



## Columbiana County Health District

P.O. Box 309 – 7360 State Route 45 – Lisbon, Ohio 44432  
Phone: 330-424-0272 – General Fax: 330-424-1733 – Nursing Fax: 330-424-1843  
Email: cchd@columbiana-health.org Web: www.columbiana-health.org



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.

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Shawn Apple, President  
Gary Dailey, Vice President  
Thomas Haugh (deceased)  
David Rose  
Dr. Kimberly Jackson  
Linda Garwood

### AGENCY STAFF

Wesley J. Vins, Health Commissioner  
Karen Clark, Director of Personnel & Finance  
Laura Fauss, Environmental Director  
Amanda Amato, Health Services Administrator  
Kayla Fill, Director of Nursing

### HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE - Dr. Wesley J. Vins, DPA

The Columbiana County Health District continued its long history of serving the community with distinction in 2023 by providing public health services that are summarized here in this annual report. It has been our pleasure to respond to the needs of the community and promote a vision for a “safe community of healthy people” and I encourage residents and businesses to visit us at our Lisbon office or check us out on line to learn more about the services we provide. Thank you to our dedicated staff for another great year!

*Dr. Wesley J. Vins, DPA*  
Health Commissioner



Health Commissioner, Dr. Wes Vins (R) pictured with Ohio's State Director of Health, Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff

### PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Columbiana County Health District works every day to ensure the immediate and long-term health and well-being of the residents of Columbiana County, both during day-to-day operations and during unplanned emergency situations. The agency is always working to build and strengthen its ability to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. From 2020 to 2023 the agency's skills, trainings, and services were put to the test through the COVID-19 response.

In February 2023, on the heels of the pandemic, a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous substances derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, resulting in the release of Vinyl Chloride, Acrylates, Glycols and other chemicals into the air, soil and water of the area potentially impacting an estimated 8,000 residents. Three days later, a controlled vent and burn was conducted of the potentially explosive rail cars. Following the derailment and the vent and burn action, community concerns about the potential contamination of the environment, as well as the potential (long and short term) adverse health impacts, began to rise. Columbiana County Health District's staff members, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, CDC, ATSDR, regional health districts, and local hospitals, once again utilized the skills they have built to respond to these immediate and long-term concerns. CCHD established a residential drinking water sampling program and a temporary local health assessment clinic. The ongoing concerns for health effects and environmental impacts to drinking water are still being monitored.



East Palestine Health Clinic partners: CCHD, Ohio Department of Health and East Liverpool City Hospital



## 2023 AWARDS



*CCHD Registered Environmental Health Specialist in Training, Alexis Lawton, REHSIT receives the Ohio Environmental Health Association Rising Star Award, presented by CCHD Health Commissioner, Dr. Wes Vins*

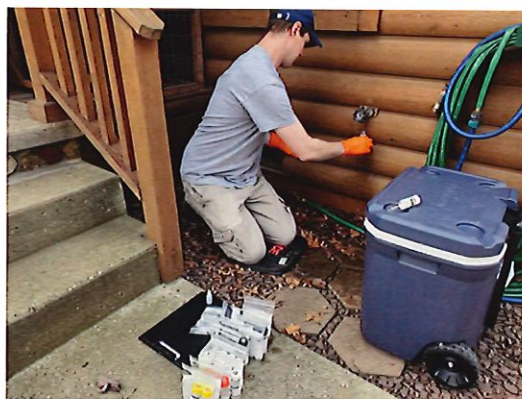
*CCHD receives the Director's Award from Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, Director of the Ohio Department of Health*



*Health Commissioner, Dr. Wes Vins received the Ohio Association of Health Commissioners' Public Health Guardian Award, presented by Wayne County Health Commissioner, Dr. Nick Cascarelli*

## EAST PALESTINE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING - Alexis Lawton, EHSIT

In 2023, the East Palestine residential drinking water well sampling program began providing water sampling services to residents of East Palestine and Negley as a direct response to community concerns following the East Palestine train derailment. Our agency participated in the collection of over 1,100 water samples from February, 2023 onward. The ongoing concerns for health effects and environmental impacts to drinking water remain within the community and are actively being monitored, and CCHD will continue to collect water samples to ensure residential drinking water wells in these areas meet safe drinking water standards for potentially impacted residents.



*East Palestine water sampling section by Alexis Lawton*

## INJURY PREVENTION/CRIBS FOR KIDS - Kim Powell, Nursing Clerk

In 2023 the Columbiana County Health District provided Pack and Plays to residents in Columbiana County utilizing TANF funding from the Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services.

