

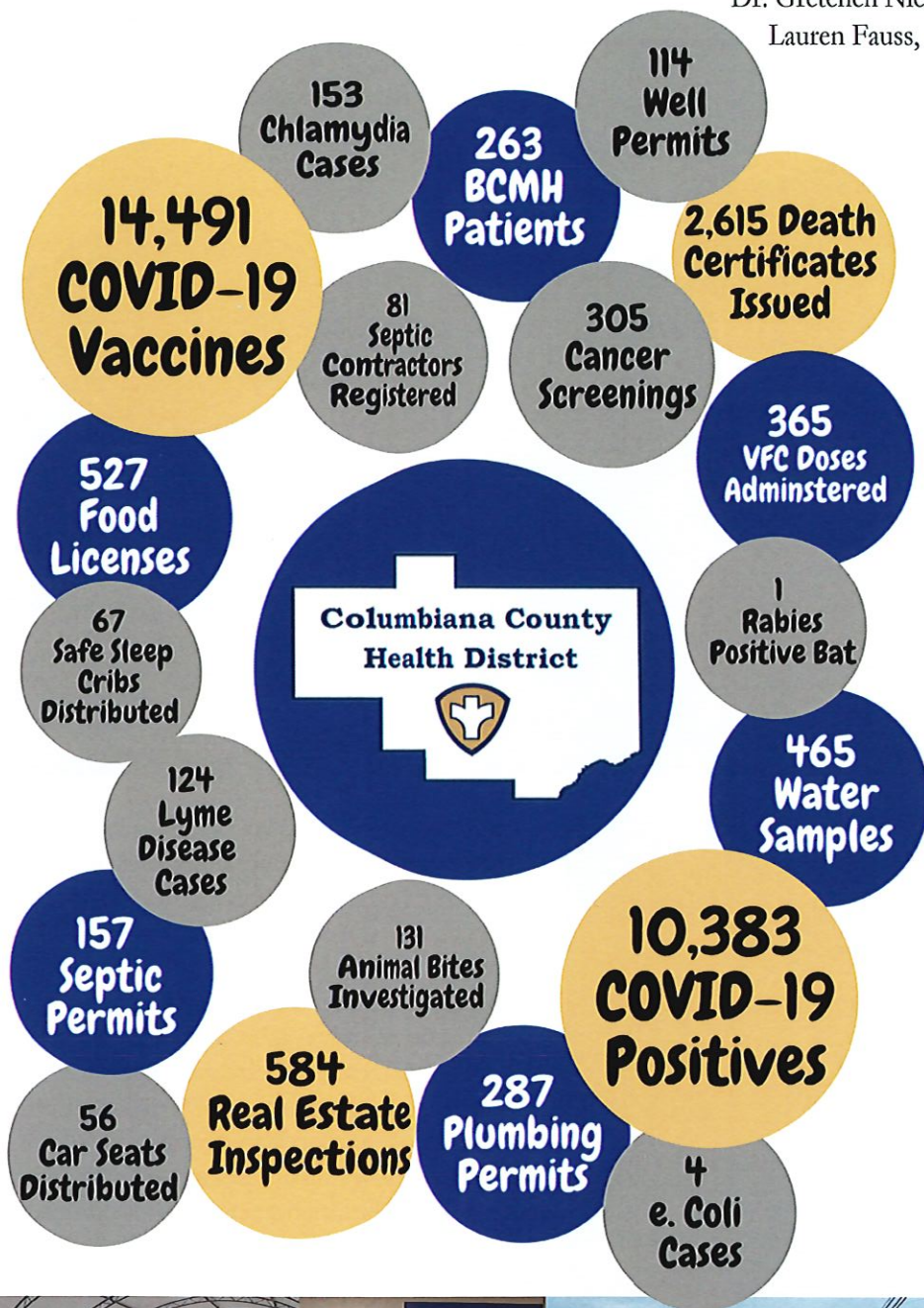
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3707.47 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE OF OHIO. THIS REPORT IS PRESENTED TO THE DISTRICT, ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE STATE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, AND CITIZENS OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY. ITS PURPOSE IS TO OFFER A BRIEF RESUME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT.



Health Commissioner's Message



In 2021, the Columbiana County Health District experienced the spirit of “Together, all things are possible” when the community came together in the continued effort to combat COVID-19. This togetherness was present throughout the community during the COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign that started in January with the most vulnerable seniors and quickly expanded into other age groups.

