

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

Progress Notes



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	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	<p>Olivia: See chart below</p> <p>Al: Central Outreach comes in for Summit County to provide HIV and Hep C testing and treatment. Al will find out more and share info.</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Provide education on prevention, treatment, and follow up with individuals in the community</p>	X	X	X	Kat Holtz, Health Educator, Portage County Health District Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxxessPointe, Townhall II, Planned Parenthood	<p>Kat: Safer sex and general sexuality education at Root House. Provided safer sex kits for overdose awareness day-AxxessPointe and OUR Place. Will continue to provide condoms to these agencies. Provided condoms to KSU LGBTQ+.</p> <p>Working on increasing sexuality programs within the substance abuse outreach.</p> <p>Joan: KCHD working with KSU health center for sexuality education.</p> <p>Cowen: total STI screenings: 147 (excluding Hep C and HIV)</p>

					324 tested for Hep C. 528 tested for HIV. Pharmacy provides full Hep C treatment.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	No report at this time. Discussion: Is there a need to increase provision of outreach expanding to AxessPointe. KCHD would also like to be included in this activity. Access to Care strategy: target this goal including UH, AxessPointe, PCHD, KCHD, etc.

Condition	2021 confirmed case total – Portage County excluding Kent City	2022 confirmed case total – Portage County excluding Kent City	Confirmed case total Jan 1-Aug 30, 2023 – Portage County excluding Kent City
Chlamydia	370	427	279
Gonococcal infection	136	108	65
Syphilis (any stage)	0	0	1
HIV	0	0	2

Hepatitis A	2	0	0
Hepatitis B (acute, chronic, perinatal)	10	1	2
Hepatitis C (acute, chronic, perinatal)	65	45	26

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 CHW program to implement screening opportunities for</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Terah Omaitis, Nurse Care Manager, AxessPointe</p>	<p>Mindy: 356 screenings</p> <p>Cowen: 200 positives for food insecurity screenings. AxessPointe has a limited food pantry.</p>

obesity risk factors and food insecurity with CHW					
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase awareness of physical activity programming with the Portage Parks and Sequoia Fitness	X	X	X	Andrea Metzler, Public Engagement Manager, Portage Parks Jackie Woodring, Development Manager, Sequoia Fitness	Have increased their events and programs. Mindy will reach out to Jen White.
<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	Mindy: provided nutrition education and reached 1499 people.

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 Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p> <p>Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC</p>	<p>Mindy: \$850 put into the program.</p> <p>Amy: WIC distributed 119 FMNP coupon booklets at Haymaker Farmers’ Market in July and August, 2023. An additional 261 FMNP coupon booklets were distributed at the WIC office.</p> <p>WIC Perks program continues weekly at the market. Andrew Rome can provide data. USDA has updated WIC Cash Value Benefit for fruits and vegetables through November 17 (end of Continuing Resolution). The new amounts are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$26 for children • \$47 for postpartum women • \$52 for fully/partially breastfeeding and pregnant women • \$78 for exclusively breastfeeding multiples
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach</p>	<p>Mindy: \$1803 redeemed from the kids program. 613 individual children participated in the program.</p>

<p>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</p>				<p>Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p>	<p>Joan: \$600 contributed through the HEAL grant to help with the Power of Produce program.</p>
<p><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.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p>	<p>Mindy: \$11,658 Produce Perks used this quarter. \$12,555 SNAP benefits used.</p> <p>UH Portage is participating in the Market. The Market continues through the winter. It is an all year Market.</p>
<p><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</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Jodie Neu, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Andrew Rome, Manager of</p>	<p>Mindy: \$3370 used in the senior nutrition program vouchers.</p> <p>Mindy: Food for Life participants may get a voucher to go to Haymakers Market through a donor program with Haymakers.</p>

distributes packets of \$5 vouchers to area senior citizens, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Haymaker Farmers' Market.				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.

