



University Hospitals

UH Portage Medical Center
Portage County, Ohio

2023-2025
Community Health
Implementation
Strategy



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Adoption by the Board

University Hospitals adopted the UH Portage Medical Center Community Health Implementation Strategy on March 21, 2023.

Community Health Implementation Strategy Availability

The Implementation Strategy can be found on University Hospitals' website at www.UHhospitals.org/CHNA-IS or a hard copy can be mailed upon request at CommunityBenefit@UHhospitals.org.

Written Comments


Individuals are encouraged to submit written comments, questions or other feedback about the UH Portage Medical Center Implementation Strategy to CommunityBenefit@UHhospitals.org. Please make sure to include the name of the UH facility that you are commenting about and, if possible, a reference to the appropriate section within the Implementation Strategy.



Introduction

In 2022, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center conducted a joint community health needs assessment (a “CHNA”) with the Portage County Health Department and the associated Portage County Community Health Partners. The CHNA was compliant with the requirements of Treas. Reg. §1.501(r) (“Section 501(r)”) and Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”) 3701.981. The 2022 CHNA serves as the foundation for developing an Implementation Strategy (“IS”) to address those needs that, (a) UH Portage determined they are able to meet in whole or in part; (b) are otherwise part of UH’s mission; and (c) are not met (or are not adequately met) by other programs and services in the county. This IS identifies the means through which UH Portage plans to address a number of the needs that are consistent with the hospital’s charitable mission as part of its community benefit programs. Likewise, UH Portage is addressing some of these needs simply by providing care to all, regardless of ability to pay, every day. UH Portage anticipates that the strategies may change and therefore, a flexible approach is best suited for the development of its response to the 2022 CHNA. For example, certain community health needs may become more pronounced and require changes to the initiatives identified by UH Portage in the IS. More specifically, since this IS was done in conjunction with the 2022 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (Appendix A), other community organizations will be addressing certain needs.




In addition, UH Portage worked together to align both its CHNA and IS with state plans. Ohio state law (ORC 3701.981) mandates that all hospitals must collaborate with their local health departments on community health assessments (a “CHA”) and community health improvement plans (a “CHIP”). Additionally, local hospitals must align with the Ohio State Health Assessment (an “SHA”) and Ohio State Health Improvement Plan (an “SHIP”). This requires alignment of the CHNA and IS process timeline, indicators, and strategies. This local alignment must take place by October 2020.


NOTE: This symbol  will be used throughout the report when a priority, indicator, or strategy directly aligns with the 2020-2022 SHIP.

This aligned approach has resulted in less duplication, increased collaboration and sharing of resources. This report serves as the 2023-2025 UH Portage Medical Center Community Health Implementation Strategy which aligns with the 2022 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan and meets the state of Ohio’s October 1, 2020 deadline. This IS meets all the requirements set forth in Section 501(r).

The Portage County Health Department, on behalf of the Portage County Community Health Assessment Committee (includes UH Portage Medical Center), hired Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (“HCI”) to conduct the community health planning process which yielded the strategies outlined in this report as well as the aligned Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (“CHIP”). This report more clearly delineates the commitments made by UH Portage Medical Center.

UH Portage is working with other partners in Portage County to address the following priorities which were identified in the 2022 UH Portage CHNA:

1. Mental Health, Substance Use and Addiction 
2. Chronic Disease 
3. Maternal, Infant, and Child Health (renamed Family, Pregnancy, Infant and Child Health) 



Additionally, UH Portage Medical Center will work collaboratively with other partners to address Healthcare System and Access, Social Determinants of Health, and Health Equity which were identified as a cross-cutting factors undergirding all three priorities.

Hospital Mission Statement

As a wholly owned subsidiary of University Hospitals, UH Portage Medical Center is committed to supporting the UH mission, “To Heal. To Teach. To Discover.” (the “Mission”), by providing a wide range of community benefits including clinical services, medical education and research. UH is an integrated delivery system and thus can provide benefits by coordinating within and among various entities (“UH System”).

Community Served by the Hospital

The community has been defined as Portage County. In 2021, most (81%) of University Hospitals Portage Medical Center’s discharges were residents of Portage County. In addition, University Hospitals collaborates with multiple stakeholders, most of which provide services at the county level. In looking at the community population served by the hospital facilities and Portage County as a whole, it was clear that all of the facilities and partnering organizations involved in the collaborative assessment define their community to be the same. Defining the community as such also allows the hospitals to more readily collaborate with public health partners for both Community Health Assessments and health improvement planning.