During the monumental task of vaccinating the community in partnership with many area healthcare providers, the agency staff continued investigating and contact tracing COVID-19 positive residents to assist them in preventing the unnecessary spread of COVID-19. This dual effort dominated the first half of 2021 and led to the gradual transition to other more traditional health district duties including septic, well, food and nuisance inspections as well as issuing birth certificates and providing cribs to families in need along with many other activities.

The agency activities, summarized in this report includes normal operations which continued alongside the evolving COVID -19 response

that surged with case counts in the final quarter of 2021 and into the new year.

A special recognition goes to our unbelievable community partners for their support, the individual residents for their work in caring for each other and for a truly dedicated health district staff who never quit... not even after months without rest. Columbiana County, you should be proud of your COVID-19 response!

-Wesley J. Vins, MS
Health Commissioner

Communicable Disease Investigation / COVID-19 Disease Response

The Columbiana County Health District is tasked with investigation and surveillance of reportable infectious diseases. There are over 100 illnesses that are mandatory to report to the local health department. All reports are closely examined, interviewed, and investigated to prevent outbreaks in the community.

COVID-19 presented a unique challenge for communicable disease staff in 2021 as case counts skyrocketed. The intensity escalated as interviewing the positive cases, initiating isolation and quarantine, answering relevant questions concerning to our residents, and providing guidance and education to schools, community employers, daycare centers, long-term healthcare facilities, and local businesses took over normal daily responsibilities.

Additionally, 2021 brought the much-anticipated COVID-19 vaccine to Columbiana County. January saw the opening of the mass vaccination site at the Columbiana County Fairgrounds. We proudly provided 14,491 vaccinations from January through May 2021. We offered all vaccine available to us including Moderna, Pfizer, and Janssen vaccines. Due to vaccine availability and demand, 90% of the vaccine we administered to our community was Moderna vaccine.

As the last half of 2021 was upon us, the health department was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Ohio Department of Health contractors, the Public Health Consulting Group (PCG) and Pro-Link Staffing. PCG provided welcomed relief of contact tracing and COVID-19 disease investigation while Pro-Link provided competent and much appreciated nursing staff to assist with COVID vaccination clinic in-house and off-site.

Reportable Condition	Case Count
Babesiosis	1
Campylobacteriosis	10
Chlamydia infection	153
Coccidioidomycosis	1
COVID-19	10383
CP-CRE	3
Cryptosporidiosis	5
E. coli	4
Giardiasis	3
Gonococcal infection	43
Haemophilus influenzae	2
Hepatitis A	6
Hepatitis B	32
Hepatitis C	89
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	1
Legionellosis	7
Lyme Disease	124
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	1
Pertussis	1
Powassan Virus Disease	1
Salmonellosis	9
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae	7
Syphilis	26
Typhus fever	1
Varicella	3
West Nile Virus Disease	1



Opinion

MORNING JOURNAL

Since 1852
Columbiana County's
Largest Daily Newspaper

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bravo to Columbiana County Health District

To the editor:

I felt compelled today to share a brief note about my experiences with the Columbiana County Fairground Covid-19 drive-through vaccination clinic as managed, run and staffed by our County Health Department.

After a few tries on Monday afternoon (Feb. 1) I soon got through and was quickly able to make a reservation for the Friday (Feb. 5) vaccination clinic. I arrived at the fairground main entrance about 1 p.m., was given a clipboard with a short set of questions, and drove the clearly marked and winding road up toward the purpose-built vaccination structure where there were about 30 cars in line. I was quickly greeted at the car and my reservation confirmed.

While idling in line I had time to complete the questionnaire as we eased forward 10 or so cars at a time. After a reasonable wait I was directed into a heated structure where we turned off our cars and waited for our turn, arms bared. My clipboard was collected and in a few minutes I was approached, told what would happen and given the vaccination all as I sat in my car. I was struck by the care and friendliness of the staffer who made me feel like I was the first person she had greeted and cared for that day despite the number likely being quite the contrary.

When our group was all done and each of us had our vaccination card, we drove out to a staging area to wait about 15 minutes to monitor for any potential adverse reactions. During that time, I was greeted for at least the fourth time and given information about the vaccination and a reservation card for the second dose scheduled 28 days later as well as a few "parting gifts." All being well, we left shortly via clearly marked exits.

