

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		
<u>Activity 1:</u> 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	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	See Appendix A
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide education on prevention and treatment with individuals in the community.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxxessPointe	6 educational sessions at Root House. Attended sexual health fair at Hiram College. 97 STI screenings not including Hep C & HIV
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	No update.

providers through educational newsletters.					
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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	1,130 screenings – UH PCHD conducted 76 blood pressure screenings during the farmers market. Photo voice community presentation for Health Eating and Active living held on September 22, 2025. 186 pre-diabetes screenings
<u>Activity 2:</u> 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	10 programs – UH Sequoia – Portage Park District collaboration – Yoga, Zumba offered at the parks. 6-10 attendees/class. Portage Park District participates in the classes as well. Open to the public, no membership required. See Portage Park District website for details. Sequoia is seeking opportunities for increased outreach and

					sponsorships (fundraisers, BP screenings, etc.). Maureen interested in hosting community walks and walk with an expert in collaboration with UH Portage. Build community and promote physical activity. Wild Med – wilderness hiking club at NEOMED. Partner with Portage Park District. Bring hobby and medicine together.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide community education on nutrition, and physical activity.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	PCHD SAIL – July: 11 classes (123 participants) August: 15 classes (175 participants) September 14 classes (171 participants) Ravenna, Streetsboro (2), Aurora, Mantua KCHD SAIL - UH Portage SAIL– 1,182 PCHD Yoga on the Lawn @ Thrive Together weekly – average 4 attendees per class (July 2– September 9). PCHD step challenge; sunrise sip & stroll – employee wellness team

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		
<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. 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	Haymaker has redeemed \$1000 of WIC FMNP vouchers in 2025 and provided an additional \$9,040 of locally funded WIC Perks food. 120 booklets of \$15 WIC FMNP coupons issued to WIC participants at Garrettsville, Haymaker and Thrive Together (PCHD) markets in July and August. Thrive Together Farmers' Market – Served XX July-September; accepted SNAP & WIC FMNP coupons, one farmer accepted senior vouchers.

<u>Activity 2:</u> 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	There were 660 Power of Produce tokens, representing visits to Market by children 12 and under which ended on two months early on 8/31, due to federal budget cuts to program staffing.
<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	Haymaker distributed a total of \$16,776 of produce perks benefits, matching the \$18,912 of SNAP benefits used at Market, and we redeemed \$15,806 of produce perks for fresh fruits and vegetables. Produce Perks Midwest has continued the statewide program through 12/31/25, after which it is expected to pause due to federal budget cuts.
<u>Activity 4:</u> 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	Senior FMNP nutrition benefits distributed \$4301.00 in benefits to Seniors 3rd quarter.

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.				Portage Medical Center 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	371 participants in the UH Portage free lunch program. 1276 individuals and their families served at the UH Portage Food For Life market.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxessPointe.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe	2443 screenings 47 referrals for food insecurities to CHW 246 Patients screened positive for food insecurities

<u>Activity 3:</u> Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.	X	X	X	Linda Mervin, Northeast Ohio Medical University Soar Clinic	No update.
<u>Activity 4:</u> 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)	211 Calls by zip code: 44288:6, 44411:0, 44266:32, 44240:29, 44201:5. Number of County pantry hot meals served:2013 PCHD served 676 families during quarter 3 at the pop-up pantry. So far 230 families have been served in quarter 4. KCHD - We have continued to work with Kent Social Services to implement the Healthy Eating and Active Living grant. We were able to provide them with 30 grocery carts and insulated bags for participants.
<u>Activity 5:</u> 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	2093 Raven Bags packed
<u>Activity 6:</u> Sustaining community Gardens focusing on food	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community	No update.

desserts 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	583 individuals received fresh produce, resources and education from the 2025 Raven Summer Market which is a produce donation program collaborated between UH Portage and Raven Packs.

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		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Implement CHW program at Portage County Health District in partnership with Kent State University. (Year 3 goal: Hire a CWH at PCHD to provide community outreach for Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna.)	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	Exploring new grant opportunities – feasibility study. No progress on CHW employment at PCHD.
<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	No update.
<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,	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No update.

WIC, tobacco cessation, immunizations, safe sleep practices, car seat safety, transportation, etc.					
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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	112 pregnant and postpartum women received UMWS education at WIC appointments.
<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	300 individuals.
<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	No update.

Activity 3: Year 3 goal: Once established, implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on maternal warning signs.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No update.

