



SECOND QUARTER REPORT 2026

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

Portage County Combined General Health District Employees

Administration

Becky Lehman, MPH, MPA, CHES, Health Commissioner
Dr. Mark Arredondo, MD, Medical Director
Sarah Meduri, BSPH, SHRM-CP, PSHRA- CP, PIO, Administrator
Christina M. Jewell, Administrative Assistant
Olivia Card, MA, Epidemiologist
Sarah Power, BA, Marketing Coordinator

Finance

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

Community Health

Amy Cooper, BS, RD, LD, Director of Community Health
Joshua Sexton, BSPH, Accreditation Coordinator
Kimberly Plough, MEd, CHES, Health Educator
Kylee McCracken, BS, CHW, Health Educator
Rachel Belvin, BSPH, Health Educator
Robert Walker, BA, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Morgan Cole, MHHS, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Philesia Condor, Clerk
Danielle Steighner, RD, LDN, CLS, WIC Supervisor
Rachael Stratton, BA, CLC, Breastfeeding Peer Helper & Clinic Assistant
Lindy Goist, BSAS, RD, LD, CLC, CLS, Health Professional 3
Amy Hall, MS, RD, LD, Health Professional 2
Renee Howe, Clinic Assistant
Julie Seifert, BHE, CLC, CLS Health Professional 3
Abbie Fitch, BSAS, RD, LD, Health Professional 2
Anita Mackey, Clinic Assistant
Amanda Casto, Clinic Assistant
Candace Farrell, CMA, Clinic Assistant
Ivory Joy, BS, Dietetic Technician

Environmental Health

Alison Rogalski, BA, REHS, Director of Environmental Health
William Duck, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
Natalie Menke, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor
Emily Speck, BS, REHS, GIS Coordinator
Samantha Mellott, BSPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Jim Meyer, BS, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Nicole Lipchik MPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Cassie Anthony, MSSR, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Seth Nolte, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Brandon Santiago, BASc, EHSIT, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Dominic DuPonty, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Megan Gerberry, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Veronica Victoria, Environmental Health Clerk
Daniel Colvin-Lovett, BA, Environmental Health Clerk

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

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



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Strengthening Public Health Through Strategic Leadership, Community Partnerships, and Data-Driven Decision Making



MONTHLY COMMUNITY POP-UP PANTRY

In Partnership with Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

- ✓ Held the **first Thursday** of every month
- ✓ **Largest pop-up pantry** serving eight counties
- ✓ Serves as a public health initiative and emergency preparerless exercise
- ✓ Provides **food access** and **connects families to vital community resources**
- ✓ Strengthens **health equity** and community resilience across Portage County



752

**FAMILIES SERVED
THIS QUARTER**



1,576

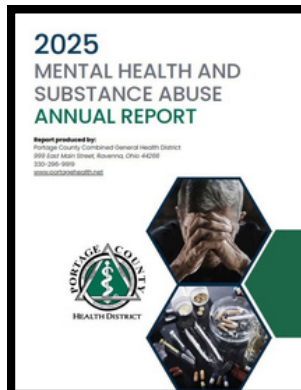
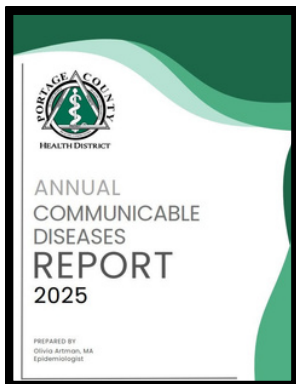
**FAMILIES SERVED
TOTAL THIS YEAR**

Our program provides essential food access and critical public health services right in the community.



