



SANDUSKY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

2000 Countryside Drive,
Fremont, Ohio 43420
419-334-6377
www.scpublichealth.com
info@scppublichealth.com



OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE SCPH

Sandusky County Public Health (SCPH) is a local health department that is located in Fremont, Ohio, Sandusky County. SCPH serves as Sandusky County’s local surveillance, epidemiological investigation, prevention, response, and mitigation agency for infectious disease threats. SCPH strives to protect and improve the health of our community. We do this by controlling the spread of communicable diseases, preventing injuries, protecting residences and visitors of Sandusky County from environmental hazards, supporting health behaviors, and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. To do this SCPH follows the 10 essential public health functions. This is shown in the wide range of programs and departments that are housed at SCPH. These departments and programs are committed to the health and safety of all individuals who live, learn, work, or play in Sandusky County.

SCPH is one of 94 out of 113 accredited local health departments in the state of Ohio. SCPH has been accredited since 2018 through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Currently reapplying for reaccreditation and awaiting PHAB site visit in 2025.



LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

SCPH 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2024 Annual Report for Sandusky County Public Health Department. This past year has brought both challenges and opportunities, and I am deeply grateful for the resilience, dedication, and collaboration demonstrated by our staff, partners, and community.

Our department has made significant strides in advancing health equity, addressing community health challenges, and expanding access to vital services. Through collaborative efforts, we have expanded programs focused on maternal and child health, chronic disease prevention, and mental health support. Additionally, we prioritized public education campaigns, ensuring our residents had the tools and knowledge to make informed health decisions.

The health of a community is a collective effort, and we could not achieve these milestones without the trust and support of our partners, including healthcare providers, schools, businesses, local government, community partners, and residents. Together, we are creating a healthier, more equitable future.

As we reflect on our achievements and challenges, we remain committed to innovation, transparency, and collaboration. Your health and well-being are at the heart of everything we do, and we look forward to continuing this important work with your trust and partnership.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we strive to achieve a healthier tomorrow.



Bethany Brown MSN, RN
Health Commissioner



Strategic Plan



The Strategic Plan aligns with both the 2020-2023 SHIP and 2023-2026 Sandusky County CHIP by making community engagement a priority and completing specific CHIP-rated strategies in which SCDH is the lead agency. SCPH 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 substance abuse, chronic disease, and social determinates of 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. Communication Engagement and Resources

Community Health Improvement Plan

2023-2026 Sandusky County has focused on the following four priority factors and priority health outcomes over the past three years:

Priority Factor:

- Social Determinants of Health

Priority Health Outcomes:

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Chronic Disease



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.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Sandusky County Public Health’s Board of Health Members are made up of eight (8) Sandusky County residents that are appointed and represent different areas of Sandusky County.



Pictured left to right

- Dean L. Auxer- Vice-President** City of Clyde
- Ryan R. Zimmerman, DVM-** District Advisory Council
- Bob Gross-** City of Fremont
- John Yuhas, D.O.-** District Advisory Council
- John W. Zimmerman** District Licensing Advisory Council
- James Mason-** District Advisory Council
- Nan Smith, Board President-** District Advisory Council
- Alex Rojas, CNP-** City of Fremont

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Jennifer Greenslade-Hohman, MD



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Pictured from left to right front row:

- Bryleigh Wolf- Director of Finance**
- Marsha Overmyer- Registrar**

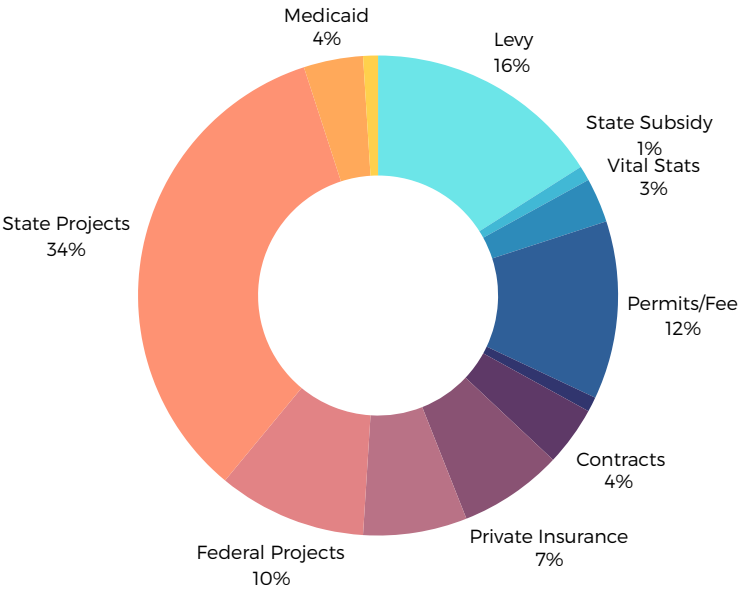
Pictured from left to right back row:

- Nina Johannsen- Director of Environmental Health**
- Deb Agee- Director of Nursing**
- Bethany Brown- Health Commissioner**

FINANCE

ANNUAL REVENUE

\$4,086,578.30

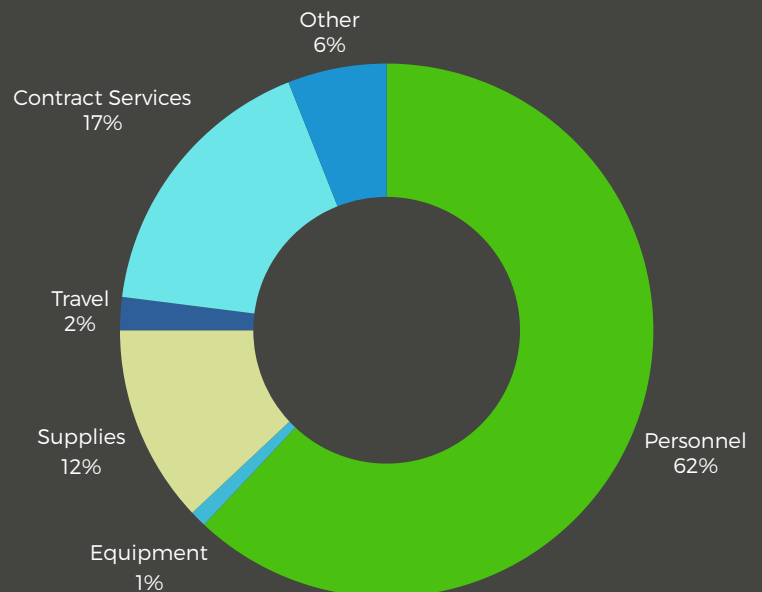


LEVY	\$662,148.35
STATE SUBSIDY	\$30,543.19
VITAL STATS	\$108,851.59
PERMITS/ FEES	\$499,652.95
SUBDIVISIONS	\$37,025.00
CONTRACTS	\$173,177.44
PATIENT FEES	\$13,573.75
MEDICARE	\$12,012.45
PRIVATE INSURANCE	\$290,866.94
LOCAL PROJECTS	\$274,098.99
FEDERAL PROJECTS	\$408,106.13
STATE PROJECTS	\$1,386,191.56
MEDICAID	\$148,633.49
OTHER	\$41,696.47

ANNUAL EXPENSES

\$3,477,920.08

PERSONNEL	\$2,151,812.97
EQUIPMENT	\$28,135.28
SUPPLIES	\$416,769.67
TRAVEL	\$64,124.33
UTILITIES/ MAINTENANCE	\$15,336.28
OTHER EXPENSES	\$202,775.51
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$598,966.04



VITAL STATISTICS

In 2024, there were **164** births, including eight (8) home births. There were **497** deaths.

A total of **2,098** certified copies of birth certificates were issued and **1,852** certified copies of death certificates issued by Sandusky Co. Public Health District #72.