Upon conclusion, my overwhelming impression was that a process that I went into with some amount of trepidation on various fronts was in actuality the veritable piece-of-cake. Every question that I had at the time I made the reservation, and from when I arrived at the fairground gate, until I left was answered by someone before I even had a chance to ask. That and the fact that everyone in the process I met was extremely courteous, professional and personable, despite many being stationed outside standing in snow in a cold wind.

I suspect much of what these dedicated County Health Department professionals did pre-pandemic flew well under most people's radar but on Friday I had a brief glimpse into their mission and contributions to the community as evidenced by an efficient and approachable vaccination clinic.

Bravo to all and many thanks!

BRYAN FULLER,
Hanoverton

More praise for the county vaccination workers

To the editor:

I don't know who organized the Lisbon Fairgrounds vaccination site but let me tell you they all need commended.

After seeing the horror stories of other sights, I was very apprehensive. From the person who registered me to the actual injection everyone was so professional, pleasant and accommodating. I can't thank them enough.

These other sites need to take note of what is happening in the small town of Lisbon. At my advanced age it is hard for me to take directions and understand what is expected of me. But this experience was met with patience and kindness that could not have been more efficient. Please thank everyone who is involved. Great job done by all!

MARY LOU RUTZKY,
Columbiana



Dear Mr. Uno, Lily Dr. Janukki & all the people who administered injecting directed traffic & observed clients post injections.

I want to express my most sincere thanks to all of you for the great job that all of you courageous kind human beings did on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021... the first clinic for 60 year olds & the severely compromised clients.

I am such a person, having Primary Immune Deficiency Disease for which I have been treated for 15 years with IgG infusions monthly for 5 days each month. I am so grateful to Dr. Janukki & Lily for contacting me to come out when it became apparent that vaccines were remaining after administering to the 60 year olds.

I want to recognize all who worked thru that day. Truly were all so kind, considerate, efficient and professional! That speaks volumes to your dedication. I am an advanced practice nurse (RN) & I recognize what it took to provide all of that. You all should be very proud.

1/25/21

It Just the right thing.

Just the right time.

Just the right way.

Thank You! from the bottom of my heart!

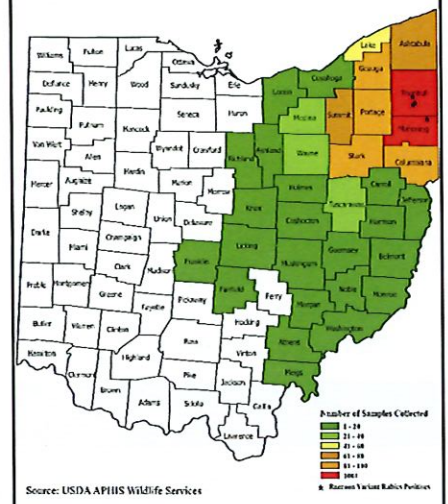
Rabies & Animal Bites

In 2021, Columbiana County Health District investigated 131 bite incidents. The chart below summarizes those investigations. CCHD submitted 10 animals (8 bats, 1 cat, 1 muskrat) with the assistance of Lisbon Veterinary Clinic to Ohio Department of Health for rabies testing due to human contact with suspect animals. Unfortunately, 1 bat did test positive for rabies and was located in Hammondsville. Throughout 2021, CCHD submitted 3 raccoons to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services for rabies testing on suspect animals that have no human or animal contact. Those submissions tested negative for rabies.

2021 ANIMAL BITE INCIDENTS	
DOG	100
CAT	26
BAT	3
RACCOON	0
RODENT/WILD/OTHER	2
TOTAL BITES	131



2021 Enhanced Rabies Surveillance



Plumbing

The CCHD plumbing program continued our partnership with the Village of Lisbon to administer their state mandated backflow device program under our current agreement. CCHD also continued to provide customary services such as consultations in the field, plan reviews, and plumbing inspections.

