

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

Year 3



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)	Progress																																				
	2023	2024	2025																																						
<p>Activity 1: Gather annual baseline rate of communicable diseases and sexually transmitted infections for Portage County.</p> <p>Additionally, gather baseline rate of communicable diseases (specifically Hepatitis).</p>	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	<table><tr><th>Condition</th><th>2023</th><th>2024</th><th>2025 as of 6/30/25</th></tr><tr><td>Chlamydia</td><td>390</td><td>313</td><td>127</td></tr><tr><td>Gonococcal infection</td><td>93</td><td>76</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td>Syphilis</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>HIV</td><td>4</td><td>10</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Hepatitis B (Acute)</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Hepatitis C (Acute)</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Hepatitis B (Chronic)</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Hepatitis C (Chronic)</td><td>37</td><td>35</td><td>11</td></tr></table> <p>*Please note: these case numbers include confirmed cases only, and exclude any cases reported to KCHD. The CD report for 2024 will include both probable and confirmed cases, so case numbers will be different than what is displayed in this chart. Data source: ODRS.</p>	Condition	2023	2024	2025 as of 6/30/25	Chlamydia	390	313	127	Gonococcal infection	93	76	32	Syphilis	0	0	0	HIV	4	10	2	Hepatitis B (Acute)	0	0	0	Hepatitis C (Acute)	0	0	0	Hepatitis B (Chronic)	5	4	2	Hepatitis C (Chronic)	37	35	11
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Activity 2: Provide education on prevention and treatment with individuals in the community.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	Portage County Health District (PCHD) provides 24 sexual health education sessions annually (2 per month) at Root House, a group home for men with substance use disorders. These sessions focus on reducing the risk of communicable diseases. From January 1,																																				

				Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe	2023, through July 31, 2025, PCHD delivered a total of 62 educational sessions at this location.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers through educational newsletters.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	The educational newsletter has been developed. Work is currently underway to compile a comprehensive list of healthcare providers to ensure effective distribution.

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> 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 program to implement screening opportunities for obesity risk factors.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	3193 screenings

Activity 2: Increase awareness of physical activity programming with the Portage Parks.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center in partnership with Portage Parks	<p>Parks had 17 programs relating to health and hiking/outdoors, 136 participants.</p> <p>Will be offering at Nature play space and educating parents how to let kids have unstructured outdoor time.</p> <p>New park will be opening hopefully by the end of the year with a nature play space Kame-Esker Bog on Howe Rd.</p>
Activity 3: Provide community education on nutrition, and physical activity.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	<p>1397 SAIL Participants with UH & PCHD</p> <p>KCHD provided SAIL to 108 participants</p>

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<p><u>Activity 1:</u> 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm Market in Kent</p> <p>Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC</p>	<p>Federal budget changes have caused a delay FMNP.</p> <p>WIC voucher amount was reduced by nearly 80% due to Federal budget changes. FMNP Distribution slated for mid-July.</p> <p>Produce Perks Program to end July 31, 2025</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach	9 service dates with 574 visits.

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.				Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent	
<u>Activity 3:</u> 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	Produce Perks benefit redemption at Haymaker between 1/1/2025 and 7/31/2025 was \$9,546
<u>Activity 4:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the Senior Nutrition Program vouchers – The Senior Nutrition Program is administered by the Portage County Senior Center, who	X	X	X	Jodie Neu, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	\$1350 in benefits were distributed to seniors. KCHD distributed 50 bags of food at pop-up pantry.

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	
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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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Continue and expand referrals and participation addressing food insecurity, its impact on health at the University Hospitals Portage Food For Life Market.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	1,291 individuals served. 300 lunches given for the kids free lunch summer program. PCHD served 745 families served at pop-up pantry in Quarter 2.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxessPointe.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe	

Activity 3: Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.	X	X	X	Linda Mervin, Northeast Ohio Medical University Soar Clinic	
Activity 4: Provide education and food security resources at Portage County Food Banks/Pantries prioritizing the zip codes of 44288, 44411, 44266. Resources: HEAL Guide and JFS Resource List	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Maureen Gebhardt, Community Impact and Volunteers, United Way (partner for identification of resources/data reporting)	44411-0, 44288-5, 44266-41, 44201-5, 44240-27: 1892 Hot meals were served
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	2295 Raven Packs bags packed
Activity 6: Sustaining community Gardens focusing on food desserts	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community	No update.

and vulnerable populations with the goal of expanding access of Portage County community gardens to additional schools, senior living facilities, and shelters.				Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Cindy Widuck, Community Public Health Outreach and Development College of Public Health, Kent State University and Let's Grow Together Coalition, director	
<u>Activity 7:</u> Explore the connection of those in need of fresh produce to those with an abundance of fresh produce.		x		Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	No update.

