

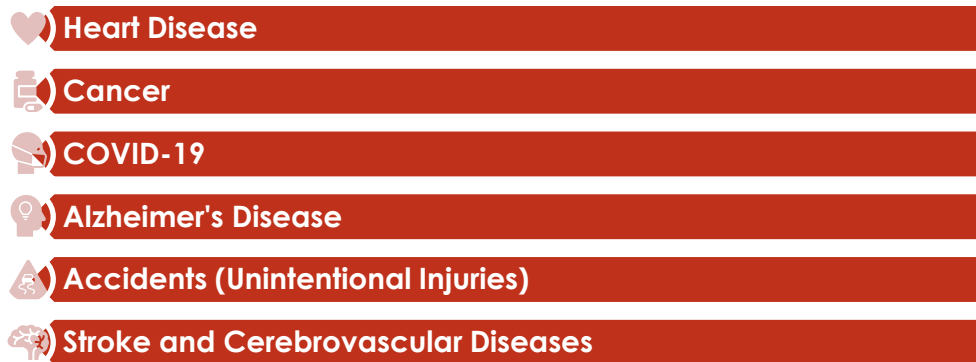


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## About the Bexley Community

The city of Bexley was home to approximately 13,517 community members as of January 1, 2023.<sup>1</sup> About 3 in 4 (76.9%) Bexley residents have at least a bachelor's degree for education and the median household income is greater than Franklin County overall at \$138,929.<sup>2</sup> In total, 6.6% of Bexley residents were born outside of the United States and 10.3% speak a language other than English at home.<sup>2</sup> About 7.9% of Bexley residents report having at least one disability, with cognitive difficulty being the most common disability type.<sup>2</sup>

From 2017-2021, 9.8% of live births to residents of zip code 43209 were considered preterm, or earlier than 37 weeks of pregnancy.<sup>3</sup> In 2021, an estimated 1 in 10 (10.8%) Bexley adults currently smoked. Both preterm birth and smoking rates are higher than the Healthy People 2030 targets. Furthermore, 17.2% of Bexley adults were physically inactive, 23.9% had depression, 9.7% had asthma, and 6.5% had cancer (excluding skin cancer) in 2021.<sup>4</sup> From 2019-2021, the leading causes of death<sup>3</sup> among Bexley residents were:



For more information about the health and wellbeing of the Bexley community, visit the [Bexley Community Profile](#) on [franklinco cares.org](http://franklinco cares.org). Bexley health data available in [CARES](#) include mental health, dental health, medication use, physical activity, tobacco use, healthcare visits, and more.<sup>5</sup> You can find additional local data by zip code and neighborhood, like social vulnerability, preterm birth, or naloxone administrations, on Franklin County Public Health's [FCPH Data Hub](#).

## Behavioral Health & Addiction Services

### Overdose Data to Action

In 2023, there were 60 emergency department admissions for suspected drug overdoses among residents of zip code 43209.<sup>6</sup> In 2021, there were 2 deaths due to accidental overdose among residents of Bexley.<sup>3</sup> Preliminary data indicates there were 2 deaths due to accidental overdose among Bexley residents in 2022 and 3 deaths in 2023 as well.<sup>3</sup>

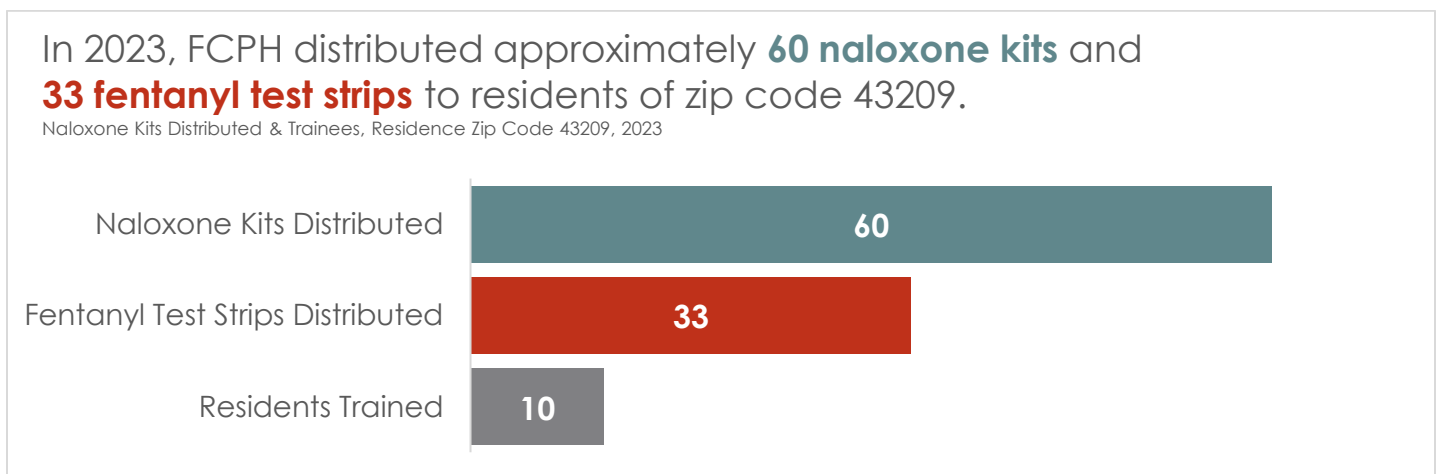
In 2023, Franklin County Public Health utilized funds from the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant and the newly awarded Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A: LOCAL) grant to fund several partner efforts serving people who live, work, and play in Bexley to prevent overdose:

