

2026 Community Health Needs Assessment

DILEY RIDGE MEDICAL CENTER



Tauana McDonald, FACHE
President and CEO
Mount Carmel Health System

7911 Diley Road, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

An affiliation of Mount Carmel and Fairfield Medical Center, Diley Ridge Medical Center (Diley Ridge) is a state-of-the-art medical complex that includes emergency, inpatient, and diagnostic services as well as an attached medical office building. Located in Canal Winchester, the center serves patients throughout northern Fairfield County, including the communities of Pickerington, Groveport, Canal Winchester, Carroll, Baltimore, and Violet Township, as well as patients residing in Franklin County.

The 35,000-square-foot medical center is the centerpiece of the property. In addition to a full-service, 24-hour ER, the center has 10 inpatient beds, a full clinical laboratory, state-of-the-art imaging center and women's health services that include mammography and bone density.

The nearly 50,000-square-foot medical office building is home to both primary care and specialty physicians and is seamlessly integrated and connected to the medical center by an enclosed walkway. The building also includes a Nationwide Children's Hospital Close to Home Center, providing pediatric urgent care, laboratory, and radiology services.

Mission | To provide healthcare the way it should be!

Vision | To advance our community through convenient, full service health care supported by the strengths of Mount Carmel Health System and Fairfield Medical Center.

Values | Patient Focused
Mutual Respect
Professionalism

Executive Summary

As one of the integrated health systems in central Ohio, Mount Carmel Health System provides people-centered care at Diley Ridge Medical Center (Diley Ridge), located in Fairfield County and five hospitals located in Franklin County: Mount Carmel Dublin, Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel Grove City, Mount Carmel St. Ann's, and Mount Carmel New Albany.

To understand the health needs facing many of patients receiving care at Diley Ridge Medical Center, it is important to assess the needs of the communities where our patients reside. Most patients seeking care at Diley Ridge Medical Center reside in Fairfield County with Franklin County being the second highest residential county for Diley Ridge patients. For this reason, Fairfield and Franklin Counties were selected as the communities served for purposes of this community health needs assessment (CHNA).

The 2026 Community Health Needs Assessment for Diley Ridge Medical Center is a compilation of reports of two counties where most patients seen at Diley Ridge reside: Franklin and Fairfield. Diley Ridge, through Mount Carmel Health System, had representation as a steering committee member for the Franklin County Community Health Needs Assessment, *Franklin County HealthMap2025: Navigating Our Way to a Healthier Community Together*, which can be found at centralohiohospitals.org and mountcarmelhealth.com. Diley Ridge, through Mount Carmel Health System, was part of the collaboration to develop the *2025 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment*, which is accessible by visiting www.myfdh.org, mountcarmelhealth.com, and dileyridgemedicalcenter.com. Together, these reports provide a full community health needs assessment of the communities served by Diley Ridge Medical Center.

Determining the priority health needs for Diley Ridge Medical Center

After several meetings to discuss the priority health needs of Diley Ridge patients with community stakeholders, the 2025 priority health needs for Franklin County and Fairfield County, as well as hospital resources were taken into consideration when determining the 2026 priority health needs for Diley Ridge Medical Center.

The most recent priority health needs and their specific health indicators for Franklin County can be found on pages 11 - 15 of the *Franklin County HealthMap2025: Navigating Our Way to a Healthier Community Together*.

1. Social Drivers of Health (with focus on housing)
2. Mental Health
3. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
4. Maternal and Infant Health
5. Violence and Injury-related Deaths

The most recent priority health needs for Fairfield County are listed in the table of contents on page 2, and in depth on pages 23 – 49, 51 – 60 in the *2025 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment*.

Community Conditions

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Housing and Homelessness | 8. Crime and Violence |
| 2. Access to Healthcare | 9. Transportation |
| 3. Substance Misuse | 10. Education |
| 4. Income/Poverty and Employment | 11. Access to Childcare |
| 5. Food Insecurity | 12. Preventive Care and Practice |
| 6. Adverse Childhood Experiences | 13. Tobacco and Nicotine Use |
| 7. Nutrition and Physical Health | 14. Environmental Conditions |
| | 15. Internet/Wi-fi Access |

Health Outcomes

1. Mental Health
2. Chronic Diseases
3. Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
4. Injuries
5. HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Considering the list of priority health needs from Fairfield and Franklin counties, how they relate to one another, and the trending health needs of DRMC patients, discussions took place with community partners to determine the following as the 2026 priority health needs for Diley Ridge Medical Center:

- 1. Social Drivers of Health**
 - a. Access to Healthcare (Primary Care)**
 - i. Mental Health**
 - ii. Chronic Diseases**
- 2. Food Insecurity**

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was adopted in tax year 2025. The *2026 Diley Ridge Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment* was accepted and approved by the Diley Ridge Medical Center Board of Trustees on May 20, 2026.

This report was made available online at mountcarmelhealth.com and dileyridgemedicalcenter.com on June 3, 2026. To request free printed copies or to have questions/comments addressed, please email communitybenefit@mchs.com.

Mount Carmel Health System received no written comments regarding previous editions of Diley Ridge's Community Health Needs Assessment.

2023 Diley Ridge Medical Center Community Health Needs Impact Report

Mount Carmel Health System, as part of the 2023 Overview of Health for Fairfield County, worked collaboratively with Fairfield County Department of Health to develop and prioritize health indicators as listed below:

1. Behavioral Health
2. Substance Use Treatment
3. Basic Needs, including Transportation Access
4. Community Outreach
5. Racial Equity
6. Maternal-Infant Health

As outlined in the *2023 Diley Ridge Medical Center Implementation Plan*, the prioritized health needs addressed by Diley Ridge was basic needs, including transportation access. Below are the descriptions, goals, and impact made by Diley Ridge Medical Center to address this need in our community during the fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION ACCESS

DESCRIPTION OF NEED:

- Community leaders feel transportation is especially difficult for community members who live outside of public transportation routes, for those whom scheduling transportation is not a habit or does not meet spontaneous needs, and for older individuals.
- Transportation issues and having multiple children could make the necessary trips to community assets harder.
- While census data shows that most households in the county have access to vehicles (96.7%), community leaders see a strong need for improved public transportation systems.
- Lack of transportation is the leading cause of patient no-shows for medical appointments, and missed appointments are associated with increased medical care costs for the patient, disruption of patient care and provider-patient relationships, delayed care, and increased emergency room visits (Humana).

SMART OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Increase the number of individuals screened for social needs, particularly transportation needs, from 0% to 75% of patients presenting at Diley Ridge by the end of 2025.
2. Increase number of patients screened with moderate or high responses to SIOH screening transportation needs within a ten-mile radius of Diley Ridge, who are referred to appropriate transportation resources.
3. Initiate partnership with Central Ohio Transit Authority to determine placement of a bus stop within walking distance to Diley Ridge to have placement by year 3.

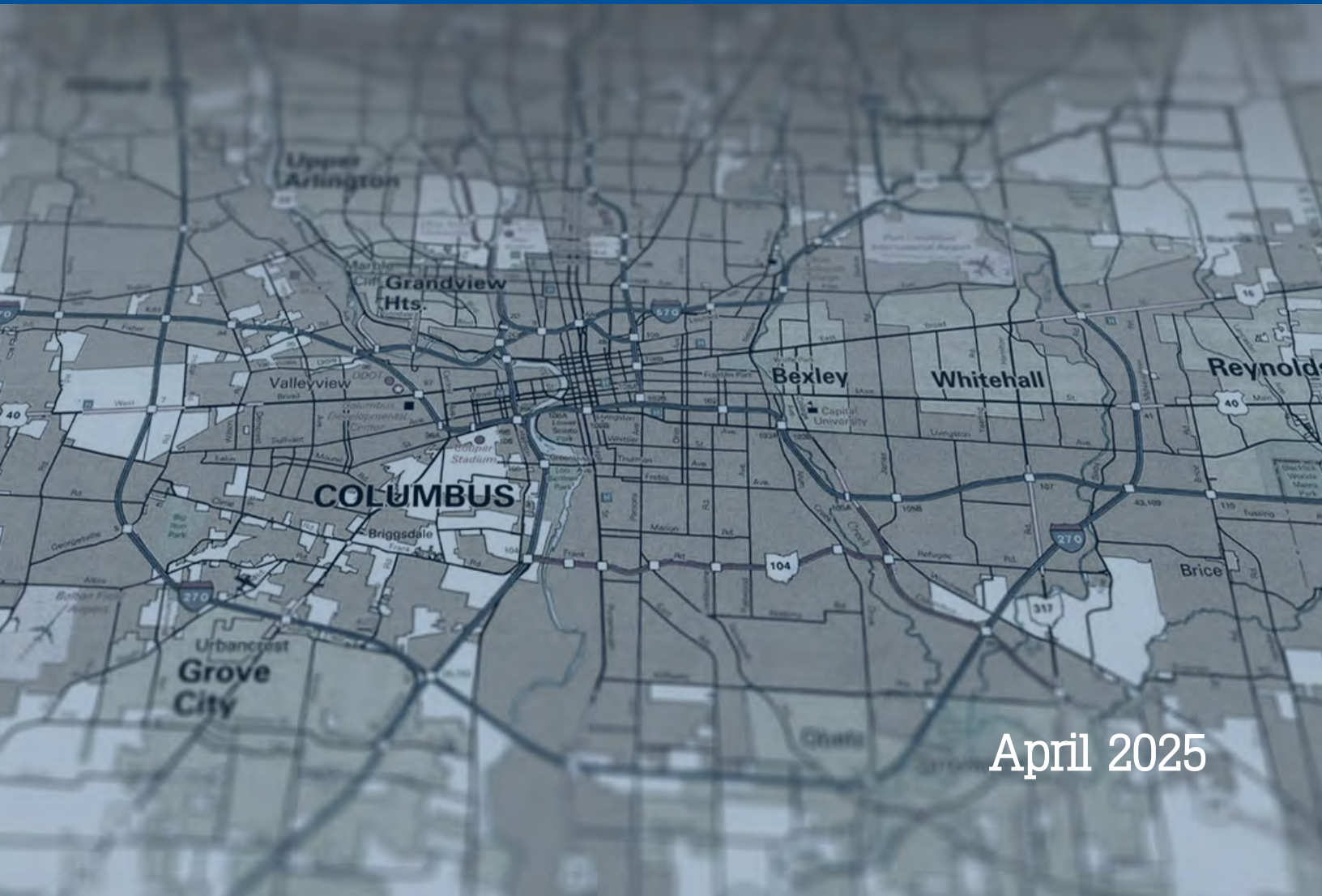
Impact Measures		Baseline	Target	Achieved by 2026
1	Number of individuals screened for transportation needs	0%	75% of patients to be screened	91.03% individuals screened for transportation needs
2	Number of patients with high to moderate responses to Social Influencers of Health screening question about transportation successfully connected to transportation resources	0%	60% of patients with high or moderate response to transportation screening question who needs connected to resources	92% of patients with a high or moderate response to transportation screening question were provided with transportation resources
3	Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) Bus route to include Diley Ridge	No bus stop	Have a COTA bus stop within walking distance of Diley Ridge	Unable to obtain COTA bus stop. Spring 2025, Diley Ridge Medical Center was able to connect and collaborate with Fairfield County Transit, The LINK - now rounding four times a day to Diley Ridge.

*To increase the impact in addressing basic needs, including transportation access, the following Mount Carmel Health System hospitals also addressed mental health and addiction: Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel Grove City, Mount Carmel New Albany, and Mount Carmel St. Ann's.

Franklin County HealthMap2025



Navigating Our Way to a
Healthier Community Together



April 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ABOUT HEALTHMAP2025.....4**
 - Introduction5
 - Franklin County HealthMap2025’s Process5
 - Prioritized Health Needs11
 - Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee15
 - Community Profile19
- BASIC NEEDS.....25**
 - Income And Poverty.....26
 - Housing Insecurity33
 - Food Insecurity43
 - Health Insurance.....46
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)52
- CHRONIC CONDITIONS.....55**
 - Chronic Condition Prevalence.....56
 - Disability Status66
- HEALTH BEHAVIORS.....77**
 - Cancer Screening78
 - Alcohol Use.....82
 - Tobacco Use86
 - Weight Status92
- MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH.....96**
 - Pre-pregnancy And Pregnancy Health97
 - Prenatal Racial Bias.....100
 - Maternal Healthcare103
 - Infant Health and Adolescent Pregnancy106
- INFECTIOUS DISEASES113**
 - Common Infectious Diseases114
 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)116
 - Kindergarten Vaccinations118
- HEALTH CARE ACCESS120**

Emergency Department Utilization.....	121
Dental Care Access.....	129
<i>INJURY AND DEATH</i>	133
Mental and Social Health	134
Mortality	142
Leading Causes of Death	146
Traumatic Injury	151
Cancer	158
Violent Crime.....	162
Overdose Deaths	164
<i>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</i>	167
Elevated blood lead levels (EBLL).....	168
Asthma.....	170
Lyme Disease.....	173
<i>VISION OF A HEALTHY FRANKLIN COUNTY</i>	174
Vision of a Healthy Franklin County	175
Community Assets and Resources	183
Summary	186

ABOUT HEALTHMAP2025

Introduction

The Franklin County Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee is pleased to provide residents of central Ohio with a comprehensive overview of our community's health status and needs via *Franklin County HealthMap2025*.

Franklin County HealthMap2025 is the result of a continuing, collaborative effort coordinated by the Central Ohio Hospital Council (COHC), Columbus Public Health (CPH), and Franklin County Public Health (FCPH). As part of its mission, COHC serves as the forum for community hospitals to collaborate with each other and with other community stakeholders to improve the quality, value, and accessibility of health care in the central Ohio region. Although COHC's not-for-profit member hospitals have service areas that extend across central Ohio, for the purposes of this report, the local geographic focus area is Franklin County, Ohio. CPH serves the residents of the City of Columbus and the City of Worthington, and FCPH serves the residents of all other cities, towns, and villages in Franklin County.

The intent of this effort is to help health departments, hospitals, social service agencies, and other community organizations identify and address the unmet health needs of Franklin County residents. By characterizing and understanding the prevalence of acute and chronic health conditions, access to care barriers, and other health issues, these community partners can ensure resources are focused so that they have the greatest impact.

To that end, central Ohio's hospitals and health departments will begin using the data reported in *Franklin County HealthMap2025* to inform the development and implementation of strategic plans (e.g., community health improvement plans; implementation plans) that address the community's health needs. Consistent with federal requirements, *Franklin County HealthMap2025* will be updated in three years.

The Franklin County Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee hopes *Franklin County HealthMap2025* serves as a guide to target and prioritize limited resources, a vehicle for strengthening community relationships, and a source of information that contributes to keeping people healthy.

Franklin County HealthMap2025's Process

The process for *Franklin County HealthMap2025* reflects an adapted version of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: Assess Needs and Resources process.¹ This process is designed to help stakeholders "understand current community strengths, resources, needs, and gaps," so they can better focus their efforts and

¹ See <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/action-center/assess-needs-resources>

collaboration. The primary phases of this process, as adapted for use with *Franklin County HealthMap2025*, included the following steps.

(1) Prepare to Assess. Members of the community were closely involved throughout the design and implementation of *Franklin County HealthMap2025*. On January 17, 2024, new members of the *Franklin County HealthMap2025* Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee² gathered via Zoom to learn about the upcoming community health needs assessment process and how their experience and involvement would be critical for the success of the effort.

On January 31, 2024, the full Steering Committee gathered in person to discuss their perspectives on emerging health issues in Franklin County, to participate in conversation with one another about the current state of health in the county (e.g., “What would a healthy Franklin County look like to you?”), and to identify potential health indicators for inclusion in *Franklin County HealthMap2025*. Both small group discussions and large group “report-outs” occurred during this session.

The *Franklin County HealthMap2025* Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Committee then used the information from these preceding working meetings and community visioning survey to identify which indicators could be assessed via secondary sources and which indicators could be gathered via primary data collection efforts.

(2) Collect and Analyze Secondary Data. Indicators identified by the Steering Committee for inclusion in the *Franklin County HealthMap2025* were collected and entered into a database for review and analysis. Quantitative secondary data for health indicators came from national sources (e.g., U.S. Census, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System) and state sources (e.g., Ohio Department of Health’s Data Warehouse, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Development). Rates and/or percentages were calculated when necessary.

To ensure community stakeholders can use this report to make well-informed decisions, only the most recent data available at the time of report preparation are presented. To be considered for inclusion in *Franklin County HealthMap2025*, quantitative secondary data must have been collected or published in 2021 or later; in most cases, the data reported in *HealthMap2025* are from 2022. In some instances, comparable state and/or national data were unavailable at the time of report preparation and therefore were not included.

The following table lists the quantitative indicators included in Franklin County’s *HealthMap2025*.

² These individuals are listed on page 12 of this report.

Indicator	Indicator Details	Indicator	Indicator Details
COMMUNITY PROFILE			
Total population	Number of people in Franklin County, Ohio	Educational attainment	-
Sex	-	Foreign-born status	Born outside of the United States
Age	-	English proficiency	Percent of people age 5+ who speak English less than "very well"
Race	-	Non-English languages spoken at home	Leading non-English languages spoken by people while at home
Ethnicity	-	Household size	Average household, family size
Total households	Number of households in Franklin County, Ohio	Household type	Family, nonfamily, single parents
BASIC NEEDS			
Poverty status	Less than 125% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL)	Eviction filing rate	Per 100 renter-occupied households
Income distribution	Less than 125% FPL; 125%-200% FPL; 200% FPL or below, 200%-400% FPL	Food insecurity	People who lack access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life
Median household income	-	Health insurance rate (insured; uninsured)	People who have health insurance
Cost-burdened households	Households that spend ≥30% of income on housing	Health insurance type	People who have different types of health insurance
Renter-occupied housing	Occupied housing units that are rented	Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)	Adults who experienced an ACE before the age of 18
Unhoused community members	People who are homeless at a single point in time		
CHRONIC CONDITIONS			
High cholesterol prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they have high cholesterol	Stroke prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they had a stroke
High blood pressure prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they have high blood pressure	Heart disease prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they have heart disease
Arthritis prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they have arthritis	Disability prevalence by type	Adults with different types of disabilities
Diabetes prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they have diabetes		
HEALTH BEHAVIORS			
Breast cancer screening	Adult females (age 40+) who recently had a mammogram	Current cigarette smokers	Adults who smoke cigarettes some days or every day
Colorectal cancer screening	Adults (age 45-75) who recently had a colonoscopy	Current e-cigarette users	Adults who use e-cigarettes some days or every day
Alcohol abuse	Adults who binge drank in the past month	Obesity/overweight status	Per body mass index (BMI) categories

Indicator	Indicator Details	Indicator	Indicator Details
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH			
Prenatal chronic health conditions	Anxiety; depression; gestational diabetes; or pregnancy-onset hypertension	Prenatal racial bias	Pregnant women who reported experiencing racial bias from a healthcare provider
Pre-pregnancy vitamin usage	Taking (multi)vitamins in month before pregnancy	Infant mortality rate	Deaths that occurred before 1 year of age, per 1,000 babies born
Pre-pregnancy diabetes	Type 1 or 2 diabetes in the three months before pregnancy	Low birthweight prevalence	Infants who weighed less than 2500 grams
Unintended pregnancy	Those who wanted to be pregnant later or did not want to be pregnant	Preterm birth prevalence	Infants who were delivered before 37 weeks gestation
Prenatal healthcare	Women who had a healthcare visit in year before pregnancy	Neonatal abstinence syndrome birth rate	Rate per 1,000 babies born
Postnatal healthcare	Women who had a healthcare visit in the 4-6 weeks after delivery	Teen fertility rate	Rate per 1,000 girls age 15-19 in the same age
INFECTIOUS DISEASES			
Most common infectious disease rates: adults	Rate per 1,000 individuals	New HIV diagnosis rate	Rate per 100,000 individuals
Most common infectious disease rates: children	Rate per 1,000 individuals	Kindergarten vaccinations	Youth who entered kindergarten with all required vaccines complete
HEALTH CARE ACCESS			
Emergency Department utilization	Treated & released; Admitted into the hospital; Visit severity; Top 10 diagnoses	Dental care access	Needed dental care but could not secure it (past 12 months)
INJURY AND DEATH			
Mental/Social health	Self-harm and suicide; loneliness; depression; alcohol attributable deaths; child abuse; domestic violence	Trauma hospitalization	Leading types of traumatic injuries
Mortality	Life expectancy; mortality rate	Cancer	Incidence and mortality
Leading causes of death	Rate per 100,000 individuals	Violent crime	Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, per 100,000 individuals
		Overdose deaths	Rate per 100,000 individuals
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH			
Elevated blood lead level (EBLL)	Among children under 6 years old	Lyme disease	Cases and rates, per 100,000 individuals
Asthma prevalence	Adults told by a doctor that they have asthma		

Throughout the report, a (▲ or ▼) symbol next to the HM2025, Ohio, or US estimate indicates that estimate is at least 10% higher or at least 10% lower than the HM2022 estimate for that geography. A (▲ or ▼) symbol next to an age, sex, race/ethnicity, or disability estimate indicates that estimate is at least 10% higher than or at least 10% lower than the overall Franklin County estimate (i.e., HM2025).

(3) Collect and Analyze Primary Data. Qualitative primary data were obtained from a series of eleven 90-minute focus groups held from May 13, 2024 through July 26, 2024. Most of these focus groups were held in convenient, trusted locations throughout the community (e.g., Columbus Metropolitan Library branches; a community center; Columbus Public Health’s administrative headquarters) and were facilitated by professional researchers. One focus group was held virtually via Zoom. A combination of professional/paid and grassroots/volunteer recruiting efforts were used to invite a diverse mix of Franklin County residents to participate in these sessions, including those with different types of disabilities.³

Overall, 111 Franklin County adults who reside within the primary jurisdictions of the COHC-member hospitals (as defined for this process), CPH, and FCPH participated in these focus groups, sharing their thoughts and observations about a wide range of health topics. These discussions included a focus on underlying factors that contribute to health issues, such as poverty and racism. Transcripts of these discussions can be provided upon request.

(4) Identify Priority Health Needs. On October 22, 2024, the Steering Committee members received a draft copy of *Franklin County HealthMap2025*. They were asked to review the draft document and to record and share any comments or questions they had about it.

On October 31, 2024, the full Steering Committee met in person to review *Franklin County HealthMap2025* and to identify priority health issues. The meeting participants were divided into small groups, with each group asked to review a specific section of *Franklin County HealthMap2025* and, within that section, to identify potential priority health issues for consideration by the larger group. In addition to sharing their personal experience and history during these small-group conversations, meeting participants were asked to consider the following criteria when identifying potential priority health issues:

- **Equity:** Degree to which specific groups are disproportionately affected by an issue.
- **Size:** Number of persons affected, taking into account variance from benchmark data and targets.
- **Seriousness:** Degree to which the health issue leads to death or disability, and impairs one’s quality of life.

³ The Steering Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the Ohio Department of Health’s Center for Public Health Excellence for recruiting disabled residents to share their experiences and opinions in one of these focus groups and for providing ASL interpreters to help facilitate that conversation.

- **Feasibility:** Ability of organization or individuals to reasonably combat the health issue given available resources. Related to the amount of control and knowledge (influence) organization(s) have on the issue.
- **Severity of the Consequences of Inaction:** Risks associated with exacerbation of the health issue if not addressed at the earliest opportunity.
- **Trends:** Whether or not the health issue is getting better or worse in the community over time.
- **Intervention:** Any existing multi-level public health strategies proven to be effective in addressing the health issue.
- **Value:** The importance of the health issue to the community.
- **Social Determinant / Root Cause:** Whether or not the health issue is a root cause or social determinant of health that impacts one or more health issues.

Overall, a total of 29 potential priority health issues were identified by Steering Committee members. A multi-voting technique,⁴ featuring three rounds of voting, was used to narrow down that list to **five priority health issues** that affect Franklin County residents.

On December 19, 2024, Steering Committee members received an invitation to participate in an online survey that would lead to the identification of the final set of priority health needs for the community. This prioritization survey was structured as follows. First, it provided an orientation to the purpose and intent of the effort. It presented an array of criteria that respondents should use when identifying priority health needs (e.g., the list of nine factors presented above). Then, after reading descriptions of the five priority health issues, respondents were asked to rank those issues. Overall, 28 Steering Committee members completed this survey. After tabulating the responses, there was clear consensus about the community's priority health needs. These priority health needs are reviewed in the next section of this report.

From these exercises, the Steering Committee was able to complete its charge to identify the prioritized health needs of Franklin County.

(5) Identify Community Assets and Resources. In December 2024, the Executive Committee identified community assets and resources that could potentially address the prioritized health needs, including existing healthcare facilities, community organizations, and programs or other resources. Inclusion of these potential partners and resources in *Franklin County HealthMap2025* is consistent with hospital requirements for conducting a needs assessment.

(6) Share Results with the Community. In December 2024, COHC conducted a review of *Franklin County HealthMap2025* to ensure that it was compliant with Internal Revenue Service

⁴ See NACCHO's Guide to Prioritization Techniques, which can be accessed at <https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Guide-to-Prioritization-Techniques.pdf>.

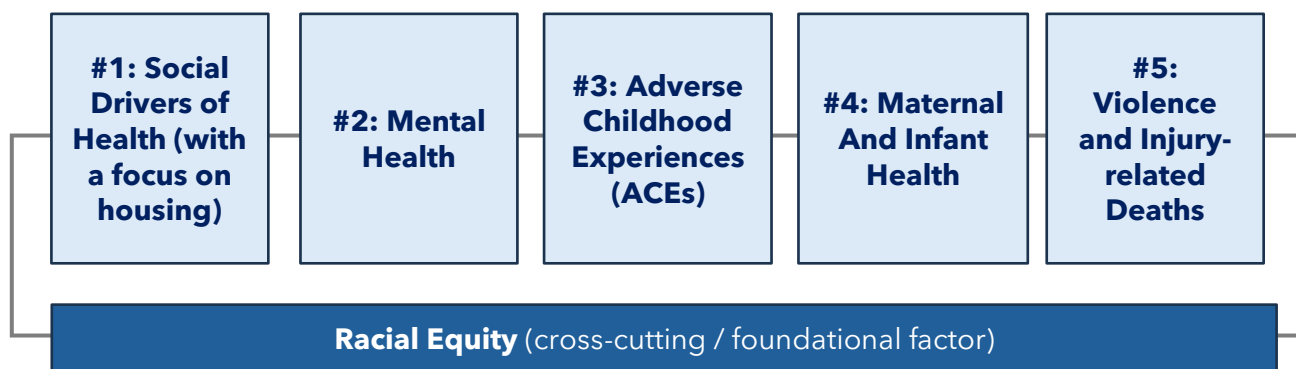
regulations for conducting community health needs assessments. CPH and FCPH also conducted internal reviews to ensure the report satisfied the requirements set forth by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). No information gaps that may impact the ability to assess the health needs of the community were identified during or after this process.

This report will be posted on COHC's, CPH's, and FCPH's websites, will be used in subsequent community prioritization and planning efforts, and will be widely distributed to organizations that serve and represent residents in the county.

Prioritized Health Needs

The five prioritized health needs affecting Franklin County residents, as identified by the Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee, are displayed below and discussed in this section.

Prioritized Health Needs Identified By HealthMap2025



Priority #1: Social Drivers of Health (with a focus on housing)

- Non-medical factors, such as economic stability, education and healthcare access, transportation and neighborhood safety, are key drivers of good health outcomes. According to Healthy People 2030, addressing the quality of housing as a public health issue may help prevent and reduce negative health outcomes. This is because poor housing quality and inadequate housing conditions can contribute to negative health outcomes, including chronic disease and injury. Furthermore, the presence of lead, mold, or asbestos, poor air quality and overcrowding can lead to irreversible health effects. In addition, overcrowded homes may be at risk for poor mental health, food insecurity, and infectious disease.
- Steering Committee members noted the many linkages between housing and health conditions and argued that policy changes are likely necessary to address varied challenges with the availability and affordability of different types of housing in Franklin County. Furthermore, Steering Committee members noted that cost-burdened households - those that spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs - tend to

be concentrated in zip codes that are associated with greater levels of racial and financial inequities, likely reflecting the historical practice of redlining in central Ohio.

Relevant indicators	See pages
Cost-burdened household prevalence	36
Unhoused community members (point-in-time count)	37

Priority #2: Mental Health

- According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 23% of U.S. adults (1 in 5 adults) experienced mental illness in 2021 with 5.5% of adults (1 in 20 adults) experiencing a serious mental illness. And per the CDC, social isolation and loneliness are widespread problems in the U.S. and pose a serious threat to both mental and physical health. Social isolation can increase a person's risk for heart disease, self-harm, dementia and eventually may lead to an earlier death.
- Steering Committee members mentioned loneliness and depression as areas of concern, noting that over a quarter of residents report feeling lonely, and that the prevalence of loneliness is higher among recently pregnant women, individuals who have a household income that places them at or under the 100% federal poverty level, and among individuals with a disability. Furthermore, females, white (non-Hispanic) individuals, adults under the age of 65, and individuals with a disability are more likely than other groups to report ever being told by a healthcare professional that they have a depressive disorder (e.g., depression).
- Hospitalizations due to self-harm and deaths from suicide have both increased in Franklin County since the last HealthMap. The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition has identified high-risk populations, including the Black and African-American community, older adults, refugees and immigrants, veterans, and youth.

Relevant indicators	See pages
Depression prevalence	136
Loneliness prevalence	135
Suicide death rate	135

Priority #3: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are traumatic events that occur during childhood (i.e., before age 18) and impact mental health. Examples of ACEs include violence, abuse, or neglect, as well as contextual factors that might negatively affect a child's sense of safety or stability, such as growing up in a household with people who have substance use problems, mental health problems, or parents who were separated or in jail. Research shows that ACEs can have lasting effects on health and wellbeing in childhood, as well as impact one's education and job potential into adulthood. These experiences can increase the risks of injury, maternal and child health problems including teen pregnancy, pregnancy complications, and fetal death. Also impacted are a range of chronic diseases and leading causes of death, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide.

- Steering Committee members noted that the prevalence of those who report having 4 or more ACEs when they were children is highest among black (non-Hispanic) individuals, those who are younger than age 65, and individuals with a disability. Furthermore, Steering Committee members noted that ACEs are considered a root cause for many physical and mental health issues and social determinant of health outcomes.

Relevant indicators	See pages
Adverse childhood indicators prevalence	52
Depression prevalence	136

Priority #4: Maternal and Infant Health

- Healthy children need healthy parents. The health of the mother – before, during, and after pregnancy – has a direct impact on the health of the child. Biological and neurological sciences show that the predictors of healthy child development begin before pregnancy, with the health of the mother, and continue after the birth, with the mother-child relationship.
- According to the CDC, each year, more than 50,000 pregnant people are affected by severe maternal morbidity, 800 women die due to pregnancy-related complications and over 20,000 infants die. And per CelebrateOne, a public/private impact collaborative addressing and reducing infant mortality, 126 babies died in Franklin County before their first birthday in 2023, with 20 due to sleep-related conditions.
- From the Steering Committee members’ perspective, an increased focus on maternal health could lead to a reduction of the infant mortality rate, which unfortunately has not decreased significantly in recent years. Steering Committee members also suggested broadening the focus of maternal health to include the pre-pregnancy period, prenatal period, and well after delivery. Furthermore, Steering Committee members noted that many pregnant women report racial bias in the prenatal health care they received, which is a cross-cutting factor that also must be addressed.

Relevant indicators	See pages
Maternal health (multiple indicators)	96-112
Infant mortality rate	108

Priority #5: Violence and Injury-related Deaths

- Injury and violence affect everyone, regardless of age, race, or economic status. According to the CDC, Americans aged 1 to 44 die from injuries and violence – such as motor vehicle crashes, suicide, overdoses, or homicides - more than any other cause. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for this age group, while homicide remains in the top five leading causes of death. Overall, drug overdose remains the leading cause of injury-related death among adults in the United States.
- Steering Committee members noted that both drug overdose deaths and deaths from alcohol-attributable causes have increased since the last HealthMap. Additionally, Steering Committee members were concerned about traumatic injuries and the presence of numerous disparities by age, gender, and race.

Relevant indicators	See pages
Drug overdose death rate	164
Alcohol-attributable death rate	138
Traumatic injury prevalence	151-157
Violent crime	162

Page 183 of this report presents a list of community assets and resources that could potentially help to address these prioritized health needs.

Note that these prioritized health needs are interrelated, and in many cases likely co-occur. Furthermore, the Steering Committee acknowledges that large scale coalitions currently address **infant mortality** and **addiction**, and that those efforts could be supplemented with an increased focus on the potential causes of those issues.

For context, Ohio’s 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) identified three cross-cutting factors (i.e., social determinants of health that include community conditions, health behaviors, and access to care) as well three health outcome categories (i.e., mental health and addiction, chronic disease, and maternal and infant health) that should be considered when planning to improve the community’s health (see next page). Overall, there is good alignment between *HealthMap2025’s* prioritized health needs and Ohio’s 2020-2022 SHIP.

Priority Factors And Outcomes Identified By Ohio’s 2020-2022 SHIP

What shapes our health and well-being?

Many factors, including these 3 SHIP priority factors*:

- Community conditions**
 - Housing affordability and quality
 - Poverty
 - K-12 student success
 - Adverse childhood experiences
- Health behaviors**
 - Tobacco/nicotine use
 - Nutrition
 - Physical activity
- Access to care**
 - Health insurance coverage
 - Local access to healthcare providers
 - Unmet need for mental health care

How will we know if health is improving in Ohio?

The SHIP is designed to track and improve these 3 SHIP priority health outcomes:

- Mental health and addiction**
 - Depression
 - Suicide
 - Youth drug use
 - Drug overdose deaths
- Chronic disease**
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Childhood conditions (asthma, lead)
- Maternal and infant health**
 - Preterm births
 - Infant mortality
 - Maternal morbidity

All Ohioans achieve their full health potential

- Improved health status
- Reduced premature death

Source: Ohio’s 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), available at <https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/odh.ohio.gov/SHIP/2020-2022/2020-2022-SHIP.pdf>

Lastly, it should be noted that several other health issues were also considered by the Steering Committee as part of this prioritization process. Although these other issues play an important role in affecting the health of Franklin County residents, they did not receive the same level of endorsement as compared to the priority health needs reviewed previously.

The other health issues considered by the Steering Committee are listed below in no particular order.

- Racial bias in health care (note: this is mentioned as a cross-cutting factor affecting maternal health, above)
- Access to dental care
- Accessing care in the appropriate setting
- Overweight and obesity status
- Tobacco use (smoking and vaping)
- Life expectancy
- Cancer screening
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Food preparation knowledge
- Diversity of housing stock
- Asthma / respiratory disease
- Maternal & child health: Access to care; Cultural competence
- Maternal & child health: Chronic conditions
- Maternal & child health: Infant mortality
- Heart disease
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Transportation
- Suicide deaths | Self-harm hospitalizations

Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee

Work on *Franklin County HealthMap2025* was overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of the following community members. Consistent with federal requirements for conducting health needs assessments, entities which represent specific populations within the community are identified. Executive Committee members are indicated with a * symbol.

ADAMH Board (Mental Health)
Kelly Bragg

B.R.E.A.D. Organization (Faith Communities)
Blanche Luczyk, Cora Harrison

Central Ohio Hospital Council (Hospital/Medical)
*Jeff Klingler**

Center for Public Health Practice at The Ohio State University (University System)
Andy Wapner

City of Columbus (Government)
Hannah Jones

Columbus City Schools (Education)
Sara Bode

Columbus Public Health (Public Health)
Kathy Cowen, Ann Mehl, Laurie Dietsch, Michelle Groux*

Community Shelter Board (Housing Insecure Community)
Steven Skovensky

Directions for Youth & Families (Mental Health)
Duane Casares

Educational Service Center (Education)
Wade Lucas

Equitas Health (LGBTQ+)
Francisco Caro

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (Social Services; New American Communities)
Seleshi Ayalew Asfaw

Franklin County Coroner (Hospital/Medical)
Nathaniel Overmire, Patrick McLean, Jeremy Blake

Franklin County Office of Aging (Senior Community)
Caroline Rankin, Chanda Wingo

Franklin County Public Health (Public Health)
Joe Mazzola, Theresa Seagraves, Abby Boeckman, Sierra MacEachron*

Future Ready Five (Education)
Vanisa Turney

Health Impact Ohio (Public Health)
Tanikka Price

Human Services Chamber (Social Services)
Bhumika Patel

Mid-Ohio Food Collective (Food Insecure Community)
Amy Headings

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Transportation, Data)
Melinda Vonstein

Mount Carmel Health System (Hospital/Medical)
Candice Coleman, Brian Pierson

Nationwide Children’s Hospital (Hospital/Medical)

Libbey Hoang, Brittany Kremer, Laura McLaughlin

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (Medical)

Dana Vallangeon

Ohio Department of Health Disability and Health Program (Disabled Community)

David Ellsworth

OhioHealth (Hospital/Medical)

Rebecca Barbeau, Jeff Kasler

OSU Extension - The Ohio State University (Education/Rural Community)

Brian Butler

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (Hospital/Medical)

Annie Marsico, Ben Anthony

United Way of Central Ohio (Low-income/Medically Underserved Communities)

Lisa Courtice

Workforce Development Board (Workforce Development)

Lauren Rummel

The following hospitals (listed by health system) participated in the *HealthMap2025* process:

Mount Carmel Health System

Mount Carmel East Hospital

Mount Carmel Grove City Hospital

Mount Carmel St. Ann’s Hospital

Nationwide Children’s Hospital

OhioHealth

OhioHealth Doctors Hospital

OhioHealth Dublin Methodist Hospital

OhioHealth Grant Medical Center

OhioHealth Grove City Methodist Hospital

OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital

OSU Wexner Medical Center

University Hospital, Main Campus

University Hospital East

The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

Input from all required sources was obtained for this report.

COHC, CPH, and FCPH contracted with various organizations to help create *Franklin County HealthMap2025*. Representatives of those organizations, along with their qualifications and addresses, are provided below.

Illuminology - located at 5258 Bethel-Reed Park, Columbus, OH 43220. Illuminology, represented by Orië V. Kristel, Ph.D., led the process for locating health status indicator data, for designing and moderating the focus groups, and for creating the summary report. Dr. Kristel is Illuminology's principal researcher and has 27 years of experience related to research design, analysis, and reporting, with a focus on community health assessments.

Center for Public Health Practice - located within the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University, 1841 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210. The Center, represented by Andy Wapner and Georgia Sasser, provided data collection, analysis support, and contributed to the summary report. The Center was also represented on the Steering Committee. Center staff combine for over 30 years of experience in local, state, and academic public health and routinely provide health needs assessment services.

INCompliance, an affiliate law firm of Bricker Graydon LLP – located at 100 South Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. INCompliance provided overall guidance in ensuring that the conduct of the CHNA was compliant with the Internal Revenue Service regulations. Jim Flynn is a managing partner with Bricker Graydon and senior consultant to INCompliance. He and has 34 years of practice experience related to health planning matters, certificate of need, non-profit and tax-exempt health care providers, and federal and state regulatory issues. Christine Kenney is Director of Regulatory Services for INCompliance and has over 44 years of experience in health care planning and policy development, federal and state regulations, certificate of need, and assessment of community need.

The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the following people who contributed their time and expertise to assist with some of the analyses and maps included in *HealthMap2025*: Sierra MacEachron (Franklin County Public Health); Kathy Cowen, Michelle Groux, Emily Alexy, and Becky Zwickl (Columbus Public Health's Office of Epidemiology).

Community Profile

Overall, Franklin County’s total population continues to increase. Compared to the last *HealthMap*, the county’s demographic profile has remained similar, with three notable exceptions: the proportion who identify as Hispanic or Latino has increased; the proportion who were born in another country has increased; and the proportion of people age 5+ who speak English less than “very well” has increased.

Franklin County Residents¹⁻³

		Franklin County		
		HM2019	HM2022	HM2025
Total population	Population of Franklin County	1,264,518	1,316,756	1,321,820
Sex	Male	48.8%	48.8%	49.2%
	Female	51.2%	51.2%	50.8%
Age	Under 5 years	7.3%	7.0%	6.5%
	5-19 years	19.0%	19.1%	19.2%
	20-64 years	62.3%	61.4%	61%
	65 years and over	11.3%	12.4%	13.3%
Race (any ethnicity)	White	68.1%	66.5%	65.1%
	Black	23.1%	23.9%	24.9%
	Asian-American/Pacific Islander	5.4%	6.0%	6.0%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
	Two or more races	3.2%	3.4%	3.7%
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.4%	5.8%	7.3% ▲
Foreign-born	Foreign-born	-	11.4%	12.6% ▲
	<i>(Among foreign-born) Naturalized</i>	-	48.2%	45.4%
	<i>(Among foreign-born) Not a U.S. citizen</i>	-	51.8%	54.6%
English proficiency	Percent of people age 5+ who speak English less than “very well”	-	5.3%	6.4% ▲
Most common languages spoken by people who speak a non-English language at home	Spanish	-	49,949	56,793▲
	Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic languages	-	25,051	27,074
	Arabic	-	8,437	15,285▲
	Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other languages of Western Africa	-	10,904	12,435▲
	Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages	-	9,668	11,076▲
	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	-	13,072	8,188 ▼
	French (incl. Cajun)	-	5,789	7,579 ▲
	Swahili or other languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa	-	3,608	6,634▲

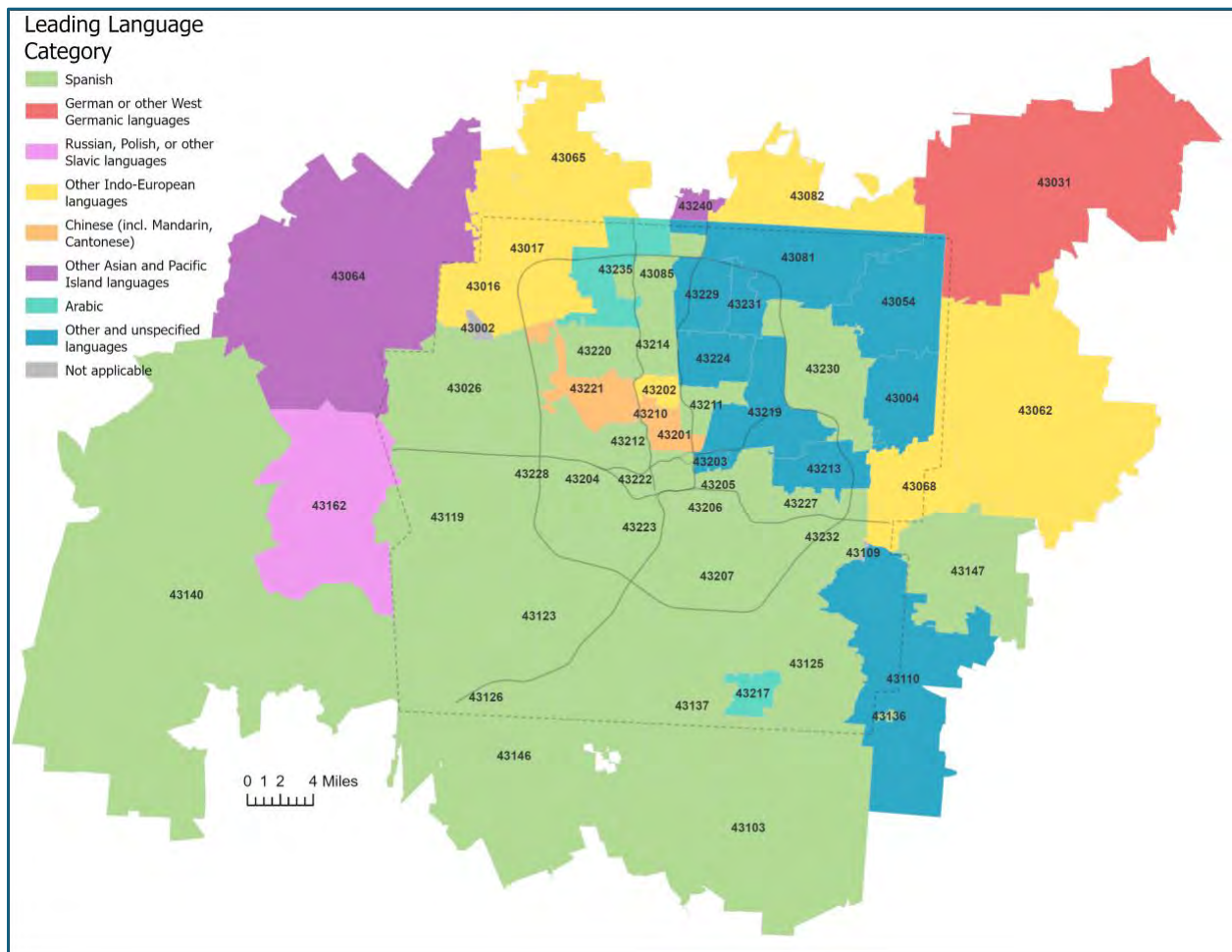
		Franklin County		
		HM2019	HM2022	HM2025
Educational Attainment	No/Some high school, no degree	9.7%	8.8%	8.7%
	High school graduate	25%	24.6%	24.5%
	Some college (no degree)	20.2%	19.6%	18%
	Associate's degree	6.8%	6.9%	6.5%
	Bachelor's degree	24.4%	25.3%	25.8%
	Graduate/Professional degree	14%	14.8%	16.5% ▲

Although the number of households in Franklin County has increased over time, other household characteristics remained relatively stable over time (e.g., household size, household type).

Franklin County Households¹

		Franklin County		
		HM2019	HM2022	HM2025
Total households	Number of households	502,932	522,383	550,153
Household size	Average household size	2.5	2.5	2.4
	Average family size	3.2	3.2	3.1
Household type	Family households	58.0%	58.5%	55.8%
	Nonfamily households	42.0%	41.5%	44.2%
	Single parent households	-	18.4%	18.3%

The leading non-English language category spoken at home⁴ in each Franklin County zip code is shown below.

