated processes, identified gaps, and reduced delays.
- **Celebrating Excellence:** Employee recognition integrated into All-Staff Meetings.



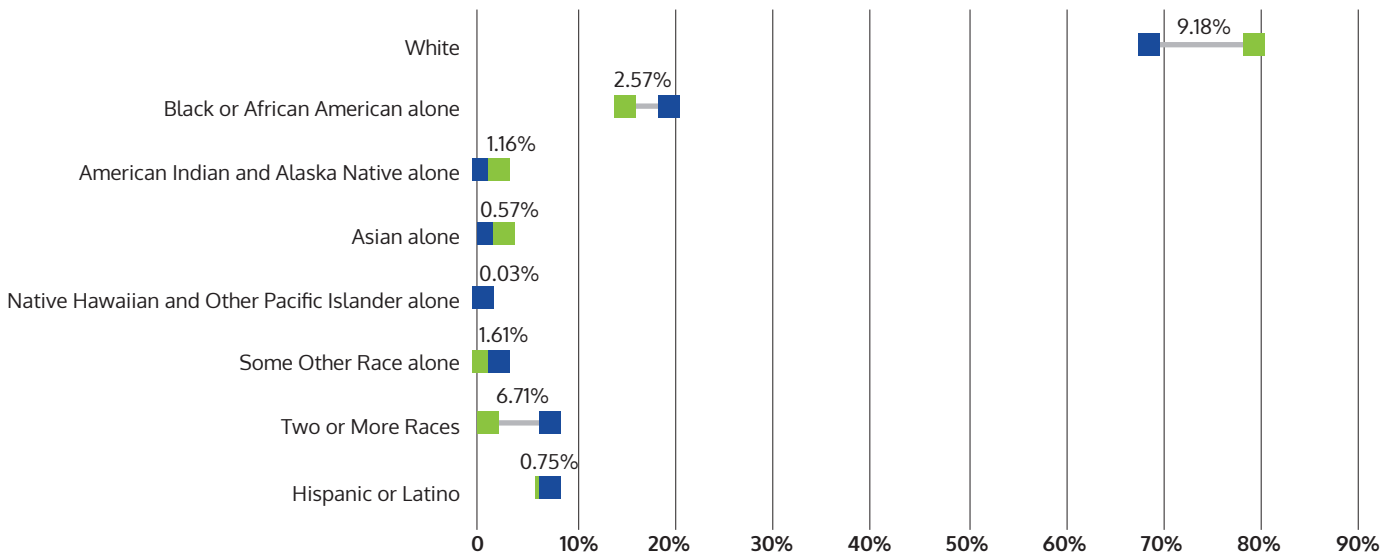
Impact:
Empowering staff, strengthening performance, and fostering a culture where everyone feels valued.



2025 WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

134 Total # of Employees **94.4%** Retention Rate

TLCHD employees in 2025 closely represented the demographics of **Lucas County*** with fewer than 5% difference in nearly all categories.