Alignment with Local and State Standards

Community Partners

The IS was done in collaboration with various agencies and service-providers within Portage County. In 2022, the Portage County Community Health Assessment Committee reviewed many data sources concerning the health and social challenges that Portage County residents are facing. They determined priority issues which, if addressed, could improve future outcomes; determined gaps in current programming and policies; examined best practices and solutions; and determined specific strategies to address identified priority issues.



Portage County Community Health Partners:

- Akron Children's Hospital
- Akron Food Bank
- AxxessPointe Community Health Center
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Advantage
- Coleman Health Services
- Coleman Pregnancy Center
- Coleman Professional Services
- Community Action Council
- Community AIDS Network Akron Pride Initiative
- Early Health Start/Head Start
- Family and Children First Council
- Family and Community Services
- Haymaker Farmers Market
- Help Me Grow
- Hiram College
- Job and Family Services
- Kent City Board of Health
- Kent City Health Department Kent State Child Development Center
- Kent State University College of Public Health and The Center for Public Policy and Health
- Kent State University Health Services
- Maplewood Career Center
- Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County
- NAMI
- Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)
- NEOMED Student-Run Free Clinic
- OhioCAN
- Ohio State University Extension Office
- Ohio Quit Line
- Ohio Means Jobs
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- OUR Place
- Planned Parenthood
- Portage County Board of Health
- Portage County Children's Services
- Portage County Combined General Health District
- Portage County Job & Family Services
- Portage County Regional Transit Authority
- Portage County Safe Communities Coalition
- Portage County School Districts
- Portage County Treasurer's Office
- Portage County WIC
- Portage Learning Centers
- Portage Senior Center
- Portage Fatherhood Initiative
- Portage Park District
- Portage Substance Abuse Community Coalition
- Sequoia Wellness
- Streetsboro Police Department
- Suicide Prevention Coalition of Portage County
- The Haven
- Townhall II
- University Hospitals Portage Medical Center
- United Way of Portage County

The community health improvement process was facilitated by Ashley Wendt, Director of Public Health Consulting, from Conduent Healthy Communities Institute.

Priority Health Needs




Reminder: This symbol  will be used throughout the report when a priority, indicator, or strategy directly aligns with the 2020-2022 SHIP.

Priorities:

1. Mental health, substance use and addiction 
2. Chronic Disease (including obesity) 
3. Maternal, infant and child health (renamed Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health) 

Cross-Cutting Factors:

The Ohio SHIP contains strategies that are referred to as cross-cutting. This means that cross-cutting strategies have an impact on all selected priority areas. Certain priorities identified in the 2022 CHNA also fit within the following cross-cutting areas:

1. Healthcare system and access 
2. Social determinants of health 
3. Health equity 

Significant Health Needs Not Being Addressed by the Hospital

UH Portage Medical Center is implementing strategies in collaboration with other partners in Portage County for all three priorities identified in the 2022 CHNA. However, the following strategies will not be directly addressed by UH Portage Medical Center as part of its Implementation Strategy because other county partners have agreed to take the lead based on their core expertise, prior experience and/or availability of existing resources (see full list of Portage County's strategies in Appendix A). Additionally, some strategies are not included in this IS because they do not meet the IRS definition of a non-profit hospital "community benefit" but are still addressed by the UH System. More specifically, they are required or expected of all hospitals based on licensure or accreditation, are a routine standard of clinical care or primarily benefit the organization rather than the community. Community outreach staff from UH Portage Medical Center remain engaged as thought-leaders on all the strategies as needed.

Chronic Disease

- Establish baselines and provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers and community members

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health (renamed Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health)

- Home visiting programs that begin prenatally
- Tracking prenatal care visits and deliveries in Portage County
- Increase WIC participation
- Address the need for affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County



Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction

- Raise awareness of loss support groups and connect to resources for “traditional” loss and for all loss
- Identify and evaluate data available for suicide deaths and suicide attempts in Portage County
- Engage faith communities and other local groups to provide programming and support throughout Portage County
- Remove barriers to mental health and addiction services
- Address the needs of individuals in crisis

Strategies

Strategies to Address Health Needs

The strategies listed on the following pages are done in alignment with the Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (Appendix A). They reflect the specific tactics that UH Portage Medical Center will implement to address the identified priorities and achieve the anticipated county level outcomes.



University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Chronic Conditions 

Strategy 1: 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, hypertension, and BMI screenings in Portage County.

Action Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Educate and screen the community on obesity risk factors and prevention which include hypertension, BMI, and pre-diabetes screenings (*track number of screenings and number of successful referrals/services received*)
- Work with the Portage County Health District CHW program to implement screening opportunities for obesity risk factors and food insecurity with CHW (*track number of screenings and number of successful referrals/services received*)
- Provide community education on nutrition and physical activity (*track number of participants*)

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Decrease the percentage of Portage County adults age 20+ who are obese (Baseline: 31.8%, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Adults age 20+ who are obese (Baseline: 31.8%, 2022 CHNA)

Collaboration and Partnerships: ACESSPointe, Portage County Health District, Portage Parks District

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Chronic Conditions 

Strategy 2: Increase access to 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.