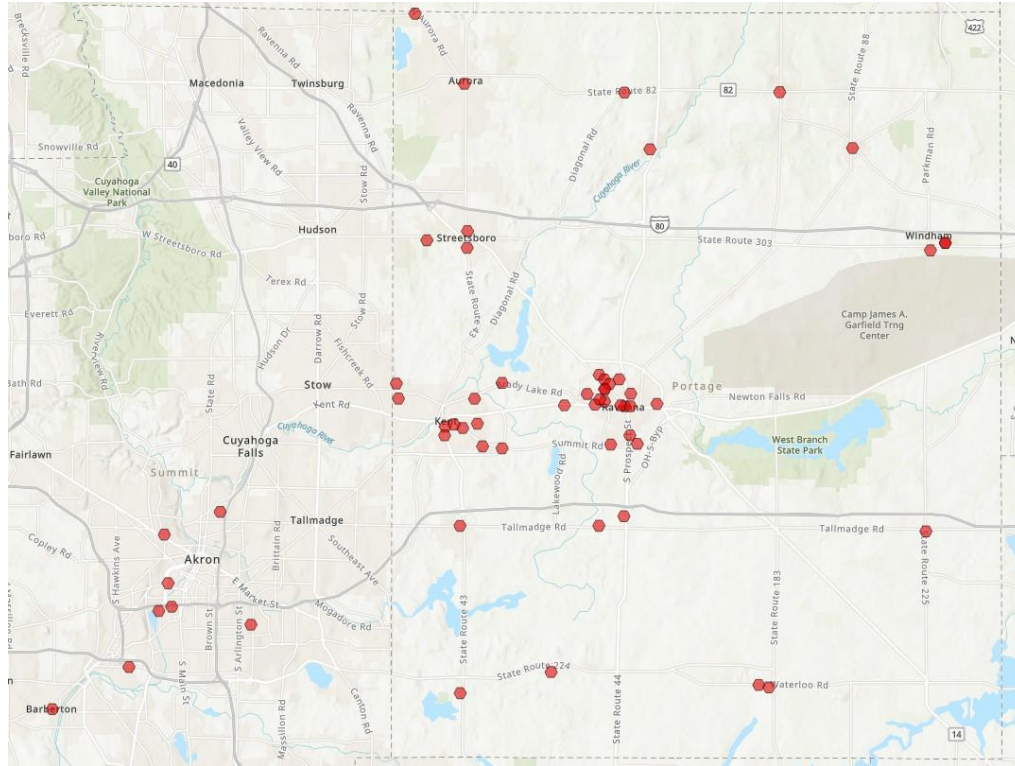
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Continue and expand provider education on food insecurity, its impact on health and the importance of screening and referral to the University Hospitals Portage Food For Life Market.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Mindy: 474 patient visits, provided food to 985 patients and their families.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxessPointe.	X	X	X	Terah Omaitis, Nurse Care Manager, AxessPointe	Cowen: 200 positives for food insecurity screenings. AxessPointe has a limited food pantry.



<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Janet Raber, Clinic Manager, Northeast Ohio Medical University Soar Clinic</p>	<p>Hannah Haynie from SOAR has been added to the CHIP contact list.</p>
<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>	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>	<p>Mindy: 211 call for food insecurity: 44288: 5 calls 44411: 5 calls 44266: 42 calls 44201: 114 calls 44240: 36 calls</p> <p>Discussion: Why was there a high number of calls for Atwater/Randolph area?</p>
<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</p> <p>Laura Wunderle, Ravenna teacher and program coordinator of the Raven pack program</p>	<p>Mindy: 1672 bags packed.</p>

<p><u>Activity 6:</u> Identify need for additional community Gardens focusing on food desserts and vulnerable populations with the goal of expanding Portage County community gardens to additional schools, senior living facilities, and shelters</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community 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>Mindy: Talked to Raven Packs about a garden with their new location. Met with The Haven as well.</p> <p>Continue to talk with Kentway for a community garden.</p> <p>Maintenance of gardens in Windham, Kent, Ravenna. There is a small communal garden in Streetsboro.</p> <p>Al: Working on an idea with Raven Packs to leverage with existing gardens to provide fresh produce to people during growing season.</p> <p>Master Gardeners have a "Grow a Row" program for donation of garden produce. Need a way to provide a place for all gardeners to be able to donate, including home gardeners.</p> <p>Olivia: Has a current map of food distribution centers. Becky will send out to the CHIP group. Contact Olivia for updates.</p>
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Food Pantry Map



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> Establish and implement CHW program at Portage County Health District.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	PCHD will be doing a feasibility study on the need for a CHW program at the health district.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Implement screening opportunities during pregnancies for food insecurities and other social determinants of health to reduce low birth weights through home visiting program.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	PCHD will be doing a feasibility study on the need for a home visiting program in Portage County.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Implement opportunities for new parents/guardians who receive home visits to receive education and resources on breastfeeding, WIC, safe sleep practices, car seat safety, transportation, etc.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	PCHD will be doing a feasibility study on the need for a home visiting program in Portage County.

