

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	Olivia: Overall, the last 3 years-trends: Chlamydia cases are consistently high. Gonorrhea is down. Syphilis is at 0. HIV-4 Acute Hep B or C:0 cases
<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: Outreach – Root House- 5 sessions, Southeast HS-3 sessions, World AIDS Day at PCHD, safer sex workshop at a Trans Conference in Columbus, condom distribution at Rainbow Craft Fair in Kent, OUR Place, etc.</p> <p>Cowen: All HIV testing goes through Quest Labs (blood tests), no quick tests.</p> <p>Tested 868 HEP C Tested 754 HIV</p> <p>Pharmacy started 40 patients, 12 confirmed as cured.</p>

					<p>KCHD receives communicable disease reports for Kent City residents. Anyone else in the county comes to PCHD.</p> <p>KCHD will report numbers for KC.</p>
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers</p>	X	X	X	<p>Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District</p>	<p>Question: Is there a navigation piece that can be done at a PCP through UH? Have the PCPs been receptive of an outside resource?</p> <p>Kat: overall impression of PCPs in PC are uncomfortable with positive STIs. It is not standard practice for communicable disease to call for follow up with positive cases (chlamydia and gonorrhea).</p> <p>Kat is a resource that can be used for helping a patient navigate community resources.</p>

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>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>Cowen: 2023 total: 2340 BMI screenings with a follow up plan to reduce BMI. 375 patients with a prediabetes diagnosis with an A1C test.</p> <p>Joe: Starting a partnership with KSU CHWs (2)-one in Community Health/WIC and one in Environmental Health Services.</p>

Work with the Portage County Health District CHW program to implement screening opportunities for obesity risk factors and food insecurity with CHW				Terah Omais, Nurse Care Manager, AxessPointe	PCHD will be using our trailer and KSUs vehicle to provide services. UH Portage and American Heart Association worker will also be involved.
<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	No updates. Did Walk with a Provider program in 2023.
<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 679 education activities.

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 Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p> <p>Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC</p>	<p>Mindy: Farmers Market with Haymakers partnership has been a win. UH will be providing screenings at indoor event during the winter months and then again outside in the spring.</p> <p>Haymakers Annual numbers: 4200 vouchers, increase of 28%. 8670 WIC vouchers, increase of 24%</p> <p>Amy: Redemption rates for PC: only 55.7% redemption from the vouchers. Over \$6000 provided.</p> <p>Over 1000 at outside market and 200/300 people at indoor market.</p> <p>Joe: UH Portage to use trailer for market. – May is heart health screenings.</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach	Mindy: \$3186 tokens given to kids, increase of 20%.

Power of the Produce kids program – a kids club at Haymaker Farm market (the largest farm market in Portage county) that teaches children under 12 about healthy eating and provides a direct benefit to them to try fresh fruit and vegetables at market. \$2.00 tokens are provided to each kid for fruit and vegetable purchases				Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent	
<u>Activity 3:</u> Participate in the Produce Perks - Produce Perks is a grant funded program through “Produce Perks Midwest” that seeks to increase SNAP use at Farmers’ Markets and increase fruit & vegetable consumption. Customers are given a matching benefit of \$25/week in Produce Perk tokens, when they use their SNAP benefits at Market. These green tokens can then be used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at Market.	X	X	X	Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent	Mindy: \$2229, decrease from last year. Some of the SNAP benefits have had a reduction.
<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 Andrew Rome, Manager of	Mindy: \$5390, decrease of 5%.

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: 394 patient visits to Food For Life Program, effects over 800 persons.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxxessPointe.	X	X	X	Terah Omaitis, Nurse Care Manager, AxxessPointe	Cowen: 2023 numbers: 4436 screenings for food insecurity. 71 referrals to CHWs for food insecurities. Provided 56 emergency food bags for patients-enough food for a few days.




<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: The screening tool was implemented by a student. That student has since graduated. Not much progress since. Looking at returning to the process, finding a student to champion this project.</p> <p>Amy: WIC has flyers to be provided to agencies for referrals to identified food insecurity families.</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: Zip codes: 44288: 10 44411: 5 44266: 64 44240: 51 44201:125</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</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>	<p>Mindy: Packed 3299 Raven Packs this last quarter. All of Ravenna Schools qualify for free lunch program.</p>








provide the recipient food when away from school.					
<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	X	X	X	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	Mindy: Meeting with UH people, would like to identify places in the community that have an abundance of produce from gardens to drop off extras to communities in need. More to come.

