

"Helping the citizens of Ottawa County to live healthier, happier, longer lives."



OTTAWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

RELEASED: MARCH 2021

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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Thank you Nancy Obsorn for 50 years of public health service.



Retired June 30, 2020

2020 has probably been one of the most challenging years in the history of the Ottawa County Health Department. Not only did we experience the beginning of the first pandemic the world has seen in over 100 years, we also saw the retirement of our long time Health Commissioner, Nancy Osborn who retired at the end of June. Commissioner Osborn directed this health department for almost 50 years and leaves behind her leadership, experience, and passion for public health in which she was greatly respected by many throughout the state of Ohio and beyond. In the midst of this pandemic, I have accepted the challenge of carrying forward this leadership and passion. With this change, we had to restructure our leadership team and hire new staff members while continuing our massive response to this pandemic. We also improved our health department logo to better reflect how we want to be represented for our community, as the beacon of light for public health.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, starting back in March of 2020, our health department has been in full emergency response mode. As you will see in this report, we have been through many phases of this pandemic which brings us to the current vaccination phase. Since we have been in response mode, we have maintained the essential services at the same time that our staff members have been all hands on deck in regard to COVID-19 response. Therefore, you will notice a considerable decline in other types of services such as food inspections, general vaccinations, and food safety classes among others. Our staff has been fully engaged in handling the surge of phone calls, responding to COVID-19 complaints, conducting case investigations and contact tracing while also maintaining other services such as WIC and vital statistics. Each phase of the pandemic has brought on new surges of phone calls and emails which means that we had to constantly shift our response measures to be effective and efficient without over burdening our staff members. Many of these phases required us to interpret and enforce the numerous new orders as released by Governor DeWine, provide mass testing sites, and work with other medical providers and schools to ensure that we were always on the same page.

During my first several months as the new health commissioner I have learned many things about our staff and our community. First of all, we have a very dedicated and talented staff that has overcome one adversity after another while maintaining their professionalism and desire to work with our community during unsettling times. Many days can be extremely rough and tiring, but they show up day after day to work and nothing makes me more proud of the staff that we have here. Secondly, we have been amazed by the support and outpouring of our community partners throughout this pandemic. Many of our partners including the Ottawa County Commissioners, the Ottawa County EMA, Magruder Hospital, the schools and many others have all come together to assist us in our endeavor to protect our community during this pandemic. We hope that these new and renewed partnerships will only grow stronger in the days ahead once this pandemic is over. Lastly, I am truly amazed by our residents of Ottawa County who have either assisted us in volunteer work or simply called or sent a word of encouragement to our department. While many will never truly understand what goes on behind the scenes here at the health department and what our staff has endured throughout this pandemic, we truly appreciate all that have supported us to this day. We hope that the darkest days of this pandemic are over but we still have a long way to go before life will be normal again. I am thankful for this opportunity to lead this department in this wonderful community and we will continue to do all we can to help the citizens of Ottawa County to live healthier, happier, and longer lives.



Gerald Bingham, Jr., MPH, RS

“Helping the citizens of Ottawa County to live healthier, happier, longer lives.”



Moving forward, the Ottawa County Health Department will be using a new logo. This logo was carefully designed with several aspects in mind. The intent is to represent both our community and the purpose of our department. The lighthouse represents a major landmark within our community, but culturally, the lighthouse also represents a sign of strength, safety, protection, and guidance. The beacon from the lighthouse helps to draw your attention to the word health. Further emphasis has been added to the word health with it being larger than any other wording in the logo. All of this is to help highlight and support the mission statement of the Ottawa County Health Department as we strive to be a guide for our community's health.

THE BEACON THAT GUIDES US

MISSION *Working to protect, promote, and improve the health of citizens and our environment.*

VISION *Helping the citizens of Ottawa County to live healthier, happier, longer lives.*

RESPONSIBILITIES *Support the mission of public health and align our work with the 10 Essential Public Health Services*

Maintain open and honest communication with the residents of Ottawa County

- *Assure compliance with all legal responsibilities*
- *Maintain supportive, respectful, and efficient relationships between the Board of Health, Administrators, and staff*

FIVE CORE VALUES

1 *We believe that Ottawa County is a positive and unique place to live and work.*

We will work to maintain a well-trained and professional workforce.

2

3 *We will deliver services and programs with compassion and empathy.*

We will monitor local, regional, and state health status trends and implement best practices for health improvement.

4

5 *We will work with community partners to identify and address the health needs of the residents.*

The Ottawa County Health Department operates under state statute and is responsible for carrying out those duties, as specified in the Ohio Revised Code.

Greg Deerhake, President Marblehead, Ohio	March 2025
Debra Hymore-Tester, Vice-President Port Clinton, Ohio	March 2021
Steven Jackson, DO, Marblehead, Ohio	March 2022
L.J. Overmyer, Elmore, Ohio	March 2023
Eric Schramm, Port Clinton, Ohio	March 2023
Bruce Moritz, Genoa, Ohio	March 2024



HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Gerald Bingham Jr., M.P.H., R.S.



MEDICAL DIRECTOR

James "Sandy" McLean, M.D.



Left to Right: Sue Hein, Katrina Crowell, Linda Fox

NURSING DIVISION

Katrina Crowell, R.N., M.P.H. Director of Nursing
Susan Hein, R.N. Home Care Coordinator
Linda Fox, R.N. Public Health Nurse
Dianne Cadigan, R.N. (P/T)..... Public Health Nurse
Brenda Cellier, R.N. (P/T) Public Health Nurse
Jane Harris, R.N. (P/T) Public Health Nurse
Nichole Mendoza, R.N. (P/T)..... Public Health Nurse
Sandy McLean, M.D. (P/T) Clinic Physician

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Tracy Brown, M.H.E., R.S, R.D. ... Director of Env Health
Ryan Tristano, R.S. Sanitarian
Lauren Facer, S.I.T. Sanitarian-in-Training
Jack Wade, R.S. (P/T) Sanitarian