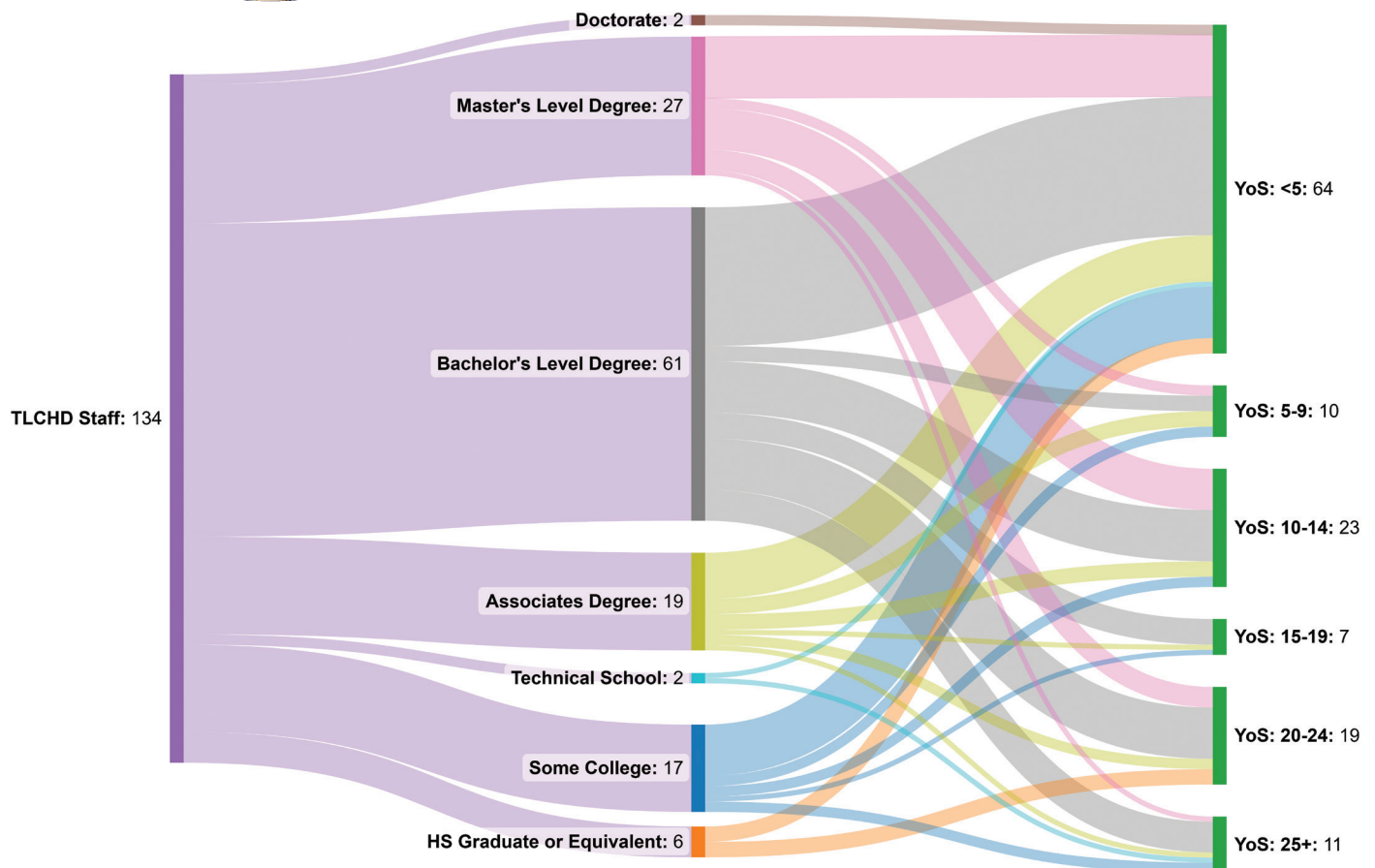


*U.S. Census Bureau. "RACE." Decennial Census, DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171), Table P1, 2020

*U.S. Census Bureau. "HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE." Decennial Census, DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics, Table P9, 2020.



More than **67%** of all TLCHD staff have a Bachelor's Degree or Higher; additionally, **44.8%** of all staff have been with the Health Department for 10 or more years, demonstrating a continuity of excellence.



*YoS = Years of Service

TECHCRED

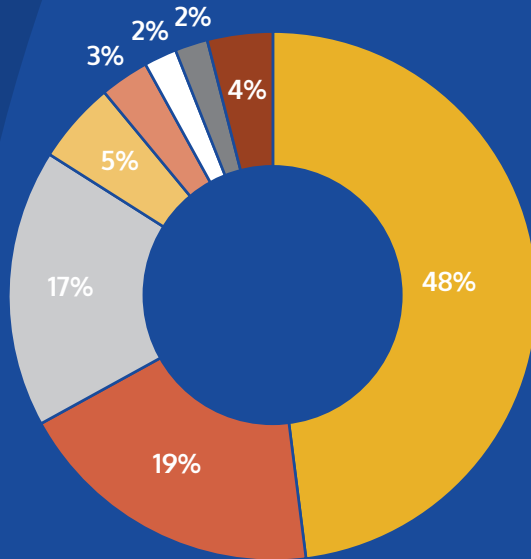


TechCred is a program offered by the State of Ohio that gives participating employers the opportunity to invest in current and future employee software skillsets and competencies.