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<p>Activity 1: Implement CHW program at Portage County Health District in partnership with Kent State University.</p> <p>(Year 3 goal: Hire a CWH at PCHD to provide community outreach for Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna.)</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	Portage County Health District (PCHD) collaborated with the Kent State University (KSU) Community Health Worker (CHW) program during health fair events to support outreach and engagement efforts. However, due to a reduction in federal grant funding, PCHD is currently unable to hire a CHW as originally planned for Year 3. Despite this funding limitation, PCHD continues to explore alternative strategies to support prenatal and postpartum outreach in Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna. Working on community-based prenatal/postpartum outreach and education with non-clinical outreach to support maternal and infant health in underserved areas. Types of outreach being explored: Health Education Outreach: Providing prenatal/postpartum education to individuals or groups in community settings. Examples: Educational sessions at libraries, flyers about safe sleep and prenatal nutrition. Resource and Referral Outreach: Connecting families with existing local services such as WIC, housing support, behavioral health, or food assistance. Examples: Staff or volunteers providing information packets or one-on-one support at events. Community Engagement Outreach: Building trust and relationships by participating in local events, baby showers, or fairs where families gather. Examples: Setting up tables at school events or food pantries to distribute materials and answer

					questions. Digital and Print Outreach: Using non-face-to-face methods to spread important health messages and increase awareness of services. Examples: Social media campaigns, newsletters, posters in public places.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses, health educators, and CHWs to achieve healthy birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	Portage County Health District (PCHD) explored several maternal and infant health programs offered through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) as part of its assessment of potential home visiting program models. The primary focus was on the Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program, which supports expectant and new parents with early childhood development, parenting education, and linkage to community services. It is currently being managed by another organization for Portage County. Additional ODH programs reviewed included: Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, Parents as Teachers, and Early Head Start – Home-Based Option. While initial exploration of these programs occurred, progress was paused due to staffing limitations within the nursing team. PCHD will revisit these opportunities as staffing allows.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Year 3 goal: Once established, implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on breastfeeding, WIC, tobacco cessation, immunizations, safe sleep practices, car seat safety, transportation, etc.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	At this time, we do not have a formal maternal and infant home visiting program in place. Home visits are currently conducted primarily through the Complex Medical Help Program, which serves families with specific medical needs. As part of our Year 3 goals, we are reviewing evidence-based maternal and infant home visiting models to explore options for program development and implementation in our community.

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, Birth, and Post-Partum Outcomes

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

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> 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	UMWS education provided to 77 WIC participants.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Explore community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy and post-partum outcomes by UH Portage Medical Center.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	100 attendees at various events in the quarter.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses, health educators, and CHWs to improve post-partum outcomes.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	At this time, we do not have a formal maternal and infant home visiting program in place. Home visits are currently conducted primarily through the Complex Medical Help Program, which serves families with specific medical needs. We are reviewing evidence-based maternal and infant home visiting models to explore options for program development and implementation in our community.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Year 3 goal: Once established, implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	At present, we do not have a formal home visiting program in place for new parents/guardians. Efforts are currently focused on exploring outreach strategies and building the foundation needed to establish such a program in the future.

and resources on maternal warning signs.					
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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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Track number of EMS transports for pregnancy and labor related conditions.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	2025: 0 births in transit so far this year