Certified copies of birth certificates may be obtained at any local registrar in Ohio. Death certificates must be obtained at the county of death.

Ohio Dept of Health is debuting a new registration/issuance system (OVRs) in 2025 for birth/death certificates.

The charges for certified birth/death certificates are \$25.00 and are issued on demand.

The top five (5) causes of death in 2024:

1. Heart
2. Cancer
3. Dementia Related
4. Respiratory/Sepsis
5. Kidney Related



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Sandusky County Public Health serves as Sandusky County’s local surveillance, epidemiological investigation, prevention, response, and mitigation agency for infectious disease threats. Sandusky County Public Health (SCPH) strives to protect and improve the health of our community. We do this by controlling the spread of communicable diseases, preventing injuries, protection residences and visitors of Sandusky County from environmental hazards, supporting health behaviors, and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. SCPH has a wide range of programs and departments that are committed to the health and safety of all individuals who live, learn, work, or play in Sandusky County.

According to The State of Ohio’s Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 3701-3, there are more than 88 recognized diseases that are to be reported to the state. These are broken down into three (3) classes, those are as follows: Class A Reportable Diseases are of major public health concern due to the severity or the potential for an epidemic spread. Class B Reportable Diseases are of public health concern due to the potential for epidemic spread, and Class C Reportable Diseases requires reporting of unusual incident, outbreak , or epidemic of diseases that may have an unexpected patter of cases, suspected cases, deaths, or increased incidence of a disease in numbers greater than expected in a population or period of time.

**Reportable Diseases 2024 vs. 3 Yr. Average		
Reportable Disease	2024 Reported Totals	3 Yr.- Average Reported Totals
COVID-19	1198	7155.3
Campylobacteriosis	20	10
Hepatitis C- Chronic	16	43.6
Salmonellosis	15	8.5
Carbapenemase- Producing Organisms (CPO)	14	7.9
Streptococcus pneumoniae- Invasive Disease	6	4.8
Cryptosporidiosis	4	2.9
Giardiasis	4	1.5

The table to the left shows the most commonly reported diseases in 2024 in Sandusky County and compares to the reported cases from 2021-2023.

In 2024 there were 20 new outbreaks investigated and 1,344 communicable disease reports investigated.

**Diseases and Case Inclusion Criteria: Suspect, Probable, & Confirmed.



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SCPH 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

In 2024 SCPH participated in the following preparedness drills and exercises:

- Chemical Surge Tabletop Exercise
- Internal Call-Down Drills
- Northwest Ohio Epidemiologist Alerting Drills



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Public health nursing practice focuses on population health, with the goal of promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the public's health. By working with whole communities, public health nurses can educate people about health issues, improve community health and increase access to care. SCPH has eight (8) Registered Nurses (RNs) providing services to the county.

The Sandusky County Public Health nurses work with clients in our clinics and in community settings, including home visits. Nursing services were provided to over **3,000** clients in 2024.



COMPLEX MEDICAL HELP (CMH) PROGRAM

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

CMH provides assistance to children under the age of 24 with special health care needs who meet medical and financial eligibility criteria and are Ohio residents.

Major components of the program include determining unmet needs of children with handicaps and their families, funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions, assisting in increasing access to care, supporting service coordination, and assisting families to access sources of payment for services for their child. In 2023, Sandusky County Public Health nurses provided services to **209 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.



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 is to reduce and potentially eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases among the county's residents. The nursing staff provided services for **2,172 clients** with **3,808 immunizations administered**. This includes **309 flu vaccines** and **152 COVID-19 vaccines**. Sandusky County Public Health participates in:

- Vaccines for Children Program, through which vaccines are provided by the Ohio Department of Health for children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, or underinsured
- 317 Program, which provides certain vaccines for adults who are uninsured
- The Get Vaccinated program, which is designed to improve childhood and adolescent immunization rates and to reduce vaccination coverage disparities in Ohio. Public health nurses work with immunization providers to adopt quality assurance methods to increase vaccination use, identify and address any immunization disparities, and work 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.