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		
Activity 1: 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	No update. January-June 2025 most common delivery locations - Akron City 211 Ahuja 168 Hillcrest 77 AGMC 67 UH Geauga 1 unintended home birth. 0 births – EMS Will complete Maternal Health Update again at end of 2025

<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)	No update.
<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	N/A
<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 July-Sept = 1,815 (last 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	Low birth weight 63 (18%)

<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	Offered WIC services at Windham Health Fair 7/8, issued WIC benefits and FMNP coupons at Haymaker and Garrettsville Markets 7/10, 7/12, 7/19.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	BF initiation = 81.5% (Last quarter 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	No update.
<u>Activity 2:</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	No update.

and resources on reproductive health interventions.					
<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	UH - Can no longer access that data. Axess – 52 OBGYN referrals and managed/treated 12 Hep C patients in 2025 to date.

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	We have 9 visitors to the cessation resource guide. We are also giving out cessation quit kits with NTR and other resources. We have given out 30+ so far. We are updating our process to track better the amount being distributed and how we distribute them.
<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	36 (28%) of pregnant participants report use of tobacco/nicotine during pregnancy.
<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	See Appendix A for epi update.
<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	Waiting on data.

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	No update.

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	No update.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.		X	X	Lanika Mutsach, Kent City Health Department	No update.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Track childcare referrals from United Way 211 calls for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	Maureen Gebhardt, United Way	No update.

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 July-Sept, 2025, 11 trainings were held with 154 people being trained under the SAMSHA grant. 20 people were trained at JFS under the grant with the Health District.
<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	Discussion with HR team and managers at STEP 2 production plant in Streetsboro. Tabling event at the PARTA Employee Resource Fair reaching over 100 employees. 1034 - UH
<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	Presentations at Kentway Senior Community and Randolph Senior Citizen Group with Health District. Presentation for Crestwood Senior Center on mental health. Table at the Do It for James Day of Fun. Tabling at two Veteran focused events; one in Ravenna, the other in Randolph.

				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 update.
<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	Packets of information provided to Domestic Relations Court, to be offered to individuals going through divorce that do not have children and therefore not participating in the parenting class.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	No updates

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	14 suicide deaths to date in 2025, letters and resources were sent to 14/16 loss survivors (the other two Coroner's reports did not include next of kin, or, contact information). International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day on 11/22 (provide flyer)

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 667 calls through 988 crisis line between July 1-Sept 30, 2025. Safety forces were needed 20 times. Sydney Butts at Townhall II is the new POC for this activity.
<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	See Appendix A for epi update.
<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 Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	From the most recent Coroner's report, through 9/6/25, there have been 14 suicide deaths in Portage County, 2 females. 10 people died by gunshot wounds. The age ranges were from 21-74. Drug Overdose & Suicide Fatality Review Committee meeting 7/31. The report is being finalized. See Appendix A for epi update.
<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	MHRB collected data from January-September 2025 and has started some data analysis looking at scores between agencies and across individual questions to identify areas to address/prevention efforts. 2024 data was not consistently collected/available and couldn't be analyzed.

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		
<u>Activity 1:</u> 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	Quarterly take resources (different each quarter) to Kent Social Services and Center of Hope to give out with meals/with meals on wheels
<u>Activity 2:</u> 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	MHRB - No update Gun locks distributed – Randolph Fair, Veterans events (50 – Ravenna Vets); Do it for James day, Octane Nights, tabling events.
<u>Activity 3:</u> 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	No update.

				Outreach Nurse, University 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	Discussion with HR team and managers at STEP 2 production plant in Streetsboro. Tabling event at the PARTA Employee Resource Fair reaching over 100 employees.
<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 Substance Abuse Coalition	Presentations at Kentway Senior Community and Randolph Senior Citizen Group with Health District. Tabling at two Veteran focused events; one in Ravenna, the other in Randolph. Distributed drug disposal pouches and naloxone.

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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		
Activity 1: Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	See Appendix A for epi update.
Activity 2: Project DAWN Narcan (Narcan) distribution.	X	X	X	Kylee McCracken, Health Educator, Portage County Health District	750 Project DAWN kits distributed by PCHD . 761 people trained. Replaced 12 boxes in Naloxboxes. UH Portage – 887 kits distributed UH Outpatient Pharmacy and ED. Two harm reduction vending machines have been installed at PCHD and UH Portage ED.
Activity 3: Continued overdose death review.	X	X	X	Olivia Card, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	From the latest Coroner's report through 8/1/25, 17 people have died by accidental overdose with 3 pending. Only 5 of have fentanyl listed on the toxicity cause. Last year at this point, 25 people had died, half of which had fentanyl in their system.

				Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	The MHRB and PCHD will be held Portage County's first official Overdose Fatality Review Board July 31. The official report is being finalized. See Appendix A for epi update.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic.	X	X	X	AxessPointe	Safe Point – slow moving initiative. Harm reduction materials, syringes. Increasing collaboration to promote syringe exchange. Continue to promote.

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		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Increase the awareness of the Ohio Tobacco Quitline.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	KCHD has been inputting Quitline information into the quit kits.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase awareness of other cessation programs/ resources in Portage County.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	KCHD had 9 visitors to the cessation resource guide. We are also giving out cessation quit kits with NTR and other resources. We have given out 30+ so far. We are updating our process to track better the amount being distributed and how we distribute them.

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	67 referrals.
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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		
Activity 1: Explore feasibility of mobile van for basic health care services including harm reduction.	X			Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe	Van is primarily used for dental clinic. Mobile unit not being used for harm reduction. Grill for Good (Kent) – did provide Narcan side-by-side with the mobile van. Mobile van primarily being used for dental services currently. No plans currently to be used for harm reduction health care services.
Activity 2: Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health.	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Between July 1- Sept 30, 2025 Youth mobile and adult community referrals for mental health outreach with Coleman served; 38 for youth, 73 for adults.
Activity 3: 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	Completed biannually. No training held in 2025.

<u>Activity 4:</u> 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	Construction is progressing the Portage Crisis Center. The building is on track to be completed in 2026.
<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 update.
<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	Stepping Up Portage met in July and discussed possible housing opportunities and the influx of individuals from other counties coming to Portage for services.

Appendix A

Priority 1 Strategy 1 Activity 1:

Condition	2023	2024	2025 as of 9/30/25
Chlamydia	390	313	190
Gonococcal infection	93	76	49
Syphilis	0	0	0
HIV	4	10	3
Hepatitis B (Acute)	0	0	1
Hepatitis C (Acute)	0	0	0
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	5	4	2
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	37	35	17

*Please note: these case numbers include **confirmed cases only**, and exclude any cases reported to KCHD. The CD report for 2025 will include both probable and confirmed cases, so case numbers will be different than what is displayed in this chart. Data source: ODRS.

Priority 2 Strategy 6 Activity 3:

	# Births	Smoking 1st trimester	Smoking 2nd trimester	Smoking 3rd trimester
2023	1312	91	80	76
2024	1345	73	63	59
2025: as of 10/6/25	996	36	32	32

Data source: Data.Ohio.gov

Priority 3 Strategy 3 Activity 3:

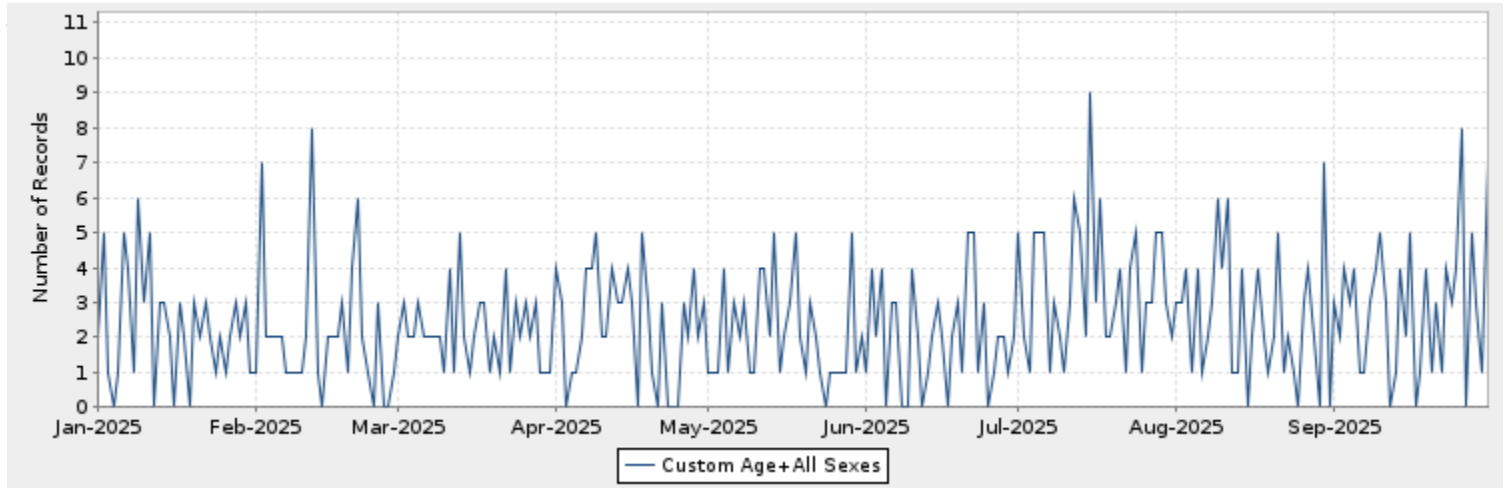
Year	Number of deaths reported as suicides in Portage	Number of Portage resident deaths reported as suicides
2021	25	21
2022	26	23
2023	29	29

2024	20	18
2025: as of August	10	7

Priority 3 Strategy 3 Activity 2:

Data source: Coroner's report.

