



FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2025

999 East Main Street * Ravenna * Ohio * 44266
330-296-9919 * www.portagehealth.net

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 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.

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

Dr. Philip Keyser, City of Aurora

The Board of Health meets on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month at the Portage
County Health District in the
Basement Conference Room.

Portage County Combined General Health District Employees

Administration

Becky Lehman, MPH, MPA, CHES, Health Commissioner
Dr. Mark Arredondo, MD, Medical Director
Sarah Meduri, BSPH, SHRM-CP, PSHRA- CP, PIO, 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
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
Morgan Cole, MHHS, BSN, 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
Victoria Caddell, Clinic Assistant
Julie Seifert, BHE, CLC, Health Professional 1
Abbie Fitch, BSAS, LD, Health Professional 2
Anita Mackey, Clinic Assistant
Amanda Casto, Clinic Assistant
Melissa Colella, BS, 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
Nicole Lipchik MPH, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Cassie Clouser, MSSR, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Seth Nolte, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Brandon Santiago, BASc, EHSIT, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Debbie Wine, Environmental Health Clerk
Veronica Victoria, Environmental Health Clerk

*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.

The Portage County Health District, in partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, organizes monthly pop-up food pantries on the **first Thursday** of each month from **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** at the Portage County Health District, located at 999 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio.

Portage County Health District's Pop-Up Pantry Program was **spotlighted statewide** by the Ohio Department of Health for its innovation and impact.

The pantry serves as a public health initiative and emergency preparedness exercise, advancing health equity and access to essential resources. In 2024, it became the **largest pop-up pantry across eight counties**—serving 4,484 individuals and distributing over 48,000 pounds of food and hygiene products.

The program also provides vital public health services on-site, including vaccinations, WIC support, and community partners onsite, strengthening community resilience and preparedness.



Find Food Resources Easily with Our New Dashboard!

Helping Portage County residents access nutritious food options.



- 🍎 Find Food Help Near You!
- ✓ Search food pantries, farmers markets, WIC & SNAP.
- ✓ View locations on an interactive map with contact info.
- ✓ Filter by day to see what's open today!



1 in 7

U.S. residents are at risk of hunger



Portage County Health District

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Our 2024 Annual Reports Are Now Live!

Portage County Health District is committed to data-driven decisions and keeping our community informed.

Explore our latest reports now available on our website, including:

- ✓ PCHD Annual Report
- ✓ Communicable Disease Report
- ✓ Animal Bite Report
- ✓ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Report
- ✓ Maternal Health Report

[View them all here](#)

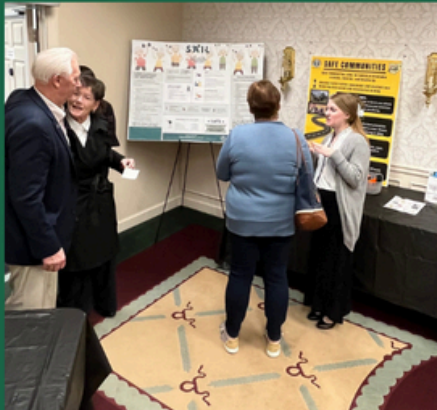


Community Open House & Health Fair

On April 9, 2025, we welcomed over **240 attendees** to our Community Open House and Health Fair. With the support of more than 20 community partners, the event served as an excellent opportunity to connect with residents, provide health education, and promote wellness throughout Portage County.

Attendees had **access to health screenings, educational resources, community partner programs**, and direct interaction with public health programs and services.

District Advisory Council Meeting



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.

WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS



541

Food Safety
Inspections



5

Tattoo/Body Art
Inspections



16

Solid Waste Inspections &
Nuisance Complaints



6

Hotel
Inspections



13

School
Inspections



22

Swimming Pool &
Spa Inspections



0

Mosquito Site
Assessment and
Trappings

Home Sewage Treatment Systems



23 HSTS Permits Issued
45 HSTS Rough/Final Inspections
16 O+M Inspections

Private Water Systems



43 PWS Permits Issued
48 PWS Field Inspections
30 PWS Bacterial Water Sample Requests

Waste Water Nuisances



26 Inspections/Consults
40 Data Collection/File Review/Reports

Plumbing Program



86 Residential Inspections
33 Commercial Inspections
0 Clearwater Inspections
7 Re-inspections

Stormwater Program



8 ID & Verification Inspections
52 Dry Weather Screenings
16 IDDE Insp. & Surface Water Sampling

Semi-Public Commercial Wastewater



40 Inspections
9 Consultations

Point of Sale Program



80 Inspections/Consultation/File Review

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



36

Convertible/Booster
Seats Distributed



9

Cribs For Kids/
Pack n' Plays
Distributed



275

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



397

Project DAWN
(Narcan) Kits
Distributed



563

People Trained
in Project DAWN

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



203

Child & Adult
Immunizations



578

Communicable
Disease Investigations

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES



233

monthly average
Complex Medical Help
Clients



27

Animal Bites/Rabies
Exposures



17

Emergency Preparedness
Trainings & Events

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.