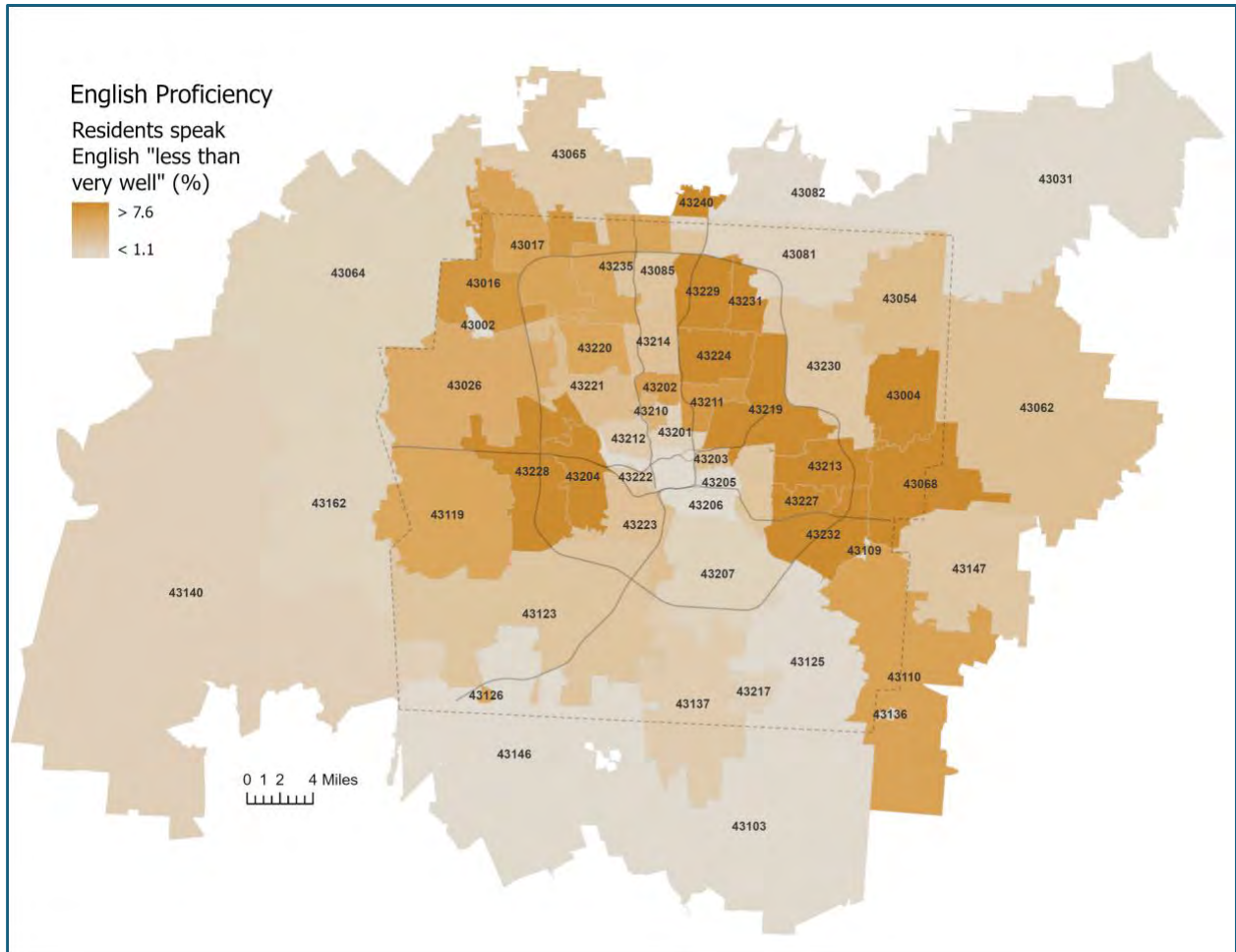


The following zip codes have the highest percentage of residents who speak a non-English language at home. Per the United States' Census Bureau⁴:

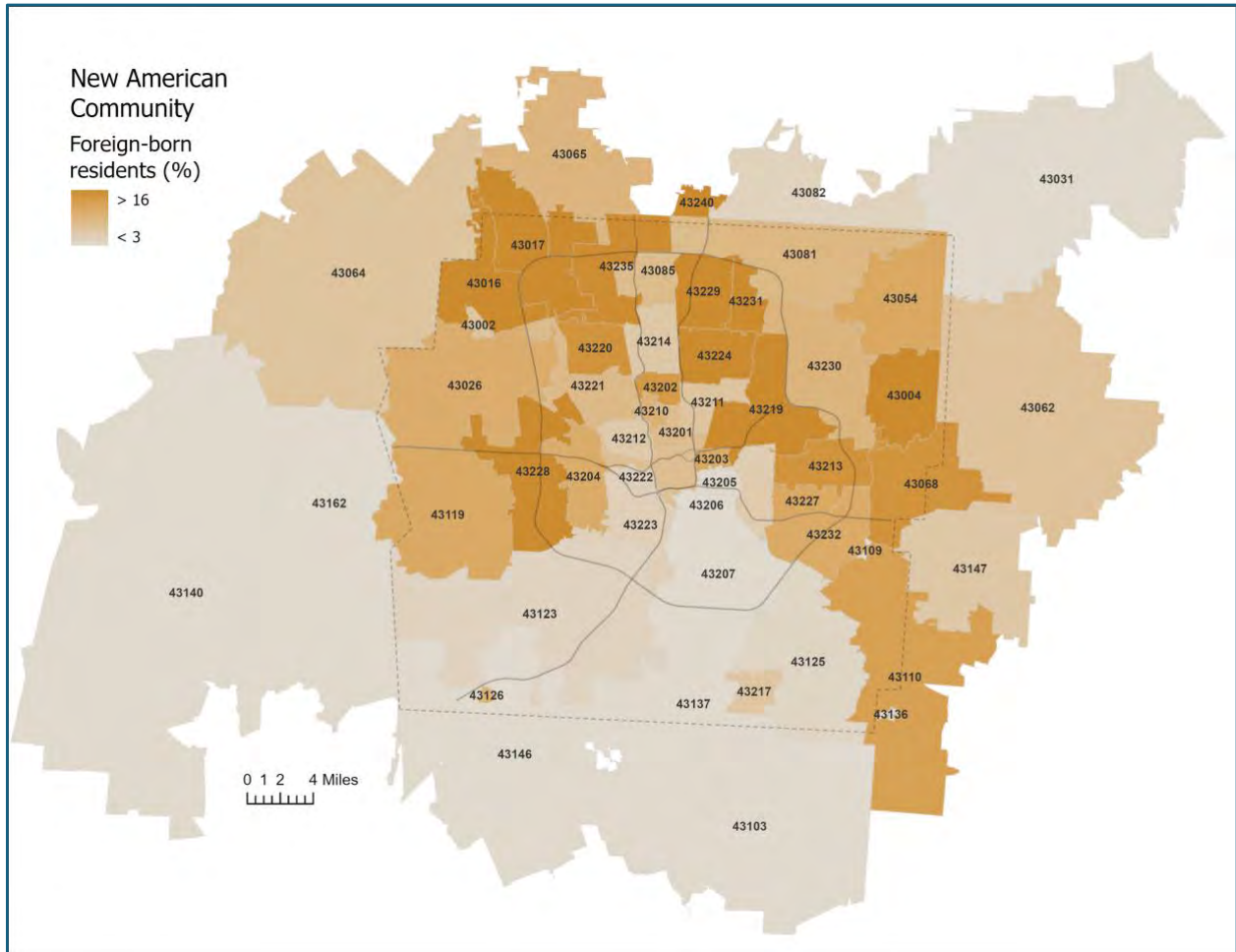
- 26% of residents in zip code **43231** speak a language other than English at home. In that zip code, the most common countries of birth besides the United States are Somalia, Ghana, and Kenya.
- 21% of residents in zip code **43229** speak a language other than English at home. In that zip code, the most common countries of birth besides the United States are Ghana, El Salvador, and Somalia.
- 20% of residents in zip code **43224** speak a language other than English at home. In that zip code, the most common countries of birth besides the United States are Somalia, Ghana, and Mexico.
- 16% of residents in zip code **43219** speak a language other than English at home. In that zip code, the most common countries of birth besides the United States are Somalia, Mexico, and India.

- 14% of residents in zip code **43068** speak a language other than English at home. In that zip code, the most common countries of birth besides the United States are Bhutan, Nepal, and Ethiopia.

As shown in the map below, those residents who speak English less than “very well” are relatively more likely to be located in Franklin County’s far eastern zip codes (e.g., 43068, 43004, 43232, 43227, 43213), its western zip codes (e.g., 43204, 43228, 43119), and its north-central zip codes (e.g., 43219, 43224, 43229, 43231).



Those residents who report being born in another country are relatively more likely to be located in Franklin County's north-central zip codes (e.g., 43219, 43224, 43229, 43231), in the 43228 zip code, and its northwestern zip codes (e.g., 43016, 43017, 43220, 43235).



Additional Information & References

Over the past 15 years, the U.S. Census Bureau has been working to improve how it measures race in America, including those who identify with two or more racial groups. This process resulted in numerous changes to the questionnaires it uses, starting in 2020. If HM2025 used recent American Community Survey data (i.e., 2022 vintage) to estimate the proportion of Franklin County residents who identify with two or more racial groups, that statistic would be 9.3%, representing a 250% increase from what was measured in 2019 (i.e., 3.7%). Because those questionnaire changes produced a substantial change in this statistic over time, HM2025 used a different U.S. Census Bureau dataset to estimate Franklin County residents' race/ethnicity status.^{2,3}

Household size includes all people occupying a housing unit, while family size includes the family householder and all other people in the housing unit related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.⁴



Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about the proportion of residents who obtained technical training / certification. Unfortunately, the U.S. Census Bureau does not appear to measure that type of vocational activity.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). *County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2020, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin [Dataset]*. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-county-detail.html>

³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *County Population by Characteristics: 2020-2023, Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin [Dataset]*. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-detail.html>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022 (HM2025)

BASIC NEEDS

Income And Poverty

Socioeconomic status is one of the most well documented influences on health. Lower income is associated with greater chronic illness, more healthcare needs, worse health-related quality of life, and higher mortality.¹⁻⁴

The median household **income** in Franklin County in 2022 was **\$69,681**.

≈
Similar to HM2022
(\$64,713)

18.8% of Franklin County residents have an income below 125% of the **poverty level**.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (17.7%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Children more likely

Sex:
None observed

Race/Ethnicity:
Non-white more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Many Franklin County residents feel they are vulnerable to poverty, perceiving basic needs as increasingly expensive and their overall financial stability as precarious.



"Most of us now, with inflation rates and the way everything is mildly expensive, we are all a couple bad weeks away from being as homeless as the other people on Broad Street. People who feel like they have had a more stable setup or a more conventional foundation, I don't think that is the same as it maybe was five or ten years ago."

Community members feel that the effort to make ends meet precludes individuals from thinking about their health needs, as well as financially prevents them from accessing health care, nutritious food, and other things needed to lead healthy lives.



"If you are someone who's trying to make ends meet and you're working several jobs, oftentimes it's really hard to find the time, to find the motivation to do the things that are ultimately going to improve your health. So you might be fully employed, working 60, 80 hours a week just to keep a roof over your head. And the other things kind of take a back seat to that. You don't have access necessarily to healthy food. You don't have access to doctors in your area where it's a quick trip to that. And our society really pats people on the back who work a lot, basically themselves to death."

"Being stuck on that bottom rung of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Yes, healthcare should be down there, but it isn't. It's another step up. If you're trying to just subsist and you can't get out of that, you're not going to think about things that are actually problems with your body or mental health."

"You can't afford everything. You try to do one thing, because if you try to do it all, and then it's a trickle-down effect and you're in a hole, you can't get yourself out of it. So, you can only do so much for yourself. And if you have a family, it's even harder. You just have to pick and choose what's most important at that right time."

"If you're sick, you're not gonna have the energy to make healthy meals, you're not gonna follow the doctor's orders, like take a rest, or do this type of treatment, because you have to work and make money to provide for your family."

While resources exist to help individuals in poverty, community members say that accessing them is not easy enough; individuals may be unaware what resources exist and unable to get connected to an individual who can help them in a timely manner.



"If you are living in poverty, you may not have the ability to know where to access the resources. Because I do think that there are a lot of resources, but I don't think people know how to get to the resources, and people are not helping them get to those resources."

"A lot of people are having such a hard time getting a hold of, like, [government agency]. I've heard people call and call. You put your request in for a call back. You never get a call back. There's just no communication. And I don't feel like there's really a willingness to help either."

There are social ramifications to living in poverty as well, as a community member pointed out. It is difficult for families to spend time together when parents must work multiple jobs to maintain financial stability.



"And people working multiple jobs to bridge the gap between the generations, [there's a gap] between parents and their kids. It's hard to see the kids because I'm working multiple jobs and my kid goes to bed before I come back from work. Stuff like that creates this huge gap among ourselves."

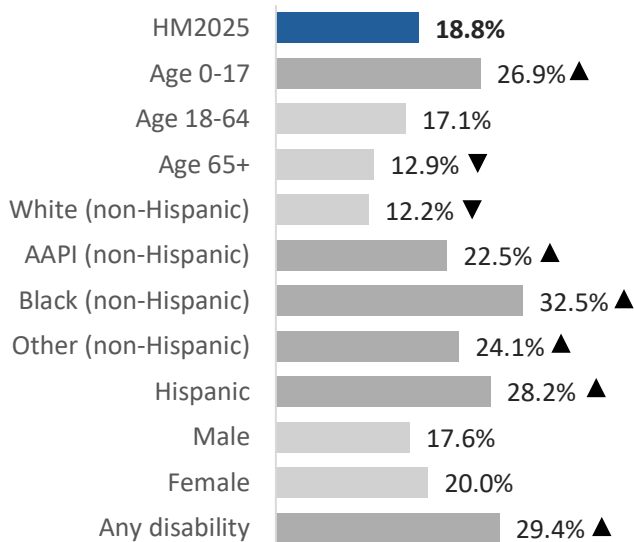
Overall, the median household income among Franklin County residents is higher than Ohio residents overall but lower than US residents overall. However, after adjusting for inflation, the average household income in Franklin County for HM2025 is *slightly less* than what was observed six years ago (i.e., HM2019).

Children, non-white individuals (especially those who are black non-Hispanic, those who are Hispanic, and those who have an other non-Hispanic racial background), and disabled individuals are at increased risk of living near or below the federal poverty level.

Median Income

	Average income	Adjusted for inflation
HM2025	\$69,681	\$69,681
HM2022	\$64,713	\$76,170
HM2019	\$56,055	\$70,100
Ohio	\$65,720 ▲	\$65,720
US	\$74,755 ▲	\$74,755

Less than 125% Federal Poverty Level

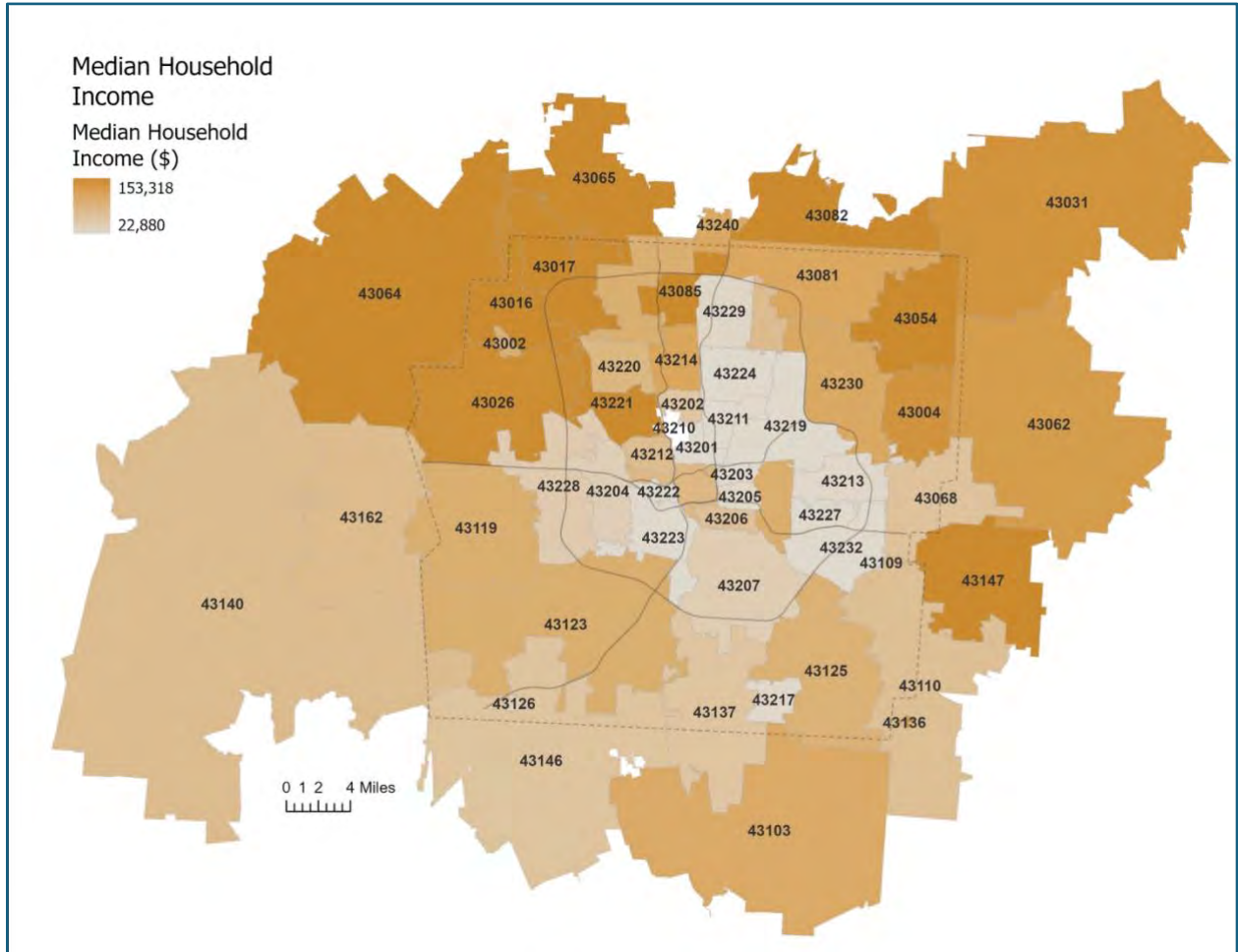


As shown below, income distribution near a variety of federal poverty level thresholds has remained relatively consistent over time. Compared to both the United States and Ohio, Franklin County does have a slightly higher proportion of people in the below 125% bracket.

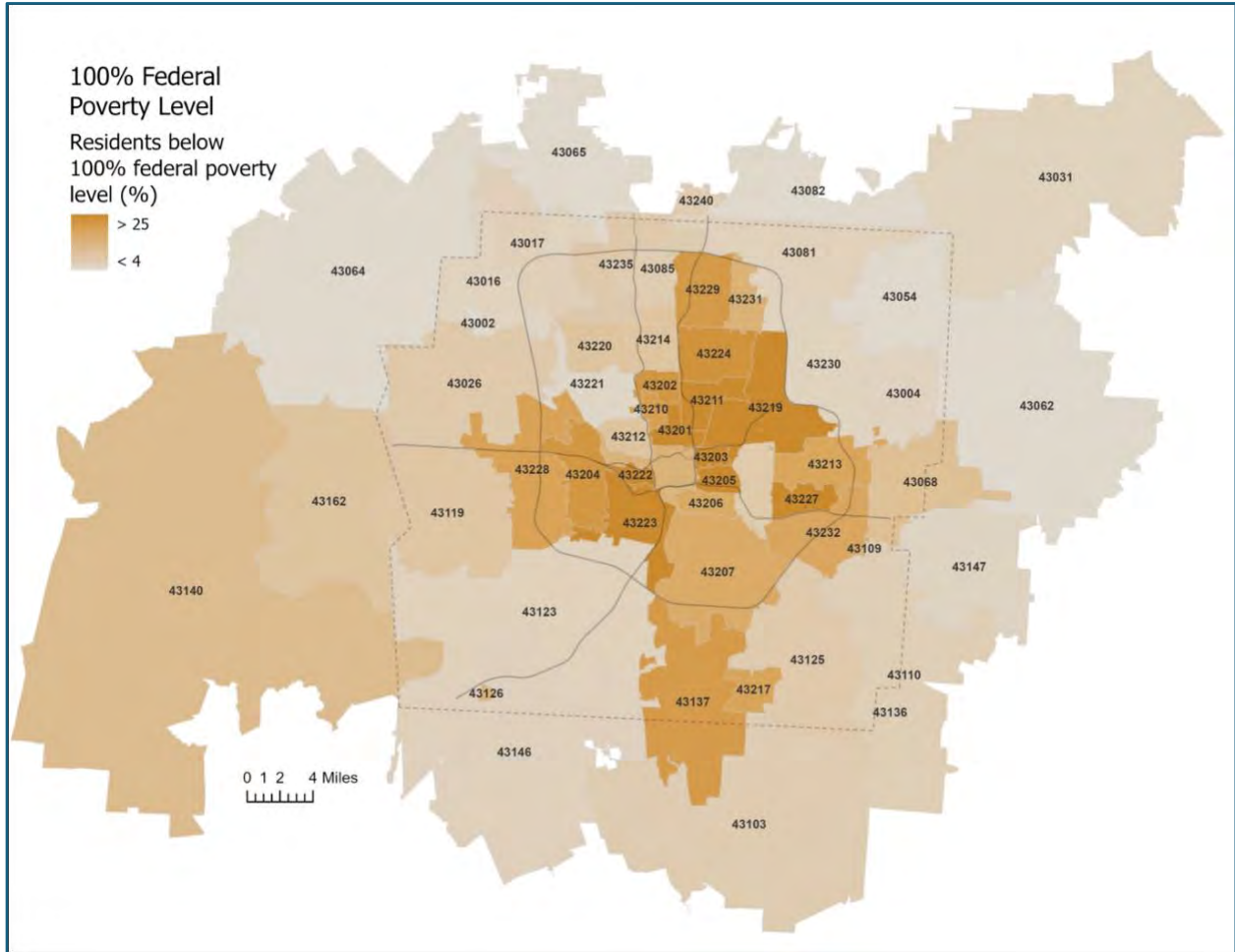
Income Distribution

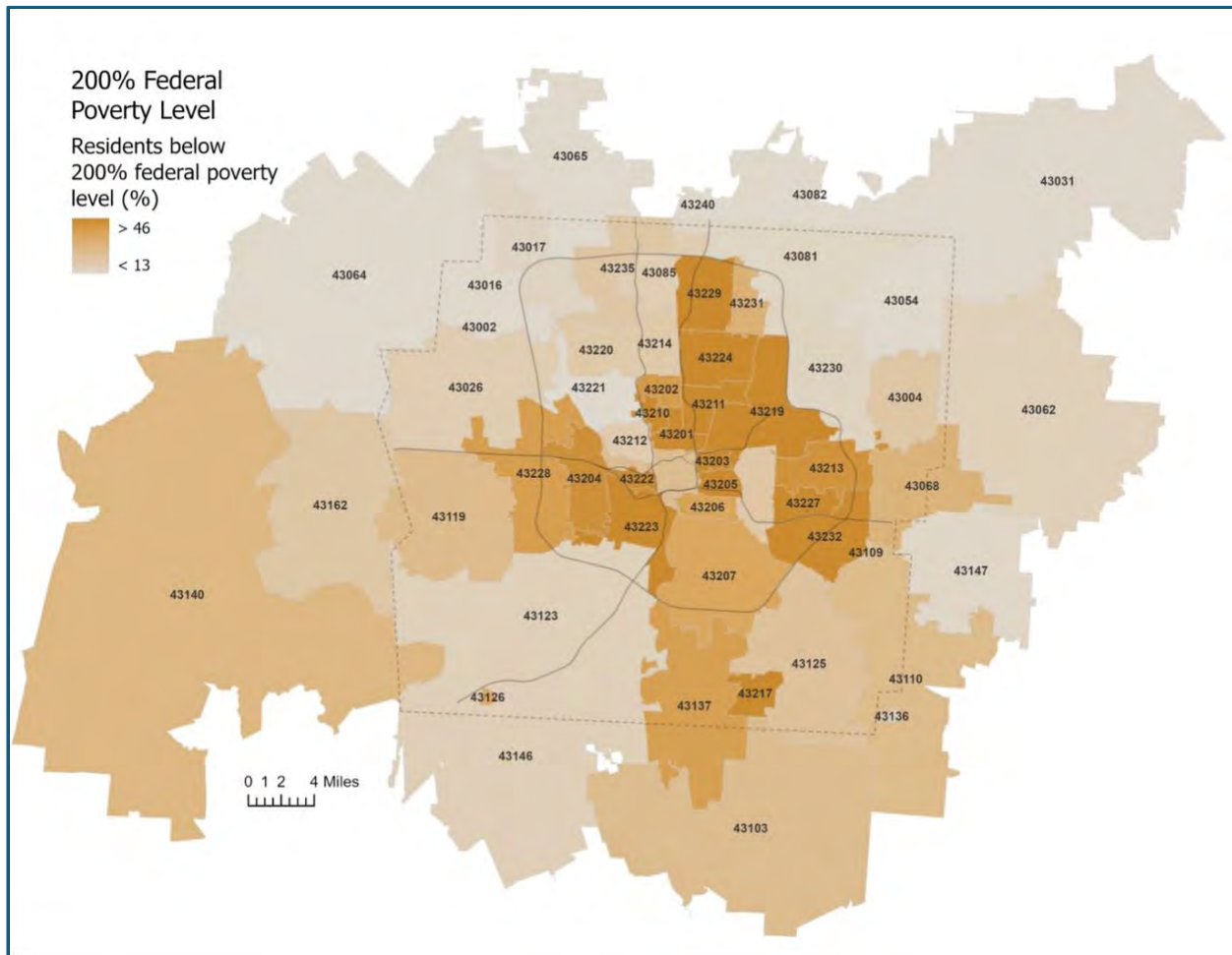
	Below 125% FPL	125%-200% FPL	200% FPL or Below	201%-400% FPL
HM2025	243,546 (18.8%)	147,662 (11.4%)	391,208 (30.3%)	377,029 (29.2%)
HM2022	227,330 (17.7%)	162,267 (12.6%)	389,597 (30.3%)	379,629 (29.5%)
HM2019	263,627 (21.4%)	143,589 (11.7%)	407,216 (33.0%)	365,366 (29.6%)
Ohio	1,955,282 (17.0%)	1,400,699 (12.2%)	3,355,981 (29.3%)	3,653,884 (31.8%)
US	53,141,624 (16.3%)	39,178,320 (12.1%)	92,319,944 (28.6%)	96,703,365 (29.9%)

As shown in the map below, the zip codes with the lowest median household incomes are concentrated in the north-central part of Franklin County (e.g., 43229, 43224, 43211, 43219), some eastern zip codes (e.g., 43213, 43227, 43232), and some central zip codes (e.g., 43222, 43223).



The next two maps show the percentage of central Ohio residents in each zip code who have an income that is (1) below 100% of the federal poverty level and (2) below 200% of the federal poverty level. Each map tells a similar story: zip codes located in the central-east and central-north areas of Franklin County have greater percentages of residents in poverty.





Additional Information & References

Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic should also read the *HealthMap2025* section that focuses on individuals with disabilities (see page 65).

Data about income and poverty were obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS).⁵⁻⁷ For *HealthMap2025*, special attention is paid to median income, the percent of individuals near or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau, and the number of individuals at specified income brackets.

The income categories 125-200% and 200-400% of the FPL were calculated by subtracting the numbers for 200%-125% and 400%-200%, respectively. Total numbers at each income category were converted into percentages by dividing by the total number for which poverty status was determined in the applicable geographic unit and year.

$$\%(125 - 200\% FPL) = \frac{[(n = 200\%FPL) - (n = 125\%FPL)]}{Total\ population\ for\ whom\ poverty\ status\ is\ determined}$$

For example, the HM2025 Franklin County estimate for those with an income at or below the 125-200% FPL was calculated as follows:

$$11.4\% = \frac{[391,208 - 243,546]}{1,290,258}$$

The Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator⁸ was used to adjust the average income values for HM2022 and HM2019 for inflation.

To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.⁹

¹ Bosworth B. (2018). Increasing Disparities in Mortality by Socioeconomic Status. *Annual review of public health, 39*, 237-251. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040617-014615>

² Robert, S. A., Cherepanov, D., Palta, M., Dunham, N. C., Feeny, D., & Fryback, D. G. (2009). Socioeconomic status and age variations in health-related quality of life: results from the national health measurement study. *The journals of gerontology. Series B, Psychological sciences and social sciences, 64*(3), 378-389.

³ Kivimäki, M., Batty, G. D., Pentti, J., Shipley, M. J., Sipilä, P. N., Nyberg, S. T., Suominen, S. B., Oksanen, T., Stenholm, S., Virtanen, M., Marmot, M. G., Singh-Manoux, A., Brunner, E. J., Lindbohm, J. V., Ferrie, J. E., & Vahtera, J. (2020). Association between socioeconomic status and the development of mental and physical health conditions in adulthood: a multi-cohort study. *The Lancet. Public health, 5*(3), e140-e149. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(19\)30248-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(19)30248-8)

⁴ Begley, C., Basu, R., Lairson, D., Reynolds, T., Dubinsky, S., Newmark, M., Barnwell, F., Hauser, A., & Hesdorffer, D. (2011). Socioeconomic status, health care use, and outcomes: persistence of disparities over time. *Epilepsia, 52*(5), 957-964. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1528-1167.2010.02968.x>

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Median Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars). *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1903*. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1903?q=Income and Poverty&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Characteristics of People at Specified Levels of Poverty in the Past 12 Months." *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1703, 2022*, https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1703?q=s1703&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701*. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1701?q=s1701&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049.

⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. CPI Inflation Calculator. Accessed September 1, 2024 at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?>

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022 (HM2025)

Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity is associated with decreased healthcare access, increased hospital and emergency department utilization, and worse overall health.^{1,2} When individuals must focus on basic needs such as housing, the seemingly “secondary” needs of healthcare may be neglected and cause further downstream health challenges.

31.9% of Franklin County households spend at least 30% of income on **housing**.

↑
Up from
HM2022 (28.2%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Unavailable

Sex:
Unavailable

Race/Ethnicity:
Unavailable

Geography:
Observed (see map)

47.5% of Franklin County households are **renting** their housing.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (46.6%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Unavailable

Sex:
Unavailable

Race/Ethnicity:
Black, Hispanic
more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

2,337 Franklin County residents are **unhoused**.

↑
Up from
HM2022 (2,036)

There were **8.7 eviction filings per 100 renter-occupied households** in Franklin County.

↑
Up from
HM2022 (7.5)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Unavailable

Sex:
Unavailable

Race/Ethnicity:
Unavailable

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Community members believe it is far too difficult to find an affordable apartment, due not only to the cost of rent, but also to the stipulations of being accepted for low-income apartment options and apartments in general.



"I was in an apartment for 18 years, and they put a note on my door and said, we sold the apartment complex, and you have 60 days to move. I had just had surgery, and I found my new apartment, and it was \$800 more than what I was paying. And it was the cheaper option. And they sold my apartment to make it low-income housing. But I was out of range for that apartment. But then I wind up paying almost double what I was paying in the old apartment. And it's smaller. I had to rent a garage because I couldn't even fit everything I had in the new apartment, but I'm paying almost double. The pricing is ridiculous."

"If you go to just a regular apartment complex and you try to get an apartment, they want you to have a 720 credit score and they want you to have three times the amount of rent every month. And it's like, I don't know anybody who can pay \$1,500 or \$1,800 and have three times that amount of money a month...and the amount to move in which is like six or seven thousand, because you have to have first month's rent, last month's rent, and security deposit."

Community members see housing being purchased in their communities by outside investors and say this contributes to the inability of people to buy homes in Franklin County.



"There's a guy over here. His name is on everything. I looked him up. He's an investor from New York, and he is buying up everything. Everything. And setting those prices stupid high...I asked the mayor, why can't you guys control [that]? They can't control who buys. I don't know why, but I think that's a horrible thing."

"Half of the housing has been bought up by corporations to rent them out. They'll come in all cash, 20% above asking. There's no way in which a person can afford to buy."

"Even here on the South Side, it's a lot of gentrification. Houses over here on Thurman Ave, back in the day, you could easily get one of those houses. Now there's nowhere for regular working folks to go."

Community members believe the quality of housing that is more "affordable" is in poor condition; structural, aesthetic, and security issues go unaddressed by landlords, and the environment overall negatively impacts mental and physical health.



"Say you don't have the money to get the thing that you want. So you only make \$1,000 in your paycheck. So you can only afford \$500. But the \$500 [place], the wall is coming down, the paint peeling. The landlord doesn't care about what it looks like. So now you're living in something that you really don't want to be there. You're stressing about it. 'Oh my God, I need to get out of here. But I can't afford to get out of here.'"

"From what I heard, they're closing all the housing down because they haven't been taking care of it. They've been ran down. Yeah there's affordable housing. At what price? You don't have running water, the hot water goes out, or the locks don't work. And then what? Then you got the people that live there who don't care, who just terrorize the neighborhood. So do you want to live [in] affordable housing where you might get shot when you walk outside, you might have mice, the health department might not even come when you call them? It's one thing if it's just you, but if you got your family, you got kids, you don't want your kids to live like that."

"A lot of these affordable housing units don't have access to doctor's offices that you can get to using public transportation or by walking, or even grocery stores. You can't get fresh food. And so it becomes really difficult for people who maybe don't always have access to a car to get to places where they can take care of their physical or mental health or have access to other things that will improve those things."

"So landlords are just renting and the places are terrible, which is affecting the kids. We have them sign they don't have a lead-based paint, but it doesn't matter because they're not even really doing the repairs, the plumbing. They're letting water sit and kids are coming in with asthma. Our clients have something with the lungs because of black mold. The lack of affordable housing [relates to] the health disparities, especially in the black and brown communities."

Community members also spoke to the difficulty of finding accessible housing for individuals with mobility issues. This causes extra stress on caretakers and can cause unhoused individuals to spend more time in shelters due to the lack of accessible housing in the county.



"I work for the homeless shelter, so when it comes to housing, the ones that are on canes, using walkers, it's very hard to find handicap accessible housing. It's not that many options. And the ones that are, they're already filled. So we might have someone who is on a walker who, their stay might be a year and a half because we've been looking for handicapped accessible housing."

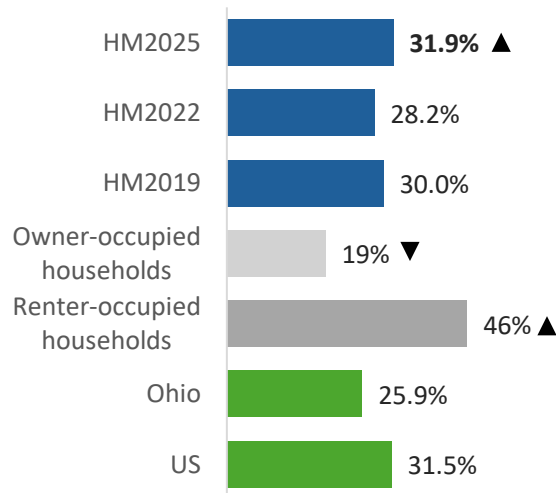


"Finding housing that's even suitable for somebody who has a lot of healthcare issues has been hard. For example, my mom, she has mobility issues and can't do steps. So finding a ranch home or something just one story was really hard for a long time. And then once you do find a one-story place, you need hallways to be wider to get wheelchairs through. And then you need shower stalls. So I think just in general, if you're disabled and you need housing, where can you find something that's accessible to your needs? That's really hard."

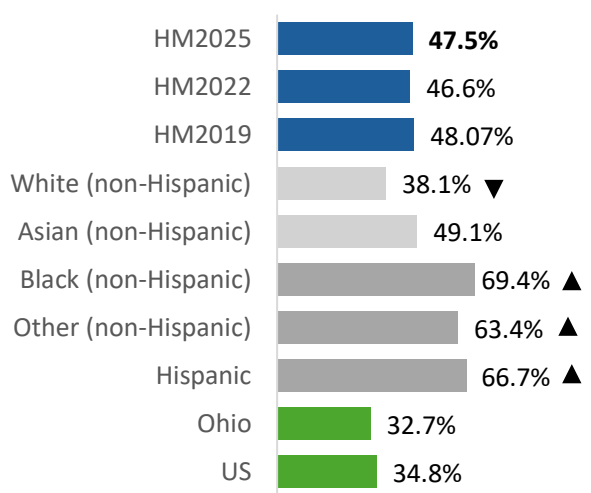
Unfortunately, housing insecurity has not improved since *HealthMap2022*. The percentage of cost-burdened households - those that spend 30% or more of their monthly household income on housing costs - has increased. Furthermore, nearly half of renter-occupied households in Franklin County are cost-burdened.

Homeownership offers an opportunity to for individuals and families to build wealth and economic security.⁴ Unfortunately, significant racial disparities were noted among those who don't yet live in (or choose not to live in) owner-occupied housing. Black (non-Hispanic) individuals, Hispanic individuals, and individuals with an other (non-Hispanic) racial background were more likely than white (non-Hispanic) individuals or individuals with an Asian racial background to be renters.

Cost Burdened Households (≥30%)



Renter-occupied Housing Units



The most recent "point-in-time" estimate of unhoused individuals in Franklin County found that this number has increased substantially compared to previous years. Relatedly, the eviction rate in Franklin County has increased since *HealthMap2022* and is above the state average. Per data provided by the Franklin County Municipal Court and collated by the Eviction Lab³, there were 23,762 evictions in 2023, a 14% increase from 2022.

Unhoused Community Members

Point in Time Estimate	
HM2025	2,380 ▲
HM2022	2,036
HM2019	1,229
Ohio	11,386
US	653,104 ▲

Eviction Filing Rate

Rate per 100 renter households	
HM2025	8.7% ▲
HM2022	7.5%
Ohio	6.2%



Healthy People 2030

Unfortunately, Franklin County is moving further away from the Healthy People 2030 objective on housing cost burden.⁵ Further intervention is likely needed to address this issue facing many Franklin County residents.

HP2030 objective for families spending \geq 30% of income on housing: Not met

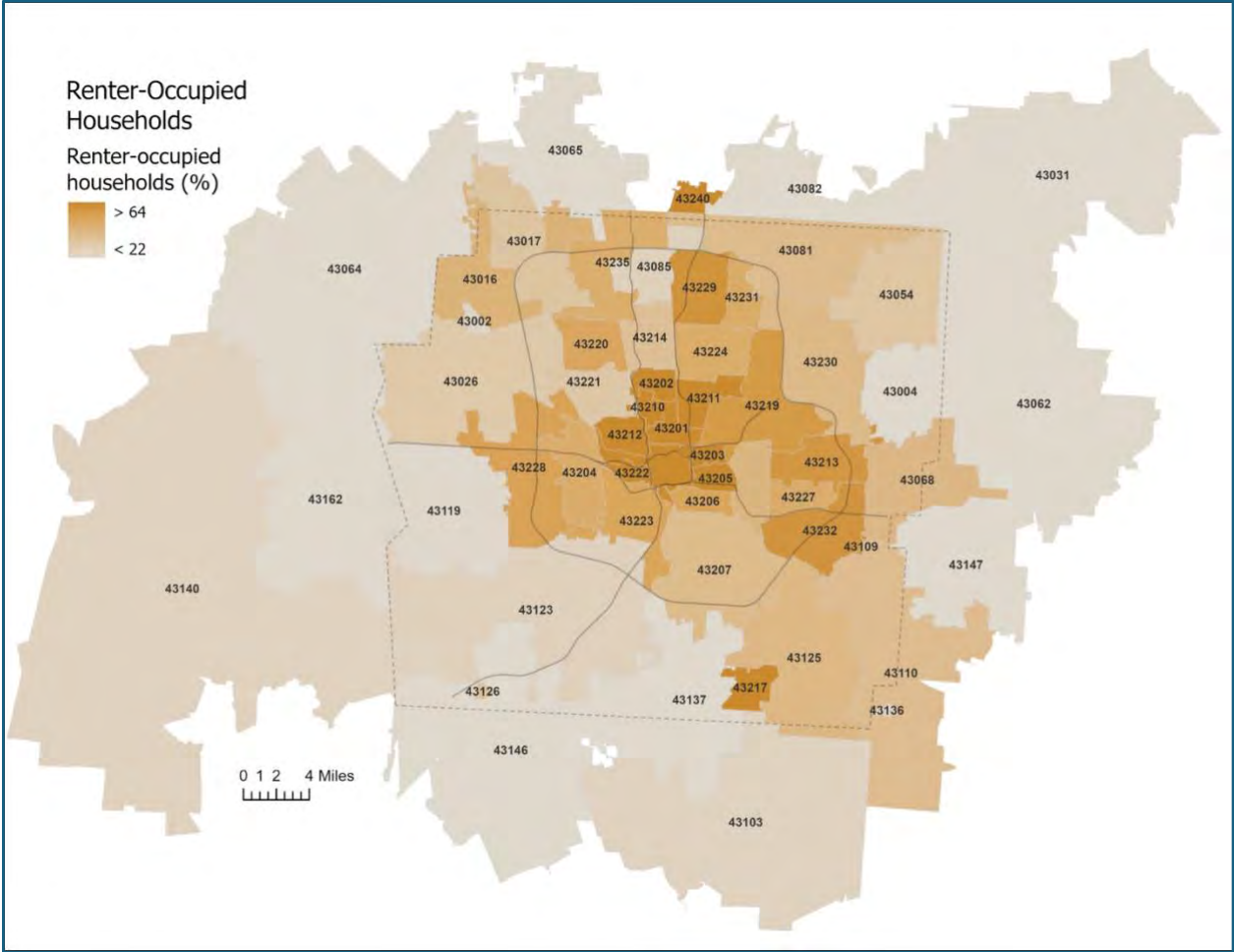
Healthy People Objective:

25.5%

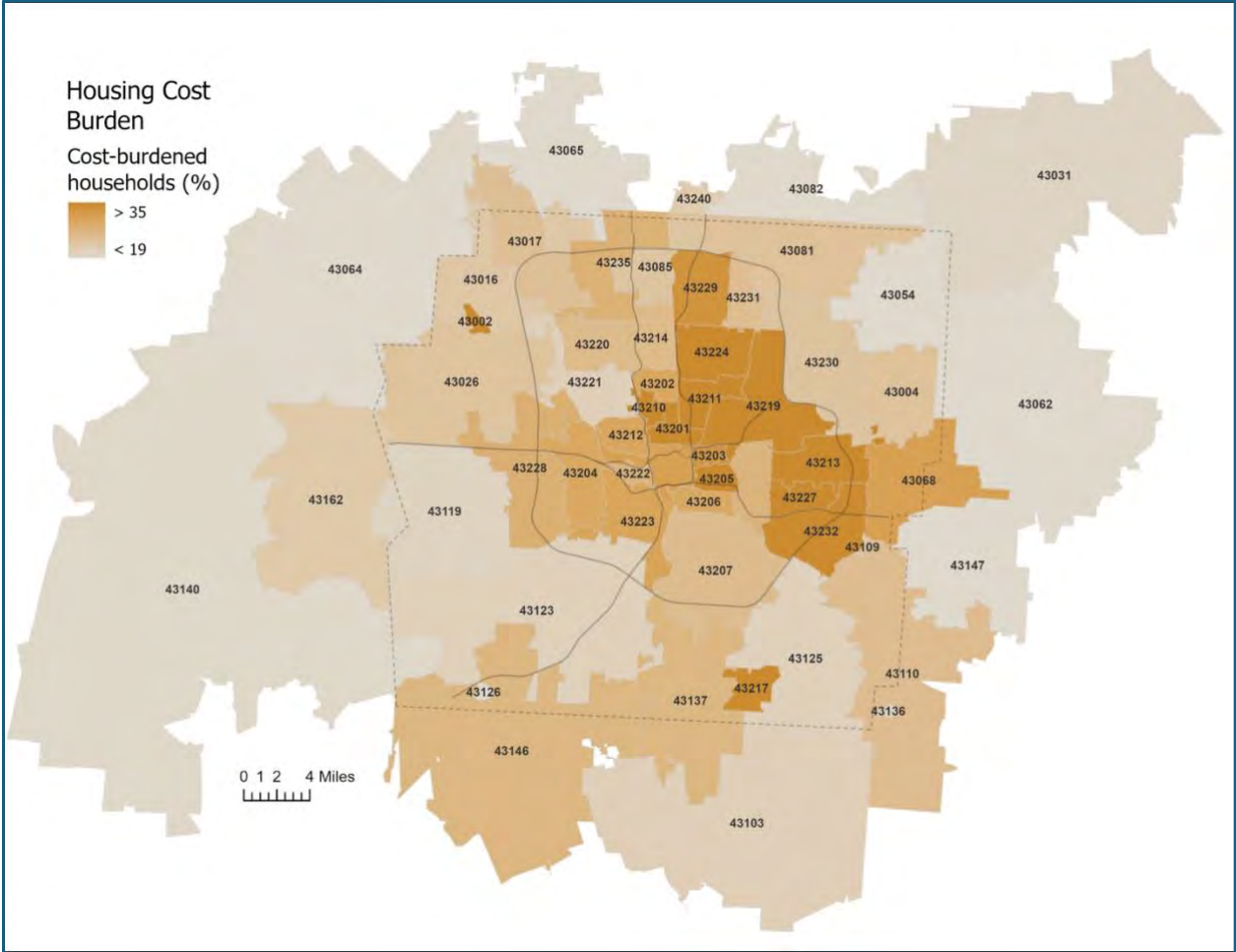
Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

31.9%

As shown in the map below, the zip codes with the greatest percentage of renter-occupied housing units are concentrated in the central part of Franklin County (e.g., 43222, 43212, 43201, 43203, 43205, 43210, 43202, 43211).



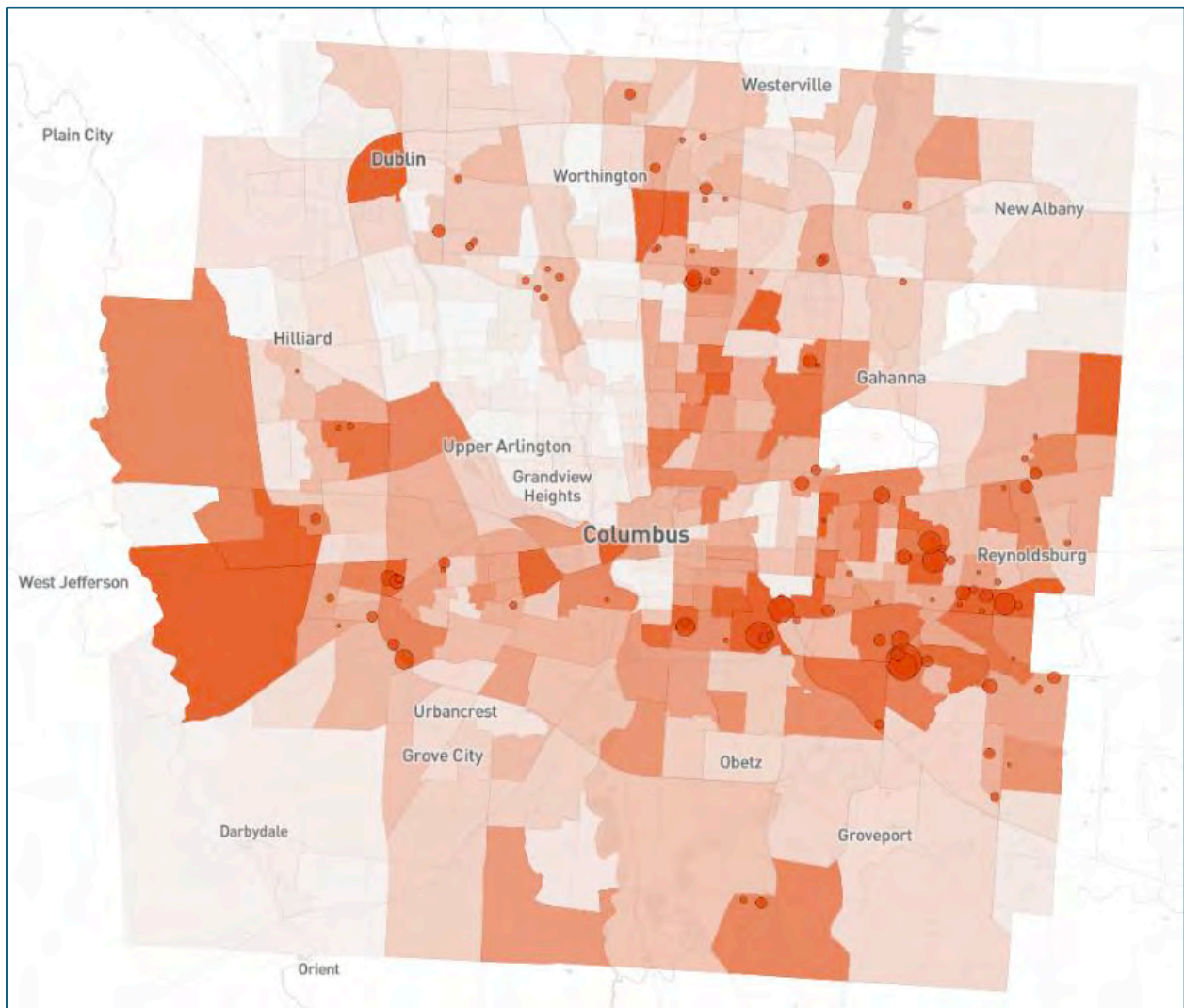
The zip codes with the greatest percentage of cost burdened households (i.e., an overall burden of 30% or higher) are concentrated in the eastern and north-central parts of Franklin County (e.g., 43213, 43227, 43232, 43219, 43211, 43224).