Left to Right: Lauren Facer, Ryan Tristano, Tracy Brown



Left to Right: Michael Capuano, Joshua A. Niese

HEALTH EDUCATION / ACCREDITATION DIVISION

Joshua A. Niese, M.P.H., R.S.
Director of Health Education and Accreditation

Michael Capuano, M.P.H,
Epidemiologist / Emergency Prep. Coord

SUPPORT DIVISION

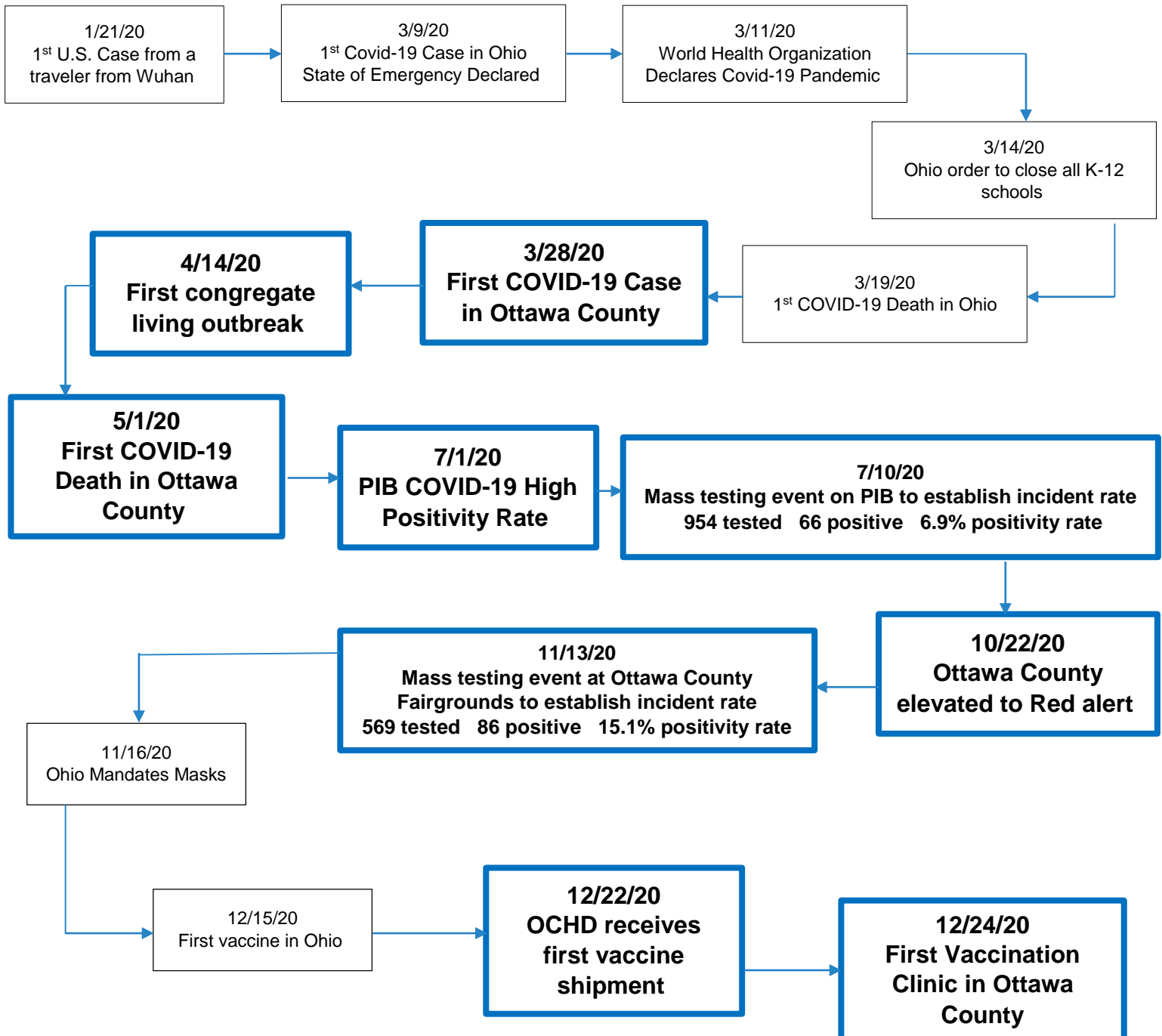
Debra Baumgartner (P/T) Business Manager
Julie Wittman Administrative Assistant
Dawn Segard..... Clerical Supervisor
Denise Bradford Clerical Specialist
Debbie Redmond Clerical Specialist
Nancy McCloskey Public Health Aide
Terri Rush Public Health Aide



Top Left to Right: Dawn Segard, Julie Wittman, Denise Bradford, Terri Rush
Bottom Left to Right: Debbie Redmond, Nancy McCloskey, Debra Baumgartner

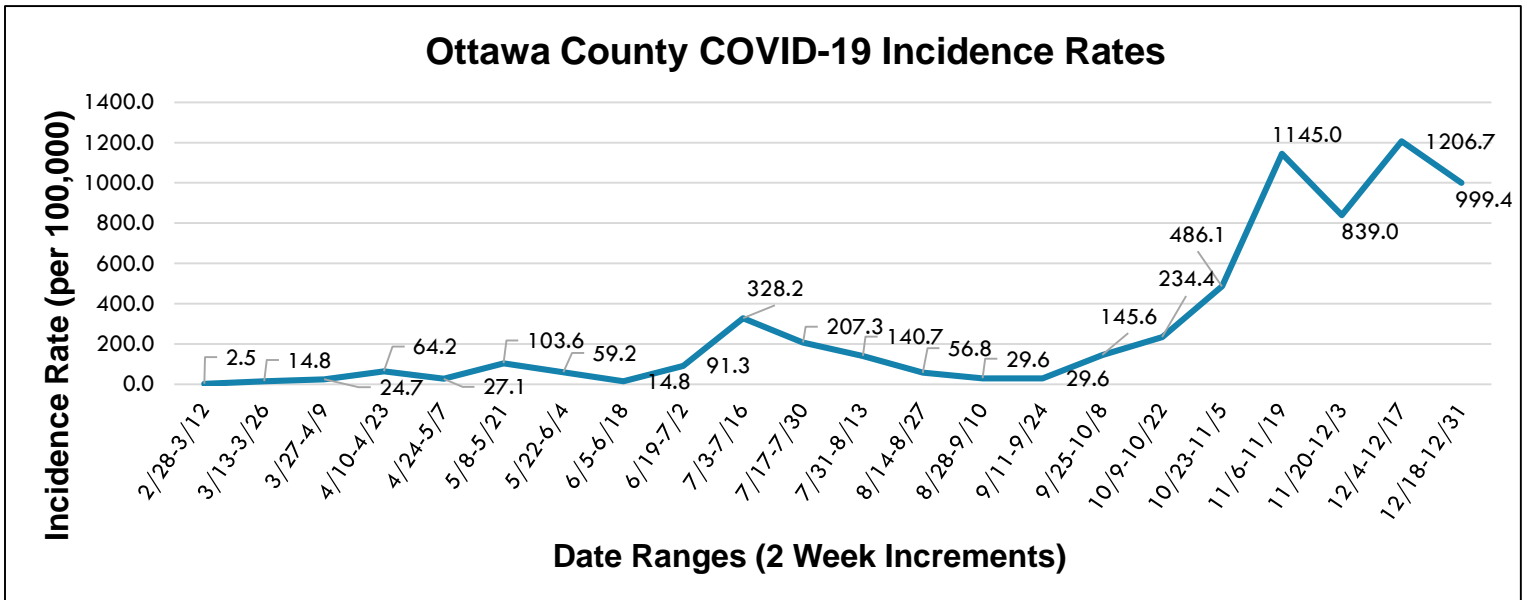
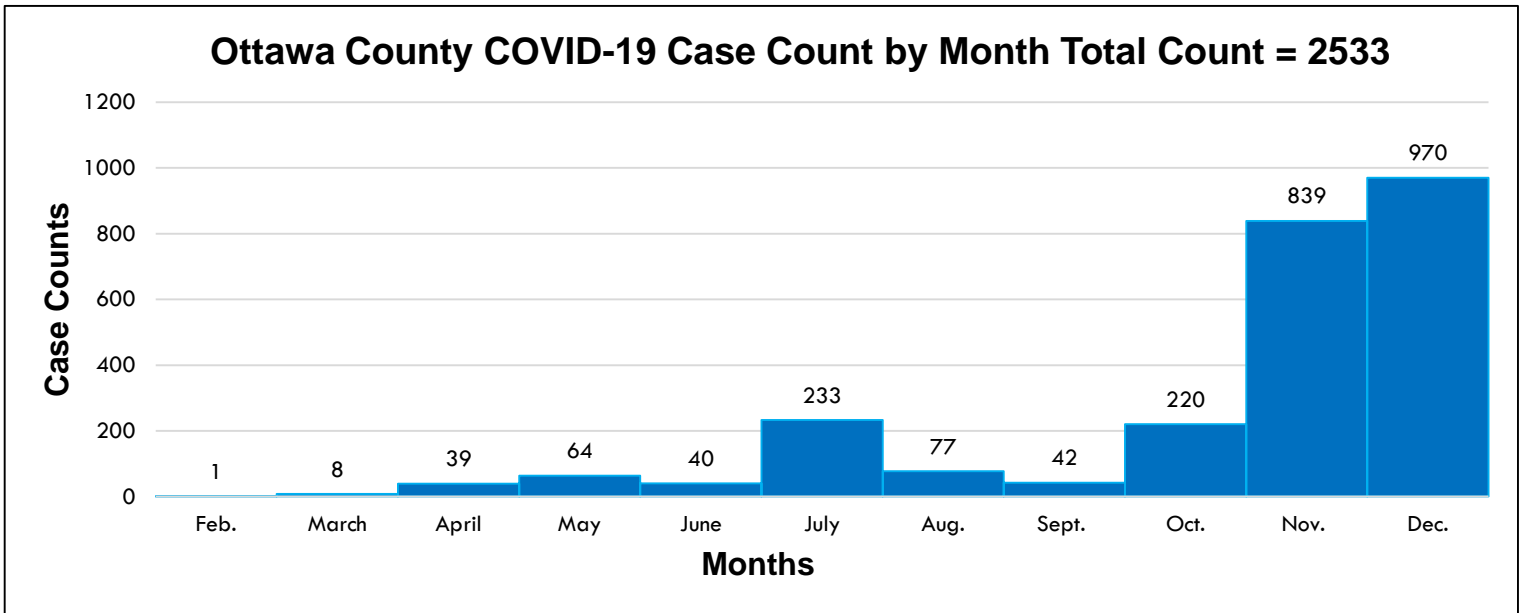
COVID-19 PANDEMIC (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS)