- In 2023, Safe Point served 26 residents of zip code 43209 through a combination of mobile outreach and syringe service program services. These 26 residents interacted with Safe Point 83 times throughout the year, returning 5040 syringes and receiving 6880 syringes in return, based on a maximum distribution limit of 280 syringes per client per month. In these 83 interactions, clients also accepted overdose prevention education materials 81 times. These clients also received 318 fentanyl test strips, 85 naloxone kits, 77 sets of safe injection materials, 66 sharps containers, 58 safe smoking kits, 25 sets of safe sex materials, and 43 safe snorting kits.
- Columbus Division of Fire's Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team (RREACT) makes use of the skills and resources available to first responders to make contact with individuals who experience an overdose, are treated by EMS, and subsequently refuse transport to the hospital for treatment. In 2023, RREACT staff made 9 outreach attempts to 6 Bexley residents who had experienced an overdose.

Please note that due to the transition between the OD2A grant cycle and the OD2A LOCAL grant cycle, data is not yet available for November and December 2023.

### Harm Reduction

HSP's Harm Reduction team engages with community members who use drugs to prevent overdose, spread of disease, and other poor health outcomes. The HSP Harm Reduction team distributed harm reduction materials such as Go Kits and Harm Reduction Kits to Franklin County community members, including potential Bexley residents.



Naloxone, or Narcan, is a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose. In 2023, FCPH trained approximately 10 residents of zip code 43209 in naloxone administration through either live community training or online video training. In 2023, FCPH distributed 60 naloxone kits and 33 fentanyl

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test strips to residents of zip code 43209. More materials may have been distributed to residents, but we do not require recipients to report their zip code of residence. Of those who received materials, multiple residents reported having previously witnessed an overdose or overdosed themselves. In total, HSP's harm reduction team and partners distributed 134 naloxone kits within zip code 43209 in 2023.