The map below is a screenshot of the eviction filing rate across Franklin County's census tracts since August 1, 2023, as mapped by the Eviction Lab. Census tracts with relatively higher rates of eviction filings are shown in darker colors.

Additionally, the "top 100 eviction hotspots" in the county are shown in the map as circles, with each circle representing a building that had a relatively large number of eviction filings. As the size of a circle increases, the number of evictions associated with that building also increases. Within Franklin County, many eviction hotspots are in east-central and far eastern census tracts (corresponding roughly to zip codes 43205, 43206, 43213, 4327, 43232, and 43068) as well as in western census tracts (corresponding roughly to zip codes 43228, 43123, 43119).

Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic are encouraged to visit the Eviction Lab's interactive map, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).



Additional Information & References

Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic should also read the *HealthMap2025* section that focuses on individuals with disabilities (see page 65).

Data about housing insecurity were obtained from the American Community Survey.^{6,7} To assess the count of unhoused individuals, Point-In-Time (PIT) estimates were sourced from the Community Shelter Board of Franklin County and the U.S. Department of Housing Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.^{8,9} In this assessment, “unhoused” includes sheltered, unsheltered, and transitional housing residents. Eviction data were obtained from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and from the Eviction Lab.^{3,10,11}

Readers should be cautious when comparing estimates between different geographic regions such as Franklin County and Ohio. For example, estimates of people in renter-occupied housing may differ simply due to how Franklin County is largely a dense, urban/suburban area. The statewide estimate, of course, includes many rural areas that are less populated as well as highly populated urban/suburban areas.

The eviction filing rate is the number of new eviction filings per 100 renter-occupied households. Unfortunately, there are no centralized, recent sources of eviction data at the national level. At the time of this report’s writing, the best source for information at that geographic level was the Eviction Lab, which offered nationwide estimates from 2018.

To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.¹²

¹ Bhat, A. C., Almeida, D. M., Fenelon, A., & Santos-Lozada, A. R. (2022). A longitudinal analysis of the relationship between housing insecurity and physical health among midlife and aging adults in the United States. *SSM - population health*, 18, 101128. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101128>

² Kushel, M. B., Gupta, R., Gee, L., & Haas, J. S. (2006). Housing instability and food insecurity as barriers to health care among low-income Americans. *Journal of general internal medicine*, 21(1), 71–77. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1525-1497.2005.00278.x>

³ Eviction Lab. Eviction Tracking > Columbus, OH. <https://evictionlab.org/eviction-tracking/columbus-oh/>

⁴ Urban Institute. (2021). Tracking Homeownership Wealth Gaps. <https://apps.urban.org/features/tracking-housing-wealth-equity/>

⁵ Healthy People 2030 objective SDOH-04, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Financial Characteristics. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2503. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S2503?q=housing&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049.

- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Demographic Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2502. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S2502?q=housing&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049&y=2022.
- ⁸ Community Shelter Board. (2023). *Columbus region leaders introduce new action on homelessness*. <https://www.csb.org/cdn/files-Columbus-region-leaders-introduce-new-action-as-data-shows-increase-in-homeless-count.pdf>
- ⁹ De Sousa, T., Andrichik, A., Cuellar, M., Marson, J., Pretera, E., & Rush, K. (2022). *The 2022 annual homelessness assessment report (AHAR) to Congress*. US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- ¹⁰ Ohio Housing Finance Agency. (2023) FY 2024 Housing Needs Assessment [Interactive Tool]. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://ohiohome.org/research/housinginsecurity-23.aspx>
- ¹¹ Ohio Housing Finance Agency. (2021) FY 2021 Housing Needs Assessment [Interactive Tool]. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://ohiohome.org/research/housinginsecurity-hna.aspx>
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022 (HM2025)

The Eviction Lab’s interactive map can be accessed at <https://evictionlab.org/eviction-tracking/columbus-oh/>.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity increases the risk for a variety of physical and psychological illnesses, including heart disease and depression.^{1,2} This risk is particularly notable for children, who are at risk for developmental and health consequences related to prenatal and early childhood food insecurity.³

13.5% of Franklin County residents experience **food insecurity**.



Similar to
HM2022 (12.8%)

Community Voices

Community members emphasized that being able to source and prepare healthy foods is related to income status. While the expense of healthy food is one thing that precludes food security, the energy and time it takes to ensure that their families eat healthy also hinders families' efforts to eat nutritious meals.



"It takes a certain amount of bandwidth to deal with nutrition. Like if you're already worn out from your day working and you have all these other stresses going on, and you might not necessarily have the finances to buy the more expensive food that's organic or healthier for you... So in our experience, you only have so much energy, whether it's physical, emotional... and you spend it where you spend it. Maybe it would better to spend it on nutrition, but that's usually the last thing or one of the last things that we think about."

"In my family, I've seen children who are in a lower income status that [their] parents have to work these multiple jobs, so then they're left to their own devices of microwavable things, air fry things, quick things. So then you're not getting proper nutrition. So then your brain is not even really developing to be of attention at school. So it's all connected."

Many community members mentioned that their neighborhoods in Franklin County are still healthy food deserts, because grocery stores and healthy restaurant options are not accessible within a short distance of their homes. Residents also mentioned that the quality and variety of healthy food sold by grocery stores is lacking in lower income communities as compared to more affluent communities.



"I noticed in my neighborhood, I'm not in a bad area, but it's a lot of fast food and fried stuff. So, when we go out to eat, we go to Bexley, eight minutes' drive west of us. We go there. I grocery shop there. I do everything there."



"This [grocery store] down here is like the nearest thing to me that has a variety, but they don't have that much either. They limit what we can get there. If you go to another [grocery store], they've got so much more."

"A grocery store is here, but it's far away from the inner community, so they either have to have somebody bring it to them, or they have to drive. It's not within walking distance. And then there's not a lot of fresh stuff. Like, everything is packaged or processed."

Personal work schedules and transportation issues also contribute to the ability of community members to access nutritious food easily.

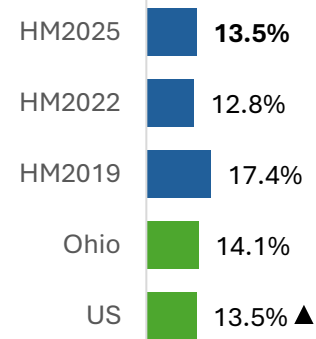


"I get off work usually late at night, sometimes 10:00 p.m., even later. There's very few restaurants open that late, especially on weekdays. And your choices if you need to pick up a bite to eat on the way home from work are—since the pandemic, most restaurants I used to go to, they've cut their hours just in order to save money, but that doesn't help me."

"I didn't have a car for three months, and I found myself trying to figure out dinner from Family Dollar because it was the only thing I could walk to. Sometimes you just can't get to some of the other places to do that."

Although food insecurity prevalence in Franklin County has improved since *HM2019* (which reported 2016 data), progress has seemingly stalled since *HM2022* (which reported 2019 data). The slight increase from *HealthMap2022* and *HealthMap2025* (which reports 2022 data) may be attributable in part to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted food systems for many households. Food insecurity has risen significantly nationwide.

Food Insecurity Prevalence



Healthy People 2030

As communities continue their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Franklin County's progress towards the Healthy People 2030 objective for reducing food insecurity should be monitored.⁵

HP2030 objective for Food Insecurity: Not met

Healthy People Objective:

6%


Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

13.5%

Additional Information & References

Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic should also read the *HealthMap2025* section that focuses on individuals with disabilities (see page 65).

Food insecurity data were gathered from the Feeding America interactive tool. That report estimates the percentage of individuals who lack access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life, per a set of variables that correspond with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s definition of “food security” as well as known risk factors.

 Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about the proportion of residents who qualify for WIC but who are not enrolled. Unfortunately, the Ohio Department of Health does not currently have a method for estimating the number of eligible WIC participants at the county level; such an estimate can only be generated for the state overall.

¹ Parekh, T., Xue, H., Cheskin, L. J., & Cuellar, A. E. (2022). Food insecurity and housing instability as determinants of cardiovascular health outcomes: A systematic review. *Nutrition, metabolism, and cardiovascular diseases : NMCD*, 32(7), 1590-1608.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2022.03.025>

² Pourmotabbed, A., Moradi, S., Babaei, A., Ghavami, A., Mohammadi, H., Jalili, C., Symonds, M. E., & Miraghajani, M. (2020). Food insecurity and mental health: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Public health nutrition*, 23(10), 1778-1790.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S136898001900435X>

³ Simonovich, S. D., Pinerros-Leano, M., Ali, A., Awosika, O., Herman, A., Withington, M. H. C., Loiacono, B., Cory, M., Estrada, M., Soto, D., & Buscemi, J. (2020). A systematic review examining the relationship between food insecurity and early childhood physiological health outcomes. *Translational behavioral medicine*, 10(5), 1086-1097.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibaa021>

⁴ Feeding America. (2022) Food Insecurity among the Overall Population in the United States [Interactive Map]. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://map.feedingamerica.org/>

⁵ Healthy People 2030 objective NWS-01, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Health Insurance

Health insurance is a vital component of healthcare, particularly in the market-based healthcare model of the United States. Individuals who do not have insurance receive less and poorer quality healthcare, worse health outcomes, and a lower life expectancy.¹ A high proportion of uninsured patients also strains the healthcare system when services are used without subsequent payment, which can reduce overall healthcare availability in the community.¹

92.4% of Franklin County residents are insured.



Similar to HM2022 (92%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
18-64 less likely

Sex:
Male less likely

Race/Ethnicity:
Black, Hispanic less likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Members of the community who have Medicaid or Medicare find it difficult to get reliable health care because many organizations do not accept their insurance, or they stop taking it.



"Most of our clients have Medicaid, but some of our clients are still under parents' insurance, which that doesn't help. So it doesn't matter if you have Medicaid or private insurance, because a lot of the places that accept private insurance, they don't accept Medicaid, or they accept Medicaid, but they don't accept private insurance. And either way, the waitlist is over six months."

"When I moved here trying to get a counselor, I found a counselor and I have insurance from my retirement which is Medicare, but through an employer. So it's decent insurance. Well, then they stopped taking it."

Community members spoke about the difficulty of affording medications whether they do or do not have insurance.



"I have a friend who has to work a second job just for her insulin, just to pay for her insulin. Like, that's it. Her primary job is a good job."

"Not being able to afford certain medications or you have a certain medication, they take you off that medication because they can't cover it anymore."

"One of the medications that I was on when we lost our insurance and we didn't have any insurance, it was \$1,646 for one month. So obviously, I stopped taking it, and I couldn't even afford to go to the doctor to get a replacement sort of thing. So it's ridiculous how much things cost."

"You have to go through this step-by-step process for the insurance to cover it."

Franklin County residents also perceive that the quality of health care they receive depends on their health insurance. Specifically, they think those with Medicaid are more likely to experience rudeness from medical staff and inadequate treatment.



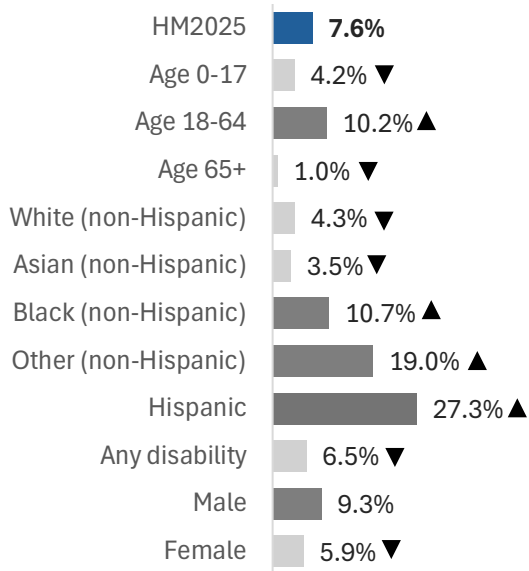
"Because they know that you're on Medicaid, 'Oh this your fifth baby. We tired of you.' I'm a staff member. I see it so much. Because what happens is, 'Is this your fifth baby? You should know what you're doing. You should get your tubes tied.' I've seen a lot of judgment."

"I've had [this child] for a year now and with the insurance, you do get different treatment. I found out just last week that she has a brain bleed that has gone untreated for a whole year. So now I'm fighting with them about that. Like, why haven't we seen neurology? Why hasn't there been a follow up MRI or anything? So, yeah, I don't feel confident with the hospital. My kids always had private insurance. So when I would hear people tell me the horror stories about children and the care they've received, I was like, 'we don't go through that.' But since having her I've seen it."

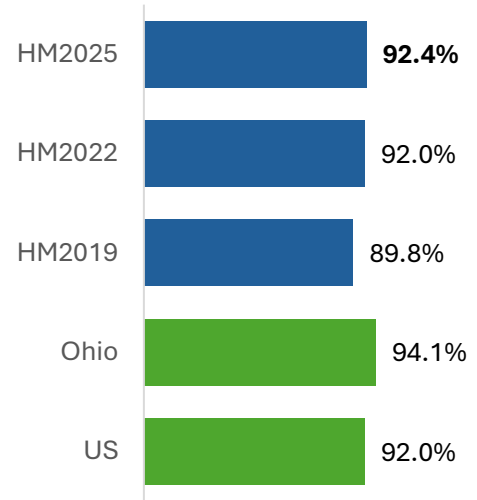
The vast majority of Franklin County residents are insured. The greatest disparities can be seen through the lenses of race and ethnicity, with Hispanic residents being significantly more likely to be uninsured than any other group. This may indicate the presence of cultural, language, or legal/political barriers. Adults age 18-64 are more likely to be uninsured than children or elderly people, which likely reflects the differences in eligibility for government-subsidized insurance plans.

Compared to Ohio or the United States, Franklin County has a higher rate of insured children as well as higher Group VIII Medicaid participation (i.e., an expansion that provided insurance access to adults who were between the ages of 19-64, who had an income less than 138% FPL, and who weren't eligible for another Medicaid category).

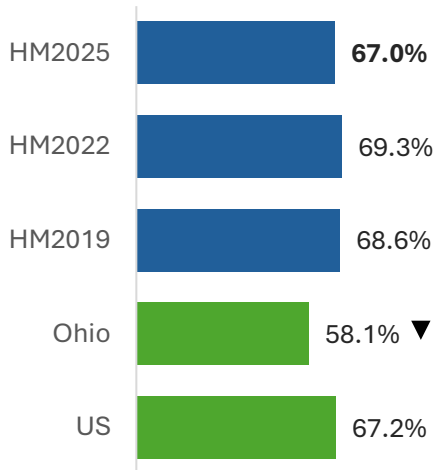
Uninsured Rate



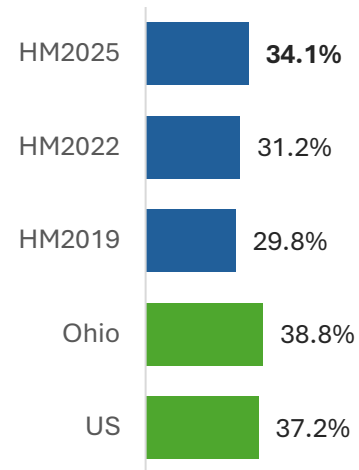
Insured Rate



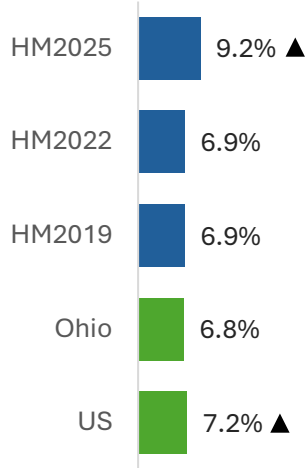
Private Health Insurance



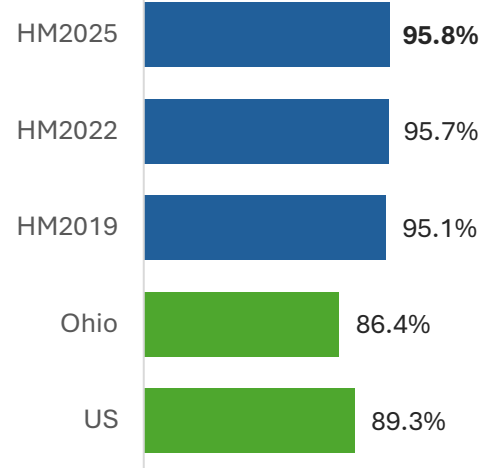
Public Health Insurance



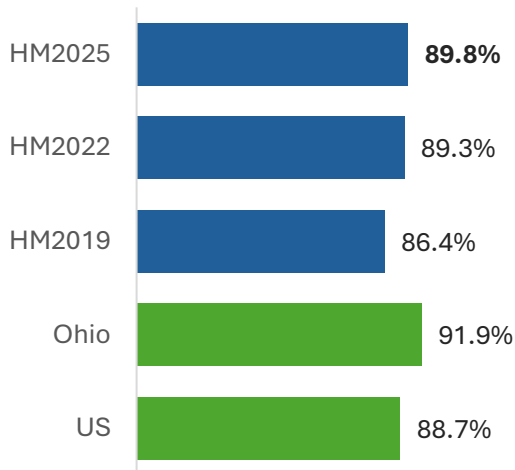
Group VIII Medicaid Insured



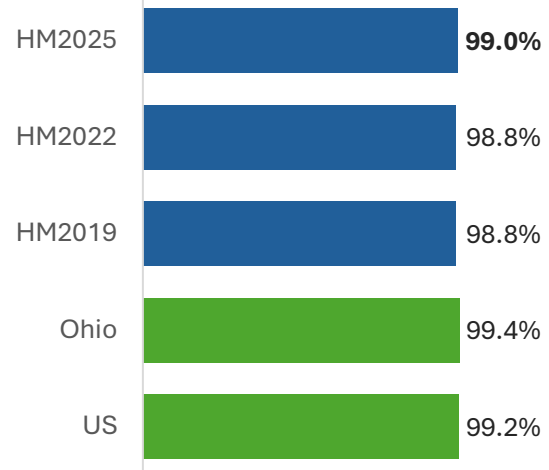
Insured Rate (ages 0-17)



Insured Rate (ages 18-64)



Insured Rate (ages 65+)



Healthy People 2030

Since HM2022, Franklin County has officially met the Healthy People 2030 objective for health insurance rates.² There is still progress to be made among adults age 18-64 as well as for racial and ethnic minorities, but this is a significant achievement for Franklin County.

HP2030 objective for proportion of people with health insurance: Met

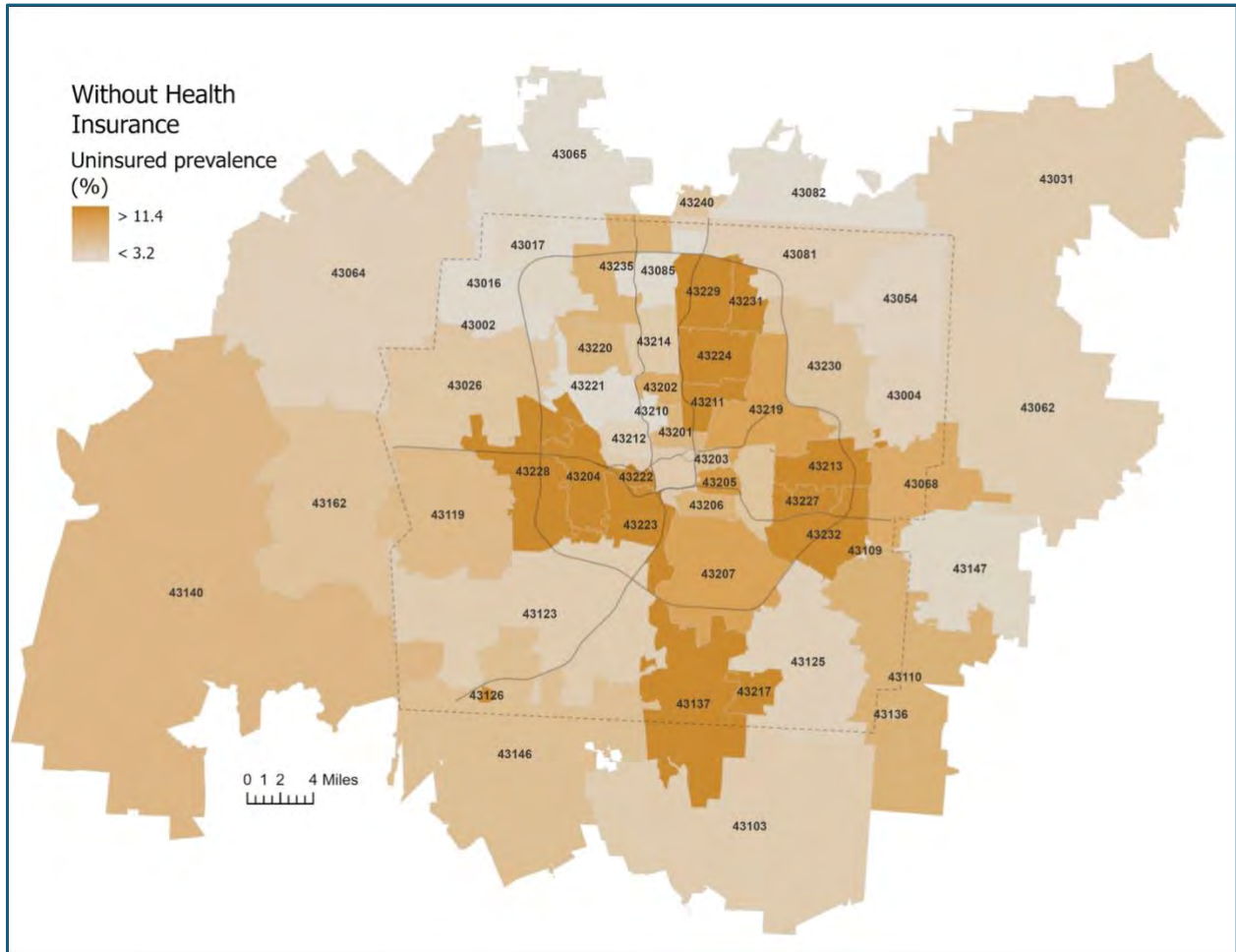
Healthy People Objective:

92.4%

Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

92.4%

Franklin County zip codes with the greatest percentage of people without health insurance are concentrated in west-central zip codes (e.g., 43222, 43223, 43204, 43228), north-central zip codes (e.g., 43211, 43224, 43229, 43231), far eastern zip codes (e.g., 43213, 43227, 43232), and far southern zip codes (e.g., 43137, 43217).



Additional Information & References

To measure the insured status of residents, we used data from the American Community Survey.³⁻⁵ For Medicaid Group VIII (Medicaid Expansion), we used the Ohio Department of Medicaid Annual Enrollment Dashboard and the federal Medicaid enrollment dataset.^{6,7} The data for all metrics were collected for 2022, 2019, and 2016.

To map the prevalence of this indicator at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.⁸

- ¹ Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance. (2004). *Insuring America's Health: Principles and Recommendations*. National Academies Press (US).
- ² Healthy People 2030 objective AHS-01, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2701*. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S2701?q=s2701&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049.
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Private Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2703*. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S2703?q=HealthInsurance&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049&y=2022.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Public Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2704*. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S2704?q=HealthInsurance&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049&y=2022.
- ⁶ Ohio Department of Medicaid. (2022). Annual Medicaid Demographic and Expenditure Dashboard [interactive tool]. Retrieved in 2024 from https://analytics.das.ohio.gov/t/ODMPUB/views/MDE-AnnualView/Home?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y
- ⁷ U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2022). Medicaid Enrollment - New Adult Group [interactive tool]. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://data.medicaid.gov/dataset/6c114b2c-cb83-559b-832f-4d8b06d6c1b9>
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022 (HM2025)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that occur during childhood (i.e., before age 18), including violence, abuse, or neglect.¹ ACEs also include contextual factors that might negatively affect a child’s sense of safety or stability, such as growing up in a household with people who have substance use problems, mental health problems, or parents who were separated or in jail.

Per the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, “There is a powerful, persistent correlation between the more ACEs experienced and the greater the chance of poor outcomes later in life, including dramatically increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, substance abuse, smoking, poor academic achievement, time out of work, and early death.”²

17% of Franklin County adults have 4 or more ACEs.

New metric for HM2025

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
18-64 more likely

Sex:
None observed

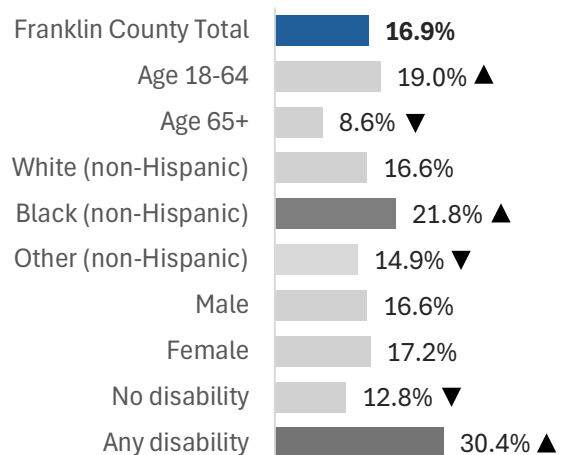
Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Adults with any type of disability are more likely than others to report having 4 or more ACEs when they were children, as are those aged 18-64 and black (non-Hispanic) individuals.⁴

As shown on the next page, the four most frequently reported types of ACEs among Franklin County adults include (1) emotional abuse; (2) parents’ separation/divorce; (3) living with someone who was a problem drinker / used illegal drugs / abused prescription medication; and (4) physical abuse.

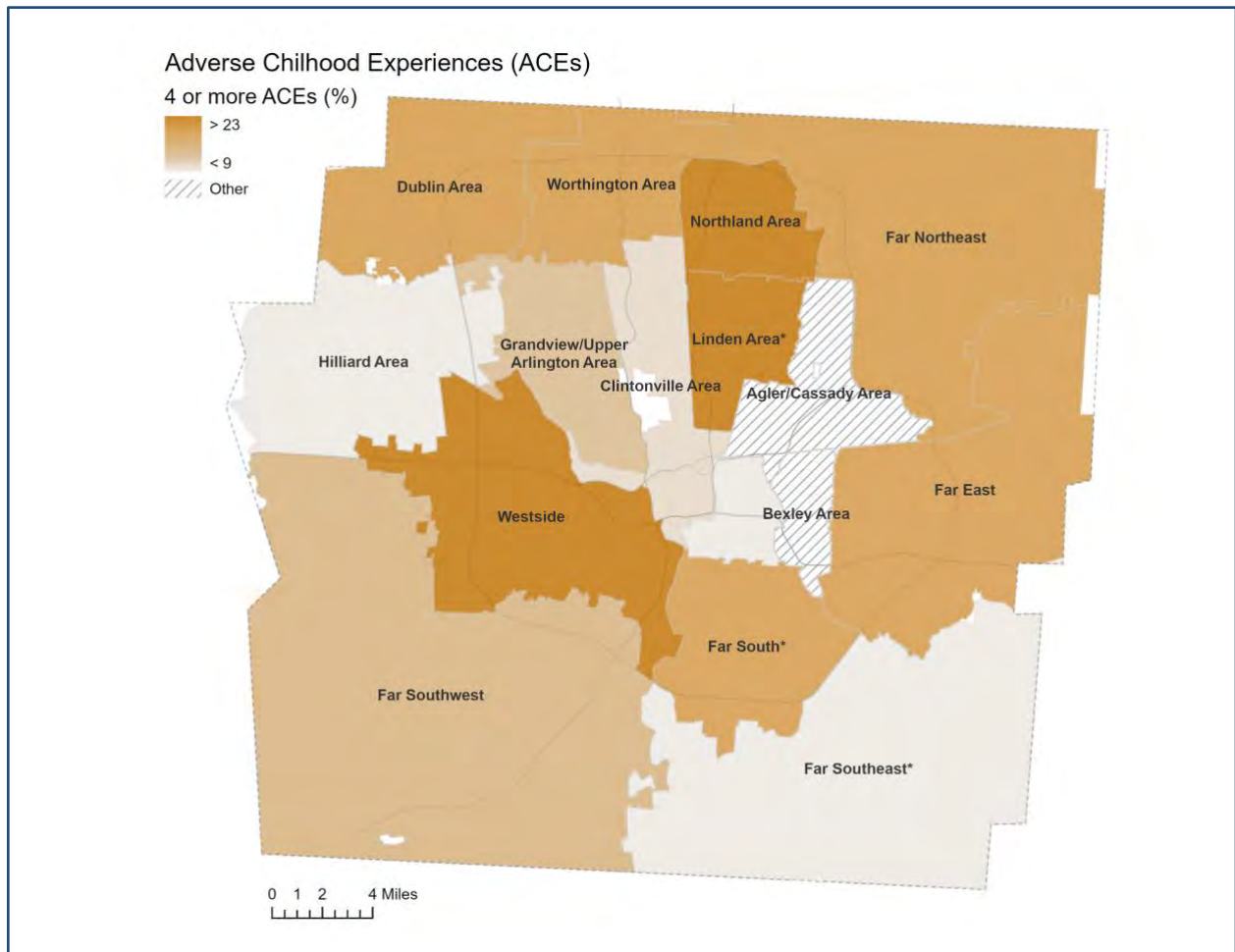
Four or more ACEs among adults 18+ in Franklin County



ACEs prevalence among adults 18+ in Franklin County

Experienced emotional abuse	40.8%
Parents separated or divorced (<i>excludes those whose parents were not married</i>)	35.1%
Someone in household was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or used illegal drugs or abused prescription medication	30.7%
Experienced physical abuse	29.8%
Someone in household was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal	23.7%
Parents physically hurt each other	18.2%
Someone in household served time in prison, jail, or other correctional facility	10.9%
Experienced sexual abuse	5.9%

As shown in the map below, a greater percentage of adults in the Linden, Northland, or Westside areas report having experienced 4 or more ACEs as a child, compared to adults in other areas. Estimates marked by an asterisk (*) are based on fewer than 50 respondents and are considered statistically unreliable; therefore, caution should be used when interpreting these estimates.



The Agler/Cassady and Bexley areas are shown in a crosshatch pattern because the estimates for those areas are based on <40 respondents, and therefore are not reported.

Additional Information & References

To assess the prevalence of ACEs among Franklin County's adult population, Columbus Public Health staff obtained recent data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone. In addition to combining and analyzing several years of data (2019, 2021, 2022), Columbus Public Health also combined the data from several contiguous zip codes in order to create larger geographic areas; most of those geographic areas then had a sufficient sample size that would permit an analysis and mapping of the indicator.³ Franklin County Public Health staff then mapped the prevalence of this indicator across the selected geographic areas that had a sufficient sample size.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) About Adverse Childhood Experiences. <https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/index.html>

¹ Harvard University, Center on the Developing Child. (n.d.) ACEs and Toxic Stress: Frequently Asked Questions. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/aces-and-toxic-stress-frequently-asked-questions/>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

⁴ Swedo EA, Aslam MV, Dahlberg LL, et al. Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among U.S. Adults – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011–2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2023;72:707–715. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7226a2>

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Chronic Condition Prevalence

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines chronic diseases as conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention and/or place limits on one's daily activities. Such diseases are thought to be a major contributor to the nation's annual health care costs, which in recent years has approached \$4.5 trillion.¹

32% of Franklin County adults reported having **high cholesterol.**

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (30.2%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
65+ more likely

Sex:
None observed

Race/Ethnicity:
White more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

32% of Franklin County adults reported having **high blood pressure.**

↓
Down from
HM2022 (36.2%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
65+ more likely

Sex:
None observed

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

25.4% of Franklin County adults reported ever having **arthritis.**

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (27.5%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
65+ more likely

Sex:
Female more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
White more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

11.2% of Franklin County adults reported ever having **diabetes.**

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (10.6%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
65+ more likely

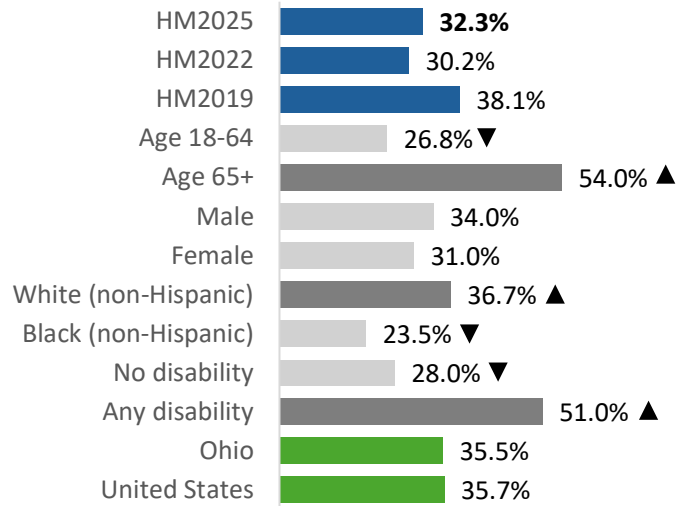
Sex:
None observed

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

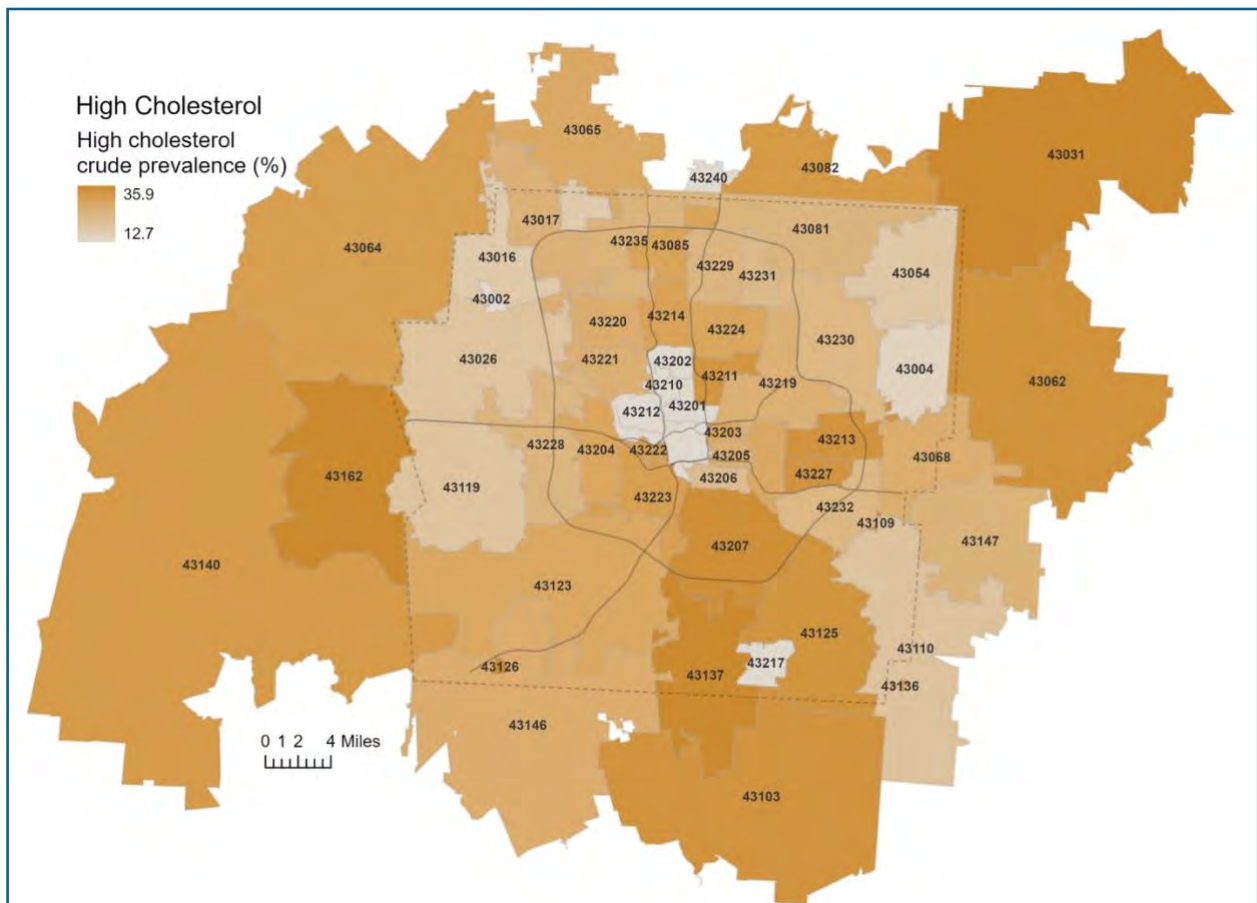
Geography:
Observed (see map)

HIGH CHOLESTEROL

Older adults and individuals with a disability are more likely to report this health condition. Note there is an increased rate of high cholesterol among white (non-Hispanic) residents as opposed to black (non-Hispanic) residents. This is a condition that may not present with urgent symptoms, instead being caught via blood tests that often occur in the context of primary/preventative care. Therefore, the disparities observed among racial groups might also partially reflect healthcare access disparities.²



High cholesterol prevalence is higher in most Franklin County zip codes that are to the east and south, especially 43211, 43213, 43227, 43207, and 43137.

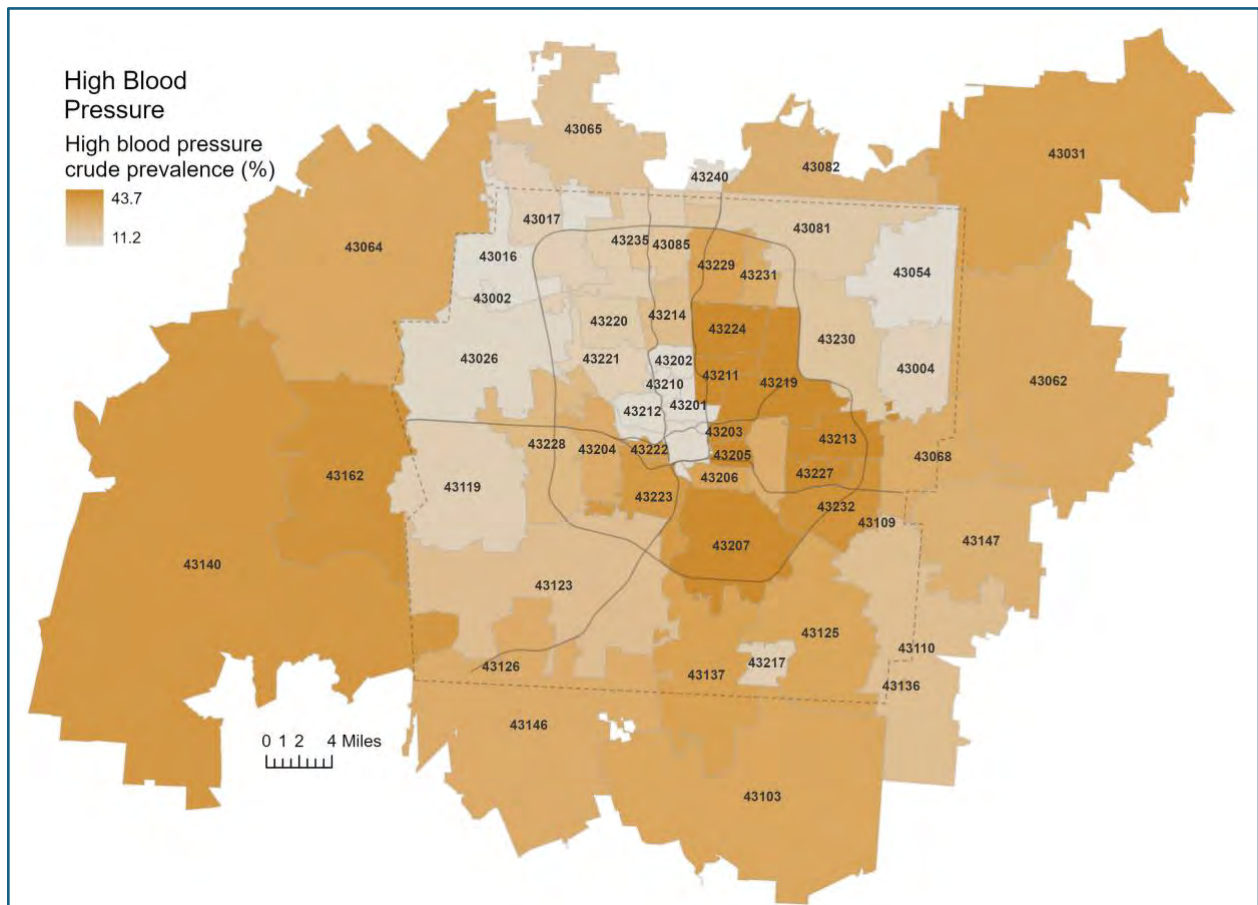
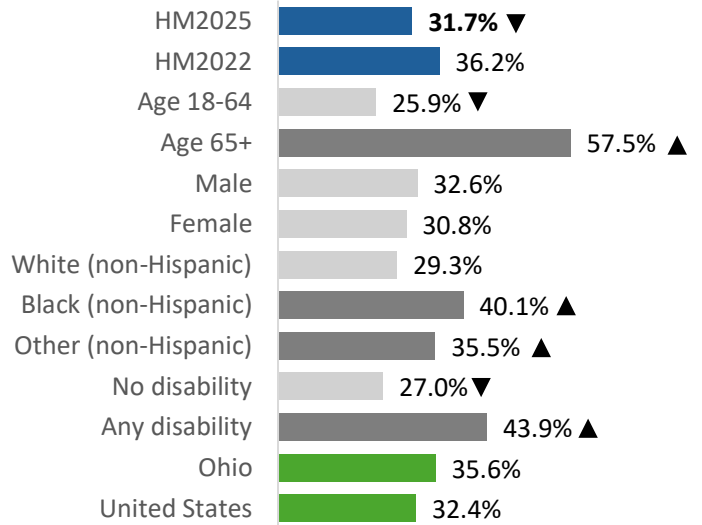


HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Older adults, black (non-Hispanic) residents, and individuals with a disability are more likely to report this health condition.

Fortunately, recent data suggest that among those Franklin County residents who have been diagnosed with high blood pressure, most (73%) are taking medicine to address/manage this health condition.

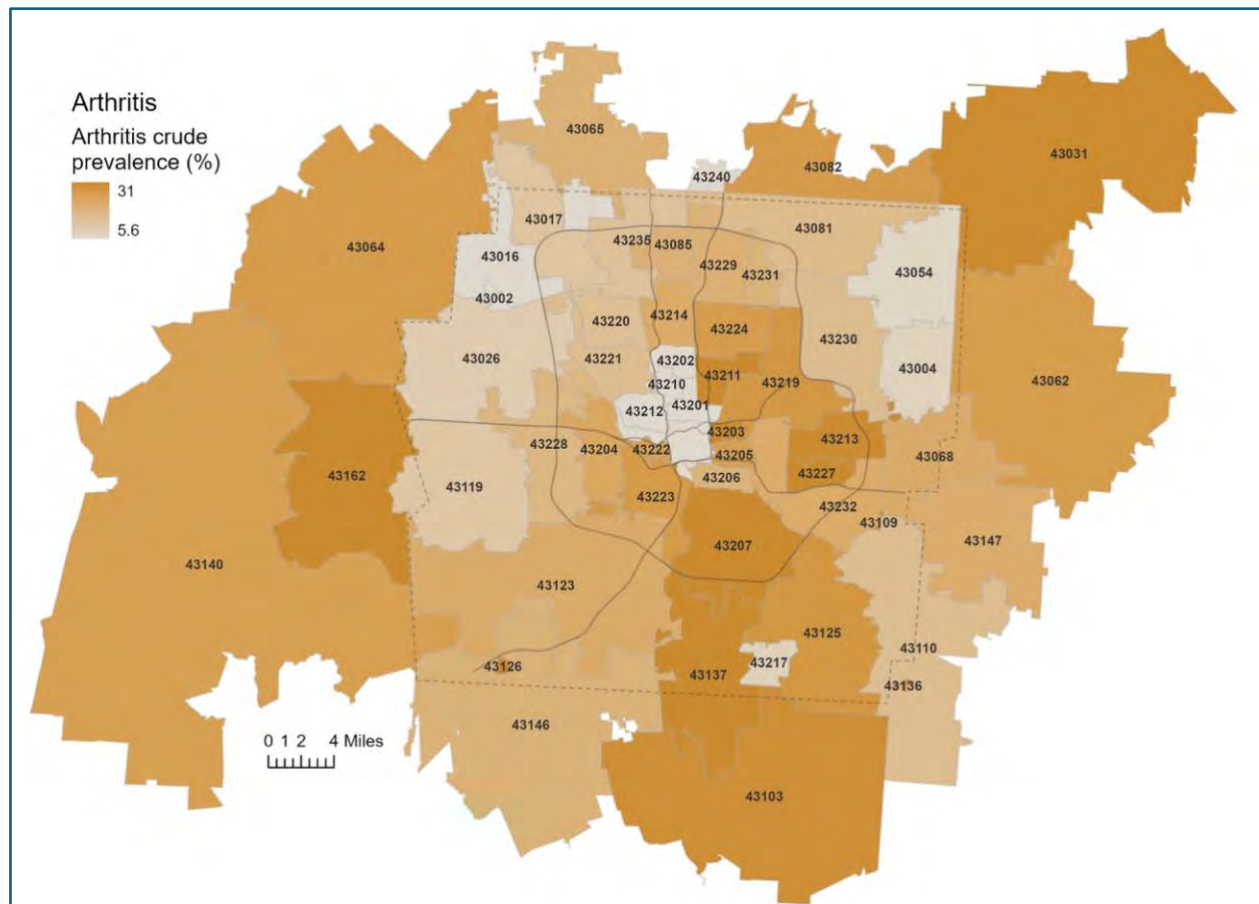
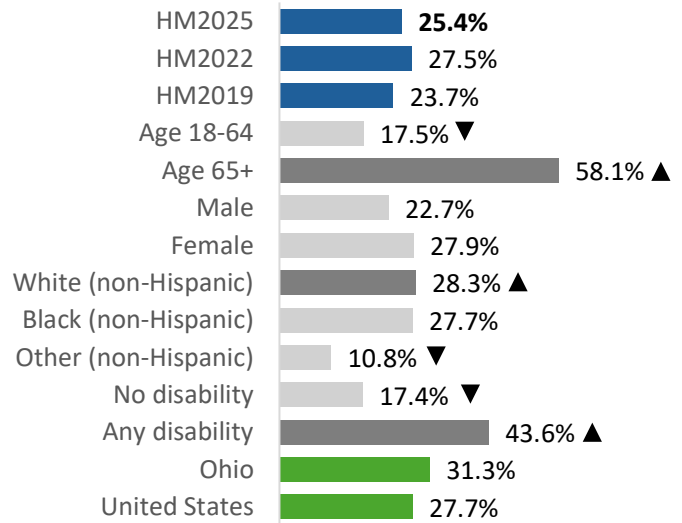
High blood pressure prevalence is higher in east-central Franklin County, especially 43224, 43211, 43219, 43203, 43205, 43213, 43227, and in 43207



ARTHRITIS

As expected, older adults have a far higher prevalence of arthritis than younger adults, and individuals with a disability are also more likely to report this chronic health condition. Interestingly, individuals with an other (non-Hispanic) racial background had a significantly lower rate of arthritis than either the white or black (non-Hispanic) populations.

Arthritis prevalence is higher in Franklin County zip codes that are east of I-71 and west of I-270, and is especially high in 43211, 43213, 43227, and 43207.