Nothing has brought public health to the forefront more so than the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the main functions of public health is to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease. COVID-19, which is a novel virus, proved to be a very infectious disease in our community and in the world beyond. Since the first case of COVID-19 that appeared in our community back in March 2020, our staff worked diligently to investigate cases and conduct contact tracing to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent serious illness and deaths. Our staff also conducted other activities to help slow the spread of disease through mass testing, education, public health enforcement, and providing updates to our key stakeholders on a regular basis. The next several pages will provide graphics to demonstrate how COVID-19 affected our community members. As we finished 2020, our department entered a new phase of this pandemic with vaccination which will carry us well into 2021 as we race to stop the spread of COVID-19.

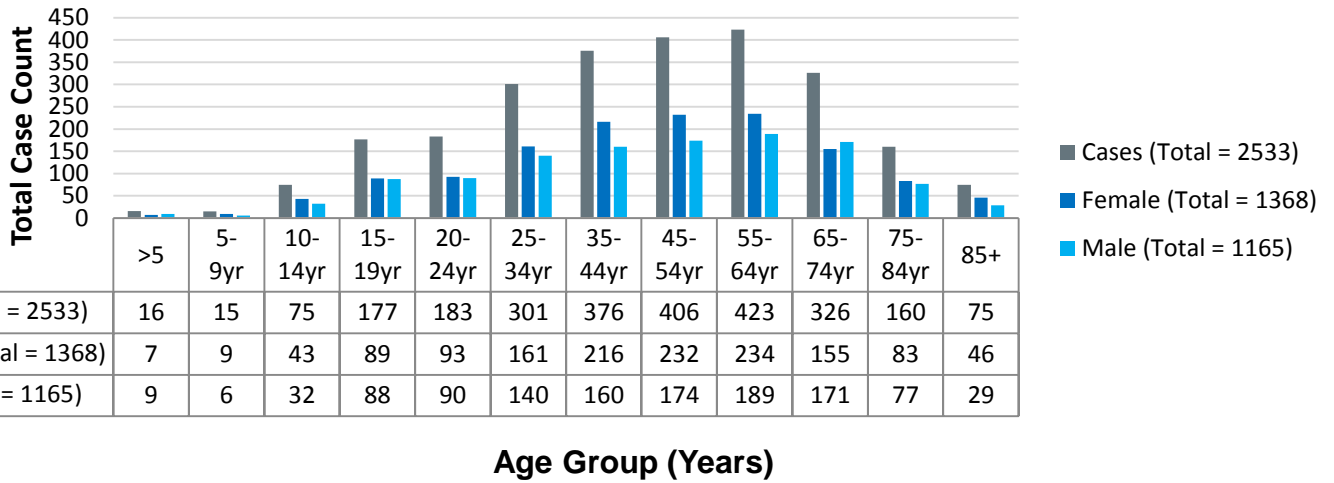


Section 1. COVID-19 Cases Overall Summary

2533 Total Cases	2033 Confirmed Cases	500 Probable Cases	161 (6.4%) Hospitalizations	52 (2.1%) Deaths
1368 (54.1%) Females	1165 (45.9%) Males	<1 -99 Age Range	48 Median Age	34 (1.3%) ICU Admissions



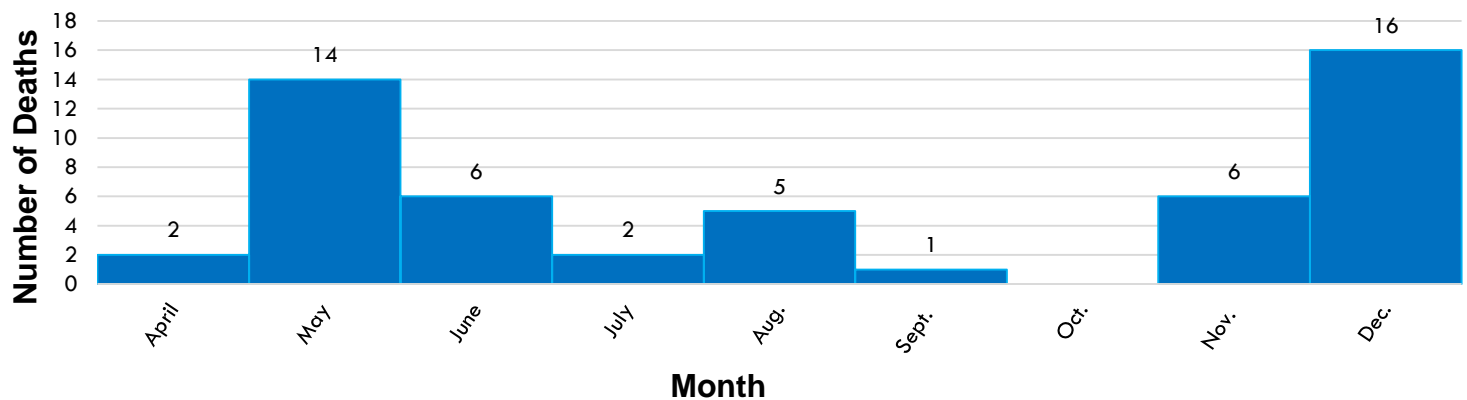
Ottawa County COVID-19 Case Count by Age Group and Gender