**2023 and 2024 ED visits for self-harm, suicidal ideation or suicide attempt from Epicenter: 967 in 2023, 929 in 2024.*



Priority 3 Strategy 6 Activity 1:

Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
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	36	X	149

*Please note: the data in this table reflect the number of doses of naloxone administered by EMS companies in Portage County with 83.8% of EMS providers reporting. Data source: Ohio EMS naloxone watch webpage.

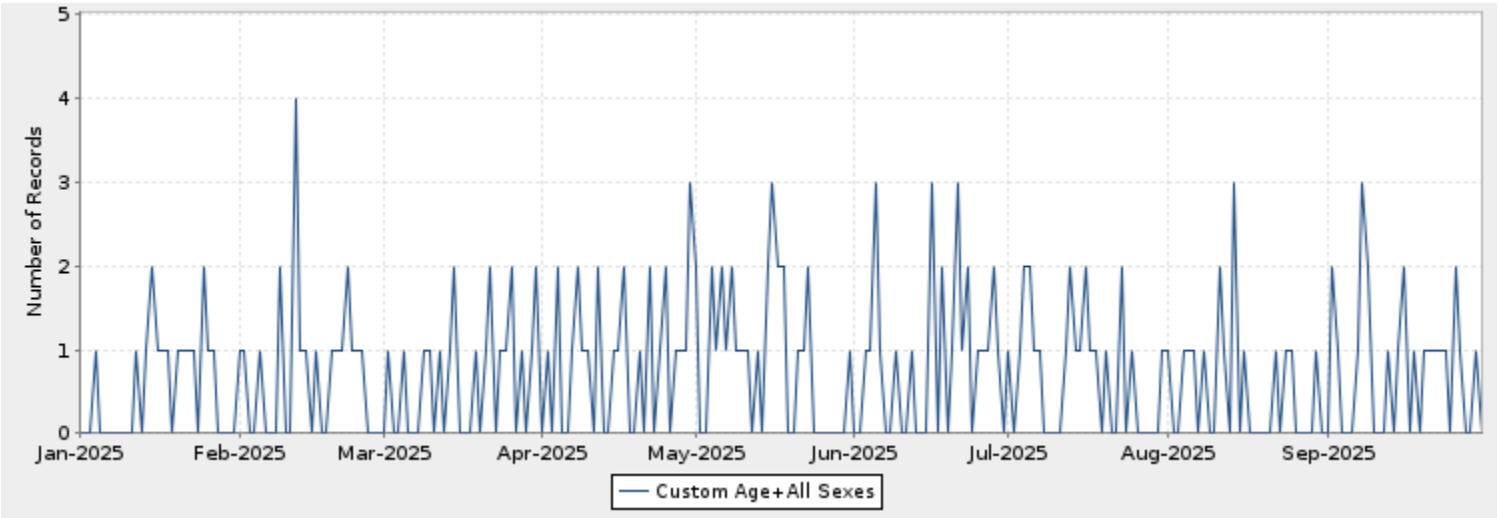
Priority 3 Strategy 6 Activity 3:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of deaths from unintentional OD in Portage</i>	<i>Number of deaths of Portage residents from unintentional OD</i>
2021	45	36
2022	45	36
2023	46	39
2024	30	26
2025: as of August	11	10

Data sources: Coroner’s report.

*2023 and 2024 ED visits for unintentional overdoses from Epicenter: 256 in 2023, 205 in 2024.

2025 YTD 9/30/25: 197



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**\*Birth Location Data, including deliveries in ambulances/during transport to hospital\***

Dates: Jan 1, 2025 - Jun 30, 2025

| 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                | <p>Intended:<br/> <i>2 Aurora residents</i><br/> <i>1 Rootstown resident</i><br/> <i>1 Brimfield resident</i><br/> <i>1 Garrettsville resident</i></p> <p>Unintended:<br/> <i>1 Garrettsville resident</i><br/>           *Mom and baby ok, positive outcomes for all*</p> |
| 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 |
| Ambulance/While traveling            | 0 |             |