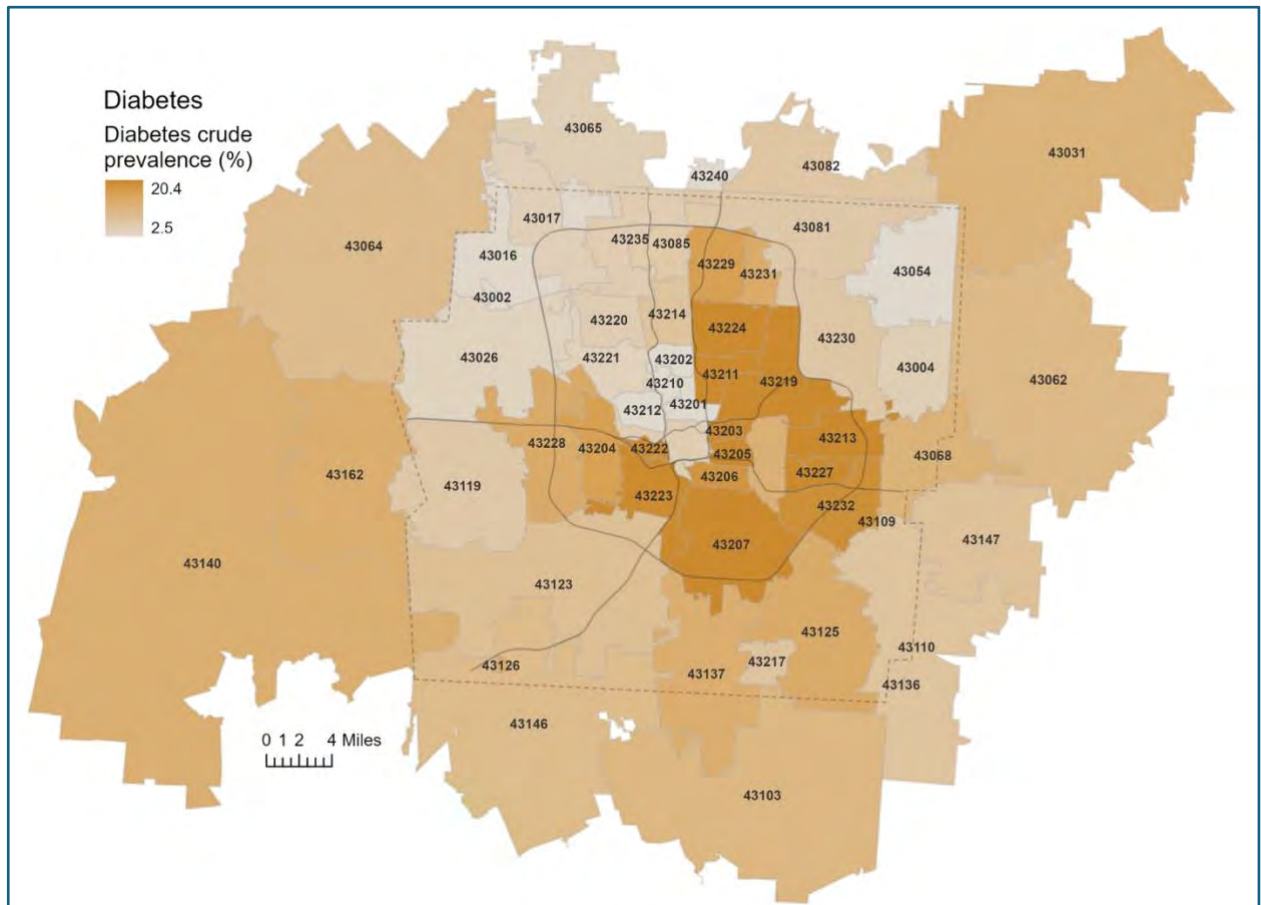


DIABETES

Diabetes is more common among older adults than younger adults. Note that this analysis does not distinguish between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. As was the case with arthritis prevalence, individuals with an other (non-Hispanic) racial background were significantly less likely than those in other groups to have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Diabetes prevalence is higher in most Franklin County zip codes that are within I-270, except for those zip codes in the northwestern quadrant.

HM2025	11.2%
HM2022	10.6%
HM2019	8.9%
Age 18-64	6.9% ▼
Age 65+	28.8% ▲
Male	10.8%
Female	11.6%
White (non-Hispanic)	11.4%
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.7% ▲
Other (non-Hispanic)	6.4% ▼
No disability	7.1% ▼
Any disability	21.0% ▲
Ohio	13.1%
United States	11.5%



Community Voices: Diabetes

For community members, diabetes is at the forefront of their chronic condition concerns in the community. They perceive this condition to be increasing among the community's youth, and also noted how this condition co-occurs with other chronic conditions.



"Type two diabetes has become more prevalent than before...And insulin resistance can start younger. Even if type two is not there, we can have the metabolic syndrome. The hypertension strokes are even happening younger, and it seems that doctors will focus on an older population. A lot of kids won't be heard."

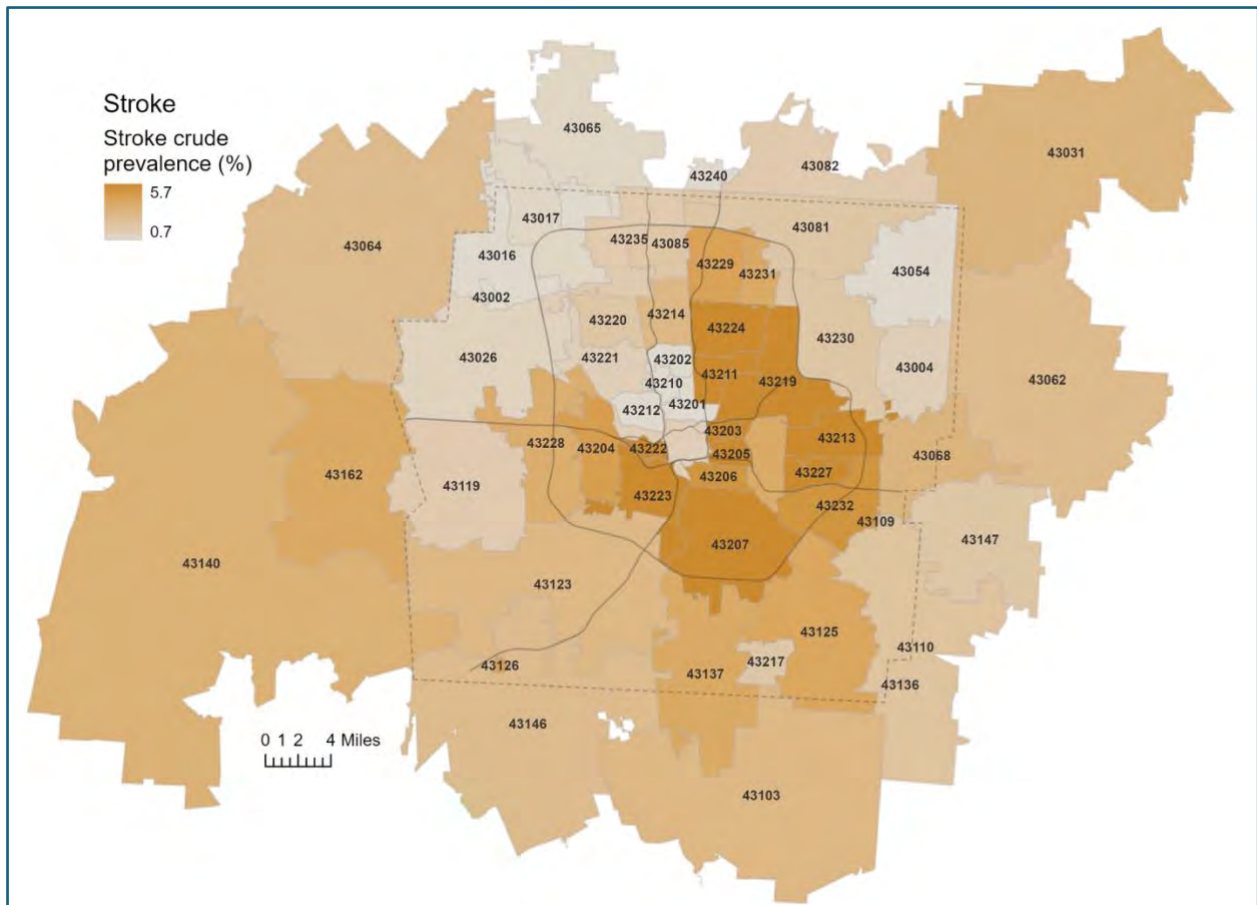
"A lot of kids I see have juvenile diabetes, probably more than what I even remember. And if you have a disability, you tend to have those kind of issues."

STROKE

Lifetime experience of stroke is more common among older adults. Disparities between gender and racial groups are likely due in part to disparities in risk factors such as heart disease.

Stroke prevalence is higher in most Franklin County zip codes that are within I-270, except for those zip codes in the central and northwestern quadrants.

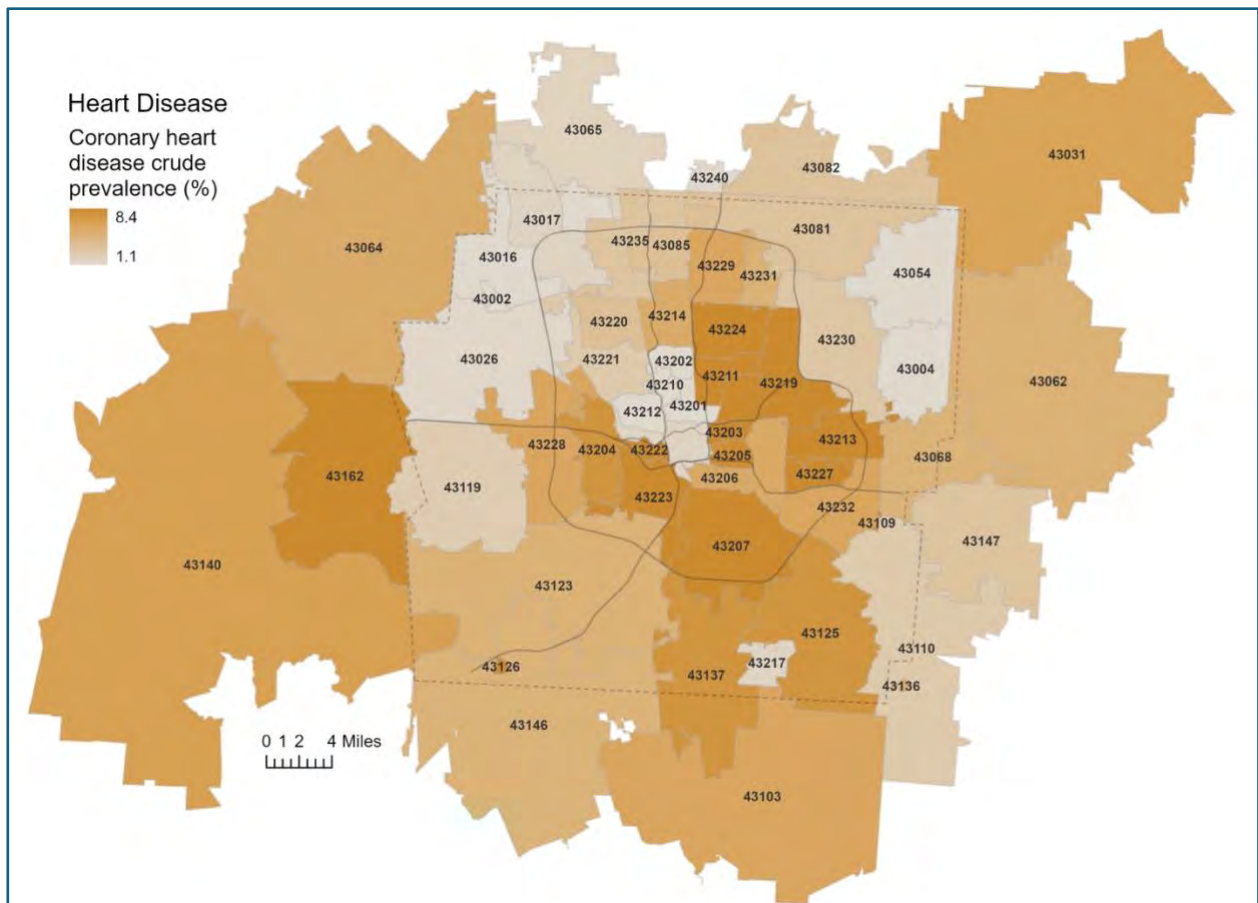
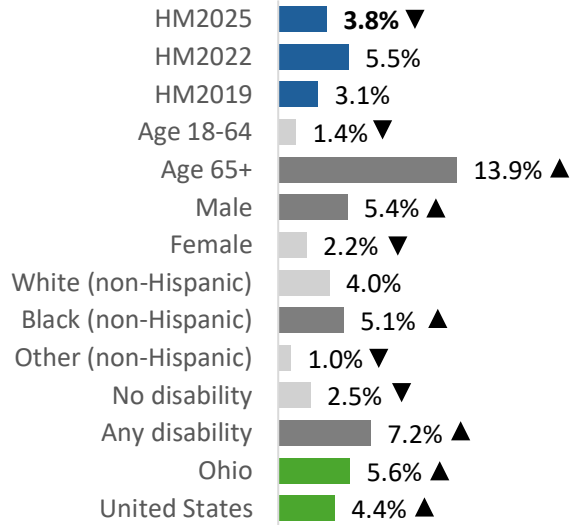
HM2025	4.2%
HM2022	3.9%
HM2019	3.8%
Age 18-64	3.0% ▼
Age 65+	9.8% ▲
Male	5.9% ▲
Female	2.7% ▼
White (non-Hispanic)	3.5% ▼
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.6% ▲
Other (non-Hispanic)	8.1% ▲
No disability	2.1% ▼
Any disability	8.7% ▲
Ohio	4.3% ▲
United States	3.4% ▼



HEART DISEASE

Within Franklin County, the prevalence of heart disease is highest among older adults. Heart disease prevalence is also higher among males, which is consistent with national research on this topic. Lastly, the prevalence of heart disease is also higher among the black (non-Hispanic) population than among the white (non-Hispanic) population.

Heart disease prevalence is higher in most Franklin County zip codes that are within I-270, except for those zip codes in the northwestern quadrant.



Community Voices: Other Chronic Conditions

Community members also spoke about other chronic conditions that affect the black community disproportionately, including sickle cell traits, HIV, and fibroids.



"There's a lot of people in the black community who don't realize the difference between sickle cell traits, sickle cell, or that they even have sickle cell. They don't have the educational component. So they're just out there, trying to figure out what's best. And with sickle cell, you can actually die. And a lot of people don't know that. If one parent has it and the other one doesn't, it doesn't necessarily mean you're going to get it versus two parents having it. And so a lot of people have unnecessary worry."

"I've experienced family members with sickle cell, and when they go into hospitals, they're looked at as drug seekers. It's because they're not educated on what exactly they are supposed to be doing. So when they're having a crisis and they are in pain and really do need those medications, it's like, 'Well, the only time we see you is when you're in pain.'"

"There are a lot of healthcare disparities with race, specifically with African Americans. I would say HIV is one, too."

"A big one that affects African American women is fibroids. And they often get overlooked or mistreated when they are going to the doctor."

Additional Information & References

Readers should note that data focusing on another chronic condition – asthma – is presented in the environmental health chapter of *HealthMap2025* (see page 166).

To assess the prevalence of these chronic conditions, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.³ In most cases, survey respondents were asked if a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever told them that they had a specific chronic health condition.

To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC's PLACES⁴ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) About Chronic Disease. <https://www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/about/index.html>

- ² Nelson K, Norris K, Mangione CM. Disparities in the Diagnosis and Pharmacologic Treatment of High Serum Cholesterol by Race and Ethnicity: Data from the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. *Arch Intern Med.* 2002;162(8):929-935.
doi:10.1001/archinte.162.8.929
- ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2018 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019). [Note: For high blood pressure prevalence, HM2025 data were collected in 2021 and HM2022 data were collected in 2019.]
- ⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.).
<https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

Disability Status

Disability is a significant public health concern. As the mean age of the United States population increases, older adults who have a disproportionately higher likelihood of disability become a greater proportion of the population. Individuals with disabilities face a variety of increased costs of living, barriers to engaging in work and the community, and additional health disparities than the rest of the population.^{1,2}

12.2% of Franklin County residents reported **any disability**.



Similar to
HM2022 (11.1%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
65+ more likely

Sex:
None observed

Race/Ethnicity:
None observed

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Members of the disability community think how others in the broader community perceive and react to disability causes their overall wellbeing to be unconsidered or ignored.



"Our wellbeing as people with disabilities is grossly ignored. Grossly overlooked and never considered. Whether it's the mental wellbeing, or the physical wellbeing, or the emotional wellbeing, or the economic wellbeing, we're not considered."

Community members spoke to the specific challenges faced by individuals who identify as DeafBlind or have multiple disabilities.



"DeafBlind people suffer the most in my experience, in my community. They do not have a lot of the training. For example, they do not have access to braille training."

"Developmental disability services here in Ohio, they are not accessible to DeafBlind people, not friendly to them at all. Takes a long time to get services. People who are deaf and have additional disabilities are very isolated. They haven't been able to find the place where they feel that they belong."

"I fit into the DeafBlind community. And I will agree there's not a lot of acknowledgement of those who have dual disabilities, whether it's deaf and blind or any other combination of one or more disabilities. And there's not enough acknowledgement of, even though one disability may be the dominant disability, that doesn't mean you should ignore the other ones."

Community members spoke about how there are some conditions that are not classified as a disability, even though they affect people's lives in similar ways.



"Ehlers Danlos syndrome. It's a connective tissue disorder, and most people will think of it as hypermobile. But the connective tissue is with the heart, with the brain, with the eyes, the spine, everything. [She has] a list of like ten different mini diagnoses that don't count as a developmental disability. So she's in bed a lot, wearing an eye mask or unable to function in a normal life, and then people are telling me, she doesn't have a developmental disability because she doesn't fit in that umbrella."

Members of the wider Franklin County community also mentioned how caretaking responsibilities for family members who are disabled impact them.



"My mother has dementia. I know an awful lot of folks who are in their late sixties, mid-seventies, and older with that. Her husband is caring for her now, but when the day comes, he can't do that, she'll be moving in with me, and I will not be able to really leave her. She can be left home a little bit at home now, but that won't last for long, and I'll be her primary caretaker. So it's something I have to plan for because it's coming down the road."

"I would say as a caregiver, that impacts me, my health. I constantly worry about my mom. Back in March, she had a fall. I was in the house, she got dizzy, she fell, and we had to take her to the hospital. It was really scary. So as a caregiver, I've experienced a lot of mental health issues through that, and I think through that, a lot of physical health issues have bubbled up."

Community Voices: Issues related to accessing health care

Disabled individuals face difficulty filling out paperwork and accessing information about their health due to the high reliance on technology that many medical providers have. When it comes to having interpreters for health appointments, disabled individuals say lack of resources prevents best practices of using co-interpreters to ensure patient understanding.



"One issue when it comes to accessing care is accessing information. So, for example, if you go to the doctor and they want to give you a summary of your doctor's visit, a lot of times doctors just want to hand you paperwork and they're not always explaining things with you or to you."

"A lot of systems such as computer systems at doctor's offices and things are not digitally accessible. Medicare professionals still don't know a lot of times how to help you as far as filling out paperwork. They don't see the value of doing certain things over the phone. There's always this thing that if one person with a disability can get it...There's no looking at each patient on a case-by-case basis."

"So many doctors are moving to putting things on an iPad, but still, that's just as bad as traditional paperwork. If you're blind and you can't fill that out on your own, you got to have somebody to help you. And some doctors, they always think you come with a caregiver. They don't understand, that's really your job as the nurse. Your job is to take down the health information and help the patient out."

"We encourage having co-interpreters. One hearing interpreter who signs to a deaf interpreter, and that deaf interpreter would sign to the deaf individual. And it's very effective, and it makes communication so much easier. It can be expensive, you know, having those two interpreters, but it will save you time in terms of effective communication and the [medical] provider being able to make that connection with their patients and make sure that their language needs are met. It's focusing on respect for that patient, and it's very effective, and that's something that providers need to accept more and provide."

Finding providers who are competent and respectful when providing care for disabled individuals can be difficult.



"My problem is I've been with established care people for 14 years, and what happened was I just had some retire, and I'm having a problem finding doctors that take my insurance, let alone help with my medical needs."

"I've even been turned away from a local hospital, because they said that none of the doctors here understand disability at all, and we should not be seeing that in 2024. And most of the things that I go in for are not even related to my disability. They're just normal things...I even left the medical space for 20 years because of the difficulty I was having. I didn't see doctors until I turned 40 again...A lot of times, people with disabilities have to search and search before we find a doctor that will, in fact, listen to us and realize that we know more about our own bodies than they might."

"I just changed my primary care doctor because she started making me feel like I was a problem for her."

"We become so afraid to even seek help sometimes."

Disabled individuals face a number of other specific issues with health care, including providers' unwillingness to provide telehealth appointments, misdiagnosis and lack of understanding of complex care needs, difficulty getting health screenings, and difficulty providing feedback on health care surveys about their experiences.



"If you're an established patient and staff changes, there's no real training or continuity kind of training that teaches them that not everybody that's coming here may come here in person. Some people are using telehealth

for various reasons. I've been almost threatened that I got to come into the office. And I've been told to my face that, well, another client with a disability is able to make it in, but that client may live in the Dublin area, and I don't. And I don't have the money all the time to travel across town."

"People who perhaps have low language within the deaf community, meaning they are a deaf child raised within a hearing family and that family does not provide access to American Sign Language, they face language deprivation...that leads to mental health issues. So counselors then are saying he has a diagnosis of learning disabilities. Well, really, it's not the learning disability. The problem is the language deprivation, the exposure that they never had. And so that diagnosis doesn't really fit the situation in and of itself. There is a lack of advocacy and the resources that are needed for individuals to learn about the diverse community."

"I think there needs to be doctors out there, individuals who understand complex care. My daughter has multiple disabilities. She has seven specialists. And when I went from trying to move her from pediatric care to adult care, I'm going through doctors like water because they can't handle the complexity of her needs...We need to have adult hospitals with complex care units that are willing to provide healthcare for these individuals."

"We are still so behind the times when it comes to treating people with disabilities, any disability, really, with the machinery that they use. I mean, I'm 55 and have only had half of a mammogram done because the machines are still not accessible. And when you go there and you ask for them to help position you, they yell at you and ask if you've brought a caregiver with you to be able to do that. That's just one experience. But they are not trained to understand disability. They get a very short training period to learn about disability."

"When we try to take the surveys that speak to our experience, if you're blind and depend on screen readers, you have to get your PIN number from your discharge papers first by using app to read that or have someone come over and do it for you. Then you have to enter that online. And then the online surveys are not accessible with the voiceover screen readers that we're using. The only other alternative is to bother someone, have them take the survey for us. Well, that violates our own privacy."

Community Voices: Stigmas related to disabilities and/or mental health

Disabled individuals say that mental health issues like anxiety and depression are common due to the misperceptions people have about them.



"There's a big myth when you're dealing with the medical professional or people in general, that because we're blind, we're also dumb. Like our brain

doesn't work. And that's not a fair assumption. Just because someone is blind doesn't mean they have a cognitive disability as well."

"Anxiety and depression are two big ones [we suffer with]. I suffer from clinical depression and clinical anxiety. And that comes from the way that we are isolated, left out and beaten up for things that we don't have any control over, whether it's our economic status, our employment status, our housing status, or just the fact that we simply are asking for help and people make us feel bad for wanting help...the perception and assumptions are just wrong and rude."

"Anxiety is a huge problem. And then in our culture, disability is too often seen as inferior or frightening, and the wellbeing of a disabled person is sometimes seen as not all that important."

"Medical providers, in particular, live with that same fear and fright of people with disabilities. And when they focus on the, 'You must need home health services. There must be someone who has to do for you and speak for you.' At times it's very distressing when you're already not feeling good about yourself and you're there to get help, to have that magnified by other people's fears and perceptions, because they can't imagine how they would live with our disabilities, but they're directly not understanding how we adapt."

These misperceptions also influence the ability of disabled individuals to find employment, even though they have valuable experience and skills to offer.



"We have to deal with employer perception all the time. They'll put us through trial periods. They'll ask us if we can find the restrooms and things that someone equal to us without obvious disabilities doesn't have to go through. All these excuses will be made about why we're not interviewed or why we're not contacted after the interview. Hospitality, caregiving and advocacy, independent living help. I'm good at all these things, especially environments that I'm familiar with. And I started getting experience around 16 years old, and I cannot prove that because so many people think that I need things done for me."

Community Voices: Issues accessing social services/resources

Lack of knowledge about available resources are an issue, not only among disabled individuals but among case managers meant to help them access these resources. Some individuals also perceive there is an unwillingness to provide pathways to these resources.



"I think lack of resources is an issue, but also knowledge about the resources available to people is an issue."

"It's knowing what programs are out there, whether it's for finding a job, whether it's for getting food, whether it's for getting help with paying for medical costs, just knowing those resources and where they are and how to apply for them, and people giving you the honest answer about how to apply for them, that's one of the biggest challenges."

"When I'm advocating for others, people think I'm wonderful, I am knowledgeable, I'm skillful. When I advocate for myself, there's always this push because, no, we can't do that. But at my office, I get calls from other case managers asking me to do the things I'm wanting and they are doing for other people, but they don't want to do for me because I'm intimidating. And when I say, 'You can do this,' I get a very negative pushback and the dragging of the feet and the, 'Oh, I'm sorry, I'm busy. I've had too many crises to deal with.' I don't regret doing the work to get an MSW, but it doesn't necessarily help you as an individual get your services."

Community members with disabilities also pointed out that many available resources have restrictions about who can qualify. They believe income-based programs effectively keep them in poverty and from making life changes like moving in with others or obtaining better employment that could improve their quality of life.



"People assume because you have a disability, that you're qualified for all of these things in the community that you're not. People assume because I had SSI when I had that, and then I eventually got SSDI, that I should get section eight housing, I should get a whole bunch of food stamps. I should be able to have all these things."

"There is a program called iCanConnect, but that is federally funded and that's income based, which is really ridiculous because there are a lot of people that are suffering that can't hear, can't see, and they have a lack of services."

"If our legislators got ill, they would never go through the same thing that a lot of us do because they have the money to hire the best doctors and providers so they could never thoroughly understand disability like us that really are in the poverty level and are kept in the poverty level because of rules governing SSI and SSDI. And the other programs like Medicaid, you can only have so much money to be able to qualify. People who have a disability and are fortunate to get a job and have a good job and good insurance, they can afford the money [for good care]."

"The way SSI is set up now is if you want to make more money, you're scared to take that because you know they're going to take all your benefits versus there's not any program that allows for people to gradually grow away from the SSI to SSDI because they now have a job and they're starting to make more money. They just snatch the whole check away instead of

taking away a dollar or two at a time as your income grows, so you have a chance to grow into that and save and be able to take care of your needs.”

“Right now, I have a friend who is terminal who has 28+ additional conditions besides blindness. We're both having the issue of Social Security and perception and all this keeping us from moving together and combining resources. Maybe we could make it if we had each other. We could both save each other's lives because we've experienced a lot of the same systemic troubles and find commonality.”

Individuals with disabilities also say they are prevented from accessing helpful resources due to where they live, and some see evidence that race impacts who receive resources.



“Some of the programs that are out there, whether they're for people with disabilities or for people who are on lower income, if you don't live in that area, you can't get those services. Just because I live in the suburbs doesn't mean I don't need them.”

“We get less of the resources that somebody in our same condition [gets] who happens to be white or maybe of another nationality or race. I have a friend that's in the same situation as me, but he's getting things that I can't get. We're both blind, we both have SSDI, but he's white and I'm black.”

Community Voices: Resources needed for the disabled community

Access to food and affordable housing are specific areas of need for the disability community. For example, they need people who can help them access healthy food more easily, and more accessible housing options.



“Food stamps doesn't buy you much, especially when you only get less than \$100 a month because they assume, based on your bills, that as one person that you don't need a lot of money for food. If you don't cook that food fast enough, it's going to spoil in two days...I don't eat food as fast as probably maybe I should, because I'm blind and I'm teaching myself how to cook...there's no food service that if you need to go to the pantry [as a blind person], that somebody can get you there or that the food can be delivered only. The delivered food is frozen with all the sodium in it...And that's not always a healthy option for everybody either.”

“The DeafBlind community does not have access to someone who could go food shopping with the individual or perhaps read something to them if necessary, so on and so forth. We want to be able to bring that to the attention of the Ohio legislation within this year. And our goal is to convince legislation really to wake up to the needs, provide that funding, provide those outreach services in the near future.”

"Affordable housing. That's what I have a problem with. [For] people with special needs or people with low income families."

"I find sometimes that it's hard to get a wheelchair around anywhere...they built new apartments about seven years ago in downtown, and there's no elevator. How is that fair to anyone with a disability who can't physically walk downstairs? It seems like we've been pushed aside...we're not seeing the things that should be in place to allow people like my daughter to go and live a full life and go to the places that we'd like to go."

Individuals with disabilities had specific advice about how to improve their experiences in Franklin County: better training for all medical professionals about working with the disability community, connecting individuals with people who can advocate for them, providing better pathways to existing resources, and providing more help accessing the wider community for those with limited mobility options.



"Public health departments, to me, need to work with the disability community to start creating educational things for doctors. Whether you're a nurse, whether you're a nurse practitioner, whether you're a surgeon, whether you're a medical tech assistant. The whole medical community, from the bottom to the top of it, needs some serious long-term disability training. To me, public health department needs to even push, if they can, for it to be stuck in the medical school curriculum...They need to come to our community and hear from us the things people need to know, not make up your own disability training for doctors and medical professionals in your own head."

"I think they need to provide advocators for those who don't have family or friends that can help advocate for them."

"If doctors or PCPs have an individual who has several complex issues, the health department [could] create a database that the doctor. With the patient's permission, can put that person in the database, and then there's a case manager or someone there that reaches out to them and helps them find the services and the things that are available to them...I find a lot of the service coordinators just aren't educated on what's out there...Advocating, and maybe a database that doctors can refer people to the health department, and they can help."

"Collaborate with the local centers of independent living. Independent living, housing for people with disabilities is often nowhere near resources like transportation and bus stops, communities, doctors. This is a physical divide between people with disabilities and non-disabled people."

To assess the disability status of Franklin County, Ohio, and US residents, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the American Community Survey.³ The ACS estimates the prevalence of many different types of disabilities:

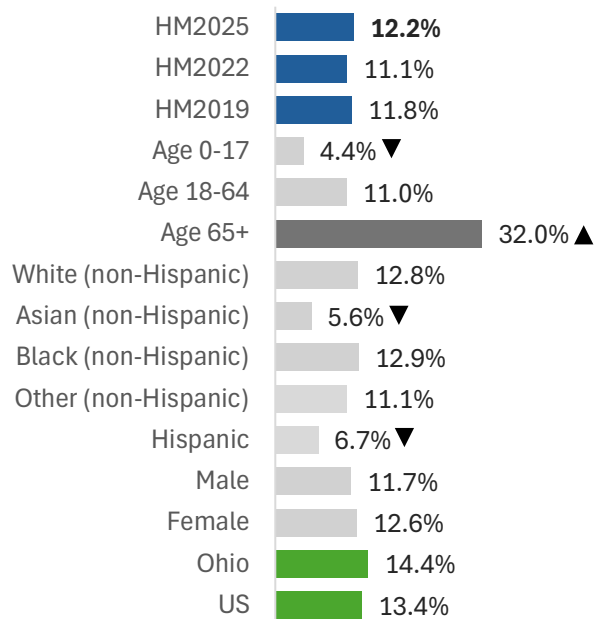
- *Hearing difficulty*, which is defined as “deaf or [having] serious hearing difficulty”) and is measured among people of all ages;
- *Vision difficulty*, which is defined as “blind or [having] serious difficulty seeing even while wearing glasses” and is measured among people of all ages;
- *Cognitive difficulty*, which is defined as having “serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions”) and is measured among people aged 5 years or older;
- *Ambulatory difficulty*, which is defined as having “serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs” and is measured among people aged 5 years or older;
- *Self-care difficulty*, which is defined as having “difficulty dressing or bathing” and is measured among people aged 5 years or older;
- *Independent living difficulty*, which is defined as having “difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping” and is measured among people aged 15 years or older (but only reported for those aged 18 years and older).

Franklin County has a slightly lower rate of disabled individuals as compared to Ohio or the United States.

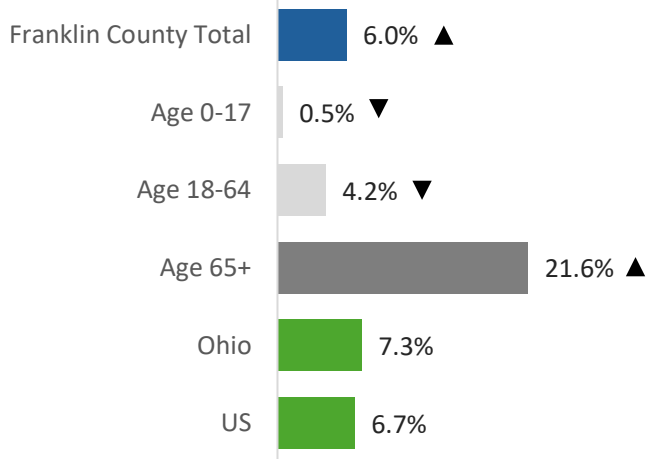
Those aged 65 or over have the highest percentage of residents with at least one disability, with ambulatory difficulties and independent living difficulties being most prevalent. Among children and younger adults, cognitive difficulties are more prevalent.

Of note, Asian (non-Hispanic) individuals and Hispanic individuals have less than half the disability rate as the general population and multiple subgroups.

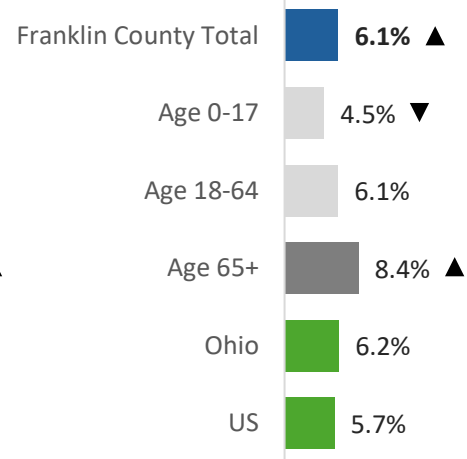
Disability Status Prevalence



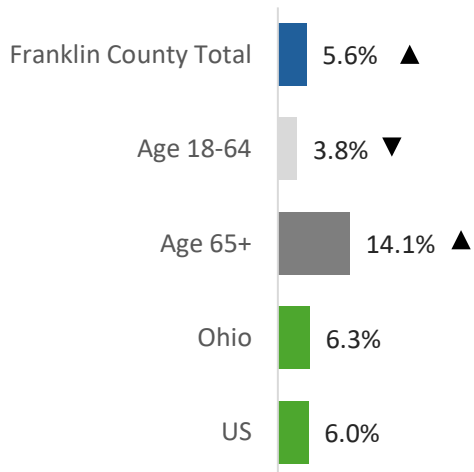
Ambulatory Difficulty



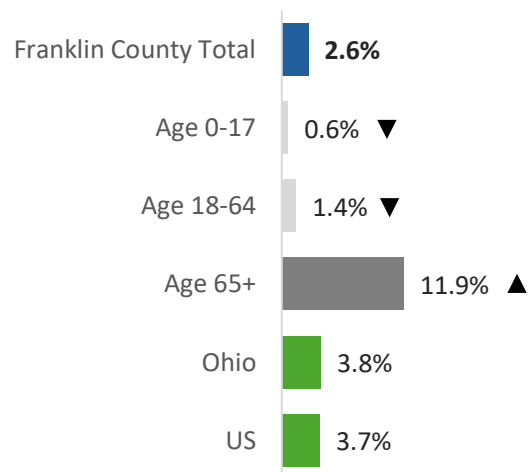
Cognitive Difficulty



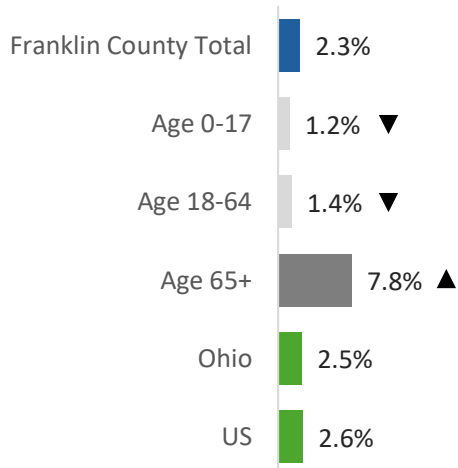
Independent Living Difficulty Age 18+



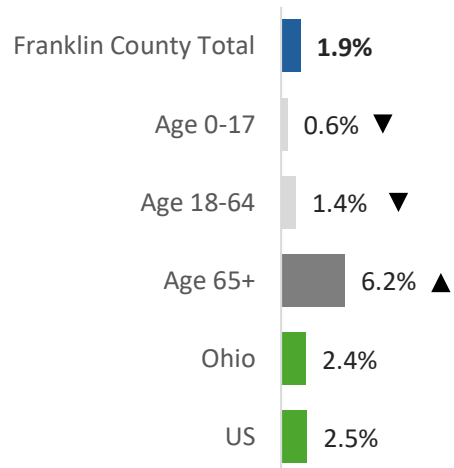
Hearing Difficulty



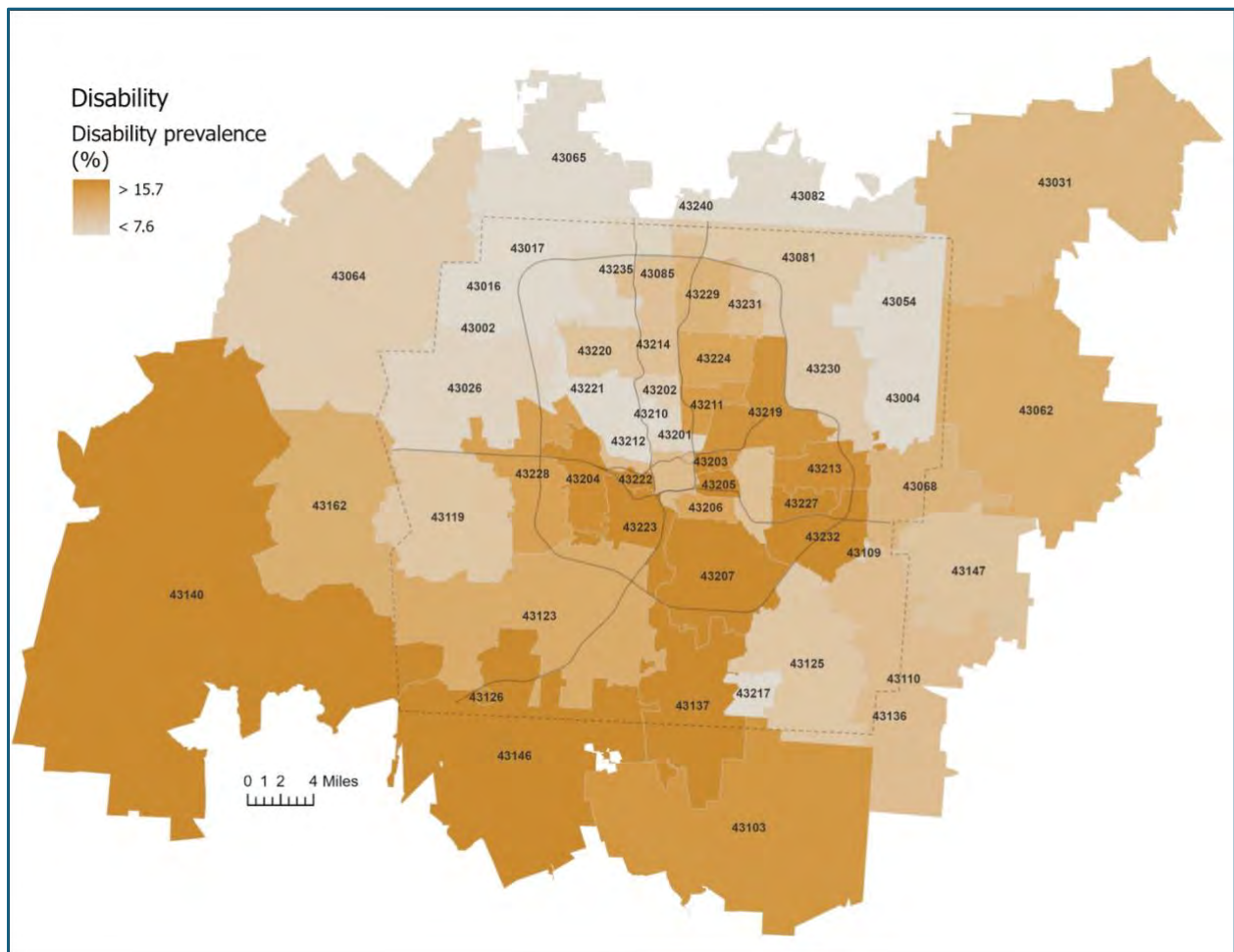
Self-Care Difficulty



Vision Difficulty



As shown in the map below, disability prevalence is greater in eastern zip codes within I-270, western zip codes within I-270, and in southern / southwestern zip codes.



Additional Information & References

To map the prevalence of this indicator at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.³

¹ Carrie L Shandra, Disability as Inequality: Social Disparities, Health Disparities, and Participation in Daily Activities, *Social Forces*, Volume 97, Issue 1, September 2018, Pages 157–192, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soy031>

² Mitra, S., Palmer, M., Kim, H., Mont, D., & Groce, N. (2017). Extra costs of living with a disability: A review and agenda for research. *Disability and health journal*, 10(4), 475–484. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2017.04.007>

³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Disability Characteristics. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1810. Retrieved May 29, 2024, from https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1810?q=disability&g=010XX00US_040XX00US39_050XX00US39049.

HEALTH BEHAVIORS

Cancer Screening

Breast cancer and colorectal cancer are among the leading causes of cancer death in the United States.^{1,2} Regular and timely screening are among the most powerful tools for prevention and early detection of both breast and colorectal cancers.

61% of Franklin County adults aged 45-75 reported having a **colonoscopy** in the last 10 years.

Metric changed since HM2022

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age: Unavailable	Sex: Unavailable	Race/Ethnicity: None identified	Geography: Observed (see map)
----------------------------	----------------------------	---	---

69.7% of Franklin County women age 40+ reported having a **mammogram** in the last 2 years.

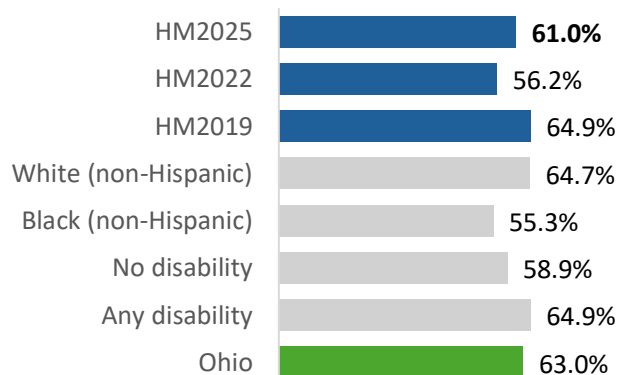
Similar to HM2022 (74%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

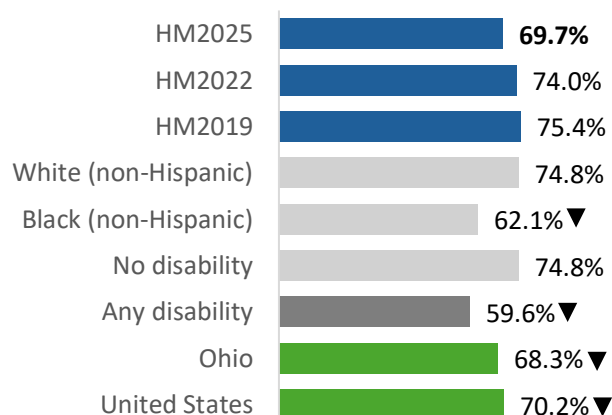
Age: Unavailable	Sex: N/A	Race/Ethnicity: Black less likely	Geography: Observed (see map)
----------------------------	--------------------	---	---

For both types of cancer screening, black (non-Hispanic) residents were less likely than white (non-Hispanic) residents to have completed the recommended screening. Franklin County's screening rates were fairly similar to the screening rates for Ohio and the United States.

