

SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



ANNUAL REPORT

2015



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2015 in Review

We all remember 2015 began with a long cold winter, as Summit County Public Health settled into a new building and permanent office location. The new meeting space has proven to be a hub of health and planning activities for the community, used by many. We are grateful for the community support.

As the spring emerged, Gene Nixon, Health Commissioner, retired after 34 years of exemplary public health service. He is pursuing his next dream as a Peace Corp Country Director in Mongolia. We will miss him and wish him all the best.

Within Summit County, more of our residents have health insurance than ever before with the Affordable Care Act insurance plans and Medicaid expansion. But having insurance is only one part of the story. The social determinants of health are equally important, if not more so. These are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. SCPH is committed to enhancing our partnerships with our cities, townships and villages to adopt effective initiatives that will improve those environments and make demonstrable progress toward health equity. One promising approach towards this goal is *Health in All Policies*, which addresses the factors that influence health and equity, such as educational attainment, housing, transportation options, and neighborhood safety.

In response, Summit County Public Health created the Social Disparity Unit to identify opportunities and create an Accountable Care Community for Summit County. Implementation strategies include activities around tobacco-free living, active living and healthy eating, high-impact quality clinical and preventive services, social and emotional wellness, and healthy, safe physical environments.



Summit County Public Health ended 2015 by hosting the first ever State of the County's Health in partnership with the Alcohol, Drug Mental Health Board. This event highlighted the current state of our county's health both from a physical and behavioral health perspective. The next steps to improve our county's health were outlined with a new assessment and health improvement plan.

As we move into 2016, public health, health care delivery and the community landscape will continue to evolve and change into many new challenges and opportunities. The collaborative spirit, fine leadership and great citizens will make it a fantastic year! Let's get busy!!

All the Best to You and Yours,

Donna Skoda, M.S., R.D., L.D.
Health Commissioner, Summit County Public Health

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Mission Statement

The mission of Summit County Public Health is to protect and advance the health of the entire community through its policies, programs and activities that protect the safety, health and well-being of the people in Summit County. Through its policies, programs and activities, the Health District endeavors to create a healthful environment and ensure the accessibility of health services to all.



Community Health

The Division of Community Health has four main focus areas: population-based prevention, care coordination and case management, early childhood and access to healthcare. We employ a multi-disciplinary approach to service provision, utilizing registered nurses, licensed social workers, dietitians, and health educators. The Division of Community Health provides a leadership role in health and policy development for the County. This involves working in partnership with a number of key stakeholders including community organizations, local and state government, public education, hospitals, and consumers.

Health in All Policies

In 2015, Summit County's Health in All Policies Initiative hosted community forums, conducted surveys online and in person, and engaged residents through social media. Nearly 600 people provided feedback, and told the partners their vision for a healthy Summit County was one in which they felt "safe, connected, and valued." A draft of the official policy that encourages the county and local governments to institutionalize a Health in All Policies approach has been presented to community coalitions and councils for feedback. Final presentations to local governments are expected to occur in 2016. This approach will assist in laying the groundwork for lasting and meaningful change.

Everyday Democracy

Summit County Better Birth Outcomes has been the leader in driving the Everyday Democracy efforts, a strategy funded through the Ohio Department of Health's Ohio Equity Institute. Everyday Democracy focuses on training community leaders and citizens to organize and facilitate neighborhood dialogue circles around racism and infant mortality. As a key strategy for the infant mortality reduction initiatives, these dialogue circles will not only build community capacity to discuss issues surrounding health equity, but also develop a formal infrastructure for community engagement efforts.

IHI Partnership

SCPH has partnered with Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), an organization dedicated to improving health and health care. Through this partnership, SCPH is better able to identify, target and intervene among the populations with the most complex needs and ultimately, impact health disparity in Summit County.

WIC Nutrition Card

As part of a statewide conversion, the WIC program implemented the use of electronic EBT cards for their clients. The new cards replace the use of paper coupons and normalize the shopping process, enabling more seamless transactions when purchasing food.