In 2025, 20 TLCHD employees completed a total of **39 TechCred courses** encompassing **136 training hours** and saving Lucas County taxpayers **\$10,668 in training costs.**

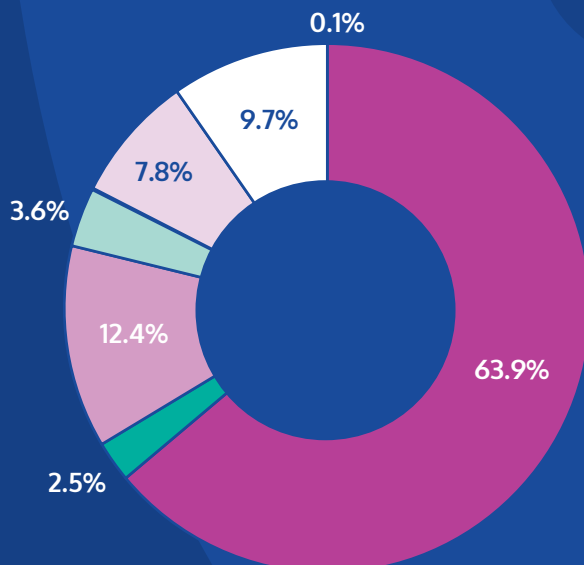
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES



Personnel Services	\$8,748,182.61
Fringe Benefits	\$3,388,456.20
Charges for Services	\$3,050,918.73
Materials & Supplies	\$943,921.45
Operating Expenses	\$522,930.51
Miscellaneous	\$403,976.10
Capital Outlay	\$371,752.80
Transfers Out	\$741,816.02
Total of 2025 Expenditures	\$18,171,954.42

REVENUES



Intergovernmental	\$13,208,432.84
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$510,784.20
Other Financing Sources	\$2,561,231.39
Transfers In	\$741,816.02
Charges for Services	\$1,611,377.45
Licenses & Permits	\$2,013,846.42
Other	\$18,204.97
Total of 2025 Revenues	\$20,665,693.29

* Federal, state, local grants and jurisdictional allocations



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Transparent fiscal reporting is essential for governmental organizations and helps maintain the trust of Lucas County residents in the delivery of public health services. A summary of the 2025 financial overview is available on the previous page.

As the sixth largest of more than 100 local health departments in Ohio, TLCHD is funded through a decentralized mix of local, state, and federal sources.

To sustain core services and strengthen health outcomes for Lucas County residents, the Health Department secures grant funding, reimbursements, and programmatic/licensing fees. These revenues are incorporated into the annual budget approved by the Board of Health and the District Advisory Council. Expenses are projected to increase in 2026 as the department transitions operations to its new facility.

In fiscal year 2025, the Health Department successfully managed **33 grants totaling \$9,051,276.72**, including 5 newly awarded grants and 28 continuation awards. This achievement reflects the dedicated work of our fiscal team, whose careful stewardship, attention to detail, and commitment to accountability ensure that every dollar supports programs and services that make a meaningful difference in our community.

LEVERAGING GRANT FUNDS

TLCHD was awarded a **\$150,000 grant from the Ohio EPA** through the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund to help income-eligible homeowners repair or replace failing household septic systems. Eligibility is based on the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines, and assistance may cover 50-100% of project costs, depending on household income. In 2025, two projects were completed and three additional projects are currently underway. Demand for the program remains high, with a substantial waiting list of eligible homeowners seeking assistance.



LEADING THE WAY NATIONALLY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

TLCHD's talented and committed workforce is leading the way nationally, shaping public health through expertise, innovation, and cutting-edge initiatives.

ADVANCING NURSING EDUCATION



In October, TLCHD was approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing to be a Continuing Education (CE) Provider. This status allows us to offer continuing education courses for registered nurses on patient care, nursing skills, and essential scientific knowledge. Valid through October 31, 2027, it supports a variety of educational programs for nursing staff in long-term care facilities, hospitals, and other healthcare organizations seeking continuing education credits.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING RECEIVES OPHA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The Ohio Public Health Association recognized the exceptional contributions of our Director of Nursing, Angie Bauman, with the **Distinguished Service Award**. This honor celebrates her dedication to improving community health through compassionate care, innovative programs, and tireless advocacy. From protecting vulnerable populations to advancing public health initiatives, her commitment exemplifies excellence in service and makes a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community.