Colorectal Cancer Screening



Breast Cancer Screening





Healthy People 2030

The Healthy People 2030 objectives for both colorectal cancer screening and breast cancer screening are designated as the number of adults who are meeting the current guidelines for cancer screening.^{3,4}

HP2030 objective for Colorectal Cancer Screening: Not met (but improving)

Healthy People Objective:

68.3%

Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

61%

HP2030 objective for Breast Cancer Screening: Not met

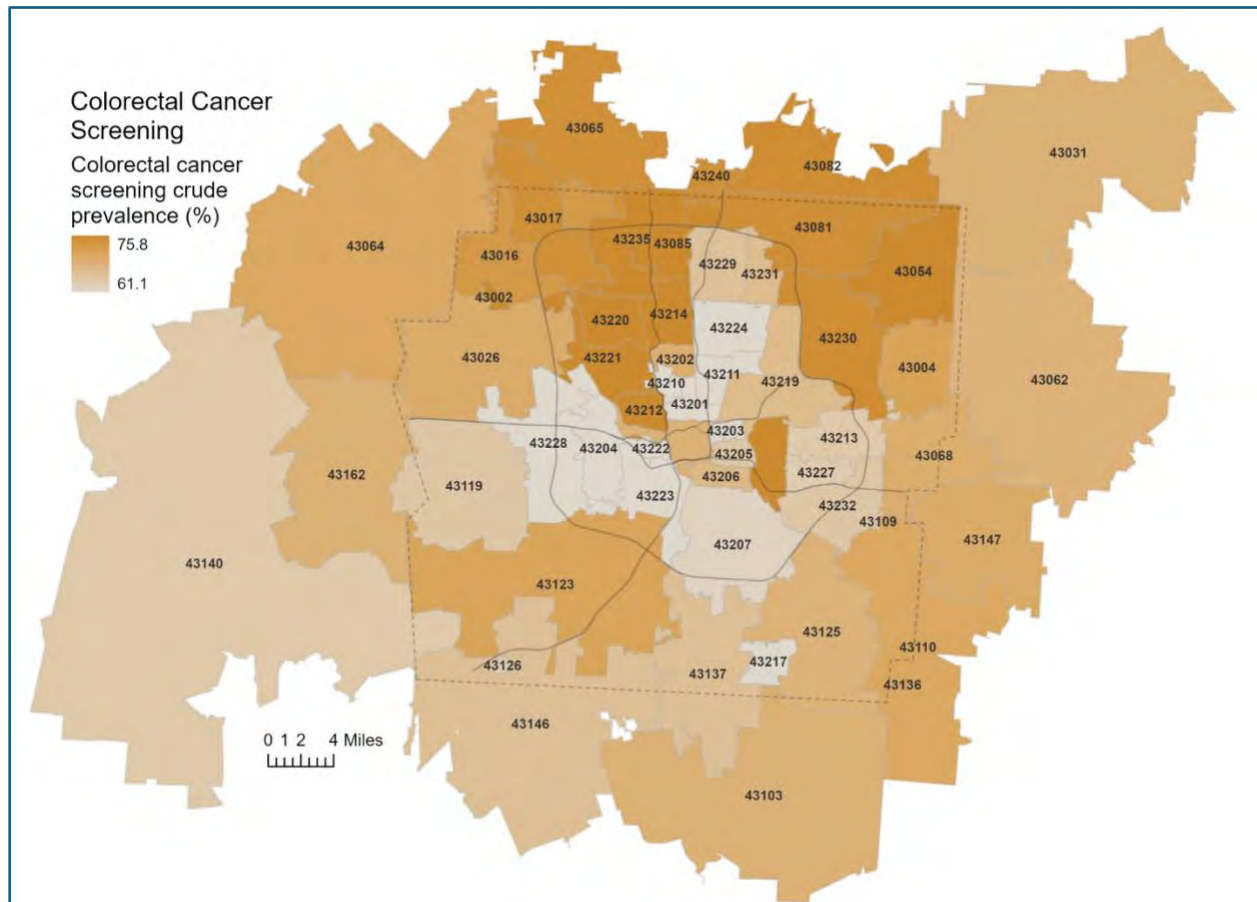
Healthy People Objective:

80.3%

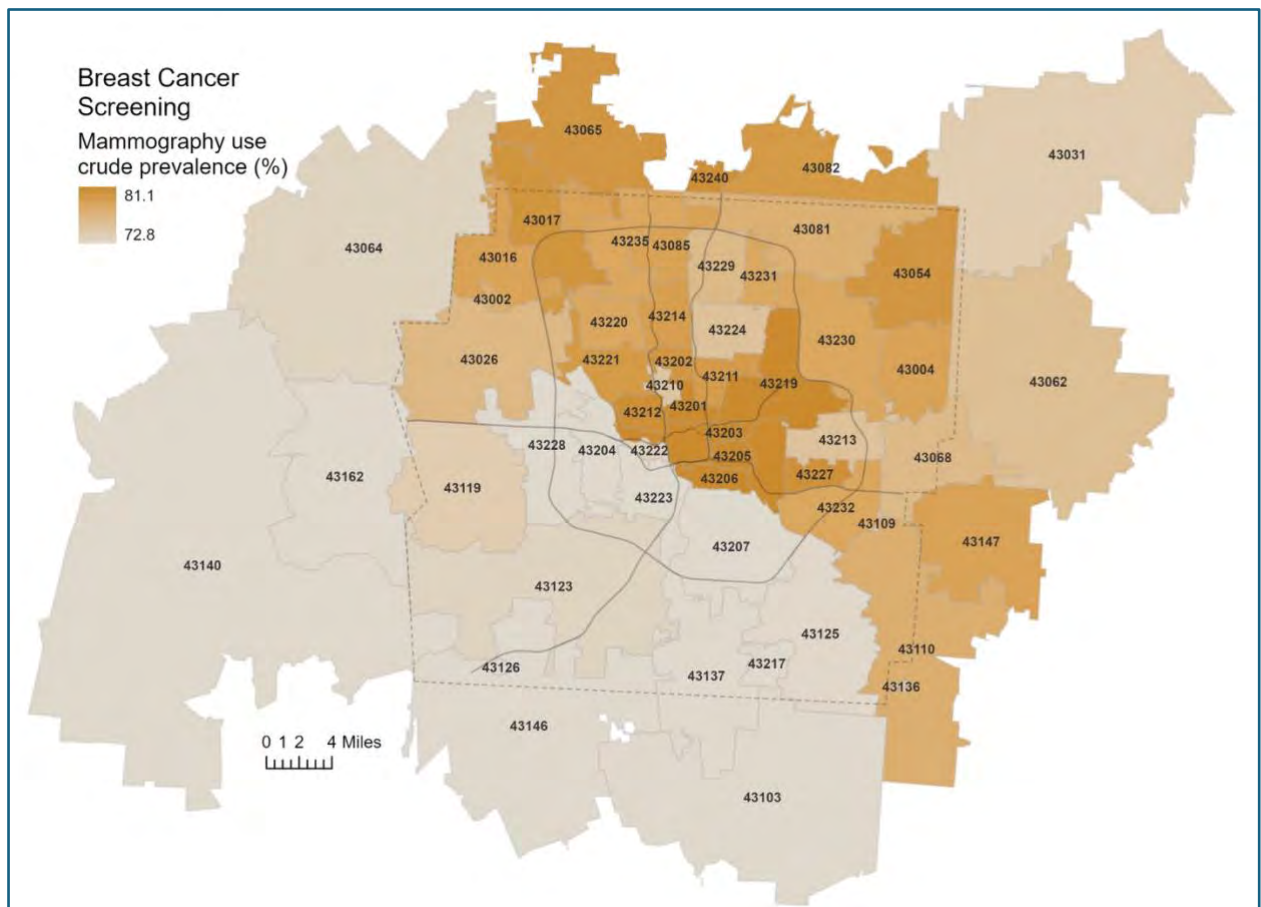
Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

69.7%

Colorectal cancer screening rates are lowest in Franklin County's north-central zip codes (e.g., 43211, 43224), western zip codes (e.g., 43222, 43223, 43204, 43228), and some southern zip codes (e.g., 43207, 43217).



Breast cancer screening rates are lower in nearly all of Franklin County's southern and southwestern zip codes.



Additional Information & References

To assess the prevalence of this health behavior, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.⁵ For colorectal cancer screening, survey respondents were asked if they had ever received either a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy, and how long it had been since their last colonoscopy. Survey respondents aged 45-75 and who had received a colonoscopy within the last 10 years were considered up to date. For breast cancer screening, women were asked whether they had received a mammogram, and how long it had been since their last mammogram. Survey respondents aged 40+ and who had received a mammogram in the last 2 years were considered up to date.

In 2021, the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended changing the screening age for colorectal cancer from 50-75 to 45-75. Because the HM2022

indicator reflected a narrower age range, it would be misleading to compare that estimate to the one for HM2025, which reflects a wider age range.²

Over the last 10 years, breast cancer screening recommendations for individuals aged 40-50 have changed multiple times. Previously, the USPSTF recommended that women aged 50-75 receive mammograms every 2 years and that women aged 40-49 receive mammograms based on their personal health history and status.¹ This was updated in 2024 to recommend mammograms every 2 years for all women aged 40+, and the data for HM2022 and for HM2025 reflect that recent recommendation. These guidelines are also intended for generally healthy adults with no prior cancer history or family cancer history. There are separate guidelines for those at higher risk due to their individual medical and family history, which may involve screening earlier or more frequently.

To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). Due to small sample sizes, only white (non-Hispanic) and black (non-Hispanic) residents of Franklin County could be compared to one another.

To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC's PLACES⁶ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

¹ US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for Breast Cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *JAMA*. 2024;331(22):1918-1930.
doi:10.1001/jama.2024.5534

² US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for Colorectal Cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *JAMA*. 2021;325(19):1965-1977.
doi:10.1001/jama.2021.6238

³ Healthy People 2030 objective C-07, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁴ Healthy People 2030 objective C-05, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2018 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.)
<https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

Alcohol Use

Excessive alcohol use - which includes binge drinking - can lead to several chronic diseases and other serious health problems, including heart disease, liver disease, stroke, mental health problems, and alcohol use disorders, among others. Excessive alcohol use has been associated with 178,000 deaths in the United States each year.¹

17.8% of Franklin County adults reported **binge drinking.**



Similar to
HM2022 (18.5%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
18-64 more likely

Sex:
None identified

Race/Ethnicity:
White more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Members of the community perceive alcohol to be too easy to access in their communities. They see its broad acceptance as a socializing activity to be a barrier to healthier consumption.



"There's a liquor store in every corner. You don't have to go far to find liquor or beer or cheap alcohol."

"Even our events truly are centered around alcohol. We have wine and arts, tequila and tacos...There's this conception of family and hometown, and all I see personally is people walking around with their kids in strollers and getting drunk."

"It feels like no matter what you're doing with your friends, there's people drinking. And I know if I'm ever like, 'Oh, I'm just like, not gonna drink tonight.' Like, people will start asking me if I'm pregnant...the pressure is so intense and ridiculous."

Community members also believe that overconsumption of alcohol stems from using it as a coping method for stress.



"Life is so stressful, people just drink. I definitely think that a lot of us are functionally alcoholics. And I'm speaking for 20 to 30 [year-olds]."

"People overindulge. Some people drink because they can't cope with things that are going on, it's a comfort thing to them. I see a lot of people who come back from the military and just can't cope. And that's a coping skill. It's not a healthy coping skill, but it's a coping skill a lot of people use."

"I know that this affects people of all financial statuses, situations. I met somebody who I look up to a lot, and [asked] a question about how he manages stress, and he said he was really good at managing stress, but in the times of his life where he really had a lot of stress at work and stuff, he just leaned really heavily on the alcohol. And I think that a lot of people don't realize that they are coping with whatever is going on in their life. It's like the easiest way to numb it."

COVID-19 is perceived to have resulted in an increase of alcohol overconsumption at home.



"I think especially with in the house drinking, people used to be a little more responsible. So they were going out, maybe having a drink or two. Once COVID came, bars closed. It went to, I'm gonna go to the liquor store and grab me a pint or a fifth. So now you're sitting at home and instead of having one or two that you would usually have at happy hour, you're drinking a whole bottle."

The negative effects of overconsuming alcohol mentioned by community members included worsened mental health and violence in the community.



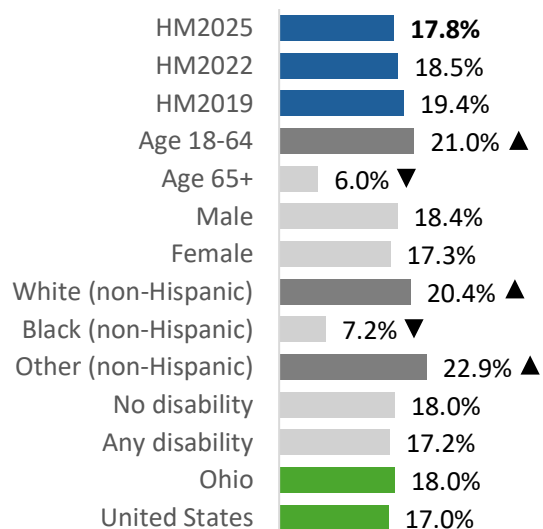
"So I think people don't know the consequences yet of the type of drinking we're doing now. I was one of those weekend people with the fifth, but I stopped. And before I stopped, I started experiencing depression, anxiety, and not being able to focus and no motivation. All that changed, my life changed dramatically just from cutting that weekend use."

"No good can come from too much alcohol. And you can see all the violence downtown when places are closing. People lose all sense of reason."

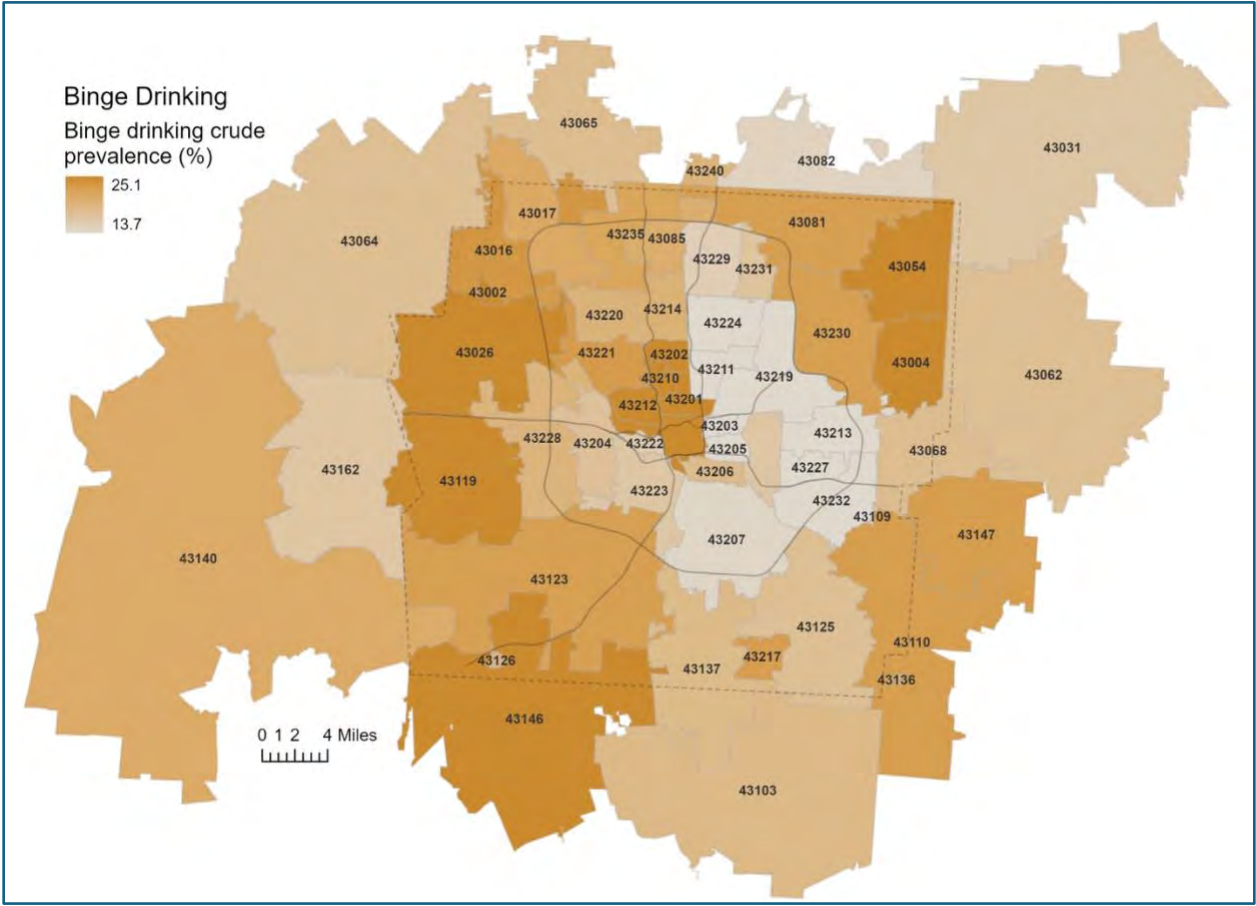
The prevalence of self-reported binge drinking has decreased slightly over time as compared to previous *HealthMaps*.

People aged 18-64 are more likely than those aged 65+ to report binge drinking, as are those who identify as white (non-Hispanic).

Binge Drinking Prevalence




Binge drinking prevalence is higher in Franklin County’s far western zip codes, in the zip codes that span the Grandview, Upper Arlington, OSU, and Clintonville areas, and in the county’s far northeastern zip codes.




Additional Information & References

To assess the prevalence of this health behavior, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.² For men, binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks on one occasion in the past 30 days; for women, binge drinking is defined as having four or more drinks on one occasion in the past 30 days.

To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). To map the prevalence of this indicator at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC’s PLACES³ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

 Data Gap: Because the BRFSS uses telephone interviewing methods to collect this information, it is likely that these statistics *underestimate* the amount of binge drinking occurring in the community. This is because some people might wish to be viewed favorably by the person interviewing them, and therefore not accurately report the full extent to which they engage in a socially unacceptable behavior (e.g., a social desirability bias).

 Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about the rates of binge drinking, cigarette use, and e-cigarette use among Franklin County's youth (e.g., those between the ages of 11 and 17). Unfortunately, Ohio's Youth Risk Behavior Survey does not calculate statistical estimates at the county level.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *What is Excessive Drinking?*
<https://www.cdc.gov/drinklessbeyourbest/excessivedrinking.html>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019),

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.)
<https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

Tobacco Use

Cigarette use is one of the highest contributors to mortality, disease, disability, and overall health status worldwide and in the United States.¹ Aside from the approximately 480,000 smoking-attributable deaths in smokers every year, there are also approximately 41,000 deaths from secondhand smoke exposure. Although decades of intervention have successfully decreased cigarette smoking rates, there is still progress to be made.

Originally marketed as a smoking cessation tool with fewer risks than traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes increased in popularity over the past 10-15 years, especially among youth and young adults. Early evidence already suggests that there may be significant long and short term risks to e-cigarette use, particularly for the respiratory system.²

15.2% of Franklin County adults reported currently **smoking cigarettes**.

↓
Down from
HM2022 (22.7%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
18-64 more likely

Sex:
Male more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
Other races (non-Hispanic) more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

9.1% of Franklin County adults reported currently **using e-cigarettes**.

↑
Up from
HM2022 (6.8%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
18-64 more likely

Sex:
Female more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
Other races (non-Hispanic) more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Community members worry less about traditional cigarette use in their communities, and more about e-cigarette use, which they perceive as overwhelmingly common among ex-smokers and people who have never smoked. They are highly concerned about misconceptions surrounding the healthiness of vaping.



"Some people are trying to go to vaping to quit smoking, but it's having the exact opposite effect. They're more addicted to it. They are using it more often. They're having to go to higher nicotine levels. It's doing the exact opposite."

"I see a lot of people giving up tobacco think that the e-cigarettes are going to be safer. That to me is the big problem. They really aren't. But people really have that belief that, well, I don't really smoke."

"And a lot of people who weren't smoking in any capacity, over time, have gotten hooked on vapes because it's like, you have a drink, you're at a party, and this isn't a cigarette. This thing tastes like candy, and you smell the cloud of it. And you're like, this is harmless. This is vapor."

"That's really troubling to somebody my age to see young people vaping, when so much information has not come out or been made available. The oils and how that goes into your lungs and stuff. That really concerns me for young people."

Ease of access, misconceptions about the safety of vaping, and its use as a coping mechanism for stress and anxiety contribute to the pervasiveness of vaping among the county's youth.



"I used to do substance use prevention in middle schools, and that was a big thing...so many kids knew about vapes and have them. Not even be able to make it through class without needing a vape. Like, going to the bathroom and taking a vape."

"For my daughter, she never, we never smoked or drank or anything growing up. And then when she went to college 2 hours away, she ended up starting smoking. And she said it calms her nerves."

While encouraging residents and businesses to follow laws around vape sales and spreading accurate information about the health risks is necessary to decrease this behavior, efforts must also contend with how appealing vapes are compared to traditional cigarettes, and the difficulty of regulating the industry.



"It's the taste, you know, they don't feel as bad. It doesn't taste like a regular cigarette."

"There's no social drawback of just vaping a mango kiwi."

"I think the oversight is the piece that's slow. Technology is moving fast. The amount of nicotine that you're getting, the size of the e-cigarettes...the vaping and the nicotine is moving faster than the government can say, 'Hey, let's regulate this. Hey, let's put a study on this, or let's try to stop this.'"

"They banned that brand. But then there's so many other brands. And the reason why they banned that brand is because you had a lot of people, like, getting stuff wrong with their esophagus...but it's like, why would you ban the brand and then there's 20 other brands? People still have access."

Some community members perceive attempts to curb smoking and vaping as futile, ineffective solutions that impose unreasonable burdens.

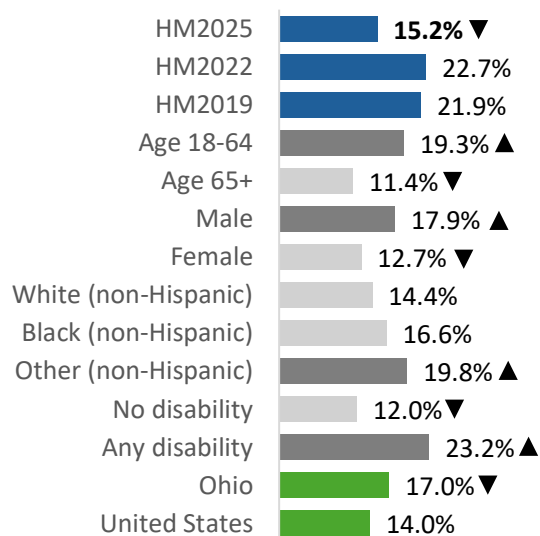


"It makes me so mad that our legislators are trying to deal with these issues by banning certain things or by dealing with the symptoms or the superficial. Like, they're gonna ban menthol cigarettes, but you're not really dealing with tobacco use. You're not taking on the big tobacco companies. You're not doing anything except making it harder for me to get a new pack...And you're not stopping anything. You're just putting more stress and making it harder on communities that are already vulnerable, already at risk, already stressed out..."

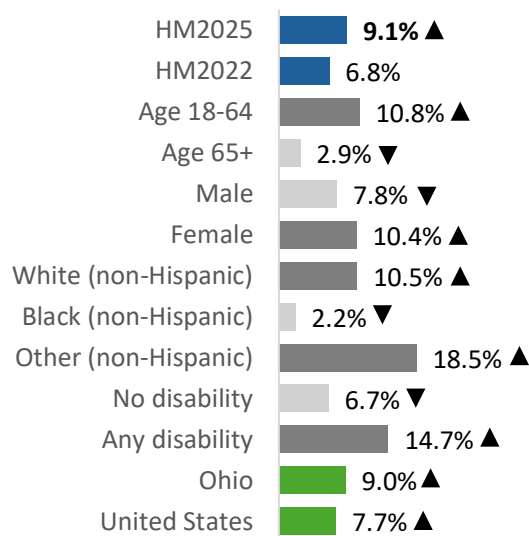
"My community just made everything nonsmoking. You can't smoke in your house. You can't smoke out on the premises anywhere. And I'm like, you're paying almost \$2,000 to live in these so-called luxury apartments, and you telling me I can't smoke a cigarette, that just blows my mind."

As shown below, current cigarette use has dropped significantly since *HealthMap2022*. However, although the Franklin County adult smoking rate is lower than that for Ohio, it is still above the US average. Furthermore, e-cigarette use among Franklin County adults has increased since *HealthMap2022*.

Cigarette Smoking



E-Cigarette Use



The demographic patterns are stark: individuals with an other (non-Hispanic) racial background use e-cigarettes as often as cigarettes. Additionally, males are more likely than females to smoke cigarettes, while females are more likely than males to use e-cigarettes. Black (non-Hispanic) individuals were distinctly unlikely to use e-cigarettes, which is an

interesting trend given that cigarette use among black (non-Hispanic) adults was higher than the average. As expected, e-cigarette use among older adults was very low.

Healthy People 2030

While Franklin County does not meet the Healthy People 2030 standard, there has been significant improvement from HM2022, which estimated that 22.7% of Franklin County adults were current smokers.³ Unfortunately, there is no HP2030 goal for e-cigarette use among adults.

HP2030 objective for Adults Currently Smoking Cigarettes: Not met (but improving)

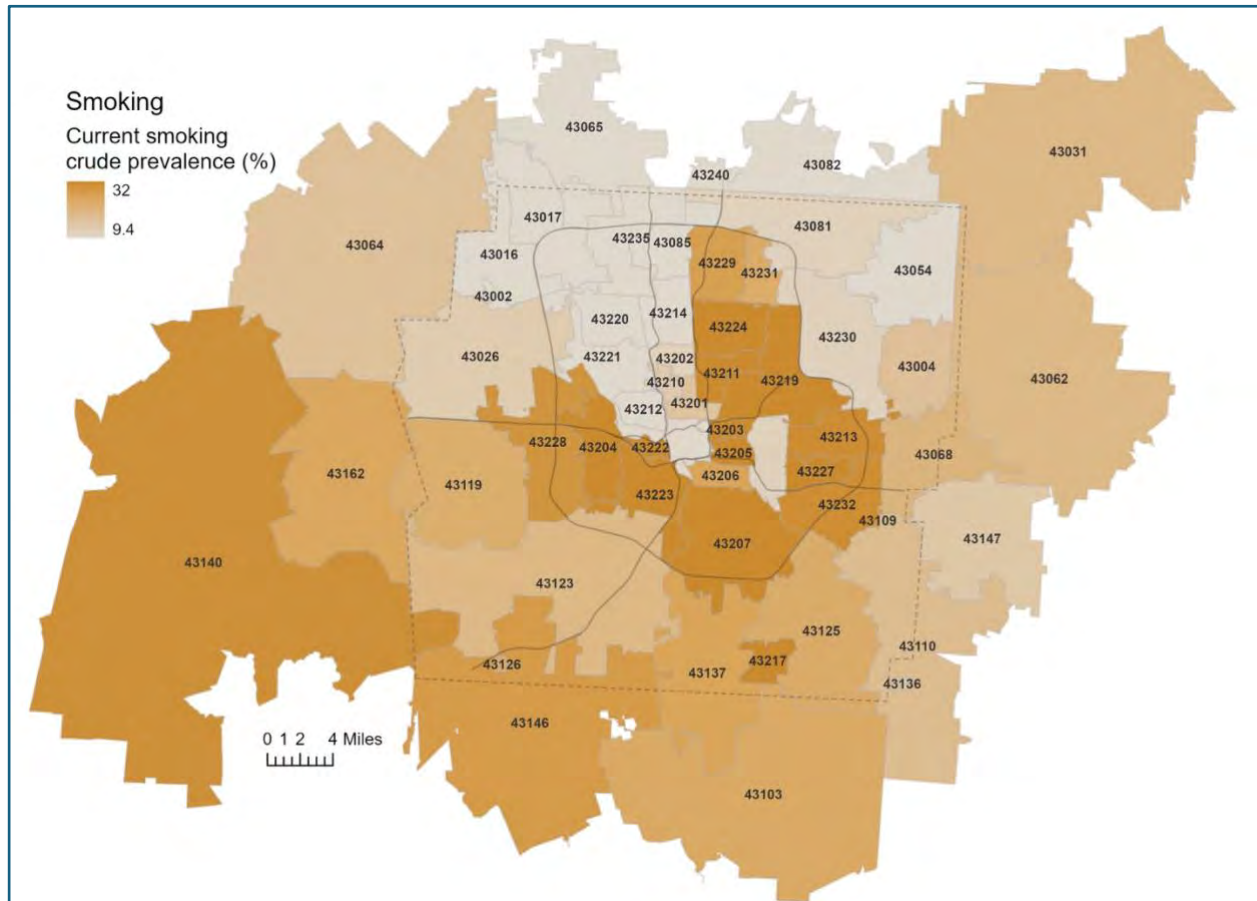
Healthy People Objective:

6.1%

Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

15.2%

Smoking prevalence is higher in most Franklin County zip codes that are within I-270, except for those zip codes in the northwestern quadrant. Prevalence rates are also higher in many of the county's southern zip codes.



Additional Information & References

To assess the prevalence of this health behavior, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.⁴ To assess cigarette use, adults were asked whether they smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all. To assess e-cigarette use, adults were asked whether they have never used e-cigarettes, use every day, use some days, or used them in the past but not now. Participants were classified as current users if they used the product some days or every day.

Note that the question on e-cigarette use changed slightly in BRFSS’ 2022 version of the survey questionnaire. In 2021, the question read “Do you now use e-cigarettes or other electronic vaping products every day, some days or not at all?” and in 2022 became “Would you say you have never used e-cigarettes or other electronic vaping products in your entire life or now use them every day, use them some days, or used them in the past but do not currently use them at all?” Both questions result in the same group being categorized as current users (every day or some days), however the new question allows further clarification of “never users” compared to “past users”.⁴ Still, considering there was a change in question wording, readers should be cautious when drawing conclusions about changes over time.

It is also important to note that multiple cities in Franklin County (e.g., Columbus, Bexley, Dublin, Grandview Heights) instituted a ban on the sale of all flavored nicotine products as of January 1, 2024. This measure has faced several legal challenges, and it is unclear whether it will withstand scrutiny from higher courts.⁵ There is not yet data to discern whether this measure has or will have any effect on tobacco use in Franklin County, but this will be a critical issue in future *HealthMap* assessments.

To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC’s PLACES⁶ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

¹ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (US) Office on Smoking and Health. (2014). *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US).

² Marques, P., Piqueras, L., & Sanz, M. J. (2021). An updated overview of e-cigarette impact on human health. *Respiratory research*, 22(1), 151. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12931-021-01737-5>

³ Healthy People 2030 objective TU-02, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

⁵ Shipkowski, Bruce. (2024, May 20). *Judge rules Ohio law that keeps cities from banning flavored tobacco is unconstitutional*. Associated Press. <https://apnews.com/article/ohio-tobacco-regulations-local-vaping-bans-41396258b60c26798ec128e85851dfac>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.) <https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

Weight Status

Weight is an important health indicator for mortality, chronic health conditions, and quality of life. Individuals at a higher weight are at greater risk for conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. In 2015, high body mass index (BMI) contributed to 7.1% of deaths and 4.9% of disability-adjusted life years globally.¹

29% of Franklin County adults reported being overweight.



Similar to HM2022 (30.6%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
65+ more likely

Sex:
Male more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
White more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

37% of Franklin County adults reported being obese.



Similar to HM2022 (35.7%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
None observed

Sex:
Female more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Community Voices

Community members noted that weight status contributes to many other physical health issues, and that achieving a healthier weight status becomes even more difficult due to the compounded issues.



"I think that obesity led to issues in my knees. So now I have arthritis in my knees. They would always say, if you lose some of that weight, it'll take less off of your knees and your ankles and that kind of thing...Diabetes and blood pressure can also lead to swelling and inflammation. But to [lose weight], you got to have the ability to. Like, I would never go anywhere because I would be out of breath in ten minutes. I couldn't walk up that hill, so I wasn't going there."

Community members cited difficulty achieving adequate physical activity as a primary contributor to overweight status. Contributors to inadequate physical activity mentioned included the lack of affordable places to exercise, work schedules, work environments, and a culture that prioritizes cars, among others.



"Health wise, weight gain and things like that, there's not many other things except for expensive gyms to go to. I get off late at night. I'm not gonna go walk around at 10:00 at night and get my exercise."

"My neighborhood stays quiet. There's a lot of kids, but I think most of the time they're either on their phones or in the house, playing video games...so it's creating a lazier, more unhealthier child that's [creating a cycle]...they'll have kids, and they just see their parents doing nothing."

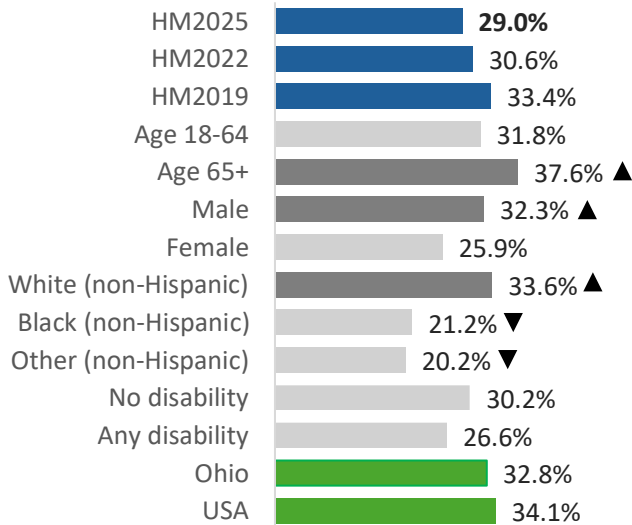
"I work in an office environment.... [A lot of us are] sitting all day and possibly not getting the exercise or the movement that we might need...we have little stand up desks, but we're not moving around all day. We're literally just sitting there."

"Our country, our nation is gearing towards driving to get to places. Bikes are actually fading away. We barely see people biking around. Walking is not safe anymore. So people barely walk and stuff. So I think that lack of mobility is causing the obesity and overweight."

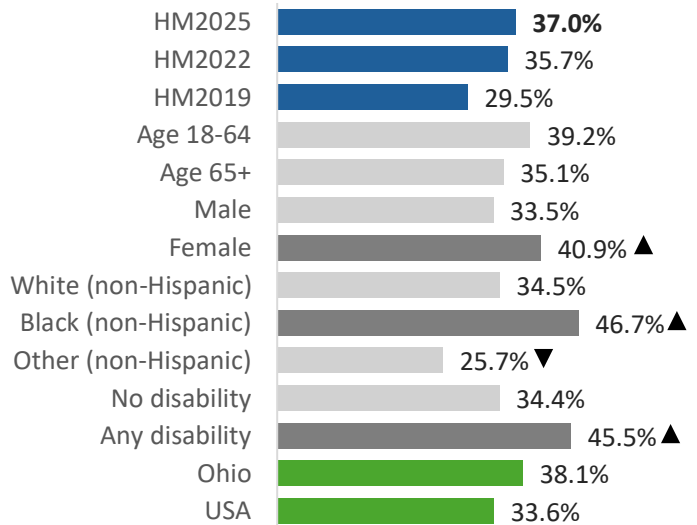
"The cost, yeah, Silver Sneakers is free. But then you get into knowing that our high schools uses that pool for their swimming...if you want a lap lane, you have to now reserve it. So it's like you have the initiative to go do something, but you kind of get detoured."

In Franklin County, black (non-Hispanic) individuals are more likely to be obese than overweight, indicating that there may be unmet needs for intervention for this population. Women are also more likely to be obese than overweight compared to men. Hispanic individuals were excluded from this analysis due to low sample size.

Overweight



Obese





Healthy People 2030

Healthy People 2030 uses data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which estimated that 38.6% of US adults were obese from 2013-2016. The BRFSS data used in HM2025 has a more conservative US estimate of 33.6% from 2021-2022. On either measure, the rate of obesity is rising locally and nationwide. There is no Healthy People 2030 goal for overweight status.

HP2030 objective for Obesity: Not met

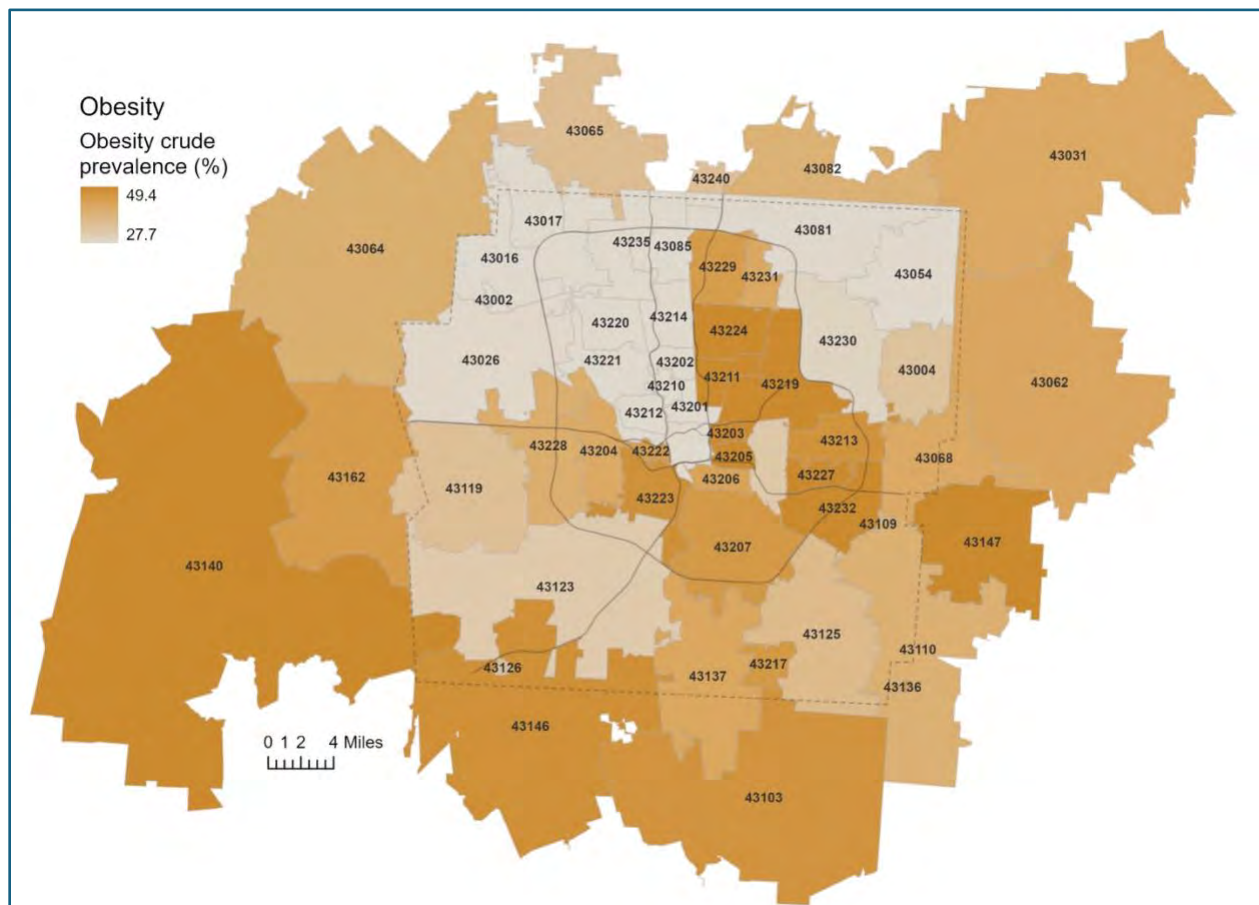
Healthy People Objective:

36%

Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)

37%

Obesity prevalence is higher in many Franklin County zip codes that are within I-270, except for those zip codes in the northwestern quadrant and the far northeastern areas. Prevalence rates are also higher in some of the county's southern zip codes.



[Additional Information & References](#)

To assess the prevalence of this health status, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.³ A body mass index (BMI) of less than 18.5 is considered underweight, 18.5-24.9 is considered normal, 25-29.9 is considered overweight, and 30+ is considered obese.⁴

Although BMI is a commonly used measure of overweight/obesity status, it has been criticized as an outdated and discriminatory marker of health. This measure was developed in the 1800s and based primarily on male bodies, which are not the standard for all humans. Because BMI is a ratio of height to weight, the measure cannot differentiate between lean (muscle) mass and fat mass. Therefore, an elite athlete may be classified as overweight or obese despite being very fit and healthy. However, there are no other standardized measures of body composition that are as widely known and used.⁵

To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). To map the prevalence of this indicator at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC's PLACES⁶ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).



Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about the proportion of adult residents who meet physical activity guidelines. Unfortunately, the BRFSS stopped measuring this metric in 2019.

¹ GBD 2015 Obesity Collaborators, Afshin, A., Forouzanfar, M. H., Reitsma, M. B., Sur, P., Estep, K., Lee, A., Marczak, L., Mokdad, A. H., Moradi-Lakeh, M., Naghavi, M., Salama, J. S., Vos, T., Abate, K. H., Abbafati, C., Ahmed, M. B., Al-Aly, Z., Alkerwi, A., Al-Raddadi, R., Amare, A. T., ... Murray, C. J. L. (2017). Health Effects of Overweight and Obesity in 195 Countries over 25 Years. *The New England journal of medicine*, 377(1), 13-27. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1614362>

² Healthy People 2030 objective NWS-03, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

⁴ Weir, C. B., & Jan, A. (2023). BMI Classification Percentile And Cut Off Points. In *StatPearls*. StatPearls Publishing.

⁵ Nuttall F. Q. (2015). Body Mass Index: Obesity, BMI, and Health: A Critical Review. *Nutrition today*, 50(3), 117-128. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NT.0000000000000092>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.) <https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Pre-pregnancy And Pregnancy Health

The health of pregnant individuals before and during their pregnancy is a significant opportunity for meaningful intervention. Pregnant individuals with medical comorbidities are at significantly increased risk for complications for both parent and child, including severe morbidity such as placental abruption, eclampsia, and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission.¹

43.7% of women who had a live birth had a **chronic health condition.**

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (42.8%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: White more likely

44.9% of women who had a live birth were not taking **vitamins** before pregnancy.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (48.8%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: Hispanic, Black more likely

18.4% of women who had a live birth had pre-pregnancy **depression.**

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (17.7%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: White more likely

6.1% of women who had a live birth had pre-pregnancy **hypertension.**

↑
Up from
HM2022 (5.4%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: Black more likely

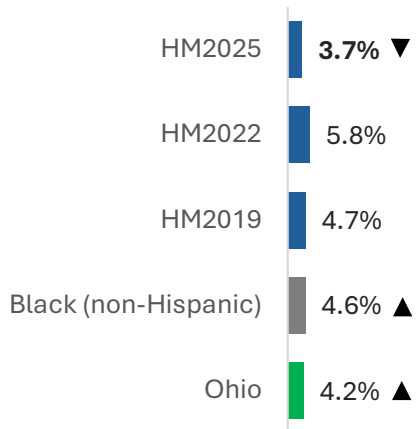
24.9% of live births were from **unintended pregnancies.**

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (23.9%)

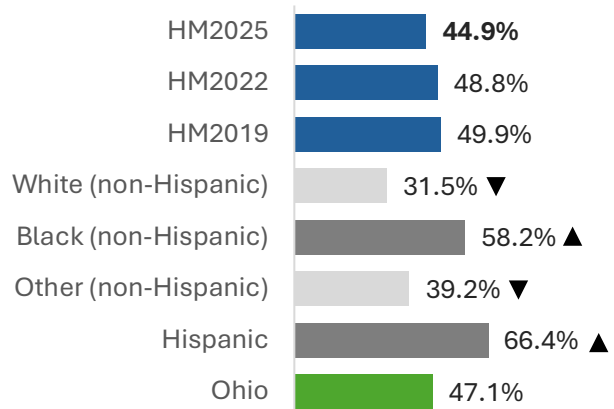
Disparities by selected social determinants of health: Black, Hispanic more likely

Although pre-pregnancy diabetes has decreased in recent years, black (non-Hispanic) residents are at increased risk for that health condition. Both black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic residents were more likely to report not taking vitamins prior to pregnancy, as compared to white (non-Hispanic) residents or individuals who have an other (non-Hispanic) racial background.

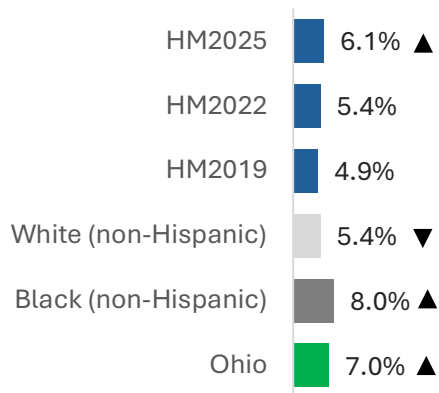
Pre-pregnancy Diabetes



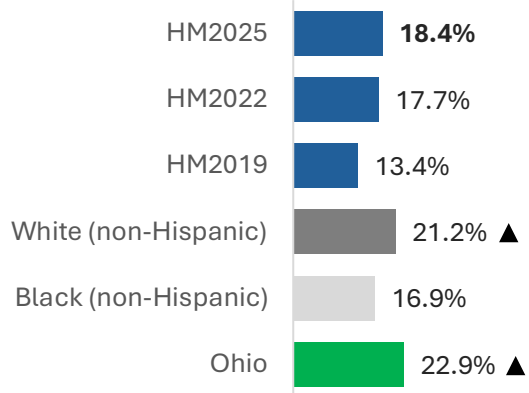
No Vitamins Pre-pregnancy



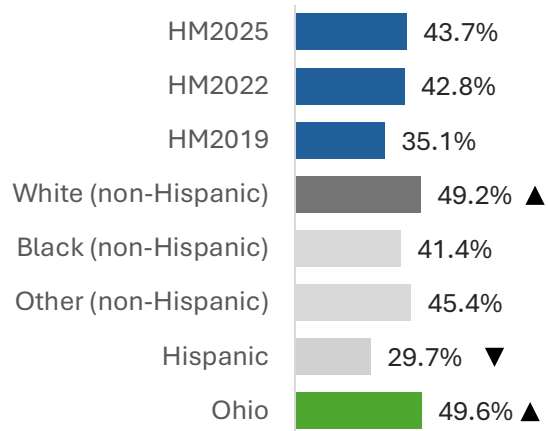
Pre-pregnancy Hypertension



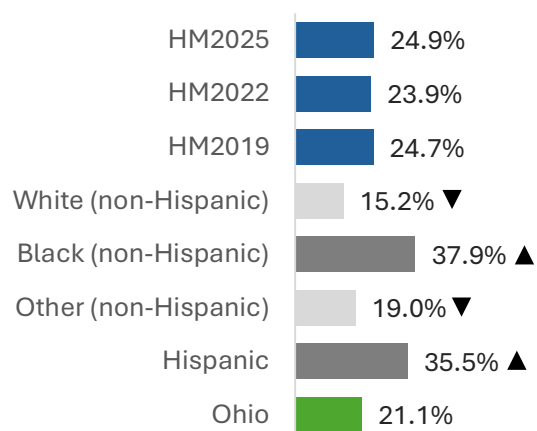
Pre-pregnancy Depression



Prenatal Chronic Conditions



Unintended Pregnancy



Additional Information & References

Data for this section were sourced from the Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey (OPAS), which asks questions of women who had a live birth.² Pre-conception vitamin usage was defined as taking multivitamins, prenatal vitamins, or other folic acid vitamins in the month before conception. Pre-pregnancy diabetes was defined as type 1 or 2 diabetes in the past 3 months before conception. Similarly, pre-pregnancy hypertension and depression were measured in the 3 months before conception. Prenatal chronic health conditions were defined as one or more conditions of anxiety, depression, gestational diabetes, or pregnancy-onset hypertension. Finally, unintended pregnancy was defined as either wanting to be pregnant later or not wanting to be pregnant at all prior to conception.

Readers might notice that pre-pregnancy overweight and obesity status was reported in *HealthMap2022* but not in *HealthMap2025*. This is because these data are no longer publicly reported by OPAS. This may be due in part to the increasing normalization of pregnancy at a higher BMI.



Data Gap: Future HealthMaps should consider obtaining data about pregnancy-related / maternal mortality.

¹Tanner, M. S., Malhotra, A., Davey, M. A., Wallace, E. M., Mol, B. W., & Palmer, K. R. (2022). Maternal and neonatal complications in women with medical comorbidities and preeclampsia. *Pregnancy hypertension*, 27, 62-68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.preghy.2021.12.006>

²Ohio Department of Health. *Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey* [Interactive Dashboard]. Retrieved from <https://grcapps.osu.edu/app/opas>, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

Prenatal Racial Bias

Health disparities by race have been increasingly highlighted as a contributor to the maternal-child health crisis in the United States.¹ One proposed mechanism for why certain groups experience greater risks is bias or discrimination in healthcare. This may result in patients receiving substandard medical care or avoiding prenatal care altogether.¹

9.9% of pregnant individuals reported experiencing racial bias from a healthcare provider.


Up from
HM2022 (6.4%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: Black, Hispanic more likely

Community Voices

Community members spoke about the issue of maternal mortality, and how inadequate treatment by health care professionals contributes to higher rates for black mothers.



"The maternal death rates. If you're white middle class, your average chance of survival [in pregnancy and childbirth] is much greater than ours. I think it's like twice. The difference is pretty high. And that's just egregious. We have needs, we have the ability, we're just not putting the resources in."

"Moms are going into hospitals and they're not believing in their pain. My aunt's friend went into the hospital, and she had her baby. She kept telling there was something wrong, and they left her for 4 hours...She passed away. She had an aneurysm. And she has been telling them all this time...the migraine, the headache she was having, it was so bad. They just told her, 'It's from the epidural.' And that's probably true...I'm pretty sure she would have been a great advocate for herself, but she was just in so much pain, she couldn't do it."

Community members also gave other specific examples of how they have seen racial bias within the health care system, including health care professionals not listening to their wishes for labor and delivery, inadequate treatment of health issues resulting from pregnancy, and unfair assumptions that young black women are sexually promiscuous.



"I just had a baby eight months ago. And if it wasn't for the doula putting a birth plan and being an advocate for me, things could have went left several times during the delivery process. So you just think that not everyone has access to someone who can advocate for you in that process. They were trying to push a lot of stuff. I was very much like, I don't want any medication unless medically necessary...They'll go out the room and have those

conversations, come back and try to still push it. And so it was frustrating at times..."

"I had gallstones for the whole time I was pregnant. Found out that they were gallstones after I had my son. And then I'm still complaining of pain. It's like up to a year and a half later, maybe two years, and I was in the hospital four or five times. Then guess what? I had pancreatitis, because they never cleaned out my bioduct from the gallstones when I was 16. They never listened to me. And I really do think it's because I'm half black, half Hispanic."

"The first time I had sex, I got pregnant, and I had my exam at the hospital. The first thing that they did was check me for STD's and ask me, how many people have I been with, and I have had other friends say, 'that's never happened to us.' I just wonder if the same thing would have happened if I had walked in white."

Community members suspect that they experience racial bias in the health care system due to historical myths that black women feel less pain, as well as assumptions by health care professionals that their health issues are due to inherent genetic differences.



"It's obviously not true, but for the longest time in doula training, when you read the books, they were told that black women can accept more pain than a woman that's not black."

