

2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

A Message from Our

Health Officer

Dr. Scott Douglas, MD



Public Health is entering exciting times in the State of Indiana. Governor Holcomb established the Governor's Public Health Commission in 2021 to study Indiana's lagging public health. Poor public health has a significant negative impact on the economic growth of Indiana. Indiana spending in 2019 was \$55 per capita trailing far behind the national average of \$91. Recommendations from the Commission led to Health First Indiana legislation in 2023 which will significantly increase public health funding for participating Indiana Counties. Montgomery County leadership formally agreed in 2023 to participate in the state program which will nearly double the Montgomery County Health Department budget in 2024 and triple the budget for 2025. Funds will be used to expand and improve several core public health services. Counties will have the flexibility to budget funds according to areas of greatest need based on local gaps analysis. We will be expanding programs through our department and community partners in many areas including Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, Obesity, and Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, among others. We are increasing our immunization programs and have a full-time employee coordinating with county schools to increase immunization rates. Funds will also help to improve the county's preparedness for future public health emergencies and for lead assessment and investigation to protect the health of our children. The staff of the Montgomery County Department of Health is enthusiastic about our increased opportunities to improve the health of Montgomery County. Watch us.

2023 IN REVIEW AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

Adrienne Northcutt, Public Health Administrator



For the Health Department 2023 brought several opportunities . We hired several new employees, department staff volunteered childcare services once a month for Parent Café with Recovery Rec, several immunization/vaccination clinics were held on and off site, we received a grant from Franciscan Health for our diaper pantry (starting January 2024), we received a grant from Drug Free for our sharps containers, and the Governor's Public Health Commission, Senate Enrolled Act 4, was passed.

Montgomery County Commissioners opted into the Governor's Public Health Commission, also known as Health First Indiana, which will double our budget for 2024 showing their commitment to making Montgomery County a healthier place to live.

The commission outlined core services and critical framework for all local health departments in Indiana by examining strengths and weaknesses of the Indiana Public Health System and making recommendations for improvements. Montgomery County Health Department conducted gaps analysis with our community partners, and office.

With the Health First Indiana funds, we will be supporting two of our community partners, Mobile Integrated Health, and Drug Free Montgomery County. We hired an Environmental Case Manager, and we will be hiring a second Public Health Nurse, along with expanding several of our services.

The Montgomery County Health Department is excited about the changes occurring in 2024, and cannot wait to help better our community health.

MCHD STAFF

McKenzie Welcher- Environmental Health Clerk

Kelsey Cram- Environmental Health Deputy

Lindsey Endicott- Environmental Health Specialist

Don Orr- Environmental Health Specialist

Lisa Woodrow- Public Health Nurse

Adrienne Northcutt- Administrator

Kristin Lough- Health Educator

Bryanna Brooks- School Liaison/ Clinical Deputy

Carlee McClure- Clinical Clerk

Darby Hechinger- Environmental Case Manager

HEALTH BOARD

Dr. Scott Douglas- Health Officer

Nancy Sennett, RN- President

Jamie Barton, NP

Dr. Mary Glass

Carolyn Snyder, MS BSN RN

Summer Ervin

Dr. Sharon Keedy

Kyle Hunt

VISION:

FOR INDIVIDUALS TO ENJOY AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND INVESTED COMMUNITIES.

MISSION:

TO IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY THROUGH PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND PARTNER COLLABORATION.

VALUES:

PROFESSIONAL - CREDIBLE - DEDICATED - QUALITY

RECRUITING HIGHLY SKILLED PROFESSIONAL

In 2023, MCHD hired a new Environmental Health Clerk, School Liaison, Clinical Clerk, and Environmental Health Specialist. MCHD continues to update the workforce development work plan in order for the positions to have the best training possible.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

In 2023 the Montgomery County Commissioners approved the Memorandum Of Understanding with the Youth Service Bureau for a Drug Free Montgomery County Coordinator.

In 2023 the departments fee schedule was updated for the Water Lab, and Vital Records, as well as Food Permits.

In 2023 MCHD updated the Health Department Employee handbook.

