



2022

Annual Report



STARK  **HEALTH**
COUNTY DEPARTMENT

*Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community.*

A Message

from
the

HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Kirkland K. Norris, REHS, MPH
Health Commissioner

Calendar Year 2022 looked much more normal for our county than the two previous years. Getting back to a new normal was tremendously needed and extremely welcomed by our Stark County community. However, our front-line workers were still very stressed at times, especially with the strain on our hospitals. Resilience and perseverance became Stark County's path forward to achieving our new normal which opened the door to collaboratively improving the health of our residents. Below are a few high value projects of 2022.

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was utilized to create the Save Stark Overdose Prevention Resource Platform which serves as an inventory for prevention and treatment services. The Dear Stark Women platform was also created utilizing GIS to share resources that are available for women regarding health and wellness.
- Creation of the Stark County Suicide Fatality Review committee. The goal of the committee is to decrease the incidence of preventable suicide deaths by promoting cooperation and communication between professions, agencies or entities that are engaged in suicide prevention, education and mental health treatment.
- Continued implementation of the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. The health department, from 2016 to 2022, has secured over \$1,500,000 in funding from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for repair, replacement, or connection to sanitary sewer of failing septic systems within Stark County. This means that 135 systems are no longer polluting the waters of Stark County.

These high value projects are just a few of many that the department is responsible to implement on a daily basis.

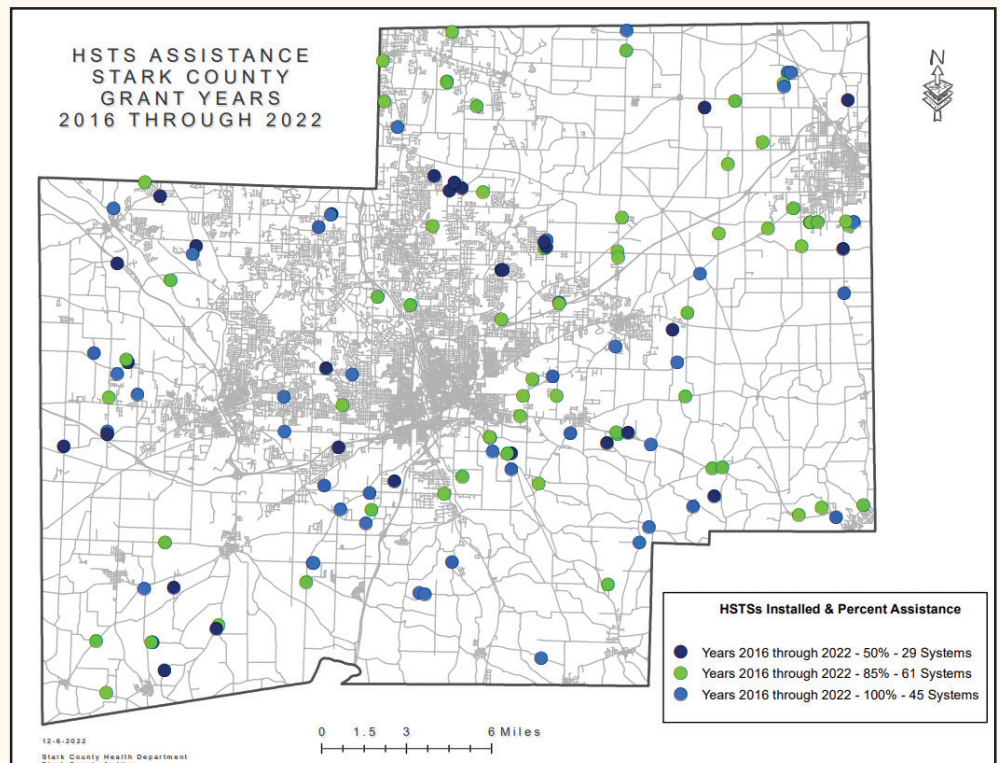
The partnership highlighted during COVID, between the department and the townships, cities, and villages was recognized by the Canton Chamber of Commerce in awarding the health department the 2022 Annual Community Salute Award. This award from the chamber recognizes the area's unsung heroes for outstanding contributions and leadership to the greater Canton community. This award encompasses all of our partners' dedication and commitment to the residents for Stark County.

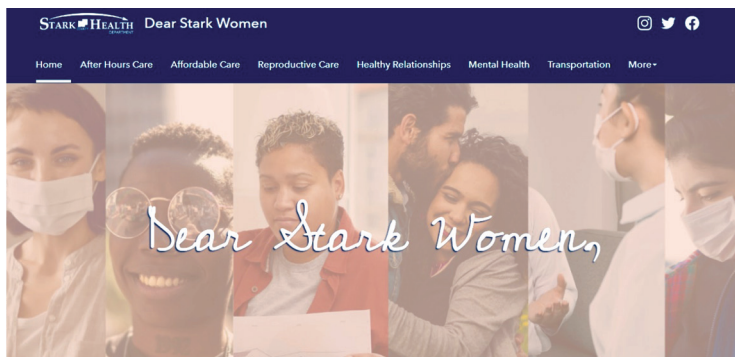
This report provides an overview of the services and programs that are implemented within our community to protect and promote public health. The report also focuses on vital partnerships and accomplishments aimed at creating a healthier Stark County.

We would also like to thank the townships, cities, and villages for your continued support of the health department. The health of our community is our number one priority. Our dedicated health department team is diligently working to ensure a healthier and safer Stark County.

On behalf of the Board of Health, our staff, Medical Director, and myself, it is with great pride that we present the Stark County Combined General Health District's 2022 Annual Report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kirkland K. Norris
Health Commissioner





DEAR STARK WOMEN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO CARE

The *Dear Stark Women* campaign and landing page launched in 2022. This was one of the strategies developed from the results of a community survey and focus group with Stark County women between the ages of 18 and 44 years old.

Dear Stark Women is an open letter to those women in the community looking for health resources. The *Dear Stark Women* landing page includes locators for the six focus areas of the campaign all based on the results of the survey and meetings with community partners. Each locator includes resources and services such as after hours care, affordable care, mental health, transportation, and other resources to assist them with their healthcare needs. The health department team has also worked with local partners to promote the campaign. Additional marketing included ads on 45 SARTA buses, announcements on Mix 94.1 and 1480 WHBC, table tents at libraries in the county, posters for provider offices, and social media ads. Visit www.starkhealth.org to view the resource page.

Through the survey and focus group, women were asked about the barriers and experiences they encountered within the healthcare system to better understand doctor-patient interactions, barriers to accessing care, and other behaviors.