MIECHV Expansion

Maternal Infant Early Childhood Visiting Program (MIECHV) Expansion Grant was awarded to Summit County Public Health to fund additional home visiting slots. The additional 50 slots were seen as one component of a multi-prong approach to reduce and prevent infant mortality, because these slots were awarded to agencies that serve families in the high risk areas for infant mortality. SCPH staff mentors these agencies through technical assistance, trainings, and one on one mentoring sessions.

Our residents' vision for a healthy Summit County is one in which they feel "safe, connected, and valued."

Communities Preventing Chronic Disease

The Community Health Division of SCPH was awarded a four-year, \$400,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Health to implement population-wide approaches to prevent obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke and reduce health disparities among Summit County adults. Strategies focus on environmental and system approaches to promote health and healthful behaviors in order to address those at risk for developing chronic diseases.

Summit County Coalition for Health Care Improvement (SCCHI)

Originally formed as the Summit County Wellness Council, the SCCHI is committed to identifying key health priorities in Summit County and coordinating action to improve population health and promote health equity for all. Comprised of representatives from more than 80 agencies, the coalition is charged with selecting indicators for the 2016 Summit County Community Health Assessment and subsequent formulation of a Community Health Improvement Plan which will be adopted as a guiding document to improve outcomes for Summit County residents.

Adult Protective Services

Since 2012, the Summit County Adult Protective Services (APS) model has provided a comprehensive response in the investigation of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults 60 years of age and older.

This model consists of collaboration between multiple agencies in the aging network, including Summit County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS), Summit County Public Health (SCPH), Summit County Sheriff's Department, Mature Services and Rebuilding Together, to name just a few. The model also utilizes a multidisciplinary team, including APS investigators, nurses, sheriff's deputies and registered sanitarians to assess and develop care plans to address the identified needs of older adults.

An ongoing evaluation by the University of Akron highlighted the need for timely follow-up and around the clock, face-to-face response to emergency calls. In 2015, DJFS received a \$95,000 State APS Innovation grant. This one-time grant, along with Title XX funding, enabled DJFS and SCPH to contract with Battered Women's Shelter to hire three full-time stability specialists to address these gaps in service delivery. The stability specialists respond to after-hours emergency referrals by making a face-to-face visit within a 24-hour period and providing ongoing follow-up and case management services for up to six months following the initial investigation.

The goals of expanding the model were to ensure client safety and stability, increase service delivery, and

decrease recidivism. The stability specialist approach is less invasive; a home visit is made to provide an extra hand to an older adult who may be having difficulty completing applications for services or is struggling with having strangers come into their home to provide much needed support. By utilizing a less invasive approach, APS has been able to engage more older adults referred to them, build upon their original care plans and increase linkage to services by an estimated 10-15% in just a few short months. This expanded approach will continue in 2016.

Expanded Nurses' Role

In addition to increasing the number of nurses in the APS program, the nursing role was expanded as well, due to the increase in the number of seniors referred with complex medical needs and cognitive and emotional problems. In an effort to better assess the biopsychosocial needs of the older adult, a nursing assessment was developed which includes a review of physical and mental health history, review of medications, vitals check and cognitive and depression screenings.

By utilizing a less invasive approach, APS has been able to engage more older adults referred to them, build upon their original care plans and increase linkage to services by an estimated 10-15% in just a few short months.



Circle of Care

Circle of Care, a program spearheaded by the County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services, in cooperation with 11 local agencies, was developed in 2015 to address the needs of Summit County seniors. The agencies signed a Plan of Cooperation agreeing to work together to develop procedures for integrating and coordinating senior services. The agencies involved are:

- Akron City Fire Department
- Akron City Police Department
- Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Summit County Probate Court
- County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services
- County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board
- Direction Home, Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging
- Summit County Medical Examiner
- Summit County Public Health
- Summit County Prosecutor's Office
- Summit County Sheriff's Department

Dental Services

In July 2015, SCPH opened a new dental clinic at the Fairway Center location. Through the end of 2015, the new fixed dental site served approximately 600 clients. In addition to clients seen at Fairway, 65 clients were seen in the dental van at Community Support Services, and 152 clients were seen at International Institute of Akron. Through the ODH Sealant program, 1,807 students received dental sealants. In December 2015, two mobile community dental operatories and van were purchased.

