2023-2025 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Introduction

A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a community-driven, long-term, systematic plan to address issues identified in a Community Health Assessment (CHA). The purpose of the CHIP is to describe how hospitals, health departments, and other community stakeholders will work to improve the health of the county. A CHIP is designed to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies. The CHIP is more comprehensive than the roles and responsibilities of health organizations alone, and the plan's development must include participation of a broad set of community stakeholders and partners. This CHIP reflects the results of a collaborative planning process that includes significant involvement by a variety of community sectors.

Portage County Community Health Partners have conducted CHAs since 2015 to measure community health status. The most recent 2022 CHA provides a comprehensive look at the health and well-being of Portage County children, youth, and adults, and represents the ongoing work of Portage County's community health partners to create and implement a shared vision for providing and maintaining quality health and human services for all Portage County residents.

The data contained in the 2022 Portage County CHA will help guide Portage County's health systems in their efforts to develop innovative strategies for effectively and efficiently addressing high-priority needs; to create evaluation/outcome measures that effectively track progress and ensure accountability; and to educate Portage County stakeholders about the community health vision and needs. Primary and secondary data were collected and reviewed. Secondary data included data from national and state sources, while primary data, in the form of community feedback, was solicited though a Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, focus groups and key informants as part of the Portage County Health Equity Project, as well as a LGBTQ+ community survey implemented by Kent State University. The data components of this comprehensive review can serve as strategic planning sources for organizations and individuals who are striving to make Portage County a healthier community.

Portage County Combined General Health District (PCCGHD) and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center commissioned Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (HCI) to support report development of Portage County's 2022 Community Health Improvement Plan. In preparation of the 2022 CHIP, Portage County Community Health Partners invited various community stakeholders to participate in the community health improvement process. Data from the most recent CHA were carefully considered and categorized utilizing a health equity lens into community priorities with accompanying strategies. Over the next three years, these priorities and strategies will be implemented at the county level with the hope of improving population health and creating lasting, sustainable change. It is the hope of Portage County Community Health Partners that each agency in the county will tie their internal strategic plan to at least one strategy in the CHIP.

Alignment with National and State Standards

In 2022, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center conducted a joint Community Health Assessment ("2022 Portage County CHA") with the Portage County Combined General Health District and other Portage County partners. The 2022 Portage County CHA is compliant with the requirements set forth by Treas. Reg. §1.501(r) ("Section 501(r)") and Ohio Revised Code ("ORC") §3701.981.

The 2022 Portage County CHA will serve as a foundation for developing a collaborative Implementation Strategy to address identified needs that (a) the hospital determines it is able to meet in whole or in part; (b) are otherwise

part of its mission; and (c) are not met (or are not adequately met) by other programs and services in the hospital's service area.

Similar to the Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) that hospitals conduct, completing a CHA and CHIP is an integral part of the process that local and state health departments must undertake to obtain accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This assessment meets the requirements for PHAB accreditation.

State of Ohio Requirements

In 2016 the state of Ohio through ORC §3701.981, mandated that all tax-exempt hospitals collaborate with their local health departments on CHAs and CHIPs. This was done to reduce duplication of resources and provide a more comprehensive approach to addressing health improvement. In addition, local hospitals are required to align with Ohio's State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The required alignment of the CHNA/CHA process timeline and indicators became effective January 1, 2020.

Conduent HCI worked with the Portage County CHA Steering Committee to create one county level CHNA/CHA that serves both PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, as well as the entire Portage County community. This was done to exhibit a shared definition of community, data collection and analysis, and identification of priority needs. It aligns with the 2019 State Health Assessment, which is the most currently available assessment. This shift in the way health assessments are conducted is a deliberate attempt by the partners to work together more effectively and efficiently to comprehensively address the needs of the community. This 2022 CHA also reflects the partners' desire to align health assessment planning both among partners at the local level and with state population health planning efforts – as described more fully in Improving Population Health Planning in Ohio: Guidance for Aligning State and Local Efforts, released by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

2019 Ohio State Health Assessment (SHA)

The 2019 Ohio State Health Assessment (SHA) provides data needed to inform health improvement priorities and strategies in the state. This assessment includes over 140 metrics, organized into data profiles, as well as information gathered through five regional forums, a review of local health department and hospital assessments and plans, and key informant interviews.

The Ohio SHA identified three priority factors and three priority health outcomes that affect the overall health and well-being of children, families and adults of all ages in Ohio[1]. These priority topics identified during the proceeding SHA/SHIP remain relevant.

The top health priorities identified during the 2019 Ohio SHA were:

- Mental Health & Addiction
- Chronic Disease
- Maternal and Infant Health

The top priority factors influencing health outcomes identified during the 2019 Ohio SHA were:

- Community Conditions
- Health Behaviors
- Access to Care

---

[1] Health Policy Institute of Ohio, (2022) 2019 SHA and 2020-2022 SHIP. Accessed from https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/sha-ship/

Similar to the 2019 Ohio SHA, the 2022 Portage County Community Health Assessment (CHA) examined a variety of metrics from various areas of health including, but not limited to, health behaviors, chronic disease, access to health care, and social determinants of health. Additionally, the CHA studied themes and perceptions from local stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors.

The interconnectedness of Ohio's greatest health challenges, along with the overall consistency of health priorities identified in this assessment, indicates many opportunities for collaboration between a wide variety of partners at and between the state and local level, including physical and behavioral health organizations and sectors beyond health. It is our hope that this CHA will serve as a foundation for such collaboration.

To view the full 2019 Ohio State Health Assessment, please visit:
https://odh.ohio.gov/about-us/State-Health-Assessment

2020-2022 Ohio State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

The 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) serves as a strategic menu of priorities, objectives, and evidence-based strategies to be implemented by state agencies, local health departments, hospitals and other community partners and sectors beyond health including education, housing, employers, and regional planning. The SHIP includes a strategic set of measurable outcomes that the state will monitor on an annual basis. The Ohio SHIP Framework is shown in Figure 1. Given that the overall goal of the SHIP is to improve health and wellbeing, the state will track the following:

Three SHIP Priority Factors:
- Community conditions
- Health behaviors
- Access to care

Three SHIP Priority Health Outcomes:
- Mental health and addiction
- Chronic disease
- Maternal and infant health

Figure 1: 2020-2022 Ohio State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Framework
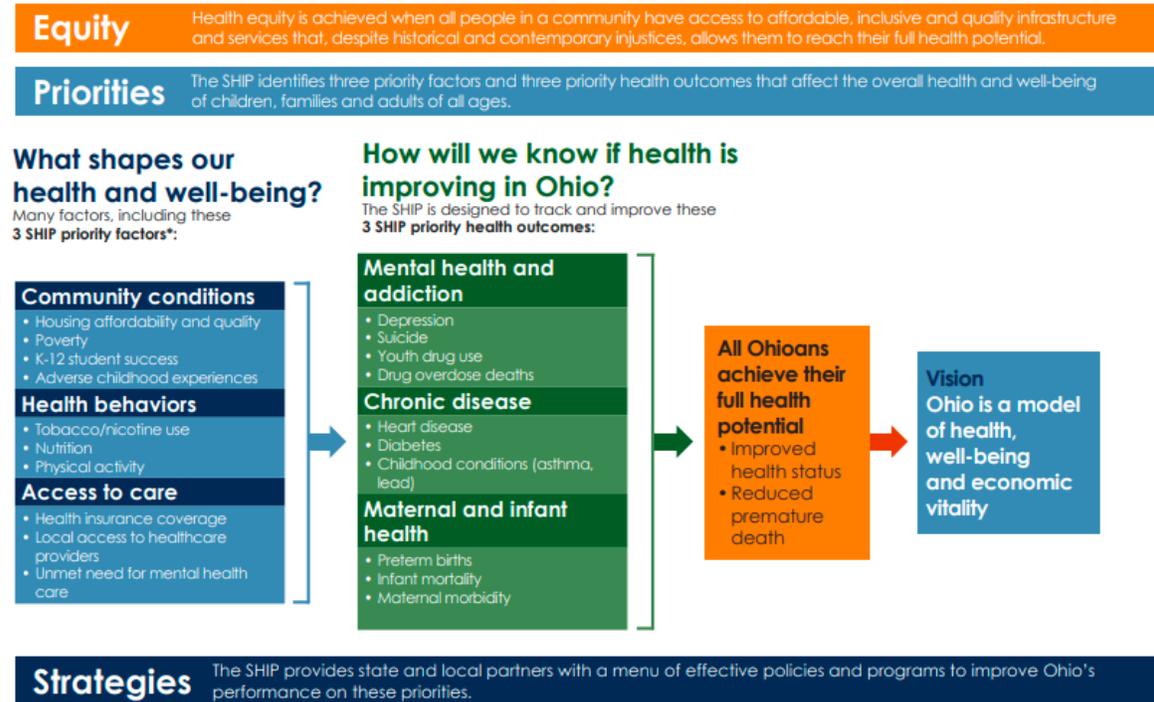
To view the 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), please visit:
https://odh.ohio.gov/about-us/sha-ship/state-health-improvement-plan

Portage County CHIP Alignment with SHIP

The 2020-2022 Portage County CHIP is required to select at least 2 priority topics, 1 priority outcome indicator, 1 cross-cutting strategy and 1 cross-cutting outcome indicator to align with the 2017-2019 SHIP. The following Portage County CHIP priority topics, outcomes and cross cutting factors closely align with the 2017-2019 SHIP priorities (Figure 2). The Portage County CHIP will be reviewed on an annual basis for potential updates and revisions. Future alignment will be assessed when the new Ohio SHIP is released.