<u>Activity 2:</u> Establish a process to obtain and review birth certificate data, comparing residency of birthing individual compared to their delivery location.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District (back up)	<p>*Birth Location Data, including deliveries in ambulances/during transport to hospital*</p> <p>Dates: Jan 1, 2025 - Jun 30, 2025</p> <table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Number of Births</th><th>City/Notes</th></tr><tr><td>Summa Akron City</td><td>211</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>UH Rainbow Potash</td><td>168</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest</td><td>77</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cleveland Clinic Akron General</td><td>67</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>UH Geauga</td><td>40</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>UH Cleveland</td><td>38</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cleveland Clinic Fairview</td><td>8</td><td>Rocky River</td></tr><tr><td>St Joseph Warren</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>St Elizabeth Boardman</td><td>7</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>MetroHealth Medical Center</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Private residence</td><td>6</td><td>Intended: 2 Aurora residents 1 Rootstown resident 1 Brimfield resident 1 Garrettsville resident Unintended: 1 Garrettsville resident *Mom and baby ok, positive outcomes for all*</td></tr><tr><td>Aultman Hospital</td><td>5</td><td>Canton</td></tr><tr><td>Southwest General Health Center</td><td>2</td><td>Middleburgh Heights</td></tr><tr><td>Aultman Orrville Hospital</td><td>1</td><td>Northeast of Wooster</td></tr><tr><td>Unspecified Cleveland Clinic facility</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Middlefield Care Center</td><td>1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Ohio State University Medical Center</td><td>1</td><td>Columbus</td></tr><tr><td>UH Tripoint Medical Center</td><td>1</td><td>Painesville</td></tr></table>	Location	Number of Births	City/Notes	Summa Akron City	211		UH Rainbow Potash	168		Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest	77		Cleveland Clinic Akron General	67		UH Geauga	40		UH Cleveland	38		Cleveland Clinic Fairview	8	Rocky River	St Joseph Warren	8		St Elizabeth Boardman	7		MetroHealth Medical Center	6		Private residence	6	Intended: 2 Aurora residents 1 Rootstown resident 1 Brimfield resident 1 Garrettsville resident Unintended: 1 Garrettsville resident *Mom and baby ok, positive outcomes for all*	Aultman Hospital	5	Canton	Southwest General Health Center	2	Middleburgh Heights	Aultman Orrville Hospital	1	Northeast of Wooster	Unspecified Cleveland Clinic facility	1		Middlefield Care Center	1		Ohio State University Medical Center	1	Columbus	UH Tripoint Medical Center	1	Painesville
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<u>Activity 3:</u> Maintain and share prenatal care visit options in Portage County and surrounding counties.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Activity Discontinued																																																									
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track prenatal care and delivery United Way 211 calls for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	Maureen Gebhardt, United Way	No update																																																									
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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Increase enrollment in WIC program.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Average caseload this quarter = 1,797
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track initial birth weight and growth/ development of WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	LBW = 55 (15%) Born Early = 191 (53%) *Born at 39 weeks or earlier
<u>Activity 3:</u> Implement one pop-up clinic within a targeted community each quarter.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Pop-up clinic in Windham (4/8/25) – served one participant. Pop-up event at Reed Memorial Library (May 2025) – served 9 applicants and participants.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Breastfeeding initiation = 79%

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses, health educators, and CHWs to increase use of reproductive health interventions.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	PCHD is exploring opportunities to establish a home visiting program to expand reproductive health interventions. Meanwhile, ongoing education sessions for adults and youth continue to support community reproductive health and wellness through community classes. Progress toward a home visiting model will depend on further program review, resource identification, and partnership development.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Year 3 goal: Once established, implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on reproductive health interventions.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	Currently, there is no formal maternal-infant home visiting program in place specifically for reproductive health education. However, home visits are conducted through the Complex Medical Help (CMH) program, which serves families with complex medical needs. While these visits do not yet focus on reproductive health interventions, they provide a foundation for future expansion.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide referrals and resources to individuals to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe Job and Family Services	

