

# Sandusky County Public Health

**Address:** 2000 Countryside Drive, Fremont, OH 43420

**Phone:** 419-334-6377

## Annual Report 2021



**Email:** [info@scpublichealth.com](mailto:info@scpublichealth.com)

**Website:** [www.scpublichealth.com](http://www.scpublichealth.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/sanduskycopublichealth>



VISION STATEMENT.....	2
MISSION STATEMENT .....	2
VALUES .....	2
BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS .....	3
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF .....	3
A LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.....	4
2021 BOARD OF HEALTH FUNDS.....	5
COVID-19 RESPONSE.....	7
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN .....	10
STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026 .....	11
CLERICAL SUPPORT.....	12
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.....	12
CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (CMH) PROGRAM.....	13
CHILD FATALITY REVIEW BOARD (CFR).....	13
IMMUNIZATION CLINIC.....	14
MATERNAL HEALTH AND INFANT MORTALITY COALITION .....	15
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM.....	16
TUBERCULOSIS TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE.....	17
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES .....	18
WELCOME HOME NEWBORN VISIT AND CRIBS FOR KIDS.....	19
WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC).....	20
HELP ME GROW HOME VISITING AND EARLY INTERVENTION .....	21
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS .....	23
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH .....	24
HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATION.....	26
CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM .....	33

## Vision Statement

Sandusky County Public Health is committed to being a trusted leader in maintaining optimal health and safety for all Sandusky County residents.

## Mission Statement

Sandusky County Public Health is dedicated to meeting the needs of our residents by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the environment through high-quality cost-effective services.

## Values

- ❖ Providing responsive and timely communication and acting as a trusted resource of health information
- ❖ Working collaboratively with partners and communities to improve health and support a strong public health system
- ❖ Maintaining a qualified professional work force dedicated to fulfilling their roles
- ❖ Providing the highest quality services through individual efforts and teamwork
- ❖ Identifying and minimizing health disparities
- ❖ Being sensitive to cultural factors influencing health
- ❖ Honoring the public's trust and maintaining the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and ethics



## Board of Health Members



From left to right: Bob Gross, John Zimmerman, Dr. Regina Vincent-Williams, Nan Smith, Ryan Zimmerman, Dr. John Yuhas, Dean Auxter. Jim Mason (not pictured)

## Administrative Staff



From left to right: Deb Agee (Director of Nursing), Martha Bowen (Director of Environmental Health), Bethany Brown (Health Commissioner), Bryleigh Wolf (Director of Support Services), Marsha Overmyer (Registrar)

## Medical Director



Dr. Jennifer Greenslade-Hohman, MD

## A Letter from the Health Commissioner



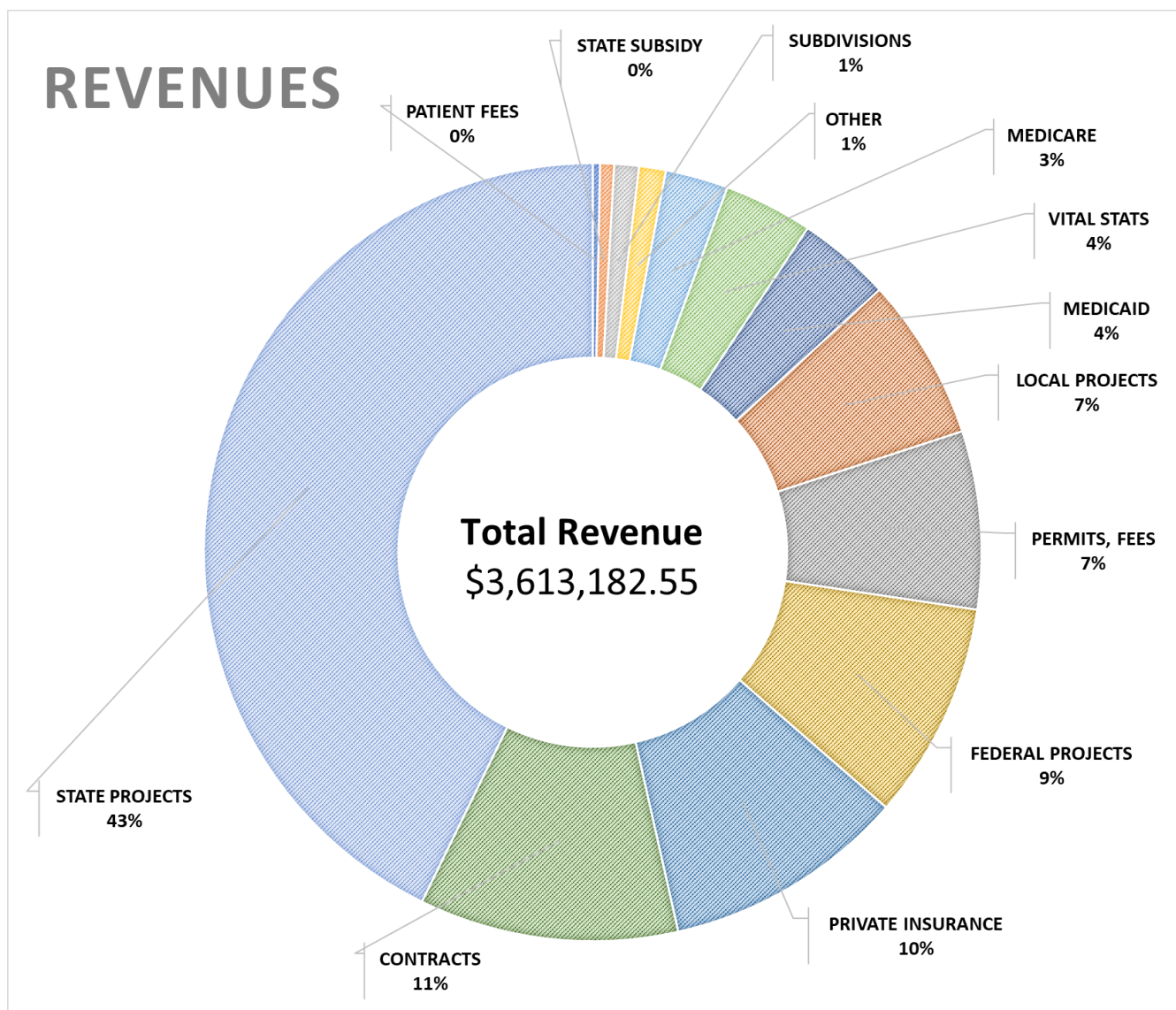
2021 was certainly another “interesting” year for all of us. As January began, the staff here at the Sandusky County Public Health Department continued to work diligently to perform their normal program duties while still performing contact tracing, case investigations, and helping educate the community on all the changes with COVID-19. Towards the end of 2021, we received our first COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccination effort started with vaccinating our Healthcare workers and then moved to vaccinating the general public in stages. The staff had to quickly learn about the new vaccinations, storage, and handling, and who was qualified for the vaccine. These vaccination activities continue to ramp up for next year. We saw different age groups being allowed to be vaccinated and different brands of vaccine getting approved by the FDA. It was a constantly changing situation that our nursing staff stepped up and were the leaders in the community to help educate and vaccinate our community. Throughout all the new changes with COVID-19 the staff continued to provide all other essential services, but they may have looked a little different. We were going out to cars to provide needed WIC services, using technology to provide needed clinic services or home visits, used zoom to host trainings and meetings, and safely went out into the public to perform environmental programs including food inspections. The staff became very creative to ensure that we could safely continue to provide our needed services for the community.