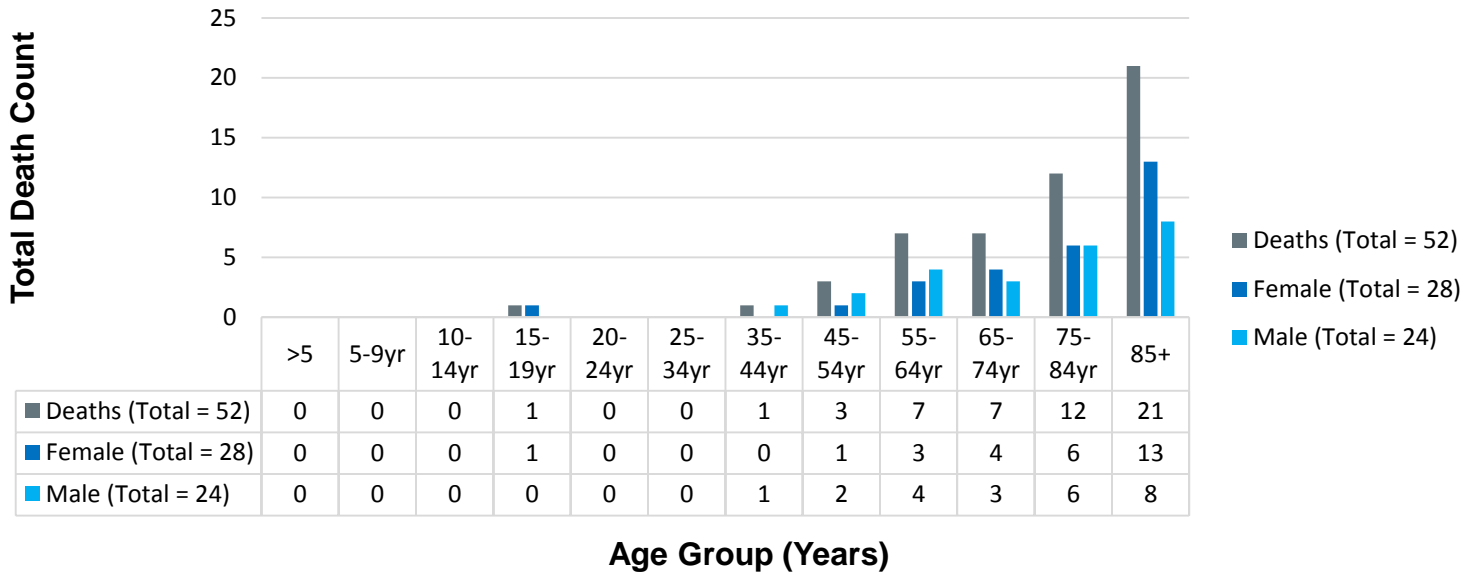
Section 2. COVID-19 Deaths Overall Summary

52 Total Deaths	24 (46.2%) Males	28 (53.8%) Females	31 (59.6%) Long Term Care Residents
19-98 Age Range	80 Median Age	27 (51.9%) Hospitalized	Median Days from Illness Onset to Death = 11

Ottawa County COVID-19 Death Count by Month Total Count = 52



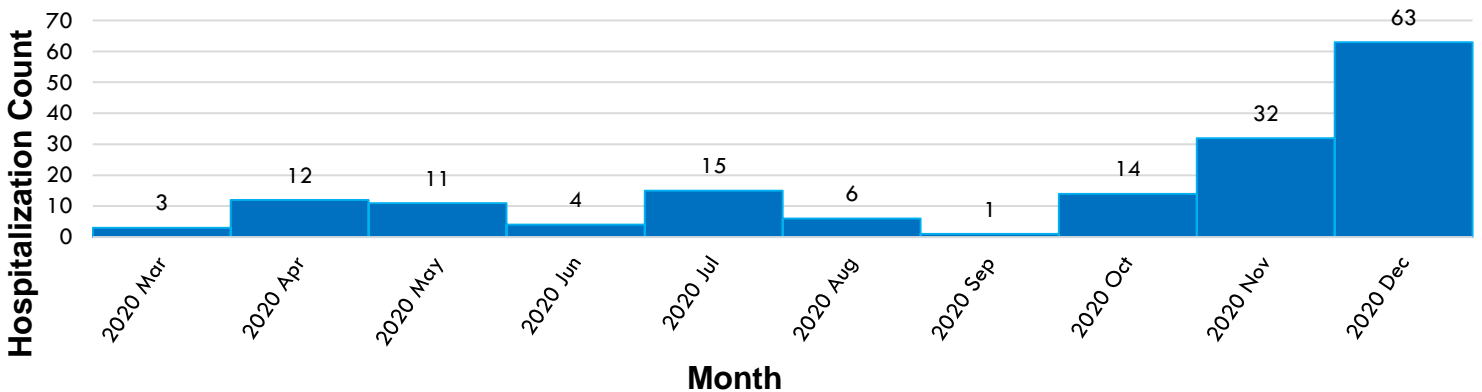
Ottawa County COVID-19 Death Count by Age Group and Gender



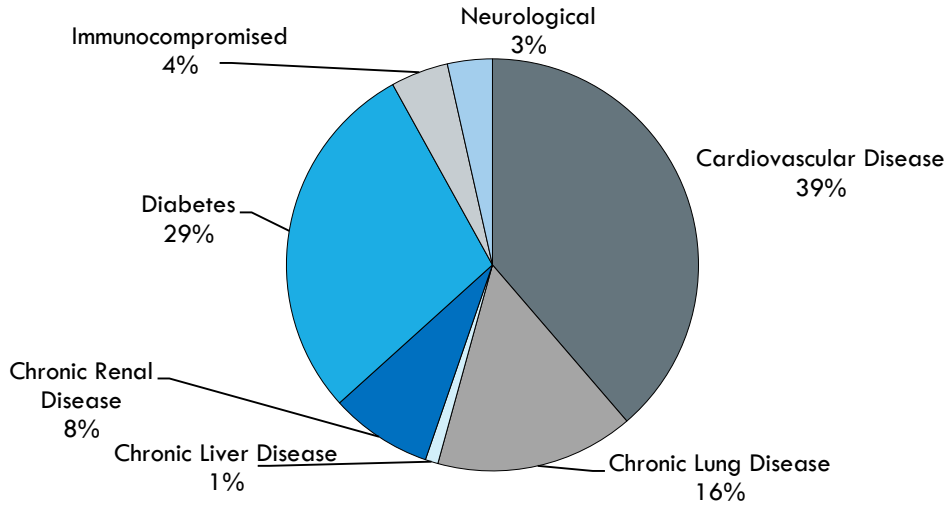
Section 3. COVID-19 Hospitalizations Overall Summary

161 Hospitalizations	94 (58%) Males	67 (42%) Females	19-95 Age Range	67 Median Age
35 (21.7%) ICU Admissions	31 (19.3%) Deaths	130 (80.7%) Recovered	Median Days from Illness Onset to Hospital Admittance* = 4	Median Days from Illness Hospital Admittance to Death** = 8.5
* This is the median amount of time from the day the patient started experiencing symptoms/first-positive specimen collection date to the day of hospital admittance		28 (17.4%) Long Term Care Residents		
**This is the median amount of time from the day the patient was admitted to the hospital to the date of discharge				

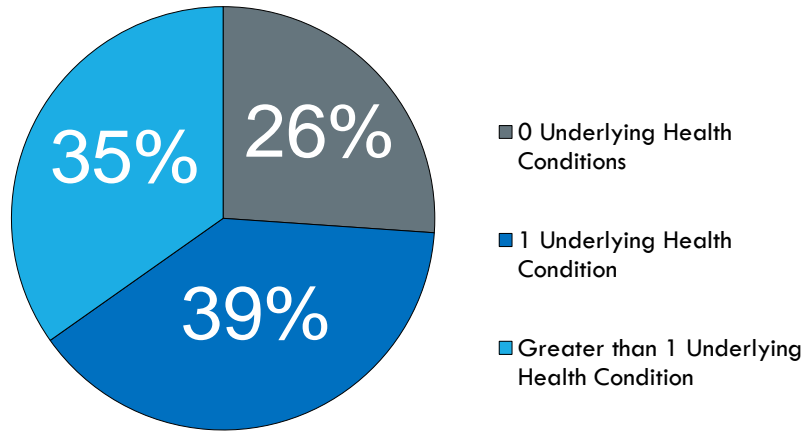
Ottawa County COVID-19 Hospitalization Count by Month Total Count = 161