"I've gone to a doctor and I've actually had them say, 'With you being an African American female, this is probably hereditary, you're probably having diabetes or it's high blood pressure' or something...they're making that assumption without doing the testing. They didn't afford me the opportunity to be tested...It's probably just this. I don't think you have anything to worry about.' When I tell you I've heard that so many times, and then it develops into something."

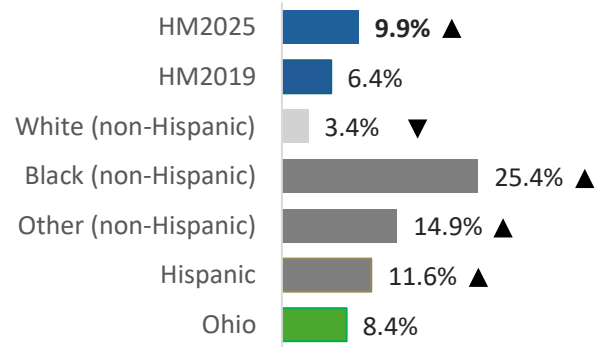
Lastly, a black community member highlighted how the historical treatment of people of color by the health care system and their preclusion from knowledge about their health still impacts the ability of healthcare to be equitable today:



"Knowledge is power. I mean, you can advocate better for yourself and for others when you know better. And I think it can be a class issue, it could be a socioeconomic issue. But if we consider racial discrimination or any of those factors...Even if I have access today, the reality is that two, three, four generations ago, it was withheld. Or even if my ancestors had the knowledge, they couldn't do anything with it because they were barred from being able to do so...We're behind. We have to try to play catch up as it pertains to a lot of things that can speak to our physical health, our mental health."

As would be expected, experiences of racial bias are most common among racial and ethnic minorities. This was particularly prominent for black (non-Hispanic) patients, even compared to other racially minoritized groups. Concerningly, these experiences increased since the last *HealthMap*.

Prenatal Racial Bias Prevalence



Additional Information & References

To assess the experience of racial bias in prenatal care, data from the Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey (OPAS) were used.² Participants were asked “During your most recent pregnancy, did you experience discrimination or were you made to feel inferior while getting any type of health or medical care because of the things listed below”, where one of the options was “My race, ethnicity, or culture”. This measure is only reported periodically, with the most recent publicly available data collected in 2020.

¹ ACOG Committee Statement No. 10: Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Obstetrics and Gynecology. (2024). *Obstetrics and gynecology*, 144(3), e62–e74. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000005678>

² Ohio Department of Health. *Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey* [Interactive Dashboard]. Retrieved from <https://grcapps.osu.edu/app/opas>, 2020 (HM2025), 2016 (HM2019)

Maternal Healthcare

Pre-pregnancy healthcare visits offer expectant mothers and their doctors an opportunity to discuss healthy diet choices, folic acid supplementation, and other interventions that help to build the foundation for a healthy pregnancy.¹ Postpartum visits allow mothers who recently delivered a baby to be screened for postpartum depression, to have their overall health examined, and to discuss possible pregnancy complications such as gestational diabetes.²

72.3% of pregnant individuals had a **healthcare visit** in the year before their pregnancy.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (67.6%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: Hispanic less likely

90.2% of postpartum individuals had a **postpartum healthcare visit**.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (93.2%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health: Hispanic less likely

Community Voices

Community members are aware that pregnant and postpartum individuals may not seek out health care when they should. They also drew attention to how specific health issues like preeclampsia and postpartum depression can worsen if not addressed by a health care professional.



"I hear that they don't get the prenatal [checks], they don't see the doctor like they should."

"Postpartum preeclampsia, not knowing that they even have it until after they have the baby and then they're home for like a few days and then they're nearly about to die. But it wasn't caught during pregnancy."

"I know I was almost psychotic after I had my child many years ago, and they're all safely grown now. But it was bad. I mean, I literally shudder when I think of the thoughts that would go through your mind. You had no control. And there was just nothing. There was no resources. If you go tell your doctor that, they're going to lock you up, take your kid away. I don't want to lose my child. But there was no help."

Community members mentioned that one of the reasons pregnant individuals don't seek health care is out of fear they will not receive adequate care. These fears appear to be especially prevalent in black communities.

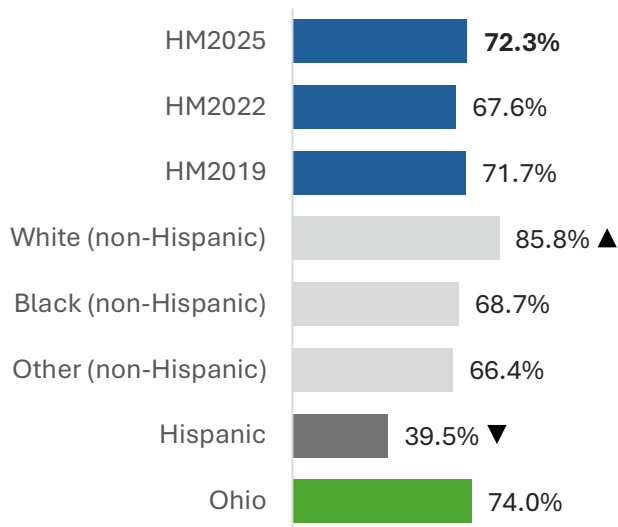


“A lot of us were scared of doctors because of situations in the past. We really don't trust doctors. It's hard to even find one that we can really bond with...so many black women are dying during childbirth because they're not getting adequate care. They say we were better off back when we caught them ourselves than going to the hospital.”

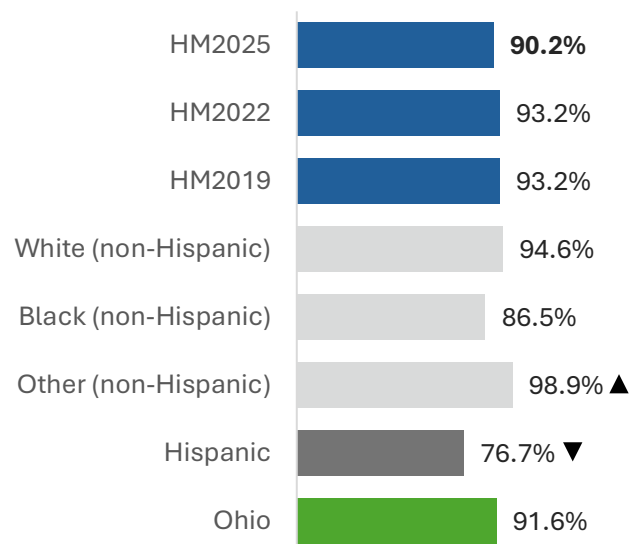
“There's just a lot of stories that you hear out here, where mostly black women are telling horror stories of how they're just not getting the proper care.”

Pre-pregnancy healthcare visits were higher among white (non-Hispanic) individuals than all other racial groups and were particularly low among Hispanic individuals. Postpartum healthcare visits are high for all groups but are similarly lowest for Hispanic individuals. This could indicate a cultural or language barrier that can be further addressed.

Pre-pregnancy Healthcare visit



Postpartum Healthcare Visit



Additional Information & References

To assess the healthcare visit status of Franklin County mothers with a recent live birth, *HealthMap2025* used data from the Ohio Pregnancy Assessment System (OPAS).³ Pre-pregnancy healthcare visits were defined as any visit with a healthcare professional in the 12 months prior to conception. Postpartum healthcare visits were defined as a checkup for the postpartum individual that occurs around 4-6 weeks after delivery.

¹ Berghella, V., Buchanan, E., Pereira, L., & Baxter, J. K. (2010). Preconception care. *Obstetrical & gynecological survey*, 65(2), 119-131. <https://doi.org/10.1097/OGX.0b013e3181d0c358>

² ACOG Committee Opinion No. 736: Optimizing Postpartum Care. (2018). *Obstetrics and gynecology*, 131(5), e140–e150. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000002633>

³ Ohio Department of Health. (2022). *Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey* [Interactive Dashboard]. Retrieved from <https://grcapps.osu.edu/app/opas>, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2016 (HM2019)

Infant Health and Adolescent Pregnancy

Infant health and mortality is a global concern, even in high-income countries such as the United States. Worldwide, the leading cause of death among those under age 5 is preterm birth, with the third cause of death being intrapartum-related events.¹ Adolescent pregnancy, along with increasing the risk for adverse infant outcomes, is also associated with serious physical and social consequences for the mother.²

7.4 infants died per 1,000 live births.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (6.9)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Unavailable

Sex:
N/A

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

Geography:
Observed (see map)

9.4% of infants were **born with a low birthweight**.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (9.5%)

10.6% of infants were **born prematurely**.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (10.9%)

12.1 infants had **neonatal abstinence syndrome** per 1,000 live births.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (11.4)

The **teen birth rate** was **15.2** per 1000 adolescent females.

↓
Down from
HM2022 (17.2)

Community Voices

Community members are concerned that the county's youth are unable to access reproductive health care like birth control or abortion. They emphasized the importance of options and choices for teens who become pregnant. Abstinence-only education is not sufficient in their minds to reduce the issue of teen pregnancy.



"What concerns me now is there is not the access to care for young women that there used to be when I was that age. I can remember in high school, driving down to campus to go to Planned Parenthood with friends so that they could get on the pill or do whatever... We always knew in the back of our mind that if something came up, there were options."

"So as far as options, I think that if my mom would have had those options back then, I probably wouldn't be here, but it was an option, and it was a choice. She just did not have that. And there was not even birth control, birth control was not an option for her. From what she told me, it's because she was taught abstinence [only]."

"In high school, they have to take health. The kids consider it a joke. But if the kids think it's a joke, whether it's a valid program or not, then they're not getting anything from it. You're a freshman and you are getting a pregnancy test. And it happens all the time, but I think that means that what we're teaching them, it's not enough."

Community members also think that perceptions that gynecologists should only be seen once a person becomes sexually active are contributing to youth not having enough knowledge or access when it comes to reproductive health.



"A lot of the OBs, they don't even want to see the kids until they're 21. I called her because my daughter had extremely heavy bleeding several days, I wanted to get her on something that could help reduce that. And she's like, 'Well, we don't normally see them until they're 21.' If the health providers in that world are even saying this isn't really the age that we start to see them at, then you reduce the number of places that you can get help."

"One of my friends said to her daughter, 'Now that you've got a boyfriend, we should go to the gynecologist.' And I was standing right there, 'No, no. You go to the gynecologist because you're a woman and you take care of yourself. The boyfriend has nothing to do with this.' And I don't know if that is the message that they're getting."

A lack of education about sex and reproductive health can ultimately result in young parents being unequipped to adequately care for children.



"Young moms don't have the knowledge that they need. Years ago, they would have classes so when you got pregnant, you had a class that taught you the things that you needed, just the stuff you would need to know. Now they have these kids having babies and they don't know anything... they don't have a formula for the baby. Like, she was feeding the baby actual 2% milk because she didn't have any formula. She didn't know she needed the formula. She didn't have a means to get the formula, and her and the baby is just out. They didn't have Pampers."

Relatedly, families' unwillingness to broach the subject of sex and reproduction with their children may prevent youth from accessing birth control when it could be helpful for them.



"They don't teach them about their bodies. We have 8, 9-year-old girls who have started their periods, and their parents don't tell them. I remember a little girl, when she was eight, she said, 'I need a pad.' I'm not thinking like a sanitary pad. I'm thinking she was talking about paper... Some of the parents are talking to them, but a lot of them, they're not teaching. And the boys too, they're not teaching them about puberty, how their body's changing, how it's normal to feel what you're feeling."

"My family was very closed [off], 'don't talk [about it]'. I don't think we ever even talked about sex, honestly. And when I got to college, the doctor was recommending for my migraines the Depo shot, which is a birth control. And I didn't want to have to tell my parents I needed birth control because I didn't think they would believe me that it wasn't about sex. And so I went to Planned Parenthood, and I used the money I earned working in school, and I got the Depo for \$65 every three months."

The infant health indicators have not changed significantly in recent years; not only does infant mortality remain relatively high, and is especially high among black (non-Hispanic) babies. Franklin County's neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) rate is slightly higher than that for Ohio.

Infant Mortality Rate

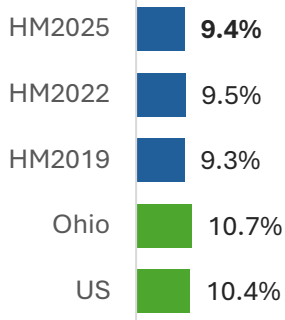
	Rate per 1,000 babies born
HM2025	7.4
HM2022	6.9
HM2019	8.7
White (non-Hispanic)	3.7 ▼
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.6 ▲
Hispanic	7.8
Ohio	7.1
US	5.6

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

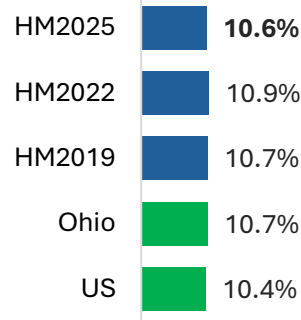
	Rate per 1,000 babies born
HM2025	12.1
HM2022	11.4
HM2019	12.3
Ohio	10.1 ▼

Although Franklin County is similar to Ohio and the United States with regard to low birthweight and preterm birth rates, the teen birth rate has significantly declined across all geographies.

Low Birthweight



Preterm Birth



Teen Birth Rate

Rate per 1,000 girls age 15-19	
HM2025	15.2 ▼
HM2022	17.2
HM2019	23.4
Ohio	15.4 ▼
US	13.6 ▼

Healthy People 2030

There is still progress to be made on infant mortality³ and preterm births⁴ in order to achieve the Healthy People 2030 goals. However, the adolescent pregnancy goal⁵ has been exceeded and is currently less than half the target rate for that objective.

HP2030 objective for Infant Mortality: Not met

Healthy People Objective:	Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
5.0 per 1000 live births	7.4

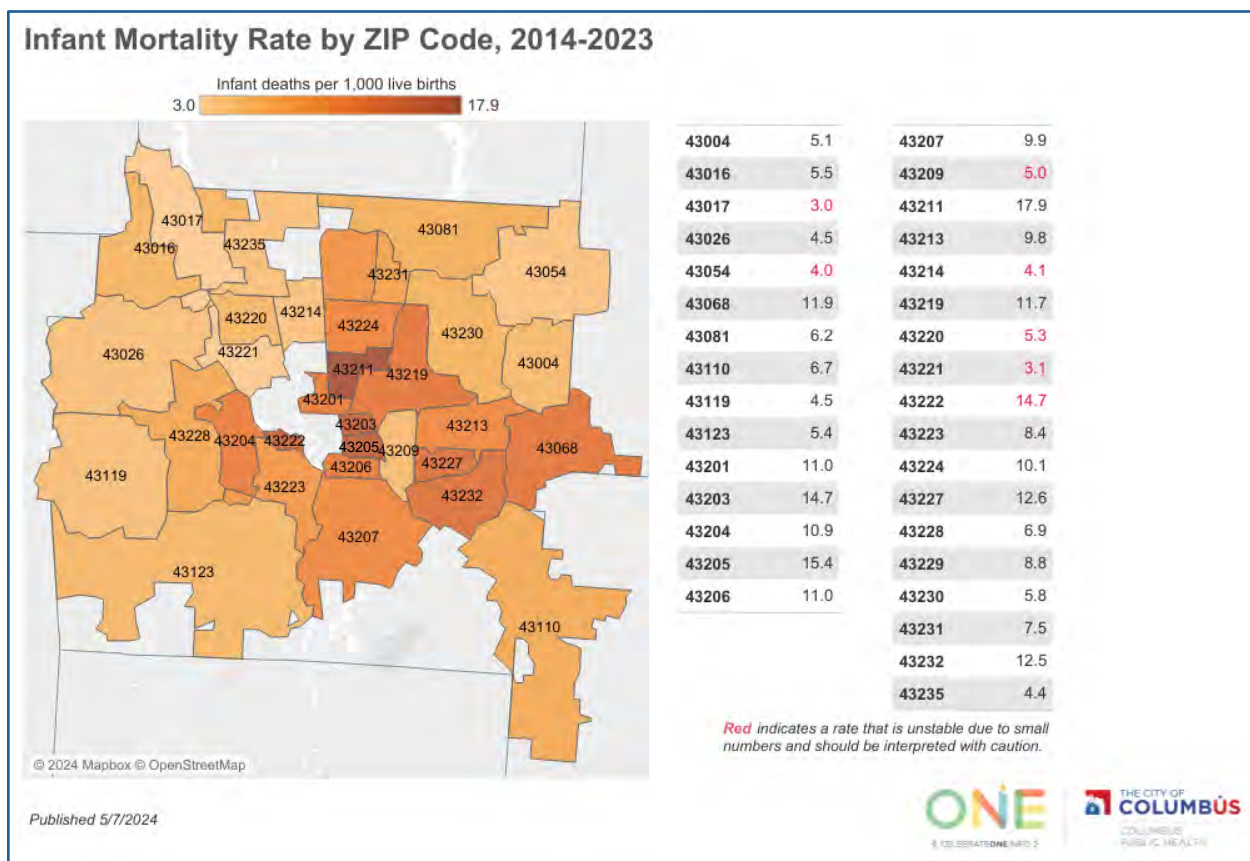
HP2030 objective for Preterm Births: Not met

Healthy People Objective:	Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
9.4%	10.6%

HP2030 objective for Adolescent Pregnancy: Met

Healthy People Objective:	Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
31.4 per 1000 females aged 15-19	15.2

The map below is a screenshot of the infant mortality rate across Franklin County’s zip codes from 2014-2023, as mapped by Celebrate One and Columbus Public Health. The zip codes with the highest infant mortality rates are 43211, 43205, 43203, and 43222.⁶ Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic are encouraged to visit Celebrate One and Columbus Public Health’s interactive map, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).



Additional Information & References

Infant mortality refers to deaths that occur before someone is 1 year of age. Low birthweight is defined as less than 2500 grams (i.e., ~5.5 pounds) and preterm births are births that occur before 37 weeks gestation. NAS hospitalization rates were calculated from the number of reported NAS hospitalizations divided by the number of births in the same year. Adolescent fertility rates were defined as the birth rate of adolescent females aged 15-19 per 1000 in the same age range.

Adolescent pregnancy is challenging to measure both because there is no standard age when an individual becomes fertile and because abortions and miscarriages may be underreported. The most typical age range for reporting adolescent pregnancy and birth is

15-19; although pregnancies can and do occur under 15 years old, they constitute a very small number and are not frequently reported.

Franklin County infant mortality data were sourced from the City of Columbus' Infant Mortality Report for 2023, which in turn obtained data from Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics about all births in which the mother was a resident of Franklin County.⁷ Ohio and US infant mortality were sourced from the National Center for Health Statistics for 2022.⁸ Low birthweight and preterm delivery for Franklin County and Ohio were sourced through the DataOhio Birth tool for 2023, while US statistics were again pulled from the National Center for Health Statistics for 2022.^{9,10} Neonatal abstinence syndrome data were pulled from the Ohio Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention division for 2022, 2020, and 2017.¹¹⁻¹⁴ Finally, adolescent pregnancy rates were sourced from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WONDER database.¹⁵

¹ Perin, J., Mulick, A., Yeung, D., Villavicencio, F., Lopez, G., Strong, K. L., Prieto-Merino, D., Cousens, S., Black, R. E., & Liu, L. (2022). Global, regional, and national causes of under-5 mortality in 2000-19: an updated systematic analysis with implications for the Sustainable Development Goals. *The Lancet. Child & adolescent health*, 6(2), 106-115.

² Maheshwari, M. V., Khalid, N., Patel, P. D., Alghareeb, R., & Hussain, A. (2022). Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes of Adolescent Pregnancy: A Narrative Review. *Cureus*, 14(6), e25921. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.25921>

³ Healthy People 2030 objective MICH-02, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁴ Healthy People 2030 objective MICH-07, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁵ Healthy People 2030 objective FP-03, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁶ Celebrate One and Columbus Public Health (2023). Infant Mortality Report. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/columbus/viz/InfantMortalityReport/P1Home>

⁷ City of Columbus. (2023). *Infant Mortality Report Franklin County, Ohio* [Interactive Dashboard]. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/columbus/viz/InfantMortalityReport/P1Home>

⁸ Ely DM, Driscoll AK. Infant mortality in the United States: Provisional data from the 2022 period linked birth/infant death file. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Statistics Rapid Release; no 33. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15620/cdc:133699>

⁹ DataOhio. (2023). *Birth* [Interactive Dashboard]. Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Retrieved in 2024 from https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio_births

¹⁰ Osterman MJK, Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Driscoll AK, Valenzuela CP. Births: Final data for 2022. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 73, no 2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:145588>.

¹¹ Violence and Injury Prevention Section, Ohio Department of Health. (n.d.). *2022 Ohio Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome County Report*. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/c9ba2f12-7d0a-4c4d-a7fd-ac9df2841c4a/Ohio+NAS+Data+by+County%2C+2018-2022.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-c9ba2f12-7d0a-4c4d-a7fd-ac9df2841c4a-oHsSMQB

- ¹²Violence and Injury Prevention Section, Ohio Department of Health. (n.d.). *2020 Ohio Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome County Report*. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/7105d74d-7647-4dd6-83f9-9cbd0bba0d1c/Ohio+NAS+Data+by+County%2C+2016-2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-7105d74d-7647-4dd6-83f9-9cbd0bba0d1c-nNqG8oP
- ¹³Violence and Injury Prevention Section, Ohio Department of Health. (n.d.). *2017 Ohio Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome County Report*. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/4cad708c-ba99-4b8b-b425-01cfef119c5d/2017+NAS+County+Table+12.3.2018.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-4cad708c-ba99-4b8b-b425-01cfef119c5d-oNFIFoC
- ¹⁴Violence and Injury Prevention Section, Ohio Department of Health. (n.d.). *2022 Ohio Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Report*. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/bb7407ed-f681-4ec0-b73e-572ffe05bb31/2022+NAS+Hospital+Discharge+Data+Summary+Table.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-bb7407ed-f681-4ec0-b73e-572ffe05bb31-oHsSFwF
- ¹⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Natality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the Natality Records 2016-2022, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html>

Celebrate One and Columbus Public Health's interactive map can be accessed at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/columbus/viz/InfantMortalityReport/P1Home>.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Common Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases are among the leading causes of death worldwide, even in high income countries.¹ COVID-19, which emerged in 2019, has become the most commonly reported infectious disease, one that has long-term and severe health effects (including serious illness and/or death), especially among vulnerable members of the population. Community members continue to be at risk for COVID-19, and preventing the spread of this and other diseases continues to be a public health concern in Franklin County.

The most commonly reported **infectious diseases** for both adults and children were **COVID-19, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea**

New metrics for
HM2025

The most commonly reported infectious disease was COVID-19 for both adults and children/adolescents, followed by several sexually transmitted diseases and foodborne pathogens. Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease, so the ongoing infection rate underscores the importance of continuing vaccination efforts. Interventions regarding sexually transmitted and foodborne illnesses continue to be important as well.

Adults (18+)		Children (0-17)	
Disease	Rate per 1,000	Disease	Rate per 1,000
COVID-19	28.37	COVID-19	14.45
Chlamydia	9.16	Chlamydia	3.50
Gonorrhea	3.99	Gonorrhea	1.00
Syphilis (Primary and Secondary)	0.56	Campylobacter	0.24
Campylobacter	0.27	Giardia	0.19
Salmonella	0.15	Salmonella	0.17
Streptococcal disease, group a invasive (IGAS)	0.14	Pertussis	0.13
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive disease (ISP)	0.14	Shigella	0.12
Legionella	0.08	Ecoli	0.11
Ecoli	0.08	Lyme Disease	0.09


In *HealthMap2022*, infectious diseases were measured for the total population (instead for separately for adults and for children), resulting in a rate of 7.86 per 1,000 for chlamydia and 3.78 per 1,000 for gonorrhea. By recalculating these infectious diseases for the total

population in *HealthMap2025*, the rate of chlamydia is observed to be similar (7.84 per 1,000) while the rate of gonorrhea has decreased (3.30 per 1,000).

Additional Information & References

Using data from the Ohio Disease Reporting System, Columbus Public Health's Office of Epidemiology provided the total number of infectious disease cases in 2023 for each of the top 10 reported diseases among adults and children (separately). Case numbers were then converted into crude rates based on the age-specific population of Franklin County, using 2023 population estimates provided by Ohio's Department of Public Safety.²

The data in this report are based on counts of infectious diseases that were reported to the Ohio Department of Health. Some illnesses, such as influenza, are not reportable unless there is a severe outbreak, novel infectious, or severe morbidity or mortality. Other diseases may not be reported if the individual is asymptomatic or manages symptoms at home without medical intervention. Influenza was excluded from these data, as the counts would only include hospitalizations or mortality and would be a misleading presentation of influenza rates.

 Data Gap: Readers might be surprised to learn about the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among youth aged 0-17. One possible data source that could potentially add context to this finding is the High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Although 2023 YRBS data for Ohio were not available in time for inclusion in this report, they are now available online at <https://youthsurveys.ohio.gov/reports-and-insights/yrbs-yts-reports>. Those data could be analyzed to determine if there have been changes in the percentage of high school youth who reported ever having sexual intercourse, current sexual activity, or condom use.

¹ World Health Organization. (2024). *The Top 10 Causes of Death*. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death>

² Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety. (2024). Personal communication.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) was first identified in 1981, exponentially rising to over 130,000 cases annually by 1984 in the United States before being controlled by greater surveillance and treatment.¹ Rapid advancements in prophylactic and antiretroviral therapies have both decreased transmission rates and extended the expected lifespan of HIV infected individuals to be close to non-HIV infected individuals.²

There were **14.8 new HIV diagnoses** per 100,000 Franklin County residents.

≈
Similar to
HM2022 (16.3)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Unavailable

Sex:
Male more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

Geography:
Unavailable

Although Franklin County's overall HIV incidence rate has not changed significantly in recent years, it remains higher than the rates for Ohio and the United States.

Within Franklin County, there are vast disparities by both race and sex: individuals who do not have a white racial background and males are much more likely to have been diagnosed with HIV.

HIV Incidence	Rate per 100,000
HM2025	14.8
HM2022	16.3
White	6.7 ▼
Black/African American	34.5 ▲
Multi-Race	20.7 ▲
Hispanic	24.8 ▲
Male	22.6 ▲
Female	7.3 ▼
Ohio	7.4
US	13.3



Healthy People 2030

The Healthy People 2030 goal for HIV is a total of 3000 new infections per year nationally, which is equivalent to a rate of 0.9 per 100,000 population.³ Franklin County (indeed, the United States as a whole) still has much progress that needs to be made toward this objective.


HP2030 objective for New HIV Infection: Not met

Healthy People Objective:
0.9

Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
14.8

Additional Information & References

To assess HIV incidence in Franklin County and Ohio, *HealthMap2025* sourced data about new infections from the Ohio Department of Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program for 2022 and 2019.^{4,5} For the United States rates, data were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV Surveillance Report for the same years.⁶

 Data Gap: Future *HealthMaps* should explore the possibility of calculating HIV incidence within each Franklin County zip code (or other sub-county geography).

¹ Bosh, K. A., Hall, H. I., Eastham, L., Daskalakis, D. C., & Mermin, J. H. (2021). Estimated Annual Number of HIV Infections — United States, 1981-2019. *MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report*, 70(22), 801-806. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7022a1>

² Samji, H., Cescon, A., Hogg, R. S., Modur, S. P., Althoff, K. N., Buchacz, K., Burchell, A. N., Cohen, M., Gebo, K. A., Gill, M. J., Justice, A., Kirk, G., Klein, M. B., Korthuis, P. T., Martin, J., Napravnik, S., Rourke, S. B., Sterling, T. R., Silverberg, M. J., Deeks, S., ... North American AIDS Cohort Collaboration on Research and Design (NA-ACCORD) of IeDEA (2013). Closing the gap: increases in life expectancy among treated HIV-positive individuals in the United States and Canada. *PloS one*, 8(12), e81355. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0081355>

³ Healthy People 2030 objective HIV-01, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁴ HIV Surveillance Program, Ohio Department of Health. (2023). *New Diagnoses of HIV Infection Reported in Franklin County*. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/cac882ed-d27b-42ff-9d14-2e60a4c7e366/Franklin2022.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-cac882ed-d27b-42ff-9d14-2e60a4c7e366-oFCnYED

⁵ HIV Surveillance Program, Ohio Department of Health. (2023). *New Diagnoses of HIV Infection Reported in Ohio*. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/6ceaf279-cee6-4254-b899-386b585f0e5a/Ohio2022.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-6ceaf279-cee6-4254-b899-386b585f0e5a-oFCmzk1

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). *Diagnoses, deaths, and prevalence of HIV in the United States and 6 territories and freely associated states, 2022*. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv-data/nhss/hiv-diagnoses-deaths-prevalence.html>

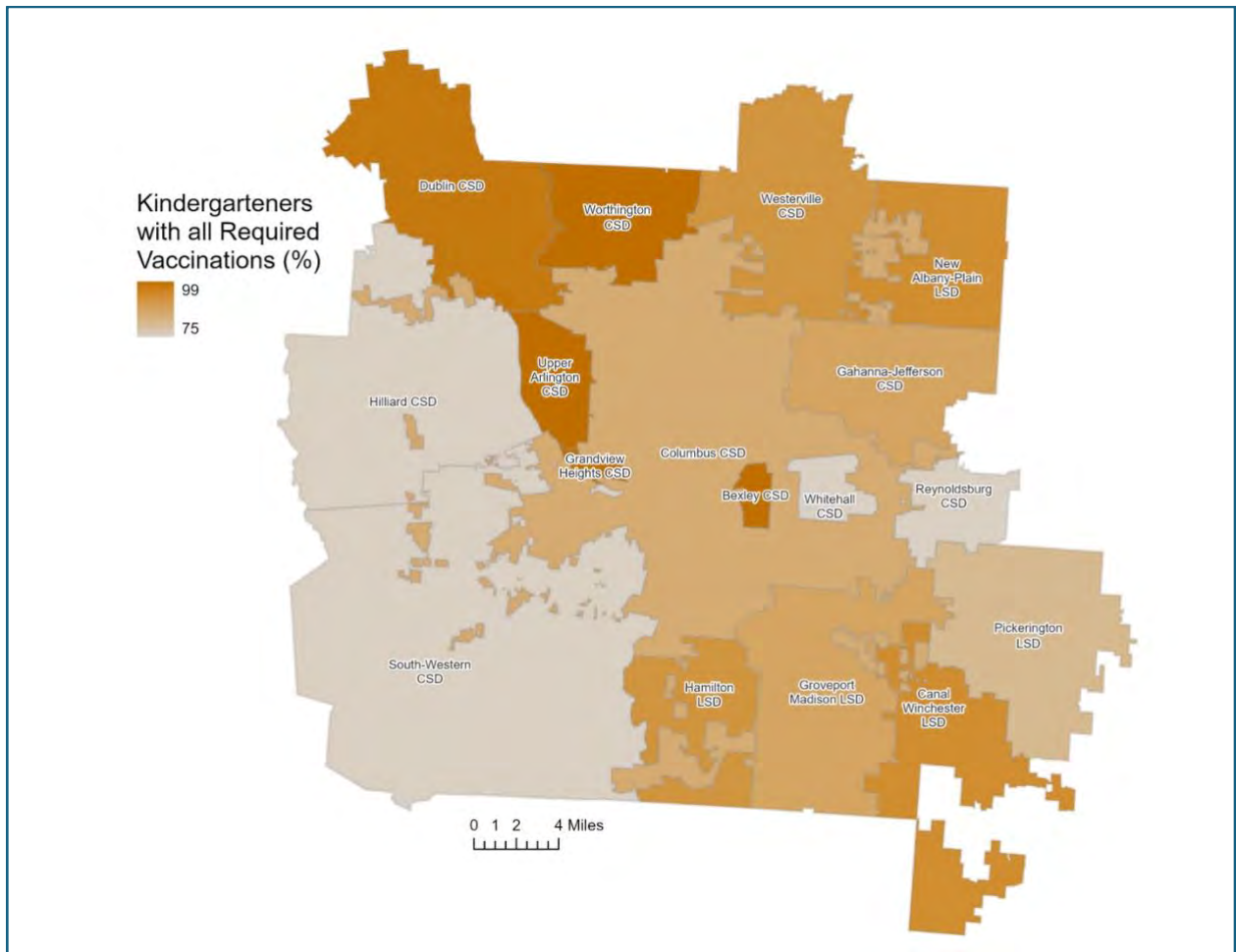
Kindergarten Vaccinations

Vaccinations are one of the most powerful, lifesaving health innovations of the 20th century. Globally, an estimated 154 million lives have been saved in the past 50 years due to vaccination, 146 million of which were children younger than 5.¹

86.6% of Franklin County kindergarteners received all required **vaccines**.

New metric for HM2025

The Grandview Heights, Upper Arlington, Bexley, Worthington, and Dublin school districts reported that $\geq 95\%$ of their kindergarteners entered school with all required vaccinations complete. The Columbus, Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, Hilliard, South-Western, and Whitehall school districts reported that $\leq 89\%$ of their kindergarteners entered school with all required vaccinations complete.



Additional Information & References

The required vaccinations for a kindergarten student in Ohio includes 4+ doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP); 3+ doses of Hepatitis B; 2 doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR); 3+ doses of Polio; and 2 doses of Varicella.² More doses than the minimum may be required depending on the age of the child and when the child received their vaccines.

For this metric, Columbus Public Health's Office of Epidemiology requested data from Ohio Department of Health's Immunization Program. These data are a composite measure of kindergarteners in Franklin County public and private schools who had received all required vaccines for the 2022-2023 school year. Columbus Public Health staff then aggregated the data to calculate an estimate for each school district. Franklin County Public Health staff then mapped the prevalence of this indicator across the various school districts.

¹ Shattock, A. J., Johnson, H. C., Sim, S. Y., Carter, A., Lambach, P., Hutubessy, R. C. W., Thompson, K. M., Badizadegan, K., Lambert, B., Ferrari, M. J., Jit, M., Fu, H., Silal, S. P., Hounsell, R. A., White, R. G., Mosser, J. F., Gaythorpe, K. A. M., Trotter, C. L., Lindstrand, A., O'Brien, K. L., ... Bar-Zeev, N. (2024). Contribution of vaccination to improved survival and health: modelling 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization. *Lancet (London, England)*, 403(10441), 2307-2316. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)00850-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00850-X)

² Vanderhoff, B. (2023). *In Re: Approved Means of Immunization Pursuant to Sections 3701.13 and 3313.671 of the Ohio Revised Code Director's Journal Entry*. Ohio Department of Health. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/8e6d4c5d-7b45-4a0a-80cb-a1d8d00f4073/%28JE%29+%28131628%29+10-23-23+Directors-Journal-School-Requirements+10.16.2023+CERTIF.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-8e6d4c5d-7b45-4a0a-80cb-a1d8d00f4073-oJII3Hj

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Emergency Department Utilization

Emergency department (ED) volume is an important metric for allocating appropriate resources and preventing overcrowding.¹ Frequent use of the emergency department is more common among women, patients with Medicare/Medicaid, black, and those who abuse prescription drugs.² Many patients report visiting the emergency department multiple times for the same condition, indicating that there may be a gap in either inpatient or follow-up care that drives frequent ED visits.²

There were **470.6 total emergency department visits** per 1,000 residents.



Similar to
HM2022 (511.3)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Older more likely

Sex:
Female more likely

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely

Geography:
Observed (see maps)

There were **410.5 treated-and-released emergency department visits** per 1,000 residents.



Similar to
HM2022 (449.7)

There were **60.2 hospital admissions from an emergency department** per 1,000 residents.



Similar to
HM2022 (61.6)

Community Voices

Community members spoke about how difficulties finding providers who accept their insurance and long waitlists for appointments can lead individuals to use the emergency room for issues that could have been treated more affordably elsewhere. Additionally, many community members may not know about Federally Qualified Health Centers where they can get more affordable care if they are uninsured.



"So [the insurance companies] give you a list of who will take you. Well, then when you call them, they don't want to take you. Then I looked at [medical center] for what they offered, and they don't do it during the summer and then they're backed up forever. So I actually made a complaint to my insurance company and I said, 'I have this benefit, but no one will take me.' So they refer me to online counseling. So that finally came through. Don't know how long it's going to last, but I can see where, especially young people who need someone immediately, they end up in the hospital so

many times.”

“There is availability for access to healthcare for people that do not have insurance that is affordable. I just think that it's not advertised enough. I know that it's not advertised enough. I went eleven years with no health care until I found out about FQHCs. I could have been going, because I was that person that only went to the emergency room when it was absolutely necessary. People don't know that they're available and they can help with 340b access to medications and PAPs through pharmaceutical companies. They're just not advertised enough.”

Community members also pointed out that a general lack of education about the medical system can lead individuals to use the ER for minor issues, and that more education is needed to ensure people seek the appropriate level of care for their health issues.



“I remember I sprained my ankle and I made the mistake of going to the emergency room at [medical center]. I think I got billed \$4,000 and that's with health insurance.”

“I couldn't get insurance because I was working and it was so expensive. I was working two jobs and I would go to the ER all the time. Now every year when I get my taxes, I have to pay the emergency room for all this stuff that I was doing when I was 18, 19, 20, and I didn't know anything about the medical system. I just know I'm sick and I need to go to the doctor. So I just don't think they educate people enough and they aren't helping people enough with the medical assistance.”

The overall rates of total emergency department visits, treated and released visits, and admissions to the hospital from the emergency department have not significantly changed in Franklin County or Ohio since HM2022 (see tables on this page and the next page).

Children had a lower rate of all visit types, whereas older adults had higher rates of total ED visits and ED visits that resulted in hospital admission. Additionally, black (non-Hispanic) individuals had higher rates for all visit types, whereas white (non-Hispanic) individuals had lower rates of total ED visits and treated/released ED visits.

Lastly, males had lower rates of total ED visits and treated/released ED visits whereas females had higher rates for those types of visits.

Total ED Visits

	Rate per 1,000
HM2025	470.6
HM2022	511.3
HM2019	608.8
Age 0-17	299.1 ▼
Age 18-64	499.1
Age 65+	630.9 ▲
White (non-Hispanic)	371.4 ▼
Black (non-Hispanic)	683.9 ▲
Other (non-Hispanic)	541.5
Hispanic	464.2
Male	410.8 ▼
Female	528.2 ▲
Ohio	492.3

Treated and Released ED visits

	Rate per 1,000
HM2025	410.5
HM2022	449.7
HM2019	546.3
Age 0-17	280.4 ▼
Age 18-64	450.9
Age 65+	443.6
White (non-Hispanic)	312.1 ▼
Black (non-Hispanic)	609.2 ▲
Other (non-Hispanic)	492.9 ▲
Hispanic	430.0
Male	352.3 ▼
Female	466.5 ▲
Ohio	423.4

Hospital Admissions from ED Visits

	Rate per 1,000
HM2025	60.2
HM2022	61.6
HM2019	62.4
Age 0-17	18.8 ▼
Age 18-64	48.2 ▼
Age 65+	187.3 ▲
White (non-Hispanic)	59.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	74.7 ▲
Other (non-Hispanic)	48.6 ▼
Hispanic	34.2 ▼
Male	58.6
Female	61.7
Ohio	69.0

The rate of minor severity (level 1) visits to the emergency department has increased among Franklin County residents while the rate of high severity (level 4) visits has decreased since HM2022. Elsewhere in Ohio, the rates of both low-moderate (level 2) and moderate severity (level 3) visits have decreased since HM2022.

Severity of ED Visits (per 1,000 patients treated)

	HM2025	HM2022	HM2019	Ohio
Level 1 (minor severity)	10.0 ▲	8.0	10.1	7.1
Level 2 (low to moderate severity)	52.8	51.7	50.2	30.5 ▼
Level 3 (moderate severity)	161.3	162.0	149.9	140.5 ▼
Level 4 (high severity, urgent evaluation required)	142.7 ▼	134.9	121.1	136.2
Level 5 (high severity, immediate threat to life or function)	94.1 ▼	92.2	77.3	109.0

The diagnoses associated with emergency department use are an important indicator of healthcare access in the community. For example, many concerns treated in the emergency department might have been treated by a primary care provider, but oftentimes patients report being unable to access that first line of treatment in a timely manner. Demographic

variables such as low socioeconomic status are also associated with non-urgent use of the emergency department.^{3,4}

Overall, the leading cause of visits to an emergency department that resulted in patients being treated-and-released was acute upper respiratory infection (unspecified), which is a catch-all term for a nose/throat infection that does not have a known cause. This was followed by two different types of chest pain and COVID-19. The rates of these diagnoses among Franklin County residents who visited EDs were similar to Ohioans who visited EDs.

Top Diagnoses Among Those Who Were Treated & Released By An Emergency Department (Total Population; rate per 1,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio
1st	Nose/throat infection (acute upper respiratory infection; unspecified): 10.3▼	Nose/throat infection (acute upper respiratory infection; unspecified): 12.0	Other chest pain: 11.0
2nd	Other chest pain: 9.9	Chest pain (unspecified): 10.9	Nose/throat infection (acute upper respiratory infection; unspecified): 9.4
3rd	Chest pain (unspecified): 6.6▼	Other chest pain: 9.8	Chest pain (unspecified): 7.1
4th	COVID-19: 6.5	Headache: 8.7	COVID-19: 6.6
5th	Headache (unspecified): 5.7	Abdominal pain (unspecified): 8.1	Urinary tract infection: 6.0

Among youth, the leading cause of treated-and-released visits to an emergency department was also upper respiratory infections (unspecified), followed by other infectious diseases.

Top Diagnoses Among Those Who Were Treated & Released By An Emergency Department (Ages 0-17; rate per 1,000)

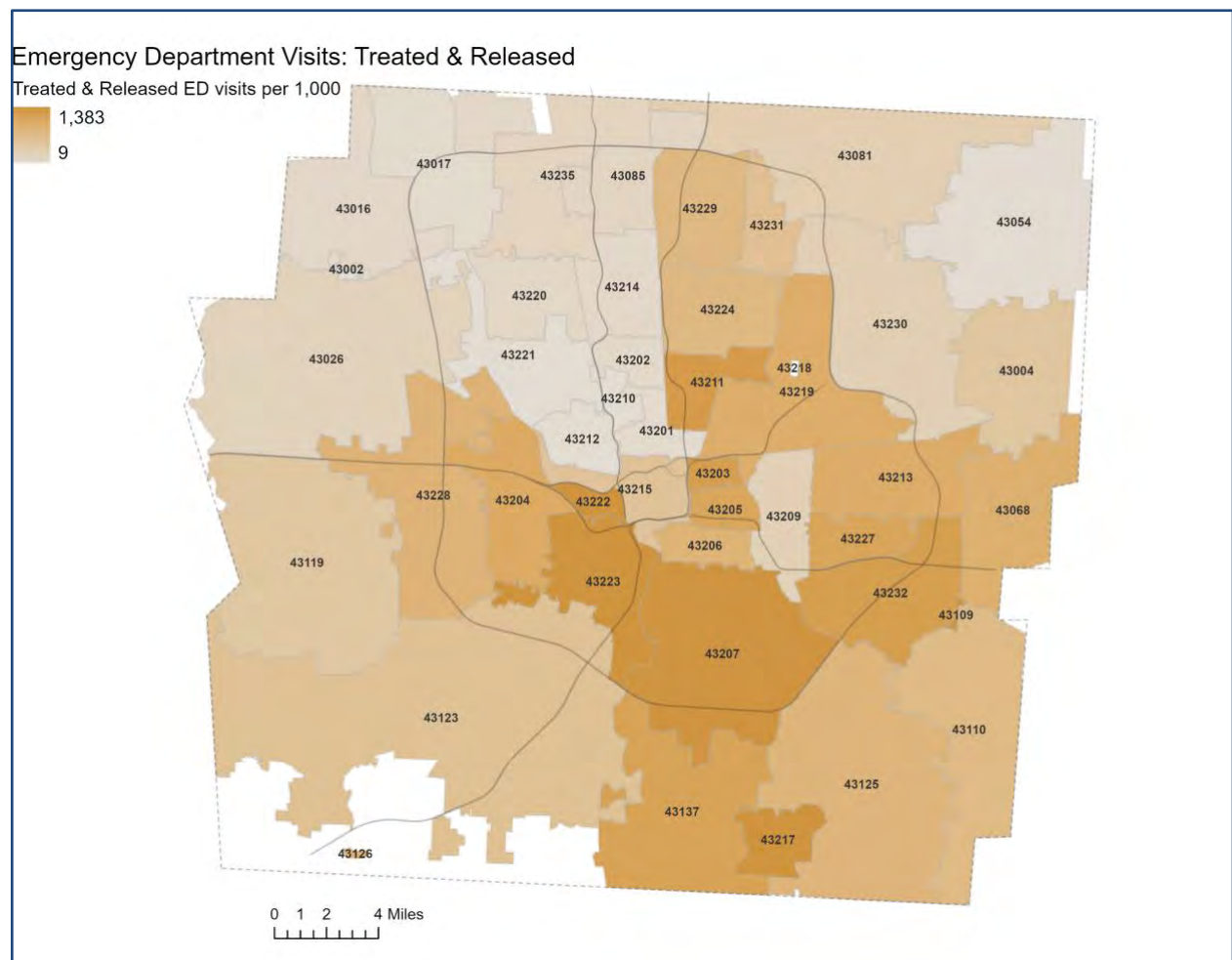
	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio
1st	Nose/throat infection (acute upper respiratory infection; unspecified): 19.1▼	Nose/throat infection (acute upper respiratory infection; unspecified): 24.7	Nose/throat infection (acute upper respiratory infection; unspecified): 21.7
2nd	Strep throat (streptococcal pharyngitis): 12.3	Fever (unspecified): 8.9	Strep throat (streptococcal pharyngitis): 11.7
3rd	Viral infection (unspecified): 8.9	Viral infection (unspecified): 8.9	Viral infection (unspecified): 9.0
4th	Vomiting (unspecified): 4.9▼	Vomiting (unspecified): 6.9	Fever (unspecified): 7.6
5th	Upper airway infection causing breathing difficulty (acute obstructive laryngitis; croup): 4.7	Influenza: 6.2	Injury to the head (unspecified): 6.6

Among older adults, the leading cause of treated-and-released visits to an emergency department was chest pain followed by urinary tract infection.

Top Diagnoses Among Those Who Were Treated & Released By An Emergency Department (Ages 65+; rate per 1,000)

	HM2025	Ohio
1st	Other chest pain: 11.9	Other chest pain: 13.1
2nd	Urinary tract infection: 11.2	Urinary tract infection: 12.3
3rd	COVID-19: 9.9	COVID-19: 10.7
4th	Chest pain (unspecified): 9.3	Chest pain (unspecified): 9.1
5th	Vertigo/light headedness (dizziness and giddiness): 9.1	Vertigo/light headedness (dizziness and giddiness): 8.9

As shown below, the rate of emergency department visits that led to patients being treated and released was highest in southern zip codes (43207, 43217, 43137), west-central zip codes (43222, 43223), and 43211.



Overall, the leading cause of visits to an emergency department that resulted in patients being admitted into a hospital was sepsis and hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease (with heart failure) or chronic kidney disease, followed by hypertensive heart disease (with heart failure) and kidney failure. The rates of these diagnoses among Franklin County residents who visited EDs were similar to Ohioans who visited EDs.

Top Diagnoses Among Those Who Were Admitted Into A Hospital From An Emergency Department (Total Population; rate per 1,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio
1st	Sepsis (unspecified organism): 4.4▼	Sepsis (unspecified organism): 5.6	Sepsis (unspecified organism): 4.7
2nd	Hypertensive heart & chronic kidney disease with heart failure or chronic kidney disease (unspecified): 1.6▼	Hypertensive heart & chronic kidney disease with heart failure or chronic kidney disease (unspecified): 2.0	Hypertensive heart & chronic kidney disease with heart failure or chronic kidney disease (unspecified): 1.9
3rd	Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure: 1.4▼	Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure: 1.7	Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure: 1.7
4th	Acute kidney failure (unspecified): 1.2▼	Acute kidney failure (unspecified): 1.4	Acute kidney failure (unspecified): 1.5
5th	COPD (with acute exacerbation): 0.9	Heart attack (NSTEMI): 1.3	Pneumonia (unspecified organism): 1.4

Among youth, two of the top 5 leading causes of visits to an emergency department that resulted in a hospital admission were related to lung infections, and two of the other top 5 leading causes were related to major depression.