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH ON SYRINGE RISKS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

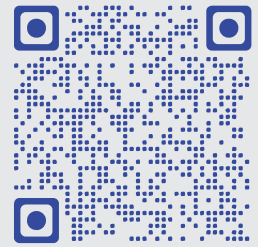
The Northwest Ohio Safe Services (NOSS) program recently partnered with researchers from Bowling Green State University on a study published in the national journal *PLOS ONE*. The research takes a closer look at an often-overlooked part of the opioid crisis — what used syringes can tell us.

The paper, *Opportunistic pathogens and polycoccktail drugs fuel dynamic public health threats during the opioid crisis*, explores how syringes can reveal important information about both drug use patterns and potential infection risks. By examining what’s left behind, researchers are gaining a clearer picture of the hidden health threats impacting communities.

This collaboration highlights how local public health efforts and academic research can work hand in hand to better understand — and respond to — the evolving challenges of the opioid crisis.

Citation: Boman JH IV, Souza N, Light J, Holt D, Jones S, et al. (2025) Opportunistic pathogens and polycoccktail drugs fuel dynamic public health threats during the opioid crisis. *PLOS ONE* (Public Library of Science)20(8): e0326200. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0326200>

Read the paper here:



ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH

TLCHD’s Academic Health Department (AHD) reached **500 students** in 2025. The program fostered student experiences from **15 institutions**, partnering with at least 34 high schools, colleges, technical programs, and universities since its inception in 2022. Through internships, job shadowing, and clinical rotations, students are exposed to real-world challenges, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical application. Academic partnerships often extend beyond student training, providing continuing education and leadership development opportunities for current public health professionals.

Student Research Project Highlight: *‘Implementation of Web-Available STI Education’*

A UT College of Nursing student worked with our womens health nurse practitioner to successfully complete and defend her Doctor of Nursing Practice Project to achieve her DNP.

Purpose: To increase STI testing in college students utilizing evidence based practice.

3 Priority Goals:

1. Produce and deliver STI education to young people to close the knowledge gap
2. Evaluate the efficacy of web-available STI education
3. Monitor treatment and intent to seek treatment post-education



2025 TLCHD Student Events

Experience Type	Total Students	Total Hours
Internships	42	1,968.5
Product/Research	6	341
Career Fair & Exploration	264	93.25
Classroom Visits	81	6.75
Clinical Rotation	54	110
Presentation/Tour	42	7.5
MISC	31	8.25
Grand Totals	500	2,535.25



SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Donna Fox and Shannon Jones presented at NACCHO360 in Anaheim, CA on the importance of data driven decisions and the impact of TLCHD’s syphilis billboards “Paying for Sex, Get Tested.”

EXPANDING FOOD ACCESS THROUGH HEALTHY CORNER STORE PARTNERSHIPS

Stephanie Baltes, RD, and Amy Abodeely, RD, were selected to present “Innovative and Collaborative Approaches to Addressing Food Access Across Ohio” at the Ohio Public Health Association Conference in April. The session highlighted how the Healthy Corner Store Program expands access to healthy, affordable, and nutritious food options for Toledo residents through innovative partnerships and community-based strategies.



A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT: WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE SAFE STREET FOOD

Jennifer Gottschalk, MPH, REHS, and Jodi Vaughan, REHS, provided an overview of how the Mobile Roundup began and grew over the years to become a regional event. More than 19 fire inspection departments and city permitting departments attended our one-stop shop event. The second hour of our presentation went beyond the Mobile Roundup to discuss the importance of collaboration with various departments within your community to help with sharing information.

WORKING COLLECTIVELY TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

Partnering with the community begins with listening and recognizing that meaningful change happens when we work together. It's about building trust with residents, local leaders, and organizations, and creating space for honest conversations about what's needed most. Rather than bringing one-size-fits-all solutions, we collaborate to shape programs that reflect the strengths and culture of each neighborhood. By staying connected and responsive, we can reach more people and ensure support feels accessible and relevant. Strong partnerships help create healthier, more empowered communities.



OUR LOCAL OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

Minority Health is about standing alongside communities that haven't always had a fair shot at quality care. That includes older adults, people living with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and racial and ethnic communities who have too often faced barriers, bias, or limited access to services.