Figure 2: Portage County CHIP Alignment with Ohio SHIP

2023-2025 Portage County CHIP Alignment with 2017-2019 SHIP			
Priority Topic	Priority Outcome	Cross-cutting Factor(s)	Cross-cutting Outcome(s)
Chronic Disease	• Decrease Chronic and Communicable Diseases, including Sexually Transmitted Infections • Decrease Obesity • Increase Food Security • Increase adult and youth fruit and vegetable consumption	• Health Equity • Social Determinants of Health • Public health system, prevention and	• Improve health status • Reduce premature death

Mental Health & Addiction	• Decrease adult and youth suicide ideation • Decrease adult and youth alcohol use • Reduce adult and youth smoking	health behaviors • Healthcare system and access	
Family, Pregnancy, Infant, & Child Health	• Decrease preterm births • Decrease low birth rate • Decrease infant mortality		

Hospital Internal Revenue Services (IRS) Requirements

Certain hospitals as set forth in the Section 501(r) regulations are required to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and corresponding Implementation Strategy (IS) at least once every three years in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), 2010[2].

Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Accreditation Requirements

Portage County Combined General Health District became accredited on June 11, 2019 under the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards. One of the standards to receive and maintain PHAB accreditation includes participating in or leading a collaborative process that results in a comprehensive Community Health Assessment. For local health departments, the Community Health Assessment assesses the health of residents within the jurisdiction it serves. A local health department's assessment may also assess the health of residents within a larger region, but the submitted assessment will include details that address the requirements specific to the jurisdiction applying for accreditation[3].

Definition of Community & Service Area Determination

The community has been defined as Portage County. In 2021, most (81%) of University Hospitals Portage Medical Center's discharges were residents of Portage County. In addition, University Hospitals collaborates with multiple stakeholders, most of which provide services at the county level. In looking at the community population served by the hospital facilities and Portage County as a whole, it was clear that all of the facilities and partnering organizations involved in the collaborative assessment define their community to be the same. Defining the community as such also allows the hospitals to more readily collaborate with public health partners for both Community Health Assessments and health improvement planning. Per Section 501(r) federal compliance, a joint CHNA is only allowable if it meets all the requirements of a separate CHNA; clearly identifies the hospital facilities involved; and if all of the collaborating hospital facilities and organizations included in the joint CHNA define their

---

[2] The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148) added section 501(r) to the Internal Revenue Code, which imposes new requirements on nonprofit hospitals in order to qualify for an exemption under Section 501(c)(3) and adds new reporting requirements for such hospitals under Section 6033(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. University Hospitals followed the final rule entitled "Additional Requirements for Charitable Hospitals; Community Health Needs Assessments for Charitable Hospitals"; Requirement of a Section 4959 Excise Tax Return and Time for Filing the Return, was published by the IRS on December 31, 2014, and requires compliance after December 29, 2015.

[3] Public Health Accreditation Board (2022). Standards and Measures for Reaccreditation Version 2022. Accessed from https://phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/Standard-Measures-Version-2022-Reaccreditation.pdf

community to be the same[4]. This assessment meets 501(r) federal compliance for University Hospitals Portage Medical Center.

Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations

The Portage County CHNA Steering Committee, which includes PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, intentionally elected to use a random YRBS survey implemented with middle and high schools in Portage County to incorporate a broader range of perspectives. The methodology is described more fully in the Primary Data Collection Methods section of this report. Additionally, qualitative data collection included focus groups and key informant interviews that were conducted as part of the Portage County Health Equity Project. Participants in the community focus groups included representatives from: 1) Seniors, those 65 and older; 2) Black and African American community; and 3) WIC benefit recipients. Additional data was incorporated from a Kent State University community survey implemented with the LGBTQ+ community within Portage County. Finally, community partners and the community members were invited to participate and provide feedback on the 2022 CHNA data findings at a public CHNA presentation in August 2022.

Process and Methods to Engage the Community

This CHA process was commissioned by PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center. The names of the individual partners are listed in the Acknowledgments section at the beginning of the report. Multiple sectors, including the general public, were asked through email listservs, social media, and public notices to participate in the process which included participation in quantitative and qualitative data collection. The general public will be invited to attend the release of the report and provide feedback.

Identifying and Prioritizing Needs

For the 2022 CHA process, Portage County Community Health Partners elected to maintain the three priority areas identified by the 2019 Portage County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This decision was made due to the ongoing challenges across Portage County within the prioritized areas as well as the exacerbation of these need areas by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The group instead chose to leverage the primary and secondary data collected through the 2022 CHA process to further understand the depth and breadth of these need areas within the county. This decision was supported by secondary data analysis findings as well as from community feedback. To ensure the perspectives of community members were considered, input was collected from residents in Portage County. Primary data used in this assessment consisted of key informant interviews conducted as part of the Portage County Health Equity Project, focus group discussions with key community groups, and a Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS) implemented with select middle and high schools within Portage County. Additional data was included from a locally implemented survey with the LGBTQ+ community.

Findings from the 2022 Assessment were presented to the public during an in-person community meeting hosted in August 2022. Thirty-three individuals participated in the meeting. Participants included community stakeholders and community representatives from public health, city government, local hospitals, mental health agencies, and other community-based organizations.

In 2019, Portage County identified three priority areas that reflected the broad interests of the community, and they will remain in 2022:

---

[4] §1.501r-3(b)(6)(v)

- Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction
- Chronic Disease
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health (renamed Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health)

In addition to these three prioritized areas, Portage County elected to focus on three cross-cutting areas:

- Healthcare System and Access
- Social Determinants of Health
- Health Equity

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center will be addressing all priorities.

Impact of COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 was felt by all in public health. The year of 2020 brought forth concepts such as "lockdowns," "mask mandates," and "social distancing". Today these concepts are part of our everyday language as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all aspects of our lives. Portage County saw its first case of COVID-19 on March 13th and was saddened by its first death on March 29th. Each day brought a new challenge to public health, and public health rose to the challenge in response to this public health pandemic while also continuing to meet the essential functions of the Health District. COVID-19 response included communicable disease investigations, contact tracing, outreach investigations, public information, enforcement, testing, and distribution of vaccine.

Vaccines provide the "light at the end of the tunnel" out of this pandemic, a path to our "new normal". The success of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign was due to the partnerships and collaborations with our first responders, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, Portage County EMA, NEOMED, Kent State University, the Ravenna Elks, K-12 schools, daycares, local businesses, community service agencies, healthcare providers, congregate care facilities, the Portage County jail, elected officials, the Portage Foundation, and United Way.

Public health continues to provide COVID-19 response activities and support, all while continuing to serve Portage County residents with both mandated and unmandated programs and services such as environmental health services, WIC services, nursing services, prevention services, and more.

Portage County CHIP Steering Committee

Representatives from Portage County Combined General Health District (PCCGHD) and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center formed the Portage County CHIP Steering Committee to guide Portage County community partners through the assessment process. The steering committee was composed of: Kent State University (KSU), Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), AxessPointe Community Health Center, Portage County Health District (PCHD), University Hospitals, Kent City Health Department (KCHD), and Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County (MHRB). The committee also included additional representation from academia, education, healthcare, public health, and mental health. These organizations play key roles in optimizing the community's health.

Local Partners

PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center gratefully acknowledges the participation of a dedicated group of local partners and external stakeholders that gave generously of their time and expertise to help guide the development of this CHIP:

- Akron Children's Hospital
- Akron Food Bank
- AxessPointe Community Health Center
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Advantage
- Coleman Health Services
- Coleman Pregnancy Center
- Coleman Professional Services
- Community Action Council
- Community AIDS Network Akron Pride Initiative
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- Family and Children First Council
- Family and Community Services
- Haymaker Farmers Market
- Help Me Grow
- Hiram College
- Job and Family Services
- Kent City Board of Health
- Kent City Health Department
- Kent State Child Development Center
- Kent State University College of Public Health & Center for Public Policy and Health
- Kent State University Health Services
- Maplewood Career Center
- Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County
- NAMI
- NEOMED Student-Run Free Clinic
- Northeast Ohio Medical University
- OhioCAN
- Ohio State University Extension Office
- Ohio Quit Line
- Ohio Means Jobs
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- OUR Place
- Planned Parenthood
- Portage County Board of Health
- Portage County Children's Services
- Portage County Combined General Health District
- Portage County Emergency Medical Services
- Portage County Job & Family Services
- Portage County Regional Transit Authority
- Portage County Safe Communities Coalition
- Portage County School Districts
- Portage County Treasurers Office
- Portage County WIC
- Portage Learning Centers
- Portage Park District
- Portage Senior Center
- Portage Substance Abuse Community Coalition
- Ravenna Schools
- Sequoia Wellness
- Streetsboro Police Department
- Suicide Prevention Coalition of Portage County
- The Haven
- Townhall II
- University Hospitals Portage Medical Center
- United Way of Portage County

Portage County Combined General Health District

On June 11, 2019, the Portage County Combined General Health District was awarded National Public Health Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board located in Alexandria, Virginia. This milestone accomplishment signifies to Portage County residents that they are being served by a health district that has met rigorous nationally recognized, performance-focused, and evidence-based standards for public health. Accreditation has strengthened the Agency's continuous commitment towards meeting the 10 Essential Services of Public Health including quality improvement, workforce development, strategic planning, and performance management.