We offer vaccines to prevent the following diseases:

- COVID-19
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough)
- Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza (flu)
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Meningococcal (meningitis)
- Pneumococcal (pneumonia)
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



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

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 2024, **9** child deaths occurred and were reviewed by the board.

MATERNAL & 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. Coalition members include:

- Sandusky County Public Health
- ProMedica Memorial Hospital
- Bellevue Hospital
- NOMS Healthcare
- GLCAP
- Help Me Grow
- Department of Jobs 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 data and identify risks, health disparities, barriers to care, and evaluate educational and programmatic interventions.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM

Since 1973, Sandusky County Public Health’s Reproductive Health and Wellness Program has been providing a broad range of medically approved family planning services.



We provide 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 2024, we **provided services for 351 clients** in **737 visits**, and **assisted 35 clients with Medicaid enrollment**.

We offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to individuals at high risk for HIV infection. The cost 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 2024, we provided PrEP to **8 patients**, and **referred 5 patients to the medication assistance program**.

Our program is also a provider for the Ohio Department of Health’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, which assists women in obtaining cancer screenings. The project offers no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic testing to qualified participants. In 2024 our staff **assisted 33 uninsured women** with enrollment in the program to receive cancer screenings they would not have had access to otherwise.

We have clinics in both Sandusky County and Seneca County 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 is interested in our clinics please call (419)334-6355.

2023 Statistics	
Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Gonorrhea	30
Chlamydia	195
Syphilis	6
HIV	2

2024 Statistics	
Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Gonorrhea	18
Chlamydia	156
Syphilis	3
HIV	2

TUBERCULOSIS TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE

Public Health Nurses administered **146 TB skin tests** in 2024, 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 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.



WELCOME HOME NEWBORN VISIT AND CRIBS FOR KIDS



The Newborn Welcome Home Program works in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Cribs for Kids and Safe Sleep program, and funding is provided by the United Way and ODH. The program offers a home visit to assess the newborn, and to offer information on newborn care, infant feeding, and safe sleep guidelines. Referrals to area community resources may be made as needed. The mission of the program is to reduce infant sleep related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of safe sleep for babies and providing a portable Pack-n-Play for those who otherwise cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. A follow-up phone call evaluates use of the pack-n-play and safe sleep practices.

Promotional activities and educational events take place throughout the year to promote community awareness about safe sleep and recommended practices. Small group classes were provided to youth and migrant groups, Heart Beat/HOPE Center, Police, Fire and First Responders. In 2024, a total of **72 Pack-n-Plays were given to families throughout the county who needed a safe sleep environment for their infant.** For more information please call 419-334-6377 and ask to speak to a public health nurse.



United Way of Sandusky County



HELP ME GROW

Help Me Grow Home Visiting is a voluntary family support program for pregnant women or new parents. It is an evidence-based program that promotes healthy growth and development for babies and children up to age 3. Our home visitors are certified and well-trained professionals who use a non-judgmental approach that empowers parents with skills, tools and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their children.

When a parent schedules a home visit with Help Me Grow Home Visiting, they will have the opportunity 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
- Local Resources



In 2024, our Home Visiting program received **216** referrals, served **44** unique families, and made **515** home visits. Our first ever HMG Holiday party was held this year, with families coming together to celebrate the season with lunch, story time, holiday crafts and gifts. More family events and gatherings are planned for the coming year.

DIAPER PROGRAM

In 2024, SCPH received funding provided by Sandusky County Jobs and Family Services to give out diapers, wipes, and safety items to TANF eligible families. SCPH distributed these items to 241 families in Sandusky County.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

We are behind the scenes in many aspects of your life from public swimming pools, beaches, campgrounds, body art facilities, rabies control, deed transfers, school buildings, private water wells, household sewage treatment systems just to name a few of programs we license and inspect. You don't always see us, but we are out there everyday working to protect the health & safety of our communities here in Sandusky County.