The key findings of the community survey and focus group identified the following barriers and experiences:

- Cost of health care/insurance
- Inability to take time off of work
- Doctors not listening to/understanding patients
- Patients embarrassed/afraid of being judged
- Unreliable transportation
- No paid time off
- Being treated differently due to age/race/income/weight
- Way doctors/nurses/staff communicate/talk to patients/clients

The Stark County Health Department is continuing to focus on reducing barriers for women to access health care through funding from the Maternal and Child Health Grant through the Ohio Department of Health. The overall goal is to reach women with strategies that aim to reduce their barriers through alternative care options. These options will focus on improving transportation, increasing after hours care, providing a cultural/DEI training library, expanding resources on the landing page and increasing preconception education/awareness to young adults. For more information, contact Kelly Potkay at potkayk@starkhealth.org.

SERVICE DIRECTORS



Kay Conley, MPA, CHES
Administration
& Support Services Director



Paul DePasquale, REHS, MPA
Environmental Health
Services Director



Amanda Uhler, BSN, RN
Nursing Services
Director



Maureen Ahmann, DO
Medical
Director

MISSION: "Our mission is to assess, protect, promote, and improve the health of Stark County through leadership, quality service, and community partnerships."

VISION STATEMENT: "Striving towards a healthier community with public health excellence."

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2022

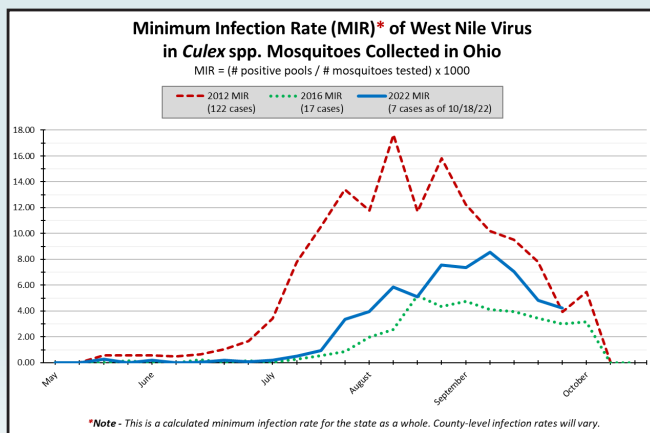
VECTORBORNE DISEASE Surveillance Summary

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Zoonotic Disease Program, in partnership with the ODH Laboratory, local health departments, and sanitary district partners, conducts statewide vectorborne disease surveillance which includes monitoring for human and veterinary cases. ODH monitors for disease transmitted by mosquitos throughout the summer and fall and reports positive results and summary statistics. In 2022, ODH tested mosquitoes for West Nile Virus (WNV) and reported the below results along with other disease activity.

As of November 17, 2022, ODH reported that 453,586 mosquitoes were tested. Of the 14,067 pooled samples, there were 946 WNV positive pools. Thirty counties accounted for the positives, with Franklin County accounting for 709 of the 946 positives. The Stark County Health Department collected 6,234 mosquitoes with two positive WNV pools reported.

Ohio had seven human cases of WNV (Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Montgomery) and 13 cases of LaCrosse Encephalitis (10 counties including one within Stark County). Cases of travel associated diseases in Ohio were 0 Zika Virus cases, 1 Chikungunya Virus case, 4 Dengue cases, and 72 cases of Malaria.

The following chart displays the WNV minimum infection rate for Years 2012, 2016 and 2022:



PHAB IMPROVES ACCREDITATION PROCESS

In 2022, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) updated the accreditation standards and measures to reflect the changing landscape of public health practice and incorporate the



updated Ten Essential Public Health Services framework. The Standards & Measures Version 2022 emphasizes health equity, streamlines processes and documentation, and reflects updated preparedness requirements based on the pandemic.

Some of the key changes of Version 2022 include:

- **Ten Domains:** instead of 12, to better align to the Ten Essential Public Health Services
- **Fewer Required Documents:** reducing documentation and clarifying requirements
- **Foundational Capabilities:** embedded to promote accountability
- **Health Equity:** emphasized in every domain
- **Preparedness Requirements:** evolved based on lessons learned during COVID-19

All health departments due to be reaccredited in 2022 were encouraged by PHAB to consider utilizing the newly updated standards and measures, still being finalized. Since the department was due to be reaccredited in June of 2022, the Department postponed their reaccreditation date to utilize the newest version of the system.

The Stark County Health Department (SCHD) was granted access to the new e-PHAB system at the end of 2022. Although the department has continually worked on the accreditation standards and measures in the last year, the required updated documentation must be completed and submitted to PHAB in the next six months. If all goes as planned, the SCHD should be reaccredited in 2023 for another five years!

STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2022 ADMIN & SUPPORT AT-A-GLANCE

- **117:** total number of Businesses that received COVID-19 safety items through the CDBG grant
- **\$343,325:** value of COVID-19 safety items provided to local businesses
- **8,966:** total number of death certificates issued
- **3,896:** total number of birth certificates issued

The HEALing Communities Study in Stark County

Drug use affects so many in the U.S. and the consequences related to drugs are vast. Each year, illicit and prescription drugs claim the lives of thousands of Americans, and in 2022, 121 (preliminary result) Stark County residents. Currently, Ohio ranks 4th in the nation for deaths per 100,000 total population¹ and Stark County ranks 54th in the State².

CDC/National Center for Health Statistics 2020 Data Deaths per 100,000 total population	
WEST VIRGINIA	81.4
KENTUCKY	49.2
DELAWARE	47.3
OHIO	47.2
TENNESSEE	45.6

Stark County has seen a steady increase of unintentional drug overdose deaths since 2018³. The community response to fight back against this epidemic is an expansive network, layering interventions and strategizing efforts to reduce the number of unintentional overdoses in our community.

As an additional response to this concern, Stark County has partnered with the HEALing Communities Study, a National Institutes of Health initiative⁴. This multiyear study partners major academic institutions with at-risk communities, aiming to combine efforts to reduce opioid deaths while implementing additional approaches on the ground within communities. This study focuses on the current strengths of the community, then directs additional resources toward those interventions that are most effective. Partnering with the HEALing Communities