Action Steps:

Years 1-3:

- 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 (*track number of participants*)
- Participate in and increase awareness in the Power of the Produce kids program – a kids club at Haymaker Farm market (the largest farm market in Portage County) that teaches children under 12 about healthy eating and provides a direct benefit to them to try fresh fruit and vegetables at market (*track number of participants*)
- Participate and increase awareness in the Senior Nutrition Program vouchers – The Senior Nutrition Program is administered by the Portage County Senior Center, who distributes packets of \$5 vouchers to area senior citizens, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Haymaker Farmers’ Market (*track number of participants*)

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Decrease percentage of adults who frequently use quick service restaurants in the past 30 days (Baseline: 41.3%, 2022 CHNA)
- Increase Food Environment Index value (Baseline: 7.7, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Percentage of adults who frequently use quick service restaurants in the past 30 days (Healthy NEO Website)
- Food Environment Index value (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: Haymaker Farmers Market in Kent, Portage Senior Center, Kent City Health Department, WIC, Let’s Grow Together Coalition

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Chronic Conditions 

Strategy 3: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings and resource referrals.

Goal: Increase food security in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, continue and expand SDOH screenings and referrals in Portage County.

Action Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Continue and expand provider education on food insecurity, its impact on health and the importance of screening and referral to the University Hospitals Food for Life Market (*track number of people served and pounds of food provided*)
- Provide education and food security resources at Portage County Food Banks/Pantries prioritizing the zip codes of 44288, 44411, and 44266 (*track number of 211 calls requesting food resources by zip code; track monthly pantry order number and number of hot meals served*)
- Continue to partner and participate with the Ravenna School Raven Pack program (*track number of children served*)
- 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 (*track number of gardens and number of volunteer hours*)

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Reduce food insecurity rate (Baseline: 12.7%, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Food insecurity rate (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: Northeast Ohio Medical University, United Way, Akron Food Bank, Ravenna Schools, Ohio State University Extension Office, Kent City Health Department

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Family, Pregnancy, Infant and Child Health (FPICH) 

Strategy 1: Implement early urgent maternal warning signs education program within Portage County and implement reproductive health and wellness interventions.

Goal: Improve pregnancy and birth outcomes and increase sustainability of reproductive health and wellness services.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase knowledge of healthy pregnancy and postpartum, as well as reproductive health and wellness through education and outreach.

Action Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Provide community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy by hosting and participating in events (*track number of outreach and education events and number of attendees*)
- Partner and collaborate with community organizations to provide educational resources along with navigation on where to access reproductive health and wellness care

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Reduce infant mortality rate (Baseline: 9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, 2022 CHNA)
- Increase percent of mothers who receive early prenatal care (Baseline: 75.9%, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Infant mortality rate (Healthy NEO Website)
- Percent of mothers who receive early prenatal care (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: OBGYNs, healthcare providers, WIC clients, Help Me Grow

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Family, Pregnancy, Infant and Child Health (FPICH) 

Strategy 2: 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 Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Provide community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy by hosting and participating in events (*track number of outreach and education events and number of attendees*)
- Partner and collaborate with community organizations to provide educational resources along with navigation on where to access reproductive health and wellness care

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Reduce infant mortality rate (Baseline: 9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, 2022 CHNA)
- Increase percent of mothers who receive early prenatal care (Baseline: 75.9%, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Infant mortality rate (Healthy NEO Website)
- Percent of mothers who receive early prenatal care (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: Coleman Pregnancy, WIC, OBGYNs, Early Head Start, Job and Family Services Health Check Program, Help Me Grow, Catholic Charities, Kent City Health Department

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction 

Strategy 1: Provide community-based activities and trainings to raise awareness of mental health, substance use, and addiction.

Goal: Decrease suicide-related deaths in Portage County; decrease substance use in Portage County.

Objective: By December 31, 2025, increase the number of prediabetes, hypertension, and BMI screenings in Portage County.

Action Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Host employer roundtables to learn their struggles with employees on mental health and addiction issues (*track number of employers hosting roundtables and where next steps are identified*)
- Host town halls in community centers on mental health issues to reach key community groups (*track number of town halls hosted and number of attendees at town halls*)

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Reduce percent of adults ever diagnosed with depression (Baseline: 22.3%, 2022 CHNA)
- Reduce age-adjusted death rate due to suicide (Baseline: 15.9 deaths per 100,000 population, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Percent of adults ever diagnosed with depression (Healthy NEO Website)
- Age-adjusted death rate due to suicide (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction 

Strategy 2: 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 Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Equip primary care offices with gun safety and suicide prevention information to distribute to at risk for suicide (*track number of primary care offices provided gun safety and suicide prevention information*)
- Reach sportsmen with gun locks and suicide prevention materials (*track number of events where suicide prevention materials and gun locks are provided*)

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Reduce age-adjusted death rate due to suicide (Baseline: 15.9 deaths per 100,000 population, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Age-adjusted death rate due to suicide (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, Suicide Prevention Coalition

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center

CHNA Priority: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction 

Strategy 3: 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 Steps:

Years 1-3:

- Increase referrals by primary care to smoking cessation services within University Hospitals Portage Medical Center (*track number of UH Portage Primary Care referrals for smoking cessation*)
- Sustain referral process with existing primary care physicians as integration to Epic occurs
- Provide education to new primary care physicians about the UH smoking cessation services

***Anticipated measurable outcome(s):**

- Reduce percent of adults who smoke (Baseline: 21.4%, 2022 CHNA)
- Reduce percent of adults who used electronic cigarettes in the past 30 days (Baseline: 4.6%, 2022 CHNA)
- Reduce percent of adults who use smokeless tobacco in the past 30 days (Baseline: 2.7%, 2022 CHNA)

Indicator(s) used to measure progress:

- Percent of adults who smoke (Healthy NEO Website)
- Percent of adults who used electronic cigarettes in the past 30 days (Healthy NEO Website)
- Percent of percent of adults who use smokeless tobacco in the past 30 days (Healthy NEO Website)

Collaboration and Partnerships: Kent City Health Department, Ohio Quit Line, Portage County Health Department

*Outcomes are based on a variety of tactics occurring among the Portage County Community Health partners to achieve the anticipated results at the county level.



Community Collaborators

This IS was commissioned by University Hospitals in collaboration with the 2023-2025 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan process and the associated county partners; see Community Health Assessment Committee listed on page 5 of this report.

Qualifications of Consulting Company

PCCGHD and University Hospitals Portage Medical Center commissioned Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (HCI) to support report development of Portage County's 2022 CHA and CHIP. HCI works with clients across the nation to drive community health outcomes by assessing needs, developing focused strategies, identifying appropriate intervention programs, establishing monitoring systems, and implementing performance evaluation processes. To learn more about Conduent Healthy Communities Institute, please visit <https://www.conduent.com/community-health/>.

Contact Information

For more information about the Implementation Plan, please contact:

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2023-2025 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan Strategies

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Descriptive Demographics	Ohio Disease Reporting System – ODRS	Annual Portage County Communicable Disease Report
<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, AxxessPoint, Townhall II, Planned Parenthood	Baseline data developed in Activity 1 will be used here Number of instances of education, prevention, treatment, and follow-up	Ohio Disease Reporting System – ODRS	Pilot
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Provide outreach and education on prevention, treatment, and follow-up with providers.</p>	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Baseline data developed in Activity 1 will be used here	Ohio Disease Reporting System - ODRS	Pilot
Collaborative Partners: Portage County Health District, Town Hall II, Planned Parenthood, Kent City Health Department							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Addressing access to care for communicable diseases							
Target Population(s): College and High School Students							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care							

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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 obesity risk factors and food insecurity with CHW.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Terah Omaitis, Nurse Care Manager, AxxessPointe</p>	<p>Number of screenings</p> <p>Number of successful referrals/services received</p>	<p>University Hospitals Portage and AxxessPointe Databases</p>	<p>251 screenings in 2022 by University Hospitals Portage.</p> <p>AxxessPointe-2022 data: Number 2,244 patients were screened at their PCP visit for obesity risk factors 2,244.</p>
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Increase awareness of physical activity programming with the Portage Parks and Sequoia Fitness.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Andrea Metzler, Public Engagement Manager, Portage Parks</p> <p>Jackie Woodring, Development Manager, Sequoia Fitness</p>	<p>Number of participants (quarterly)</p>		<p>Pilot program – no baseline data available.</p>
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Provide community education on nutrition, and physical activity.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p>	<p>Number of participants quarterly</p>	<p>University Hospitals Portage Database</p>	<p>580 participants provided education in 2022 by University Hospitals Portage.</p>

Collaborative Partners: University Hospitals Portage, Portage Parks, Sequoia

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Referrals to access points to care