The work goes beyond simply offering programs. It's about making sure care is welcoming, culturally responsive, accessible, and shaped by the people it's meant to serve. It means listening to lived experiences, recognizing community strengths, and acknowledging the very real challenges caused by stigma, economic hardship, and long-standing inequities in our systems.

By building strong, trusted partnerships within the community and investing in local resources, we can help close health gaps and support healthier futures — not just for individuals, but for families and entire neighborhoods.

WORKING COLLECTIVELY

TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH & YOU TOO



During National Minority Health Month, TLCHD partnered with the Local Office of Minority Health, the Environmental Pollutants Sub-Committee of Getting to 1, Mercy Health, Toledo GROWS, OSU Extension, and Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful to host the free “Take Care of the Earth & You Too” event. The event brought families together to explore the connection between environmental stewardship and personal health through hands-on activities, while strengthening community partnerships and reinforcing a shared commitment to health equity and environmental awareness.

7TH ANNUAL CHALK THE WALK

Organized by the Lucas County Opiate Coalition and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, the annual event is a remembrance of Lucas County residents who have died as a result of opioid-related overdoses and injuries.

The event featured
>30 community partners, with
>300 attendees.



STRENGTHENING FOOD ACCESS THROUGH SMALL MARKET PARTNERSHIPS

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, in partnership with the City of Toledo, launched the Healthy Food, Small Market Program to increase access to nutritious foods and beverages in neighborhood markets. By working with small, locally owned stores in areas with limited food options, the program makes fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and other healthy choices more available where residents already shop.

Participating stores received equipment, marketing support, and technical assistance to promote healthier options. Funded by City of Toledo ARPA dollars and the Ohio Department of Health’s Creating Healthy Communities program, the initiative enhances neighborhood food access and supports equitable availability of affordable, nutritious food.



Phoenix Earth Food Co-op: 1447 W Sylvania Ave.
Gold Star Market: 2123 Lagrange St.
Jay Clay Community Market: 962 Pinewood Ave.
Reynolds Carryout: 2201 N Reynolds Rd.
Yarlu African Market: 1827 Eastgate Rd.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

Keeping children safe is essential to their health, well-being, and ability to learn and thrive.



School Presentations

Public health presentations in local schools also introduce students to the wide range of career opportunities available in the field, from epidemiology and environmental health to health education and emergency preparedness. By learning directly from public health professionals, students gain a better understanding of how these roles impact community well-being and may be inspired to explore future careers in public service.



Lucas County School Safety Task Force

TLCHD's Childhood and Youth Wellness Department leads the Lucas County School Safety Task Force (SSTF); fostering cross-system collaboration among local agencies to proactively address threats, emerging risks, and enhance school safety, creating a safe and supportive environment that promotes the well-being and success of every student. This year, the SSTF brought partners together for two meaningful trainings and developed practical tools to better support schools in their safety efforts. The team was also selected to join the national LEAP+ cohort through the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), an exciting opportunity to strengthen and expand their work.



Looking at Harmful Algal Blooms

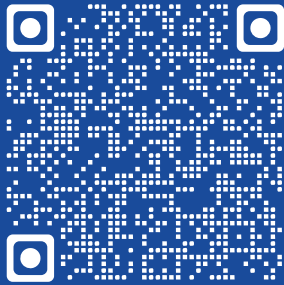
At Clay High School our Environmental Health staff delivered a presentation on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). The session addressed HABs, the environmental impacts of failing septic systems, applicable septic system regulations, and the policies, procedures, and considerations utilized by the Health Department in managing these systems.

School-Based Initiatives /Youth Asthma

TLCHD supports schools and districts in student asthma management through assistance in creating policies, employing practices, and providing supplies ensuring stock albuterol inhalers are available for use during emergencies. The School Stock Albuterol Program has been successfully enacted in Toledo Public Schools, Springfield Local Schools, Washington Local Schools, and Rosary Cathedral School.

Lucas County ranks among the **top five counties in Ohio** for emergency department visits or hospital admissions related to childhood asthma (ages 0–17).

Asthma Resources



In 2025,
198 students
utilized the
Stock Albuterol
program within their
respective school.