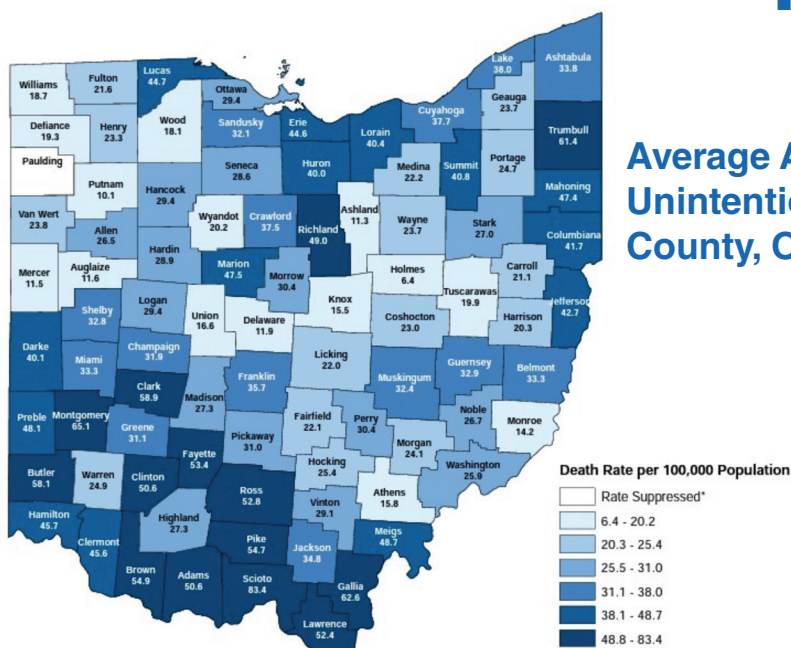
Study is allowing Stark County to do a deep dive into the existing infrastructures and partnerships, implement additional response strategies tailored just for our community, and sustain programming for the future. Stark County is part of wave two of the study that started July 1, 2022 and will run through December 2023. The overall goal is to reduce opiate related overdoses in Stark County by 40%.

The Stark County Health Department has remained active in prevention, providing resources to the community, reducing stigma, and keeping the community informed. The health department is also planning an Awareness Day event for August 12, 2023 at Centennial Plaza in Canton.

If you or someone you love are struggling, reach out for help, there are people that care.

Remember

- Never use alone
- Fentanyl test strips are available through Canton City Public Health (330.489.3231)
- Naloxone is available through health departments and 24/7 at Coleman Crisis (330.452.6000)
- Always call 911 when an overdose occurs
- Symptoms of overdose:
 - ✓ Unresponsive
 - ✓ Fingertips or lips turn blue or grey
 - ✓ Breathing is slow, shallow or has stopped
 - ✓ Person is gurgling or making snoring noises
- **Call the Opiate Hotline 330.454.HELP (4357)** for community information, education, support and connection to services anytime, day or night.
- Additional resources are available through Save Stark, linked through starkhealth.org, and the Stark Help Central website located at starkhelpcentral.com



- ¹ Drug Overdose Mortality by State, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ² 2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings, Ohio Department of Health
- ³ Stark County Health Department, Save Stark Overdose Prevention Resource Platform
- ⁴ NIH HEAL Initiative, HEALing Communities Study

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

WIC is a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). As a nutrition-based program, WIC provides our community with much more than food and nutrition education. The WIC program helps eligible pregnant women, 6 months up to 1-year postpartum women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age with a medical or nutritional risk.

WIC SERVICES INCLUDE

- Individualized Food Packages
- Nutrition Counseling
- Breastfeeding Support
- Referrals to Prenatal and Pediatric Health Care Providers
- Connection to Maternal and Child Support Services

Participating in the WIC program improves pregnancy outcomes and offers a healthy beginning in life. Receiving WIC services has been found to lessen the incidence of low birth weight infants and late fetal deaths. Low birth weight infants are at higher risk for breathing complications, brain injuries and other abnormalities. Reducing the number of low birth weight infants helps reduce infant mortality.

With a national formula shortage that began in February of 2022, the WIC program worked collaboratively with all levels of government to help WIC participants, who are already at higher risk for a poor diet, find the necessary formulas to feed their families. WIC expanded formula options while our staff worked diligently to help locate specialty formulas at participating WIC stores. The formula shortage was an unexpected challenge for families in 2022. With food prices on the rise, WIC participation is increasing as well. Stark County Health Department WIC staff were able to help 3,014 WIC participants with a total of 9,704 appointments in 2022.

How do you apply for WIC services? Initially, an appointment is scheduled for an income and nutrition assessment. Medicaid participants or families below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines are income eligible. Upon qualification, WIC participants receive a nutrition card for family members. The foods are then loaded onto the card for purchasing food at WIC approved stores. The foods provide nutrients that specifically target the WIC population and are most often lacking in low income individuals.

The following are foods that may be offered in the individualized food packages:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Beans | • Vegetables |
| • Peanut Butter | • Formula |
| • Eggs | • Baby Food |
| • Milk | • Cheese |
| • Whole Grains | • Cereal |
| • Fruits | |

Though 2022 was full of challenges for WIC families, everyone worked together to battle through obstacles as WIC services helped improve the overall health of our community. To learn more about this valuable service or enroll, call our office at 330.493.9928.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/d5ea29cca7cd4e78a31c95b454ce5bfc?item=7>
accessed 1/17/23
<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/women-infants-children/resources/wic-facts>
accessed 1/17/23

NEW GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE NEEDS

The Stark County Health Department (SCHD) secured three new grants in 2022, totaling nearly \$600,000 in funding. These grants are an expansion of services offered to the residents of Stark County and support workforce needs.

- **Community Health Worker Workforce Development Grant** – This 9-month grant is focused on the recruitment, retention and professional development of Community Health Workers (CHWs) within Stark County. The SCHD has teamed up with Access Health Stark County, Canton City Public Health and the Stark County Community Action Agency Pathways Hub to identify and provide the following for CHWs: free Certification training, development of a wellness program, support for a mentoring program, and planning of a CHW retreat. There are nearly 50 CHWs and supervisors within Stark County. This funding is opening the doors to future funding opportunities to grow and expand the CHW workforce.
- **CHW Breast & Cervical Cancer Program Grant** – This new three-year grant will provide \$35,000 a year to increase the number of under-insured African American women referred for breast and cervical cancer screenings. A CHW from the department is establishing referral processes with organizations to ensure the women are not only aware of the free service, but are also referred directly to the program. This is filling a gap in Stark County, as the majority of eligible women are unaware this program is available to them.
- **Public Health Workforce Grant** – This grant has allowed the SCHD to grow the workforce by four new staff and provide a variety of training opportunities to all employees. This funding will continue for another cycle to support workforce needs through November, 2027. The following positions were added: An additional manager for Nursing Services; two positions in Environmental Health- an additional Food Safety Registered Environmental Health Specialist and an Environmental Technician; and a newly created position of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Education Specialist.



**Tasha Catron,
BA, CHES®, CCPST**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Education Specialist

Tasha has been with the department since 2008, beginning as a Community Health Worker in the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, a clerk in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, then as a Health Educator in the Childhood Injury Prevention Program, coordinating the Safe Kids Stark County Coalition for 8 years. In 2022, she began a new role as the DEI Education Specialist. This new position is to assist in shaping and sustaining the Stark County Health Department's efforts to advance diverse, equitable and inclusive services to the community we serve and support a culture of learning for our staff.