We realize that struggle with COVID 19 will continue as we move through this pandemic. Be assured, that your Public Health Department will continue to strive to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities while continuing to provide the programs we have always offered.

Last year continued to be a long and somewhat frustrating year and we thank you all for your cooperation and support. Please know that you don’t always see us in the news, but we are constantly working behind the scenes to continue our commitment to ensuring the health and safety of the residents of Sandusky County. Let’s try to make 2022 a brighter year for everyone. Be kind to one another.

**Bethany Brown MSN, RN**  
**Health Commissioner**

## 2021 Board of Health Funds



# EXPENSES

**Total Expenses**  
**\$3,211,049.57**

**PERSONNEL**  
**59%**

**UTILITIES/MAINTENANCE**  
**0%**

**TRAVEL**  
**1%**

**EQUIPMENT**  
**1%**

**OTHER EXPENSE**  
**8%**

**SUPPLIES**  
**12%**

**CONTRACT SERVICES**  
**19%**

## COVID-19 Response

Total Cases

**7,157**

Hospitalizations

**414**

Deaths

**116**

Average Overall Age

**40.84**

Average Age of Hospitalizations

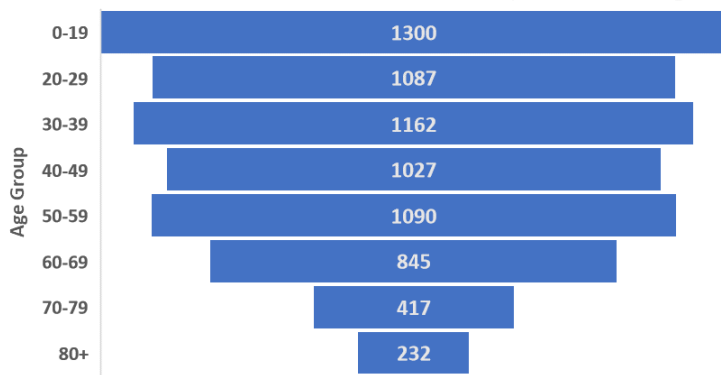
**63.01**

Average Age Deaths

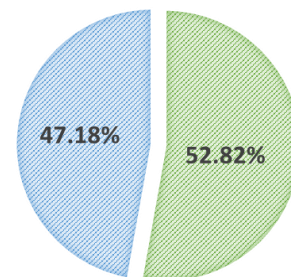
**65.71**

Case Status	Frequency
Confirmed	3988
Probable	3169
<b>Total</b>	<b>7157</b>

### COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

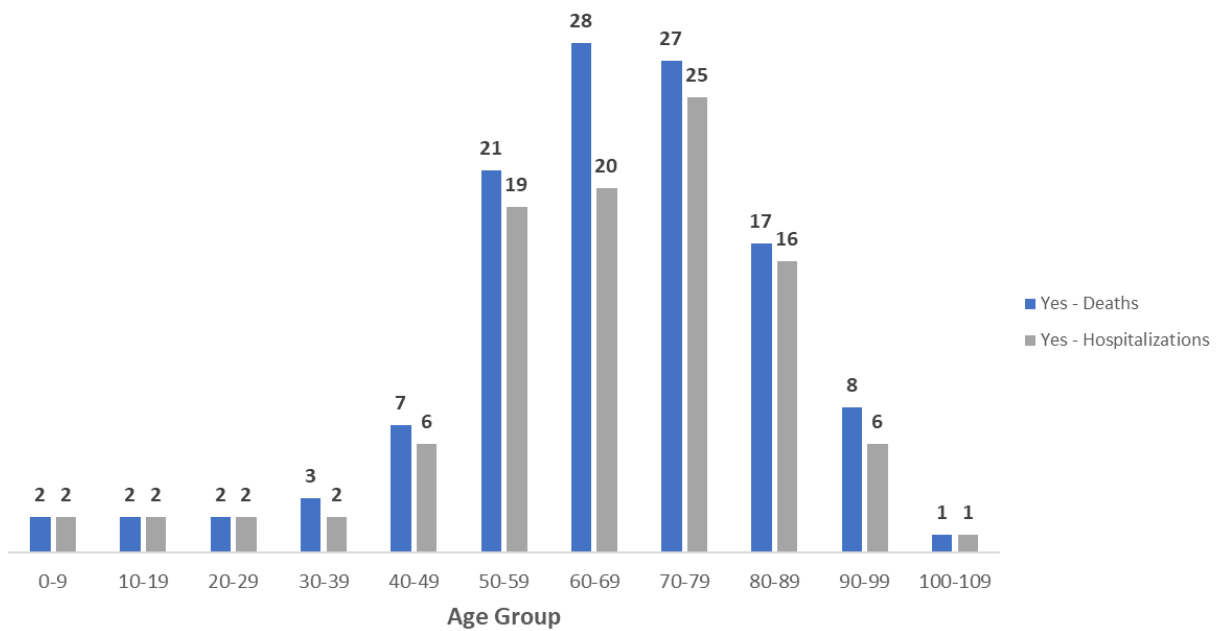


### Gender

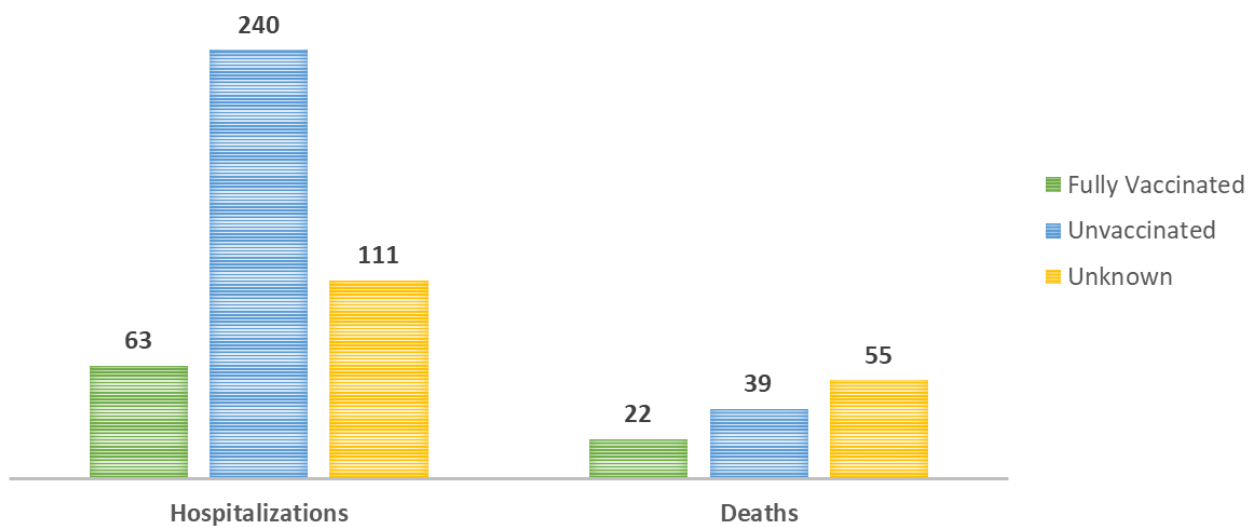