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)	Progress																				
	2023	2024	2025																						
<u>Activity 1</u> : Provide outreach for cessation services through the development and distribution of resource guide.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Resource guide continues to be distributed at community events.																				
<u>Activity 2</u> : Track number of pregnant WIC participants who use nicotine and/or tobacco or nicotine replacement during pregnancy.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Nicotine & Tobacco Use = 31 (26%)																				
<u>Activity 3</u> : Track number of pregnant individuals smoking tobacco in the third trimester or at all during pregnancy.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	<table><tr><td></td><td><i># Births</i></td><td><i>Smoking 1st trimester</i></td><td><i>Smoking 2nd trimester</i></td><td><i>Smoking 3rd trimester</i></td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>1312</td><td>91</td><td>80</td><td>76</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>1345</td><td>73</td><td>63</td><td>59</td></tr><tr><td>2025: as of 7/8/25</td><td>648</td><td>25</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr></table>		<i># Births</i>	<i>Smoking 1st trimester</i>	<i>Smoking 2nd trimester</i>	<i>Smoking 3rd trimester</i>	2023	1312	91	80	76	2024	1345	73	63	59	2025: as of 7/8/25	648	25	21	22
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2023	1312	91	80	76																					
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2025: as of 7/8/25	648	25	21	22																					
<u>Activity 4</u> : Educate University Hospitals OB/GYN providers about tobacco treatment counseling resources (early 2023)	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	No update.																				

Track the number of pregnant individuals referred for tobacco treatment counseling.				Hospitals Portage Medical Center	
<u>Activity 5</u> : 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	Worked with OUR Place to update their smoke free policy and assist with implementation.

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			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1</u> : Assure affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.				Kimberly Macphail, Job and Family Services	
<u>Activity 2</u> : Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.		X	X	Lanika Mutsach, Kent City Health Department	
<u>Activity 3</u> : Track childcare referrals from United Way 211 calls for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	Maureen Gebhardt, United Way	

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Conduct suicide prevention trainings for community and school staff.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	From Apr-Jun, 2025, four QPR trainings and one Youth Mental Health First Aid Training were held. 36 individuals attended these community trainings. One person at Kent State University has been trained to be an Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Engage with employers 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	UH had 225 employee engagements with mental health screenings.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Engage community centers on mental health issues to reach key community groups.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Mindy Gusz, Community	Participated in Minority Health Month activities in April at Skeels Community Center and Kent United Church of Christ. Presentation on Brain Health for the Streetsboro Senior Center for 60 people. Table at the Juneteenth Celebration.

				Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	
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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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Support Grief Recovery Method through outreach; information sharing.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	No classes this quarter. Looking to hold some in September/October.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide mental health resources for individuals going through divorce.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Gave Domestic Relations Court 8 resources to have available to individuals who do not have children/do not have to go through the parenting class; will be restocking resources as needed. Judge will have available in court room for individuals to access
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager,	No update at this time.

				Mental Health & Recovery Board	
Activity 4: Provide resources to families of those who have lost loved ones to suicide and overdose in Portage County.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Mailing letters/resources to survivors of suicide loss as information is received from the Coroner's Office. 5 suicide deaths in 2025, all 5 had next of kin listed, and letters/resources have been sent

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)	Progress																		
	2023	2024	2025																				
<u>Activity 1:</u> Track and report 988 data for Portage County.	X	X	X	Rebekah Swango, Townhall II	Townhall II answered 764 calls through 988 crisis line between Apr 1-Jun 30, 2025. Safety forces were needed 16 times.																		
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track and report Portage County resident data for ED and urgent care for attempted suicides to identify possible trends.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Review data when received from Coroner’s Office 2025: 5 deaths and 1 pending per last report; all male, average age 50, majority were from gunshot 2024: 20 deaths; all male, average age 53, majority were from gunshot																		
<u>Activity 3:</u> Evaluate Coroner’s Data Report (monthly) to determine number of deaths by suicide to identify possible trends and/or prevention strategies.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	5 deaths, and 1 pending per last Coroner’s report. All male, most were death by gun.																		
					<table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Number of deaths reported as suicides in Portage</th><th>Number of Portage resident deaths reported as suicides</th></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>25</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>26</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>29</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>20</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>2025: as of 7/8/25</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	Year	Number of deaths reported as suicides in Portage	Number of Portage resident deaths reported as suicides	2021	25	21	2022	26	23	2023	29	29	2024	20	18	2025: as of 7/8/25	5	4
				Year	Number of deaths reported as suicides in Portage	Number of Portage resident deaths reported as suicides																	
				2021	25	21																	
				2022	26	23																	
				2023	29	29																	
				2024	20	18																	
2025: as of 7/8/25	5	4																					
<u>Activity 4:</u> Collect and Evaluate ACEs scores from behavioral health agencies in Portage County.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Still trying to consistently get data from agencies; plan to compare monthly/quarterly and between agencies once enough data is received (will start with January-June 2025, as this data has mostly been received)																		