Mindy: New program with Andrew, Produce Prescriptions at UH Portage. Andrew is providing Food for Life Market participants vouchers of \$30 for the Haymakers Market. \$5 coupon amounts-will be tracked. 149 vouchers have been provided.

Amy: Work with Andrew on a pop-up farmers market at PCHD. Mindy would like to participate in this project as well. We can also invite mobile food units.

Priority 1 Strategy 1 Activity 1:

<i>Condition</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>Trend over time</i>
Chlamydia	370	427	390	

Gonococcal infection	136	108	93	
Syphilis	0	0	0	
HIV	0	0	4	
Hepatitis B (Acute)	2	0	0	
Hepatitis C (Acute)	1	0	0	
Hepatitis B (chronic)	8	1	5	
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	64	44	37	

*Please note: these case numbers include confirmed cases only, and exclude any cases reported to KCHD. Data source: ODRS.

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	Becky B.: No updates. Still need two nurses at PCHD to fulfill this strategy.
<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	Becky B.: No updates.
<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	Becky B.: No updates.

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: Born early: 180-49% Low birth weight: 66-18% Nicotine and tobacco use: 43-33%
<u>Activity 2:</u> Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	No updates. Birth data from the Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse is only available by county of residence – there is no information regarding place of birth reported through this resource.

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: PCHD and UH met to discuss closing of L and D. No births in ED. Most women are seeking prenatal care in PC. Seems that women are ok getting services here in PC and going to Ahuja for delivery-UH patients. Mindy: There are 3 offices open throughout the county. New physician at Ravenna office.
<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	Oivia: no EMS deliveries. They are being redirected to birthing hospitals.
<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	Lanika: Most recent data is 2019. Olivia will look into data warehouse 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	Olivia: Is mapping prenatal areas, including a few in Summit County.
<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: Showing a 5% increase of caseload. 1720 participants for monthly case load.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track initial birth weight and growth/ development of WIC participants	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC,	Amy:

				Portage County WIC	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Portage</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BORN EARLY</td> <td>180</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LOW BIRTH WEIGHT</td> <td>66</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> </table>	Portage			BORN EARLY	180	49%	LOW BIRTH WEIGHT	66	18%
Portage														
BORN EARLY	180	49%												
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT	66	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	Amy: Outreach events held. Had an outreach event in the office with ~100 people.									
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Amy: Breastfeeding initiation rate = 72.2% Breastfeeding Duration - 1 month = 51.8% 3 months = 37% 6 months = 25.4% 12 months = 15.2%									

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		Progress



	2023	2024	2025	Lead Person or Organization(s)	
<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	Amy: Hoping to put this in place with home visiting at PCHD.
<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: 51 referrals to CHWs to health insurance. 324 health insurance appointments held. 8.5% of patients were uninsured.
<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: No updates.
<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	Mindy: OBGYN group were not familiar with Food for Life Market. Education was provided to 16 providers on the process of referrals to Food for Life Market. Starting in 2024 they will track OB referrals separate with other referrals. Connected WIC with OBGYNs for referral process education.

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	Lanika: Have not had targeted events for pregnant women. In contact with Safer Futures. Looking at connecting with Axess Community Services.			
<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: <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">NICOTINE & TOBACCO USE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">43</td> <td style="text-align: right;">33%</td> </tr> </table>	NICOTINE & TOBACCO USE	43	33%
NICOTINE & TOBACCO USE	43	33%						
<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: Public data warehouse: % of births mom smoking. Does not include vaping or smokeless tobacco. 2020: 12% 2023: 6% Ohio Pregnant Assessment data is self-reported. Cannot get just PC data.			
<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 OBGYNs are familiar with the referral process for the tobacco program at UH.			

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	Lanika: Ravenna Schools 95% smokefree. In process of reaching out to behavioral health facilities to address high smoking areas.

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.

<u>Activity 2</u> : Assure affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County				Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services Kimberly Macphail, Job and Family Services	No updates.
<u>Activity 3</u> : Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.	X	X	X	TBD	

Reach out to Randy at Maplewood on school-based health clinic.

Perhaps expand this goal to include caregiving, including adults. Look at cost as well.

Olivia: share updated link for daycare providers state and locally. <https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/>

Priority 2 Strategy 6 Activity 3:

<i>Year</i>	<i>% Y smoked third trimester</i>	<i>% N smoked third trimester</i>
2020	11.6	88.4
2021	9.0	91.0
2022	5.7	94.3
2023	5.9	94.1

*Please note: these percentages include only tobacco cigarettes, and do not reflect the use of e-cigarettes, vape pens, or smokeless tobacco. Data source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse.