Female Male

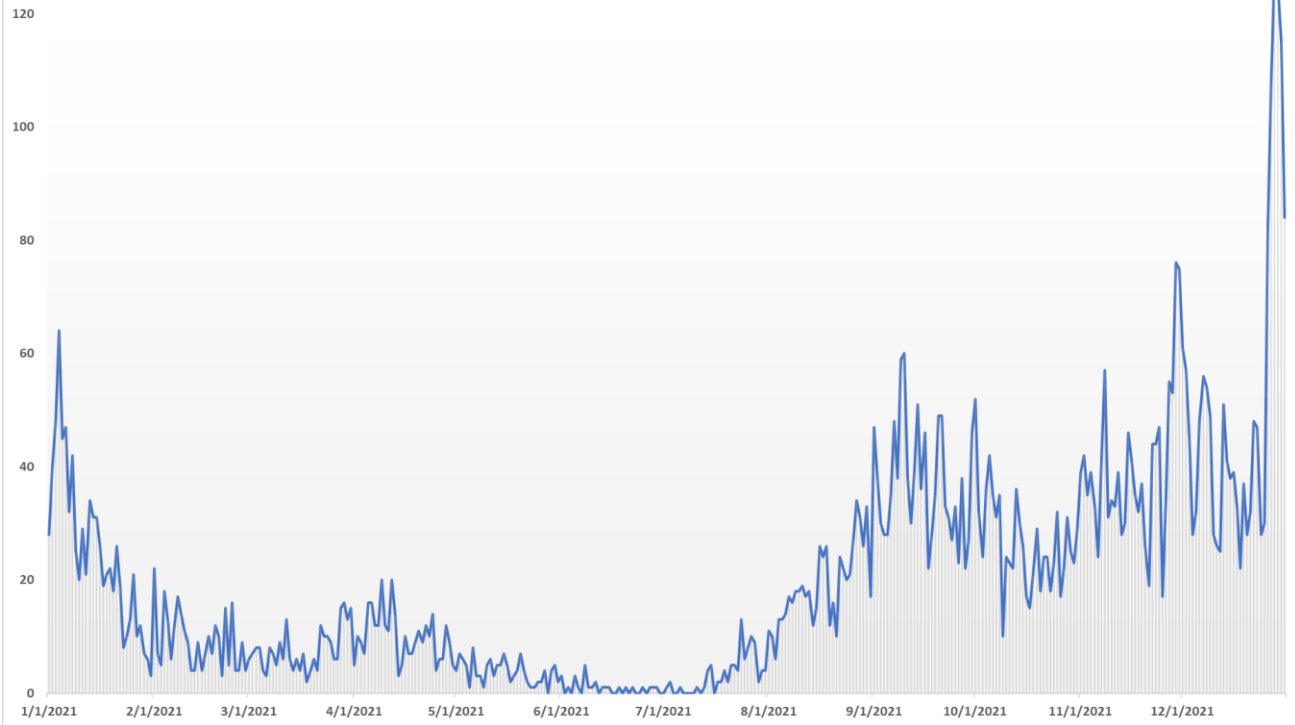
### Hospitalizations and Deaths by Age



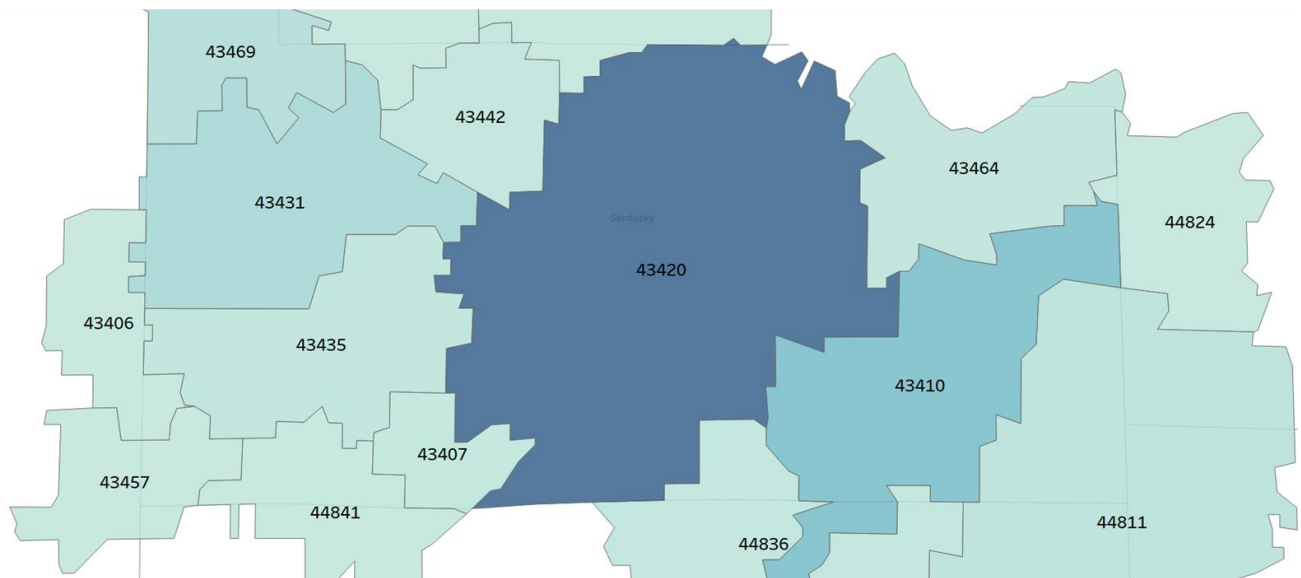
### Hospitalizations and Deaths By Vaccination Status



### Daily COVID-19 Case Count



### Distribution of Cases by Zip Code



# Community Health Improvement Plan



**Sandusky County will focus on the following three priority factors and priority health outcomes over the next three years:**

## Priority Factors

- Health Behaviors 🇺🇸

## Priority Health Outcomes

- Mental Health and Addiction 🇺🇸
- Maternal and Infant Health 🇺🇸

## Cross-Cutting Strategies

- Increase Early Identification of Mental Health Needs Among Youth
- Implement School-based Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programs
- Implement Shared Use (Joint Use Agreements)
- Implement School-Based Nutrition Education Programs
- Implement Complete Streets
- School-Based Physical Activity Programs and Policies
- Increase Access to Transportation
- Increase Recruitment for Mental Health Professionals

The plan also includes considerations related to social determinants of health and the underlying causes of health inequities. This CHIP contains an overview of national and state requirements driving local health planning efforts, a description of the County's health priorities and associated outcome measures as selected by community partners, the framework and infrastructure that supports continued action, and a summary of how the plan will be monitored and updated.

## Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Sandusky County Public Health began the Strategic Planning Process in the summer of 2021. This plan is following the guidance of reaccreditation requirement provided by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This strategic plan follows the progression from the 2018-2021 plan.



The Strategic Plan aligns with both the 2020-2023 SHIP and 2021-2023 Sandusky County CHIP by making community engagement a priority and completing specific CHIP-rated strategies in which SCHD is the lead agency. SCHD also supports partner organizations, such as the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties, in the following CHIP priority areas: mental health and addiction, health behaviors and maternal and infant health.

### Strategic Priorities

The Strategic Planning Committee reviewed all the information over several months that was gained through surveys, the CHIP, SHIP, QI plans, SWOT analysis and Performance Management Plan. The committee then selected five strategic priorities to focus on for the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

- 1. Culture of Quality**
- 2. Workforce Development**
- 3. Information Management**
- 4. Fiscal Viability**
- 5. Community Engagement and Resources**

## Clerical Support



In 2021, there were a total of 572 deaths, an increase of 87 over 2020. A total of 156 births, including home births, occurred in Sandusky Co. There were 2,808 certified copies of birth certificates issued and 2,271 certified copies of death certificates issued at Sandusky Co. Public Health in 2021. With statewide issuance of certified copies of birth certificates in Ohio, anyone desiring a birth certificate (who was born in Ohio) may access the certified copy from any Local Registrar. In Sandusky Co., hours of issuance are Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The charge is \$25.00/certified copy. Certified copies of death certificates must be secured in the county the death occurred.

Top five causes of death in 2021:

1. Heart disease
2. Cancer
3. COVID-19
4. Chronic respiratory disease
5. Cerebrovascular disease

## Public Health Nursing



Public health nursing practice focuses on population health, with the goal of promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the public. Public Health Nurses comprise the largest segment of the professional public health workforce. By working with whole communities, public health nurses can



educate people about health issues, improve community health, and increase access to care. SCPH has nine Registered Nurses (RNs) providing services to the county.

The Sandusky County Public Health nurses are directly engaged in our immunization clinics, COVID-19 clinics, flu clinics, TB Control Program, and Reproductive Health and Wellness clinics, providing services to over **5,000** clients a year. This is in addition to seven other programs, services, and coalition groups led by the Public Health Nurses.

## Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program

The Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program is a health care program through the Ohio Department of Health. CMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need.

CMH promotes early identification of children with handicapping conditions and treatment of those children by appropriate health care providers.



CMH provides assistance to children with special health care needs and their families who meet the medical and financial eligibility criteria. Assistance is provided to children under the age of 21 who have special health care needs and are residents of the State of Ohio.

Major components of the program include conducting quality assurance activities to establish standards of care and to determine unmet needs of children with handicaps and their families; funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions; collaborating with public health nurses to assist in increasing access to care; supporting service coordination; and assisting families to access and utilize appropriate sources of payment for services for their child. In 2021, Sandusky County Public Health nurses provided services to **214** children who are active on the CMH diagnostic, treatment, and/or service coordination program.

If you have questions about the CMH Program, please call (419) 334-6377. A Public Health Nurse would be happy to assist you and answer any questions.

## Child Fatality Review Board (CFR)

The Sandusky County Child Fatality Review Board meets annually, as mandated by Ohio law, with the purpose of decreasing the incidence of preventable deaths in children less than 18 years of age. To accomplish this, the review board:

- Promotes cooperation, collaboration and communication between all groups, professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children
- Maintains a comprehensive database of all child deaths that occur in the county in order to develop an understanding of the causes and incidences of those deaths
- Recommends and develops plans for implementing local service and program changes to the groups, professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children that might prevent child deaths
- Reports aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning child deaths to the Ohio Department of Health

In 2021, **7** child deaths occurred and were reviewed by the board.

## Immunization Clinic



Sandusky County Public Health is the largest provider of vaccinations to infants, children, adolescents, and adults in the county. The goal of the immunization program at Sandusky County Public Health is to reduce and potentially eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases among the county's residents. The nursing staff provided services for **1,927** clients with **4,044** immunizations administered. Sandusky County

Public Health participates in:

- Vaccines for Children Program, provided by the Ohio Department of Health
- The statewide immunization registry IMPACT SIIS
- The Get Vaccinated program, which is designed to improve and sustain childhood and adolescent immunization rates and to reduce vaccination coverage disparities in Ohio. This goal is accomplished through public health nurses working with immunization providers to adopt quality assurance methods to increase vaccination use, identifying and addressing any immunization disparities, and working with schools to assure that immunization levels are high.
- The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program, through which public health nurses work with healthcare providers and hospitals to prevent the transmission of hepatitis B from mother to infant. Our nurses work to ensure that all pregnant women are screened, and that infants of women who test positive receive the appropriate prophylaxis and case management follow up.



Getting immunized is important to protect yourself, your child, and to protect those around you. Vaccines are the best way we have to prevent infectious diseases. Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough are still a threat. They continue to infect U.S. children, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths every year. Outbreaks of preventable diseases occur when vaccination rates drop. If children aren't vaccinated, they can spread disease to other children who are too young to be vaccinated or to people with weakened immune systems, such as transplant recipients and people with cancer. This could result in long-term complications and even death for these vulnerable people. If we stopped vaccinating, diseases that are almost unknown would stage a comeback. Before long we would see epidemics of diseases that are nearly under control today.



**Flu Clinics** – In 2021 a total of **1,012** flu vaccines were administered to infants > 6 months old, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.



**COVID-19 Clinics** – SCPH administered more than **11,000** doses of COVID-19 vaccine in 2021. These included first, second, third and/or booster doses, given at **96** clinics held on-site at SCPH and **45** clinics held off-site at multiple locations within the county.

If you or someone you know is interested in our immunization program, or would like to make an appoint, call (419)334-6367.

## Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition

The Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition was established in 2015 to improve maternal health and birth outcomes, and reduce infant mortality in Sandusky County. The work of this Coalition has made an impact in reducing infant deaths in Sandusky County. Coalition members include:

- Sandusky County Public Health
- ProMedica Memorial Hospital
- Bellevue Hospital
- NOMS Healthcare
- Community Health Services
- Help Me Grow
- Department of Job and Family Services
- Family and Child First Council
- Mental Health and Recovery Services of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot County



This coalition of community members meets quarterly to examine risks, health disparities, barriers to care, education, and health programs.