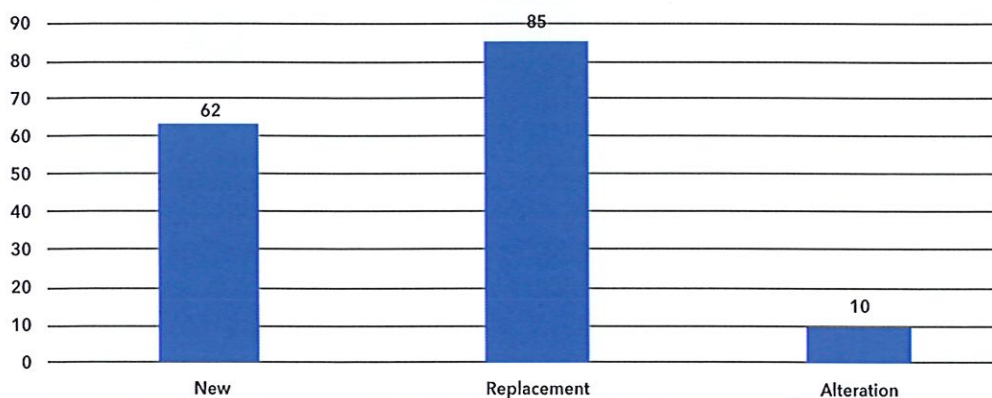
In 2021, Sixty-eight master plumbers and 29 journeymen plumbers were registered, also 287 new plumbing permits were issued.

In 2021, CCHD conducted several drive-thru Covid-19 clinics, the plumbing department assisted with operations and logistics.

Septic Contractor Training

There have been many changes since the state-wide sewage rule update in 2015, one of these changes is the requirement for all septic installers, service providers and haulers to obtain continuing education. In order for these contractors to renew their registration they must provide proof that they have received 6 hours of continuing education units (CEU's) during the year prior. Approved training hours are provided by many professional organizations for a fee, but our agency continues to offer educational hours at no fee to our contractors. In 2021, our department hosted two different three-hour virtual trainings where contractors learned about a range of topics from new products, to soils and septage land application. In case of technical difficulty, these trainings were also recorded and available to view at our department by appointment. Education is pivotal for both economic and personal growth and we are thrilled to continue to receive positive feedback and increased attendance at our trainings. Thirty two contractors attended our spring contractor training and fifty viewed the training that we hosted in the December.

2021 Septic Permits



2021 Septic Contractor Registrations

Installers	51
Haulers	20
Providers	10

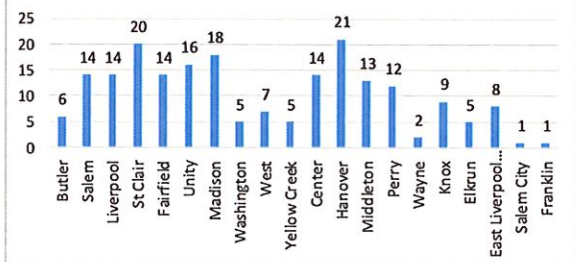
Septic Repairs in Columbiana County 2009-2021

Since 2009, the Columbiana County General Health District has utilized \$2,051,462.30 in funding available through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Pollution Control Fund to repair and/or replace **205 septic systems** in Columbiana County and clean up over 82,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

In 2021, The Columbiana County Health District was **one of eleven counties** in Ohio to receive additional funding utilizing H2Ohio funding available through the Ohio EPA.

The Columbiana County General Health District has utilized all available funding and is slated to receive an additional \$150,000 for the 2022-23 construction season.

Septic Systems Repaired or Replaced in Columbiana County with Funding 2009-2021



Private Water System Monitoring

During the 2021-year CCHD continued to monitor the Private Water System (PWS) activity in the county. In Table 1 a comparison of Private Water System sampling data shows an 18.6% increase in sampling in 2021 compared to 2020 and a 13.7% increase in 2021 over 2019 sampling activity. The percentage of positive samples was higher for the 2021 year compared to 2020 and 2019. The permit metrics are broken down as follows: 2021 a total of 93 new well permits and 20 well alteration permits for a total of 114 PWS permits. We saw an increase in the number of well permits issued in 2021 compared to either of the two previous years. We will continue to work at increasing community awareness about the potential for bacterial contamination in wells and provide residents with information on steps they can take to disinfect their wells and ways they can prevent possible contamination routes.



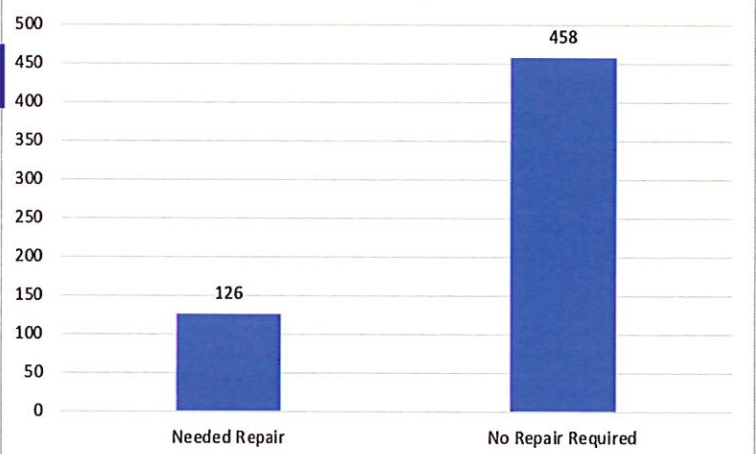
Table 1. Private Water System Data from the previous 3 years.