Growth through collaboration

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Montgomery County Health Department sincerely appreciates the organizations and agencies that have supported the health department's mission vision and values, and who are committed to improving the overall health in Montgomery County. Montgomery County Health Department strives to be an active partner in several organizational boards and leading initiatives to help grow and build upon our community partnerships.



Christian Nursing Service Moving Forward



Boards & Organization Affiliation

Montgomery County Wellness Coalition
Harm Reduction Coalition

Montgomery County Opioid Council

Montgomery County Community Foundation

Drug Free Montgomery County

Crawfordsville Community Paramedicine Program

Montgomery County Free Clinic

Franciscan Health Crawfordsville

Indiana State Department of Health

Wabash College Global Health Initiative

Purdue Extension

INCHWA

NCHEC

NACCHO

PHAB



HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MCHD continuously monitors and updates new ways to reach out to the Montgomery County community. Community education and opportunities have allowed our department to grow within our community outreaches by attending , promoting on social media or assisting with events.

Below are a few of our community partners and a list of some of the services they provide to our community.

Recovery Coalition

Parent Cafe
Free Services Day- providing free meals, haircuts, HepC/HIV testing and photo
Recovery Coaching
County Opioid settlement grants
Hired Parttime Staff
purchased building

Drug Free Montgomery

National Night Out- 1000+ attendees
Middle & High School Youth Summits: 80+ students
Prevention Curriculum:
This is Not About Drugs: 675+ County students
Tobacco Court: 14 Youth

QRT (Quick Response Team)

The Crawfordsville Quick Response Team, a part of the Crawfordsville fire department, is responsible for community outreach, education, crisis intervention, patient advocacy, and follow-up care related to mental health and substance use.

Total of 296 Referrals:

Substance Use Disorder: 116

Behavioral Health: 161

Unhoused/Homeless: 8

Other:11 (*this category includes domestic violence, resource navigation & falls*)

Collaborative Effort

2019 was the beginning of a long journey for Don , the Environmental Specialist over our Septic and Vector department. Our Community Partner in Crawfordsville was in need of a new onsite system for one of its homes. This project started in 2019 and ended in 2023. Don assisted in organizing the project, he was onsite frequently from start to finish. Below is a list of all the sponsors who donated time, funds and materials for this project:

-Infiltrator Technologies - Dutcher Trenching -Ziegler Soil Consulting -DES Engineering
-Drainage Solutions Lebanon -Turner Excavating -Masterscape Excavating -Ratcliff Homes LLC
- Foster Farm Drainage -Brothers Pizza C'ville - Crosby's Sanitation Ladoga

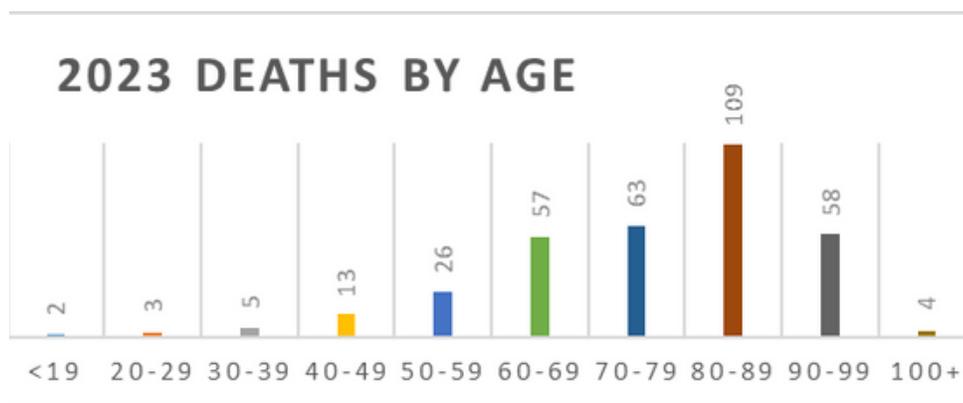
Community Engagement & Participation

-Nucor Health Fair - Acuity Health Fair -Community Baby Shower
- Vaccine/ Immunization Clinics - Recovery Rec Health Fair - MCHD & Purdue Health Fair

2023 VITAL RECORDS STATISTICS

Births

Montgomery County does not have a delivery hospital , but we recorded 477 births during 2023 to mothers who reside within our county. Of those births 8 were homebirths.