Asthma is the
leading cause
of school
absenteeism



TPS Food Safety Education

Food Safety REHS staff from the Health Department spent time with Toledo Public Schools cafeteria teams, talking through food safety practices and sharing helpful inspection tips. The conversation wasn't just about rules and regulations — it was about building understanding and strengthening the partnership between our teams. By connecting directly with cafeteria staff, everyone left better equipped to prioritize food safety and ensure meals are prepared and served with confidence, helping protect the health of every student.



Environmental Sampling Lesson

REHS staff facilitated a field study with an Environmental Science class from Northview High School at Tenmile Creek. Students collected water samples, conducted water quality testing, and identified macroinvertebrates to assess species diversity and overall stream health, as well as detect potential pollution or septic system discharges. Testing included temperature, pH, nitrate, stream flow and depth, turbidity, biological oxygen demand (BOD), E. coli, and fecal coliform.



JURISDICTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Local public health is strongest when jurisdictions work side by side—aligning efforts across local, state, and federal levels to serve communities effectively. By partnering with schools, housing authorities, social services, businesses, and government agencies, public health departments can coordinate resources, reduce duplication, and address the root causes of health challenges with a unified approach.

Through intentional jurisdictional collaboration, agencies share expertise, streamline services, and respond more efficiently to community needs. This coordinated model not only strengthens trust and accountability but also builds sustainable systems that improve health outcomes and enhance quality of life across the region.



MOBILE FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP: STREAMLINED INSPECTIONS ACROSS LUCAS COUNTY

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department partnered with the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department along with 18 other fire inspection and licensing agencies for a four-day Mobile Food Unit inspection event in March. A total of 91 units participated, completing their Lucas County Mobile Food Service License inspections, fire inspections across multiple jurisdictions, and city permitting paperwork all in one place.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. In the 2025 Mobile Food Truck Roundup survey, 92.3% of respondents said they were satisfied with the event’s planning and organization. Vendors praised the collaboration between cities, highlighting how the event supports local business owners while saving them time and expense.



SAVING LIVES THROUGH COLLABORATION: DRIVING TRAFFIC SAFETY FORWARD

- **Community Partnerships:** Expanded outreach across public safety, education, recreation, and local government.
- **World Day of Remembrance:** 122 flags displayed at Ottawa Park honoring local traffic fatalities (2023–2025).
- **Buckle Up, Batter Up:** 11 individuals recognized for seat belt use saving their lives.
- **Video Campaigns:** Collaborations with Ohio State Highway Patrol, Toledo Mud Hens, Toledo Walleye, UT Athletics, and local law enforcement amplified safety messages.



Impact:

Intersectoral collaboration strengthens prevention efforts and extends public health reach beyond traditional settings.

PROTECTING WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION

The Lucas County Engineer's Office recently obtained a permit from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to operate the county's wastewater treatment facility and storm sewer system. The Health Department assists with permit requirements, public education and outreach focused on the environmental impacts of stormwater. Partnering with local schools allows staff to educate students about water pollution, public health, and issues affecting our community, such as harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. These collaborations connect classroom learning to real-world environmental challenges while fostering a more informed and engaged community.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAINING AT UTMIC

The Overdose Prevention team conducted a large-scale training at the University of Toledo Medical Center. More than **500 healthcare professionals** received education on harm reduction and naloxone administration, and nearly **450 naloxone kits** were distributed. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 94% of participants reporting that the training would be useful in their future healthcare careers.



TLCHD AND STATE PARTNERS REMOVE NON-COMPLIANT KRATOM PRODUCTS

Food safety staff worked in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to address an increase in retail food facilities selling illegal kratom products. During routine inspections, inspectors identified several kratom-containing products in convenience stores throughout Lucas County. TLCHD staff collaborated directly with store operators to ensure the prompt removal of non-compliant items from shelves.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE RESULTS IN 21-TON TIRE CLEANUP

An inspection was completed following a City of Toledo complaint at a local property with many discarded tires. The site was determined to be eligible for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's No Fault Clean-Up Program. Staff coordinated with the property owner to complete and submit the required application to OEPA.



Through the program, **21 tons** of tires—equivalent to **1,680** Passenger Tire Equivalents (PTEs)—were removed at a total cost of **\$10,275**.