1,966

Participants Served
in Portage County WIC



15

Community Outreach &
Education Programs



1,708

Participants Served
in Columbiana County WIC



1

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



1,204

Breastfeeding
Education & Support



75.07%

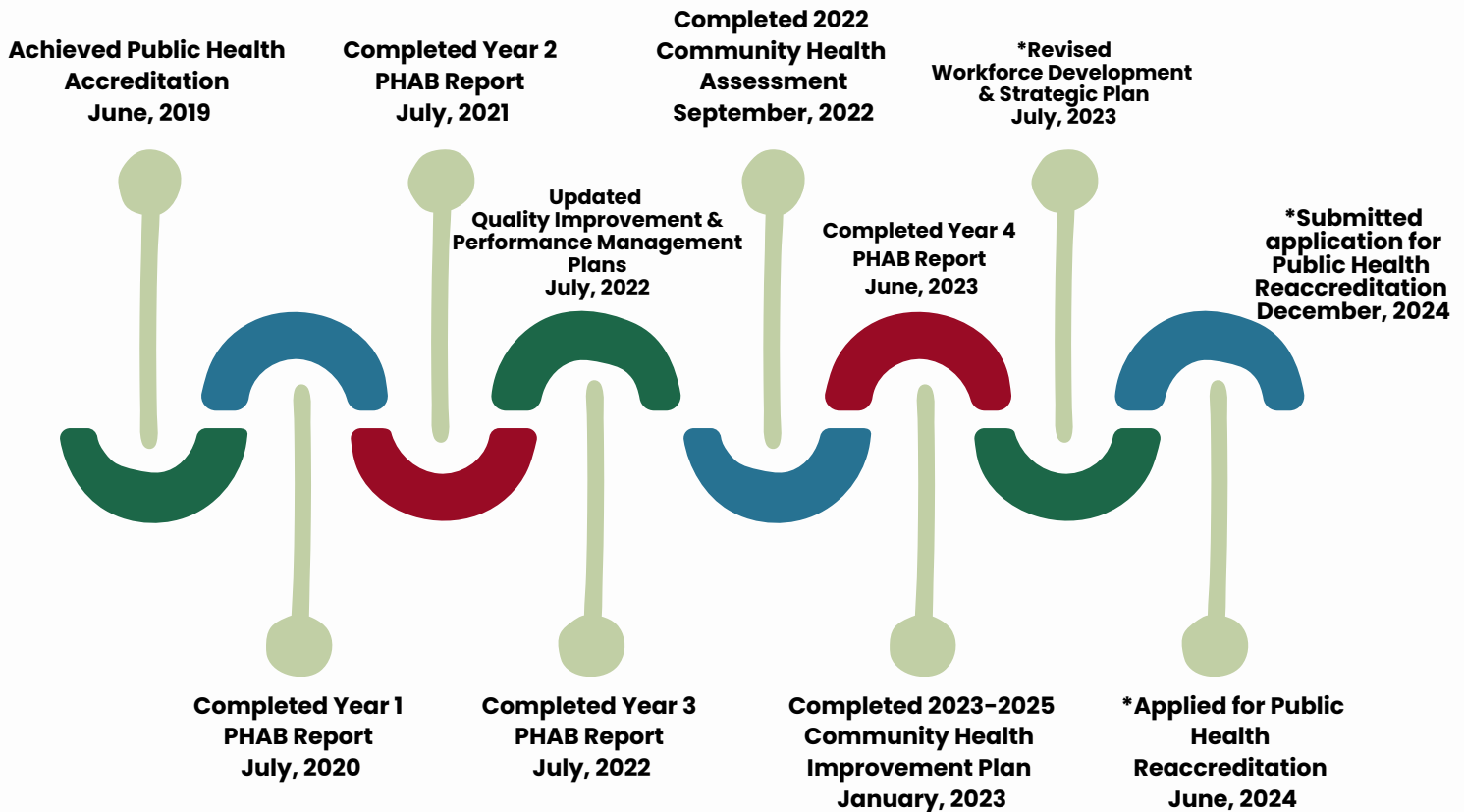
Breastfeeding
Initiation Rate

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