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
Activity 1: Create and implement a plan to reach home bound older adults.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Continue to quarterly give out different resources at Center of Hope for meal delivery, and started giving out resources at Kent Social Services this quarter (stress/anxiety/alcohol use flyer given for 7/4)
Activity 2: Provide social service and faith-based agencies with gun safety and suicide prevention information to distribute.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	No update
Activity 3: Reach sportsmen with gun locks and suicide prevention materials.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	MHRB: 98 gun locks were distributed at various tabling events KCHD: gave out 42 gun locks

				Hospitals Portage Medical Center	
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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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Engage with employers 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	225 employee screenings at UH
<u>Activity 2:</u> Develop and implement a 45-min presentation to offer to community.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	No update.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop and implement marketing campaigns and programs to raise awareness about adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Presentation on Older Adult Substance Misuse at the Aurora Senior Center to approximately 35 attendees. Distributed drug disposal pouches and naloxone.

				Substance Abuse Coalition	
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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)	Progress					
	2023	2024	2025		Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<u>Activity 1:</u> Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	2021	96	114	128	100	438
					2022	99	81	118	82	380
					2023	75	74	75	56	280
					2024	63	58	52	48	221
					2025	38	75	X	X	113
<u>Activity 2:</u> Project DAWN Narcan (Narcan) distribution.	X	X	X	Kylee McCracken, Health Educator, Portage County Health District	KCHD distributed 115 naloxone kits 975 to DeWeese Health Center at KSU). MHRB is helping to fund a harm reduction vending machine for the Portage County Probation department that will be installed in 2025. Townhall II's vending machine in it's year July 2024-June 2025 distributed 118 narcan kits.					
Activity 3: Continued overdose death review.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	From the 2025 Coroner's Report which at this point goes through 4/28/25, 7 people have died by accidental overdose. Only 2 of them had fentanyl in their system. Last year at this point, 15 people had died, half of which had fentanyl in their system. The					

				Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	MHRB and PCHD will be holding Portage County's first official Overdose Fatality Review Board at the end of July.
Activity 4: Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic.	X	X	X	AxessPointe	Distribution from Apr 1-Jun 20: Naloxone -21 (this is through both project dawn and prescriptions), Fentanyl test strips- 41 Syringes- 60 Wound Care items (sterile water-10, band-aids-25, antibiotic ointment-25, alcohol pads-25, sharps container-2)

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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
Activity 1: Increase the awareness of the Ohio Tobacco Quitline.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	8 events attended with information distributed about the Tobacco quitline.
Activity 2: Increase awareness of other cessation programs/ resources in Portage County.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Cessation Resource Guide 9 Public Canva views 4/49/25 post: 180 reaches, 11 clicks Started providing quit kits with NRT Have distributed 22 so far

<u>Activity 3:</u> 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	72 referrals at UH.
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CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 8: Remove barriers and increase access to mental health, addiction, and crisis 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)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Explore feasibility of mobile van for basic health care services including harm reduction.	X			Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe	No updates
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health.	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Between Apr 1- Jun 30, 2025 Youth mobile and adult community referrals for mental health outreach with Coleman served; 19 for youth, 43 for adults.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Transportation training for agencies to increase transportation; ensure participating agencies implement internal policies for training of new staff.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of Community Health, Portage County Health District	No updates.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Explore the feasibility of adding 23-hr Observation units for Crisis services.	X			Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Center is under construction. On track to be completed in 2026.

				John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	
<u>Activity 5:</u> 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	No updates.
<u>Activity 6:</u> Engage law enforcement and medical stakeholders about the county's crisis continuum needs.	X	X	X	John Garrity, Director, Mental Health and Recovery Board	CIT Steering Committee met in June and reviewed the Peer Review Report and discussed different ways for the police to assist community members and work with providers.