LOOKING FORWARD: SHARED GOALS FOR A HEALTHIER LUCAS COUNTY

Looking ahead, our vision is simple: a healthier Lucas County where every person feels supported and empowered. By working hand-in-hand with local organizations, healthcare providers, schools, and community members, we aim to address health challenges, reduce disparities, and make care and prevention more accessible. Together, we're creating stronger connections, nurturing healthier environments, and helping every resident have the opportunity to live their healthiest, fullest life.

2025-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

At TLCHD, our vision for the future begins with people. We believe every person in Lucas County deserves the chance to live a life that is healthy, safe, and full of possibility. The priorities guiding our work are shaped not only by the challenges we see today, but by our shared commitment to care for one another, strengthen the systems that support us, create healthier places to live, and build a brighter future for the generations who will call this community home.

We remain focused on preventing and **reducing chronic diseases** through education, early intervention, and equitable access to care. We are advancing **complete family wellbeing** by supporting maternal and child health, youth development, and healthy aging through coordinated services and strong community partnerships.

We continue to promote **healthy homes and safe spaces** by addressing environmental health risks, ensuring safe food and water, and reducing hazards that impact neighborhoods and families. Expanding access to **nutrition**—through education, breastfeeding support, and improved food access—remains essential to preventing disease and supporting lifelong wellness.

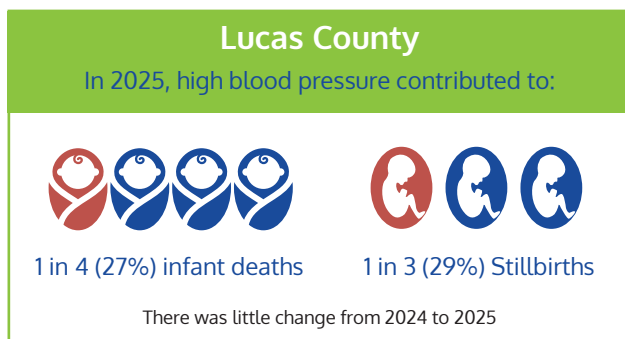
Finally, we have secured a new **physical infrastructure** to ensure our facilities, technology, and infrastructure support outward facing services and a responsive public health workforce.

Together, these priorities guide our work and reflect our shared vision for a healthier Lucas County.

DATA-DRIVEN ACTION: PERINATAL HYPERTENSION PROGRAM

Findings from the Fetal Infant Mortality Review identified a pattern of fetal deaths and complications linked to preeclampsia and other hypertensive disorders during pregnancy, informing the development of a targeted program to address these risks. In response, the Health Department implemented a newly-grant funded **Perinatal Hypertension Program** to identify, monitor, and support pregnant individuals at risk.

The perinatal hypertension program provides education, early screening, and clinical support to manage high blood pressure, improve maternal and infant outcomes, and reduce preventable complications. This initiative directly reflects how local data can guide proactive, life-saving interventions for families in our community.