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 and Birth Outcomes

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the knowledge of the signs of hypertension in pregnancy and postpartum 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	Amy: All pregnant and first time moms are provided this screening. *Awaiting Portage-only data Portage/Columbiana provided education to 198 pregnant and postpartum women
<u>Activity 2:</u> Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Mindy: Providing OBGYN services in the county. Not providing delivery services in Portage County. Discussion: How do we meet these priorities as a community? Need to redirect ideas and strategies to make true impact.

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> Identify and establish ongoing reporting mechanism to track number of deliveries in the University Hospitals Portage Emergency Department.	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Olivia: Having trouble getting consistent data from local hospitals. This is a problem with other counties as well. Olivia will follow up on ways other epi's are gathering data. Mindy: EMS has been well educated on the non-delivery services at UH Portage. Initial numbers is 0. UH is still providing OBGYN care.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Identify and establish reporting mechanism to track number of EMS transports for deliveries.	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	Olivia: 2022: 46 EMS transports As of July 5, 2023: 43 EMS transports Transport for pregnancy, childbirth, or miscarriage
<u>Activity 3:</u> Review birth certificate data comparing residency of birthing individual compared to their delivery location.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department Sandra Knezevich, Vital Statistics, Kent City Health Department	Joan: Training staff to pull this data. Hoping to have statistics next quarter. Discussion: track home visits, get historical data using birth certificate data.

				Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District (back up)	
<u>Activity 4:</u> Research, map, and maintain prenatal care visit options in Portage County and surrounding counties.	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	<p>Olivia: The closest delivery option is Summa in Akron. Olivia has a prenatal care map-Garrettsville, Deerfield, and Windham are the areas do not have close care options.</p> <p>Streetsboro-Aujua Hospital is a close hospital.</p> <p>OBGYN services needs to be looked at as well.</p> <p>March of Dimes Delivery of Care report shows that Portage County is doing well with resources.</p> <p>Discussion: Are we able to get prenatal visits, number of visits, when visits occurred?</p> <p>How are OBs connecting patients to delivery sites? How many people are seeking a midwife as an option?</p>
<u>Activity 5:</u> Develop and maintain resource of prenatal care and delivery options for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	United Way	No updates
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	Amy: Current Caseload = 1,705, Average Caseload for FY23 = 1,637 3-4% increase in caseload since First Quarter FY23
<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	Amy: Low Birth Weight: 49 infants (13% of infants)
<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	Amy: Held two pop-up opportunities to load benefits to WIC Nutrition Cards at Haymaker Farmers' Market (July 15 and August 5).
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Amy: Initiation Rate: 73.32% BF at 1 month: 54.21% BF at 3 months: 37.61% BF at 6 months: 24.78% BF at 12 months: 14.82%

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> Establish and implement education with individuals who recently delivered, ie: birth spacing, family planning	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC Pilot CHW Home Visiting Program- Portage County Health District	Come off next cycle. Discussion: There is a need to address postpartum depression in the CHIP.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide referrals and resources to individuals with health insurance to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe Job and Family Services	Cowen: Need to track referrals to OBs and GYNs for women of childbearing age.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Provide referrals and resources to individuals <u>without</u> health insurance to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxessPointe Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services	Cowen: Total CAC referrals to CHWs: any health insurance referrals: 188 patients (answered no to do you currently have health insurance?) completed applications for 109 persons.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy and family planning	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	No updates

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	Joan: no updates
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track number of pregnant WIC participants who smoke during pregnancy.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Amy: 19% of pregnant women report smoking (29 women).
<u>Activity 3:</u> Track number of pregnant individuals using tobacco use at delivery by trimester.	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Olivia: Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey: Current to 2021: 3 rd trimester: down to 9% for all non Ohio Equity group Up to 3.5% for vaping
<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	Mindy: 5 referrals made this quarter.