Private Water Sampling Metrics			
Year	2019	2020	2021
# of Samples	409	392	465
% Positive	21.5	17.94	22.59
New Well Permits	77	78	94
Well Alteration Permits	17	17	20
Total Well Permits	94	95	114

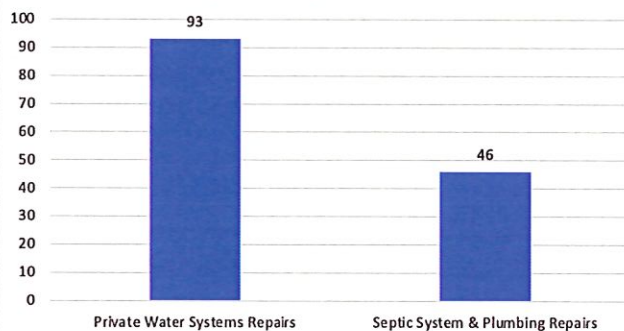
Real Estate Inspections

In 2021, a total of 584 real estate inspections were completed for properties to be transferred within Columbiana County. Of the 584 real estate inspections, 126 properties required some type of corrective action to either the septic system or the private water system.

584 Total Real Estate Inspections in 2021



Repairs To Systems in 2021



Of the 126 properties that required some type of corrective measure, 93 of the repairs were done to private water systems and 46 of the repairs were done to either the septic system or the plumbing within the dwelling. The number of repairs to private water systems may be higher due to multiple water samples taken at a single property thus requiring multiple disinfection processes to have been completed. Our department will follow-up with the properties that needed corrective measures to be completed on either the septic system or private water system. Our department will follow-up to ensure that no public nuisance conditions are being created by the septic systems that needed repair as well as ensuring that the private water systems are operating effectively.

Children with Medical Handicaps

The Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program is facilitated to assist families with children who endure special healthcare needs. There are 3 programs associated with CMH which include diagnostic, treatment and service coordination. Once families are approved for these programs, the out-of-pocket cost for medical expenses associated with the approved diagnosis are significantly decreased or eliminated. There are criteria in the fields of medical and /or financial guidelines in order to be eligible for CMH services.

CMH Patients: 263

Home visits: 0

Children added: 61

Child Passenger Safety Seats

In 2021 the Columbiana County Health District was once again in the position to provide child passenger safety seats at no cost to WIC income eligible families in Columbiana County. The seats are purchased by the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) program and distributed by CCHD. This year, our car seats were distributed curbside, with verbal education given about car seat safety. Parents also received a demonstration on how to properly install the seat, with any questions they may have, answered. Our agency participated in the WIC farmer's market event in August, where we were able to give out 33 convertible seats and 10 booster seats to local families in need. Overall, we were able to provide a total of 56 seats to children in our community, and continue to strive for every child in Columbiana County to have a safe, properly installed car seat.



Safe Sleep Program



Safe Sleep Survival Cribette Kit

Columbiana County Health District's Safe Sleep Program provides education, instruction and all of the sleep materials needed to provide a safe sleep environment for infants. In 2021, 67 families were educated on safe sleep recommendations set forth by American Academy of Pediatrics and received a Pack n Play. All WIC income eligible families with a child under 30 pounds and expectant moms in the 3rd trimester, qualify for this program.