The Portage County Combined General Health District is responsible for preventing disease and promoting health in the following Portage County Areas:

Serving the Townships of: Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin, Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna, Rootstown, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham

Serving the Villages of: Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore, Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham

Serving the Cities of: Aurora, Ravenna, Streetsboro

Mission Statement

To promote public health, prevent disease, and protect the environment, utilizing leadership and partnership to empower individuals and communities to achieve optimal health.

Vision Statement

Healthy People. Healthy Environments. Healthy Communities.

Values

Accountability, Communication, Dedication, Ethics, Innovation

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center is a 300-bed community-based hospital that provides an array of services, including but not limited to labor and delivery, surgical, orthopedic, and rehabilitation. Located in Ravenna, OH, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center facilities principally serve residents of Portage County, and include Level III Trauma services, two urgent care facilities, comprehensive imaging facilities, a network of physician practices, and both outpatient centers and medical facilities. University Hospitals Portage Medical Center is located in central Portage County, and situated with Cleveland to the Northwest, Akron to the Southwest, and Youngstown to the Southeast.

University Hospitals Mission

To Heal. To Teach. To Discover.

Vision

Advancing the Science of Health and the Art of Compassion.

Values

- **Service Excellence:** We deliver the best outcomes, service, and value with the highest quality through a continuous quest for excellence and seeking ways to improve the health of those who count on us.
- **Integrity:** We have a shared commitment to do what is right and adhere to the highest standards of ethics and personal responsibility to earn the trust of our caregivers and community.
- **Compassion:** We have genuine concern for our patients and each other while treating everyone with respect and empathy.

- **Belonging:** We value the contributions of all caregivers, and are committed to building an inclusive, encouraging and caring culture where all can thrive.
- **Trust:** We depend upon our caregivers' character, reliability and judgement.

Consultants

PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center commissioned Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (HCI) to support report development of Portage County's 2022 CHA and CHIP. HCI works with clients across the nation to drive community health outcomes by assessing needs, developing focused strategies, identifying appropriate intervention programs, establishing monitoring systems, and implementing performance evaluation processes. To learn more about Conduent Healthy Communities Institute, please visit https://www.conduent.com/community-health/.

Community Health Improvement Process

Beginning in August 2022, the Portage County CHIP Working Group met weekly to guide and facilitate the development of the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan. A larger group of Portage County community health partners met collectively as a group a total of three times in addition to ongoing working group meetings to develop and finalize the Portage County CHIP. The timeline below outlines the key steps in the Portage County Community Health Assessment in addition to the key meetings that were held August 2022 to January 2023 for CHIP development.

Portage County CHA & CHIP Timeline

Portage County Community Health Assessment Kickoff
April 2022

Secondary Data Analysis and Community Input Collection
April - May 2022

Data Analysis & Synthesis
May 2022

Portage County CHA Report Finalization
June - July 2022

Portage County CHIP Development Kickoff
August 30th, 2022

Second CHIP Working Meeting
September 13th, 2022

Chronic Disease Working Group
September 30th, 2022

Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health Working Group
October 3rd, 2022

Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction Working Group
October 4th, 2022

CHIP Working Meeting
October 11, 2022

CHIP Evaluation Meeting
November 15, 2022

CHIP Finalization Meeting
November 28, 2022

CHIP Next Steps Meeting
December 12th, 2022

CHIP Finalization Meeting II
January 3, 2023

Portage County CHIP Community Launch
January 10, 2023

Disparities and Health Equity

Identifying disparities by population groups and geography helps to inform and focus priorities and strategies. Understanding disparities also helps us better understand root causes that impact health in a community and inform action towards health equity.

Health Equity

Health equity focuses on the fair distribution of health determinants, outcomes, and resources across communities.[5] National trends have shown that systemic racism, poverty, and gender discrimination have led to poorer health outcomes for groups such as Black/African American persons, Hispanic/Latino persons, Indigenous persons, people with incomes below the federal poverty level, and LGBTQ+ communities.

Race, Ethnicity, Age, & Gender Disparities

Primary and secondary data revealed significant community health disparities by race, ethnicity, gender, and age. It is important to note that much of the data is presented to show differences and disparities of data by population groups. For instance, Asian or Asian and Pacific Islander persons encompass individuals from over 40 different countries with very different languages, cultures, and histories in the U.S. Information and themes captured through key informant interviews, a focus group discussion, and an online community survey have been shared to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of each community's experiences.

Secondary Data

Community health disparities were assessed in the secondary data using the Index of Disparity[6] analysis, which identifies disparities based on how far each subgroup (by race, ethnicity, or gender) is from the overall county value. For more detailed methodology related to the Index of Disparity, see Appendix B.

Table 1 below identifies secondary data indicators with a statistically significant race, ethnicity, or gender disparity for Portage County, based on the Index of Disparity.

The Index of Disparity analysis for Portage County reveals that the Black-African American populations are disproportionately impacted across various measures of economy/poverty. These indicators include People Living Below Poverty Level, People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level, Families Living Below Poverty Level, Babies with Very Low Birth Weight, and Children Living Below Poverty Level. Furthermore, Hispanic/Latino and Multiple Races' populations are disproportionately impacted across various poverty measures along with measures of public transportation. Lastly, HIV/AIDS Prevalence rates are higher in Black-African American as well as Hispanic/Latino populations.

Various race and ethnic groups are disproportionately impacted across various measures of poverty, which is often associated with poorer health outcomes. These indicators include Families Living Below Poverty Level and People Living Below Poverty Level, and the various races affected are mentioned in Table 1.

---

[5] Klein R, Huang D. Defining and measuring disparities, inequities, and inequalities in the Healthy People initiative. National Center for Health Statistics. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ppt/nchs2010/41_klein.pdf
[6] Pearcy, J. & Keppel, K. (2002). A Summary Measure of Health Disparity. Public Health Reports, 117, 273-280.

Table 1: Indicators with Significant Race, Ethnicity or Gender Disparities

Health Indicator	Group(s) Negatively Impacted
Babies with Very Low Birth Weight	Black-African American
Children Living Below Poverty Level	Black-African American, Multiple Races
Families Living Below Poverty Level	American Indian / Alaska Native, Multiple Races, Black-African American, Hispanic/Latino
HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rate	Black-African American, Hispanic/Latino
People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level	Black-African American, Other Race, Hispanic/Latino
People Living Below Poverty Level	Black-African American, Asian, American Indian / Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Multiple Races, Other Race, Hispanic/Latino
Workers Commuting by Public Transportation	Black-African American, Multiple Races, Hispanic/Latino
Workers who Walk to Work	Black-African American, Asian, Other Race

Geographic Disparities

In addition to disparities by race, ethnicity, gender, and age, this assessment also identified specific zip codes/municipalities with differences in outcomes related to health and social determinants of health. Geographic disparities were identified using the Health Equity Index, Food Insecurity Index, and Mental Health Index. These indices have been developed by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute to easily identify areas of high socioeconomic need, food insecurity and mental health. For all indices, counties, zip codes, and census tracts with a population over 300 are assigned index values ranging from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating greater need. Understanding where there are communities with higher need is critical to targeting prevention and outreach activities.

Health Equity Index

Conduent's Health Equity Index estimates areas of high socioeconomic need, which are correlated with poor health outcomes. Zip codes are ranked based on their index value to identify relative levels of need, as illustrated by the map in Figure 3. The following zip codes in Portage County had the highest level of socioeconomic need (as indicated by the darkest shades of blue): 44288 (Windham) and 44266 (Ravenna) with index values of 84.6 and 56.4, respectively.