## Reproductive Health and Wellness Program



For over 45 years, Sandusky County Public Health's Reproductive Health and Wellness Program has been providing a broad range of services related to achieving and preventing pregnancy, assisting women, men, and couples with achieving their desired number and spacing of children.

This program provides abstinence counseling, contraception, pregnancy testing, preconception care, natural family planning methods, STD testing and treatment, screenings for breast and cervical cancer, free and confidential HIV testing, and reproductive education. Contraceptive options include, but are not limited to; oral contraceptives, Nexplanon, IUDs, and hormonal injections. We provide these services through the Title X grant in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health. In 2021, we provided services for **513** clients in **881** visits.

We offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to individuals at a very high risk for HIV infection. Studies have shown that PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV if it is used as prescribed. The cost of PrEP is covered by many health insurance plans, and a medication assistance program provides free PrEP to people with limited income and no insurance to cover PrEP care. As an HIV prevention provider in 2021, we provided PrEP to 7 patients, and referred 8 patients to the medication assistance program.



Our Reproductive Health and Wellness program is also a provider for the Ohio Department of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, which assists women in navigating cancer screenings. The project helps with finding providers and community resources, and answers questions about insurance use, appointment scheduling and more. In addition, the program offers no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic testing to qualified participants. In 2021 our staff assisted **24** uninsured women with enrollment in the program to receive cancer screenings they would not have had access to otherwise.

We have clinics in both the Sandusky County and Seneca County Health Departments and offer after hour clinics every Thursday in Fremont. Fees are based on income, and services are available to both women and men. Medicaid and many private insurances are accepted. If you, or someone you know, are interested in our Reproductive Health Clinic, please call (419) 334-6355.

2021 Statistics	
Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Gonorrhea	48
Chlamydia	169
Syphilis	2

### *Reproductive Health & Wellness Clinic Schedule*

Fremont	2000 Countryside Drive	Tuesday & Wednesday	8:00a-4:30p
		Thursday	8:00a – 6:00p
		Friday	8:00a – 2:00p
Tiffin	71 South Washington Street Suite 2	Monday	9:00a -3:30p

## Tuberculosis Testing and Surveillance

Public Health Nurses administered **154** TB skin tests in 2021, with no positive reactors. There were no confirmed cases of TB reported to Sandusky County Public Health.



The TB Program is not limited to the number of TB tests administered. The scope of the program involves surveillance, referrals, and consulting with multiple health care providers, including hospitals and the Ohio Department of Health. Any positive test result and/or suspected case, whether seen through the health department, or referred from another health care provider, involves a thorough investigation, and follow up. This can take several weeks. A confirmed case of active TB requires intensive case management lasting months to a year, as compliance with treatment must be assured.

## Communicable Diseases



Communicable disease control is a core function and responsibility of public health and is delegated to local health departments in Ohio. The health department conducts epidemiology and surveillance for communicable/infectious diseases. Sandusky County Public Health's epidemiologist monitors the health status of the county by investigating, analyzing, and mitigating disease outbreaks and emerging health threats.

Ohio Revised Code requires that certain diseases of public health concern be reported to the local health department. These reports are used to protect the public's health by quickly identifying outbreaks, tracking disease numbers and trends, and offering a snapshot of the community's health. Examples of some of the illnesses spread person-to-person include COVID-19, mumps, whooping cough, and chicken pox.

This list also includes food related illnesses from organisms like Salmonella and E. coli. Sandusky Public Health staff investigate and follow up on all reports of communicable diseases in an effort to prevent the spread of those diseases. In 2021, **7,282** individual reports for **18** diseases or conditions were received and investigated. Additionally, two community disease outbreaks were investigated and resolved. Health department staff also provided trainings on infectious diseases for community groups, and infection control for long term care facilities.



The most common conditions reported among Sandusky County residents in 2021 (excluding chlamydia and gonorrhea) are shown below:

Reportable condition	Reported Cases
COVID-19	<b>7,157</b>
Hepatitis C	<b>50</b>
Hepatitis B	<b>16</b>
Lyme Disease	<b>12</b>

## Welcome Home Newborn Visit and Cribs for Kids



The Newborn Welcome Home Program was established through the collaboration of the Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition. Funding for this valuable program has been provided by the generosity of the United Way of Sandusky County. The Newborn Welcome Home Visit consists of a free home visit by a Public Health Nurse, and education on safe sleep and newborn care. Referrals can be made to area community resources, as needed. The Newborn Home Visit Program works in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Cribs for Kids and Safe Sleep Program. This program works to reduce infant sleep related deaths by providing a safe sleep environment and safe sleep education.

Sleep related infant deaths are among the most preventable of infant deaths. By following the ABC's (Alone, on the Back and in a Crib) infants can live optimally for the first year of life. Sandusky County Public Health remains committed to preventing accidental death among infants.

The program continues to offer support, education and referrals by phone followed by delivery of the pack-n-play crib by curbside pick-up or porch drop off. These safe delivery options will be followed throughout the pandemic. In 2021, a total of **49** cribs were delivered to families throughout the county who needed a safe sleep environment for their infant. For more information on the Welcome Home Program and the Cribs for Kids Program, call 419 334-6377 or to find more information on Safe Sleep, visit [www.SafeSleep.Ohio.gov](http://www.SafeSleep.Ohio.gov).

### Infant Safe Sleep



**Baby sleeps safest alone, on their back, in a crib.**

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition.

The program improves pregnancy outcomes by providing or referring to support services necessary for full-term pregnancies; reduces infant mortality by reducing the incidence of low birth weight (infants under 5 1/2 pounds are at greater risk of breathing problems, brain injuries and physical abnormalities), and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets.

WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education, and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, yogurt, cheese, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables, and iron-fortified infant formula and baby food; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal

and child health and human service programs.

In 2021, our WIC program served 914 new participants in Sandusky County. The average caseload per month was 865 participants, and an average 36 referrals were made monthly to prenatal and pediatric health care or other maternal and child health and human service programs. Our breastfeeding rates remained strong with an average of 40% of all postpartum women on the WIC program, either exclusively or partially breastfeeding their babies.

Like many other agencies, Sandusky County WIC continued to weather the storm of COVID-19 in 2021. We continue to conduct all participant appointments by phone, while allowing participants to come into the clinic for card benefit reloads. This has worked out well, and our participants are very appreciative of the precautions we have taken to keep them safe.

If you or someone you know would benefit from the WIC programs supplemental foods, nutrition expertise, and excellent breastfeeding help and support, please call our office at 419-334-6363, we'd be glad to help!

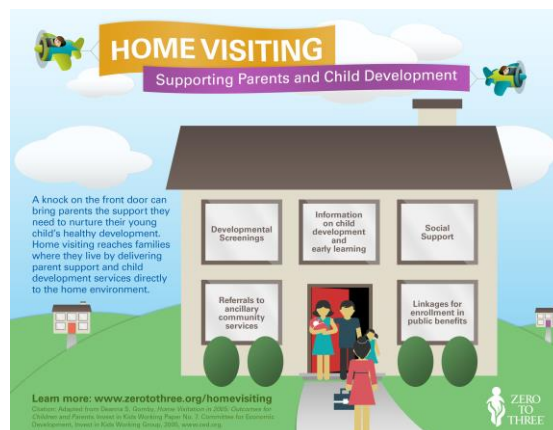


## Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Early Intervention



**Help Me Grow** serves children in both the **Home Visiting** and **Early Intervention** programs from pregnancy through three years of age.