This year CCHD distributed 141 Pack and Plays to new and expectant parents. Including 4 Pack and Plays that were delivered to the homes of expectant moms that did not have transportation. All families receiving Pack and Play kits also receive education and training from qualified CCHD staff.

In 2023, CCHD hosted community baby showers in Wellsville and East Palestine to distribute kits and education in local communities. CCHD also partnered in several community WIC and Help Me Grow events.



## CAR SEAT PROGRAM - Krista Colvin MA, CPS-T

In 2023 the Columbiana County Health District was once again able 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. Any resident that receives a seat through this program will receive verbal education about car seat safety, as well as how to properly install the seat, with any questions that they may have answered.

In 2023 we were also able to expand our car seat program utilizing the TANF subgrant provided by DJFS. This year, we were able to purchase rear facing only infant carriers through this grant as well as convertible car seats and booster seats.

Our agency participated in the annual WIC farmer's market as well as several other events in the community where we were able to distribute seats and provide car seat education to families. Overall, we were able to provide a total of 49 rear facing only seats, 96 convertible car seats, and 59 booster seats.

## CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (CMH) - Kayla Fill, DNP

The Columbiana County Health District continues to provide services with the Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program. The CMH program assists families with children who have or are being diagnosed with special healthcare needs. There are three main programs associated with CMH, including diagnostic, treatment, and service coordination. CMH may also provide services to adult patients with Cystic Fibrosis. Once approved for these programs, the out-of-pocket cost for medical expenses associated with the approved diagnosis are decreased or eliminated. Criteria in the fields of medical and/or financial guidelines exist in order to be eligible for CMH services. In 2023, the age limit for the CMH program increased allowing the Columbiana County Health District to service patients from birth to 24-years-old.



**CMH Patients Total: 217**

**Children Added: 48**

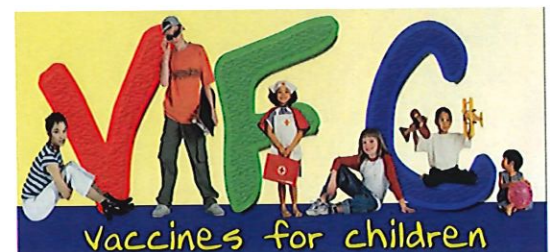
Columbiana County Health District's nursing staff is dedicated to ensuring that all children, patients, and their families are receiving the resources they need through the CMH program.

## VACCINES FOR CHILDREN: VFC - Carrie Huff, Nursing Clerk

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 residents of Columbiana County Health District. This helps ensure that all children have a better chance of getting their recommended vaccinations on schedule. Any child from birth through the age of 18 are eligible to receive VFC supplied vaccine if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

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

In 2023, CCHD administered 498 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. With respiratory illnesses on the rise, the RSV vaccine has been a newly offered vaccine at our clinics for adults and most insurance companies cover this vaccine at 100%.

In 2023, CCHD was successful in administering 318 doses of Vaxcare vaccine.



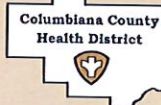


## Protect Your Family And Your Community:

- Stay Home If You Are Sick!!
- Get Tested For Covid-19, Flu, or RSV If You Have Symptoms
- Social Distance From People Outside Your Home

### Columbiana County Health District Reminds You To:

- Wash your hands • Avoid touching your face
- Cover your cough • Stay home when you are sick



For more COVID-19 info:  
Call Ohio Dept of Health  
at 1-833-427-5634  
Or visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) OR  
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)  
You can reach the health district  
directly at  
330-424-0272

## COVID TEST KITS - Heather Toot, Secretary

In 2023 the Columbiana County Health District obtained thousands of at home covid test kits, and has distributed many of them throughout the county. In addition to walk-ins, emails, and phone calls, the Columbiana County Health District has provided covid test kits at the county fair and several vaccine clinics. Even though requests for covid test kits have increased from last year, CCHD still has many test kits readily available free of charge to anyone who may need them.



## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS -

*Kayla Hamilton, PHEP Program Coordinator*

In 2023, Columbiana County Health District staff collaborated with local, regional, state, and federal partners to establish a Temporary Health Assessment Clinic in response to the February Train Derailment to respond to some of the community's immediate health concerns. This clinic was established and run utilizing many facets of CCHD's PHEP program.