Target Population(s): Adults, seniors

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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 and vegetables at the Market. Customers just need to show their current WIC card at the Market table.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p> <p>Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC</p>	<p>Number of participants at farm market</p> <p>Redemption percent for this market</p> <p>Portage County Residents receiving FMNP vouchers and where they were used</p>	Market is continual throughout the year	\$3,500.00 dollars were provided in 2022 to the direct to customer food assistance program WIC (FMNP). \$7600 Direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to the 2022 WIC Perks voucher program.
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Participate and increase awareness in the Power of the Produce kids program – a kids club at Haymaker Farm market (the largest farm market in Portage county) that teaches children under 12 about healthy eating and provides a direct benefit to them to try fresh fruit and vegetables at market. \$2.00 tokens are provided to each kid for fruit and vegetable purchases.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm market in Kent</p>	<p>Participation numbers including ZIP codes.</p> <p>2022 baseline numbers from Andrew</p>	Power of Produce Kids Program Database	<p>New program for University Hospitals to participate in</p> <p>\$2,670.00 direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to kids to purchase fruits and vegetables at the 2022 market.</p>



Programs/Activities:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<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 and 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>	X	X	X	Andrew Rome, Manager of Haymaker Farm Market in Kent	Participation numbers including zip codes 2022 baseline numbers from Andrew	Produce Perks Midwest Database Market is throughout the year	\$25,170.00 direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to increase fruit and vegetable consumption in 2022.
<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 distributes packets of \$5 vouchers to area senior citizens, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Haymaker Farmers' Market.</p>	X	X	X	Jodie Neu, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center		Senior Nutrition Program Database	In 2022, \$5,615.00 direct to customer food assistance dollars were provided to seniors.
Collaborative Partners: Haymaker Farmers' Market in Kent, University Hospitals Portage, Portage Senior Center, Kent City Health Department							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Equity and access							
Target Population(s): WIC, children, seniors, SNAP beneficiaries							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease and Community Conditions							

CHNA Priority 1: Chronic Disease

Strategy 4: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings and referrals in Portage County.

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<p><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.</p>	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University	Number of patients seen quarterly at the market by PCP referral		On average, 107 patients and 234 individuals per month were positively impacted with being provided groceries through the University Hospitals Portage Food for Life Market in 2022. In 2022, 48,000 pounds of food was provided to the community through the University Hospitals Portage Food for Life Market.
<p><u>Activity 2:</u> Continue to screen patients for insecurities at AxxessPointe.</p>	X	X	X	Terah Omais, Nurse Care Manager, AxxessPointe	Number of patients screened	AxxessPointe EMR	1,663 patients were screened for food insecurity at PCP visit.
<p><u>Activity 3:</u> Implement a Social Determinant of Health Screening Tool that includes food insecurity.</p>	X	X	X	Janet Raber, Clinic Manager, Northeast Ohio Medical University Soar Clinic	Number of referrals made for those testing positive for food insecurity Number of resources provided based on ZIP code		Data collection from Northeast Ohio Medical University on hold because of a MLA of Northeast Ohio Medical University staff.



Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 4: Provide education and food security resources at Portage County Food Banks/Pantries prioritizing the ZIP codes of 44288, 44411, 44266.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Maureen Gebhardt, Community Impact and Volunteers, United Way (partner for identification of resources/data reporting)	Number of 211 calls requesting food resources by ZIP code Monthly pantry orders numbers and hot meals served	United Way 211 Database	Pilot Number of 211 calls in 2022 requesting food resources were 62/month Call by ZIP code: 44288: 6 44411: 6 44266: 95 44201: 331 44240: 103 There were 517 monthly pantry orders and 1,526 hot meals served through the Center of Hope in Ravenna.
Activity 5: Continue to partner and participate with the Ravenna School Raven Pack program. Over 75% of the students in the Ravenna School District meet the federal free/reduced lunch income requirements. Raven Packs were established as a community wide initiative to address food insecurity in the Ravenna School district. A Raven Pack has assorted food items to provide the recipient food when away from school.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Laura Wunderle, Ravenna teacher and program coordinator of the Raven pack program	Expand participation further into the middle and high school levels. Currently the program serves preK-5th graders in the Ravenna School District as well as the Education Alternatives program.	Currently packing and distributing Raven Packs every other week during the school year and are serving 458 students with each packing.	Packing and distributing Raven Packs every other week during the school year with approximately 458 students receiving packs at each packing.