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	Joan: Ravenna City Schools-completed

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> Promote childcare as a field of job training.	X	X	X	Stephanie Wilfong, Early Childhood Education program, Maplewood Career Center	No updates

<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Assure affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County</p>				<p>Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services</p> <p>Kimberly Macphail, Job and Family Services</p>	<p>JFS: See Child Care Stats for 2023 (August)</p> <p>Able to provide speaking engagements to promote providers.</p> <p>Qualifications for childcare went up slightly.</p> <p>County Daycare is still moving forward-waiting on building updates to be completed.</p>
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>No updates</p>

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 2023, 3 trainings were held for about 25 people in Question, Persuade, Refer. Al Barber: Kent United Church of Christ will be offering the QRP, open to the public. Joan: Community program for the City of Kent about gun safety, suicide, sextortion.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Host employer roundtables 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	Portage Development Board offered several opportunities to reach employers: weekly eblasts to their mailing list, monthly meetings (next one open is Nov 9 at 2:30), and their Spring Employer Forum. They are willing to make it a mental health/addiction theme. They are also willing to send out a survey to the group. Mindy: QPR training provided to hospital staff, open to the public. There were 20 people in attendance.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Host “townhalls” in community centers on mental health issues to reach key community groups.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	No updates

				Mindy Gusz, Community 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 classes through funding and marketing	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Joan: Will be scheduling classes at the beginning of the year.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide mental health resources for individuals going through divorce.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	25 folders for the September Children Are Forever class with information on mental health and drug prevention tips and local resources. Reached out to providers to discuss ways to increase screening efforts for individuals impacted by divorce.

					Childrens Advantage: Looking at starting groups for children in divorce as well as a parents group.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Continuing to gather information from local providers to determine access to care, following a financial loss.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Provide resources to families of those who have lost loved ones to suicide and overdose in Portage County.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Met to discuss possible survivors of suicide events and continue to discuss international survivors of suicide loss day event, developed flyer for event and gathering resources. Joan: Asking if there is support groups for families that have experienced loss due to suicide or overdose. Karyn suggested Kelly's Grief agency that has this resource ongoing. Reach out to Kelly's Grief for their involvement in this strategy. Sarah from KCHD reaches out to all families that have experienced overdose to provide Project DAWN training and resources.

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	Tamera Hunter and Maria Landry, Townhall II	Townhall II answered 132 calls through 988 crisis line between April 1 st – June 30 th . Safety forces were needed 11 times.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track and report attempted suicides to ED data Portage County	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	Olivia: So far in 2023, 125 suicide attempts. Rates for ER visits reflect that females attempt more than males. Public record request from ODH for EMS transport data: 2022 – 721 transports for psychiatric and suicide attempts. So far in 2023, 449 transports. Coroner’s Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> completed suicides during the quarter, 17 total this year at the end of the 3rd quarter 4 accidental OD deaths during the quarter, 27 total this year at the end of the 3rd quarter
<u>Activity 3:</u> Evaluate Coroner’s Data Report (Annually)	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Olivia: 10 completed suicides up to June 14, 2023. Group would like to learn about the categories of how each person completed suicide.
<u>Activity 4:</u> Collect and Evaluate ACEs scores from behavioral health agencies in Portage County	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Townhall II is collecting ACEs data. Need to expand to other agencies. Need to include other agencies that complete the ACEs. Children’s Advantage, Family and Community, etc.

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	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Continued to discuss multiple methods to reach the population during the Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting, discussed ways the VA can assist in these efforts as well with home bound older adult veterans.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Equip primary care offices with gun safety and suicide prevention information to distribute to at risk for suicide	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	No updates
<u>Activity 3:</u> Reach sportsmen with gun locks and suicide prevention materials	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager,	Distributing Gun Safety & Suicide Prevention materials at Ravenna Balloon A-Fair & Aurora/Streebors Senior Health Fair.

			<p>Mental Health & Recovery Board</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Coalition Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>Mindy: Not sure what resources are in EPIC. Working on trying to work with UH Safety Services for programming.</p> <p>Cowen: Would be able to include gun safety resources in their education packs. Mindy would like to assist in finding the resources.</p> <p>Discussion: How many of the completed suicides, especially through guns, are self-inflicted euthanasia.</p> <p>What are the resources that available within the mental health community? Coleman Crisis, UH ER?</p>
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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> Host employer roundtables 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	Connected with Portage Development Board for them to host an event for us to present and speak with their members.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Develop a 45-min presentation to offer to business community	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Presentation developed. Will look for audiences to present to. Mindy: The provide business health screenings. This may be a good opportunity to have MHRB to join and provide information at these events. Al: There are medications for alcohol addiction, essentially MAT for alcohol. Brightview provides this as a resource. Refer out for detox and then try and get them to return for aftercare.