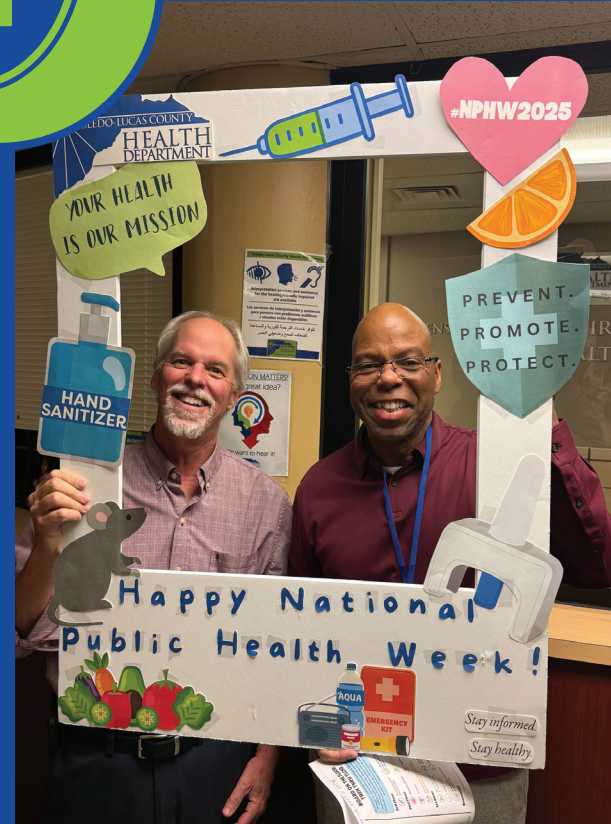
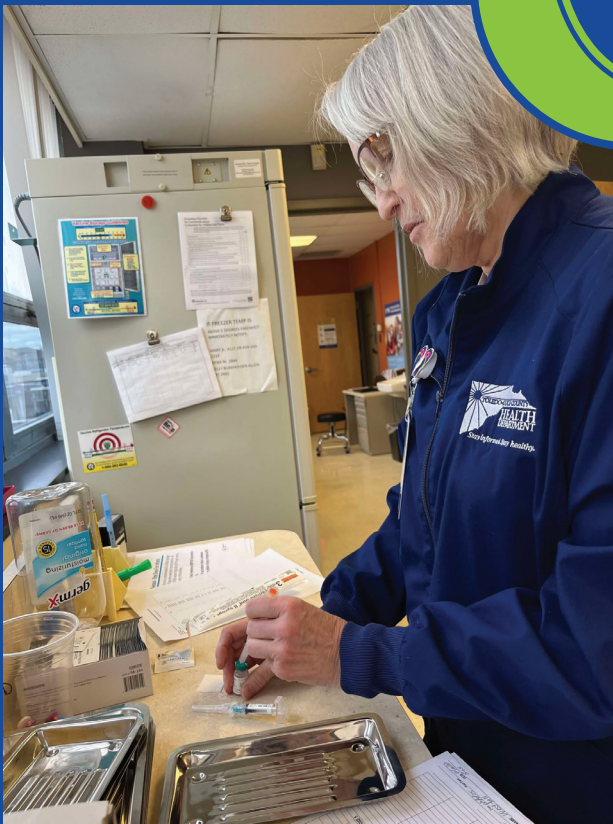
MONITORING AIR QUALITY TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department's Childhood & Youth Wellness team is partnering in a regional effort led by the Lake Erie West Regional Council to better understand how pollen and air quality affect community health. In 2026, 28 PurpleAir sensors will be installed across the region to collect neighborhood-level particulate data. The information will help track trends, guide public health recommendations, and support long-term strategies to reduce environmental health risks—especially for children and families living with asthma and other respiratory conditions.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

In 2025, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department finalized the purchase of its future home at 1933 Spielbusch Ave, marking an important step toward a modern facility designed to better serve the community. The new space will address long-standing infrastructure challenges and support the department's growing programs and services. Renovations and the physical move are planned for 2026, as the department prepares for this exciting new chapter in public health service.



LOOKING FORWARD

THE PURPOSE OF THE UNION IS TO SEEK TRUTH AND OBTAIN JUSTICE



2025

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is committed to being the leader in public health by promoting and protecting the health of all people where they live, learn, work, and play.

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 24/7 Contact: 419.936.2020
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Accounts Payable
 (419) 213-4009
 Birth and Death Certificates
 (419) 213-4832

Innovation, Quality, and Informatics

Academic Public Health
 (419) 213-4145
 Emergency Preparedness & Medical Reserve Corp
 (419) 213-4073

Epidemiology

Phone: (419) 213-4205
 Fax: (419) 213-4546

Environmental Health

General Environmental Issues
 Phone:(419) 213-4100 option 4
 Fax: (419) 213-4141

Health Services

Adult & Travel Immunizations
 (419) 213-4163
 HIV Prevention
 (419) 213-4131

Reproductive Health & Wellness Center
 (419) 213-2013
 Shot 4 Tots 'n Teens
 (419) 213-4121

Childhood Wellness

Breastfeeding Support
 (419) 213-2124
 Healthy Start Program
 (419) 213-2660
 Creating Healthy Communities
 (419) 213-4116
 WIC Appointments
 (419) 213-4422

Minority Health

(419) 213-2882

Injury Prevention/Harm Reduction

Northwest Ohio Syringe Services
 (419) 213-2655
 Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution
 (419) 213-4168