Clinical Services

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has contracted with Summit County Public Health for the largest refugee contract in the past 20 years. An anticipated 743 refugee clients are expected in the 2015-16 contract period. In October 2015, the Refugee Clinic was moved to the Graham Road location in Stow to better serve our refugee clients. The move increased the number of exam rooms to six.

In 2015, the Sexually Transmitted Disease clinic began using NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) testing, which enables a client to receive results sooner than previous testing methods. Over 1,000 clients were served during 2015.

Communicable Disease

Nearly 5,400 communicable diseases were reported and investigated or noted, including 18 cases of pulmonary and extra-pulmonary tuberculosis. These cases were investigated and provided DOT (Directly Observed Therapy). This number represents twice the number of TB cases reported in 2014.

Care Coordination

Through cooperation and contract with the County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services, over 1,850 clients were assisted with Medicaid eligibility and determinations for SCPH and community agencies.



Behavioral Health

Project DAWN-Community

SCPH received \$42,990.00 from the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board to implement the Project DAWN program which began February 2015. Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) is a community-based overdose education and naloxone distribution program. Naloxone is administered intranasally to reverse an overdose of narcotic, such as heroin. The program is a free walk-in service offered to all residents of Summit County every Tuesday from 3 pm to 6 pm at Summit County Public Health or in the community upon request. Project DAWN participants receive training on:

- Recognizing the signs and symptoms of overdose
- Distinguishing between different types of overdose
- Performing rescue breathing
- Calling emergency medical services
- Administering intranasal Naloxone

The participants receive a Project DAWN kit which contains medication, equipment and instructions for naloxone intranasal administration and emergency response techniques. In 2015, 211 Project DAWN kits were distributed to Summit County residents.



Project DAWN-Law Enforcement

SCPH was allocated \$20,018 from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHMAS) for naloxone distribution to law enforcement, emergency personnel and first responders. In December, SCPH conducted an overdose response training for law enforcement and disseminated 131 Project DAWN kits to seven local law enforcement agencies.

Syringe Exchange

In response to concerns with opiate and injectable drug use, overdose, and the communicable disease burden of blood-borne pathogens such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), SCPH began to explore the implementation of a syringe exchange/health promotion program. In 2016, SCPH will implement this program to provide IV drug users with clean syringes to decrease the risk of blood-borne disease acquisition and transmission in Summit County.



Infant Mortality

In 2015, the issue of infant mortality continued to plague communities across the nation, the state and in Summit County. Infant mortality is defined as the death of a live-born baby before his or her first birthday and is calculated as the number of such deaths per 1,000 live births. The 2013 Ohio Department of Infant Mortality Report indicated that the overall infant mortality rate for Summit County was 6.67 deaths per 1,000 live births and that this number was disproportionately higher in black/African Americans at 10.84 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to whites at 6.37 deaths per 1,000 live births. In Ohio, the leading causes of infant deaths are birth defects, prematurity/pre-term births and sleep-related deaths.

Summit County Public Health, along with numerous collaborative partners, worked diligently this past year to address the issue of infant mortality, recognizing that infant mortality is an important indicator of the overall health of a community. In response to this issue, SCPH has dedicated an Infant Mortality Page on its website listing resources, programs (Safe Sleep, Baby and Me Tobacco Free), and information related to decreasing infant mortality and improving better birth outcomes. The webpage includes a link to the SCPH Minority Health Report *Infant Mortality CALL TO ACTION*, which highlights what can be done to combat this issue, including the following:

- Eliminating racial disparities
- Education on safe sleep
- Education on progesterone treatment
- Smoking cessation

Finally SCPH, along with numerous collaborative partners, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Akron Summit Community Action, Inc. (ASCA) in support of their Commission of Minority Health grant submission to expand the Pathways Community HUB model into Summit County. This model is a delivery system for care coordination services within a community. The partners determine that this model was the best approach to addressing the social determinants of health which impact birth outcomes.