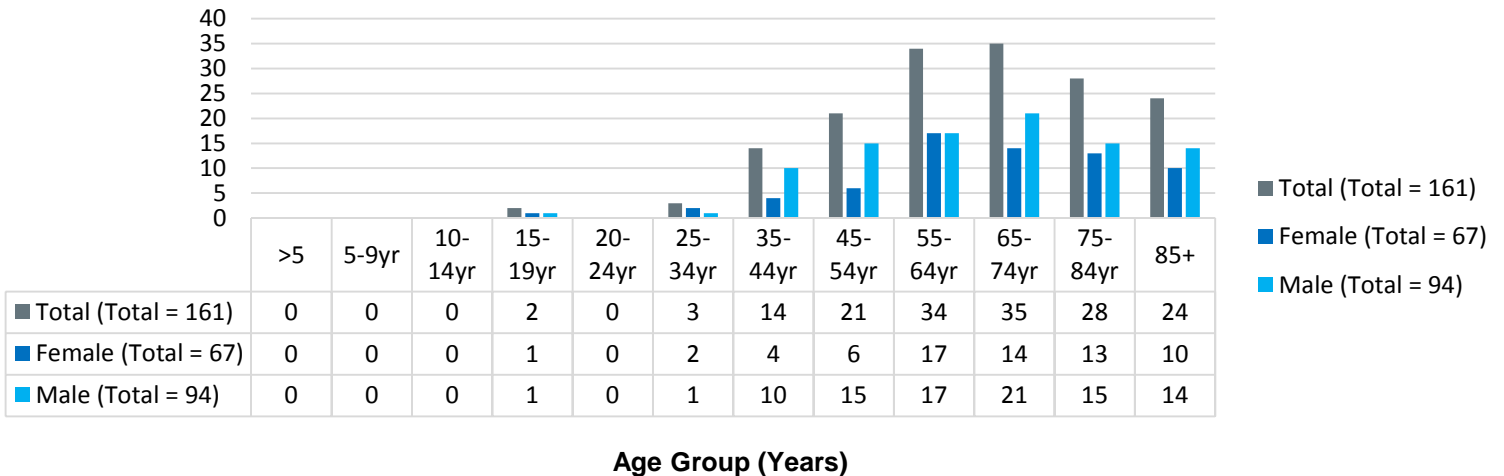
Percentage of Underlying Medical Conditions Among COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Type



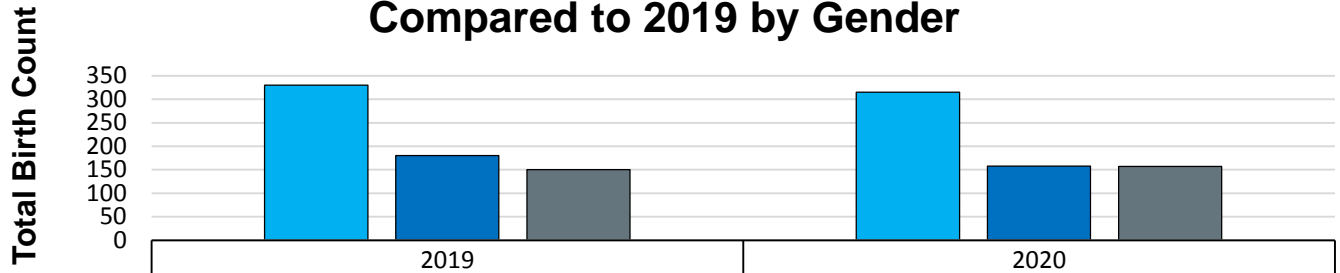
Prevalence of Underlying Medical Conditions Among COVID-19 Deaths



Ottawa County COVID-19 Hospitalization Count by Age Group and Gender



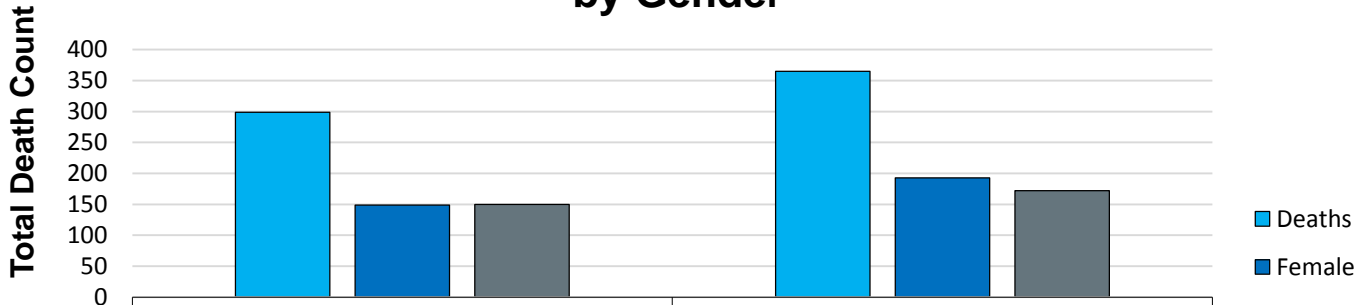
Total In County and Out of County Births in 2020 Compared to 2019 by Gender



	2019	2020
Total Births	330	315
Female	180	158
Male	150	157

Calendar Year

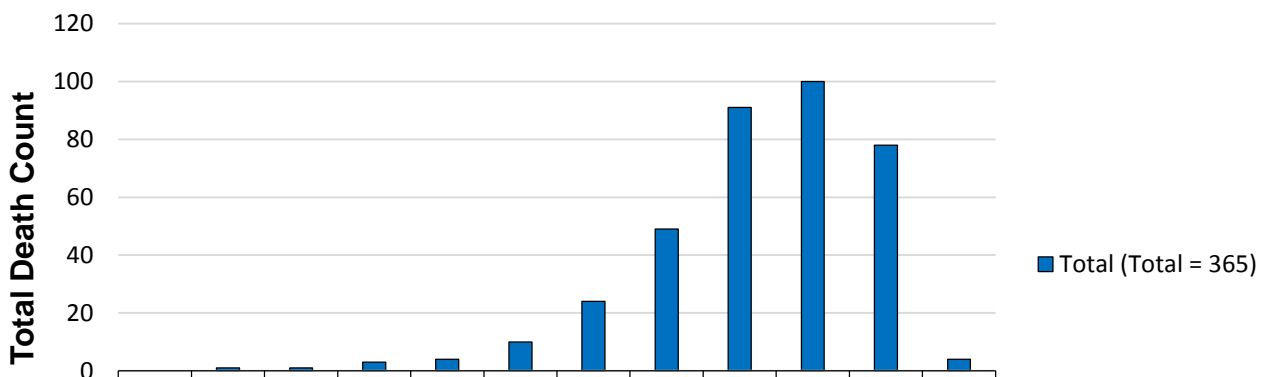
Total Ottawa County Deaths in 2020 Compared to 2019 by Gender