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<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>	X	X	X	<p>Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center</p> <p>Cindy Widluck, Community Public Health Outreach and Development College of Public Health, Kent State University and Let's Grow Together Coalition, director</p>	<p>Number of gardens</p> <p>Number of volunteer hours</p>	<p>Program Database</p>	<p>Baseline and metrics for University Hospitals: 4 gardens in 2022.</p> <p>Pilot program to track garden volunteer hours.</p>
<p>Collaborative Partners: Northeast Ohio Medical University, University Hospitals Portage, United Way, Akron Food Bank, Ravenna Schools, Ohio State University extension office, Kent City Health Department</p>							
<p>Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Addressing equity in food access</p>							
<p>Target Population(s): Individuals/families experiencing food insecurity, Ravenna School children; prioritizing Zip Codes 44288, 44411, 44266</p>							
<p>Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Chronic Disease and Community Conditions</p>							



CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Establish and implement CHW program at Portage County Health District.	X	X	X	Rosemary Ferraro, Director of Nursing, Portage County Health District	Number of CHWs trained Number of CHWs certified	Portage County Health District	Pilot
Activity 2: 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	Number of screenings Number of successful referrals/services received	Portage County Health District	Pilot
Activity 3: 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	Results of home visiting assessment survey	CHW home visiting assessment survey	Pilot
Collaborative Partners: Kent State University, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Targeting top SVI areas, Families with highest need in targeted areas of Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna							
Target Population(s): Communities of Windham, Garrettsville, Ravenna in the designated SVI areas in Portage County							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Access to Care							



CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: 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	Number of individuals who receive education by race/ethnic breakdown	WIC report	Quarterly
Activity 2: Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Number of outreach and education events Number of attendees	University Hospitals Score Card	Quarterly

Collaborative Partners: OBGYNs, healthcare providers, WIC clients, Help Me Grow

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Empowering pregnant individuals to be able to advocate for their health care needs

Target Population(s): Individuals at risk for hypertension in pregnancy and their partners

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Health Behaviors

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Number of ER deliveries in Portage County	Electronic Medical Records	Pilot
<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 Hospitals Portage for EMS Database	Number of EMS transport deliveries	EMS Database	Pilot
<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 Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District (back up)	Average distance traveled to delivery location	State Data Warehouse (Vitalstats)	Average year-to-year comparison
<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	Number and geography of providers providing prenatal care	March of Dimes Maternity Care Desert Report	Average year-to-year comparison



Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<u>Activity 5:</u> Develop and maintain resource of prenatal care and delivery options for Portage County residents.	X	X	X	United Way	Development of Resource Annual update to Portage County prenatal and delivery resource	Portage County prenatal and delivery resource.	Development of Portage County prenatal and delivery resource.
Collaborative Partners: Kent City Health Department, Portage County Health District, University Hospitals Portage, Portage County EMS							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Understanding changes in Obstetric Access to Services in Portage							
Target Population(s): Persons of childbearing age in Portage County and providers							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Access to Care							

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<u>Activity 1:</u> Increase enrollment in WIC program.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	WIC case load (number of women, infants, and children receiving nutrition/breastfeeding education and support)	WIC certification system	Quarterly/Annual Caseload
<u>Activity 2:</u> Track initial birth weight and growth/ development of WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Number of infants certified as low birth weight	WIC certification system	Quarterly

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<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	WIC case load (number of women, infants, and children receiving nutrition/breastfeeding education and support)	WIC outreach report	Quarterly
<u>Activity 4:</u> Track breastfeeding rates of mom WIC participants.	X	X	X	Amy Cooper, Director of WIC, Portage County WIC	Percent of WIC infants breastfeeding	Breastfeeding initiation reports	Quarterly
Collaborative Partners: Portage County Health District, Head Start/Early Head Start, OBGYNs, pediatricians, Help Me Grow, Coleman Pregnancy, Catholic Charities, all agencies who serve the underserved							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Targeting top SVI areas, Families with highest need in targeted areas of Windham, Garrettsville, and Ravenna							
Target Population(s): Low Socioeconomic Status							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Health Behaviors							

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)							
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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Number of postpartum individuals receiving reproductive health education	CHW Assessment Portage County Health District	WIC Certification Database

Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 2: Provide referrals and resources to individuals with health insurance to ensure reproductive health care access.	X	X	X	Cowen Stevens, Community Health Worker, AxxessPointe Job and Family Services	Number of individuals enrolled/process applications for Medicaid Number of referrals from navigation/ CHWs	AxxessPointe Job and Family Services database	Baseline TBD
Activity 3: 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, AxxessPointe Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services	Number of individuals enrolled/process applications for Medicaid Number of referrals from navigation/ CHWs	AxxessPointe Job and Family Services database	Baseline TBD
Activity 4: Community outreach and education on healthy pregnancy and family planning.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Number outreach and education events Number of attendees	University Hospitals Score Card	Quarterly
Collaborative Partners: University Hospitals, AxxessPointe, Job and Family Services, WIC, CHW Home Visiting Program							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Low SES and Access to Care							
Target Population(s): Women and Men of Childbearing Age							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Access to Care							