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	Karyn: From Oct-Dec 2023, 3 trainings were held. 32 staff members at Field Local Schools were trained in Anxiety Awareness, 32 at Southeast Local Schools in suicide prevention (QPR), and 26 at Kent United Church of Christ in suicide prevention (QPR). PCHD took the lead on an ODH grant for youth suicide prevention. We were eligible to apply because our deaths by suicide in youth (10-24 years of age) were high.
<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	Karyn: Townhall II launches “Recovery Friendly Workplace” program to work with employers to create a supportive environment for people in recovery. Townhall II will advise them and provide resources. MHRB planning for March 2024 workshop with Portage Development Board to outreach to employers.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Host “townhalls” in community centers on mental	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director,	Karyn: No updates.

health issues to reach key community groups.				Mental Health & Recovery Board 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	Karyn: No update last quarter. Lanika: KCHD will be holding a class in the spring-February 1 st -March 21 st .
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide mental health resources for individuals going through divorce.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Childrens Advantage is planning to start groups for children and families of divorce in 2024.

<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	MHRB developed a presentation on financial stress and presented it at the Portage Financial Wellness Fair in Nov 2023
<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	<p>Karyn: Held International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day event on November 18th at Coleman Health Services.</p> <p>Kelly's Grief held a suicide loss group in 2023 for 4 participants.</p> <p>Alysa: Kelly's Grief held an event for loss-Hope for the Holiday's.</p> <p>Need to invite Kelly's Grief to the table for the CHIP.</p>

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	Karyn: Townhall II answered 108 calls through 988 crisis line between Oct 1 - Dec 31. Safety forces were needed 4 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: Epi Center is going through a hiccup, Lack of data available.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Evaluate Coroner's Data Report (Annually)	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Olivia: Trending downward. 27 suicide deaths for 2023, some pending for final numbers.
<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	Karyn: Townhall II is collecting ACEs data. Children's Advantage will begin and go back through 2023 records. F&CS will wait until new Electronic Health Record system is in place. Hannah (SOAR): Would like to help with the ACEs scores and data collection process.

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	No updates. AI: Reach older adults would be home health agencies, hospice agencies, home health aids.
<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	Karyn: Working on compiling lists of primary care offices who are willing to utilize resources for gun safety and suicide prevention information.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Reach sportsmen with gun locks and suicide prevention materials	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Karyn: Sportsmen Dinner is being held in January. They will be attending that event. Law enforcement agencies are still offering free gun locks.

			Mindy Gusz, Community 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> 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	Karyn: Townhall II launches “Recovery Friendly Workplace” program to work with employers to create a supportive environment for people in recovery. Townhall II will advise them and provide resources. MHRB planning for March 2024 workshop with Portage Development Board to outreach to employers.
<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	Completed in last quarter.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop and implement marketing campaign to raise awareness about adult excessive drinking and risky behaviors.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Karyn: Running Drink Less, Be Your Best campaign. Planning to create a new campaign to promote MAT treatment for alcohol use disorder.

				Substance Abuse Coalition	
<u>Activity 4:</u> Research and identify funding that would support programs focused on alcohol awareness for adults.	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Karyn: Identified a program “Minimize Risk Maximize Life” a low-risk drinking course for adults that is being used in Ohio. Need to research. Many dry January campaigns going on this month.

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		
<u>Activity 1:</u> Monitor and track NARCAN use by EMS and Law Enforcement	X	X	X	Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board – CITI Dashboard Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District & University	Olivia: EMS in PC reports 56 doses of Narcan administered. Coming down on use each year.

				Hospitals Portage for EMS Database Substance Abuse Coalition	
<u>Activity 2:</u> Project DAWN Narcan distribution	X	X	X	Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District	<p>PCHD distributed 132 kits through one-on-one appointments at PCHD via curbside and in person and through community partnerships through the Train-the-Trainer program. PCHD provided Project DAWN education and/or Project DAWN kits in a variety of settings including: Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities staff, KSU CPS staff persons, Coroner's office, the Portage County Substance Abuse and Mental Health Conference, and a student group at NEOMED.</p> <p>Started mail order program and gave out 12 kits so far.</p> <p>Five reversals communicated by community people.</p> <p>13 kits to Law Enforcement. 1 death reported from KC PD.</p> <p>Many agencies are able to get Narcan from other sources, outside of PCHD.</p> <p><i>Mindy: UH Portage ED is now offering Project DAWN-not PCHD's program. Would like to offer community education programs in the community-in partnership with UH, PCHD, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Al: Naloxbox's- requirements for the boxes have declined. Narcan in AED units. How do we make sure the boxes are filled and not expired?</i></p> <p><i>Olivia: Overdose deaths in PCH this year-looking for clusters for placement of Naloxbox's. More to come.</i></p>