Montgomery County Recorded 340 deaths during 2023. Premature deaths, defined as deaths before age 75, accounted for 138 deaths.

~ 166 male

~174 female

*144 of the deaths were not residents of Montgomery County.

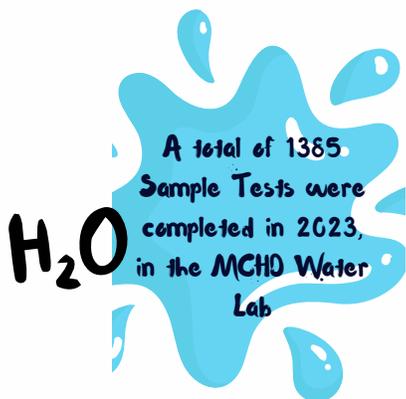
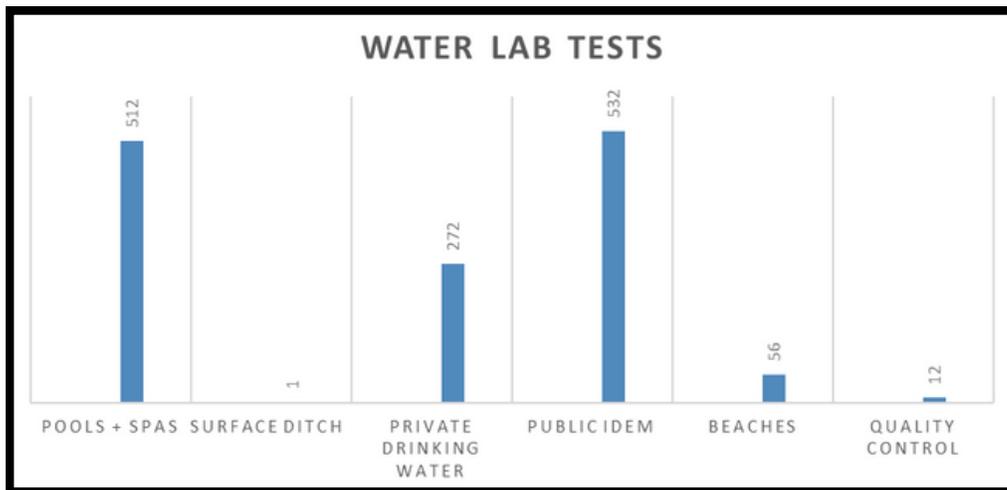
Coroner Cases - 98

Not all deaths are processed through the Coroners office. Types of deaths requiring investigation (*Ind. Code Ann. § 36-2-14-6*): died from violence, has died by casualty, has died when apparently in good health, has died in an apparently suspicious, unusual, or unnatural manner, or has been found dead.

WATER LAB

The Montgomery County Health Department provides water testing for bacteria. Our Microbiology Water Lab is certified by the Indiana State Department of Health. Water testing services are offered for Private Wells, Public Water, Pools and Spas, Surface Ditch Water, Lake and Beaches.

Pools and spas open year round are required to be inspected at least four times a year, and seasonal pools are inspected at least twice during the season. Public and semi public pool owners are required to submit a weekly water test for bacteriological testing. Pools are required to close for remediation due to having two sequential failed water tests. A clean water sample must be submitted prior to reopening.



2023 FOOD REPORT

The Montgomery County Health Department conducts inspections for retail food establishments (including restaurants, groceries, and gas stations), temporary and seasonal permit holders, Farmer's Market, festivals, and special event permit holders to ensure compliance with State food safety codes. The MCHD also offers voluntary basic food training to local establishments.

Montgomery County Food Permits Issued

164 Retail Food establishments-
who are inspected based on
menu level (at least twice yearly)

~6 Micro Markets-

A micro market is an unmanned retail space where individuals can purchase food and beverages. Micro markets can include a wide variety of fresh and healthy items that are restocked regularly.

~15 Schools-
Inspected twice yearly

~27 Seasonal
~31 Temporary/ Temp
Mobile/Mobile
~8 Tax Exempt Establishments
~ 37 Farmers Market Permit

Community Events with Food Vendors

Strawberry Festival
Taste of Montgomery County
4 Separate Events hosted at IronMan Raceway
Waynetown Fish Fry

The foods program looks at the top ten food violations in order to better identify educational materials for the local food establishments. In 2023 the top 10 violations were as follows

Sec. 256 Function of temperature of measuring devices.

Sec. 430 Repairing premises

Sec. 291 Sanitizing solutions, testing devices

Sec. 191 Date marking ready to eat food

Sec. 295 Equipment food-contact surfaces, non food-contact surfaces and utensils

Sec. 177 Food Storage

Sec. 298 Cooking and baking equipment (clean)

Sec. 138 Effectiveness of hair restrains

Sec. 243 Single-service and single-use articles

Sec. 431 Physical structure; cleaning frequency

ENVIRONMENTAL CASE INVESTIGATIONS 2023

The Montgomery County Health Department investigates public health concerns from the community. In 2023 a total of 40 environmental case were investigated.

The majority of complaints were related to Housing.

Other cases that are often filed pertain to vectors (disease carrying pests), yard waste, illegal dumping/burning, smoking, and other miscellaneous issues. MCHD works in collaboration with other community partners and organizations to insure each case is initially addressed within a 5 to 15 day period.

Case Reports 2023			
	Home	Food	Totals
Case Timeframe (open to close)	20.58 Days	1 Day	
Number of Reports filed	30	10	40
Unresolved Cases	12	1	13
Resolved Cases	18	9	27

*The information provided above shows the average number of days a case in 2023 remained open. MCHD tracks this information through a reporting database that assists with case management, court hearings, and staff reporting.

Indiana Code 16-41-20-1 states in part:

A dwelling is unfit for human habitation when the dwelling is dangerous or detrimental to life or health because of any of the following:

1. Want of repair
2. Defects in the drainage, plumbing, lighting, ventilation or construction
3. Infection with contagious disease
4. The existence of the premises of an unsanitary condition that is likely to cause sickness among occupants of the dwelling.

27 Homes investigated in Montgomery County

SEPTICS

In 2023 Montgomery County Health Department issued 63 new systems and 19 system repair permits. In the coming years we will see an increase in the new system permits related to projected new housing projects. 6 Waivers were issued for preexisting septic systems.

Montgomery County Health Department issued 237 permits and inspections for the 2023 year.

PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

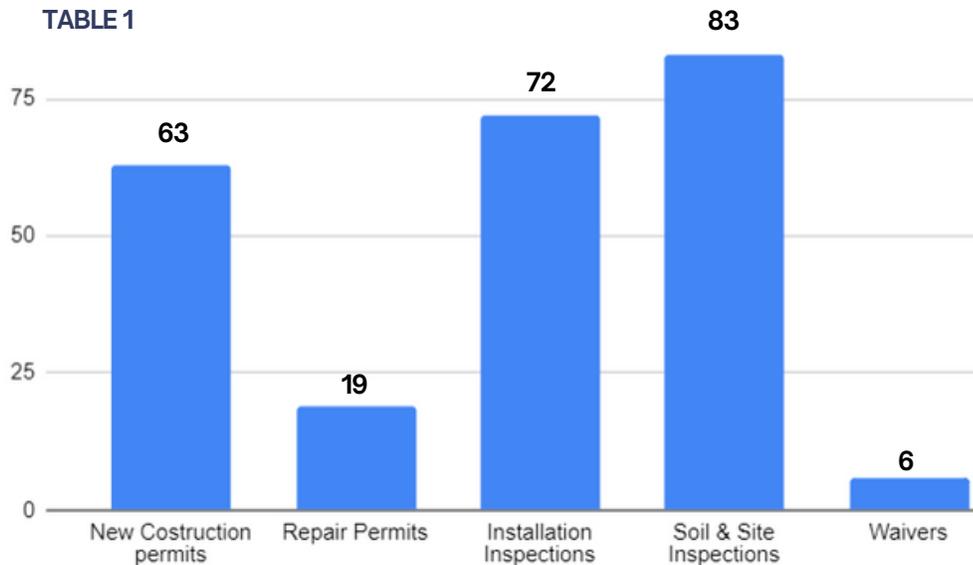


Table 1 showed you the number of permits/inspections issued in each category.