Top Diagnoses Among Those Who Were Admitted Into A Hospital From An Emergency Department (Ages 0-17; rate per 1,000)

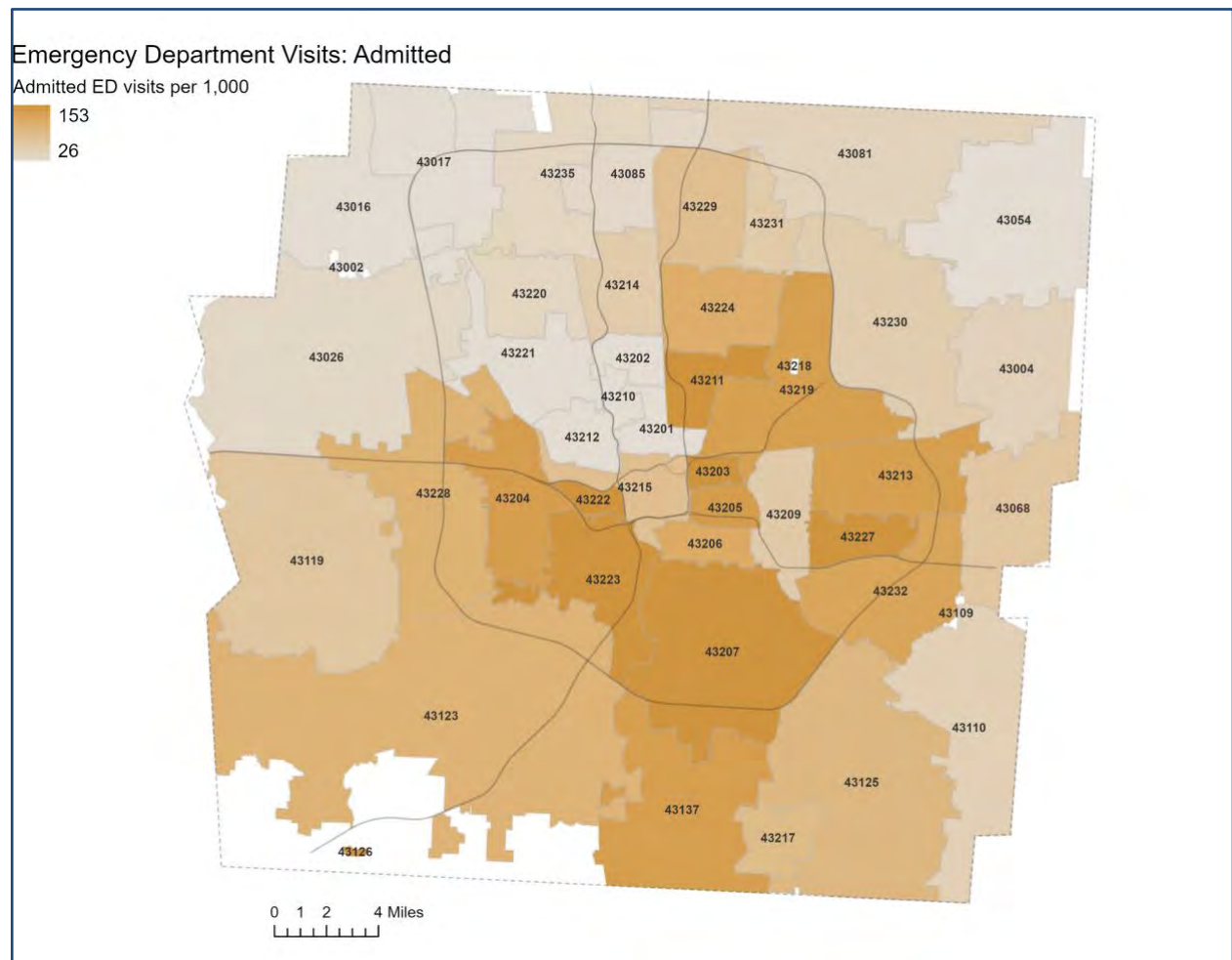
	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio
1st	Lung infection (acute bronchiolitis; RSV): 1.6	Lung infection (acute bronchiolitis; RSV): 1.5	Lung infection (acute bronchiolitis; RSV): 0.6
2nd	Recurrent major depression (without psychosis): 0.5	Dehydration: 1.4	Dehydration: 0.5
3rd	Lung infection (bronchiolitis; specified organism): 0.5▼	Lung infection (acute bronchiolitis;unspecified): 1.1	Recurrent major depression (without psychosis): 0.3
4th	Major depression (single episode): 0.4	Lung infection (bronchiolitis; specified organism): 1.0	Lung infection (acute bronchiolitis; unspecified):0.3
5th	Type 1 diabetic ketoacidosis (without coma): 0.4▼	Type 1 diabetic ketoacidosis (without coma): 0.7	Disruptive mood dysregulation: 0.3

Among older adults, the leading cause of visits to an emergency department that resulted in a hospital admission was sepsis, followed by hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease, hypertensive heart disease (with heart failure), and kidney failure.

Top Diagnoses Among Those Who Were Admitted Into A Hospital From An Emergency Department (Ages 65+; rate per 1,000)

	HM2025	Ohio
1st	Sepsis (unspecified organism): 20.6▲	Sepsis (unspecified organism): 15.7
2nd	Hypertensive heart & chronic kidney disease with heart failure or chronic kidney disease (unspecified): 10.8▲	Hypertensive heart & chronic kidney disease with heart failure or chronic kidney disease (unspecified): 8.9
3rd	Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure: 7.8▲	Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure: 6.6
4th	Acute kidney failure (unspecified): 6.4	Acute kidney failure (unspecified): 6.1
5th	Heart attack (NSTEMI): 5.3	COVID-19: 5.2

As shown below, the rate of emergency department visits that led to patients being admitted to a hospital was highest in southern zip codes (43207, 43137), west-central zip codes (43222, 43223), 43203, and 43211.



Additional Information & References

Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic should also read the *HealthMap2025* section that focuses on individuals with disabilities (see page 65).

To measure emergency department utilization, *HealthMap2025* requested data from the Ohio Hospital Association for calendar year 2023.⁵ Franklin County residents who visited any Ohio hospital's emergency department are counted in these data. The raw data from each category was divided by the total population for the appropriate year and geographic region, and then converted into a rate per 1,000. For sample size reasons, the "other (non-Hispanic)" racial category includes all racial/ethnic groups other than black (non-Hispanic), white (non-Hispanic), and Hispanic. Franklin County Public Health staff then mapped these data for each zip code in Franklin County.

The Ohio Hospital Association also provided data for the most frequent diagnoses (i.e., the primary ICD-10 codes) among Franklin County and Ohio residents who either (1) were treated and released from an emergency department (i.e., without being admitted to the hospital) in 2023 or (2) were admitted to a hospital from an emergency department in 2023.⁵ The raw numbers that were provided were converted into crude rates for the appropriate geographic and age group.



Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about patients who went to emergency departments for the same underlying health need(s) on multiple occasions over some duration of time (i.e., "emergency department readmissions"). Unfortunately, that type of data is unavailable.

¹ Kenny, J. F., Chang, B. C., & Hemmert, K. C. (2020). Factors Affecting Emergency Department Crowding. *Emergency medicine clinics of North America*, 38(3), 573-587. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emc.2020.04.001>

² Behr, J. G., & Diaz, R. (2016). Emergency Department Frequent Utilization for Non-Emergent Presentments: Results from a Regional Urban Trauma Center Study. *PloS one*, 11(1), e0147116. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0147116>

³ Unwin, M., Kinsman, L., & Rigby, S. (2016). Why are we waiting? Patients' perspectives for accessing emergency department services with non-urgent complaints. *International emergency nursing*, 29, 3-8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ienj.2016.09.003>

⁴ Montoro-Pérez, N., Richart-Martínez, M., & Montejano-Lozoya, R. (2023). Factors associated with the inappropriate use of the pediatric emergency department. A systematic review. *Journal of pediatric nursing*, 69, 38-46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedn.2022.12.027>

⁵ Ohio Hospital Association. (2023). *Ohio Hospital Association* [Dataset].

Dental Care Access

Oral health, which includes the mouth, teeth, and other maxillofacial elements, allows people to eat, breathe, and speak, granting it an important role in individuals' physical, mental, social, and economic well-being.^{1,2} Poor oral health has been associated with a variety of health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, pregnancy and birth complications, and pneumonia.³ Therefore, equitable access to dental care is critical to ensure optimal health.⁴

3.3% of children age 3-18 needed dental care but could not secure it.

↓
Down from
HM2022 (3.9%)

12.8% of adults age 19-64 needed dental care but could not secure it.

↓
Down from
HM2022 (16.1%)

Community Voices

Community members identified how fear and embarrassment can influence residents to avoid seeking dental care. Alternatively, people may not place a high priority on visiting a dentist if they have not experienced any teeth "problems."



"People are worried, if this goes wrong, my teeth are going to be gone."

"To get dentures, you get an appointment, and they'll say you have to go get them pulled. Then come back here. Who wants to go eight weeks without teeth?...it needs to be more convenient."

"I think another thing is embarrassment. So if you haven't gone to the dentist in a long time, it might feel sort of just scary to go into the dentist after a while because of fear of judgment from healthcare practitioners."

"The fear of like not being treated well, being stigmatized, being seen as a drug addict, being seen as like we'll do all these procedures, we'll take out all your teeth, but we're not going to give you any pain medication because you struggle with addiction..."

"I was one of those people that had good teeth anytime I went for cleaning. There were never any issues, so I held off for a really long time. And then I was finally like I need to go. And I got my first cavity...I was scared to go back again because you gotta get it fixed, right. And it's actually considered dental surgery...So I was really worried about pain. And then also this really weird thing, if I have easy teeth for such a long time, why do I need to go?"

Dental care costs also play a large role in residents' willingness to see a dentist or orthodontist, whether they have insurance or not.



"But those [insurance] costs are not covering anything for the kids. The kids need braces. They're only covering \$2,000 for the braces. But the average cost of braces was starting at \$5,000."

"Even if you have insurance, it's outrageous. It really is. Like, if you need to have an implant, you might as well count on \$5,000, and that's with insurance, though. They're just not covered."

"My husband just recently cracked a tooth about a month ago, and we don't have dental because he unfortunately lost his position where he was at. He went to a local dentist here. They told him what they could do, and then they started adding on different things and a health plan. 'This is what you can do, a yearly plan.' He goes, 'Wait a minute. Am I buying a condo, and I don't know about it?' That's exactly what he felt like. He left, and we went back to where I grew up in Galloway. They're working with us for him, just for a payment plan. Just for a broken molar, it's \$3,000 to fix when you don't have any insurance."

"So for the past four years, I've been trying to get my mouth fixed affordably, which is impossible because I have no insurance. I don't have Medicaid anymore either, because I don't qualify. I can't afford the insurance either. I go to different places to check, and they want for one root canal, one crown; it was over \$3,000...There could be a lot of work done in regard to affordability, dental care, especially for the self-pay."

"They want you to take that credit, that CareCredit, and the interest rates on those are outrageous. If you can't afford it to begin with, and you're saying you need to pay \$3,000 back in two years. That's not going to happen. So you just don't do it at all, and you live with the pain."

Finding a dentist that will accept their insurance and being able to schedule appointments that do not conflict with work schedules are additional barriers to dental care.



"And then it's finding a dentist that will accept you. It's hard to find a dentist that will accept your insurance or if you don't have insurance, and it's just hard to find one and keep one."

"And the insurance changes whether you can stay with your dentist. I was with my dentist for almost 30 years, and then all of a sudden, they don't accept your insurance anymore. You already have a relationship, a rapport with them, and then you got to start all over again."



"Scheduling, too. It's hard to get into a dentist around a time that works for you, especially when you're working. A lot of places aren't open after five. I don't want to go on my lunch break because they always have me sitting there forever. And, after that, 'Oh, well, we can do your cleaning today but you have to schedule another appointment and miss work, use PTO to get your teeth pulled."

Franklin County residents also think there needs to be expanded emergency dental services in the community.



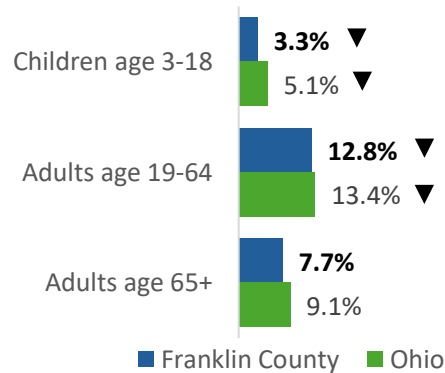
"[medical center] has emergency dental, but they only take the first ten people...So it's one of these, there is an emergency dental clinic, but again, if you're not right there when it first opens..."

"I don't understand why we've never had better emergency services for a dental situation. Because my mom had that and she had to run to a different one every Saturday. Now my particular dentist is pretty good. You call him at 7:00 in the morning and end up going, but it's not guaranteed the way Urgent Care is. "

"You go out with your friends and you get a tooth knocked out. Your dentist probably isn't going to answer either on a Friday or Saturday...where do you go?"

From HM2022 to HM2025, fewer children age 3-18 and adults age 19-64 needed dental care but could not secure it.

Needed Dental Care But Could Not Secure It



Additional Information & References

Data for this indicator were obtained from the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey.⁵

¹ World Health Organization. (n.d.) Oral health. https://www.who.int/health-topics/oral-health#tab=tab_1

² Peres MA, Macpherson LMD, Weyant RJ et al. Oral diseases: a global public health challenge. *The Lancet*. 2019;394(10194):249–60.

³ Mayo Clinic. (n.d.) Oral health: A window to your overall health. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/dental/art-20047475>

⁴ Hannan CJ, Ricks TL, Espinoza L, Weintraub JA. Addressing Oral Health Inequities, Access to Care, Knowledge, and Behaviors. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2021;18:210060. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd18.210060>

⁵ The Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey Dashboard. <https://grcapps.osu.edu/app/omas>, 2021 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022)

INJURY AND DEATH

Mental and Social Health

Mental and social health are increasingly recognized as both direct and indirect contributors to overall health. Experiencing violence or being exposed to violence in the home has long-term physical and mental health impacts.^{1,2} In addition to the direct impact on an individual's mortality, suicide also has rippling negative effects among other community members, from family members to peers to first responders.³

13.8 per 100,000 residents died by **suicide**.


Up from
HM2022 (10.8)


26.4% of Franklin County residents reported feeling **lonely**.

New metric for
HM2025

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age: None observed	Sex: Recently pregnant females more likely	Race/Ethnicity: Unavailable	Geography: Unavailable
------------------------------	---	---------------------------------------	----------------------------------

23.7% of Franklin County adults reported ever having **depression**.


Similar to
HM2022 (23.1%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age: 18-64 more likely	Sex: Female more likely	Race/Ethnicity: White more likely	Geography: Observed (see map)
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	---

14.7 per 100,000 residents died from **100% alcohol-attributable causes**.


Up from
HM2022 (12.9)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age: 60+ more likely	Sex: Male more likely	Race/Ethnicity: White more likely	Geography: Unavailable
--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	----------------------------------

5,729 children were victims of **child abuse**.


Down from
HM2022 (7,240)

5,495 residents were victims of **domestic violence**.


Down from
HM2022 (7,471)

Unfortunately, hospitalizations due to self-harm and deaths from suicide have both increased in Franklin County since the last *HealthMap*.

Self-Harm and Suicide

	Self-harm hospitalization (rate per 100,000)	Suicide death (rate per 100,000)
HM2025	7.6 ▲	13.8 ▲
HM2022	6.8	10.8
HM2019	4.9	12.5
Ohio	-	15.2
US	-	14.8



Unfortunately, the suicide rate in Franklin County has risen above the Healthy People 2030 objective in recent years. Further research and interventions should examine what has caused this change.

HP2030 objective for Suicide Deaths: Not met

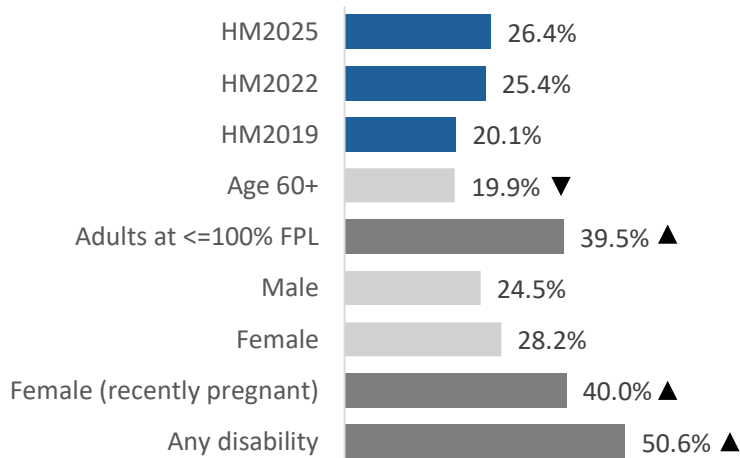
Healthy People Objective:
12.8

Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
13.8

In 2023, the United States Surgeon General issued an advisory notice that warned Americans about an emerging public health crisis: the epidemic of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection.⁴

Unfortunately, over a quarter of Franklin County adult (ages 19+) report feeling isolated from others (i.e., lonely). Those individuals who have a household income that places them at or under the 100% federal poverty level, recently pregnant females, and individuals with disabilities are most likely to report feeling lonely.

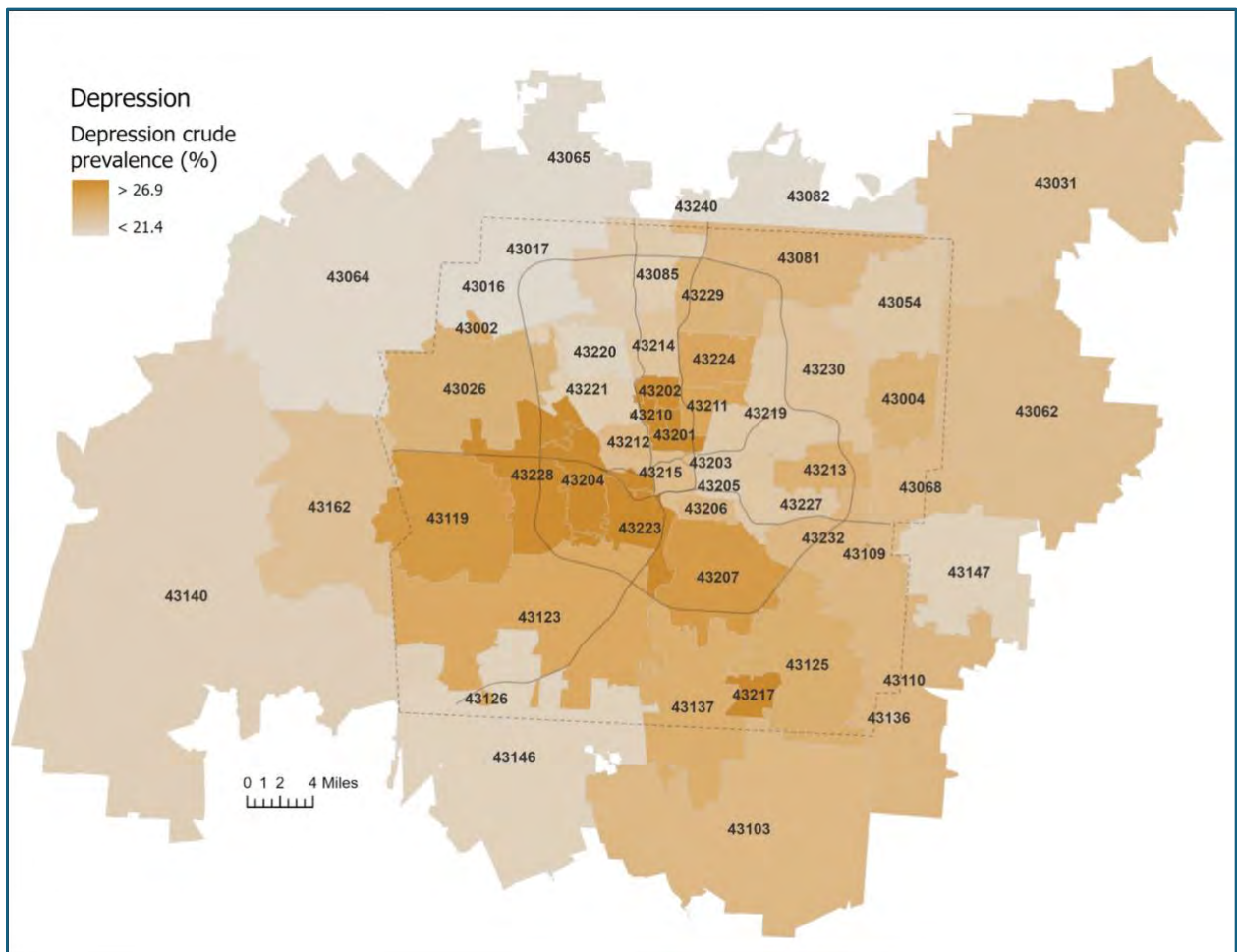
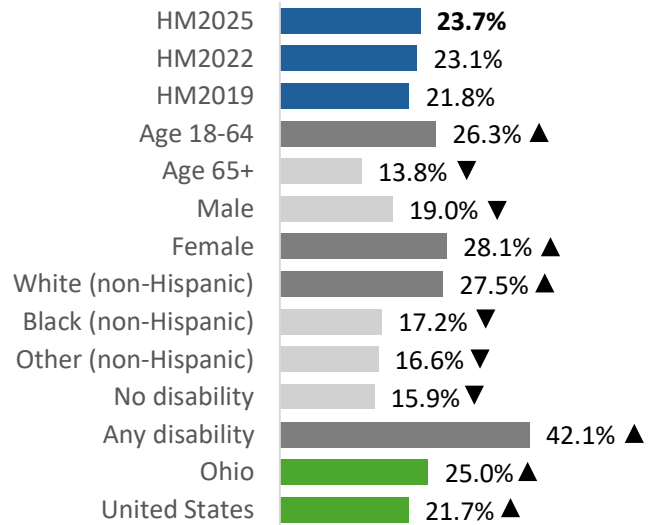
Loneliness



Females, white (non-Hispanic) individuals, adults under the age of 65, and individuals with a disability are more likely than other groups to report ever being told by a healthcare professional that they have a depressive disorder (e.g., depression).

Depression prevalence is higher in Franklin County's western and north-central zip codes.

Depression



Community Voices: Depression

Community members perceive that anyone can be vulnerable to depression, and that economic hardships contribute to depression in their community. They believe depression is hard to address because it is not easy to always tell when someone is suffering. Although residents say mental health issues seem to be losing some of the stigma they once held, depressed individuals are still met with perceptions that they just need to “get over it.”



“The best-looking person is on the edge. [Mental health], it's so fragile and it has to be taken way more seriously. That commercial that says there's no way he's depressed, he's young, you know, those type of stigmas, it's terrible. And that's why we see a lot of people out on the street or a lot of people doing what they're doing because their mental health issues have not been addressed or they've been temporarily addressed.”

“I see it with my job that I totally despise...does it affect my mental health? Absolutely. Can I pay the mortgage this month? Can I buy food this week? It's just a lot...I have a lot of breaking points.”

“Mental health is something that you don't see a lot as well. It could be a neighbor that you think is okay, but they may get evicted or, you know, their property taxes went up too high and can't afford it. So those aren't physical things, you may not even be able to see [even with] neighbors that you probably thought you were close to.”

“There's a lot of people who say ‘mental health is so important to us and we're working on it.’ But then if you do have some kind of issue with depression, there's still this like, ‘Okay, well, I guess you better get over it.’ You still have to keep going. And you're just kind of hopeless.”

Meanwhile, community members also said that stigma around depression can prevent people from getting help they need. For example, it may still be perceived negatively to be medicated for depression, and generational attitudes around depression may prevent helpful conversations around mental health from happening.



“I could say in my community, I believe that it was always, ‘don't get put on that medicine.’ It was a bad thing if you got medicated. So some people have been diagnosed, but they're not being treated because they don't want to be on that medication.”

“I have tried to talk with a lot of older people [in my community]...They have been through traumas, like they've been through wars, running from people and fleeing to a new country. That's a lot of trauma. But they don't agree that it's trauma. And I don't know how to tell [them] because I have not been in that place. I just came with them. And when I tried to tell them that, ‘You

got to talk about this, so it gets out of your head.' They just don't want to talk about it."

"Depression is big...And it's all ages. I live with my grandma. She doesn't believe in depression, and I'm sure she's been depressed for most of her life. But back in the day it was more like, you just gotta push through it and fight through it. You gotta be strong. 'Everybody's depressed.'"

"The kids, they can't talk about mental health problems with their parents because the parents will think that it's a disease and that's not good. So they will try to do substances, which just goes down the wrong path. And the parents can't take control of the kids, and the kids are now alone in their [mind], and it's hard."

Alcohol use disorder frequently co-occurs with other mental health disorders. Compared to the last *HealthMap*, Franklin County residents whose deaths were 100% alcohol-attributable have increased and are particularly high among males, white (non-Hispanic) individuals, and the elderly.

Alcohol Attributable Deaths

	Rate per 100,000
HM2025	14.7 ▲
HM2022	12.9
HM2019	9.1
Age 20-59	13.6
Age 60+	38.1 ▲
White (non-Hispanic)	18.4 ▲
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.9
Male	21.4 ▼
Female	8.2 ▲
Ohio	14.1 ▼
US	14.4

The number of child abuse victims and abuse reports have declined across all geographic groups; the number of domestic violence reports has remained stable while the number of domestic violence victims in Franklin County has dropped dramatically. A unique victim is only counted once but could be associated with multiple reports of violence in a year.

Family Violence

	Child maltreatment (unique victims)	Child maltreatment (substantiated reports)	Domestic violence (unique victims)	Domestic violence (substantiated reports)
HM2025	5,729 ▼	16,784 ▼	5,495 ▼	3,505
HM2022	7,240	19,801	7,471	3,636
HM2019	6,243	18,060	11,224	3,157
Ohio	22,439 ▼	17,037 ▼	58,822 ▲	31,142 ▼
US	558,899 ▼	553,479 ▼	598,490 ▲	1,370,440 ▲

Additional Information & References

Relatedly, who are interested in learning more about this topic are encouraged to read the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition’s 2023 Report, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Additionally, readers who are interested in learning more about this topic should also read the *HealthMap2025* sections that focus on alcohol use (see page 81), overdose deaths (see page 163), and individuals with disabilities and their mental health experiences (see page 133).





For *HealthMap2025*, data on suicides and alcohol-attributable deaths were collected from the CDC WONDER database for 2023, 2020, and 2017, and self-harm hospitalizations were provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, which accessed the Trauma Acute Care Registry (TACR) system for 2022 and 2019.⁵⁻⁷ Loneliness statistics were provided by Franklin County Public Health, which accessed the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey for 2023.

To assess the prevalence of depression, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.⁸ In most cases, survey respondents were asked if a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever told them that they had a specific chronic health condition (i.e., a depressive disorder). To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC’s PLACES⁹ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

Alcohol-attributable deaths were defined using the National Center for Health Statistics definition, which includes immediate deaths such as overdose as well as long-term chronic conditions such as alcoholic fatty liver.⁵

In both categories of violence, a “report” refers to a single instance where abuse or neglect was alleged to authorities. These reports are then investigated, and charges or action may be taken if there is enough evidence. A unique victim is counted only once in a calendar year, but they may be the subject of multiple reports if they experienced multiple acts of violence. Child maltreatment victims and reports were included if the abuse or neglect was classified as either “substantiated” or “indicated” in 2022, 2019, and 2016. Franklin County statistics were provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.¹⁰ Statistics about child maltreatment from the United States and Ohio were sourced from the US Department of Health and Human Services annual Child Maltreatment report.¹¹

Domestic violence statistics included all victim/perpetrator relationships, including married couples, life partners, and other eligible categories. Ohio and Franklin County statistics were sourced from an Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation report, where statistics were reported from all police agencies.^{12,13} Reports were included if a charge was filed, and the included years were 2023, 2020, and 2017. For the United States, data were sourced from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for 2022.¹⁴

-  Data Gap: The child maltreatment and domestic violence statistics reviewed here likely *underestimate* the full extent of those issues in the population, due to underreporting. Future HealthMaps should attempt to obtain different/more accurate data.
-  Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about the mental health of Franklin County’s youth (e.g., those between the ages of 11 and 17). Unfortunately, Ohio’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey does not calculate statistical estimates at the county level.
-  Data Gap: The Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee requested recent data about resiliency. Unfortunately, this construct has not been measured quantitatively at the county level.
-  Data Gap: Future *HealthMaps* should explore the possibility of calculating the percentage of adults who recently had an alcohol attributable death within each Franklin County zip code (or other sub-county geography).

¹ Potter, L. C., Morris, R., Hegarty, K., García-Moreno, C., & Feder, G. (2021). Categories and health impacts of intimate partner violence in the World Health Organization multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *International journal of epidemiology*, 50(2), 652-662. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyaa220>

- ² Clarke, A., Olive, P., Akooji, N., & Whittaker, K. (2020). Violence exposure and young people's vulnerability, mental and physical health. *International journal of public health*, 65(3), 357–366. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-020-01340-3>
- ³ Lyra, R. L., McKenzie, S. K., Every-Palmer, S., & Jenkin, G. (2021). Occupational exposure to suicide: A review of research on the experiences of mental health professionals and first responders. *PloS one*, 16(4), e0251038. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0251038>
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2023). Our epidemic of loneliness and isolation. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>
- ⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2022, and from provisional data for years 2023-2024, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html>
- ⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.
- ⁷ Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety. (2024). *Trauma Acute Care Agency* [Dataset].
- ⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2015 (HM2019)
- ⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.). <https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>
- ¹⁰ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health. (2024). *Foster Care and Adult Protective Services* [Dataset].
- ¹¹ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, & Families, C. B. (2023). Child Maltreatment 2022. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2022.pdf>
- ¹² Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. (2024). *Victims of Domestic Violence by County and Agency*.
- ¹³ Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. (2024). *Domestic Violence Incidents by County and Agency*.
- ¹⁴ Thompson, A., & Tapp, S. N. (2023). *Criminal Victimization, 2022*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv22.pdf>

Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition's 2023 Report can be accessed at <https://franklincountyspc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2023-Franklin-County-Suicide-Report-Updated-4.22.24.pdf>.

Mortality

With advances in medicine, technology, and sanitation, life expectancy at birth (i.e., the average number of years that a person can expect to live) has risen substantially over the last century.¹ However, significant disparities in life expectancy at birth and in mortality rates exist by sex, race, and geography, among others.²

The **life expectancy** at birth was **75.9** years in Franklin County.

↓
Down from
HM2022 (77.1)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
n/a

Sex:
Unavailable

Race/Ethnicity:
None observed

Geography:
Observed (see map)

The **mortality rate** (all causes) was **891.5** per 100,000 residents in Franklin County.

New metric for
HM2025

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Older adults highest

Sex:
None observed

Race/Ethnicity:
Black higher

Geography:
Observed (see map)

As shown on the next page, Franklin County residents' life expectancy has decreased slightly since the last *HealthMap* and is similar to residents throughout Ohio and the United States. Asian and Hispanic individuals have a higher life expectancy than Franklin County overall, whereas black (non-Hispanic) individuals have the lowest life expectancy.

The next page also displays a table that presents data regarding the all-cause mortality rate (age-adjusted) among Franklin County residents. As expected, the mortality rate is lower among children and much higher among older adults. Black (non-Hispanic) individuals in Franklin County have an all-cause mortality rate that is substantially higher than the county as a whole; Asian (non-Hispanic) individuals have a mortality rate that is substantially lower than the county as a whole.

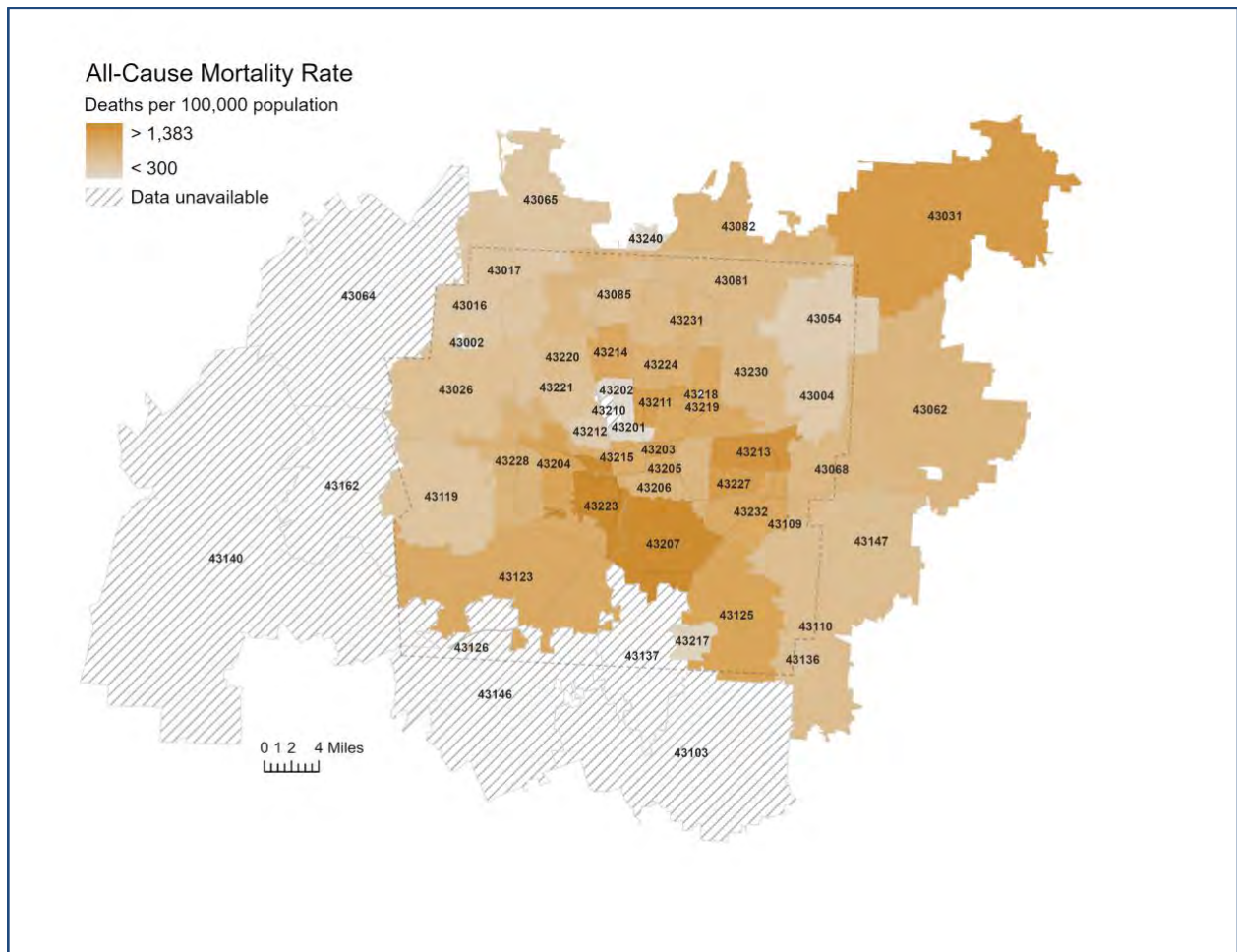
Life Expectancy at Birth

	Years
HM2025	75.9
HM2022	77.1
White (non-Hispanic)	76.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	72.9
Asian (non-Hispanic)	84.9 ▲
Hispanic	84.7 ▲
Ohio	74.5
US	77.5

All-Cause Mortality Rate

	Age-adjusted rate per 100,000
HM2025	891.5
Ages 1-19	30.8 ▼
Age 65+	4,969.0 ▲
White (non-Hispanic)	880.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	1,031.6 ▲
Asian (non-Hispanic)	471.7 ▼
Hispanic	486.6 ▼
Male	1,067.6 ▲
Female	750.3 ▼
Ohio	849.1 ▼
US	753.3

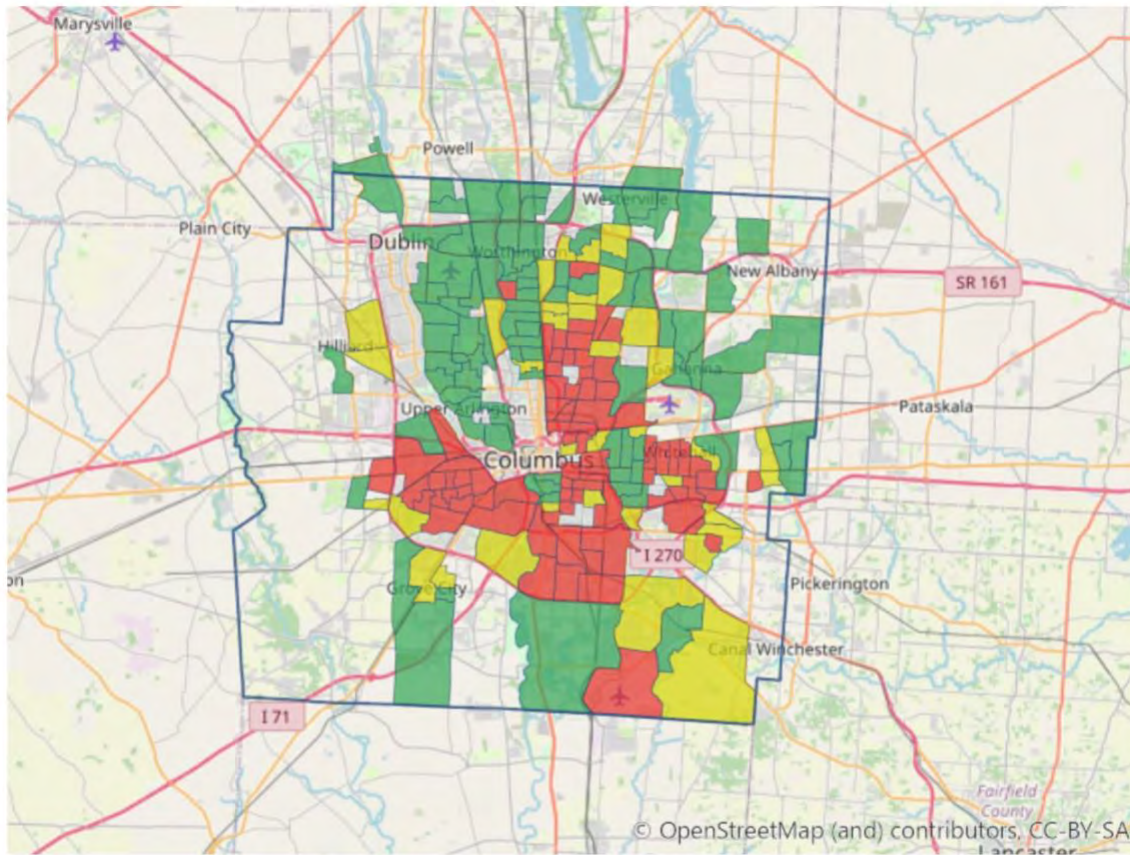
The map below shows the all-cause mortality rate (crude) for those Franklin County zip codes that have data available for mapping. The all-cause mortality rate is highest in 43223 (Franklinton area), 43207 (southern Franklin County), and 43213 (Whitehall area).



The map below is a screenshot of residents' life expectancy across Franklin County's census tracts during the period from 2010-2015 (the most recent data available), as mapped by Franklin County CARES.³ The census tracts with the lowest quartiles of life expectancy (e.g., less than 73.9 years) are concentrated in the Franklinton, Hilltop, South Side, Linden, and Whitehall areas of Franklin County. Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic are encouraged to visit Franklin County CARES' interactive map, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Life Expectancy Census Tract

Comparison: OH Census Tracts
Measurement Period: 2010-2015
Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



September 12, 2024

Additional Information & References

To report life expectancy in Franklin County, *HeathMap2025* referenced County Health Rankings reports from 2024 (data 2019-2021) and 2020 (data 2016-2018).⁴ For Ohio and the

United States, we used data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Mortality Reports in 2021 and 2022, respectively.^{5,6} Note that the methodology for the County Health rankings has changed in recent years to reflect updated race categories.

The age-adjusted mortality rate for Franklin County was obtained from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for the 2018-2022 period.⁷ The mortality rates for Ohio and for the US relied on provisional data obtained from the CDC WONDER system for 2023.^{8,9} Franklin County Public Health staff mapped the all-cause mortality rate for each zip code in Franklin County that had those data.

¹ Kinsella K. G. (1992). Changes in life expectancy 1900-1990. *The American journal of clinical nutrition*, 55(6 Suppl), 1196S-1202S. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/55.6.1196S>

² Woolf, S. H., & Schoomaker, H. (2019). Life Expectancy and Mortality Rates in the United States, 1959-2017. *JAMA*, 322(20), 1996-2016. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2019.16932>

³ Franklin County CARES. (n.d.) Life Expectancy (2010-2015). <https://www.franklinco cares.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=8195&localeTypeId=4&comparisonId=6807>

⁴ Population Health Institute, University of Wisconsin. (2023) County Health Rankings [Interactive Tool]. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-outcomes/length-of-life/life-expectancy?year=2024>

⁵ Kochanek, K. D., Murphy, S. L., Xu, J., & Arias, E. (2024). Mortality in the United States, 2022. NCHS data brief, (492), 1-8. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db492.pdf>

⁶ Arias, E., Xu, J., Tejada-Vera, B., & Bastian, B. (2024). U.S. State Life Tables, 2021. National vital statistics reports : from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, 73(7), 1-18. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr73/nvsr73-07.pdf>

⁷ HDPulse: An Ecosystem of Minority Health and Health Disparities Resources. National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Data are from 2018-2022. Available from <https://hdpulse.nimhd.nih.gov>

⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2022, and from provisional data for years 2023-2024, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html>

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.

Franklin County CARES' interactive map can be accessed at <https://www.franklinco cares.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=8195&localeTypeId=4&comparisonId=6807>.

Leading Causes of Death

Leading causes of death are an important metric for population health. These data can assist in identifying the impact of emerging health concerns such as COVID-19, provide an ecologic view of the outcomes of exposures such as environmental toxins, and illustrate health disparities by age and race.

The leading cause of death among those aged 0-17 was a **perinatal health condition (21.5** per 100,000).



Up from
HM2022 (19.2)

The leading cause of death among those aged 18-59 was an **accident (94.8** per 100,000).



Down from
HM2022 (114)

The leading cause of death among those aged 60+ was **heart disease (689.7** per 100,000).



Down from
HM2022 (743.1)

The leading causes of death among Franklin County children have remained consistent over time, with the most frequent cause of death being perinatal conditions, a label that includes deaths that occur after preterm births, birth complications, or birth defects, among others. Other leading causes of death for assault children include accidents, congenital conditions, and assault. Note: although the top two causes of death for black children were also perinatal conditions and accidents, those occurred at much higher rates (30.8 and 24.9, respectively) than the population averages reported below.

Leading Causes of Death - Children (age 0-17; rate per 100,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio	US
1st	Perinatal conditions: 21.5	Perinatal conditions: 19.2	Perinatal conditions: 18	Perinatal conditions: 13.7
2nd	Accidents: 9.8	Congenital Conditions: 10.9	Accidents: 10	Accidents: 8.5
3rd	Congenital conditions: 8.5	Assault: 8.3	Congenital conditions: 6.9	Congenital conditions: 6.8
4th	Assault: 5.5	Accidents: 7.6	Assault: 4.4	Assault: 3.1
5th			Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 2.5	Intentional self-harm: 2.2

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio	US
6th			Intentional self-harm: 2.4	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 2.2
7th			Heart diseases: 1.4	Heart diseases: 1.0
8th			Influenza & pneumonia: 0.9	Influenza & pneumonia: 0.6
9th				Sepsis (septicemia): 0.5
10th				Cerebrovascular diseases: 0.4

The leading cause of death among Franklin County adults aged 18-59 was accidents, followed by heart diseases, cancer, suicide, and assault.

Leading Causes of Death - Adults (age 18-59; rate per 100,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio	US
1st	Accidents: 94.8	Accidents: 113.98	Accidents: 82.7	Accidents: 67.4
2nd	Heart diseases: 40.6	Heart diseases: 51.03	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 55.3	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 47.3
3rd	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 39.1	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 46.5	Diseases of heart: 49.0	Diseases of heart: 42.2
4th	Intentional self-harm: 17.4	Assault: 20.21	Intentional self-harm: 19.3	Intentional self-harm: 18.0
5th	Assault: 16.7	COVID-19 : 14.77	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis: 12.4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis: 12.2
6th	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis: 9.4	Intentional self-harm: 13.86	Diabetes mellitus: 11.2	Diabetes mellitus: 9.4
7th	Diabetes mellitus: 8.6	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis: 10.88	Assault: 10.6	Assault: 9.8
8th	Cerebrovascular diseases: 5.5	Diabetes mellitus: 8.55	Cerebrovascular diseases: 7.1	Cerebrovascular diseases: 7.2
9th	Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 5.2	Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 8.03	Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 6.2	Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 4.6
10th	Sepsis (septicemia): 4.7	Cerebrovascular diseases: 7.38	Sepsis (septicemia): 4.7	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis: 3.4

Black (non-Hispanic) individuals between the ages of 20 and 59 were more likely than white (non-Hispanic) individuals to die due to many of these leading causes; this was especially the case for accidents, heart diseases, and diabetes.

Leading Causes of Death by Race - Adults (age 20-59; rate per 100,000)

	White (non-Hispanic)	Black (non-Hispanic)	Hispanic
1st	Accidents: 94	Accidents: 134.4	Accidents: 122.8
2nd	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 46.8	Heart diseases: 68.7	
3rd	Heart diseases: 40.1	Assault: 47.1	
4th	Intentional self-harm: 18.5	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 39.6	
5th	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis: 12.5	Intentional self-harm: 16.9	
6th	Diabetes mellitus: 7.6	Diabetes mellitus: 15.7	
7th	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others): 6.2	Cerebrovascular diseases: 12.2	
8th	Assault: 5.8		

The leading cause of death among Franklin County adults age 60+ was heart diseases, followed by cancer, cerebrovascular disease, accidents, chronic lower respiratory disease, and Alzheimer’s disease.

Leading Causes of Death - Older Adults (age 60+; rate per 100,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio	US
1st	Heart diseases: 689.7	Heart diseases: 772.2	Heart diseases: 849.6	Heart diseases: 764.4
2nd	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 673.4	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 627.9	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 721.2	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 666.3
3rd	Cerebrovascular diseases: 212.1	COVID-19: 372.7	Cerebrovascular diseases: 226.4	Cerebrovascular diseases: 189.1
4th	Accidents: 185.7	Cerebrovascular diseases: 187.2	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others):203.5	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others):173.2
5th	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others):171.3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others):177.0	Alzheimer’s disease: 163.8	Alzheimer’s disease: 143.9

	HM2025	HM2022	Ohio	US
6th	Alzheimer's disease: 135.0	Alzheimer's disease: 157.2	Accidents: 128.4	Accidents: 111.5
7th	Diabetes mellitus: 77.1	Accidents: 126.0	Diabetes mellitus: 113.5	Diabetes mellitus: 98.8
8th	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis: 64.7	Diabetes mellitus: 104.1	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis: 70.8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis: 62.1
9th	Sepsis (septicemia): 52.7	Influenza & pneumonia: 57.5	COVID-19: 68.7	COVID-19: 58.9
10th	Parkinson's disease: 51.5	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis: 57.1	Sepsis (septicemia): 56.4	Parkinson's disease: 50.5

The leading causes of death for black and white residents age 60 and over are relatively similar to another. However, Asian residents were significantly less likely to die of heart disease or cancer.