Activity 3: Continued overdose death review	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Karyn: Overdose Workgroup met in November. Planning to target overdose hotspots with naloxone information and looking to reach family members.
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CHNA Priority 3: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction					
Strategy 7: Provide access to support resources and raise awareness of the risks of tobacco, smoking, and vaping.					
Goal: Decrease use of tobacco, smoking, and vaping in Portage County.					
Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase awareness of and participation in the Ohio Quit Line by 5%					
Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Progress
	2023	2024	2025		
Activity 1: Increase the awareness of the Ohio Tobacco Quitline	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Lanika: One cessation outreach campaign- Open United Recovery. More to come next quarter. PC Cessation Resource Guide.
Activity 2: Increase awareness of other cessation programs/ resources in Portage County	X	X	X	Jalessa Caples, Accreditation Coordinator, Kent City Health Department	Lanika: Working on outreach to provide tobacco cessation with behavioral health services. Hoping to have higher numbers of cessation services completed in the future.

<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Increase referrals by primary care to smoking cessation services within University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>Mindy: 30 referrals</p>
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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	Cowen: Attended a Citizens Circle meeting last month. Good program for his clients.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Research sustainable funding for recovery organizations	X	X	X	OUR Place John Garrity, Executive Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	No updates.
<u>Activity 3:</u> Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic	X	X	X	AxessPointe	Karen: Planning meetings with key stakeholders (KCHD, MHRB, etc.) are ongoing. They visited another clinic.

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	Cowen: Plan is to start harm reduction in the clinic first. Saw 11 patients using the mobile clinic at PARC for services. Van is being used primarily for Head Start dental services.
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Karyn: Educated about mobile crisis (and other Coleman Crisis services) & 988 at the Portage Substance Abuse & Mental Health conference and at the November Stepping Up meeting. Youth mobile and adult community referrals for mental health outreach with Coleman are active; 51 for youth, 59 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	Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District	Completed for year 1 last quarter. No updates this quarter. Al: AxessPointe Family Services and Hope Town has mobile services up and running. Becky: JFS has a transportation committee working on a strategic plan to address transportation needs.

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	Karyn: MHRB & Coleman are making adjustments to the design of the building, still planning 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	Karyn: A brainstorming meeting on workforce was held in the fall 2023 with mental health & developmental disabilities employers. The group will meet again and invite representatives from universities to discuss internships needs. Discussion was also had around exposing students in middle and high school to helping careers.
<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	Karyn: UH Portage ED staff, Coleman, police, and MHRB staff met to discuss system issues and scheduled meetings for 2024. Stepping Up committee and workgroups met in November. The goal of this group is to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jail by gathering stakeholders to work on local issues.

Priority 3 Strategy 3 Activity 3:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of deaths reported as suicides via firearm or other means</i>
2018	31
2019	23
2020	26
2021	24

2022	29
2023	23

*Please note: the data source states the following: “Ohio Resident deaths include individuals that resided in Ohio at the time of death regardless of where the death occurred.” This indicates the estimates may be for Portage County residents as opposed to summarizing deaths that occurred within Portage County. Data source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse.

Priority 3 Strategy 6 Activity 1:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>	<i>Q3</i>	<i>Q4</i>	<i>Total</i>
2021	96	114	128	100	438
2022	99	81	118	82	380
2023	75	74	75	56	280

*Please note: that data in this table reflect the number of doses of naloxone administered by EMS companies in Portage County with 85% of EMS providers reporting. Data source: Ohio EMS naloxone watch webpage.

Priority 3 Strategy 6 Activity 3:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Death rate per 100,000</i>
2015	36	22.1
2016	46	28.3
2017	39	24.0



2018	28	17.2
2019	32	19.7
2020	35	21.5
2021	45	27.7
2022	38	23.4
2023	23	14.1

*Please note: the data source states the following: “Ohio Resident deaths include individuals that resided in Ohio at the time of death regardless of where the death occurred.” This indicates the estimates may be for Portage County residents as opposed to summarizing deaths that occurred within Portage County. Data source: Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse.