

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



THIRD QUARTER REPORT

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

Who We Serve

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

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

Vision

Healthy People. Healthy Environments.
Healthy Communities.

Values

Accountability, Communication, Dedication,
Ethics, Innovation

Board of Health Members

Ms. Lucy Ribelin, City of Ravenna, President
Mr. James Bierlair, Vice-President
Ms. Amy Everett, Member
Mr. Charles Delaney, Member
Mrs. Linda Grimm, City of Streetsboro, Member
Mr. Brock Kertoy, Member
Ms. Diana Clarke, Member
Vacant, City of Aurora

Board of Health Duties:

As established by Ohio law, our eight- member
Board of Health functions as a policy, governance,
advisory, and regulatory board and provides
oversight of major financial and programmatic
decisions.

The Board of Health provides oversight for the
health of the public, the prevention or restriction of
disease, and the abatement of nuisances.

The Board of Health members are appointed by
elected officials who serve on the District Advisory
Council or by the city they represent.

The Board of Health meets on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month at the Portage
County Health District in the 2nd floor
Robert Palmer Conference Room.

Portage County Combined General Health District Employees

Administration

Joseph Diorio, MPH, MS, REHS, Health Commissioner
Becky Lehman, MPH, MPA, CHES, Deputy Health Commissioner
Dr. Mark Arredondo, MD, Medical Director
Sarah Meduri, BSPH, SHRM-CP, IPMA- CP, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services
Christina M. Jewell, Administrative and Account Clerk
Olivia Card, MA, Epidemiologist

Finance

Branden Burns, MBA, Director of Finance
Lisa Miley, Grants Fiscal Manager
Maria Gill, Account Clerk
Julia Sykes, AAS, Account Clerk

Community Health

Amy Cooper, BSND, RD, LD, Director of Community Health
Joshua Sexton, BSPH, Accreditation Coordinator
Kimberly Plough, MEd, CHES, Health Educator
Katherine Holtz, BS, Health Educator
Kylee McCracken, BS, Health Educator
Robert Walker, BA, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Rebecca Barreca, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing Programs
Kirsten Orr, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Catherine Gellatly, MSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Philesia Condor, Clerk
Danielle Steighner, RD, LDN, WIC Supervisor
Rachael Stratton, BA, CLC, Breastfeeding Peer Helper & Clinic Assistant
Briana Robison, MS, MPH, RD, LDN Health Professional 2
Cynthia Hilbish, RDN, LD, CLC, WIC Supervisor
Lindy Goist, BSAS, RD, LD, CLC, Health Professional 3
Amy Hall, BS, RD, LD, Health Professional 2
Renee Howe, Clinic Assistant
Chelsea Kyer, Clinic Assistant
Victoria Caddell, Clinic Assistant
Julie Seifert, BHE, CLC, Health Professional 1
Kelly Rambo, BSND, CLC, Health Professional 3
Abbie Fitch, BSAS, LD, Health Professional 2
Anita Mackey, Clinic Assistant
Amanda Casto, Clinic Assistant
Shelley Toot, CLC, CLS, Peer Helper

Environmental Health

Justin Rechichar, MPH, MHHS, REHS, Director of Environmental Health
Amos Sarfo, MS, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
William Duck, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
Natalie Menke, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
Emily Speck, BS, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Mike Spies, BS, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Leah Luli, MPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Samantha Mellott, BSPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Jim Meyer, BS, AA, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Andrea Arroyo, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Nicole Lipchik MPH, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Cassie Clouser, MSSR, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Debbie Wine, Environmental Health Clerk
Veronica Victoria, Environmental Health Clerk
Garret Kunz, Seasonal Worker

*Portage County Combined General Health District (PCCGHD) provides comprehensive public health services throughout Portage County (*excluding Kent City).*

**PCCGHD does provide Private Water and Septic System Evaluations by contract in Kent City. PCCGHD also provides WIC Services, Cribs for Kids Program, Child Fatality Review, Children with Medical Handicaps Program and Project DAWN Program to Kent City.*

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE



The Administration and Finance Divisions continuously strive to support and ensure the Health District is meeting the 10 Essential Services of Public Health. This is achieved through public health workforce planning, workforce development, financial and strategic planning.



Monthly Pop-Up Food Pantries

PCHD has successfully partnered with the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank to provide monthly pop-up food pantries on the first Thursday of every month from 1-3pm at Portage County Health District.

We have expanded our services to include the distribution of bike helmets, Project Dawn kits, car seats, Pack 'n Plays, WIC registration and card reloads, hygiene products, and health screenings provided by University Hospitals. Additionally, we have welcomed community partners to further support our initiatives at our pop up pantry events.

All leftover food is donated to the Ravenna Center of Hope, ensuring it continues to reach those in need. This partnership and expansion of services have significantly enhanced our ability to support the community's health and well-being.



**Families
served**

183 July

174 August

179 September

PCHD WORKFORCE

Employees	49
Interns	5
New Hires	0
Staff Departures	1

Current Retention Rate

88%

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Division strives to help bridge the gap between Portage County residents and health care providers, social service agencies, community organizations, etc. in the provision of community health services such as immunizations, injury prevention programming, harm reduction programming, communicable disease investigations, environmental health education, and emergency preparedness.

INJURY PREVENTION



28

Convertible/Booster
Seats Distributed



21

Cribs For Kids/
Pack n' Plays
Distributed



293

Participants in
SAIL (Stay Active &
Independent for Life-
Falls Prevention)



486

Project DAWN
(Narcan) Kits
Distributed



384

People Trained
in Project DAWN

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



262

Child & Adult
Immunizations



567

Communicable
Disease Investigations

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES



242

monthly average
Children with Medical
Handicaps Clients



60

Animal Bites/Rabies
Exposures



21

Emergency Preparedness
Trainings & Events

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health Division focuses on prevention of disease through sanitation, safe food and water, proper disposal of waste, and promoting safe and healthy environmental conditions throughout Portage County.



770

Food Safety
Inspections



5

Tattoo/Body Art
Inspections



17

Solid Waste Inspections &
Nuisance Complaints



35

Camp
Inspections



1

School
Inspections



68

Swimming Pool &
Spa Inspections



181

Mosquito Site
Assessment and
Trappings



3

Hotel
Inspections

WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS



Home Sewage Treatment Systems

57 Site & Soil Evaluations
132 Design Plans / Layout Review
10 Notice of Intent
199 Inspections



Chemical & Bacterial Water Sampling

71 Water Samples
36 Field Inspections
39 Site Evaluations



Waste Water Nuisances

46 Inspections/Consults
38 Data Collection/File Review/Reports



Plumbing Program

106 Residential Inspections
39 Commercial Inspections
7 Clearwater Inspections
17 Re-inspections



Stormwater Program

67 ID & Verification Inspections
85 Dry Weather Screenings
77 IDDE Insp. & Surface Water Sampling



Semi-Public Commercial Wastewater

255 Inspections, Consultations



Point of Sale Program

105 Inspections/Consultation/File
Review

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

The Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program is an Ohio Department of Health grant funded program that provides nutrition education & supplemental food program for women, infants, and children. The program provides highly nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, nutrition education, and connects families with other area resources.

WIC serves income eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children to age 5.

PCHD administers WIC services in Portage and Columbiana County.



2,146

Participants Served
in Portage County WIC



28

Community Outreach &
Education Programs



1,908

Participants Served
in Columbiana County WIC



8

Nutrition Education
Programs

BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS:

Breastfeeding Mothers

Reduces their risk for:

- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Type 2 diabetes

Breastfed Infants

Have a reduced risk of:

- SIDS
- Lower respiratory infections
- Type 2 diabetes
- Asthma
- Obesity

Workforce & Environmental

- Infants have less illness so mothers miss less work
- Less trash & plastic waste compared to formula & bottle supplies