Figure 3: Health Equity Index
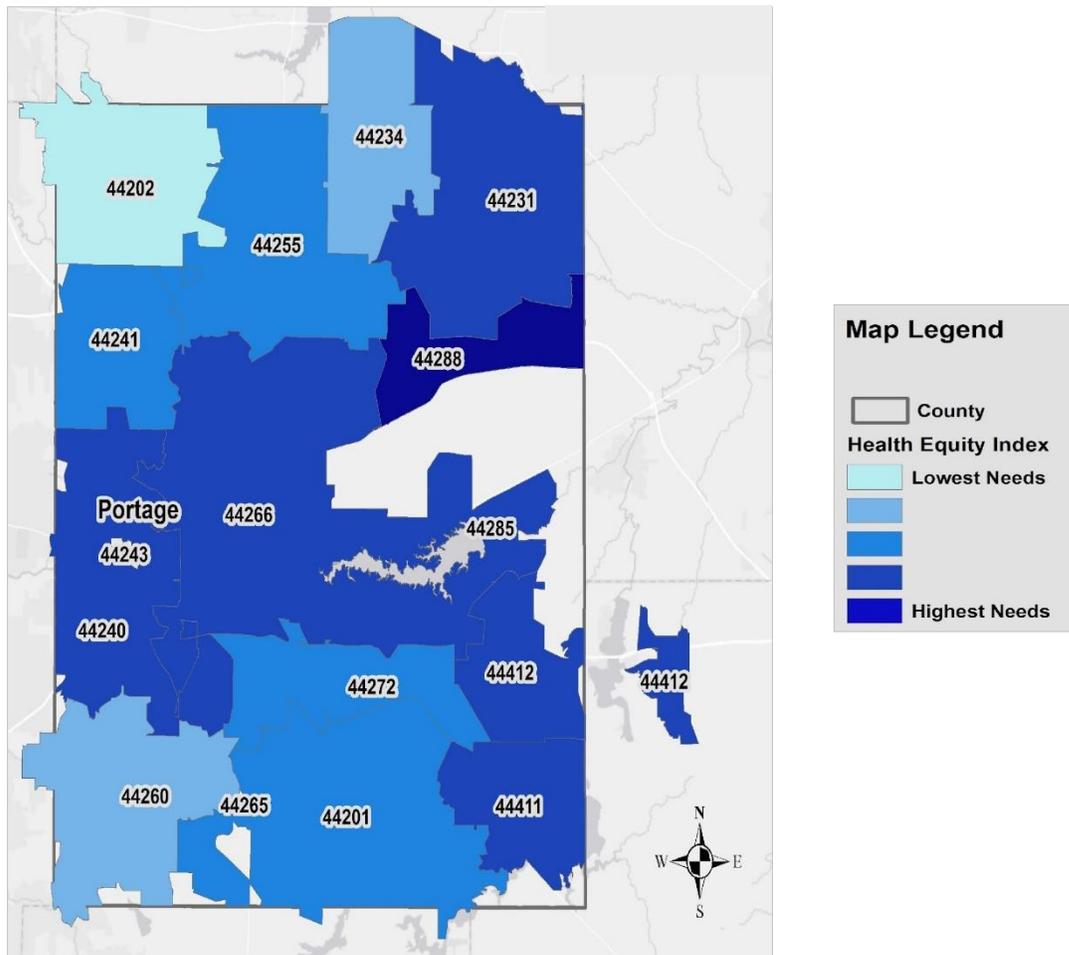
Food Insecurity Index

Conduent's Food Insecurity Index estimates areas of low food accessibility correlated with social and economic hardship. Zip codes are ranked based on their index value to identify relative levels of need, as illustrated by the map in Figure 4. The following zip codes had the highest level of food insecurity (as indicated by the darkest shades of green): 44288 (Windham) and 44266 (Ravenna) with index values of 90.4 and 58.1, respectively.

Figure 4: Food Insecurity Index
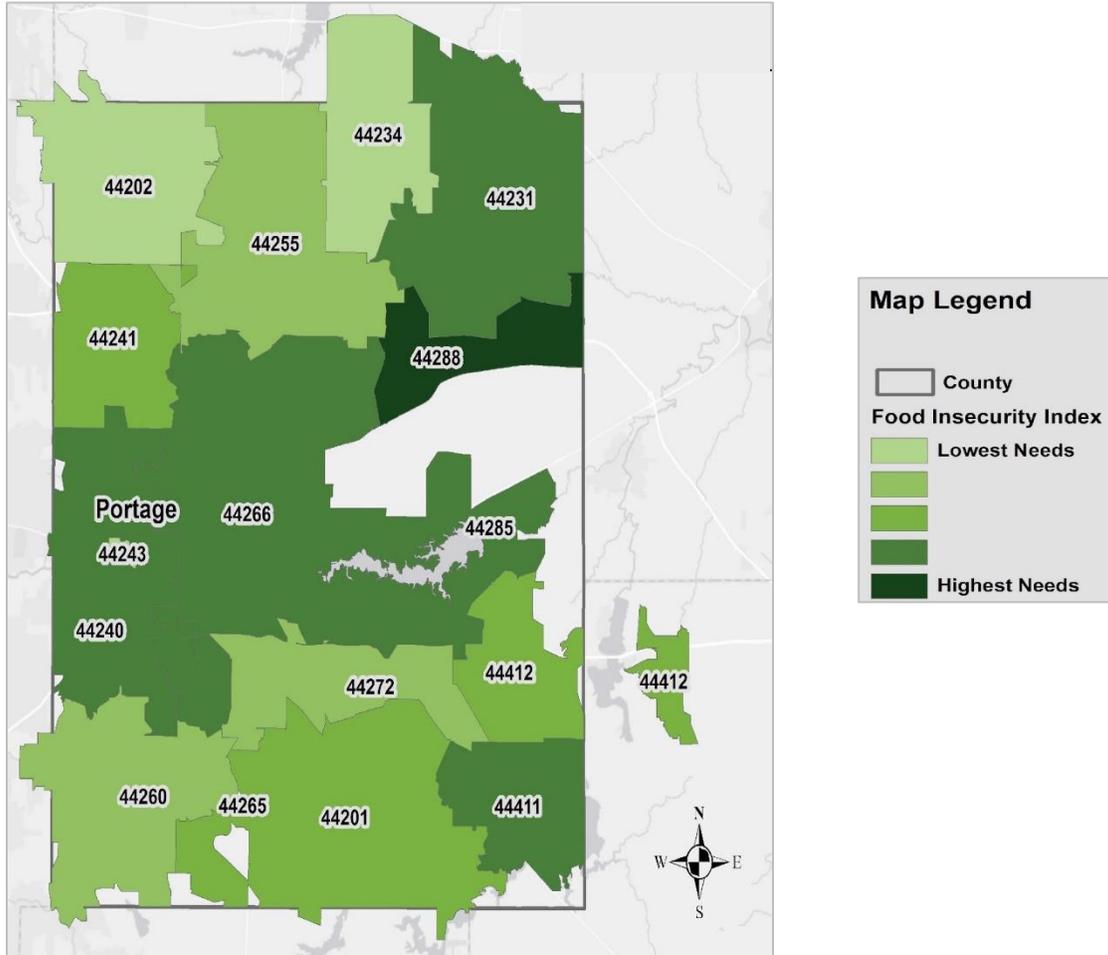
Mental Health Index

Conduent's Mental Health Index (MHI) is a measure of socioeconomic and health factors correlated with self-reported poor mental health. Based on the MHI, in 2021, zip codes are ranked based on their index value to identify the relative levels of need, as illustrated by the map in Figure 5. The following two zip codes are estimated to have the highest need (as indicated by the darkest shades of purple): 44266 (Ravenna) and 44288 (Windham) with index value 89 and 87.4 respectively.

Figure 5: Mental Health Index
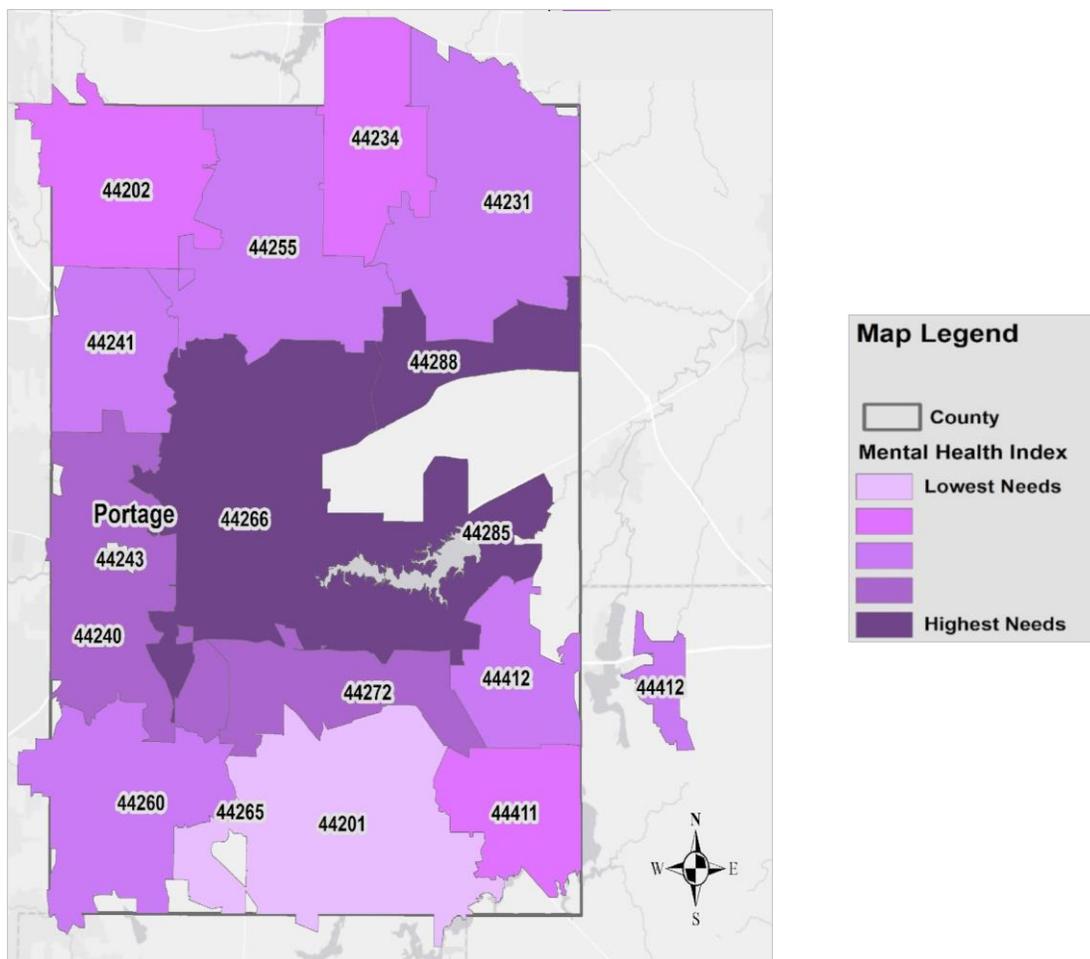
Future Considerations

While disparities in health outcomes are critical components in assessing the needs of a community, it is equally important to understand the social determinants of health and other upstream factors that influence a community's health. The challenges and barriers faced by a community must be balanced by identifying practical, community-driven solutions. These factors come together to inform and focus strategies to positively impact a community's health and mitigate the disparities in Portage County.