An After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) detailing the agency's Temporary Health Assessment Clinic in East Palestine was written and submitted to the state for review. Information from this report and feedback received from the state will be used to improve future emergency response activities. Other 2023 PHEP activities included:

- January 2023 NECO Radiological Tabletop Exercise
- October 2023 Ohio Department of Health's Medical Countermeasure Full-Scale Exercise
- October 2023 COVID Booster/Flu Mass Vaccination Clinic
- December 2023 NECO HCC Chemical Surge Tabletop Exercise

These exercises and real-world scenarios allowed CCHD staff to develop the skills used in emergency situations so that when a disaster strikes, our public health team is able and ready to respond. In 2023, CCHD tested all fifteen PHEP capabilities across six preparedness domains.

## CANCER DETECTION CLINIC

P.O. Box 309 • 7360 State Route 45

Lisbon, OH 44432

Phone: 330-424-0272

General Fax: 330-424-1733

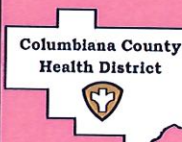
Nursing Fax: 330-424-1843

Email: [cchd@columbiana-health.org](mailto:cchd@columbiana-health.org)

Web: [www.columbiana-health.org](http://www.columbiana-health.org)

### Early Detection is the KEY

CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT



Cancer screenings and services are free of charge for all residents of the Columbiana County Health District. Out of health district patients can receive services for a fee. Insurance can be billed for mammograms.



- Services include:
- Patient navigation and referral
  - Mammograms
  - Pelvic exams and Pap Tests
  - Skin Cancer Screening
  - PSA Screenings for Prostate Cancer

*Our Vision:*

*"A safe community of healthy people"*



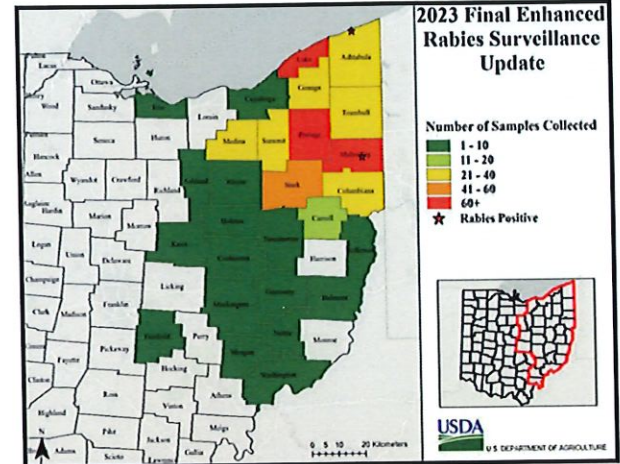
## RABIES & ANIMAL BITES - Kayla Rose, Environmental Clerk

In 2023 the Columbiana County Health District investigate 171 bite incidents. The chart below summarizes those investigations. CCHD submitted 13 animals (10 bats, 3 raccoons) with the assistance of Lisbon Veterinary Clinic to Ohio Department of Health for rabies testing due to human contact with suspect animals. Also, CCHD submitted 6 raccoons to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services for rabies testing on suspect animals that have no human or animal contact. Fortunately, all CCHD's 2023 submissions tested negative for rabies.

2023 ANIMAL BITE INCIDENTS	
DOG	135
CAT	32
FERRET	1
BAT	2
RACCOON	3
<b>TOTAL BITES</b>	<b>173</b>

On October 7th, 2023, our agency held a rabies vaccination clinic at the Columbiana County Career & Technical Center. A total of 77 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies at this clinic. We are very fortunate to be able to partner with the Lisbon Veterinary Clinic (Dr. Gordon Schumucker & staff) and the Veterinary Science Program (Mrs. Stacy & students) at the Career Center.

We have held the clinic at the Career Center for several years and it works out very well. It provides an inside facility and keeps the animals a safe distance from the roadway. These partnerships not only give the veterinary student's valuable volunteer time, but also provides our community with access to a low-cost rabies vaccination for their pets.



## COMMUNICABLE AND REPORTABLE DISEASES-

Amanda Amato, Health Services Administrator

The Columbiana County Health District is responsible for investigation and surveillance of reportable infectious diseases. Of these illnesses an evaluation interview and investigation of each case are completed to prevent additional spread throughout the community.

In the year 2023, the Columbiana County Health District once again provided flu and COVID-19 vaccines to residents in Columbiana County to help prevent the spread of these respiratory illnesses in Columbiana County.