2,269

Breastfeeding
Education & Support



76.99%

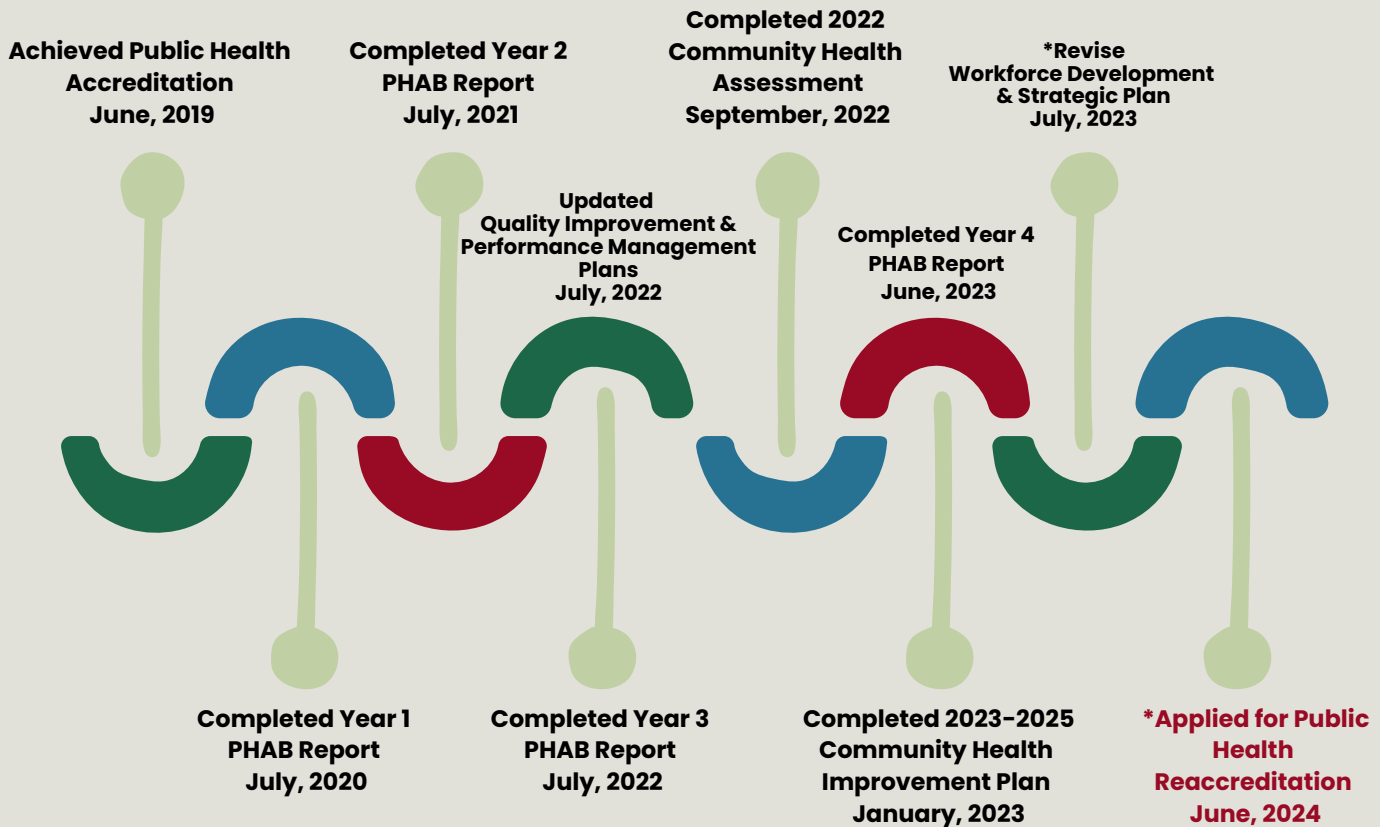
Breastfeeding
Initiation Rate

WIC supports all mothers and babies, regardless of their feeding decision. Staff are trained to promote and protect breastfeeding as the optimal feeding method for all infants. WIC staff provide the necessary resources and referrals to assist mother and baby in achieving their breastfeeding goals.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Public health accreditation measures a health district's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. It focuses on the continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.

Accreditation Timeline:



COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES



Chronic Disease



Family, Pregnancy, Infant, & Child Health



Mental Health, Substance Use, & Addiction

**Awarded National Accreditation
for Public Health Excellence!**



HEALTH DISTRICT