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Development of Resource Guide Number of outreach Number of providers utilizing the tool	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Pilot
<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	Number of individuals certified smoking while pregnant	WIC certification system	Baseline TBD
<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	Number of individuals identified as tobacco users at delivery/trimester	Ohio Data Warehouse (Vital statistics)	Baseline TBD
<u>Activity 4:</u> Educate University Hospitals OB/GYN providers about tobacco treatment counseling resources (early 2023). Track the number of pregnant individuals referred for tobacco treatment counseling.	X	X	X	Mindy Gusz, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Number of pregnant individuals referred to the University Hospitals Tobacco Treatment counseling	Program Database	Pilot program Quarterly reporting



Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 5: 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	Number of organizations and establishments that have received outreach about policy	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Policy to be passed in June of 2023
Collaborative Partners: Coleman Pregnancy, WIC, OBGYN's, Early Head Start, Job and Family Services Health Check Program, Help Me Grow, Catholic Charities, Kent City Health Department							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Addressing Smoke-free policies and access to smoking cessation programs							
Target Population(s): Pregnant individuals							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health, Community Conditions and Health Behaviors							

CHNA Priority 2: Family, Pregnancy, Infant, and Child Health (FPICH)

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 1: Promote childcare as a field of job training.	X	X	X	Stephanie Wilfong, Early Childhood Education program, Maplewood Career Center	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
Activity 2: Assure affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County.	X	X	X	Rebecca Abbott, Administrator, Job and Family Services Kimberly Macphail, Job and Family Services	Number of inspections for Type A, Type B, Type C providers, and in-home aides Expenditure amounts for each type of facility and cost per child Number of children under each type of publicly funded providers	State Control-D report from Job and Family Services	Baseline TBD



Action Step:	Timeline			Lead Person or Organization(s)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
Activity 3: Establish and implement processes to investigate this as a community issue.	X	X	X	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Collaborative Partners: Kent State Child Development Center, Job and Family Services, Maplewood Career Center							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Understand and address the accessibility of affordable and reliable childcare in Portage County							
Target Population(s): Parents and/or guardians needing childcare services in Portage County							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Maternal, Infant, and Child Health and Community Conditions							

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024				
Activity 1: Conduct suicide prevention trainings for community and school staff.	X	X	X	Number of individuals receiving suicide prevention trainings Number of individuals trained who report utilizing training in annual survey	Mental Health & Recovery Board Kent State	500 individuals annually
Activity 2: Host employer roundtables to learn their struggles with employees on mental health and addiction issues.	X	X	X	Number of employers hosting roundtables Number of employers hosting roundtables where next steps are identified	Mental Health & Recovery Board University Hospitals	Pilot
Activity 3: Host "townhalls" in community centers on mental health issues to reach key community groups.	X	X	X	Number of townhalls hosted Number of attendees	Mental Health & Recovery Board University Hospitals	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: University Hospitals, Mental Health & Recovery Board

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services

Target Population(s): Individuals at risk for self-harm

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health and Addiction and Health Behaviors

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Number of classes Number of individuals reached Percent of knowledge increase as a result of classes on evaluation	Kent City Health Department	Pilot 2023
<u>Activity 2:</u> Provide mental health resources for individuals going through divorce.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Number of families/ individuals experiencing divorce who have been provided resources	Mental Health & Recovery Board	Pilot
<u>Activity 3:</u> Develop plan to reach individuals experiencing financial loss.	X	X	X	Luke Barker, Clinical Manager, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Plan developed	Mental Health & Recovery Board	Pilot
<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	Number of families and individuals experiencing loss who were provided resources	Mental Health & Recovery Board	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Kent City Health

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services

Target Population(s): Individuals at risk for self-harm

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors



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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Number of calls originating from Portage County Additional data to be identified after first analysis	988 Data	Launched July 2022
<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	Number of suicide attempts Demographic descriptive statistics by attempt type	EpiCenter EMS Database	Baseline TBD
<u>Activity 3:</u> Evaluate Coroner's Data Report (Annually).	X	X	X	Penny Paxton, Epidemiologist, Portage County Health District	Number of deaths due to suicide	Coroner's Report	Baseline TBD
<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	ACEs Scores	Behavioral Health Partner Agencies	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Portage County Health District, University Hospitals, Townhall II, Mental Health & Recovery Board

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services

Target Population(s): Groups/individuals at highest risk for suicide in Portage County

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Plan created	Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Pilot
<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	Number of primary care offices provided gun safety and suicide prevention information	Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Pilot
<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 Mindy Gusz, Community Outreach Nurse, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Number of events where suicide prevention materials and gunlocks are provided	Mental Health & Recovery Board Suicide Prevention Coalition	Baseline TBD
Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Suicide Prevention Coalition, University Hospitals							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to mental health support services							
Target Population(s): Gun owners in Portage County							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors							