	2019	2020
Deaths	299	365
Female	149	193
Male	150	172

Calendar Year

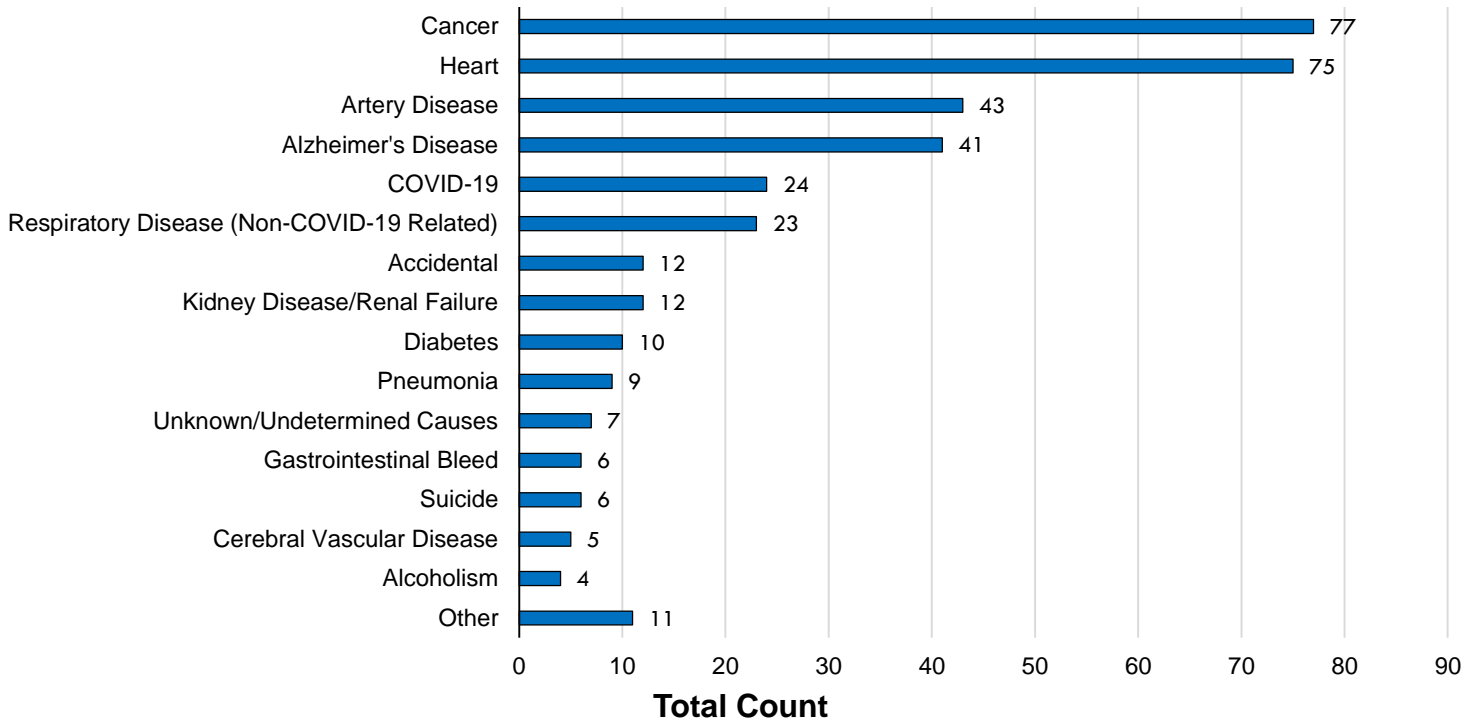
Total Ottawa County Deaths in 2020 by Age Group



	>1	1-9yr	10-19yr	20-29yr	30-39yr	40-49yr	50-59yr	60-69yr	70-79yr	80-89yr	90-99yr	100+
Total (Total = 365)	0	1	1	3	4	10	24	49	91	100	78	4

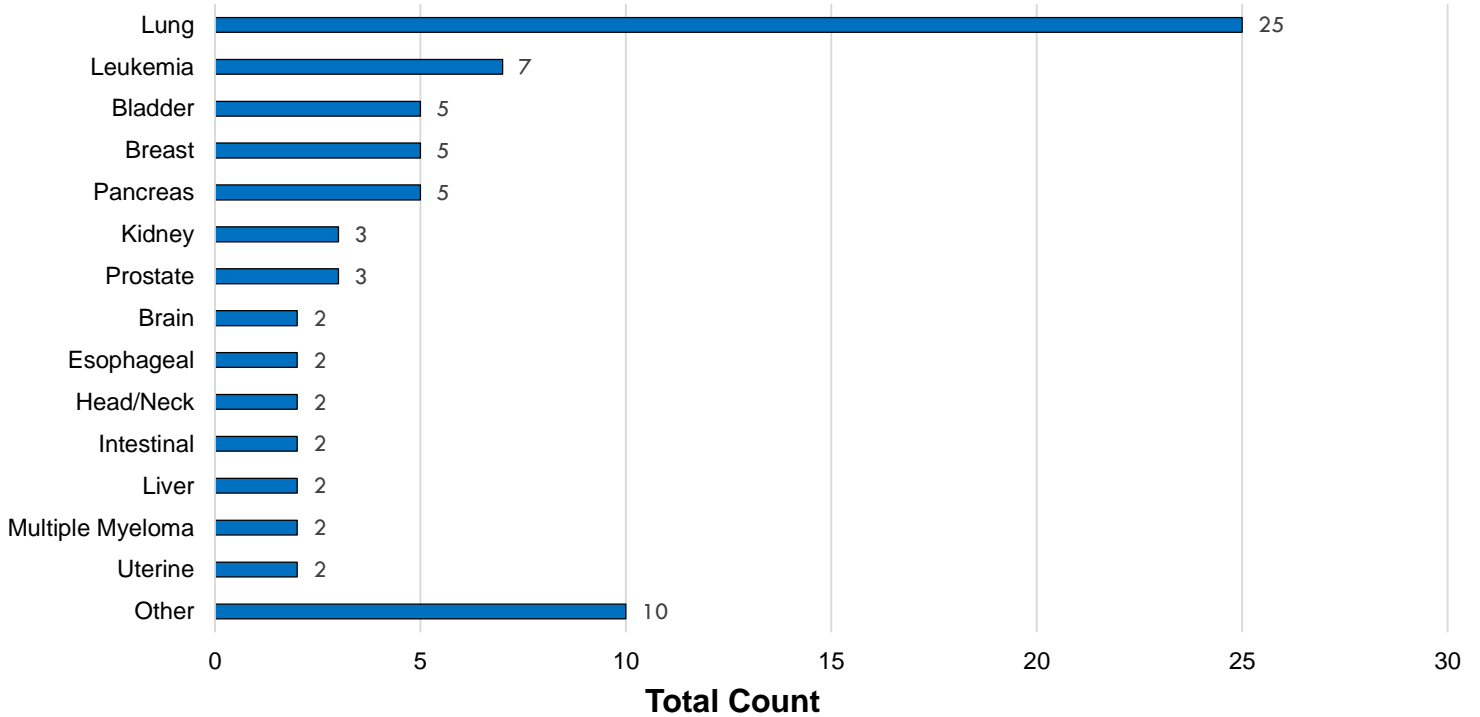
Age Group (Years)

Leading Causes of Death in Ottawa County in 2020

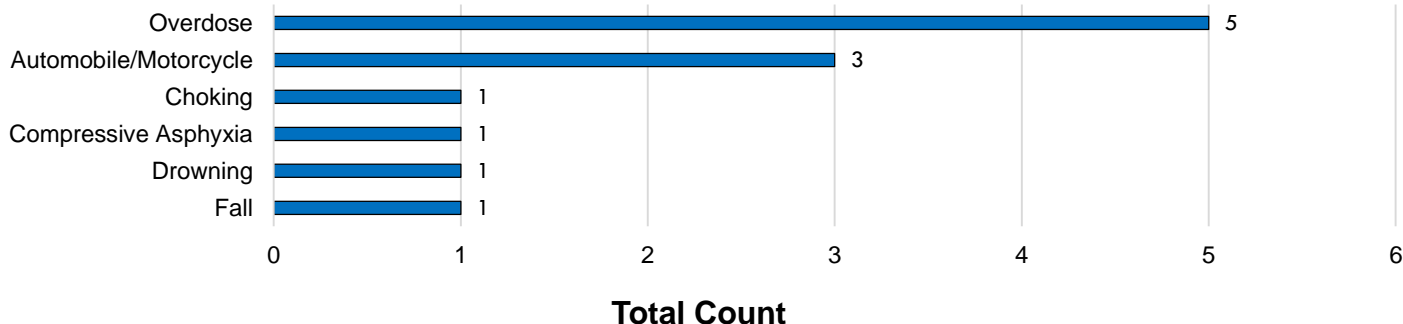


*COVID-19 deaths in the above table indicate individuals who died in Ottawa County and does not include all Ottawa County residents

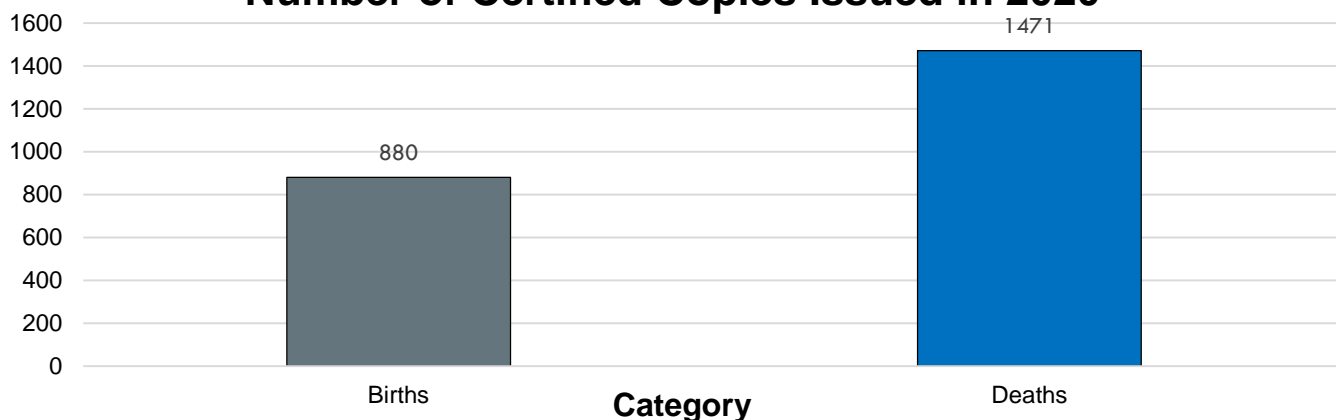
Total Cancer Deaths in Ottawa County by Type



Total Accidental Deaths in Ottawa County by Type



Number of Certified Copies Issued in 2020



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

COVID-19	2533	Streptococcus pneumonia – invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	4
Chlamydia	73	Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	2
Hepatitis C – chronic	37	Meningitis – aseptic/viral	2
Influenza-associated hospitalization	24	Meningitis – bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1
Gonococcal infection	22	Cyclosporiasis	1
Hepatitis B – (including delta) – chronic	6	Haemophilus influenza (invasive disease)	1
Campylobacteriosis	5	Streptococcus pneumonia – invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	1
Salmonellosis	4	Total	2716

574 Food Safety
Inspections Conducted

89 Animal Bites
Investigated

158 Beach Samples
Collected

77 Water Samples
Collected

269 Swimming Pool
Inspections Conducted

92 Campground
Inspections Conducted

EH Programs

Household Sewage

Private Water

Nuisance Complaints

Food Safety

Campgrounds

Pools

Bathing Beaches

Body Art

School Safety Inspections

Food Protection Program

In order to protect our community from unsafe foods, the department licenses and conducts inspections of all food service operations and retail food establishments located in Ottawa County. This program also includes inspections of foods that are prepared and sold at fairs and festivals and foods sold through vending machines. Many of these facilities are inspected multiple times per year and provide us an opportunity to work with the food operators to educate them regarding safe food handling practices and to correct any deficiencies that may be found during inspection. In order to ensure that food operators are properly educated, the department provides multiple food safety training courses including Person-in-Charge and ServSafe®, which are both approved courses by the Ohio Department of Health.

Bathing Beach Monitoring

In order to ensure that our beaches in Ottawa County are clean and safe for the many Ottawa County residents and tourists that use them each summer, our department conducts beach inspections and collection of Lake Erie water. Inspections of beaches, which were completed one to three times a week starting from Memorial Day through Labor Day, included Lakeside, East Harbor State Park, Catawba State Park, Camp Perry, Kelley's Island State Park and South Bass Island State Park. The water that is collected at each beach is tested for E-coli. If high levels of E-coli are confirmed at any of the beaches, the beaches are immediately notified and warnings for beach goers of unsafe water are posted. In 2020, our department collected 158 samples and 11 came back with unsafe levels of E-coli.

OEPA Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

Beginning in 2017, our department started the OEPA WPCLF, which is a program available to assist homeowners without financial means to repair or replace older sewage treatment systems (STS) that are no longer functioning. This program, through a contract with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, can assist homeowners with the cost of the soil evaluation, design work, permits, and the cost of parts, material, and labor for the installation of a new STS or repair of an existing STS. Since 2017, our department was able to assist over 60 homeowners in 11 townships with the replacement of failed STS, in which over \$692,482.09 of the WPCLF funds were spent.

Campgrounds

Ottawa County, known as a vacation destination for campers, includes 83 licensed campgrounds and over 7,500 camp sites. Our department conducts inspections of campgrounds annually to ensure that the safety and sanitation in the parks is being maintained. Inspections include ensuring that the water supply is safe for drinking and bathing, garbage is not creating a nuisance, ensuring that sewage and gray water is being properly disposed of, and ensuring that the overall conditions of the campgrounds are safe for all to enjoy. The department also conducted inspections of 2 temporary campgrounds in 2020.

Swimming Pools

Swimming is a popular summertime activity in Ottawa County. There are 154 licensed swimming pools and spas that must be inspected annually. Inspections include testing the pool water to ensure that the quality of water is safe to swim in, verifying that all safety equipment is in place, and confirming that lifeguards have proper certifications.

1,586 WIC Client Visits

120 Family Planning Client Visits

1,980 Immunizations
67% of Children Immunized

180 Naloxone Kits Distributed
(Project LEAN and Integrated Naloxone)

52 Car Seats Distributed

375 Flu Shots Given

Nursing Programs

- 60 Plus Clinics
- Children with Medical Handicaps
- Cribs for Kids
- Family Planning
- Immunization Clinics
- Integrated Naloxone
- Ohio Buckles Buckeyes
- Project LEAN
- School Nursing for PIB
- Tuberculosis Screening
- WIC Clinics

WIC Clinic

Promotes optimal nutrition for Women, Infants and Children through nutritional education and supplemental foods, if a nutritional deficiency is identified.

Home Health Program

Provides skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and home health aide services to county residents in their home under physician orders. Payments for services are covered by private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and private pay.

After over 40 years of providing Home Health services, the OCHD discontinued the Home Health program in October of 2020.

Project LEAN (Law Enforcement Agency Naloxone)

An Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (Ohio MHAS) grant funded program, enabling county health departments to educate on and dispense Naloxone (Narcan) to local law enforcement agencies who are not able to bill or be reimbursed for dispensing.

Integrated Naloxone

Integrated Naloxone (Narcan) distribution and overdose education program funded through the Ohio Department of Health. Through this program, an individual attends an educational session discussing signs and symptoms of an overdose, causes of an overdose, and how to respond to an overdose. The individual is also given two (2) doses of Narcan to keep in case of an emergency. This program is provided at no cost to the individual. The goal of this program is to reduce the number of deaths in Ottawa County and the state of Ohio. 2020 brought new distribution partnerships through the Ottawa County DART team and other local mental health and recovery agencies.

Family Planning Clinic (Reproductive Health and Wellness)

Provides both men and women with quality comprehensive, low-cost, and accessible family planning and sexual health services, including STD screening and treatment, and numerous options for contraceptives and pregnancy planning.

60 Plus Nursing Assessment Clinic

The Ottawa County Health Department receives funding from the Ottawa County Commissioners to provide persons age 60 years and older with free nursing assessments, health screenings, education and referrals. The clinics are held once a month at six locations in the county.

Get Vaccinated Ohio

Program is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Health to maintain and raise immunization rates in Ohio so that 90% of children and adolescents will be up-to-date on their immunizations. This is accomplished by implementing best practices to increase immunization rates, including reminder/recall activities, assessment, education, partnerships with local schools, and tracking objectives.

Immunization Clinic

Provides all recommended Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) immunizations to all children. Immunization services for children are provided at the health department and a satellite site once a month in both Genoa and Oak Harbor. OCHD Serves all income levels and accepts Medicaid as well as private insurance and Medicare.

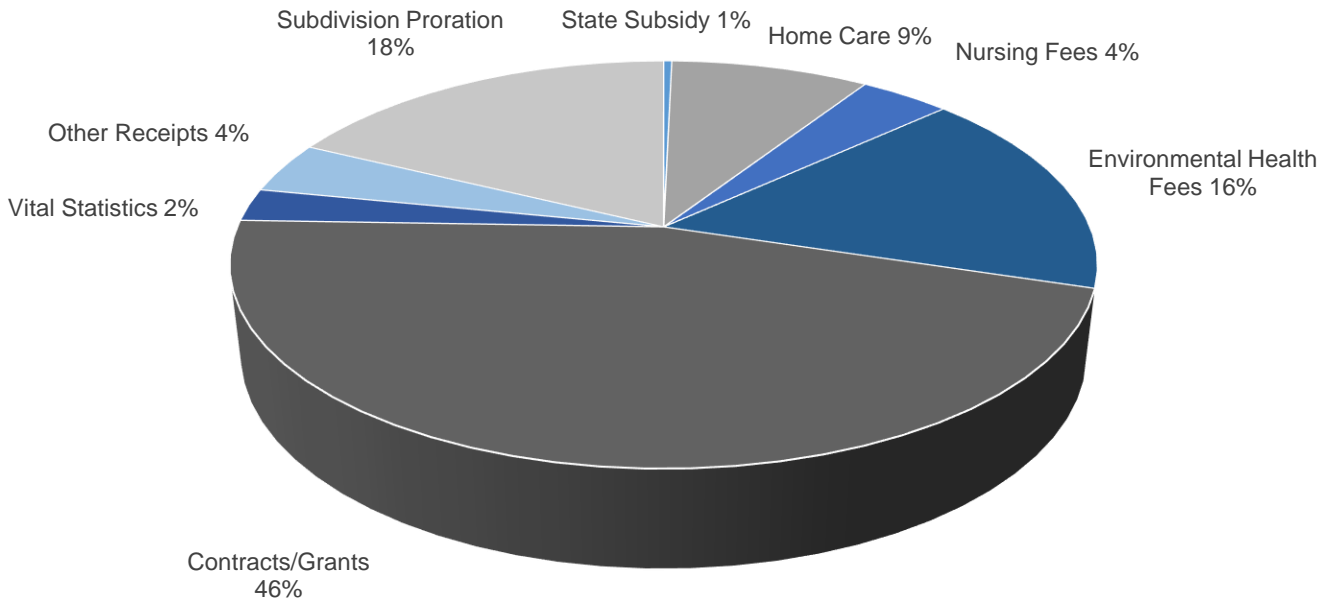
School Nursing Program

Provides nursing services to Put-in-Bay Schools. Children are screened for hearing, vision and scoliosis and assessed for immunization status.

2020 REVENUE

State Subsidy	\$7,772
Home Care	\$190,759
Nursing Fees	\$86,922
Environmental Health Fees	\$357,714
Contracts/Grants	\$988,519
CARES Act HB481 through Ottawa County	\$191,755
CARES Act Provider Relief Home Health	\$38,682
Corona Virus Contact Tracing Grant	\$50,038
Corona Virus Response Grant	\$52,769
Corona Virus Supplemental Grant	\$244,952
Get Vaccinated Grant	\$20,936
Integrated Naloxone Grant	\$36,750
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	\$85,147
Reproductive Health & Wellness (includes fees)	\$34,754
Women Infant & Children Grant	\$72,792
Nursing Contract Services	\$44,384
Environmental Health Contract Services (WPCLF \$76,915)	\$115,560
Vital Statistics	\$56,078
Other Receipts	\$88,483
Subdivision Proration	\$384,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,160,247

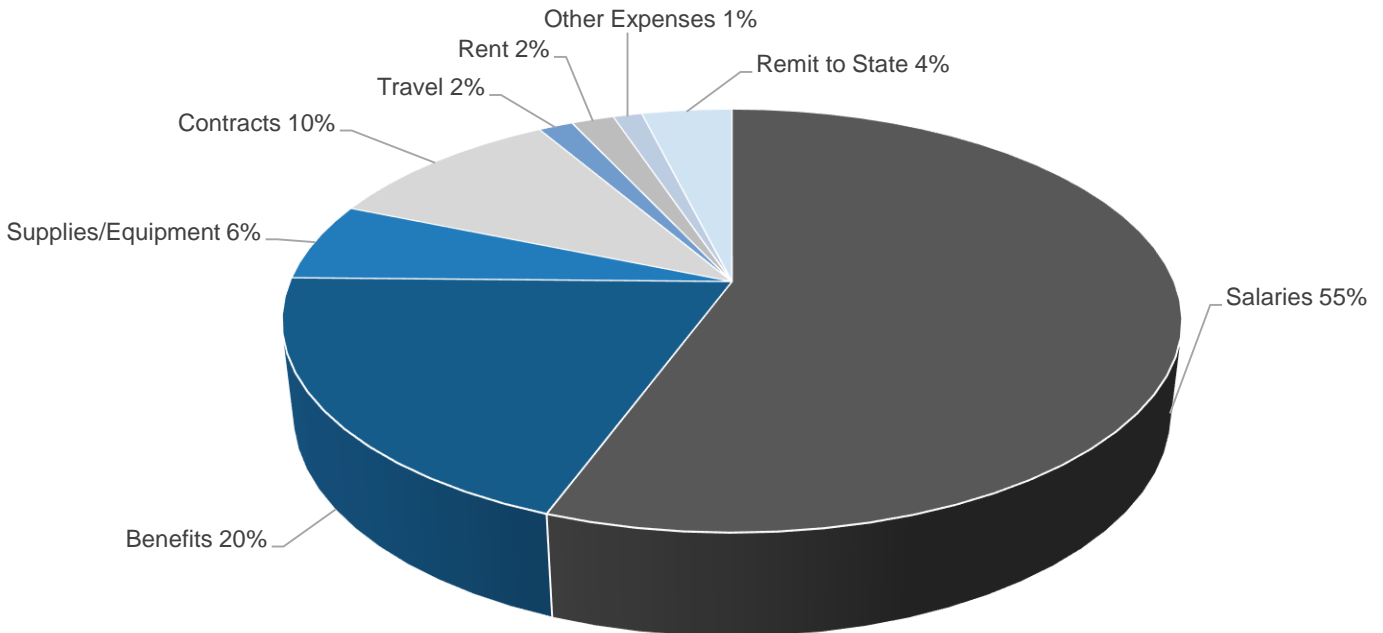
2020 Revenue



2020 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$980,008
Benefits	\$346,674
Insurance (Health/Life/Health Savings Acct.)	\$212,064
OPERS	\$114,355
Worker's Compensation	\$6,043
Medicare	\$14,212
Supplies/Equipment	\$105,107
Contracts	\$181,639
Travel	\$26,119
Advertising & Printing	\$211
Rent	\$32,048
Other Expenses	\$21,831
Remit to State	\$68,285
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,761,922

2020 Expenditures



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