

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><u>Activity 1:</u> 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 Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	See Appendix A
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Provide education on prevention and treatment with individuals in the community.</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe	No update
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers through educational newsletters.</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District	No update

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		
<p><u>Activity 1:</u> Educate and screen the community on obesity risk factors and prevention which include hypertension, BMI, and pre-diabetes screenings.</p> <p>Work with the Portage County Health District program to implement screening opportunities for obesity risk factors.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe</p> <p>Becky Barreca, Portage County Health District</p>	UH: 284 screenings
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Increase awareness of physical activity programming with the Portage Parks.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center in partnership with Portage Parks</p>	0 activities
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Provide community education on nutrition, and physical activity.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>1080</p> <p>PCHD – 410 senior participants in SAIL Program</p>

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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. 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>Kate DeAngelis, Growth Coordinator, Haymaker Farm Market in Kent</p> <p>Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC</p>	<p>All market data is unavailable 4th quarter because of new management.</p> <p>WIC FMNP 2025 Redemption Rate = 64.44%</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach	No update – seasonal activity

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 Kate DeAngelis, Growth Coordinator, 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	Kate DeAngelis, Growth Coordinator, Haymaker Farm Market in Kent	No update – seasonal activity
<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	No update – seasonal activity

distributes packets of \$5 vouchers to area senior citizens, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Haymaker Farmers' Market.				Kate DeAngelis, Growth Coordinator, Haymaker Farm Market in Kent Wendy, 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	573 patients were referred and seen at the UH Portage Food for Life market, which reached 1270 individuals in the households where these patients live.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxessPointe.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe	No update

<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.</p>	X	X	X	Linda Mervin, Northeast Ohio Medical University Soar Clinic	No update
<p><u>Activity 4:</u> Provide education and food security resources at Portage County Food Banks/Pantries prioritizing the zip codes of 44288, 44411, 44266.</p> <p>Resources: HEAL Guide and JFS Resource List</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Maureen Gebhardt, Community Impact and Volunteers, United Way (partner for identification of resources/data reporting)</p>	There was a total of 187 people inquiring about food resources to 211. The breakdown of the calls by zip code is: 44288:7, 44411: 0, 44266: 52, 44240: 66. Number of county pantry hot meals served: 1968
<p><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.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Laura Wunderle, Ravenna teacher and program coordinator of the Raven pack program</p>	3473
<p><u>Activity 6:</u> Sustaining community Gardens focusing on food desserts</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community	No work done in quarter 4.



<p>and vulnerable populations with the goal of expanding access of Portage County community gardens to additional schools, senior living facilities, and shelters.</p>			<p>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</p>	
<p><u>Activity 7:</u> Explore the connection of those in need of fresh produce to those with an abundance of fresh produce.</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>No update – seasonal activity</p>

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><u>Activity 1:</u> 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	This activity was put on hold due to funding constraints.
<p><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.</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	This activity was put on hold due to funding constraints.
<p><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,</p>	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	This activity was put on hold due to funding constraints.

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	Education provided to 98 pregnant and postpartum 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	Provided education and resources at corporate screening event to 160 attendees.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Explore opportunities for home visiting program within PCHD using public health nurses,	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No update.

health educators, and CHWs to improve post-partum outcomes.					
<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 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		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Track number of EMS transports for pregnancy and labor related conditions.	X	X	X	Olivia Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	See Appendix A for EMS transports for delivery. 0 in 2025.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Establish a process to obtain and review birth certificate data, comparing residency of	X	X	X	Olivia Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County	Completed in 2024. See Appendix A for 2025 data.



birthing individual compared to their delivery location.				Health District (back up)	
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 Oct-Dec = 1,800 Last quarter = 1,815 Weather, illness and holidays impact clinic show rates and caseload
<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	58 (17%) of WIC infants low birth weight
<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 WIC services at 2 community events
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Breastfeeding Initiation Rate = 82.3%

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 and resources on reproductive health interventions.	X	X	X	Becky Barreca, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	No update.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide referrals and resources to individuals to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, AxessPointe Job and Family Services	No update.

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	No update.
<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	32 (28%) of pregnant WIC participants use nicotine and/or tobacco 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 Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	See Appendix A.
<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	This work continues.

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 Oct 1- Dec 31, 2025, 4 trainings were held under the SAMSHA grant. 58 school staff were trained in QPR, 60 school staff in AID (awareness interaction direction & anxiety), and 43 community members in QPR.
<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	No update
<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	Outreach to young families at Ravenna’s preschool family night and several community Trunk or Treat events.

				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	Resources provided to Domestic Relations Court to give to individuals going through divorce without children and folders of information given to parents going through the divorce parenting class.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager,	No updates

				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	Continue to send letters and resources to suicide loss survivors when Coroner's office provides next of kin data

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	Sydney Butts, Townhall II	Townhall II answered 330 calls through 988 crisis line between Oct 1-Dec 31, 2025. Safety forces were needed 23 times. MRSS was activated for Portage County through 988 five 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 Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	
<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 Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District Terra Howell-Muth, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	See Appendix A.
<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	Received all contract agency data for all of 2025, working on data analysis currently.

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	Provide flyers related to mental health, substance use, and resources to Center of Hope and Kent Social Services quarterly, to be given out with meals, and sent with meals on wheels deliveries; 250 each site every quarter, last given 10/31/2025
<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	No update
<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 Outreach Nurse, University	No update

			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	No update
<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	Low risk drinking ads for the holiday season running in local press and social media.

				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		
Activity 1: Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement.	X	X	X	Olivia Artman, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	See Appendix A.
Activity 2: Project DAWN Narcan (Narcan) distribution.	X	X	X	Kylee McCracken, Health Educator, Portage County Health District	UH: We were unable to host an event, but did provide education and outreach through distributing 893 naloxone kits and 248 Fentanyl test strips through the UH Portage outpatient pharmacy and ED. PCHD # of community kits: 358 # of law enforcement Kits: 44 # of people trained: 509 # community reported reversals: 38 # of leo reversals: 0
Activity 3: Continued overdose death review.	X	X	X	Olivia Artman, Epidemiologist,	From the latest Coroner’s report, 25 people have died by accidental overdose for the year of 2025 with 3 pending. In 2024, 33 people died. The report from the Overdose & Suicide Fatality



				Portage County Health District Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Review Committee was finalized and recommendations have been shared. See Appendix A.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic.	X	X	X	AxessPointe	SafePointe Harm Reduction services; an initiative that offers harm reduction materials, including syringes, to people who need them. In addition to this, we also will discuss potentially signing up for Medication Assisted Treatment services and other primary care needs. We have also worked with other agencies who have harm reduction vending machines and initiatives to provide them materials to advertise the availability of syringes at AxessPointe.

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	No update.

<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	No update.
<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	67

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, AxessPointe	We do not have plans to use the mobile unit for harm reduction services at this time.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health.	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Between Oct 1- Dec 25 2025 Youth mobile and adult community referrals for mental health outreach with Coleman served; 34 for youth, 15 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 transportation 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 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	Stepping Up Portage met in November. The Fall Crisis Intervention Team 40-hour class was held in October and had 17 participants.