2025 Public Health Reports Released

The Portage County Health District completed and published its 2025 Annual Animal Bite Report, Communicable Disease Report, Mental Health and Substance Use Report, and Maternal Health Report. Prepared by our Epidemiologist, these reports provide valuable data and insights to help inform public health planning, community partnerships, and evidence-based decision making throughout Portage County.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS



496

Food Safety
Inspections



10

Tattoo/Body Art
Inspections



8 SW

Solid Waste Inspections &
Nuisance Complaints



43

Camp
Inspections



0

School
Inspections



77

Swimming Pool &
Spa Inspections



47

Mosquito Site
Assessment and
Trappings



Home Sewage Treatment Systems

68 HSTS Permits Issued

89 HSTS Rough/Final Inspections

44 O+M Inspections



Private Water Systems

51 PWS Permits Issued

30 PWS Field Inspections

28 PWS Bacterial Water Sample Requests



Waste Water Nuisances

3 inspections/Consults



Plumbing Program

133 Residential Inspections

4 Commercial Inspections

1 Clearwater Inspections



Stormwater Program

17 Illicit Discharges Identified

19 Illicit Discharges Eliminated



Semi-Public Commercial Wastewater

100 Inspections

2 Consultations



Point of Sale Program

21 Inspections/Consultation/File Review



2

New Data
Visuals
Implemented

+

313

STS Files Updated
to GIS Map

PORTAGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND TICK SURVEILLANCE DASHBOARDS

Mosquito Surveillance



PCHD traps for mosquitos throughout Portage County, except in the city of Kent. Specimens are sent to ODH to test for West Nile Virus. PCHD uses a GIS dashboard to show where the positive locations are for mosquitos who have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

Tick Surveillance



PCHD uses data from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS), ArcGIS Living Atlas iNaturalist observations, and Portage Tick Surveillance Form that are filled out using our signage posted at locations throughout Portage Parks. PCHD tracks tick exposures and locations of where ticks have been found.





Notes:

- Remove the tick as soon as possible.
- If tick mouth parts remain in the skin, leave them alone. In most cases, they will fall out in a few days.
- Don't use nail polish, petroleum jelly, or a hot match to make the tick detach.
- If you develop a fever or rash within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.

How to Remove a Tick

- 1** Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- 2** Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the tick. Avoid twisting or jerking.
- 3** Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, iodine scrub, or soap and water.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

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

INJURY PREVENTION



28

Convertible/Booster
Seats Distributed



9

Every Baby Sleeps
Safe/
Pack n' Plays
Distributed



589

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



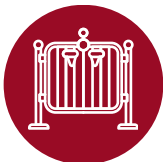
197

Project DAWN
(Narcan) Kits
Distributed



205

People Trained
in Project DAWN



12

Prevention, Retention,
Contingency (PRC)
Family Support Milestones
Completed

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



200

Child & Adult
Immunizations



102

Communicable
Disease Investigations

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES



182

monthly average
Complex Medical Help
Clients



68

Animal Bites/Rabies
Exposures



31

Emergency Preparedness
Trainings & Events

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

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

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

PCHD administers WIC services in Portage and Columbiana County.



1,787

Participants Served
in Portage County WIC



16

Community Outreach &
Education Programs



1,550

Participants Served
in Columbiana County WIC



5

Nutrition Education
Programs

BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS:

Breastfeeding Mothers

Reduces their risk for:

- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Type 2 diabetes

Breastfed Infants

Have a reduced risk of:

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

Workforce & Environmental

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



1,038

Breastfeeding
Education & Support



74.69%

Breastfeeding
Initiation Rate

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



THRIVE TOGETHER

FARMERS' MARKET

📍 **999 EAST MAIN STREET, RAVENNA OH**

🕒 **EVERY TUESDAY, JUNE 16 - SEPTEMBER 8, 3:00PM-6:00PM**

Shop each week from local farmers, bakers, and vendors offering fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, spice blends, and even tool sharpening. Additional activities may include blood pressure screenings, food demonstrations and tastings, and yoga on the lawn.