Prioritization

For the 2022 CHA process, Portage County Community Health Partners elected to maintain the three priority areas identified by the 2019 Portage County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This decision was made due to the ongoing challenges across Portage County within the prioritized areas as well as the exacerbation of these need areas by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The group instead chose to leverage the primary and secondary data collected through the 2022 CHA process to further understand the depth and breadth of these need areas within the county.

In 2019, Portage County identified three priority areas that reflected the broad interests of the community.

Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction   Chronic Disease   Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

In addition to and within these three prioritized areas, Portage County will also focus on Healthcare Access and Health Equity.

Prioritized Health Needs

The following section provides a high-level overview of key findings for the Portage County prioritized health needs. An overview is provided for each health topic, followed by a table highlighting the poorest performing indicators and a description of key themes that emerged from community feedback. The three prioritized health needs are presented in alphabetical order. Additional support data can be found in the full Portage County Community Health Assessment (CHA) Report.

Each prioritized health topic includes key themes from community input and secondary data warning indicators. The warning indicators shown for certain health topics are above the 1.50 threshold for Portage County and indicate areas of concern. See the legend below for how to interpret the distribution gauges and trend icons used within the data scoring results tables.

	Indicates the county fell in the bottom 10% of all counties in the distribution. The county fares worse than 90% of all counties in the distribution.
	Indicates the county is in the top 30% of all counties in the distribution. The county fares better than 70% of all counties in the distribution.
	The indicator is trending up, significantly, and this is not the ideal direction.
	The indicator is trending up and this is not the ideal direction.
	The indicator is trending down, signifcantly, and this is the ideal direction.
	The indicator is trending down and this is the ideal direction.
	The indicator is trending up, significantly, and this is the ideal direction.
	The indicator is trending up and this is the ideal direction.

University Hospitals
Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

Chronic Disease

Secondary Data Findings

Other Conditions (that include chronic illnesses) ranked 6th in the Secondary Data Analysis with a score of 1.5

Secondary Warning Indicators include:

- Atrial Fibrillation: Medicare Population
- Hyperlipidemia: Medicare Population
- Rheumatoid Arthritis or Osteoarthritis: Medicare Population
- Cholesterol Test History
- Osteoporosis: Medicare Population
- Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Coronary Heart Disease
- Adults who Have Taken Medications for High Blood Pressure

Key Themes from Community Input

- Food Security and Access to Healthy Food was a top Social Determinant of Health mentioned by Focus Group participants
- Lack of fresh produce/food in some communities; transportation as a barrier
- Support from community orgs to address food security
- Challenge accessing care for existing health issues during COVID pandemic; not being prioritized
- Need for more preventive care

> I felt like to ignore other health issues, especially life threatening or that could be a potentially fatal health issue at the time of COVID and just focus on COVID, that was not good for a lot of people.
> - Focus Group Participant

Table 2: Secondary Data Scoring Results for Chronic Disease

SCORE	Chronic Disease	Portage County	HP2030	Ohio	U.S.	Ohio Counties	U.S. Counties	Trend
2.47	Atrial Fibrillation: Medicare Population	9.6	--	9	8.4			
2.31	Hyperlipidemia: Medicare Population	52.4	--	49.4	47.7			
2.25	Rheumatoid Arthritis or Osteoarthritis: Medicare Population	36.3	--	36.1	33.5			
2.08	Cholesterol Test History	83.6	--	--	87.6			--
1.92	Osteoporosis: Medicare Population	6.2	--	6.2	6.6			
1.78	Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to coronary heart disease	105.5	71.1	101.9	90.2			
1.75	Adults who Have Taken Medications for High Blood Pressure	77.1	--	--	76.2			--

HP2030 - Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. HP2030 represents a Healthy People target to be met by 2030.

Prioritized Health Topic #2: Maternal and Infant Health

Maternal, Infant, & Child Health

Secondary Data Findings

- Infant Mortality Rate
- Mothers who Smoked During Pregnancy

Key Themes from Community Input

- Access to care is an issue and the cost/insurance can be a barrier

Table 3: Secondary Data Scoring Results for Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

SCORE	MATERNAL, INFANT, AND CHILD HEALTH	Portage County	HP2030	Ohio	U.S.	Ohio Counties	U.S. Counties	Trend

Score	Indicator							Trend
2.22	Infant Mortality Rate	9.7	5	6.9	--	--	--	⬆
1.86	Mothers who Smoked During Pregnancy	13.4	4.3	11.5	5.5	(gauge)	--	⬇
1.83	Consumer Expenditures: Childcare	308.1	--	301.6	368.2	(gauge)	(gauge)	--
1.50	Preterm Births	9.8	9.4	10.3	--	(gauge)	--	⬇
1.50	WIC Certified Stores	0.1	--	--	--	(gauge)	(gauge)	--

*HP2030 - Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. HP2030 represents a Healthy People target to be met by 2030.

Prioritized Health Topic #3: Mental Health & Addiction

Mental Health & Addiction

Secondary Data Findings

Mental Health & Mental Disorders ranked 2nd in the Secondary Data Analysis with a score of 1.64

Tobacco Use ranked 3rd with a score of 1.56

Secondary Warning Indicators include:

- Depression: Medicare Population
- Adults Ever Diagnosed with Depression
- Poor Mental Health: 14+ Days
- Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Suicide
- Adults Who Used Electronic Cigarettes: Past 30 Days
- Adults Who Used Smokeless Tobacco: Past 30 Days
- Adults Who Smoke
- Poor Mental Health Days: Average Number of Days

Key Themes from Community Input

- Mental Health & Mental Disorders and Alcohol & Drug Use were top health topics mentioned by Focus Group participants
- Impact of COVID-19, particularly for the elderly and youth populations; impact of social isolation
- Stigma; comfort level accessing services/discussing issues
- Access issues; barriers to care such as transportation and provider availability

Table 4. Secondary Data Scoring Results for Mental Health & Substance Use

SCORE	MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE	Portage County	HP2030	Ohio	U.S.	Ohio Counties	U.S. Counties	Trend
2.58	Depression: Medicare Population	21.4	--	20.4	18.4			⬆
1.92	Adults Ever Diagnosed with Depression	22.3	--	--	18.8			--
1.92	Poor Mental Health: 14+ Days	16.8	--	--	13.6			--
1.89	Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Suicide	15.9	12.8	14.7	13.9			⬆
1.83	Adults Who Used Electronic Cigarettes: Past 30 Days	4.6	--	4.3	4.1			--
1.67	Adults Who Used Smokeless Tobacco: Past 30 Days	2.7	--	2.2	2			--
1.58	Adults who Smoke	21.4	5	21.4	17			--
1.50	Poor Mental Health: Average Number of Days	4.8	--	4.8	4.1			--

*HP2030 - Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. HP2030 represents a Healthy People target to be met by 2030.

Additional Focal Areas for 2022 Portage County CHNA

In addition to and within the three prioritized areas discussed above, Portage County will continue to focus on Healthcare Access and Health Equity. Healthcare Access is a relevant theme explored within each of the prioritized health areas above: Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction, Chronic Disease, and Maternal, Infant, and Child Health.

Disparities and Health Equity have also been discussed in more detail in earlier portions of this report. The findings from the Portage County Health Equity Project are of particular importance to this focal area as well.

Gap Analysis

The list of community resources below were identified as being available to potentially address the needs identified through this assessment process.

Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction

- Children's Advantage
- Coleman Professional Services
- Family and Community Services
- Kent City Health Department
- Law enforcement
- Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Portage County Combined General Health District
- Portage County Safe Communities Coalition
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Townhall II
- University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

Chronic Disease

- AxessPointe Community Health Center
- Kent State University
- NEOMED
- Portage County Combined General Health District
- Portage Park District
- SOAR
- University Hospitals Portage Medical Center
- Haymaker Farmers Market

Family, Pregnancy, Infant, & Child Health

- AxessPointe Community Health Center
- Portage County Combined General Health District
- Portage County WIC
- Safe Kids Coalitions
- University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

Conclusion

This collaborative Community Health Assessment (CHA) conducted by PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, leveraged primary and secondary data analysis to provide a more comprehensive picture of health in Portage County, Ohio. This report helps organizations participating on the Portage County CHA Steering Committee meet national and state assessment requirements. More specifically, this report helps:

- PCCGHD meet PHAB reaccreditation requirements
- University Hospitals Portage Medical Center meet non-profit hospital IRS requirements as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- PCCGHD and University Hospitals meet the Ohio mandate that all tax-exempt hospitals collaborate with their local health departments on Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) and community health improvement strategies (CHIS)
- Ensure alignment between Portage County CHIP planning and the latest Ohio SHIP

The collaborative assessment determined three significant health needs in Portage County. The prioritization process identified the top three health needs including: Chronic Disease, Mental Health & Addiction, and Maternal and Infant Health.