The HUB will rely on partner agencies to identify, assess, treat, monitor and ensure that pathways such as medical referral, employment, immunization, social service, behavioral, pregnancy and post-partum care are met and that all at-risk clients will receive the necessary support and care they need to ensure better birth outcomes. The overall goal of utilizing the HUB model is reducing the infant mortality rate in Summit County. This project will be moving forward in 2016, as ASCA has received the funding to develop the HUB Model.



Refugee Services

For more than 25 years, Public Health in Summit County has provided comprehensive Refugee Health Screening to refugees/refugee families. Refugees are individuals who have suffered violence and collapse of their political, educational and healthcare infrastructure and are displaced from their home, usually into camps. The purpose of these exams are to identify disease and medical conditions which require treatment and provide appropriate referrals to community agencies for follow up care in order to achieve a successful resettlement.

2015 was a particularly difficult year for refugees who were slated to arrive to the US from Nepal. In April of 2015, Nepal suffered a severe earthquake that killed over 8,000 and injured more than 21,000 individuals. Planes were unable to deliver emergency assistance to camps, nor able to fly refugees out to the waiting resettlement agencies. Services were waylaid for over 2 months. Also in 2015, the Syria crisis occurred. Approximately 4.6 million Syrians are refugees and were displaced within Syria. Over half of these refugees are children. Due to the increased threat of terrorist attacks throughout the world, increased political scrutiny and fear has stopped the progression of these refugees to resettle.

SCPH has reacted to these adversities by:

- Relocating the Refugee Clinic to the Graham Road offices to increase availability of exam rooms, as numbers of refugees arriving monthly surge and wane
- Securing Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) support to address language interpretation services
- Promoting other direct care safety net services within our community to bring awareness of services and locations
- Hosting the Refugee Task Force to ensure culturally competent care and awareness for these vulnerable populations

Environmental Health

Significant areas of change and activity for the Environmental Health division in 2015 have been the implementation of new statewide sewage treatment rules and the initiation of the second and third phases of the community environmental health assessment.

Sewage Treatment Systems

The 1977 State of Ohio sewage rules were finally updated in 2014 and effective on January 1, 2015. The update of the nearly 40 year old rules will provide greater consistency across Ohio, will provide improved protection of our waterways and public health and will enable rules to adjust to emerging improvements in technology for treating wastewater. The change allows local adoption of rules and policies for how each jurisdiction will provide increased oversight of new and existing septic system to improve home owner education and oversight of household sewage treatment systems.

This is important to the health of Summit County residents. Most of the drinking water in Summit County originates from water drawn from lakes and rivers. A significant number of septic systems in Summit County and across the state discharge to road ditches that flow to our rivers and lakes or directly to those waterways. In order to protect our health we must protect the health of these waterways. To that end, SCPH passed rules in May of 2015 that will enhance homeowner education and the inspection and oversight of the 33,000 household sewage treatment systems in our county. This will include assessments of systems by private inspectors or SCPH inspectors, increased homeowner education, and increased data collection on maintenance of systems. The program is being phased to address all systems by the end of 2018.

Air Quality Award

In May 2015, SCPH's Air Quality program received an award from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for being the most efficient air agency in the state of Ohio for processing air quality permits.

Community Environmental Health Assessment

In 2015, SCPH began the second and third phases of a community environmental assessment which involves citizen participation in examining the impact of our local built and natural environment on our health. The PACE EH model (Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health) is being utilized as the tool to conduct the assessment. The tool was developed by the CDC and NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officials.)