SNAP, WIC, AND SENIOR FMNP COUPONS ACCEPTED



COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025-2028 PRIORITIES



Chronic
Disease



Mental Health &
Substance
Misuse



Population Health
& Safety



Cross Cutting Factors
Equitable Access & Sustainability
of Community Resources

- Transportation
- Housing
- Healthy Foods
- Specialized Care Providers
- Insurance Access

Portage County Health District partnered University Hospitals, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, and Kent City Health Department along side with community organizations and residents to assess the health of Portage County through the Community Health Assessment (CHA). Together, we collected and analyzed local data, listened to community voices, and identified both challenges and strengths.

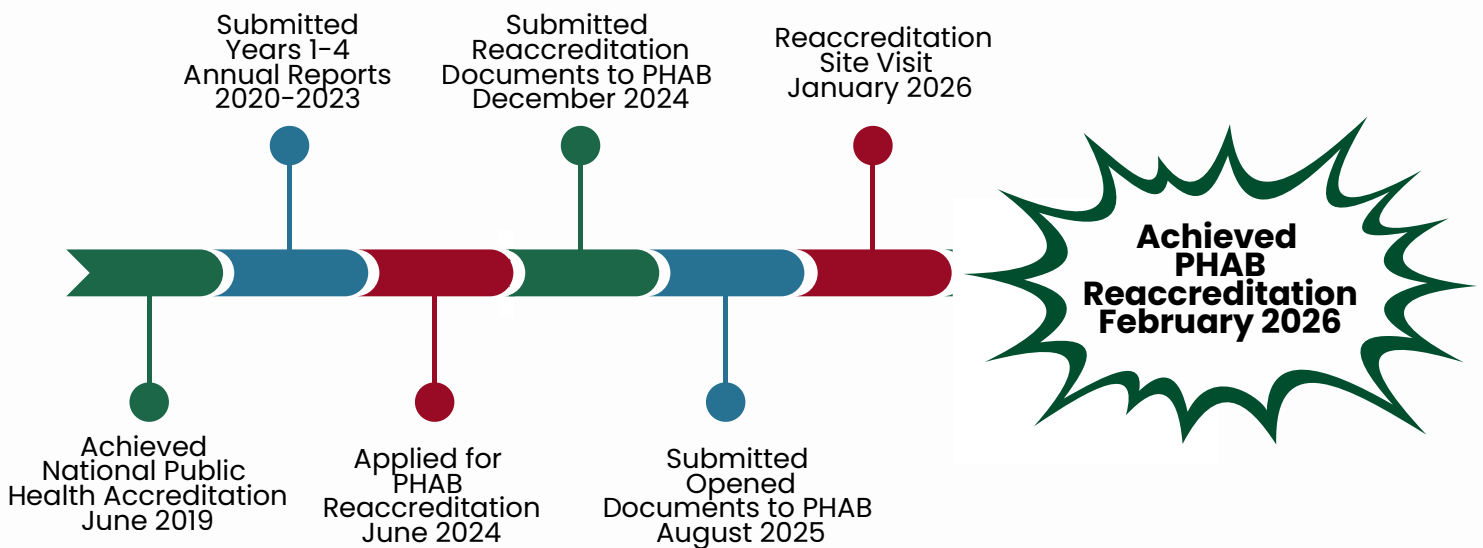
Building on this collaborative work, we developed the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which outlines priority areas for the next three years, reflecting the issues that matter most to our community and where we can make the greatest impact together.

***Portage County Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan are available
on our website: portagehealth.net***

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

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

Accreditation Timeline:



Overall, the department is characterized by passionate, dedicated staff and a strong sense of trust within the community it serves. The department maintains positive, collaborative relationships with community partners and the Board of Health, which supports effective problem-solving and shared goals. The team demonstrates a willingness to embrace challenges, adapt as needed, and remain committed to continuous improvement in service to the community.

--PHAB Site Visit Report

Awarded National Accreditation for Public Health Excellence!