Table 2 will show you the number of Permits/Inspections done in each category, as well as the month they were performed/issued. in.

TABLE 2

	New Construction	Repair Permits	Installation Inspections	Soil and Site inspections
Jan	0	1	1	1
Feb	7	0	1	6
March	3	0	0	5
April	3	0	0	5
May	5	1	8	11
June	10	7	14	8
July	4	0	10	4
August	5	5	9	11
Sept	6	1	5	10
Oct	9	1	11	10
Nov	10	1	9	3
Dec	1	2	4	9
	63	19	72	83

SCHOOL LIAISON REPORT

Our School Liaison and Public Health Nurse collaborate with school nurses and other community partners to provide support, guidance, and assistance in addressing school health and public health matters. The MCHD School Liaison ensures the completion of required childhood screenings, testing, and immunizations to minimize the number of children with deficiencies in mandated public health areas. By addressing these issues, the liaison aims to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases and mitigate learning deficiencies in students.



In February 2023 our School Liaison participated in the 2023 Spring Middle School Youth Summit, working with all 3 of our school systems, partnering with Volunteers for Mental Health and the Wabash College Democracy and Public Discourse initiative.

-Offsite School Vaccine Clinics, providing access to immunizations to the community



-75 STB(Stop the Bleed) Kits
-10 First Aid Bags
-13 First Aid Kits
to the Crawfordsville School
Cooperation in October

-\$1500 to the
Crawfordsville School
Cooperation for refugee
children

NURSING REPORT

The health department is responsible for monitoring health trends within its community. This is an essential function of this department in order to protect the health of its residents. The Nursing Division is the recipient of multiple surveillance reports regarding communicable disease, sexually transmitted infections, and lead reports among others. We rely on data to develop and implement programs that protect health and ensure safety. Case investigations and interventions are facilitated and managed by the health nurse. Montgomery County Health Department is active on several committees and boards throughout Montgomery County to ensure that matters of public health concern are properly addressed and reviewed by the health department. The Public Health Nurse and Health Educator sit on the Crawfordsville School Corporation Health Education Committee. Opportunities to educate the community comes in many forms offered by the public health nurse.



IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED IN 2023

197
ADULT
317 VACCINES

391
PRIVATE
VACCINES

764
VFC
VACCINES

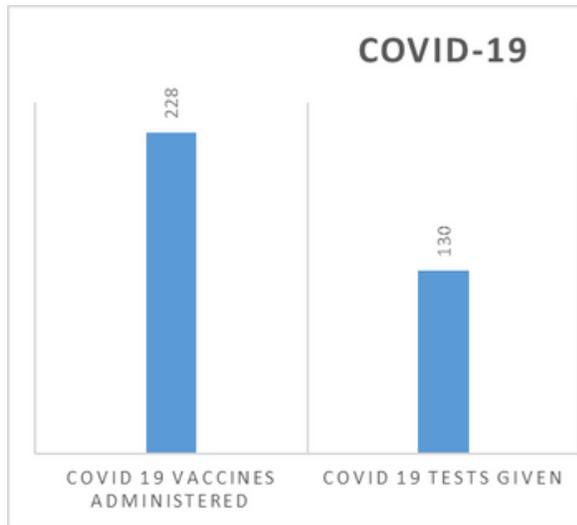
MCHD provides two vaccine programs for immunizations.

Vaccines for Children (VFC):
provides immunizations for individuals 10 and younger.
Qualifications include: Medicaid, Uninsured, or Underinsured

Adult 317 Vaccine Program:
provides immunizations for adults 19 and older.
Qualifications include: Uninsured or Underinsured.

The Health Department also has vaccines available for individuals who are covered by Private Insurance.