FOOD SAFETY

- Food Licenses Issued FSO/RFE: 401
- Food Plan Reviews Submitted: 18
- Food Plan Reviews Approved: 17
- Community Events with Food Inspections: 32
- Temporary Food Licenses Issued: 32

BEACHES & CAMPGROUNDS

- Beaches Licensed and Inspected: 6
- Pools Licensed and Inspected: 18
- Campgrounds Licensed and Inspected: 13

SCHOOLS

- Schools Inspected: 26

WELLS AND SEWERS

- Sewage Permits Issued: 79
- Lot Splits Approved: 39
- Registered Installers, Provider Haulers: 39
- Well Permits Issued: 33
- Water Samples Taken: 97

BODY ART

- Body Art Facilities Licensed and Inspected: 11

RABIES

- Rabies Reports/ Bites: 115

WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN (WIC)

In 2024, the National WIC Association recognized an incredible milestone in the evolution of maternal and child healthcare – the 50th anniversary of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program! Since the opening of the first clinic in Pineville, Kentucky in 1974, WIC has been an unwavering beacon of support, committed to improving public health outcomes for women, infants, and children. For 50 years, WIC has provided families with nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and healthy foods to help them care for themselves and their babies. Currently, WIC supports over 6.7 million people in communities across the United States every year, with half of all infants born in the United States participating in the WIC program. 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 ½ 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. Locally in 2024, our Sandusky County WIC program served **870** new participants. The average caseload per month was **974** participants, and an average **51** 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 **73%** of all postpartum women on the WIC program initiating breastfeeding their infant in the first month of life, and **20%** continuing to exclusively or partially breastfeed their infants through the first year.

As we celebrate WIC's 50th anniversary, we reflect on half a century of compassionate care and look ahead to a future filled with continued growth, unwavering hope, and improved outcomes for every family. From the 2024 food package updates to the integration of telehealth, online platforms, and other innovative solutions, WIC is evolving to meet the changing needs of families at every stage. Join us as we honor 50 years of meaningful impact and envision a bright future for WIC—one that continues to expand and adapt to better serve even more women, children, and families in the years to come.

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!



**Department of
Health**

Women, Infants, and
Children Program (WIC)

HEALTH EDUCATION

MISSION: The Prevention Partnership Coalition (PPC) 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 local Mental Health and Recovery Service's levy dollars. Additional funds are leveraged from other grants and local agencies.



Major Accomplishments in 2024

Provided **4,000 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.

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.

Coalition/Collaboration

SCPH coordinates the Prevention Partnership of Sandusky County Coalition (PPC) and the Community Resource Collaborative (CRC) 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.

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.

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. 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 2024, the Prevention partnership was awarded \$12,576 from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties to target Gambling Prevention. With Sports Betting now legal in Ohio as of January 2023 an emphasis on education using Pause Before You Play was priority. The Prevention Partnership Coalition's successful environmental approach to education on this topic has included billboards, radio ads, attendance at health fairs and social media messaging. SCPH continues work with the Regional Gambling and Behavioral Based Addiction Network with several adjoining counties, to work together and share resources.

SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

We continue to be an active participant in the Safe Communities program, which is part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Funded by the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Safe Communities program works with local organizations and law enforcement agencies to reduce traffic fatalities.

In 2024, Sandusky County Public Health (SCPH) received \$27,500 in funding to support traffic safety initiatives. The program focuses on seven key areas to address critical issues impacting road safety in our region. These initiatives include Traffic Fatalities, Impaired driving, "Phones Down, It's The Law, Motorcycle Safety, Seat Belt Us.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- **Farmer's Market Participation:** Participated in three Farmer's Markets in downtown Fremont, where we set up a traffic safety table and distributed a variety of educational resources.
- **Spooktacular Event:** Attended the Spooktacular event in October, a fun and educational event for all Sandusky County elementary students. This event provided an opportunity to engage with young children and their families, raising awareness about traffic safety through games and distributing educational materials tailored for younger audiences.
- **Car Fit Course Completion and Certification:** Successfully completed the Car Fit course, a program designed to assist mature drivers in maximizing the safety features and functionalities of their vehicles. we are now certified to teach the Car Fit program in our community, equipping me to lead future sessions and further expand our outreach to older drivers, ensuring they are well-informed and safe behind the wheel.