**Home Visiting** is a voluntary, evidence-based parent support program that encourages early prenatal and well-baby care, as well as parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development to share their thoughts about parenting, ask questions, and receive reliable information based on their individual family needs or topics of interest. Topics may include, but are not limited to: healthy pregnancies, baby and child health, breastfeeding, nutrition, immunizations, child growth and development, discipline, toilet training, child safety, household safety and local resources. Our home visitors are certified, well-trained and help empower parents with skills, tools, and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their children. All young children deserve the same opportunities to realize their full potential in life, regardless of economic, geographic, and demographic considerations. The parenting education and child development resources provided to families allows them to maximize this critical period of development in their child's life, providing a foundation for lasting success. Home Visiting program goals and benchmark domains are improvement in maternal and newborn health, reduction in child injuries, abuse, and neglect, improved school readiness and achievement, reduction in crime and domestic violence, and improved family economic self-sufficiency.



**Early Intervention** is a voluntary, evidence-based program that provides coordinated services to parents of young children with disabilities and/or developmental delays. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. EI builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist parents and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday routines. It is a collaborative home and community-based system where the family and a team work together to provide ongoing support to the child and family. An EI Service Coordinator first meets with the family to gather info about the child, discuss concerns and priorities regarding development and shares information about resources in your community. They work directly with the family to coordinate a developmental evaluation and services, if needed. Eligible children are assigned an Early Intervention Primary Service Provider to begin visits in a child's everyday routine and natural environment. The Primary Service Provider models techniques to encourage development in the area(s) of need identified by the family. These services build confidence and competence for the parent/caregiver, so they can continue what they have learned and incorporate these activities into their family routine. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.

In 2021, Sandusky County Ohio Early Childhood Programs received **221 referrals** and **955 home visits** were made to families. If you are interested in the Early Childhood programs offered, or may know of a family who may benefit, please call 419 -334-6383 or 1-800-755-Grow (4769). Referrals can also be made online at <https://odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/ochids/public/refer>



**CONCERNED**  
about your child's  
**development?**

**ACT EARLY!**  
**1-800-755-GROW**  
**OhioEarlyIntervention.org**

# Emergency Preparedness



A public health emergency is any event or situation demanding immediate action on the part of the public health system to prevent disease and injury or maintain public health within the community. Emergencies can be natural or man-made. Sandusky County Public Health creates and maintains plans for all types of emergencies, and works closely with the Sandusky County Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, hospitals, law enforcement, and other local and regional partners. The Sandusky County Healthcare Coalition and Sandusky County Local Emergency Planning Committee are two preparedness groups that the health department participates in.

Training and exercises are a large part of the health department's emergency preparedness program. These exercises prepared us well for the mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics held in 2021. This year the health department conducted 10 mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics that ranged from 100-1,200 people per clinic. Sandusky County Public Health partnered with Terra State Community College and other local schools to hold the offsite vaccine clinics. Health department staff attended trainings on a variety of topics, including mass dispensing, volunteer management, and the Incident Command System (ICS) in preparation to run these clinics.



## Environmental Health



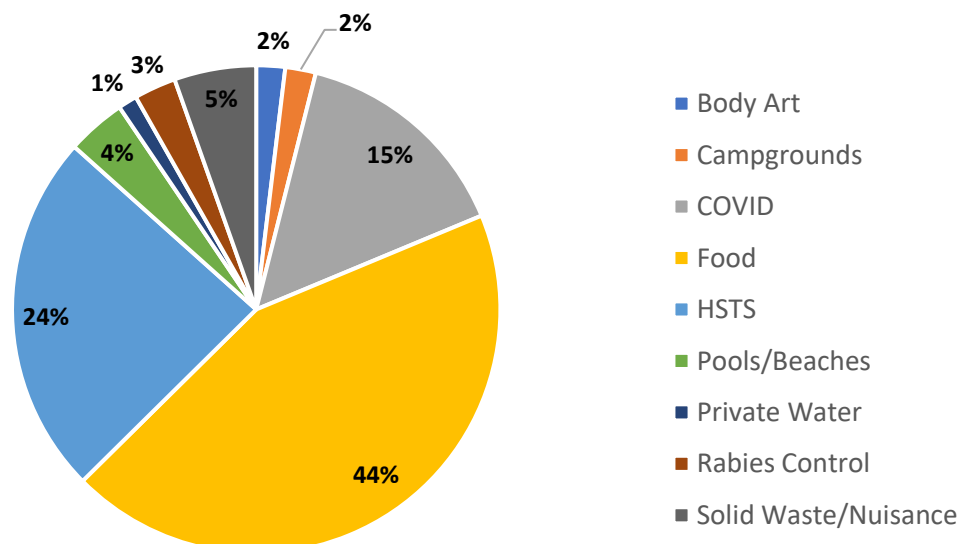
I thought 2020 was a chaotic year, but 2021 seemed even more frustrating. In December, we hired Nina Johannsen, who has 20 years of experience in environmental health. She is currently the only field staff member we have, so if you know of anyone with a Bachelor of Science degree send them my way.

COVID has continued to be a major concern. The staff has continued to work with the business community to explain the constantly changing guidelines, worked to help the nurses & the epidemiologist on initial contact for positive cases, prepared supplies for and participated in manning the many clinics provided by the Health Department. The environmental staff spent 690.25 hours on COVID.

The Food Program consists of food service operations and retail food establishments. There are 8 risk levels for facilities depending on the size of the facility and how the food is prepared & served. 304 licenses were issued, and 534 inspections were completed. We licensed 43 mobile food units, 47 vending locations and 25 temporary events. 22 plan reviews were completed for new facilities, renovations to existing facilities, and mobile units.

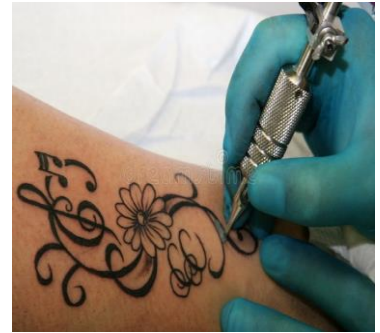


## Environmental Health Activity Report



### Other programs we license, inspect, and educate

<b>Private water</b>	22 permits issued 102 water samples taken
<b>Public Pools</b>	25 licenses issued
<b>Beaches</b>	5 licenses issued
<b>Body Art</b>	8 licenses issued
<b>Campgrounds</b>	13 licenses issued
<b>Deed Transfers</b>	49 properties were reviewed
<b>Rabies Control</b>	124 investigations
<b>Household Sewage Treatment Systems</b>	42 permits issued 24 site/soil evaluations completed 25 design reviews 49 homeowner educations



## Health Planning and Education



The Health Planning and Education Division strives to engage and empower individuals, families, and the community to make positive changes towards a healthy and active lifestyle. Division goals are driven by the Community Health Improvement Plan priorities and strategies selected through a network of collaborative partnerships.