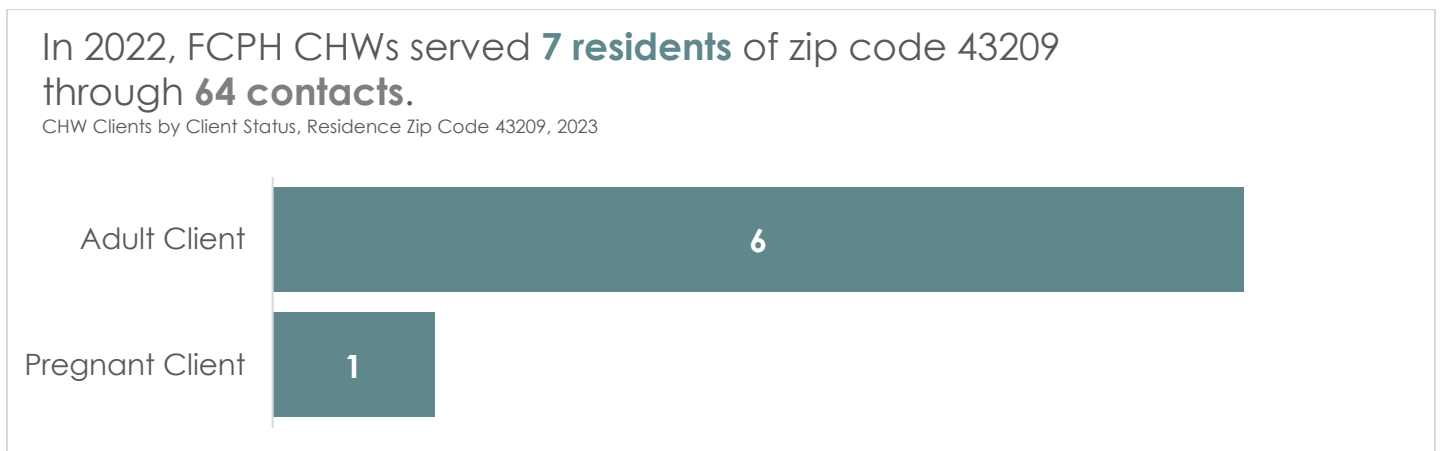
### Tobacco Prevention & Cessation

In 2023, HSP provided a total of 454 individuals with tobacco-related training, such as Ask, Advise, Refer, and Vaping for Parents. Anyone in the county can request tobacco training, as well as access tobacco cessation resources at [makeitmakesense.org](https://www.makeitmakesense.org).

In 2023, the city of Bexley passed a tobacco retail license (TRL) and flavor ban policy and executed a contract with Franklin County Public Health. The program will be launched in 2024.

### Care Coordination

The HSP Care Coordination team is made up of community health workers (CHWs) who work as members of the Central Ohio Pathways HUB, an evidence-based model for connecting individuals in need of services (social and medical) or experiencing hardship to those services. There are a total of 20 different services, or pathways, that an individual can select. HSP CHWs served 7 residents of zip code 43209 in 2023 through 64 contacts, or interactions (meetings, phone calls, emails, etc.). The age of clients ranged from 28 to 66 years.



CHW clients living in zip code 43209 completed 38 total pathways in 2023. Examples of pathways completed by clients living in zip code 43209 include education and social services. CHW services are available to any other Bexley residents who are in need of CHW assistance and can be requested using the form [here](#).

In 2023, FCPH CHW clients living in zip code 43209 completed **38 total pathways**, education being the most common.

Community Health Worker Client Pathways Completed, Residence Zip Code 43209, 2023



**34 Education Pathways**



**2 Social Service Referral Pathways**



**2 Medical Referral Pathways**

## Health Promotion

FCPH's Health Promotion section works to promote healthier habits and environments throughout the Franklin County community. In 2022, FCPH was awarded the countywide Healthy Brain Initiative grant from NACCHO and the National Alzheimer's Association, which ran through December 2023. The purpose of this grant is to integrate brain health (i.e., dementia, Alzheimer's) into our current chronic disease prevention work. The cohort of selected local health departments meet monthly to receive guidance and mentorship in working with their local Alzheimer's Association chapter and other partners to increase brain health awareness in their communities.

### *Active Living*

The HSP Active Living Coordinator focuses on creating healthy communities by increasing access to physical activity opportunities and healthier environments.

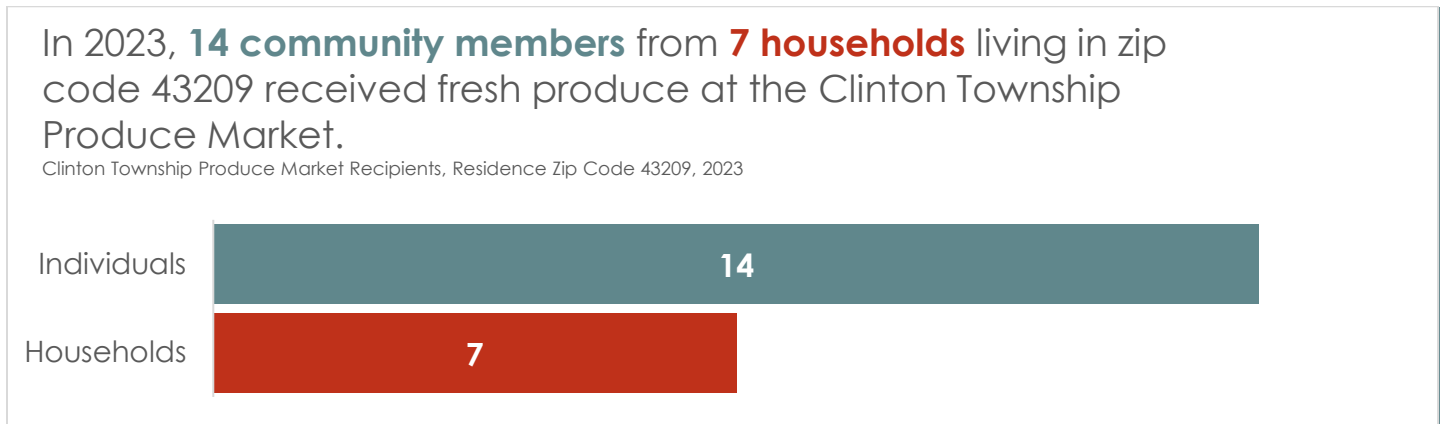
### *Community Health Action Teams (CHATs)*

Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) are partnerships between FCPH and community members who live, work, or play in the CHAT community to work together to build healthier communities in Franklin County. Members represent a variety of sectors and interests, and CHATs can select pathways to focus on such as mental health & wellness or access to care. In 2023, FCPH hosted the CHAT Mid-Year Meeting, which was open to all members of the Franklin County community.