All these positions have met criteria for addressing the department's current capacity and future needs.

2022 PROPERTY TRANSFER SUMMARY

842 property transfer septic system inspections were conducted in 2022, seeing a drop from 2021 and 2020. The 2022 property transfer program statistics are listed below, sorted by township. One may wonder why failure rates vary so drastically between townships. For example, Canton Township's failure rate is over three times that of Lake Township, despite Lake Township having far more inspections. Some of this relates to housing age, but predominate soil types also factor into the equation. Lake Township has a larger proportion of sand and gravel soils than Canton Township, allowing systems to last longer. Overall, 17% of the systems inspected were considered failing. "Failing" means that the system is causing a public health nuisance, which is defined in Ohio Revised Code 3718.011. An additional 13% of inspections found improperly discharging gray water. Each inspection is submitted to the health department for review; when the review is completed, additional information and education is provided to the buyer and seller on how to properly maintain the system to maximize its life span. All public health nuisances are required to be corrected, whether the system is failing, gray water is being improperly discharged, or both.

2022 PROPERTY TRANSFER INSPECTION BREAKDOWN

Township	Total Inspections	Septic Failure		Gray Water	
BETHLEHEM	20	2	10%	3	15%
CANTON	55	18	33%	9	16%
JACKSON	89	11	12%	4	4%
LAKE	161	15	9%	14	9%
LAWRENCE	53	9	17%	6	11%
LEXINGTON	30	10	33%	8	27%
MARLBORO	41	5	12%	7	17%
NIMISHILLEN	53	11	21%	10	19%
OSNABURG	38	6	16%	7	18%
PARIS	32	6	19%	7	22%
PERRY	36	8	22%	4	11%
PIKE	27	4	15%	7	26%
PLAIN	72	15	21%	7	10%
SANDY	11	1	9%	1	9%
SUGARCREEK	29	2	7%	2	7%
TUSCARAWAS	45	10	22%	7	16%
WASHINGTON	50	14	28%	10	20%
Totals	842	147	17%	113	13%

2013 THROUGH 2022 PROPERTY TRANSFER INSPECTIONS COMPLETED

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
836	809	857	917	967	945	922	1013	970	842

AT-A-GLANCE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- 8,201: Total number of Environmental Health Inspections
- 2,945: Total number of Food Safety Inspections

2022 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH OF RESIDENTS IN THE STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION

CAUSE	COUNT	CAUSE	COUNT
Heart Disease.....	604	Pneumonia/Pneumonitis.....	58
Cancer.....	506	Accidental Drug.....	44
COVID-19.....	216	Parkinson's Disease.....	42
Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia.....	178	Diseases of the Liver.....	37
Cerebrovascular Disease.....	130	Sepsis.....	32
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases.....	124	Suicide.....	28
Diabetes Mellitus.....	108	Nutritional Deficiencies.....	23
Accidental.....	87	*Other.....	585
Kidney Disease.....	85	TOTAL.....	2,887

*This total represents any category not listed above and cause of death not provided by ODH at the time this report was completed.

2022 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS

Microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi cause communicable diseases (also known as infectious diseases). A person can contract a communicable disease from an infected person, an infected animal, and/or another infected source such as water or food. Stark County Health Department (SCHD) communicable disease staff keeps track of the number of persons infected by different communicable diseases throughout the year. They also conduct follow-up investigations on all reported diseases by collecting demographic and clinical information, as well as exposures to potential sources of disease. By collecting this data, we are able to determine potential sources of disease, quickly implement control measures, detect trends and outbreaks, and create targeted policies and programs to protect or improve the health of the community.

This annual summary represents the 2022 communicable disease data required by Ohio law to be reported to state and local health departments. Only those communicable diseases determined to be of public health importance are reportable, therefore, this summary does not reflect all communicable disease in our community. Additionally, the summary represents only cases of disease for residents of Stark County Health Department jurisdiction, therefore, does not include disease data for the cities of Alliance, Canton, or Massillon.

1) In 2022, SCHD reported and/or investigated several communicable disease outbreaks. Among these were:

- 1 outbreak of Influenza virus (associated with a school)
- 1 outbreak of Legionella (associated with a residence)
- 1 outbreak of Respiratory syncytial virus-RSV (associated with a childcare facility)
- 1 outbreak of Unknown Gastrointestinal illness (associated with a long-term care facility)
- 3 outbreaks of Norovirus (associated with a school, long-term care facility, and restaurant)
- 54 outbreaks of COVID-19
 - ✓ All 54 outbreaks associated with long-term care facilities

Each of these outbreaks was managed utilizing the guidelines and regulations developed by the Ohio Department of Health, and in conjunction with other health departments.

2) During 2022, several reportable infectious diseases increased in the number of cases reported in the Stark County jurisdiction compared to that of 2021. These diseases are as follows:

■ Campylobacteriosis:

Stark County had 50 cases of Campylobacteriosis in 2022, compared to 38 cases in 2021. This infectious disease is caused by the bacteria *Campylobacter*, and is one of the most common diarrheal illnesses seen in the United States. Campylobacteriosis is most commonly spread through the consumption of undercooked or raw poultry or food that comes in contact with contaminated, raw poultry. Washing

continued on page 9

Reportable Infectious DISEASE SUMMARY

Stark County Health Department Jurisdiction

DISEASE	2022	2021
Amebiasis	1	0
Anaplasmosis	1	1
Babesiosis	1	0
Brucellosis	0	2
Campylobacteriosis	50	38
Chlamydia	534	616
Coccidioidomycosis	2	1
COVID-19	20,872	28,572
CP-CRE	16	16
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	3
Cryptosporidiosis	13	11
Cyclosporiasis	1	6
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-producing	9	7
Ehrlichiosis	1	0
Giardiasis	9	7
Gonorrhea	169	212
Haemophilus Influenza	7	8
Hepatitis A	3	9
Hepatitis B – Acute	1	1
Hepatitis B – Chronic	24	41
Hepatitis B – Perinatal infection	1	3
Hepatitis C – Acute	2	5
Hepatitis C – Chronic	75	93
Hepatitis E	0	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	182	11
LaCrosse Virus Disease	1	1
Legionellosis	20	19
Listeriosis	3	0
Lyme Disease	107	84
Malaria	2	0
Measles	0	0
Meningitis – Aseptic/Viral	7	7
Meningitis – Bacterial (Not N. Meningitis)	0	2
Meningococcal Disease-Meningitis	1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	2	7
Mpox	5	0
Mumps	0	0
Mycobacterium other than TB	0	0
Pertussis	0	1
Psittacosis	0	0
Q Fever	0	0
Salmonellosis	32	31
Shigellosis	11	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	1	0
Streptococcal – Group A Invasive	10	4
Streptococcal-Group B Newborn	0	0
Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)	1	0
Streptococcal-Invasive Pneumoniae	19	11
Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	3
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Varicella	3	11
Vibriosis	1	2
West Nile Virus	0	0
Yersiniosis	3	5
Zika Virus Disease	0	0

Total 22,204 29,851

*This report includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases reported 01/01/2021 – 12/31/2022

hands properly, cooking food to the appropriate temperatures, and drinking milk that is pasteurized are some of the best prevention methods to avoid getting Campylobacteriosis.