2022 Portage County CHA Alignment

The final prioritized health needs from this 2022 Portage County CHA are in alignment with some of the top priorities and factors influencing health outcomes from the 2019 Ohio SHA/SHIP. They are also in alignment with a subset of 2019 Portage County CHA priority areas. This icon indicates areas of alignment.

2019 Ohio SHA/SHIP	2019 Portage County CHA	2022 Portage County CHA
Top Health Priorities:	Priority Health Areas:	Priority Health Areas:
☑ Mental Health & Addiction ☑ Chronic Disease ☑ Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	☑ Chronic Disease ☑ Mental Health & Addiction ☑ Maternal, Infant, and Child Health	☑ Chronic Disease ☑ Mental Health & Addiction ☑ Family, Pregnancy, Infant, & Child Health* *Formerly known as Maternal and Infant Health*
Top Priority Factors Influencing Health Outcomes: Community Conditions ☑ Health Behaviors ☑ Access to Care		

The findings in this report will be used to guide the development of a new Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will outline strategies to address identified priorities and improve the health of the community in Portage County. The CHIP will also serve to meet University Hospitals Portage Medical Center IRS requirements to create an Implementation Strategy (IS) for Portage County.

CHIP Work Plan

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease						
Strategy 1: Establish baselines and provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers and community members.						
Goal: Decrease Communicable Diseases, including Sexually Transmitted Infections in Portage County.						
Objective: By December 31, 2025, reduce the rate of communicable diseases (including STIs) in Portage County.						

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Gather annual baseline rate of communicable diseases and sexually transmitted infections for Portage County. Additionally, gather baseline rate of communicable diseases (specifically Hepatitis).	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Descriptive Demographics	Ohio Disease Reporting System – ODRS	Annual Portage County Communicable Disease Report
Activity 2: Provide education on prevention, treatment, and follow up with individuals in the community	X	X	X	Kat Holtz, Health Educator, Portage County Health District Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPoint, Townhall II, Planned Parenthood	Baseline data developed in Activity 1 will be used here # of instances of education, prevention, treatment, and follow-up	Ohio Disease Reporting System - ODRS	Pilot

University Hospitals
Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

| Activity 3: Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers | X | X | X | Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District | Baseline data developed in Activity 1 will be used here | Ohio Disease Reporting System - ODRS | Pilot |

Collaborative Partners: Portage County Health District, Town Hall II, Planned Parenthood, Kent City Health Department

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Addressing access to care for communicable diseases

Target Population(s): College and High School Students

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

Strategy 2: Educate Portage County community on risk factors and obesity prevention as well as increase screenings.

Goal: Decrease Obesity in Portage County

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of prediabetes screenings in Portage County.

Programs/Activities	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Educate and screen the community on obesity risk factors and prevention which include hypertension, BMI, and pre-diabetes screenings Work with the Portage County Health District CHW	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Terah Omaits, Nurse Care Manager, AxessPointe	# of screenings # of successful referrals/services received	University Hospitals Portage and AxesPointe Databases	251 screenings in 2022 by University Hospitals Portage AxessPointe-2022 data: # 2,244 patients were screened at their PCP

program to implement screening opportunities for obesity risk factors and food insecurity with CHW						visit for obesity risk factors 2,244
Activity 2: Increase awareness of physical activity programing with the Portage Parks and Sequoia Fitness	X	X	X	Andrea Metzler, Public Engagement Manager, Portage Parks Jackie Woodring, Development Manager, Sequoia Fitness	# of participants (quarterly)		Pilot program – no baseline data available
Activity 3: Provide community education on nutrition, and physical activity	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of participants quarterly	University Hospitals Portage Database	580 participants provided education in 2022 by University Hospitals Portage

Collaborative Partners: University Hospitals Portage, Portage Parks, Sequoia

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Referrals to access points to care

Target Population(s): Adults, seniors

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

Strategy 3: Increase access and participation in community-based nutrition programs such as farmers markets.

Goal: Increase Fruit and Vegetable Access and Consumption in Portage County

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase access to fruit and vegetables in Portage County

Programs/Activities	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Partner and provide resources to participants in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). This program distributes vouchers to WIC eligible families for use at locations licensed by the state, including the Haymaker Farmers' Markets, where they can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. WIC Perks vouchers are free at the Haymaker market table each week for WIC customers receiving WIC benefits to be used to buy $10 in fresh fruits & vegetables at the Market. Customers just need to show their current WIC card at the Market table	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent

Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC | # of participants at farm market

Redemption % for this market

Portage County Residents receiving FMNP vouchers and where were they used | Market is continual throughout the year | $3,500.00 dollars were provided in 2022 to the direct to customer food assistance program WIC (FMNP)

$7600 Direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to the 2022 WIC Perks voucher program |

Activity				Responsible Party	Data/Measurement	Data Source	Outcome
Activity 2: Participate and increase awareness in the Power of the Produce kids program – a kids club at Haymaker Farm market (the largest farm market in Portage county) that teaches children under 12 about healthy eating and provides a direct benefit to them to try fresh fruit and vegetables at market. $2.00 tokens are provided to each kid for fruit and vegetable purchases	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent	Participation numbers including zip codes. 2022 baseline numbers from Andrew	Power of Produce Kids Program Database	New program for University Hospitals to participate in $2,670.00 direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to kids to purchase fruits and vegetables at the 2022 market.
Activity 3: Participate in the Produce Perks - Produce Perks is a grant funded program through "Produce Perks Midwest" that seeks to increase SNAP use at Farmers' Markets and increase fruit & vegetable consumption. Customers are given a matching benefit of $25/week in Produce Perk tokens, when they use their SNAP benefits at Market. These green tokens can then be used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at Market.	X	X	X	Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent	Participation numbers including zip codes 2022 baseline numbers from Andrew	Produce Perks Midwest Database Market is throughout the year	$25,170.00 direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to increase fruit and vegetable consumption in 2022
Activity 4: Participate and increase awareness in the Senior Nutrition Program vouchers – The Senior Nutrition Program is	X	X	X	Jodie Neu, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center		Senior Nutrition Program Database	In 2022 $5,615.00 direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to seniors

	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
administered by the Portage County Senior Center, who distributes packets of $5 vouchers to area senior citizens, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Haymaker Farmers' Market.				Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent Annett Ludwick, Director, Portage Senior Center			

Collaborative Partners: Haymaker Farmers Market in Kent, University Hospitals Portage, Portage Senior Center, Kent City Health Department

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Equity and access

Target Population(s): WIC, children, seniors, SNAP beneficiaries

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease and Community Conditions

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

Strategy 4: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings and resource referrals

Goal: Increase Food Security in Portage County

Objective: Continue and expand SDOH screenings and referrals in Portage County by December 31, 2025.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Continue and expand provider education on food insecurity, its impact on health and the importance of screening and referral to the University	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	# patients seen quarterly at the market by PCP referral		On average, 107 patients and 234 individuals per month were positively impacted

Portage County Health District

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

Hospitals Portage Food For Life Market.				Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of individuals positively impacted (includes # of individuals served) Quarterly pounds of food provided		with being provided groceries through the University Hospitals Portage Food for Life Market in 2022. In 2022, 48,000 pounds of food was provided to the community through the University Hospitals Portage Food for Life market.
Activity 2: Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxessPointe.	X	X	X	Terah Omaits, Nurse Care Manager, AxessPointe	Number of patients screened	AxessPointe EMR	1,663 patients were screened for food insecurity at PCP visit.
Activity 3: Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.	X	X	X	Janet Raber, Clinic Manager, Northeast Ohio Medical University Soar Clinic	# of referrals made for those testing positive for food insecurity # of resources provided based on zip code		Data collection from Northeast Ohio Medical University on hold because of a MLA of Northeast Ohio Medical University staff
Activity 4: Provide education and food security resources at Portage County Food Banks/Pantries prioritizing the zip codes of 44288, 44411, 44266.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Maureen Gebhardt,	# 211 calls requesting food resources by zip code Monthly pantry orders numbers and hot meals served	United Way 211 Database	Pilot # 211 calls in 2022 requesting food resources were 62/month Call by zip code: 44288: 6

				Community Impact and Volunteers, United Way (partner for identification of resources/data reporting)	through Center of Hope in Ravenna		44411: 6 44266: 95 44201: 331 44240: 103 There were 517 monthly panty orders and 1,526 hot meals served through the Center of Hope in Ravenna.
Activity 5: Continue to partner and participate with the Ravenna School Raven Pack program. Over 75% of the students in the Ravenna School District meet the federal free/reduced lunch income requirements. Raven Packs were established as a community wide initiative to address food insecurity in the Ravenna School district. A Raven Pack has assorted food items to provide the recipient food when away from school.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Laura Wunderle, Ravenna teacher and program coordinator of the Raven pack program	Expand participation further into the middle and high school levels. Currently the program serves preK-5th graders in the Ravenna School District as well as the Education Alternatives program.	Currently packing and distributing Raven Packs every other week during the school year and are serving 458 students with each packing	Packing and distributing Raven Packs every other week during the school year with approximately 458 students receiving packs at each packing.
Activity 6: Identify need for additional community Gardens focusing on food desserts and vulnerable populations with the goal of expanding Portage County community gardens to additional schools, senior living facilities, and shelters	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Cindy Widuck, Community Public	# of gardens # of volunteer hours	Program Database	Baseline and metrics for University Hospitals: 4 gardens in 2022 Pilot program to track garden volunteer hours

				Health Outreach and Development College of Public Health, Kent state University and Let's Grow Together Coalition, director			

Collaboration Partners: Northeast Ohio Medical University, University Hospitals Portage, United Way, Akron Food Bank, Ravenna Schools, Ohio State University extension office, Kent City Health Department

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Addressing equity in food access

Target Population(s): Individuals/families experiencing food insecurity, Ravenna School children; prioritizing Zip Codes 44288, 44411, 44266.