- **Winter Wonderland Outreach:** Distributed approximately 400 traffic safety information bags over the course of four nights at the Sandusky County Fairground during the Winter Wonderland event. This initiative allowed us to connect with families and ensure they had access to important safety resources.
- **High School Engagement:** Attended four local high school sporting events, where we engaged students with an interactive traffic safety spin wheel game. In addition to the fun activity, Distributed various resources, including traffic safety notebooks, pens, magnets, and air fresheners, to encourage safe driving habits among the youth.
- **Shifting Gears:** The Blunt Truth About Marijuana & Driving Program. This year, we were trained in the Shifting Gears: The Blunt Truth About Marijuana & Driving curriculum, developed by AAA Northeast, in partnership with the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). The program is designed to educate young drivers about the risks of cannabis-impaired driving. It combines instructor-led discussions with interactive features to demonstrate how cannabis affects both physical and cognitive abilities, and how those impairments can impact one's ability to drive safely.



Parents Who Host

- Football Game Outreach: Distributed 300 footballs at four local football games with Public Service Announcements (PSAs) read during halftime to raise awareness about the dangers of underage drinking.
- Palm Cards Distributed: 560 Parents Who Host palm cards were handed out to educate parents about the consequences of hosting underage drinking parties.
- Social Media Impact: We posted 10 times across social media platforms, reaching 3,447 impressions, amplifying the message about preventing underage drinking.
- Advertising: We placed ads in the BAS Radio Sports Guide for both the Spring and Fall seasons, with a total of 16,000 printed copies distributed, enhancing visibility for the campaign.

Red Ribbon Week (RRW)

- Schools who participated in RRW in 2024 were Bellevue Elementary, Clyde Elementary, Green-Springs Elementary, Sacred Heart School, Croghan Elementary, Otis Elementary, Lutz Elementary, Atkinson Elementary, Lakota Elementary, Solomon Lutheran, Woodmore Elementary, and Hilfiker Elementary.
- Theme: Life is a Movie: Film Drug-Free
- Annual Spooktacular Event: Held on October 22, 2024, at the YMCA of Sandusky County, the event attracted over 500 attendees, including 24 vendors from local business and agencies. This event provided educational resources and fun activities to promote a drug-free lifestyle.



Take it to the Box: To give the citizens of Sandusky County a safe way to dispose of unwanted or expired medication. Locations include:

- Bellevue Police Dept. 3000 Seneca Industrial Pkwy Bellevue Ohio. 44811
- Clyde Police Dept. 222 N Main St Clyde, Ohio 43410
- Fremont Police Dept. 1141 W. State St Fremont, Ohio 43420
- Sandusky County Sheriff's Office 2323 Countryside Drive Fremont, Ohio 43420
- Gibsonburg Police Dept. 214 W. Madison St Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431
- Woodville Police Dept. 219 W. Main St Woodville, Ohio 43469

Through these locations, residents can safely dispose of unwanted medications, contributing to a reduction in prescription drug misuse and promoting community health and safety.

Tobacco Prevention:

- Provided vaping education to students in 5 school districts in Sandusky County in grades 5-12. Presentations included information on high levels of nicotine content, physical and mental health impacts of vaping, marketing tactics by big tobacco, and free quit resources.
- Distributed 75 nicotine quit kits to individuals in Sandusky County who wanted to quit nicotine products.



CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (CHC) PROGRAM

Major Accomplishments

- Grant funds purchased twenty bike racks for various locations in the Fremont where bike parking is lacking. Six bike racks were installed at the Fremont City Rec Center and four at St. Joseph Central Catholic School. The remaining racks will be installed at the remaining locations in the upcoming year.
- Fifteen qualifying residents referred by a participating healthcare professional to the prescription program named Fresh Connect Produce Voucher Program successfully completed the monthly nutrition education classes. After these participants attended each class, a set amount of produce vouchers based on their family size and income was provided to shop for fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables at local participating farm markets and stores during their time on the program.
- CHC staff partnered with the YMCA of Sandusky County, Fremont Cub Scouts, and other community partners offered a free bike safety day and rodeo event in May. Eleven children of various ages participated in the bike safety rodeo event.
- CHC staff helped the City of Clyde promote information to the community about Complete Streets and the passing of a resolution in support of a written Complete Streets policy by Clyde City Council in December 2023. A Complete Streets policy sets the foundation for making sure all streets in a community serve all users, either through new construction or redesign of existing streets. This approach is not a quick fix for a community but does offer health benefits for residents over time.
- Through a grant from the Ohio Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics named Put A Lid On It Bike Helmet Safety Awareness, more than 134 community members of all ages were properly fit for a free bike helmet and given bicycle and road safety information.



OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2024

Sandusky County Public Health hosted an Overdose Awareness Day event at Conner Park, attended by over 150 people. The event featured 16 vendors from Northwest Ohio and included speeches from notable figures such as: Fremont Mayor, Danny Sanchez, Fremont Police Chief Derek Wensinger, Members of the Drug Task Force, State Representative, Gary Click, proclamation from Senator JD Vance, and Keynote speaker, Matt Keegan.

This event was a powerful reminder of the ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the opioid crisis and the importance of prevention and education.

NALOXBOXES INITIATIVE

New Naloxboxes Installed: In 2024, Sandusky County added 32 Naloxboxes across 17 new locations, bringing the total number of Naloxboxes in the county to 77 across 49 locations. These life-saving boxes allow individuals to access Narcan in emergencies. New locations include:

- Lakota School
 - Birchard Place
 - Atkinson Elementary School
 - Sandusky County Adult Probation
 - Sandusky County Court 1, Clyde
 - Buckeye Community School
 - Fremont Community Theatre
 - First Church of God
 - St. Joe Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High
 - Hess Martial Arts Center
 - Shiloh United Methodist Church
 - Pontifex Inc.
 - Bellevue Hospital
 - Auria Solutions
 - Speedway East and West
 - Days Inn
- Outdoor Naloxboxes: We also placed four outdoor Naloxboxes in high-traffic areas, including Rodger Young Park, Walsh Park, the Fremont Community Amphitheater, and Anderson Field, which collectively distributed 114 boxes of Narcan in 2024.



SAVE A LIFE NALOXONE PROGRAM

In 2024, 601 naloxone (Narcan) kits were distributed to Sandusky County residents. This program aims to combat opioid overdoses by equipping individuals with life-saving tools.

- Expansion of Access: We expanded our program by partnering with seven area businesses and agencies to train individuals and distribute Narcan, ensuring more community members are prepared to respond to overdoses.
- Sandusky County Public Health continued its commitment to improving public health and safety through a variety of impactful programs. From educating youth on the dangers of drugs to expanding access to life-saving Naloxone, our efforts have contributed to safer communities. We look forward to continuing these initiatives in the coming year and furthering our mission to protect the health and well-being of all residents.



DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Administration (419) 334-6377

Billing (419) 334-6374

Emergency Response (419) 334-6312

Environmental Health Division (419) 334-6373

Epidemiology (419) 334-6312

Fiscal Department (419) 334-6378

Health Education Division (419) 334-6377

Help Me Grow (419) 334-6362

Immunizations (419) 334-6367

Nursing (419) 334-6367

Vital Statistics (419) 334-6377

WIC (419) 334-6363