■ **Lyme Disease:**

Lyme Disease has continued to increase in Stark County in recent years with 107 cases reported in 2022, compared to 84 in 2021. In Ohio, Lyme Disease is most commonly spread by blacklegged ticks and typically has the most cases in the summer months when the nymphal ticks are most active. Infected tick bites can occur any time during the year which is why preventative measures are important. The best prevention methods include wearing long sleeved clothing or treating clothes with EPA-approved tick repellent, checking for ticks after being outdoors, quick and proper tick removal, and education on signs and symptoms of Lyme disease.

■ **Streptococcal Invasive pneumoniae:**

Stark County had 19 cases of Streptococcal invasive pneumoniae in 2022, compared to 11 cases in 2021. The bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae* causes this pneumococcal disease and is considered invasive when these bacteria invade parts of the body that typically do not have any organisms present. Pneumococcal disease is spread by coming in contact with respiratory droplets from an individual infected with the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is the best way to prevent pneumococcal disease. Additionally, antibiotics can be used as treatment for those with pneumococcal disease.

■ **Streptococcal Group A Invasive Disease:**

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) or *Streptococcus pyogenes* are the type of bacteria that cause this invasive disease. GAS is transmitted by coming in contact with secretions from an infected individual. Those with comorbidities and chronic health conditions such as heart, lung, and kidney conditions, cancers, HIV infection, and diabetes have a greater risk at developing GAS invasive disease. In 2022, Stark County had 10 reported cases of Streptococcal Group A Invasive Disease, compared to 4 cases in 2021. Effective treatment for invasive GAS disease is Penicillin, however, prevention methods can include staying up-to-date with influenza and chickenpox vaccines and washing hands often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.

■ **Shigellosis:**

There were 11 cases of Shigellosis in Stark County in 2022 compared to 1 case in 2021. Shigellosis is a bacterial disease caused by the bacteria *Shigella*. *Shigella* is commonly spread from the stool of an infected person to the mouth of another. Food can be contaminated by an infected person's soiled hands

which is why hand hygiene is important in preventing the spread of infection.

- 3) Influenza season stretches from October of one year until May of the next. Thus far in the 2022-2023 influenza season there have been 116 cases of hospitalized influenza for the Stark County health jurisdiction. In 2021, at the same time there were 8 cases reported. It should be noted that flu surveillance data may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and at this time influenza data should be interpreted with caution. The predominant strain for this season is influenza A, which is common as influenza A normally predominates in the beginning half of the season. The influenza vaccine remains the primary and most effective form of protection against the influenza viruses circulating this season. Common symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. Complications may include conditions such as bronchitis or pneumonia and may make chronic health problems, such as asthma, worse. Staying home while sick and practicing proper hand hygiene are the best ways to stay healthy this season.

4) **There were several diseases reported in 2022 that are not commonly seen within Ohio and/or the SCHD jurisdiction, and are briefly discussed below.**

- Amebiasis is a parasitic disease caused by the amoeba, *Entamoeba histolytica* and occurs more often in individuals who live in tropical climates or areas that have poor sanitation. Amebiasis is spread through ingesting water or food that is contaminated with feces that contain the *E. histolytica* cysts, or touching surfaces that are contaminated with *E. histolytica* and then touching your mouth. Approximately 10% to 20% of individuals that are infected with *E. histolytica* become ill and may have symptoms such as stomach pain/cramping and loose/watery stools. Individuals who become symptomatic typically start symptoms within 2-4 weeks after exposure. Antibiotics are used as an effective treatment for amebiasis. Proper hand hygiene can help prevent the spread of this infection by washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water after using the bathroom, after changing diapers, and before touching or preparing any food.
- Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by *Plasmodium*, a parasite. There are approximately 1,500 cases of malaria that are diagnosed each year in the United States, with majority of cases occurring in immigrants or individuals who have traveled to other parts of the world where malaria transmission occurs, such as South Asia or sub-Saharan Africa. In Ohio, there are typically 30-45 cases that are reported annually.

Malaria is most commonly spread through the bite of an infected *Anopheles* mosquito. Flu-like illness, fever, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness are the most common symptoms, however, diarrhea, nausea, and/or vomiting may also occur. Typically, individuals will experience symptoms of malaria 10 days to 4 weeks after infection. Malaria can be cured with prescription medication that will depend on the species, severity of the infection, and drug susceptibility of the parasite. Prevention methods for malaria can include prophylactic medication for travelers visiting malarious areas and travelers in malarious areas wearing clothing that covers arms and legs, wearing mosquito repellent, and sleeping under mosquito netting.

- Mpox (formerly Monkeypox) typically is a rare disease that is caused by the mpox virus. In 2022, a resurgence of this disease occurred in the United States and other areas where mpox is not usually spread person-to-person. This type of mpox is rarely fatal and majority of cases recover from this illness on their own within 2-4 weeks. Approximately one to two weeks after infection symptoms begin to appear and can include a rash that may appear like blisters or pimples and go through several stages like scabbing before healing. Additionally, other symptoms like headache, muscle ache, backache, chills, exhaustion, swollen lymph nodes, respiratory symptoms, and fever may be present. Mpox can be spread from person-to-person through close contact as soon as symptoms begin until the rash has healed and a new layer of skin has formed. Methods to prevent an individual from getting mpox can include: avoiding skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like mpox, avoiding sharing cups or eating utensils with a person with mpox, avoiding touching the rash and/or scabs of a person with mpox, and washing your hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Although there is currently no specific treatment for mpox, antiviral drugs used to treat smallpox

may be used to treat individuals with mpox. Vaccine is available and recommended for people who have been exposed to mpox and people at risk.