Vaccines for Children: VFC

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally-funded program sponsored by the CDC and administered in Ohio by the Ohio Department of Health. The VFC program supplies vaccine at no charge to the Columbiana County Health District. Any child from birth through the age of 18 is eligible to receive VFC-supplied vaccine if he/she meets at least one of the following criteria:

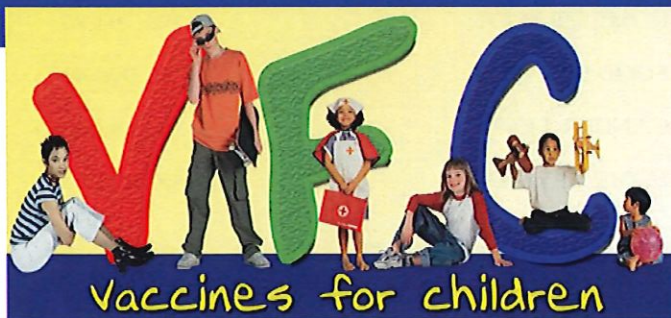
- The child does not have health insurance.
- The child is enrolled in Medicaid.
- The child is an American Indian or Alaskan Native.
- The child has health insurance that does not fully cover the cost of the vaccine.

In 2021, CCHD administered 365 doses of VFC vaccine.

VaxCare

Columbiana County Health District has been able to continue to expand our immunization services by utilizing VaxCare; a provider of private vaccines. By utilizing VaxCare, CCHD is able to immunize patients with private insurance for both pediatric and adult vaccines. Vaxcare has recently expanded the number of Accepted Payers, giving the ability to vaccinate a larger population, bringing better health and safety to our community.

In 2021, CCHD administered 153 doses of VaxCare vaccine.



Columbiana County Vital Statistics 2021

Certificates/Permits Issued 1644 Birth Certificates
2615 Death Certificates
467 Burial/Cremation Permits

Child Fatality Review Board

6 Child fatality cases from 2020 were reviewed in 2021 with local community partners as prescribed in Ohio Law.



Financial



Columbiana County General Health District Summary of Receipts, Expenditures and Balances						
FUND	2021		TOTAL	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	
	BALANCE 1/1/21	RECEIPT				
					12/31/21	
BOARD OF HEALTH	609,363.14	1,281,425.82	1,890,788.96	1,504,290.85	386,498.11	
CAMP/TRAILER	47,134.35	17,822.62	64,956.97	1,760.00	63,196.97	
HEALTH & SAFETY	85,950.33	20,918.63	106,868.96	11,318.80	95,550.16	
WATER	154,953.29	72,182.00	227,135.29	30,646.14	196,489.15	
HEALTH PROJECTS	0.00	123,835.97	123,835.97	93,835.97	30,000.00	
SWIMMING POOL	27,090.62	10,843.00	37,933.62	2,040.00	35,893.62	
DISEASE & DISASTER	24,031.30	1,500.00	25,531.30	0.00	25,531.30	
PANDEMIC RESPONSE	0.00	292,211.40	292,211.40	292,211.40	0.00	
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	0.00	32,757.62	32,757.62	2,757.62	30,000.00	
RABIES CONTRACT	8,406.68	0.00	8,406.68	268.00	8,138.68	
COMMUNITY HEALTH	149,335.11	19,637.31	168,972.42	10,224.31	158,748.11	
OPERATIONS PROGRAM	0.00	84,413.00	84,413.00	21,403.64	63,009.36	
SPECIAL PROJECTS	149,653.25	172,204.22	321,857.47	169,899.62	151,957.85	
HOME HEALTH	195,794.87	49,138.58	244,933.45	49,198.95	195,734.50	
FOOD SERVICE	181,906.41	204,821.03	386,727.44	188,870.90	197,856.54	
CANCER LEVY	314,442.34	277,887.34	592,329.68	182,722.16	409,607.52	
HOME SEWAGE	427,083.96	428,695.36	855,779.32	252,788.41	602,990.91	
PUB.HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE	49,357.19	113,272.28	162,629.47	89,061.98	73,567.49	
IAP GRANT	48,463.27	25,690.00	74,153.27	33,338.79	40,814.48	

Food Licenses, Inspections, and Food Protection Training

CCHD issued a total of 527 food licenses in 2021: 225 food service operations (risk levels 1-4), 141 retail food establishments (risk levels 1-4), 101 mobiles, 43 temporaries, and 17 vending. The number of food licenses issued increased from 471 in 2020. COVID-19 has affected and challenged the food industry on a case-by-case basis throughout the pandemic and recovery.

All Ohio risk level one or two food facilities are required to have someone present during all shifts of operation with either a person in charge (PIC) or a manager certification in food protection. The PIC certification is a more basic food protection course. Ohio Department of Health (ODH) approved food protection class offerings that meet state requirements for manager and PIC food protection certification can be found on the ODH webpage: http://www.healthspace.com/Clients/Ohio/Ohio_Website_Live.nsf/FoodCertifications.xsp.