Reportable Condition	Total Cases
Anaplasmosis	1
Campylobacteriosis	12
Chlamydia infection	143
COVID-19	1970
CPO	2
Cryptosporidiosis	12
E. coli O157:H7 and STEC	2
Giardiasis	1
Gonococcal infection	21
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	11
Hepatitis C - chronic	47
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	36
Legionellosis	2
Lyme Disease	121
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	5
Meningitis-bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	3
Pertussis	5
Q fever, acute	1
Salmonellosis	12
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	3
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	6
Syphilis	2
Varicella	2
West Nile Disease	1
Yersiniosis	1

## PUBLIC NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

Butler	3	Washington	2
Center	2	Wayne	0
Elkrun	0	West	3
Fairfield	3	Yellow Creek	2
Franklin	0		
Hanover	0	Columbiana Village	1
Knox	3	East Palestine Village	0
Liverpool	14	Hanoverton Village	0
Madison	5	Lisbon Village	4
Middleton	0	Rogers Village	1
Perry	3	Salineville Village	1
Salem Twp.	5	Wellsville Village	8
St. Clair	11	<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>75</b>
Unity	4		



## FOOD LICENSES - *Sandra Wiesen, R.E.H.S.*

CCHD issued a total of 539 food licenses in 2023: 212 food service operations (risk levels 1-4), 138 retail food establishments (risk levels 1-4), 125 mobiles, 48 temporaries, and 16 vending. The number of food licenses issued decreased by 55 from 594 in 2022.

The 2023 food license fees were back on par using post COVID-19 food program numbers and time spent, because they were derived from 2021 food program data as required by the Ohio food code.

Thirteen plan reviews were approved in 2023 for new food facilities in five different Columbiana County townships: Fairfield=8, Unity=2, Center=1, St. Clair=1, West=1.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING

Camps	Pools	Tattoo
16 Annual Licenses 06 Temporary Events	33 Annual Licenses	5 Annual Licenses

## PLUMBING - *Leon Estes, Certified Plumbing Inspector*

In 2023, CCHD's plumbing program continued to offer consultations in the field, plan reviews, and plumbing inspections across the entirety of Columbiana County. The plumbing program maintained its partnership with the Village of Lisbon to administer their state mandated backflow device program, a service which is also available in other jurisdictions. CCHD also provided consultation services to Jefferson County General Health District on plumbing-related issues.

In 2023, 67 master plumbers and 24 journeymen were registered, and 218 new plumbing permits were issued.

## SEPTIC TREATMENT SYSTEM CONTRACTORS

Installers	Haulers	Providers
53	20	10

## SEPTIC REPAIRS IN COLUMBIANA COUNTY - *Laura Fauss, MPH, REHS, Environmental Director*

Since 2009, the Columbiana County Health District has utilized Ohio Environmental Protection Agency grant funding to replace over 200 failing household sewage treatment systems and remove thousands of gallons of untreated wastewater from the community. In 2023, the Health District was awarded an additional \$150,000 for system replacements during the 2023-2024 construction season, and is slated to receive the same in early 2024.

These grants target low-income residents with failing sewage treatment systems who own their own home. The money can also be used to connect homes with failing systems to sanitary sewer, if it is available. For the resident, the application process is simple. They complete a form and provided documentation of their income. All applications are reviewed by the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, who notifies the resident and the Health District of application approval. From there, approved applications are organized and placed into project groups, taking into account severity of the sewage nuisance and date of approval. The Board of Health advertises these projects with registered sewage treatment system installers. Once estimates are received, they are reviewed and the Board awards the project, contracts with the installer and homeowner, and the replacement system or sewer connection is completed within 120 days.

Please contact the Health District if you would like more information, and be on the lookout for the 2024 application period to open this spring!





## 2023 POOL & CAMPGROUND SERVICES - Logan Barna, EHSIT

From May through September in 2023, CCHD worked diligently conducting inspections of the health district's 33 licensed public pools, 16 licensed campgrounds, and 6 licensed temporary campgrounds. Temporary campgrounds receive a minimum of 1 inspection. Pools and permanent campgrounds receive a minimum of 2 inspections per year. In total, two CCHD Environmental Health Specialists completed over 104 pool and campground inspections during the summer season.

During this most recent season, CCHD provided pool operators with a virtual survey designed to help increase knowledge of required safety information for their patrons. CCHD also provided hot tub operators with proper disinfection procedures for legionella. While verifying that the licensed pool facilities were in compliance with chapter 3701-31 of the Ohio Administrative Code, CCHD inspectors placed an emphasis on ensuring emergency telephones with proper signage were accessible to the public. In the campground program, CCHD Registered Environmental Health Specialists emphasized that each site location must be equipped with legible site numbers to aid police, fire, and emergency medical personnel in locating the exact spot of an emergency within a campground.