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease and Community Conditions

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health							
Strategy 1: Pilot home visiting programs that begin prenatally to identify needs and improve pregnancy outcomes.							
Goal: Improve Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes							
Objective: By December 31, 2025, implement a prenatal/postpartum home visiting program (focusing on Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna) to reduce preterm birth, low birth weight, and infant mortality.							
Action Step:	**Timeline**			**Lead Person or Organization(s)**	**Evaluation Measures**	**Data Source**	**Baseline Data/Metric**
	2023	**2024**	**2025**				
Activity 1: Establish and implement CHW program at Portage County Health District.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	# of CHWs trained # of CHWs certified	Portage County Health District	Pilot
Activity 2: Implement screening opportunities during pregnancies for food insecurities and other social determinants of health to reduce low birth weights through home visiting program.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	# of screenings # of successful referrals/services received	Portage County Health District	Pilot
Activity 3: Implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on breastfeeding, WIC, safe sleep practices, car seat safety, transportation, etc.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	Results of home visiting assessment survey	CHW home visiting assessment survey	Pilot

| Collaborative Partners: | Kent State University, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center |

Collaborative Partners: Kent State University, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Targeting top SVI areas, Families with highest need in targeted areas of Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna

Target Population(s): Communities of Windham, Garrettsville, Ravenna in the designated SVI areas in Portage County

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Access to Care

---

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 2: Implement early urgent maternal warning signs education program within Portage County

Goal: Improve Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the knowledge of the signs of hypertension in pregnancy and postpartum through education and outreach.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Urgent Maternal Warning Signs (UMWS) for identifying preeclampsia education provided prenatally and postpartum to all WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	# of individuals who receive education by race/ethnic breakdown	WIC report	Quarterly
Activity 2: Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of outreach and education events # of attendees	University Hospitals Score Card	Quarterly

PORTAGE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

Collaborative Partners: OBGYN's, healthcare providers, WIC clients, Help Me Grow	
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Empowering pregnant individuals to be able to advocate for their health care needs.	
Target Population(s): Individuals at risk for hypertension in pregnancy and their partners	
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Health Behaviors	

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 3: Develop and implement tools and processes for tracking prenatal care visits and deliveries in Portage County.

Goal: Improve Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes

Objective: By December 31, 2025, track and understand impact of University Hospitals Portage Labor and Delivery closing for Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Identify and establish ongoing reporting mechanism to track number of deliveries in the University Hospitals Portage Emergency Department.	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	# of ER deliveries in Portage County	Electronic Medical Records	Pilot
Activity 2: Identify and establish reporting mechanism to track number of EMS transports for deliveries.	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University	# of EMS transport deliveries	EMS Database	Pilot

Activity				Responsible Party	Measure	Data Source	Evaluation
							Hospitals Portage for EMS Database
Activity 3: Review birth certificate data comparing residency of birthing individual compared to their delivery location.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department Sandra Knezevich, Vital Statistics, Kent City Health Department Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District (back up)	Average distance traveled to delivery location	State Data Warehouse (Vitalstats)	Average year-to-year comparison
Activity 4: Research, map, and maintain prenatal care visit options in Portage County and surrounding counties.	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Number and geography of providers providing prenatal care	March of Dimes Maternity Care Desert Report	Average year to year comparison
Activity 5: Develop and maintain resource of prenatal care and delivery options for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	United Way	Development of Resource Annual update to Portage County prenatal and delivery resource		Development of Portage County prenatal and delivery resource

Collaborative Partners: Kent City Health Department, Portage County Health District, University Hospitals Portage, Portage County EMS

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Understanding changes in Obstetric Access to Services in Portage

Target Population(s): Persons of childbearing age in Portage County and providers

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 4: Improve birthing person, fetal, and child health outcomes through increasing WIC participation.

Goal: Improve overall health outcomes and prevent nutrition-related illness among at-risk women, infants, and children.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase WIC enrollment by 10%.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	**2024**	**2025**				
Activity 1: Increase enrollment in WIC program	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	WIC case load (# of women, infants, and children receiving nutrition/ breastfeeding education and support.	WIC certification system	Quarterly/Annual Caseload
Activity 2: Track initial birth weight and growth/ development of WIC participants	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	# of infants certified as low birth weight.	WIC certification system	Quarterly
Activity 3: Implement one pop-up clinic within a targeted community each quarter.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	WIC case load (# of women, infants, and children receiving nutrition/ breastfeeding education and support.	WIC outreach report	Quarterly
Activity 4: Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	% of WIC infants breastfeeding	Breastfeeding initiation reports	Quarterly

Collaborative Partners: Portage County Health District, Head Start/Early Head Start, OBGYN's, pediatricians, Help Me Grow, Coleman Pregnancy, Catholic Charities, all agencies who serve the underserved

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Targeting top SVI areas, Families with highest need in targeted areas of Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna	
Target Population(s): Low Socioeconomic Status	
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Health Behaviors	

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 5: Implement reproductive health and wellness interventions.

Goal: Increase sustainability of reproductive health and wellness services

Objective: By December 31, 2025, implement a health and reproductive health and wellness program to increase the use of reproductive health interventions for Medicaid-eligible and un/underinsured residents.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Establish and implement education with individuals who recently delivered, ie: birth spacing, family planning	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC Pilot CHW Home Visiting Program- Portage County Health District	# of postpartum individuals receiving reproductive health education	CHW Assessment Portage County Health District	WIC Certification Database
Activity 2: Provide referrals and resources to individuals with health insurance to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe	# of individuals enrolled/process applications for Medicaid	AxessPointe Job and Family Services database	Baseline TBD

University Hospitals
Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

Activity				Responsible	Measure	Data Source	Baseline/Frequency
				Job and Family Services	# of referrals from navigation/CHWs		
Activity 3: Provide referrals and resources to individuals without health insurance to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services	# of individuals enrolled/process applications for Medicaid # of referrals from navigation/CHWs	AxessPointe Job and Family Services database	Baseline TBD
Activity 4: Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy and family planning	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# outreach and education events # of attendees	University Hospitals Score Card	Quarterly

Collaborative Partners: University Hospitals, AxessPointe, Job and Family Services, WIC, CHW Home Visiting Program

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Low SES and Access to Care

Target Population(s): Women and Men of Childbearing Age

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 6: Reduce the use of tobacco products used during pregnancy.

Goal: Reduce number of pregnant individuals in Portage County who smoke during pregnancy.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase screening of pregnant individuals for smoking by 5%.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Provide outreach for cessation services through the development and distribution of resource guide.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Development of Resource Guide # of outreach # of providers utilizing the tool	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Pilot
Activity 2: Track number of pregnant WIC participants who smoke during pregnancy.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	# of individuals certified smoking while pregnant	WIC certification system	Baseline TBD
Activity 3: Track number of pregnant individuals using tobacco use at delivery by trimester	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	# of individuals identified as tobacco users at delivery/trimester	Ohio Data Warehouse (Vital statistics)	Baseline TBD
Activity 4: Educate University Hospitals OB/GYN providers about tobacco treatment counseling resources (early 2023)	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of pregnant individuals referred to the University Hospitals Tobacco	Program Database	Pilot program Quarterly reporting

Action Step:	Timeline 2023	Timeline 2024	Timeline 2025	Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
Track the number of pregnant individuals referred for tobacco treatment counseling					Treatment counseling		
Activity 5: Smoke-free policy passed and implemented in at least one establishment in Portage County (i.e., Schools, private housing, behavioral health facility	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	# of organizations and establishments that have received outreach about policy	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Policy to be passed in June of 2023

Collaborative Partners: Coleman Pregnancy, WIC, OBGYN's, Early Head Start, Job and Family Services Health Check Program, Help Me Grow, Catholic Charities, Kent City Health Department

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Addressing Smoke-free policies and access to smoking cessation programs.

Target Population(s): Pregnant individuals

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health, Community Conditions and Health Behaviors

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health

Strategy 7: Address the need for affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.

Goal: Increase the availability and accessibility of affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, better understand the gaps and opportunities to address affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline 2023	Timeline 2024	Timeline 2025	Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
Activity 1: Promote childcare as a field of job training.	X	X	X	Stephanie Wilfong, Early Childhood Education program,	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

				Maplewood Career Center			
Activity 2: Assure affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County				Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services Kimberly Macphail, Job and Family Services	# of inspections for Type A, Type B, Type C providers, and in home aides Expenditure amounts for each type of facility and cost per child # of children under each type of publicly funded providers	State Control-D report from Job and Family Services	TBD
Activity 3: Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.	X	X	X	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Collaborative Partners: Kent State Child Development Center, Job and Family Services, Maplewood Career Center

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Understand and address the accessibility of affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.