SCPH has utilized the Summit County Environmental Council as a steering committee to guide the content of the community survey tool, evaluate the response and develop measures to be tracked over time for the community. The end product of the assessment will be a report back to the community with the environmental priorities of our citizens, environmental health improvement goals and measures to track progress. The final report will then be followed by annual updates to the community and be implemented into the broader Community Health Assessment. The final report is expected by May of 2016.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Lead Abatement

Through our lead hazard control grant, 50 homes in Summit County were made lead safe. Several of these homes housed children with elevated levels of lead in their bloodstream. Lead poisoning of children can cause multiple physiological and cognitive problems. The cost of the lead safe measures may vary from a few thousand dollars to tens of thousands of dollars, but the cost is worth the prevention of lifelong problems caused by lead poisoning. The pictures on the following page show before and after conditions of one home in which HUD lead grant funds were invested to conduct lead abatement and healthy home repairs/renovations in order to provide a lead-safe home.



In 2015, one of our inspectors was conducting operation inspections of septic systems in New Franklin. He inspected a 1960 discharging septic system and found the filter bed was no longer treating wastewater adequately. The owner was upset to hear that the septic system would have to be replaced. The inspector put the homeowner in contact with the Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development Office and, using federal grants and loans, the CED office was able to help the homeowner receive nearly 100% funding to help replace the septic system.

Text Alerts

To better serve our residents, SCPH implemented a free text alert system where residents may opt in to receive alerts that will send updates to the resident about our mosquito spraying schedule and weather cancellations. Residents may opt for text messages and/or email communication.

Brownfields

In partnership with the Summit County Development Finance Authority and the Northeast Ohio Four County Planning Organization, SCPH received our second \$650,000 grant reward for testing unused or abandoned industrial/commercial properties (Brownfields) for contaminants. The grant provides funding for environmental investigations, testing and site clearance in order to encourage the redevelopment and productive use of these sites.

Laboratory

To better serve our residents, SCPH made two financial investments in our laboratory in 2015:

- SCPH received Ohio EPA approval to begin collecting and analyzing drinking water samples for bacteria. We will now be offering low-cost water testing to homeowners in 2016.
- A new process for identification of sexually transmitted diseases was implemented. This process is less invasive to the patient and results in quicker and more accurate results.

Fiscal Statement

Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Cash Balances
All Funds for the Period through December 2015

CASH RECEIPTS			
	General Fund	Special Revenue	Total
Local Taxation	3,230,675	0	3,230,675
STATE SUBSIDY	101,713	0	101,713
Environmental Health Fees	2,635,173	324,677	2,959,850
Vital Statistics	450,750	0	450,750
Personal Health Services	1,026,903	403,456	1,430,359
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,653,593	1,116,724	2,770,318
Federal Funds Reimbursement	11,443	10,203,335	10,214,778
Local Contracts (Including Akron)	4,074,535	50,000	4,124,535
State Fees	909,113	0	909,113
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	14,093,898	12,098,193	26,192,090
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
Salaries	6,074,302	5,113,092	11,187,394
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	967,546	813,392	1,780,938
Health Benefits	1,234,417	1,017,409	2,251,826
Travel	157,786	95,283	253,069
Supplies	606,840	341,405	948,245
Contracts-Services/Repairs	1,426,175	4,027,314	5,453,490
Building Rental	6,159	54,919	61,078
Advertising and Printing	25,529	161,354	186,883
Other Expenses	287,009	24,944	311,953
Equipment	391,636	106,397	498,033
Remittance to State	909,002	0	909,002
Debt Service-Building	917,030	0	917,030
Client Services	77,459	147,542	225,001
TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS	13,080,890	11,903,050	24,983,940
RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS	1,013,007	195,143	1,208,150
Transfers/Advances-In	1,185,810	1,936,629	3,122,439
Transfers/Advances-Out	1,724,048	1,398,391	3,122,439
Reserve for Encumbrances	4,136,247	2,762,305	6,898,552
FUND BALANCE	4,611,016	3,495,686	8,106,702

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