INFECTIOUS & COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



Although the Federal Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 ended in May 2023, MCHD continued COVID-19 testing until December 31, 2023. As of January 1, 2024, The State of Indiana has stopped funding free COVID 19 testing. The Montgomery County Health Department is providing free home COVID-19 tests while supplies last. MCHD still provides COVID-19 vaccines for those with or without insurance.

MCHD offers FREE STI testing for Gonorrhea & Chlamydia.....

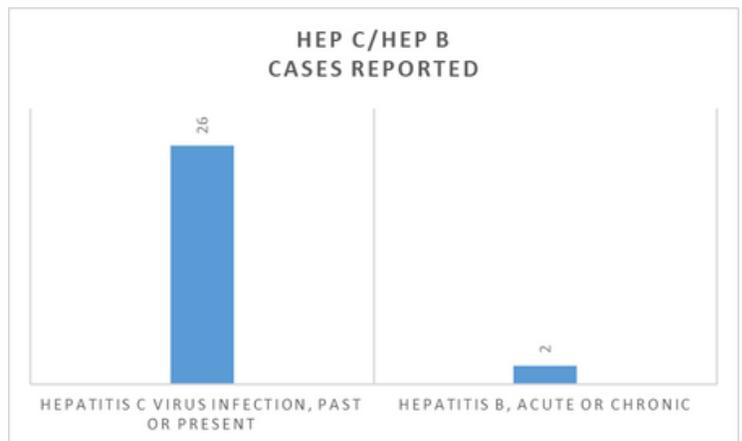
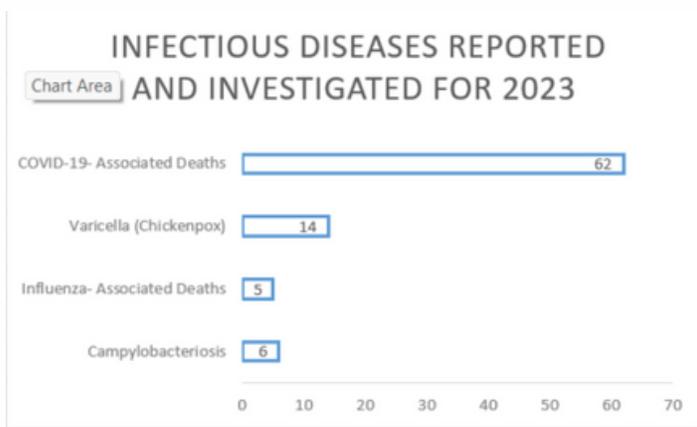
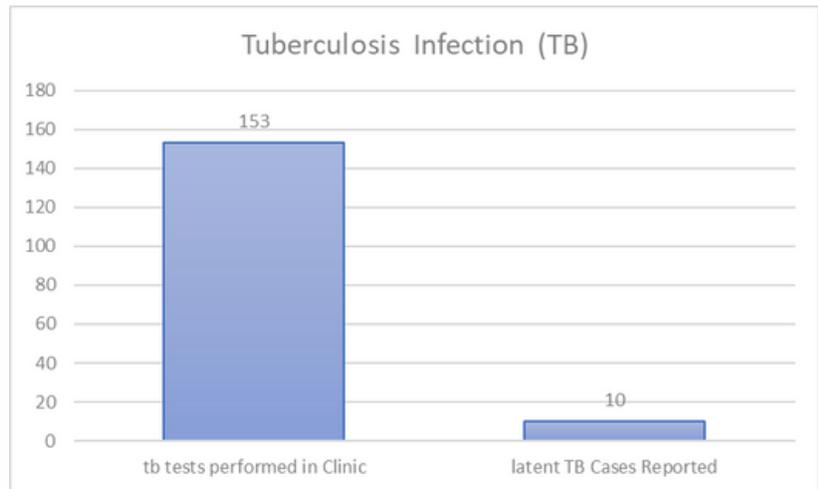
36

STI Tests Administered

9

Positives & Treated

Our Departments goal is to grow our STI Program within the 2024 year



13
ANIMAL BITES
REPORTED

70
REPORTED
LEAD CASES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The funds collected through Health Department come from multiple areas, such as; birth certificates, food permits, water testing, and clinical services. Once these funds have been collected, they are distributed into different different budgets each month. These funds are used to help sustain the Health Department programs that assist in serving our community.