- Spotted fever group rickettsia (SFGR) is the most commonly reported tick-borne illness in the United States and one of the most severe tick-borne illnesses. In Ohio, the American dog tick is the primary carrier for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). SFGR is transmitted through the bite of an infected tick and in the state of Ohio, there are typically 2 to 31 cases each year. Early stage symptoms of spotted fever rickettsiosis may include nausea, body aches, vomiting, fever, and severe headache, while late stage signs may include a rash, joint pain, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. Symptoms typically appear within 3 to 14 days after an infected tick bite. SFGR can be treated with antibiotics, most commonly doxycycline. Tick bite prevention methods are recommended to reduce the risk of tick-borne illnesses and include avoiding areas where ticks are present, such as tall grass or wooded areas, wearing light colored and long sleeve clothing, wearing repellents containing 0.5% permethrin or 20-30% N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide (DEET), conducting tick checks on yourself and your pets after being outside, and carefully removing ticks as soon as possible.

The Communicable Disease Unit continues to provide information and resources to schools, healthcare facilities, and the community regarding infection prevention and control. Common topics that foster significant public interest include influenza, scabies, head lice, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), tuberculosis, enteric (intestinal) illnesses, sexually transmitted diseases, and COVID-19.

2022 NURSING AT-A-GLANCE

- Total Number of Immunizations Administered (Not COVID): **2,082**
- Number of COVID Immunizations Administered: **3,494**
- Cribs Distributed: **403**
- Nursing Services Home Visits Completed (CMH/Public Health Nurse, CHW HV): **1,049**
- Baby and Me Tobacco Free Sessions: **241**
- Naloxone Kits Distributed to First Responders: **305**
- Overdose Reversals Reported to SCHD By First Responders: **49**
- Project Dawn Kits Distributed: **66**
- Number of Active WIC Clients: **3,014**
- Total Number of Infectious Diseases Reported: **22,204**
- Reproductive Health and Wellness Visits: **643**

Tuberculosis Control Unit

Monitoring, Reporting, Assisting & Educating

Did you know that the Stark County Health Department is the Tuberculosis Control Unit for all of Stark County? The Tuberculosis (TB) Control Unit has many responsibilities:

- Maintaining the TB Registry, the file recording all active, inactive TB cases, contacts, suspect cases, and positive skin or blood tests for tuberculosis.
- Reporting all cases of TB to the Ohio Department of Health and conducting case investigations to identify potential contacts
- Providing case management of cases of TB, including assistance with chest x-rays, medical care referrals, and TB medications
- Managing and approving incentives to encourage patients to complete therapy
- Initiating the detention process if patients are not complying
- Providing directly observed therapy (DOT) for Stark County TB patients
- Providing tuberculin skin tests (TSTs) for residents of Stark County
- Acting as an educational resource for providers throughout Stark County

In March of 2022, the Communicable Disease Team participated in an educational call with the Ohio Department of Health's TB Control Unit. World TB Day, March 24th, marks the day when Dr. Robert Koch discovered the bacterium that causes TB. The Communicable Disease team used this day to improve staff education regarding TB. They developed a department wide mini education session, incorporating TB basics, prevention and the public health department's role regarding TB in our county.

In June of 2022, the Tuberculosis Control Unit of the Stark County Health Department began working with the Ohio Department of Health and local healthcare providers to help Ukrainians displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. *Uniting for Ukraine* is a process to help Ukrainian citizens who have fled Ukraine. As a part of this process, individuals entering the United States are required to be screened for tuberculosis. Ukraine is considered a TB high priority country, with 73 cases of tuberculosis per 100,000 people (European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, April 2022). Between June 10, 2022 and December 31, 2022, the TB Control Unit in Stark County assisted 37 individuals relocated from Ukraine to Stark County. These individuals

received screening and testing for TB, chest x-rays, medical visits, and medication, if needed. This care was coordinated by the TB Control Unit.

World Health Organization (WHO) Key Facts Regarding TB

- TB is spread from person to person through the air and most often affects the lungs
- Not all people who are infected will become ill or spread the disease to others
- Those with immunocompromising situations are at higher risk
- Active TB disease symptoms include cough, fever, night sweats, or weight loss and can be mild for months
- TB occurs in every part of the world, 87% of new TB cases occurred in the 30 high burden countries
- TB is curable and preventable

The Stark County Health Department offers tuberculin skin tests on Tuesdays on a walk-in basis between the hours of 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Skin tests will be read on Thursdays, 48 hours after the test was given. There is a \$15 fee.



Resources

WHO <https://www.who.int/news/item/17-06-2021-who-releases-new-global-lists-of-high-burden-countries-for-tb-hiv-associated-tb-and-drug-resistant-tb>

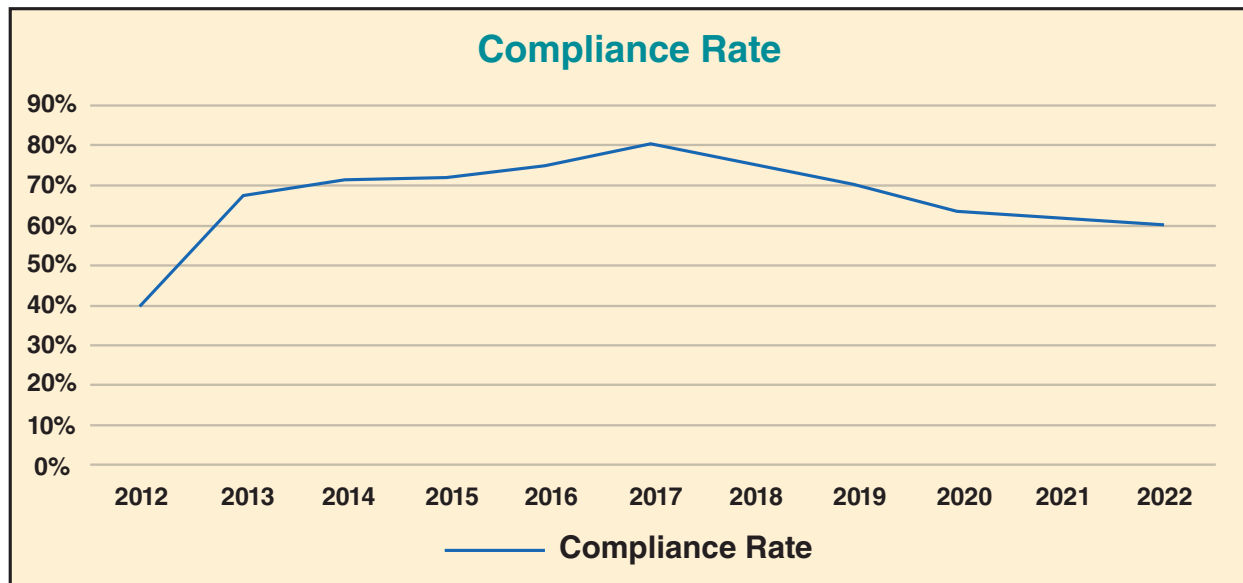
SEWAGE OPERATIONS

AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) CODE UPDATE

Stark County has approximately 40,000 septic systems; over 5,500 of these systems use advanced mechanical devices, called aeration systems. The State of Ohio Sewage Rules require Boards of Health to develop operation and maintenance (O&M) regulations to ensure proper system maintenance and to prevent public health nuisances from arising. In 2012 regulations were adopted by the Board of Health to provide oversight for aeration systems, which can quickly cause a sewage nuisance when not properly maintained. This regulation was later revised in 2015, to align with the 2015 state sewage code revisions. Under the Board of Health regulation, the owner of an aeration system must maintain a service contract with a service provider for the life of the system. In the alternative, the owner may choose to service the system themselves by registering as a homeowner service provider. These systems are typically serviced at least twice per year.