Target Population(s): Parents and/or guardians needing childcare services in Portage County.

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Community Conditions

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction							
Strategy 1: Provide community-based activities and trainings to raise awareness.							
Goal: Decrease suicide related deaths in Portage County.							
Objective: By December 31, 2025, reduce stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness.							

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Conduct suicide prevention trainings for community and school staff	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	# of individuals receiving suicide prevention trainings # of individuals trained who report utilizing training in annual survey	Mental Health & Recovery Board Kent State	500 individuals annually
Activity 2: Host employer roundtables to learn their struggles with employees on mental health & addiction issues	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of employers hosting roundtables # of employers hosting roundtables where next steps are identified	Mental Health & Recovery Board University Hospitals	Pilot
Activity 3: Host "townhalls" in community centers on mental health issues to reach key community groups.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	# of townhalls hosted # of attendees	Mental Health & Recovery Board University Hospitals	Pilot

				Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center			

Collaborative Partners: University Hospitals, Mental Health & Recovery Board

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services

Target Population(s): Individuals at risk for self-harm

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 2: Raise awareness of loss support groups and connect to resources for "traditional" loss and for all loss

Goal: Address and reduce community-level risk factors for suicidal ideation in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, address the role of loss in suicide risk.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Support Grief Recovery Method classes through funding and marketing	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Luke Barker, Clinical Manager,	# of classes # of individuals reached % of knowledge increase as a result	Kent City Health Department	Pilot 2023

				Mental Health & Recovery Board	of classes on evaluation	
Activity 2: Provide mental health resources for individuals going through divorce.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	# of families/ individuals experiencing divorce who have been provided resources	Mental Health & Recovery Board	Pilot
Activity 3: Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Plan developed	Mental Health & Recovery Board	Pilot
Activity 4: Provide resources to families of those who have lost loved ones to suicide and overdose in Portage County.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	# of families and individuals experiencing loss who were provided resources	Mental Health & Recovery Board	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Kent City Health

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services

Target Population(s): Individuals at risk for self-harm

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 3: Identify and evaluate data available for suicide deaths and suicide attempts in Portage County.

Goal: Address and reduce community-level risk factors for suicidal ideation in Portage County.

Objective: Identify groups at highest risk for suicide for intervention and risk reduction.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Track and report 988 data for Portage County	X	X	X	Tamera Hunter and Maria Landry, Townhall II	# of calls originating from Portage County Additional data to be identified after first analysis	988 Data	Launched July 2022
Activity 2: Track and report attempted suicides to ED data Portage County	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	# of suicide attempts Demographic descriptive statistics by attempt type	EpiCenter EMS Database	Baseline TBD
Activity 3: Evaluate Coroner's Data Report (Annually)	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	# of deaths due to suicide	Coroner's Report	Baseline TBD
Activity 4: Collect and Evaluate ACEs scores from behavioral health agencies in Portage County	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	ACEs Scores	Behavioral Health Partner Agencies	Baseline TBD
Collaboration Partners: Portage County Health District, University Hospitals, Townhall II, Mental Health & Recovery Board							

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services
Target Population(s): Groups/individuals at highest risk for suicide in Portage County.
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 4: Promotion of gun safety.
Goal: Address and reduce community-level risk factors for suicidal ideation in Portage County.
Objective: By December 31, 2025, decrease risk of suicide among gun owners in Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Create and implement a plan to reach home bound older adults	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Plan created	Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Pilot
Activity 2: Equip primary care offices with gun safety and suicide prevention information to distribute to at risk for suicide	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse,	# of primary care offices provided gun safety and suicide prevention information	Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Pilot

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

				University Hospitals Portage Medical Center			
Activity 3: Reach sportsmen with gun locks and suicide prevention materials	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of events where suicide prevention materials and gunlocks are provided	Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Baseline TBD

Collaboration Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Suicide Prevention Coalition, University Hospitals

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services

Target Population(s): Gun owners in Portage County

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors

University Hospitals
Portage Medical Center

CONDUENT

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 5: Comprehensive community-based plan to reduce alcohol abuse among adults in Portage County.

Goal: Decrease substance use in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, decrease adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors in Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Host employer roundtables to learn their struggles with employees on mental health & addiction issues	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of employers hosting roundtables # of employers hosting roundtables where next steps are identified	Mental Health & Recovery Board University Hospitals	Pilot
Activity 2: Develop a 45-min presentation to offer to business community	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Presentation developed # of presentations hosted with business community	Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Pilot
Activity 3: Develop and implement marketing campaign to raise awareness about adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Marketing campaign developed and launched	Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Pilot

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
				Substance Abuse Coalition	Additional metrics to be identified		
Activity 4: Research and identify funding that would support programs focused on alcohol awareness for adults.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	# of grants identified/applied for	Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Substance Abuse Coalition, University Hospitals

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to Substance Use and Addiction support services

Target Population(s): Adults in Portage County who engage in excessive drinking and risky behaviors.

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors

---

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 6: Comprehensive community-based plan to reduce substance misuse (including overdose) among adults in Portage County

Goal: Decrease substance use in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, decrease adult opioid related deaths in Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health &	# of doses of NARCAN administered	CITI Dashboard EMS Database	Pilot

				Recovery Board – CITI Dashboard Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database Substance Abuse Coalition	# of EMS/Law Enforcement responses to drug related overdoses Descriptive Demographics		
Activity 2: Project DAWN Narcan distribution	X	X	X	Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District	# of doses of NARCAN distributed	Project DAWN program data	2021: 469 kits Distributed 2022: 685 Project DAWN kits distributed to community
Activity 3: Continued overdose death review	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	# of Overdoses Descriptive Demographics	Data Source TBD	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Substance Abuse Coalition, Portage County Health District

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to Substance Use and Addiction support services

Target Population(s): Adults in Portage County who engage in substance misuse			
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors			

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 7: Provide access to support resources and raise awareness of the risks of tobacco, smoking, and vaping.

Goal: Decrease use of tobacco, smoking, and vaping in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase awareness of and participation in the Ohio Quit Line by 5%

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Increase the awareness of the Ohio Tobacco Quitline	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	# of Monthly Ohio Tobacco Quitline callers # of events where the OTQL (Ohio Tobacco Quit Line) information is present # of Monthly My Life My Quit Quitline interactions (calls/text/online chat) # of events where MLMQ (Monthly My Life My Quit) info present	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Baseline TBD

Activity				Lead	Measures	Data Source	Baseline
Activity 2: Increase awareness of other cessation programs/ resources in Portage County	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Conduct a cessation service scan Create a resource of local cessation resource Disperse cessation resources # of cessation resources distributed to providers # of cessation resources distributed to community members	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Baseline TBD
Activity 3: Increase referrals by primary care to smoking cessation services within University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	# of University Hospitals Portage primary care referrals for smoking cessation	Referral Tracking Database	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Kent City Health Department, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, Ohio Quit Line

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to smoking cessation services

Target Population(s): Adults and youth who smoke/vape

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 8: Engage faith communities and other local groups to provide programming and support throughout Portage County.

Goal: Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of community-level behavioral health and wellness related support programs available.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Development and implementation of Citizen's Circle, Recovery Outreach, and other outreach programs	X	X	X	Job and Family Services Nicole Thomas	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
Activity 2: Research sustainable funding for recovery organizations	X	X	X	OUR Place John Garrity, Executive Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Sustainable funding stream in place by 12/31/23		
Activity 3: Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic	X	X	X	AxessPointe	At least one clinic in operation by 12/31/23 in Portage County	Pilot	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: Kent City Health Department, Job and Family Services, Our Place, Mental Health & Recovery Board, AcessPointe

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Increase access to community-level behavioral health and wellness related support programs

Target Population(s): Adults and youth who need access to behavioral health and wellness related support programs

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 9: Remove barriers to mental health and addiction services

Goal: Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, identify and address barriers to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Explore feasibility of mobile van for basic health care services including harm reduction	X			Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
Activity 2: Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
Activity 3: Transportation training for agencies to increase transportation; ensure participating agencies implement internal policies for training of new staff	X	X	X	Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District	Pilot (last program ended in 2019) Expansion of transportation services and access	Key Informant Interviews: Assessing Health Equity in Portage County: Meeting People Where They Are	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: AxessPointe, Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, Job and Family Services, Mental Health & Recovery Board, Portage County Health District

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Assure access to availability of public transportation for healthcare access, expand knowledge of transportation services to address health equity. Increase access by addressing internal policies at participating agencies to implement training of new staff to increase transportation.

Target Population(s): Adults and youth who need access to mental health and addiction services.

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 10: Address the needs of individuals in crisis.

Goal: Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, improve access and availability of crisis support/intervention services.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Explore the feasibility of adding 23-hr Observation units for Crisis services	X			Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	Develop a project timeline and budget	Pilot	Pilot
Activity 2: Recruit a workforce for crisis services at area universities	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	Workforce Recruitment Process in Place # of individuals recruited	Pilot	Pilot
Activity 3: Engage law enforcement and medical stakeholders about the county's crisis continuum needs	X	X	X	John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	# of law enforcement and medical stakeholders reached	Hold a sequential intercept map meeting with stakeholders in 2023	Baseline TBD
Collaborative Partners: Coleman Health Services and Mental Health & Recovery Board							

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Improve access and availability of crisis support/intervention services.

Target Population(s): Individuals who crisis support/intervention services and organizations providing intervention services.

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care