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	2023	2024	2025				
<u>Activity 1:</u> Host employer roundtables to learn their struggles with employees on mental health and 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	Number of employers hosting roundtables Number of employers hosting roundtables where next steps are identified	Mental Health & Recovery Board University Hospitals	Pilot
<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 Number of presentations hosted with business community	Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Pilot
<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 Substance Abuse Coalition	Marketing campaign developed and launched Additional metrics to be identified		Pilot
<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	Number of grants identified/applied for	Mental Health & Recovery Board Substance Abuse Coalition	Pilot
Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Substance Abuse Coalition, University Hospitals							
Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to Substance Use and Addiction support services							
Target Population(s): Adults in Portage County who engage in excessive drinking and risky behaviors							
Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors							

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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 Hospitals Portage for EMS Database Substance Abuse Coalition	Number of doses of NARCAN administered Number of EMS/Law Enforcement responses to drug related overdoses Descriptive Demographics	CITI Dashboard EMS Database	Pilot
<u>Activity 2:</u> Project DAWN Narcan distribution.	X	X	X	Becky Lehman, Director of Health Education, Portage County Health District	Number of doses of NARCAN distributed	Project DAWN program data	2021 : 469 kits Distributed 2022: 685 Project DAWN kits distributed to community
<u>Activity 3:</u> 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	Number of overdoses Descriptive Demographics	Data Source TBD	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Mental Health & Recovery Board, Substance Abuse Coalition, Portage County Health District

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to Substance Use and Addiction support services

Target Population(s): Adults in Portage County who engage in substance misuse

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction and Health Behaviors



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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Number of monthly Ohio Tobacco Quitline callers Number of events where the OTQL (Ohio Tobacco Quit Line) information is present Number of monthly My Life My Quit Quitline interactions (calls/text/online chat) Number of events where MLMQ (monthly My Life My Quit) info present	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Baseline TBD
<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	Conduct a cessation service scan Create a resource of local cessation resource Disperse cessation resources Number of cessation resources distributed to providers Number of cessation resources distributed to community members	Tobacco Use and Cessation Grant	Baseline TBD
<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	Number of University Hospitals Portage primary care referrals for smoking cessation	Referral Tracking Database	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Kent City Health Department, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center, Ohio Quit Line

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Access to smoking cessation services

Target Population(s): Adults and youth who smoke/vape

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
<u>Activity 2:</u> Research sustainable funding for recovery organizations.	X	X	X	OUR Place John Garrity, Executive Director, Mental Health & Recovery Board	Sustainable funding stream in place by 12/31/23		
<u>Activity 3:</u> Establish at least one primary care based comprehensive harm reduction clinic.	X	X	X	AxessPointe	At least one clinic in operation by 12/31/23 in Portage County	Pilot	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: Kent City Health Department, Job and Family Services, Our Place, Mental Health & Recovery Board, AccessPointe

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Increase access to community-level behavioral health and wellness related support programs

Target Population(s): Adults and youth who need access to behavioral health and wellness related support programs

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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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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, AxxessPointe	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
<u>Activity 2:</u> Increase Mobile Crisis for mental health.	X	X	X	Bill Russell, Coleman Health Services	Pilot	Pilot	Pilot
<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	Pilot (last program ended in 2019) Expansion of transportation services and access	Key Informant Interviews: Assessing Health Equity in Portage County: Meeting People Where They Are	Pilot

Collaborative Partners: AxxessPointe, Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, Job and Family Services, Mental Health & Recovery Board, Portage County Health District

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Assure access to availability of public transportation for healthcare access, expand knowledge of transportation services to address health equity. Increase access by addressing internal policies at participating agencies to implement training of new staff to increase transportation.

Target Population(s): Adults and youth who need access to mental health and addiction services

Ohio SHIP Alignment: Addressing Mental Health & Addiction, Health Behaviors, and Access to Care

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)	Evaluation Measures	Data Source	Baseline Data/Metric
	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	Develop a project timeline and budget	Pilot	Pilot
<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	Workforce Recruitment Process in Place Number of individuals recruited	Pilot	Pilot
<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	Number of law enforcement and medical stakeholders reached	Hold a sequential intercept map meeting with stakeholders in 2023	Baseline TBD

Collaborative Partners: Coleman Health Services and Mental Health & Recovery Board

Specific Opportunities to address Policy, Equity or Access: Improve access and availability of crisis support/intervention services

Target Population(s): Individuals who crisis support/intervention services and organizations providing intervention serv

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