Additional updates to the O&M regulations were adopted by the Board of Health in Resolution #4-2022. The resolution contains some minor changes and clarifications, but mainly strengthens the existing enforcement program to gain better compliance relating to systems that are required to have a service contract. Though compliance started strong initially through educational outreach, it has waned in more recent years.

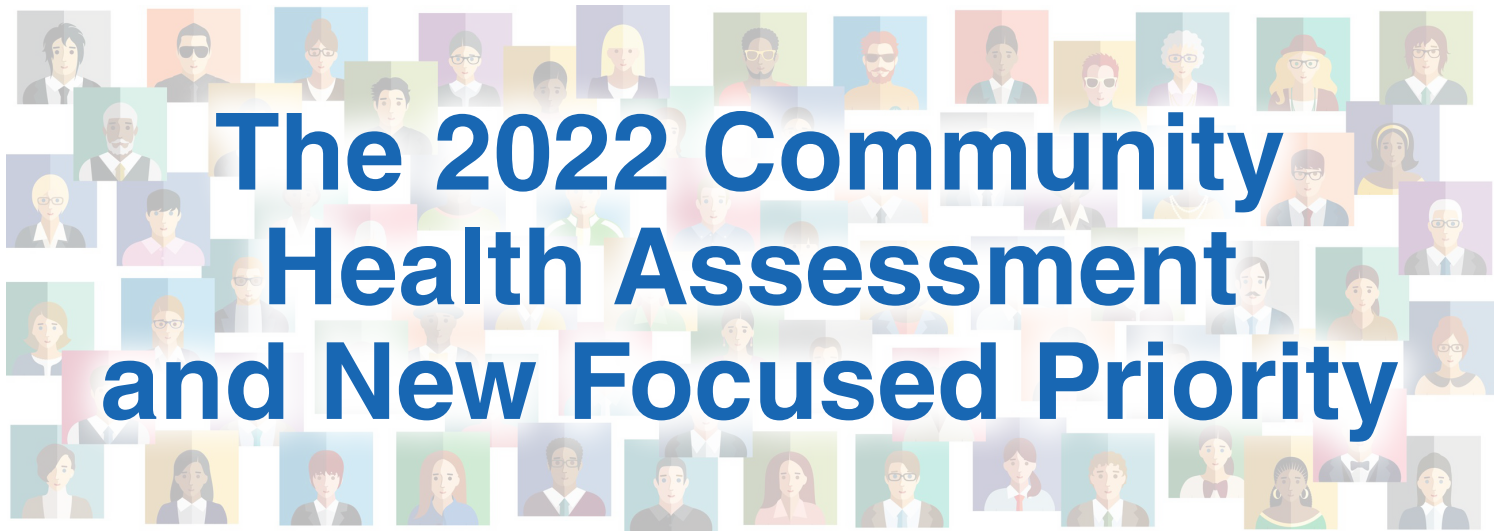
Below is a graph illustrating the compliance rate by year.



The only tool granted by the legislature to deal with this issue is found in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3709.091. This law grants a health district the ability to place a tax lien on the real property of an owner for the fee and accrued late penalties of an operation permit or inspection of a household sewage treatment system. To build on the established O&M regulations and add the ability to use ORC 3709.091, the revised O&M regulations incorporate two kinds of operation permits:

- **A Type 1 Operation Permit**, which has been used since 2012, is for those who remain in compliance and have their system serviced by a service provider or are enrolled in homeowner service. There is no direct fee for this permit, but \$30 is collected from service providers for each contract issued. Type 1 Permits are good for five (5) years for aeration systems.
- **A Type 2 Operation Permit** has been added because it was the needed mechanism to allow the use of ORC 3709.091. The fee is \$200 and a 25% late fee is assessed if not paid. The Type 2 Operation Permit will only be issued if a property owner fails to obtain or comply with the conditions of the Type 1 Permit, after reasonable due process. The Type 2 Permit is good for one (1) year. (It should be noted that a typical service contract is around \$250.)

Adding this enforcement piece to the O&M code is not intended to penalize property owners, but to nudge them in the direction of compliance. Every effort will be made during the process to lead them toward compliance to avoid the Type 2 Permit and fees. Property owners in compliance will continue to be issued a Type 1 Operation Permit at no cost. The future success of the O&M Program is based on routine system maintenance, because proper septic system operation and prevention of nuisances is the end goal.



The 2022 Community Health Assessment and New Focused Priority

The 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA) report was updated and released in September, 2022. The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Advisory Committee contracted with the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) who collected and analyzed data in five different phases:

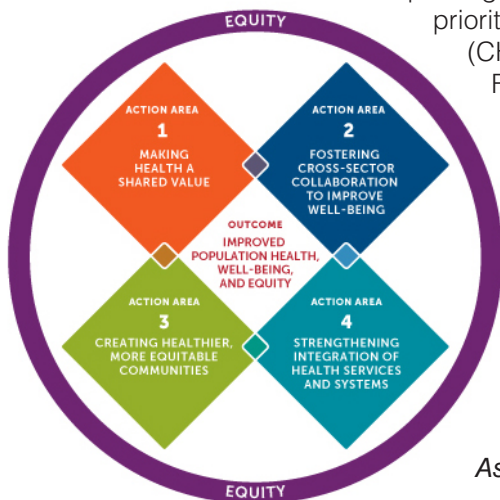
- 1) The **Stark Poll**, a random sample telephone survey of 600 Stark County households primarily focused on mental health and addiction.
- 2) **Secondary Data**, analysis of over 20 different sources such as the 2021 Northeast Ohio Youth Health Survey, the BRFSS, the Ohio Department of Health, and the County Health Rankings.
- 3) A **Community Health Leader Survey**, a web survey of 125 community leaders knowledgeable about public health services and community needs.
- 4) A **Maternal Health Community Focus Group**, a facilitated group discussion of women of childbearing age (18-44) who live in Stark County. The participants were of different races and backgrounds with and without children, living in urban, suburban and rural areas.
- 5) The **Voices of Stark County Report**, consisted of data from six community meetings and 15 small focus groups with a total of 167 individuals who participated. The report was compiled by the Behavioral Health Access and Integration Collaborative.