The city of Bexley does not currently have a CHAT, but there is the potential to establish a CHAT for the Bexley community by contacting [FCPHCHAT@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:FCPHCHAT@franklincountyohio.gov). Various CHATs have already been established throughout Franklin County (e.g., Westerville, Clinton Township, Prairie Township, Hilliard, etc.) with initiatives that include produce markets, Farm to School programs in schools, community naloxone training, Complete Streets policy implementation, and Safe Routes to school program implementation. Learn more about what our CHATs completed in 2022 [here](#).

### Healthy Food Access

Through the Clinton Township CHAT, FCPH supports a produce market to distribute fresh produce to community members at no cost. In 2023, the produce market supported 14 community members belonging to 7 households living in zip code 43209. These households may have utilized the produce market multiple times throughout the year.



### Emergency Preparedness

HSP's Emergency Preparedness (EP) section works to develop plans to address risks and maintain efficient public health services for the citizens of Franklin County in case of an emergency. Examples include meeting with police and fire departments, developing response plans, practicing the management of point-of-dispensing (POD) locations, and more. Examples of public health EP and response capabilities addressed by the EP section include community preparedness, emergency public information and warning, responder safety and health, etc. In 2023, FCPH's EP section spent an estimated total of 749 hours through 7 EP staff working to prevent and address emergencies for the Bexley community. The team also trained 3 residents of zip code 43209 in Stop the Bleed, an evidence-based training for recognizing and responding to life-threatening bleeding. The average understanding increased as a result of the training.

The EP team is always working to ensure the best outcome for the people of Franklin County, including those in Bexley by proactively planning and responding to emergencies as they unfold. In

2023, there were several large events that took place in which the EP team were able to use their expertise.

The State of Ohio full-scale exercise (FSE) was held in October 2023 to test the Central Ohio Region's ability to distribute medical countermeasures (MCMs) in the event of an anthrax attack with the operationalization of the Central Ohio Regional Drop Site (RDS) facility that will receive MCMs to prophylax the public. Any residents from Bexley would receive MCMs from this facility. This exercise culminated in 2023 and resulted in the Central Region successfully executing the RDS plan. There were more than 250 hours of training and preparation that was put in by the EP team and Regional Public Health Coordinator to complete this task.

In 2023, EP staff attended in-person Fire Chief and Police Chief meetings that were hosted at the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The Fire Chiefs met once a month while the Police Chiefs met quarterly. Each meeting would last approximately one hour, where staff were able to provide public health updates as necessary, contributing a total of 100 hours of staff time on behalf of Bexley.

The EP Section developed a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Plan to specifically address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness within the Franklin County jurisdiction including the City of Bexley. The WASH Plan is intended to ensure that threats to public health are managed in accordance with FCPH guidelines and assure hazards such as sub-par sanitary services and waste management, contaminated water and media, and infectious disease outbreaks, are managed with the utmost emphasis on life and property preservation. During 2023 a member of the EP was able to travel to the NAACHO Preparedness Summit in order give a presentation on our Wash Grant progress to the attendees. Also, during the 2023 year the wash grant was tested through a tabletop exercise titled "Operation Dark Water." This exercise involved many partners and simulated the response that would take place if a large-scale hygiene event took place in Franklin County.

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Is a Center for Disease Control (CDC) federal effort designed to increase bioterrorism preparedness in the nation's larger cities. The goal is to save lives in these cities by rapidly dispensing medication to their entire population within 24 hours of the decision to do so. Public Points of Dispensing (PODs) are designated dispensing locations for persons who are currently healthy but may have been "exposed" and need prophylactic (preventative) medication. PODs are the traditional method of providing prophylaxis in CRI.

The FCPH Emergency Response Plan (ERP) serve as the operational framework for responding to all emergencies, minor disasters, major disasters, and catastrophic disasters that impact the public health and medical system in the county. The ERP was utilized during the COVID-19 pandemic along with other supporting Plans, attachments, annexes, and appendices to protect FCPH employees, the community, and partnering agencies/organizations. The ERP is continuously undergoing updates to

incorporate planning, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery lessons learnt from the pandemic, as well as After Action Reports and Implementation Plans (ARR/IP).

The COOP plan ensures Franklin County will be able to provide public health services to the City of Bexley should FCPH normal operation be disrupted due to an emergency/incident.

The Medical Counter Measure (MCM) plan is the guidance FCPH uses to inform the residents of Bexley on what to do during a biological emergency. Each year the MCM plan is reviewed. Changes are made to ensure that the plan is robust and appropriate for the people it serves.

In 2023, FCPH accepted a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) entitled "Addressing the Needs of People with Disabilities in COVID-19 Project". This grant allowed FCPH to host a group of individuals from the disabilities communities to work through some of the short comings of the COVID-19 response. These individuals are from diverse communities in Franklin County and represent the various disabilities present within these communities. FCPH planners worked with colleagues from the Ohio State University Nisonger Center to coordinate conferences with our DAC members, During 2023 there were two separate day long conferences held with the formed group, known as the Disabilities Advocacy Council or DAC. The DAC met with emergency response planners from both public health and the EMA to better shape the outcomes of emergency response coordination to be more inclusive and responsive to individual specific needs. There was a total of 100 hours put into the planning and execution of this grant by the planners involved.

The Emergency Planning team also participated in several other tabletop exercises including a two-day eight-hour mass casualty exercise with the corners department and the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Also, there was a Biowatch exercise hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in which three of our planners attended to discuss our response options and work on outcomes. This was four-hour tabletop.

In 2023, EP staff and the Regional Public Health Coordinator spent an estimated **749 hours** completing Emergency Preparedness related meetings and planning for the Bexley community.

Type	Description	Number of Staff	Estimated Hours of Staff Time	Notes
<b>Meeting</b>	Monthly Fire Chief Meetings	1-2	85	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	Quarterly Police Chief Meetings	1-2	20	Travel, preparation, & meeting.

<b>Meeting</b>	Quarterly Medical Reserve Corp	1	3	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Planning &amp; Operational</b>	State of Ohio Full Scale Exercise – Regional Drop Site	6	250	Planning, education, training, & partner collaboration.
<b>Planning</b>	Emergency Preparedness Plans: ERP, COOP, MCM, Regional	7	100	Planning, updates, & edits.
<b>Planning</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Plan	1-2	80	Creation of plan, TTX, & workgroup. Presentation at the Preparedness Summit
<b>Planning</b>	Addressing the Needs of People with Disabilities in COVID-19 Project Grant	1-2	100	Creation of Disabilities Advisory Council & planning. Conferences, Monthly Learning meetings.
<b>Planning &amp; Operational</b>	Biowatch TTX and Mass Casualty TTX	6	25	Planning, education, training, & partner collaboration.
<b>Meeting</b>	Emergency Planners Workgroup	1	35	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	Public Information Officer Workgroup	1	6	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	Epidemiologist Workgroup	1	6	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	Regional Health Emergency Preparedness (RHEP)	1	8	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	Coalition Operations Advisory Board (COAB)	1	8	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	BioWatch Advisory Committee	1	3	Travel, preparation, & meeting.
<b>Meeting</b>	Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (CEPAC)	2	20	Travel, preparation, & meeting.



## Epidemiology & Data

In 2023, HSP epidemiologists completed 145 data requests for both internal staff and external partner organizations. Data requests completed by the team covered a range of topic areas, including gun violence, cancer, tobacco use, overdose, naloxone administration, suicide, housing insecurity, and more.

In 2023, FCPH published the [FCPH Data Hub](#), a data website meant to increase data transparency and availability to the community. This website includes data dashboards as well as reports published by HSP epidemiologists. HSP epidemiologists partnered with multiple community organizations and collaborated with the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition, with HSP Epidemiology Supervisor Abby Boeckman leading the Data and Research Action Team, to publish the countywide [2023 Franklin County Suicide Report](#). FCPH also published the [Tobacco Retailers & Health Impact in Franklin County](#) report and the [Cancer Diagnosis & Mortality in Franklin County, OH](#) report, both of which include local-level data for the city of Bexley.

To submit a data request of your own directly to our team, please visit the [FCPH Data Hub](#) and click "Submit a Data Request."

## Sources

1. [Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Population Data](#)
2. [US Census Bureau American Community Survey](#)
3. Ohio Department of Health Secure Public Health Information Warehouse
4. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) PLACES: Local Data for Better Health
5. [Franklin County Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Evaluation System](#)
6. EpiCenter Health Monitoring System

Respectfully Submitted by: Lindsey Rodenhauer, MPH, Interim Director of Health Systems & Planning.