					<p>AxessPointe provides Vivitrol for alcohol abuse disorder.</p> <p>Discussion: need for action steps within the strategies and activities. Monitor and promote MAT for alcohol abuse. Can we find out who is using MATs for alcohol?</p>
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Develop and implement marketing campaign to raise awareness about adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition</p>	<p>Running Drink Less, Be Your Best campaign.</p>
<p><u>Activity 4:</u> Research and identify funding that would support programs focused on alcohol awareness for adults.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition</p>	<p>OneOhio Foundation regional representative reported they expect to have RFPs available in October of 2023.</p>

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		

<p>Activity 1: Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board – CITI Dashboard Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University Hospitals Portage for EMS Database Substance Abuse Coalition</p>	<p>Olivia: Ohio EMS website has a Naloxone Watch: Quarter 1: 75, Quarter 2: 74, Quarter 3: 67 Law Enforcement: Quarter 1: 1, Quarter 2: 3, Quarter 3: 0</p>
<p>Activity 2: Project DAWN Narcan distribution</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District</p>	<p>Kat: Community: 264 kits distributed, first responders: 46 Distributed 600 fentanyl strips for overdose awareness day. Expanded distribution partners: MHRB, Hopetown, UH Jail, Sheriff’s Department QRT program, Community Medical Services (treatment group)</p>
<p>Activity 3: Continued overdose death review</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition</p>	<p>The Substance Abuse Coalition’s Treatment Committee is forming a smaller committee to analyze the data more closely and look for some new approaches for prevention. Olivia: Jan-Sept this year we had 108 unintentional ODs (not deaths, just ODs) according to epicenter, most of which were 25–44-year-olds. As of June 14, this year, the coroner ruled 18 deaths as overdoses from drugs, but not alcohol.</p>

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 updates
<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 updates
<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	Mindy: 30 referrals from UH Portage

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 8: Engage faith communities and other local groups to provide programming and support throughout Portage County.

Goal: Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of community-level behavioral health and wellness related support programs available.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Development and implementation of Citizen’s Circle, Recovery Outreach, and other outreach programs	X	X	X	Job and Family Services Nicole Thomas	No updates
<u>Activity 2:</u> Research sustainable funding for recovery organizations	X	X	X	OUR Place John Garrity, Executive Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	OneOhio Foundation regional representative reported they expect to have RFPs available in October of 2023.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic	X	X	X	AxessPointe	Cowen: Fentanyl test strip distribution. Started Project DAWN distribution (10 kits distributed). Working towards starting the mobile harm reduction. Hoping to start by the end of the year. Al: Spoke with Summit County Harm Reduction about their program. They are willing to share their experiences and lessons learned.

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 9: Remove barriers to mental health and addiction 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	<p>Cowen: Will start harm reduction services at AxessPointe in Kent first.</p> <p>Discussion: Use van to provide primary care services in Windham as a healthcare dessert area.</p> <p>What about using the services of SOAR clinic and students.</p> <p>Kent State University also is starting a mobile van services program.</p>
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	MRSS (children) staffing is now up to 2 mobile counselor and 2 case manager roles, so MRSS services are nearly always started in the community in alignment with the model. We continue to prioritize mobile outreach where feasible, though availability more often exists in the Mon-Fri business hours range, as staffing with Health Officers is highest in that timeframe.
<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	Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District	<p>Amy: Transportation Training provided in August. It was successful and would like to do it again.</p> <p>Response fleet-need to have travel training for demand response routes as well as fixed routes.</p> <p>PARTA has a new app. Redid software for all services. Passio Go app for fixed routes.</p>

CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

Strategy 10: Address the needs of individuals in crisis.

Goal: Improve access to mental health and addiction services in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, improve access and availability of crisis support/intervention services.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
<u>Activity 1:</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	Mental Health & Recovery Board & Coleman Health Services raised 7 million dollars for the project and are finalizing plans with the architect for the new crisis center. Projecting to open in 2025.
<u>Activity 2:</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	Coleman has begun internal discussions w/the managers group about connecting with contacts at local universities that have counseling/social work, etc. but we have not had any formal external discussions yet.
<u>Activity 3:</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	Waiting on the final report from the Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop from the CCOE. In the meantime, the participants have been meeting and now formed as the Stepping Up Initiative for Portage County. They are meeting on the key issues: housing, awareness, transportation, and hospitalization.