The CHA data was shared at the 2022 Health Improvement Summit held at Kent State University at Stark on June 17, 2022. Over 120 community stakeholders and members were engaged in discussion around the leading health needs and the social conditions impacting the community to identify and vote on what

priorities should be addressed in the next Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for 2023-2025. The Advisory Committee utilized the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation *Culture of Health Action Framework* for this assessment cycle.

The top five priority health needs from the 2022 CHA:

- ✓ Access to Health Care
- ✓ Addiction
- ✓ Infant Mortality and Maternal Health
- ✓ Mental Health/ Behavioral Health
- ✓ Obesity and Healthy Lifestyle Choices



In an effort to focus on one main priority area, a consulting firm, Thrive at Work, is facilitating a series of meaningful conversations and work sessions with a wide range of stakeholders to draw on strength-focused community building and collective impact methodologies. These meetings began in the fall and will continue through the first quarter of 2023, to help guide the development of a shared vision and a community roadmap toward positive outcomes on the Health Summit priority area of **Behavioral Health**. **Access to Health Care**, a secondary priority area, will be integrated into the roadmap.

To view the assessment reports, go to www.starkhealth.org, Community Health Assessment.

BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER PROJECT



Screening for cancer is a way to detect it before symptoms show. Screenings like mammograms and pap tests help detect breast and cervical cancer at an early stage, when treatment can work best. According to Stark County Cancer Profile from the Ohio Department of Health 2014-2018¹, there were 326 cases of breast (Female) cancer diagnosed in Stark County and 16 cases of cervical cancer. For breast cancer, the rate per 100,000 population is 124.5 and cervical cancer is 8.0 per 100,000 population.

Providing women with education, information, and resources to help pay for breast and cervical cancer screenings helps Stark County become a healthier place. The Stark County Health Department (SCHD) and the Ohio Department of Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) have partnered together to connect women with the resources to obtain these lifesaving screenings. As a BCCP Patient Navigation Program, our SCHD Community Health Workers (CHWs) assist women through the healthcare system. They connect them with providers and community resources, schedule appointments, obtain health insurance, and offer enrollment for no-cost breast and cervical cancer diagnostic testing².

If a woman is found to be eligible, our CHWs can schedule services at one of the many area contracted providers and assist those with abnormal results. If a woman is diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the BCCP and require treatment, they will be eligible for full Medicaid benefits while they complete treatment. Our staff are available to help women with the Medicaid enrollment process. The SCHD and BCCP are committed to serving women in a convenient, accessible, respectful and culturally competent manner. If you are interested in learning more about the BCCP, please call our office at 330-451-1694.

Services Paid for by BCCP

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING & DIAGNOSTIC	
Age 21 – 29	An office visit with a doctor or nurse for Pap test every three (3) years (office visit may include pelvic exam and clinical breast exam - CBE). Follow-up exams and diagnostic testing for abnormal pap test.
Age 30 and older	An office visit with a doctor or nurse for a Pap test every three (3) years or Pap+HPV test every five (5) years (office visit may include pelvic exam and CBE). Follow-up exams and diagnostic testing for abnormal pap test.
BREAST CANCER SCREENING & DIAGNOSTIC	
Age 21 – 39	Screening/diagnostic mammography if a doctor determines a need for screening or diagnostic services based on a clinical exam, family history or other factors (may include office visit for order). Follow-up office visits/exams and diagnostic testing for abnormal mammogram results.
Age 40 and older	Bi-annual (every two years) screening mammography (may include office visit for order). Follow-up office visits/exams and diagnostic testing for abnormal mammogram results.



¹ https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/cc120db6-2efa-4294-9817-9e357aae7930/Stark+County+Cancer+Profile+2021.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-cc120db6-2efa-4294-9817-9e357aae7930-nMpu6-H

² <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/breast-cervical-cancer-project/welcome>

Striving Toward a Healthier Community.

SOURCES OF REVENUE

Contract Fees	381,388
Fees for Services	632,030
C & D User Fees	673,938
Inspection Fees	229,792
Vital Statistics	349,667
Permits	1,409,600
Fines / Late Charges	18,645
State Subsidy	151,910
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,181,495
Coronavirus Response Grant	661,052
Covid Business Safety	287,549
Covid 19 Workforce Development	312,151
Public Health Infrastructure	258,248
Drug Overdose Prevention Grant	194,750
Drug Overdose Injury Grant	64,500
Maternal Child Health Grant	129,000
Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant	80,821
WIC Grant	355,801
Reproductive Health Grant	149,750
Breast & Cervical Cancer Grant	15,569
Community Health Workers-WFD	31,583
Mom & Babies First Grant	1,577
NACCHO Grant	31,500
Injury Prevention Grant	195,590
Thrive Medicaid Support for CHW	131,717
Joint Solid Waste District Grant	170,000
Moms Quit For Two Grant	52,476
Area Health Education Grant	26,409
Creating Healthy Communities	122,524
Cribs For Kids Grant	70,150
Occupant Protection Coordination	67,854
Water Pollution Control Grant	233,781
Homeowner Contributions-HSTS	26,651
Mosquito Grant	14,950
Private Grants	18,682
Other Receipts	116,571
Reimbursements	80,073
Carryover From 2021	3,061,466
TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE	11,991,210

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	4,066,739
Insurance	872,418
Medicare	58,987
Pers	739,706
Workers Comp	19,538
Unemployment	0
Supplies	608,005
Utilities	33,844
Contracts & Purchased Services	1,453,702
Phones & Communications	41,043
Equipment / Vehicle Rental	31,162
Rent	327,178
Equipment	45,213
Other Expenses	21,088
State Remittances	882,568
Travel	86,505
Refunds	9,030
Payouts Vacation & Sick Leave	43,951
Encumbrances Carried Over to 2023	1,361,221
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,701,898

STARK COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Serving the cities, villages, and townships of Stark County since 1920:

TOWNSHIPS

Bethlehem
Canton
Jackson
Lake
Lawrence
Lexington
Marlboro
Nimishillen
Osnaburg
Paris
Perry
Pike
Plain
Sandy
Sugarcreek
Tuscarawas
Washington

VILLAGES

Beach City
Brewster
East Canton
East Sparta
Hartville
Hills & Dales
Magnolia
Meyers Lake
Minerva
Navarre
Waynesburg
Wilmot

CITIES

Canal Fulton
Louisville
North Canton



Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community.

Environmental Health Services, Vital Statistics, and Administration & Support Services

7235 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite B
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: 330-493-9904 | Fax: 330-493-9920

Nursing Services

7235 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite C
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: 330-493-9928 | Fax: 330-493-9932

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