Much of the work of the division is focused on health promotion, prevention activities and population level change; the health educators also facilitate and host many community trainings, events, presentations, and collaborative meetings. The Health Planning and Education Division uses a variety of evidence-based strategies and promising practices to increase the likelihood of behavior change. Funding for programming comes from a variety of sources including state and federal grants, program allocations, and local mental health levy dollars.

### Substance Abuse Prevention

**MISSION:** The Prevention Partnership Coalition builds a healthier community by preventing and reducing substance abuse in Sandusky County.



The Prevention Partnership Coalition (PPC) Members recognize that large-scale change requires broad cross-sector collaboration and coordination. As an organization that specializes in connecting members and providing community outreach, the PPC has become an essential resource for local organizations seeking to work together to reduce substance abuse and other risky behaviors while improving overall community wellness. PPC funding comes from the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services and local Mental Health and Recovery Service's levy dollars. Additional funds are leveraged from other grants and local agencies.

### Major Accomplishments in 2021

Provided **1,500** Deterra Bags to community members as a new form of medication disposal for those who may not be able to access Take Back Boxes. Deterra users place unused or unwanted medications in the bag, add water, and shake the bag to start the deactivation process. The bag is then placed in the trash for environmentally safe disposal.

Through Grant Funding PPC has established an Online Narcan Training / Mail order program free of charge to anyone living in Sandusky County by going to [www.scpublichealth.com/save-a-life](http://www.scpublichealth.com/save-a-life).

Through Grant Funding PPC has been able to start a Naloxbox Program, training employees of community organizations, hotels, and gas stations how to properly administer Narcan. A box is mounted on the wall for public use if the need arises.



## Sandusky County Public Health's Role in Combating Opiate Use

The opioid epidemic is a public health issue. This crisis has far-reaching impacts that not only affect public health, but also law enforcement, the judicial system, child protective services, emergency medical services, hospitals, treatment centers, coroners, schools, employers, and state and local government.

**Assessment** – SCPH serves a primary role in conducting a Community Health Assessment, which identifies key problems and assets in our community, and a Community Health Improvement Plan, which sets priorities and coordinates resources around important health concerns in communities. In 2017, Mental Health and Substance Abuse became one of 3 priorities selected; this was primarily due to the current opioid crisis.

**Harm Reduction** – Harm reduction is a public health intervention that seeks to reduce the harms associated with drug misuse. Through an allocation by the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, Sandusky County Public Health was able to provide 90 doses of Naloxone to area first responders in 2021. Opioid Abuse and Prevention training and distribution of naloxone to first responders and service entities included: Sandusky County EMS, Sheriff's Office, Bellevue, Clyde, Fremont, Green Springs police departments and the Sandusky County Drug Task Force.



SCPH was also awarded the Rural Communities Opiate Response Program grant in 2019. This will allow the future purchase of Project Dawn kits that will be disseminated to community members. Online training is available at [scpublichealth.com](http://scpublichealth.com)

**Coalition/Collaboration** – SCPH coordinates the Sandusky County Combined Coalition and provides expertise in planning, evaluation, and data collection in targeting strategies and measuring outcomes short and long-term. In the discussion of reducing the stigma of opiate use disorder (OUD), SCPH and the PPC are working collaboratively with Ohio University and other rural counties throughout Ohio to tackle the issue of stigma when it comes to the opioid epidemic. The collaborative work is also targeted towards decreasing drug misuse, and promoting treatment, recovery, and prevention.

The Workforce Development subgroup is focusing on expansion and retention of SUD/OUD workforce through training and professional development. The two main focuses are to increase the availability of peer support training and certification opportunities and to increase the availability of alcohol, tobacco, opiate, and other drug prevention trainings available in the community. SCPH is working diligently to schedule prevention trainings for the community.

**Policy/ Legislation/Advocacy** – SCPH supports policy, legislation and advocacy that aims to decrease drug misuse and increase treatment, recovery, and prevention. This includes removal of barriers to prescription drug drop boxes, and funding to support continued work. The Prevention Partnership Coalition was instrumental in placing six permanent drop locations for unwanted, unused, and expired medications throughout the county for the safety and well-being of community members. Drop box locations are the Bellevue Police



Department, Clyde Police Department, Fremont Police Department, Gibsonburg Police Department, Woodville Police Department, and the Sandusky County Sheriff's Office.

***Prevention/Education and Public Awareness*** – SCPH implements numerous prevention programs across a broad spectrum of services and is involved in implementation and/or assurance of evidence-based prevention education in schools. This team also plays a role in education and assistance with drug take back initiatives and education for prescribers on prescribing guidelines, Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), and Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). We continue to raise awareness and public knowledge of the dangers of substance misuse and illicit drug use.

### **Gambling Prevention**



In 2021, the Prevention partnership was awarded \$13,000 from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties to target Gambling Prevention. The Prevention Partnership Coalition's successful approach and extensive knowledge of gauging Community Readiness, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), and Community Engagement have led to changing community conditions and measurable outcomes in reducing alcohol and tobacco rates. These successes in the substance abuse prevention field have prepared our coalition partners to extend our efforts into other prevention areas, such as gambling prevention.

SCPH continues work with the Regional Gambling and Behavioral Based Addiction Network with several adjoining counties, to work together and share resources.

## Safe Communities

Safe Communities is a program under the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Safe Communities receives funding from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. SCPH received \$35,000 in 2021. The goal of this program is to work with local groups and law enforcement to reduce traffic fatalities and focus on seven initiatives that serve to advance projects in specific traffic safety areas. Initiatives include:

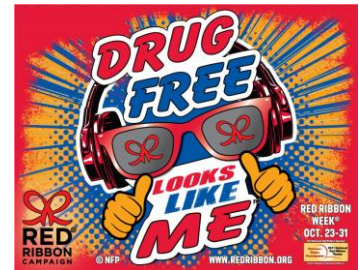


- **Traffic Fatalities** – all fatal crashes occurring in Sandusky County are reviewed. Countermeasure recommendations are developed to prevent future crashes of a similar manner.
- **Impaired Driving** – works to prevent motorists from driving distracted or alcohol impaired through innovative programs, awareness campaigns, education, and enforcement.
- **Motorcycle Safety** – increase awareness of motorcycle safety issues among motorcyclists and general motorists through education, awareness campaigns, and promotion.
- **Seat Belt Use** – to increase seat belt use in Sandusky County from 97% to 98% through education and enforcement.



## Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated October 23-31 every year. Wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle and to pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camearena.