In 2024, CCHD looks forward to the opportunity to share feedback with the Ohio Department of Health in regards to keeping code regulations for pools and camps modernized, while still keeping our residents safe.

## PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS - Steve Wiesen, REHS

During the 2023 year, Columbiana County Health District continued to monitor the Private Water System (PWS) activity within the county. In Table 1, a comparison of PWS sampling data shows roughly the same amount of well samples were taken in 2023 compared to 2022 (462 in 2023 compared to 455 in 2022). Additionally, the percentage of samples that tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria decreased by about 7% from 2022. The number of well permits that were issued by the county went down from 125 in 2022 to 110 in 2023.

The Columbiana County Health District will continue to work at increasing community awareness about the potential for bacterial contamination in water wells and provide residents with information on steps they can take to disinfect their wells and ways they can prevent possible contamination in the future.

Additional information and resources on water wells for homeowners and contractors may be found either on our website ([columbiana-health.org/water](http://columbiana-health.org/water)) or on the Ohio Department of Health's website (<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/private-water-systems-program/Private-Water-Systems-Program>)

Year	2021	2022	2023
# of Samples	465	455	462
% Positive	22.59	28.57	21.43
New Well Permits	94	108	91
Well Alteration Permits	20	17	19
Total Well Permits	114	125	110

Table 1

## HOME SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS - Kevin Summerville, REHS

Activity relating to septic treatment systems in Columbiana County for the 2023 year included 151 total site evaluations, with 58 of the 151 site evaluations including soil tests conducted by Columbiana County Health District. There were 117 septic permits issued. The permit breakdown was; 39 new installation permits, 60 replacement permits, 10 alteration permits and 2 septic tank abandonments and the remaining 6 are currently unissued. Compared to 2022 septic permits saw a decrease of ~ 30% and total site evaluation decreased by ~ 26%.





## 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT - Karen Clark, Director of Personnel & Finance



### Columbiana County General Health District Summary of Receipts, Expenditures and Balances 2023

FUND	BALANCE 1/1/23	RECEIPT	TOTAL	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE 12/31/23
BOARD OF HEALTH	514,868.02	924,795.35	1,439,663.37	723,771.10	715,892.27
CAMP/TRAILER	79,873.47	19,920.37	99,793.84	1,895.00	97,898.84
HEALTH & SAFETY	111,513.59	58,209.94	169,723.53	62,625.84	107,097.69
WATER	228,378.51	74,341.50	302,720.01	49,995.16	252,724.85
HEALTH PROJECTS	170,441.03	275,638.28	446,079.31	273,864.26	172,215.05
SWIMMING POOL	48,013.62	14,436.25	62,449.87	2,848.58	59,601.29
DISEASE & DISASTER	17,031.30	1,500.00	18,531.30	0.00	18,531.30
PANDEMIC RESPONSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	19,752.77	245,446.13	265,198.90	242,821.52	22,377.38
RABIES CONTRACT	8,222.68	169.00	8,391.68	1,155.00	7,236.68
COMMUNITY HEALTH	166,713.15	28,452.63	195,165.78	11,305.68	183,860.10
OPERATIONS PROGRAM	60,421.86	0.00	60,421.86	1,348.69	59,073.17
SPECIAL PROJECTS	121,891.50	12,256.55	134,148.05	507.24	133,640.81
HOME HEALTH	197,184.33	133,054.33	330,238.66	83,416.94	246,821.72
FOOD SERVICE	265,122.06	212,758.83	477,880.89	188,785.83	289,095.06
CANCER LEVY	567,688.03	281,687.04	849,375.07	131,763.03	717,612.04
HOME SEWAGE	740,438.67	279,490.08	1,019,928.75	204,136.10	815,792.65
PUB.HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE	94,108.28	92,525.00	186,633.28	75,346.86	111,286.42
GET VACCINATED	37,784.35	0.00	37,784.35	7,836.08	29,948.27

**2023 State Remittance for program funds sent to the State of Ohio \$91,539.82**

## COLUMBIANA COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS - Deborah Chuck, Registrar

CCHD utilizes the ODH program for central issuance of all Ohio births. Vitalchek.com has been helpful in issuing online ordering. Our local funeral homes are updated weekly with our hours of operations.

Certificates/Permits Issued in 2023

**1508 Birth Certificates**

**2572 Death Certificates**

**335 Burial Permits issued**

**100 Online orders of Birth/Death certificates**

**Child Fatality Review Board, reviewed in 2023**

**Cases in 2022- 11 fatalities.**