Fund Name	Fund Type	Fiscal Year 2023
Health Fund	Tax Levy	\$804,727.54
Local Health Maintenance Fund	State Grant	\$39,747.93
Local Health Department Trust Account	State Grant	\$33,191.08
LCC Health Sharps Disposal	Local Mini Grant	\$6,677.32
Overdose Response	State Grant	\$ 89,248.82

2023 Health Fund and Tax Levy

The Health Fund is the primary source for funding for the Health Department. This fund is supplemented by a Tax Levy as well as fees for services provided such as food permits, water lab testing, septic permits, vaccinations, and vital records.

2023 Local Health Maintenance Fund

The Local Health Maintenance Grant is provide by the Indiana State Department of Health for use as a supplemental funding source for the health department. The funding is based on population size and is provided to every county in Indiana.

2023 Local Health Department Trust Account

The Local HealthTrust Account was formerly called the Tobacco Settlement. Funds for this grant are provided through a settlement with tobacco companies to assist in smoking cessation and education. It was decided by lawmakers that these funds should be utilized to assist health departments in other areas as long as they support the mission of the health department and meet the requirements of the grant.

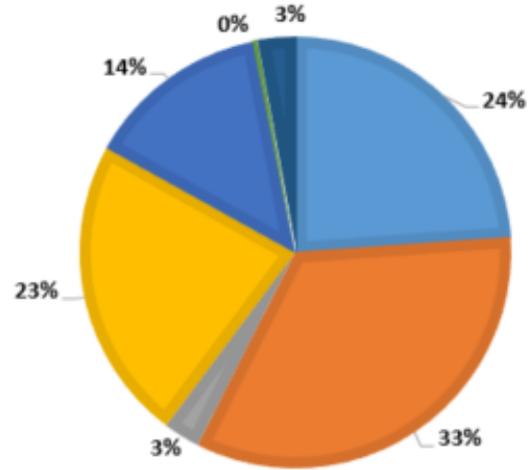
2023 Sharps Program Funding

The Sharps Program Grant is provided by the Montgomery County Drug Fee Coalition. This program is in its eighth year and acts as a part of the Harm Reduction program. The funds are utilized for sharps containers, educational materials and proper disposal through MedPro Disposal.

2023 Opioid Settlement

The Opioid Settlement was created by the State to combat the rate of opioid prescribing in Indiana. These funds are from settlement funds the state has accrued from opioid manufactures. These funds are to be used to save lives, invest in prevention, and racial equity.

■ Food Permits ■ Water Lab ■ Immunizations ■ Vital Records
 ■ Septic Fees ■ Tattoo Fees ■ Misc.



Funds Received in from Services

Food Permits:	\$22,796.50
Water Testing Fees:	\$32,050.00
Immunization Fees:	\$2,615.00
Vital Records:	\$21,836.75
Septic Fees:	\$13,169.50
Tattoo Fees:	\$350.00
Misc.(Restitution, Int.):	\$2,602.70

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

The Montgomery County Health Department in 2023 came across opportunities that will make 2024 a very productive and busy year. In 2024 our Health Department will be going through the process of Reaccreditation. We are 1 of 3 departments accredited in the state of Indiana. Reaccreditation ensures that accredited health departments continue to evolve, improve, and advance their public health practice to serve their community.



The Governor's Public Health Commission was established in 2021 to study and make recommendations regarding public health in Indiana. The Commission released its report in August of 2022. Recommendations were made for improvement in our core public health services.

Subsequent legislation established Health First Indiana, which significantly increased public health funding to each participating county in Indiana. The findings behind this funding showed Indiana ranked 45th for state government public health expenditures. The findings also showed that revenue of 90 of our 94 local health departments is below the National 25th percentile.

We are excited at the MCHD to use these funds to improve and expand services for the health benefit of Montgomery County residents.