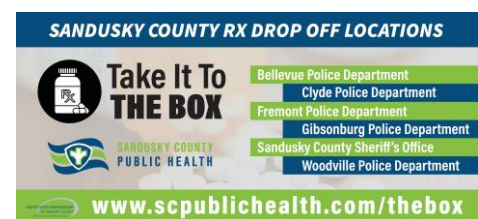
All of Sandusky County schools participated in this yearly event by doing dress days and giving handouts and information for students and parents. The elementary schools all received a box of prizes such as earbuds, cups, drawstring bags, red ribbons, pencils, stickers, playground balls, footballs, and basketballs. Each school also received a banner to keep the Red Ribbon Week theme going throughout the year of Drug- Free Looks Like Me!

## 40 Developmental Assets

The Prevention Partnership Coalition works to decrease youth substance use by implementing the 40 Developmental Assets Program in Sandusky County Middle Schools. This program, created by the Search Institute, has shown that the more assets youth have the less likely youth are to engage in risky behaviors like substance use, and the more likely they are to become successful adults. Each year students are selected from Sandusky County Middle Schools to be a part of their school's asset team. In 2021, 2 schools were awarded grants to implement Asset Teams within their schools. Those awarded were Fremont and Lakota Middle Schools.

## Take it to the Box

Prescription drug abuse and heroin use is on the rise in our nation, and Sandusky County is not immune from this issue. The Prevention Partnership Coalition was instrumental in placing six permanent drop locations for unwanted, unused, and expired medications throughout the county for the safety and well-being of community members. In addition, letters and materials on the awareness of safe and proper ways to dispose of medication are mailed twice yearly to physicians, pharmacies, human resources, churches, realtors, and many more.



## PAX Good Behavior Game and PAX Tools



PAX Good Behavior Game is an evidenced-based preventative intervention that teaches students self-regulation, self-management, and self-control. Using this tool in classrooms has proven to decrease negative behaviors, and to increase classroom instructions time. Pax has shown to decrease the number of youths who use alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and decrease the number of

youth who report suicidal thoughts or ideation.

PAX Tools is a program for parents and youth workers to teach self-regulation outside of the classroom. The focus of the program for 2021 was to get more daycares and preschools using the same program as the schools in Sandusky County.



## Stigma

In the discussion of stigma, Sandusky County Public Health and the Prevention Partnership Coalition are working collaboratively with Ohio University and many counties throughout Ohio to tackle the issue of stigma when it comes to the opioid epidemic. The collaborative work is also targeted towards decreased drug misuse, and promoting treatment, recovery, and prevention.

## Parents Who Host Lose the Most

This campaign's key message reminds parents that it is unsafe, unhealthy, and unacceptable—and, in many communities, illegal—to provide alcohol for underage youth. It decreases young people's access to alcohol by reducing the number of parents willing to provide alcohol for young people. Over time, it reduces the likelihood teens will drink alcohol and suffer the health effects that come from underage drinking.



The campaign includes fact cards, stickers, posters, yard signs, banners, and more items to help educate our community about the health and safety effects of underage drinking and share with them the facts that every parent should know about social hosting. There is also a campaign in Sandusky County showing support for our graduating seniors to stay alcohol-free and remain that way as prom and graduation approaches and our community leaders support them staying alcohol-free.

## OHYES! Survey

Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey (OHYES!) is a youth survey designed to measure the health risk behaviors and environmental factors that impact youth health and safety. The survey gathers information on issues like alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, unintentional and intentional injuries, physical health, activity and well-being, and related environmental risk and protective factors. OHYES! is an important source of needs-assessment data for school districts, community-based organizations, local health and human service agencies, and state agencies. The survey results will allow tracking of progress toward local, state, and federal education and health-related goals. Trends in patterns of behavior over time may be identified using the information from the OHYES!. State-level results may also be used to compare national and other state-level results.



State agencies, local health and behavioral health organizations, prevention providers, community coalitions, community safety networks, and others use this information to guide policies and programs that serve youth.

## Tobacco, E-Cigarette, and Vape Prevention and Cessation

The following data related to tobacco use was provided by the 2019-2020 Sandusky County Community Health Assessment:

*60% of Sandusky Co. tobacco users have attempted to quit smoking in the last year.*

*7% of youth are current tobacco users and 14% of youth report using an electronic vapor product in the last 30 days.*

SCPH has been working to promote tobacco cessation, prevention, and policy change within the community based on the data above. SCPH worked with Hirt Rentals to change their tobacco use policies at their 4 properties which include 98 apartments. This policy change included adding vaping/e-cigarette use to their existing tobacco use policy and not allowing any tobacco use inside the buildings.

SCPH also provided education and information dissemination about tobacco related topics including vaping for local agencies and organizations.

SCPH is working with NAMI Northwest to complete a 5-year strategic plan to help combat tobacco use in those with behavioral health disorders. The plan will be finalized and implemented in 2022.

## Creating Healthy Communities Program

The Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program was established in 2015 in an effort to prevent and reduce chronic disease in Sandusky County. CHC's mission is "making the healthy choice the easy choice." Through cross-sector collaboration, CHC is implementing evidence-based strategies that improve access to and affordability of healthy food, increase opportunities for physical activity where residents live, learn, work and play. Program funding comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, administered by the Ohio Department of Health. Additional funds are leveraged from other grants, agencies, and organizations.

### Major Accomplishments in 2021

- Established a community garden consisting of a variety of vegetables and herbs at the Green Springs United Methodist Church. Over 40 pounds of produce harvested was made available to the community.
- Worked with the Village of Green Springs to improve walkways on North Clay to Academy Street near the Green Springs Elementary School. Improvements included repairing over 1400 feet of sidewalk, installing accessible curbs for all, painting new and old crosswalks, and installing school zone signs.
- Worked with Whirlpool Corporation in Clyde to improve on-site healthy food and beverage options available to employees. One water bottle refill station was installed.
- Worked with Fremont City Schools to establish on-site healthy food and beverage options available to employees at Fremont Middle School and the Administration Building. Five water bottle refill stations installed at the middle school.
- Hosted a walk audit in the Village of Green Springs to determine conditions of sidewalks and roadways.
- Hosted a walk audit in the Village of Gibsonburg to evaluate sidewalk and roadway conditions with 5 participants representing the Village of Gibsonburg, Ohio Department of Transportation, Sandusky County Public Health and Sandusky County Regional Planning Commission.
- Provided technical support to the Village of Gibsonburg to write a Complete Streets Policy that will help village officials, transportation planners and engineers to evaluate the needs of all road users regardless of age, ability, or method of transportation.
- Partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Fremont, the City of Fremont, Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and many other community partners to establish an inclusive play park located at Roger Young Park in Fremont.
- Awarded additional grant funding in 2021 for the Kiwanis Inclusive Play Park project in the amount of \$25,000.
- Collaborated with community partners to sponsor and participate in Street Play Saturday at the Downtown Fremont Farmers Market.



*Community Garden at Green Springs United Methodist Church*



*Kiwanis Inclusive Play Park (aerial view)*



*Kiwanis Inclusive Play Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*



*Sidewalk & Crosswalk Improvements in Green Springs*



*Street Play Saturday Activity*