Leading Causes of Death by Race - Older Adults (age 60+; rate per 100,000)

	White (non-Hispanic)	Black (non-Hispanic)	Asian
1st	Heart diseases: 743.1	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 732.1	Heart diseases: 308.4
2nd	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 710.8	Heart diseases: 695.8	Cancer (malignant neoplasms): 275.4
3rd	Cerebrovascular diseases: 211.4	Cerebrovascular diseases: 258.3	
4th	Accidents: 195	Accidents: 209.2	
5th	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others): 193.9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (includes COPD, asthma, others): 145.1	
6th	Alzheimer's disease: 156.6	Diabetes mellitus: 119.5	
7th	Diabetes mellitus: 71.2	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis: 119.5	
8th	Parkinson's disease: 63.5	Alzheimer's disease: 91.8	
9th	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome & nephrosis: 55.3	Sepsis (septicemia): 72.6	
10th	Nutritional deficiencies: 53.1	Essential hypertension & hypertensive renal disease: 51.2	

Additional Information & References

To measure leading causes of death in Franklin County, raw numbers of the leading causes of death were obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Mortality tool,¹ which were then

converted into crude rates using the age and year appropriate population. Among children, the numbers for certain causes of death were particularly small. Therefore, only those causes of death that had at least 15 observations were included; that is the reason why only 4 leading causes of death are included in the table titled, "Leading Causes of Death - Children (age 0-17; rate per 100,000)."

In Ohio and the United States, the crude rates of leading causes of death are from the Centers for Disease Control WONDER database.²

For the overall leading causes of death, we defined children as age 0-17, adults as age 18-59, and older adults as age 60+. However, due to the age categories reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, it was not possible to obtain rates by race using the same age categories. Therefore, the age categories for leading causes of death by race were defined as 0-19, 20-59, and 60+.

¹DataOhio. (2023). *Mortality* [Interactive Dashboard]. Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/mortality>

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2022, and from provisional data for years 2023-2024, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html>

Traumatic Injury

A traumatic injury is a severe physical injury that occurs suddenly and requires hospital admission. Examples of such injuries include musculoskeletal injuries, visceral injuries, nerve injuries, soft tissue damage, spinal injuries, and limb loss, all of which might be caused by a variety of blunt, penetrating, or other mechanisms.^{1,2} Major traumatic injuries like these are one of the leading causes of death in children and adults under the age of 40, both nationally and here in Franklin County (see page 145).

57% of residents who were hospitalized due to trauma **experienced a fall.**



Similar to
HM2022 (53.7%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Older adults more likely (falls)

Sex:
Male more likely (firearms, being struck, being cut/pierced)

Race/Ethnicity:
Black more likely (firearms)

Geography:
Observed (see maps)

Among those Franklin County residents who were hospitalized due to bodily trauma, the most common type of trauma was a fall. The next most common types of trauma hospitalizations were accidents involving an occupant of a motor vehicle and being struck (either by something or against something).

Leading Causes of Trauma Hospitalizations

	HM2025	HM2022	HM2019
1st	Fall: 56.6%	Falls: 53.7%	Falls: 48.5%
2nd	Motor vehicle accident (occupant): 12.2%	Motor vehicle accident (occupant): 12.7%	Motor vehicle accident (occupant): 15.5%
3rd	Struck by or against: 7.9%▼	Struck by or against: 9.6%	Struck by or against: 9.2%
4th	Firearm: 5.1%▲	Firearm: 4%	Firearm: 5.5%
5th	Cut or Pierce: 2.6%	Cut or Pierce: 2.6%	Cut or Pierce: 2.6%

As shown below, fall injuries that lead to hospitalization occur more frequently among older adults (age 65+), whereas most other types of injuries that lead to hospitalization occur among adults aged 18-64.

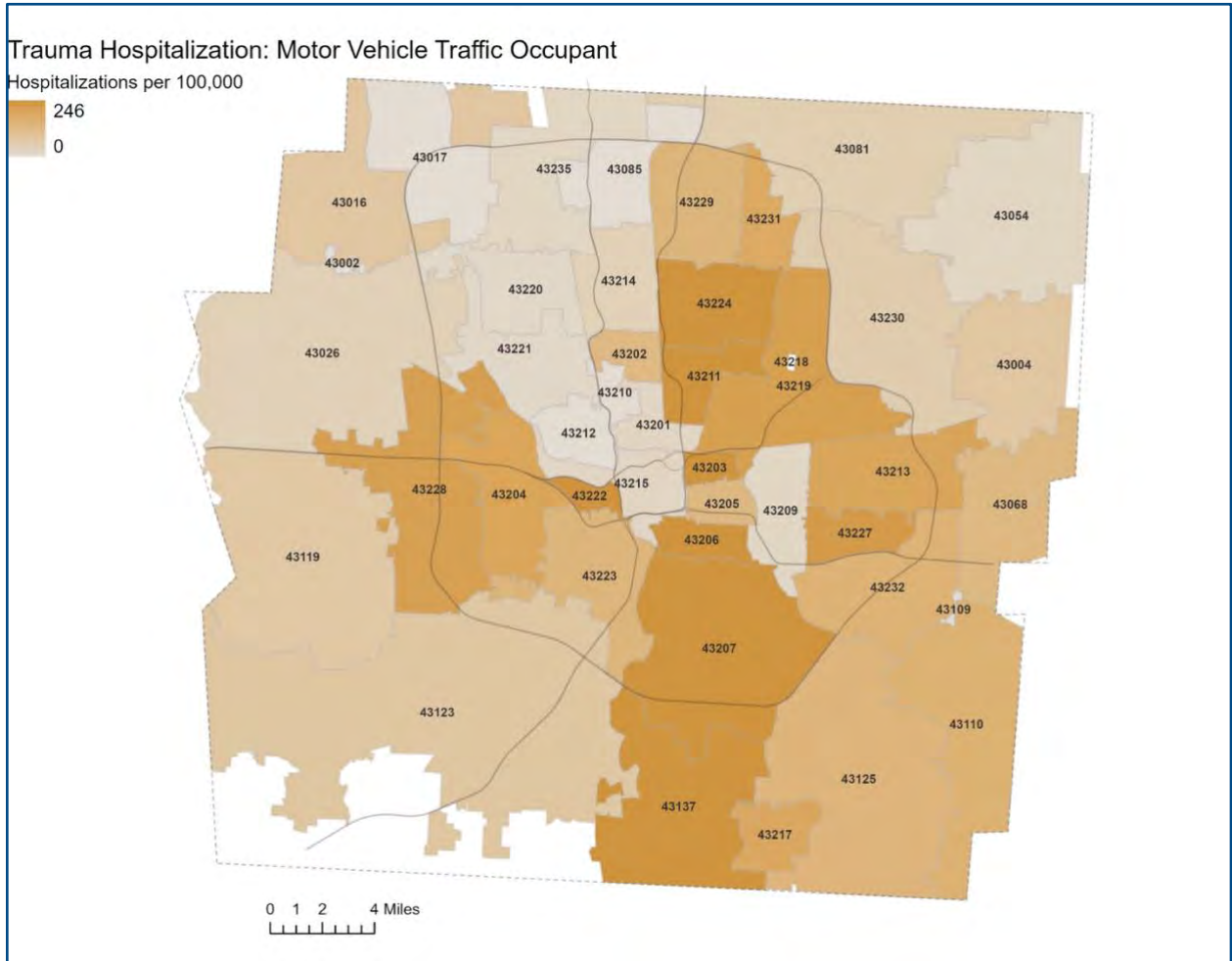
Injuries due to firearms, being struck (by or against something), or cutting/piercing that lead to hospitalization all occur more frequently among males than females. Injuries due to firearms that lead to hospitalization occur more frequently among black individuals.

Leading Causes of Trauma Hospitalizations (by Key Demographics)

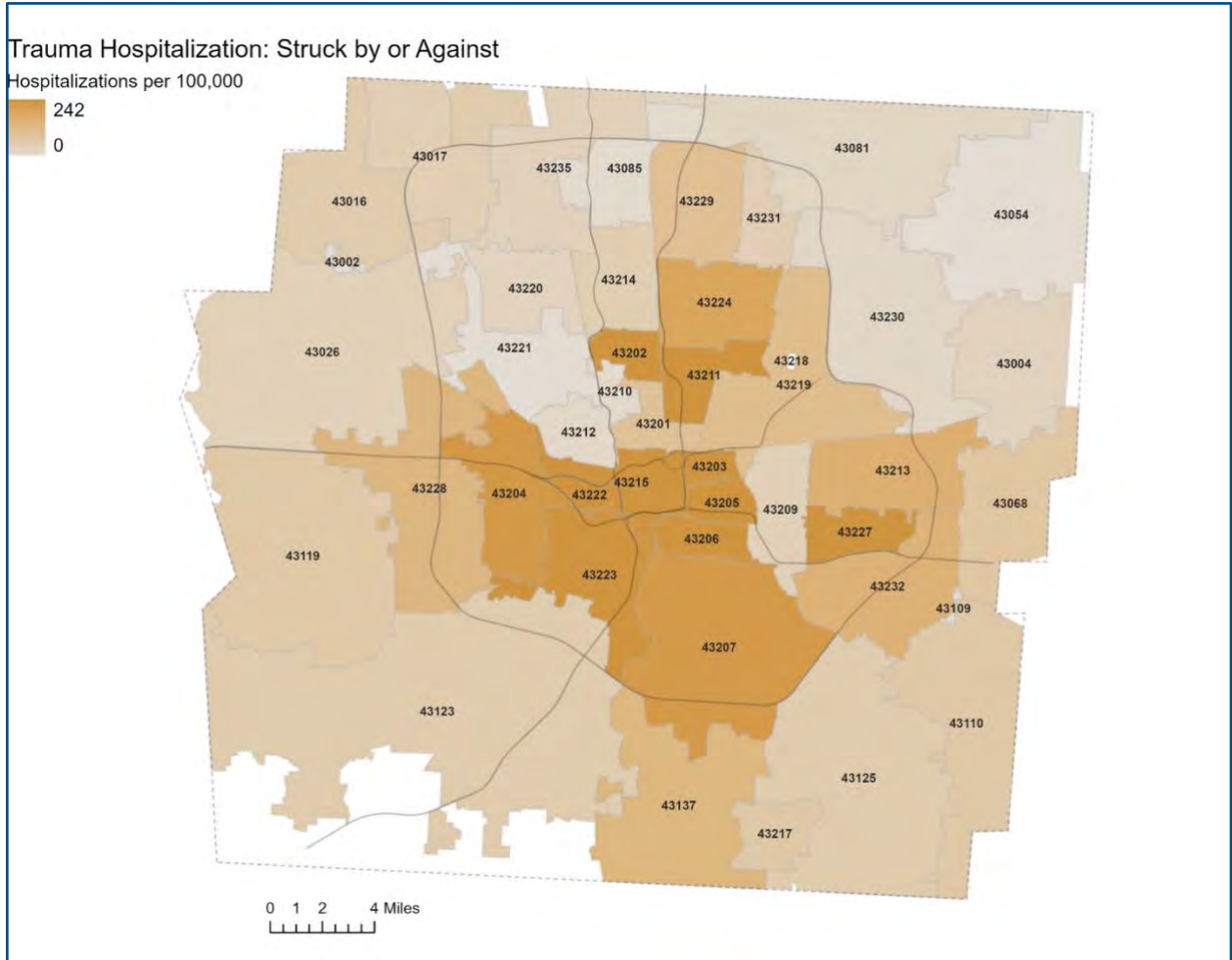
	Fall	Motor vehicle (occupant)	Struck by or against	Firearm	Cut or pierce	All others
Total	5,766	1,245	805	521	266	1,577
	56.6%	12.2%	7.9%	5.1%	2.6%	15.5%
Age						
0-17 Years	6.9%	7.4%	12.4%	14.8%	10.2%	
18-64 Years	30.8%	75.8%	81.1%	83.5%	83.1%	
65+ years	62.4%	16.8%	6.5%	1.3%	6.8%	
Gender						
Female	54.7%	48.8%	23.6%	14.0%	21.1%	
Male	44.8%	51.0%	76.0%	85.8%	79.0%	
Race						
American Indian	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	-	
Asian	2.2%	2.3%	1.4%	0.8%	2.3%	
Black/African American	14.9%	35.3%	42.6%	74.7%	44.7%	
Native Hawaiian, Other	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.8%	
Unknown	5.3%	9.6%	8.9%	5.8%	13.5%	
White	77.4%	52.6%	46.8%	18.4%	38.7%	

The rate of trauma hospitalizations due to falls seems to be relatively evenly distributed throughout Franklin County; that said, rates for that type of injury tend to be lower in northwestern zip codes, western zip codes, and far northeastern zip codes.

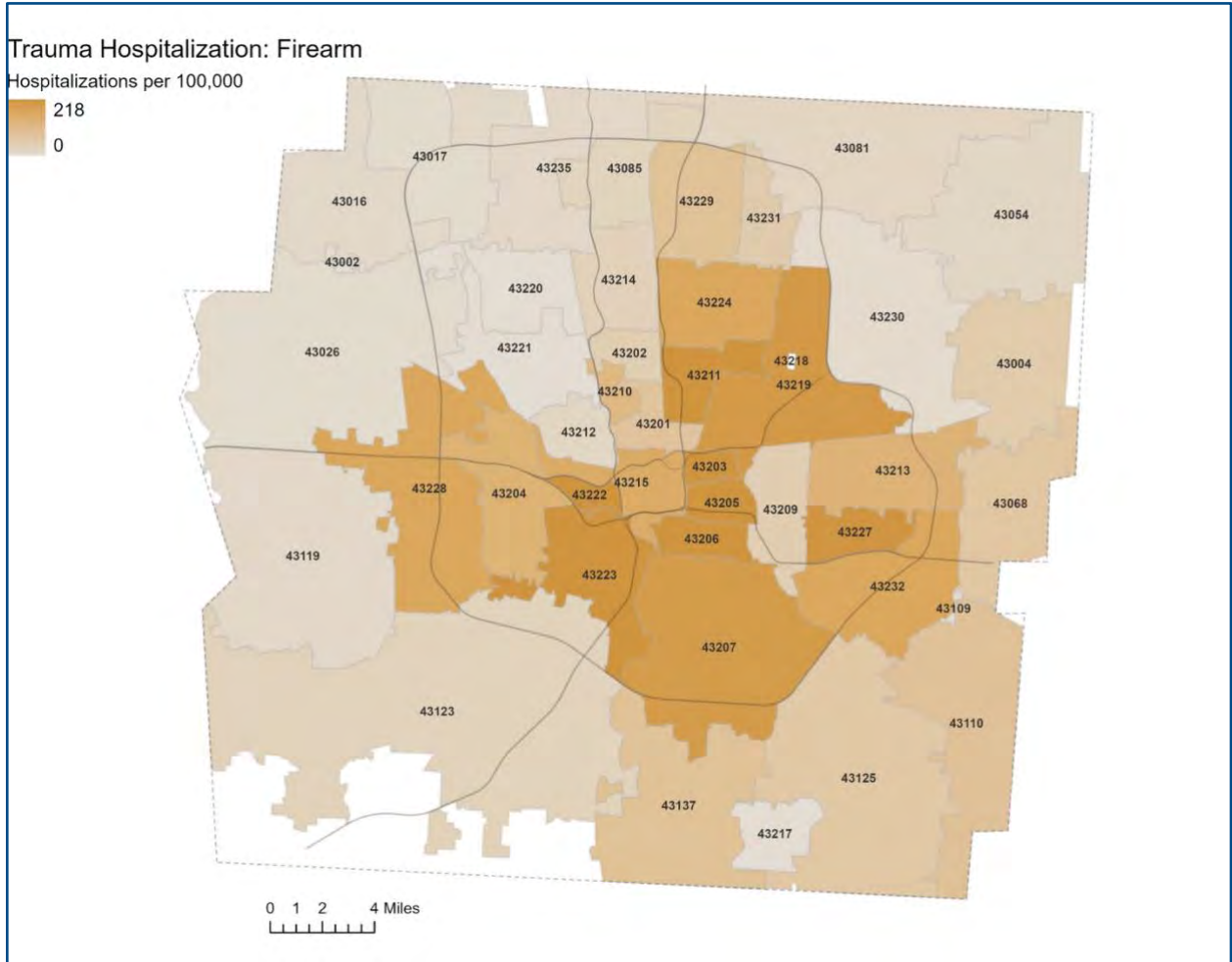
The rate of trauma hospitalizations involving an occupant of a motor vehicle that was in an accident is greater in north-central zip codes (43211, 43224), west-central zip codes (43222, 43204, 43228), and southern zip codes (43206, 43207).



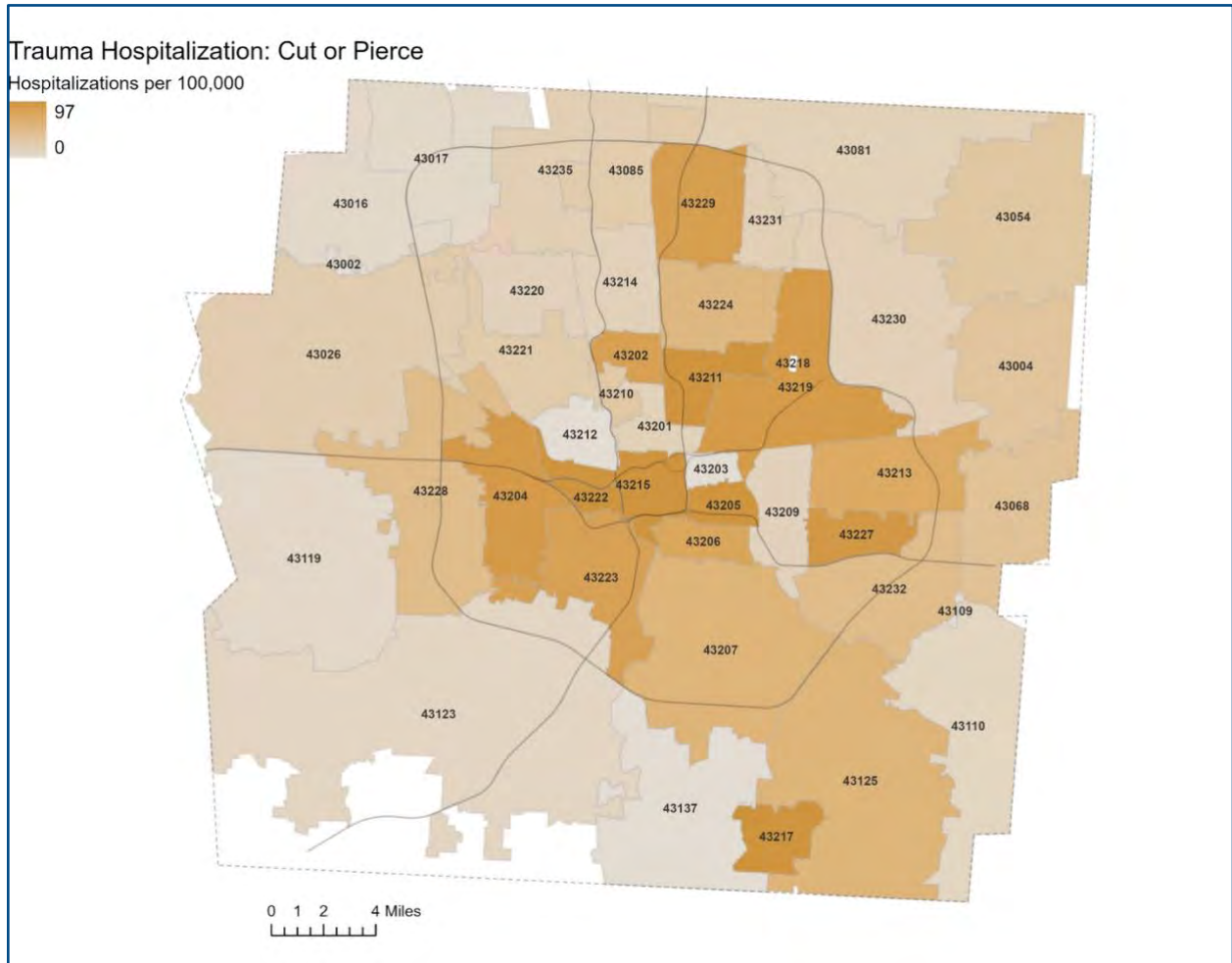
The rate of trauma hospitalizations due to being struck by or against something is greater in north-central zip codes (43202, 43211), central zip codes (43203, 43208, 43215, 43222, 43204, 43223), southern zip codes (43206, 43207), and the Whitehall area (43227).



The rate of trauma hospitalizations due to firearms is greater in north-central zip codes (43211, 43218, 43219), east-central zip codes (43203, 43205), west-central zip codes (43222, 43223), southern zip codes (43206, 43207), and the Whitehall area (43227).



The rate of trauma hospitalizations due to being cut or pierced is greater in north-central zip codes (43211, 43202, 43218, 43219), east-central zip codes (43215, 43205), west-central zip codes (43222, 43204), and the Whitehall area (43227).



Additional Information & References

Trauma-related hospitalization data were provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, which accessed the Trauma Acute Care Registry (TACR) system for 2022, 2019, and 2016.³

Franklin County Public Health staff then mapped these data for each zip code in Franklin County.

¹ Rehabilitation after traumatic injury. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2022 Jan 18. (NICE Guideline, No. 211.) Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK579697/>

² Dumovich J, Singh P. Physiology, Trauma. [Updated 2022 Sep 19]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2024 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK538478/>

³ Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety. (2024). *Trauma Acute Care Agency* [Dataset].

Cancer

During their lifetime, 1 in 3 people in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer - a disease in which some of the body's cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.^{1,2} As noted in *HealthMap2025's* Leading Causes of Death section, cancer ("malignant neoplasms") is the 3rd leading cause of death among Franklin County adults aged 18-59 and the 2nd leading cause of death among Franklin County adults aged 60+.

The incidence for two leading types of cancers (**lung & bronchus; colon and rectum**) has decreased.

↓
Down from
HM2022

The incidence for one leading types of cancers (**breast**) has increased.

↑
Up from
HM2022

The cancer that most frequently led to the death of Franklin County residents is **lung & bronchus**.

≈
Similar to
HM2022

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

Age:
Unavailable

Sex:
Unavailable

Race/Ethnicity:
Observed (see below)

Geography:
Observed (see map)

Prostate cancers and breast cancers continue to have the highest incidence rates³ among Franklin County residents, followed by lung and bronchus cancers.

Cancer Incidence (age-adjusted rate per 100,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	HM2019	Ohio	US
1st	Prostate: 133.5	Prostate: 140.1	Prostate: 124.7	Prostate: 121.3	Prostate: 114.7
2nd	Breast: 81.4 ▲	Breast: 72.2	Breast: 74.9	Breast: 73.0	Breast: 70.4
3rd	Lung & Bronchus: 56.4 ▼	Lung & Bronchus: 63.1	Lung & Bronchus: 71.3	Lung & Bronchus: 60.6 ▼	Lung & Bronchus: 49.1 ▼
4th	Other Sites/Types: 38.6	Colon & Rectum: 38	Colon & Rectum: 40	Colon & Rectum: 38.3	Colon & Rectum: 36.0
5th	Colon & Rectum: 32.5 ▼	Other Sites/Types: 35.8	Other Sites/Types: 37.1	Uterus: 29.8	Uterus: 27.3

Cancer Incidence by Race (age-adjusted rate per 100,000)

	White (non-Hispanic)	Black (non-Hispanic)	Asian	Hispanic
1st	Prostate: 118.9 ▼	Breast: 62.1 ▼	Prostate: 183.1 ▲	Prostate: 60 ▼
2nd	Breast: 81.9	Prostate: 25.4 ▼	Breast: 76.9	Uterus: 44.7
3rd	Lung & Bronchus: 56.9	Other Sites/Types: 25.2▼	Lung & Bronchus: 61.5	Breast: 32.5 ▼
4th	Other Sites/Types: 37.6	Lung and Bronchus: 17.2▼	Other Sites/Types: 38.8	Kidney & Renal Pelvis: 24.2
5th	Colon & Rectum: 33.9	Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma: 14.4	Colon & Rectum: 29.9	Other Sites/Types: 22.1▼

Lung and bronchus cancers have the highest mortality rate among Franklin County residents, followed by other sites/types of cancers.

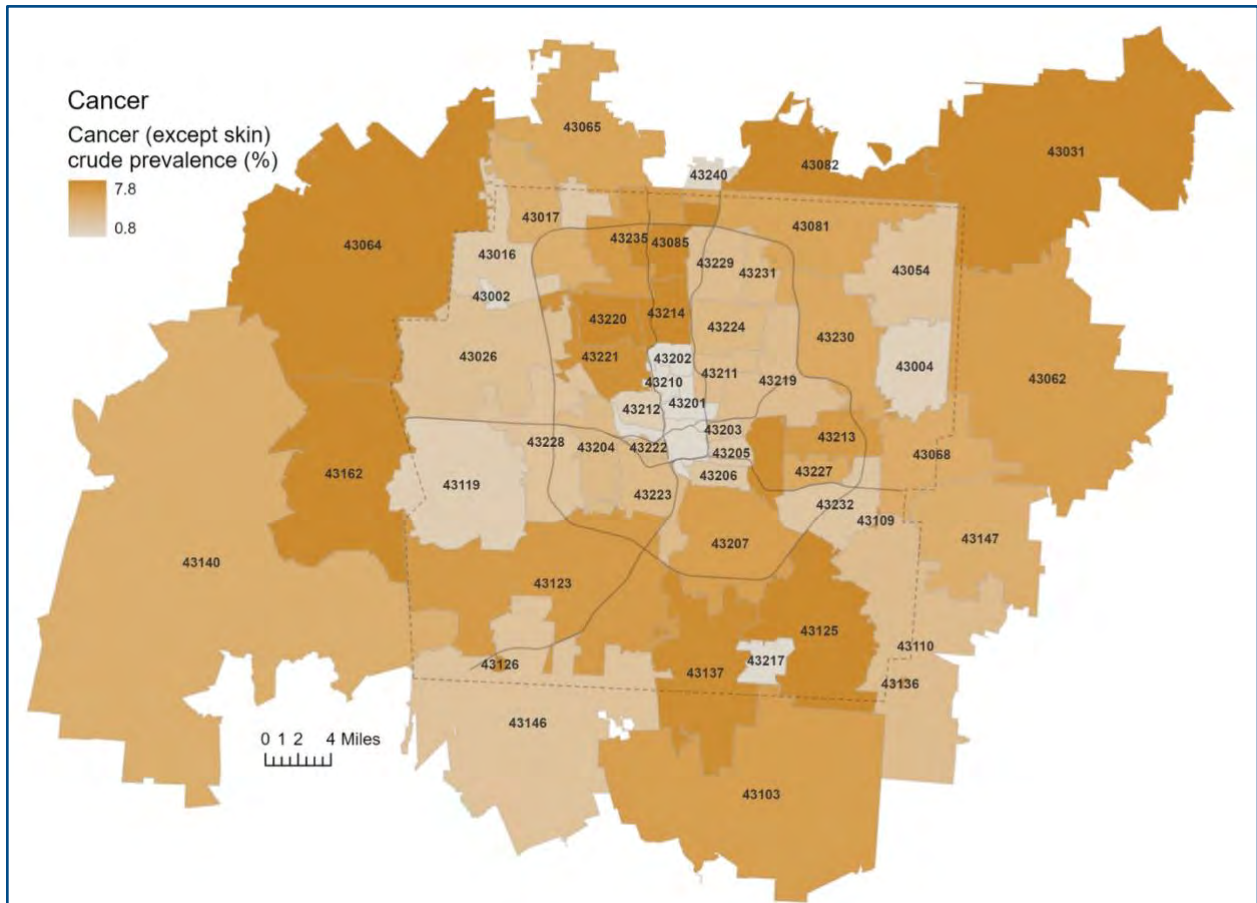
Cancer Mortality (age-adjusted rate per 100,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	HM2019	Ohio	US
1st	Lung & Bronchus: 33.1	Lung & Bronchus: 34.3	Lung & Bronchus: 41.6	Lung & bronchus: 38.8▼	Lung & Bronchus: 31.3▼
2nd	Other Sites/Types: 21.3	Other Sites/Types: 20	Other Sites/Types: 15.6	Prostate: 19.7	Prostate: 18.8
3rd	Pancreas: 11.1	Pancreas: 13.1	Colon & Rectum: 12.8	Colon & Rectum: 13.8	Colon & Rectum: 12.8
4th	Colon & Rectum: 11.1	Breast: 11.5	Breast: 11.9	Pancreas: 11.6	Pancreas: 11.2
5th	Breast: 10.1 ▼	Colon & Rectum: 10.4	Pancreas: 11.1	Breast: 11.1	Breast: 10.5

Cancer Mortality by Race (age-adjusted rate per 100,000)

	White (non-Hispanic)	Black (non-Hispanic)
1st	Lung & Bronchus: 45.98 ▲	Lung & Bronchus: 29.14
2nd	Pancreas: 15.2 ▲	Breast: 12.17 ▲
3rd	Colon & Rectum: 13.81 ▲	Pancreas: 9.61 ▼
4th	Breast: 12.79 ▲	Liver & Intrahepatic Bile Duct: 8.97
5th	Prostate: 8.99	Colon & Rectum: 8.65 ▼

As shown in the map below, cancer prevalence is highest among Franklin County residents in northwest-central zip codes (43221, 43220), north-central zip codes (43214, 43085), and southern zip codes (43137, 43125).



Additional Information & References

Cancer incidence rates were obtained from a variety of sources. For Franklin County, age-adjusted rates from ODH’s Invasive Cancer Report were used for the years 2021, 2018, and 2015.³ For Ohio and the United States, age-adjusted data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WONDER database were used for 2021.⁴ Likewise, cancer mortality rates were obtained from a variety of sources. For Franklin County, data from ODH’s Mortality Report were used for the years 2022, 2019, and 2016 overall, and 2021 for race.³ These data were then converted into crude rates by dividing the total number of deaths by the total population in that year. For Ohio and the United States, age-adjusted data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WONDER database were used for the year 2021.⁴

To map cancer prevalence at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained estimates from the CDC’s PLACES resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census

Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

¹ National Cancer Institute. (n.d.) What is cancer? <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/what-is-cancer>

² American Cancer Society. (n.d.) Understanding cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/understanding-cancer.html>

³ DataOhio. (2021). Invasive Cancer Report [Interactive Dashboard]. Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Retrieved in 2024 from https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio_births

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER Online Database. United States and Puerto Rico Cancer Statistics, 1999-2021 Incidence Results. Accessed at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/cancer-v2021.html>

⁵ DataOhio. (2022). Mortality [Interactive Dashboard]. Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Retrieved in 2024 from https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio_births

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER Online Database. United States and Puerto Rico Cancer Statistics, 1999-2021 Mortality Request. Accessed at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/cancermort-v2021.html>

Violent Crime

High rates of local violent crime are associated with health impacts such as increased cardiovascular disease and lower self-rated health.^{1,2} This is theorized to be due in part to greater stress from feeling unsafe, as well as co-occurrence with related risk factors such as poverty and lack of access to healthcare.

There were **401.3 violent crimes** per 100,000 Franklin County residents.



Similar to
HM2022 (424.1)

The overall incidence of violent crime has not changed significantly since HM2022, but there is a steady downward trajectory since HM2019. Unfortunately, Franklin County still has higher rates of overall violent crime as well as each individual crime. Murder has risen across Franklin County, Ohio, and the US while robbery has decreased in the same geographies. Rape has increased in Franklin County and aggravated assault has risen in Ohio.



Violent Crime (rate per 100,000)

	Overall	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
HM2025	401.3	10.7 ▲	85.1 ▲	113.5 ▼	191.9
HM2022	424.1	9.4	76.9	159.2	178.5
HM2019	455.9	8.9	85.7	206.2	155.1
Ohio	293.6	6.1 ▲	48.4	53.1 ▼	185.9
US	380.7	6.3 ▲	40	66.1 ▼	268.2 ▲

Additional Information & References

Overall violent crime is defined as the combined rate of four different offences: murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. To assess violent crime in Franklin County, we used the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services dashboard for crime by county for 2022, 2019, and 2016.³ Crime rates in Ohio and the United States were sourced from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer tool.⁴

Crime rates in Franklin County were calculated by dividing the raw number of incidents reported by the total population and multiplying by 100,000. Overall violent crime was calculated by first adding the individual numbers of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault for the year in question and then converting into a rate.

-  Data Gap: Future HealthMaps should consider obtaining demographic data (e.g., age, gender, racial/ethnic background) about those who experience violent crime.
-  Data Gap: Since 2013, the Columbus Division of Police did not report ~119,000 crimes to the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services' Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). Because of this, readers should exercise care when interpreting Franklin County's crime rates over time. For more information about this, readers are encouraged to visit the Columbus Division of Police's webpage, which can be accessed at <https://www.columbus.gov/Services/Public-Safety/Police>.

¹ Eberly, L. A., Julien, H., South, E. C., Venkataraman, A., Nathan, A. S., Anyawu, E. C., Dayoub, E., Groeneveld, P. W., & Khatana, S. A. M. (2022). Association Between Community-Level Violent Crime and Cardiovascular Mortality in Chicago: A Longitudinal Analysis. *Journal of the American Heart Association*, 11(14), e025168.

² Dong, B., White, C. M., & Weisburd, D. L. (2020). Poor Health and Violent Crime Hot Spots: Mitigating the Undesirable Co-Occurrence Through Focused Place-Based Interventions. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 58(6), 799-806. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2019.12.012>

³ Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. (2022). *OIBRS Data Dashboard: Crime in Ohio Counties 2016-2022 [Interactive Dashboard]*. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://ocjs.ohio.gov/research-and-data/data-reports-and-dashboards/crime-in-ohio-counties>

⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2022). *Crime Data Explorer [Interactive Dashboard]*. Retrieved in 2024 from <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

Overdose Deaths

During the past 20 years, drug overdose deaths have increased exponentially, with a particular spike noted during the COVID-19 pandemic.^{1,2} The rise in deaths is attributed to opioids, which includes prescription medications, heroin, fentanyl, and other synthetic opioids.³ The combination of opioids and other substances, for example the veterinary sedative xylazine, is a rising trend that can increase the potential of fatal overdose.⁴

135.3 per 100,000 residents in Franklin County died of an **overdose**.

↑
Up from
HM2022 (115.1)

45.2 per 100,000 residents in Franklin County died of an overdose of a synthetic narcotic such as **fentanyl**.

↓
Down from
HM2022 (54.0)

Across all geographies for the last several HealthMap assessments, the leading cause of overdose death has been “other synthetic narcotics”, a category that includes fentanyl. In Franklin County, that type of overdose death decreased since the last *HealthMap*; however, it is still much higher than the estimates for Ohio, US, or HM2019.

In Franklin County, overdose deaths due to cocaine use have increased rapidly over time.

Overdose Mortality (rate per 100,000)

	HM2025	HM2022	HM2019	Ohio	US
Total	135.3 ▲	115.1	63.5	98.1	70.9▲
1st	Other synthetic narcotics: 45.2▼	Other synthetic narcotics: 54.0	Other synthetic narcotics: 25.2	Other synthetic narcotics: 30.5	Other synthetic narcotics: 21.8
2nd	Cocaine: 28.2▲	Cocaine: 20.1	Cocaine: 13.7	Cocaine: 15.1	Psychostimulants with abuse potential: 10.5
3rd	Psychostimulants with abuse potential: 10.2▲	Psychostimulants with abuse potential: 9.1	Other opioids: 6.8	Psychostimulants with abuse potential: 11.2	Cocaine: 8.8
4th	Other opioids: 4.8▼	Other opioids: 5.4	Heroin: 5.4	Benzodiazepines: 3.5	Benzodiazepines: 3.2
5th	Benzodiazepines: 4.2▲	Benzodiazepines: 3.6	Benzodiazepines: 1.9	Antiepileptic and sedative-hypnotic drugs, unspecified: 3.3	Other opioids: 3.0

Additionally, overdose deaths from psychostimulants with abuse potential (which includes methamphetamines) have increased since the last *HealthMap*, as have overdose deaths from benzodiazepines (e.g., depressants that sedate, relieve anxiety, and reduce seizures, such as Valium®, Xanax®, Klonopin®, and others).



Healthy People 2030

Franklin County has progress to make regarding overdose deaths, particularly from synthetic opioids. Drug abuse is a nationwide crisis, and a comprehensive federal, state, and local approach will be needed to address drug supply, law enforcement, and addiction treatment.

HP2030 objective for Overdose Deaths: Not met⁷

Healthy People Objective:	Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
20.7	135.3

HP2030 objective for Synthetic Opioid Deaths: Not met⁸

Healthy People Objective:	Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
8.9	45.2

HP2030 objective for Other Opioid Deaths: Not met⁹

Healthy People Objective:	Most recent Franklin County data (HM2025)
3.4	4.8

Additional Information & References

Readers who are interested in learning more about local efforts to decrease overdoses, overdose deaths, and infectious diseases like Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS should visit the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

To measure overdose mortality in Franklin County, we sourced data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WONDER portal.^{5,6} In alignment with the Healthy People 2030 goals, these statistics included deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40-X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60-X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10-Y14), as well as drug poisoning as a multiple cause of death (ICD-10 codes T36-T50).

Note that “Other synthetic narcotics” includes fentanyl deaths, “Psychostimulants with abuse potential” includes methamphetamines, and “Other opioids” includes prescribed opioids such as oxycodone.

- ¹ Fujita-Imazu, S., Xie, J., Dhungel, B., Wang, X., Wang, Y., Nguyen, P., Khin Maung Soe, J., Li, J., & Gilmour, S. (2023). Evolving trends in drug overdose mortality in the USA from 2000 to 2020: an age-period-cohort analysis. *EClinicalMedicine*, 61, 102079. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2023.102079>
- ² DiGennaro, C., Garcia, G. P., Stringfellow, E. J., Wakeman, S., & Jalali, M. S. (2021). Changes in characteristics of drug overdose death trends during the COVID-19 pandemic. *The International journal on drug policy*, 98, 103392. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2021.103392>
- ³ Ciccarone D. (2019). The triple wave epidemic: Supply and demand drivers of the US opioid overdose crisis. *The International journal on drug policy*, 71, 183-188. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2019.01.010>
- ⁴ Hays, H. L., Spiller, H. A., DeRienz, R. T., Rine, N. I., Guo, H. T., Seidenfeld, M., Michaels, N. L., & Smith, G. A. (2024). Evaluation of the relationship of xylazine and fentanyl blood concentrations among fentanyl-associated fatalities. *Clinical toxicology (Philadelphia, Pa.)*, 62(1), 26-31. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2024.2309326>
- ⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2022, and from provisional data for years 2023-2024, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html>
- ⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.
- ⁷ Healthy People 2030 objective SU-03, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- ⁸ Healthy People 2030 objective IVP-22, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- ⁹ Healthy People 2030 objective IVP-21, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan can be accessed at <https://cfcap-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Elevated blood lead levels (EBLL)

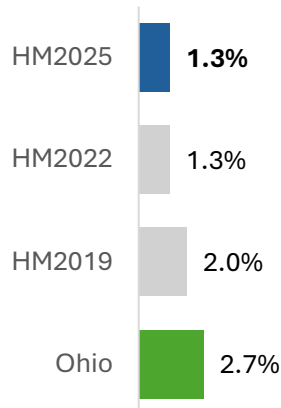
Although elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) are detrimental to all people, they are particularly harmful to children. Young children exposed to high levels of lead are at increased risk for brain damage and developmental delays, lower muscle function, and damage to the kidneys and other organs.¹ Children are primarily exposed to lead by consuming contaminated paint, dust, or water.¹

1.3% of tested children under 6 years old had an **elevated blood lead level.**

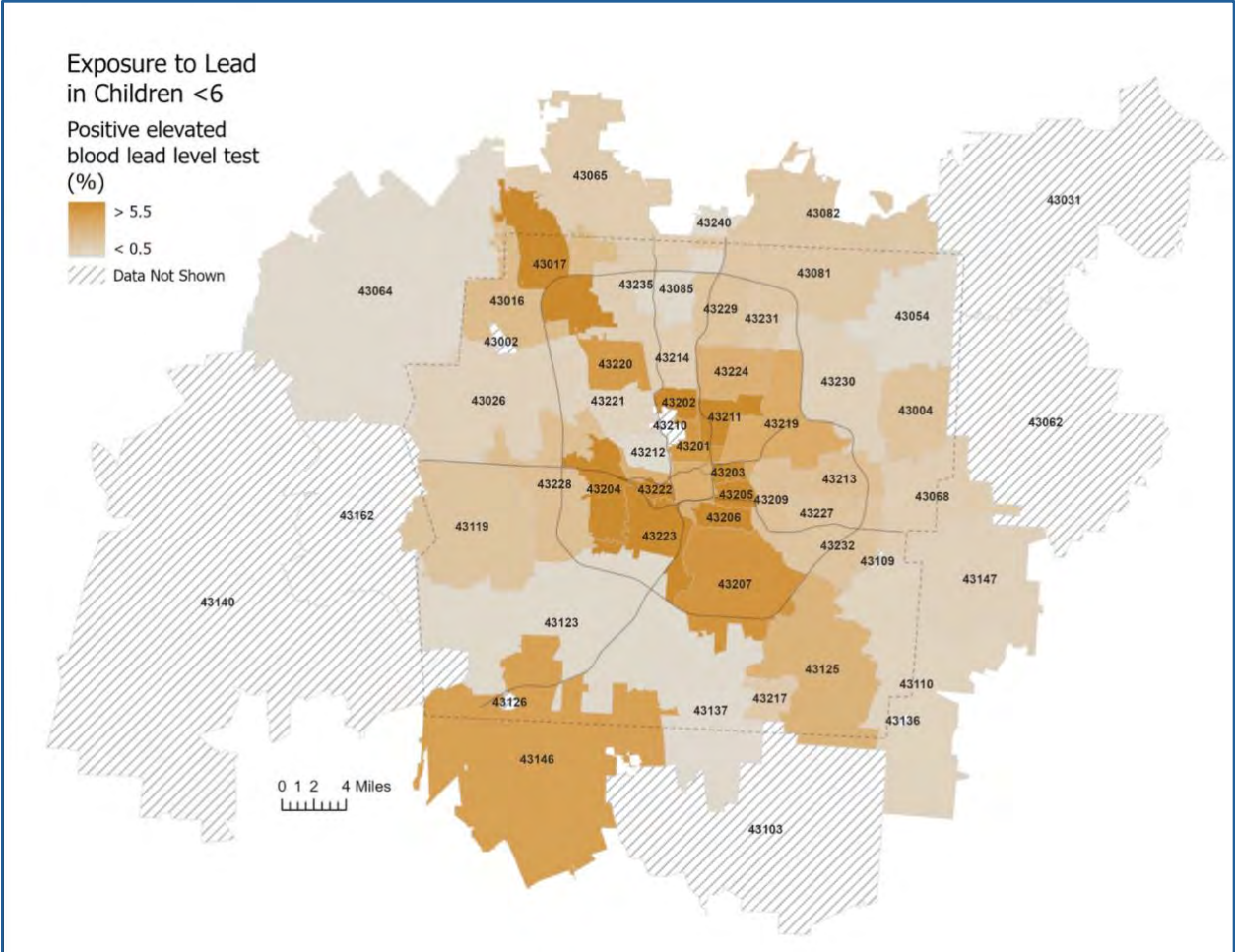
≈
Similar to
HM2022 (1.3%)

Since HM2019, the percentage of tested young children with elevated blood lead levels has decreased. Currently, the percentage of tested young children with elevated blood lead levels in Franklin County is less than half that of tested young children in Ohio overall.

Elevated Blood Lead Levels ($\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) among children under age 6 who were tested for lead



As shown in the map on the next page, greater percentages of children under age 6 in the following areas have elevated blood lead levels: east-central Franklin County (43203, 43205), southern Franklin County (43206), west-central Franklin County (43222, 43223, 43204), northern Columbus (43202, 43211), and far northwestern Franklin County/Dublin (43017).



Additional Information & References

To assess elevated blood lead levels in children under 6 years old, data were obtained from Ohio’s Blood Lead Testing Program.² Although the threshold for determining elevated blood lead levels in Ohio changed in 2023 (i.e., from $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ to $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$), for the sake of historical comparisons *HealthMap2025* retained the threshold of $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$. In the map visualizations for 2023, the updated threshold of $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ was used. Franklin County Public Health staff then mapped these data for each zip code in Franklin County.

¹ Abadin, H., Ashizawa, A., Stevens, Y. W., Llados, F., Diamond, G., Sage, G., Citra, M., Quinones, A., Bosch, S. J., & Swarts, S. G. (2007). *Toxicological Profile for Lead*. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (US).

² DataOhio. (2023). *Blood Lead Testing Public (2016-present)* [Interactive Dashboard]. Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Retrieved in 2024 from https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/blood-lead-testing-public-_2016-present_?visualize=true

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic disease that affects people’s lungs, and is one of the most common long-term diseases among children.¹ Because environmental health factors such as outdoor air pollution (e.g., ozone, particulate matter) has been associated with increased asthma symptoms, asthma is included in this section of *HealthMap2025*.²

9.9% of Franklin County adults reported asthma.

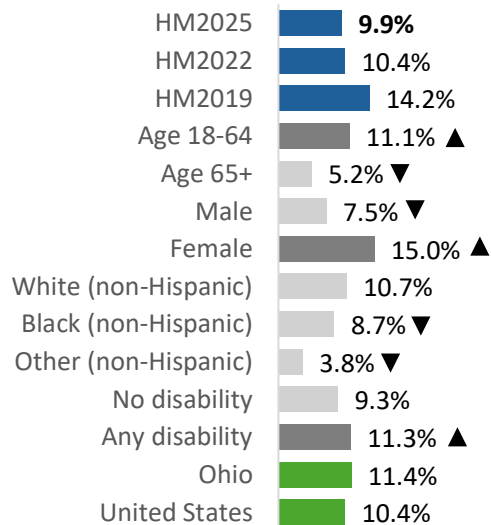
Similar to HM2022 (10.4%)

Disparities by selected social determinants of health

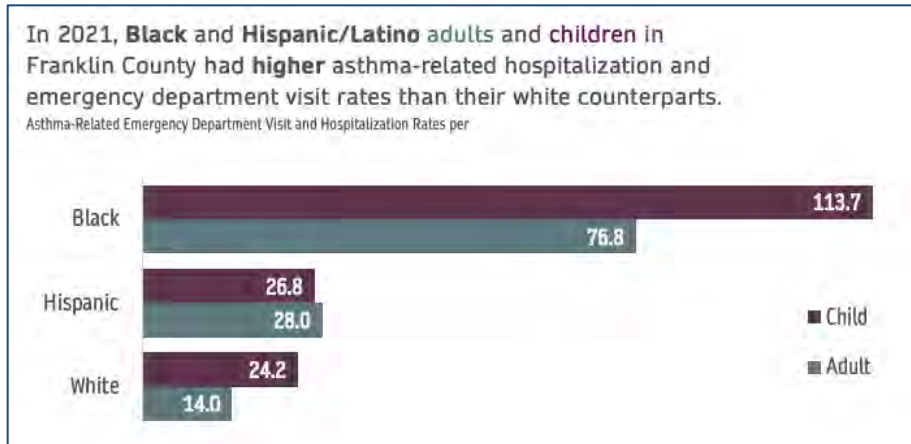
Age:	Sex:	Race/Ethnicity:	Geography:
Younger more likely	Female more likely	None observed	Observed (see map)

Asthma is lower among older adults than younger adults, which could be due to either changes in diagnoses or superseding respiratory diagnoses in the elderly (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD). Females and individuals with disabilities are both more likely to report this health condition.

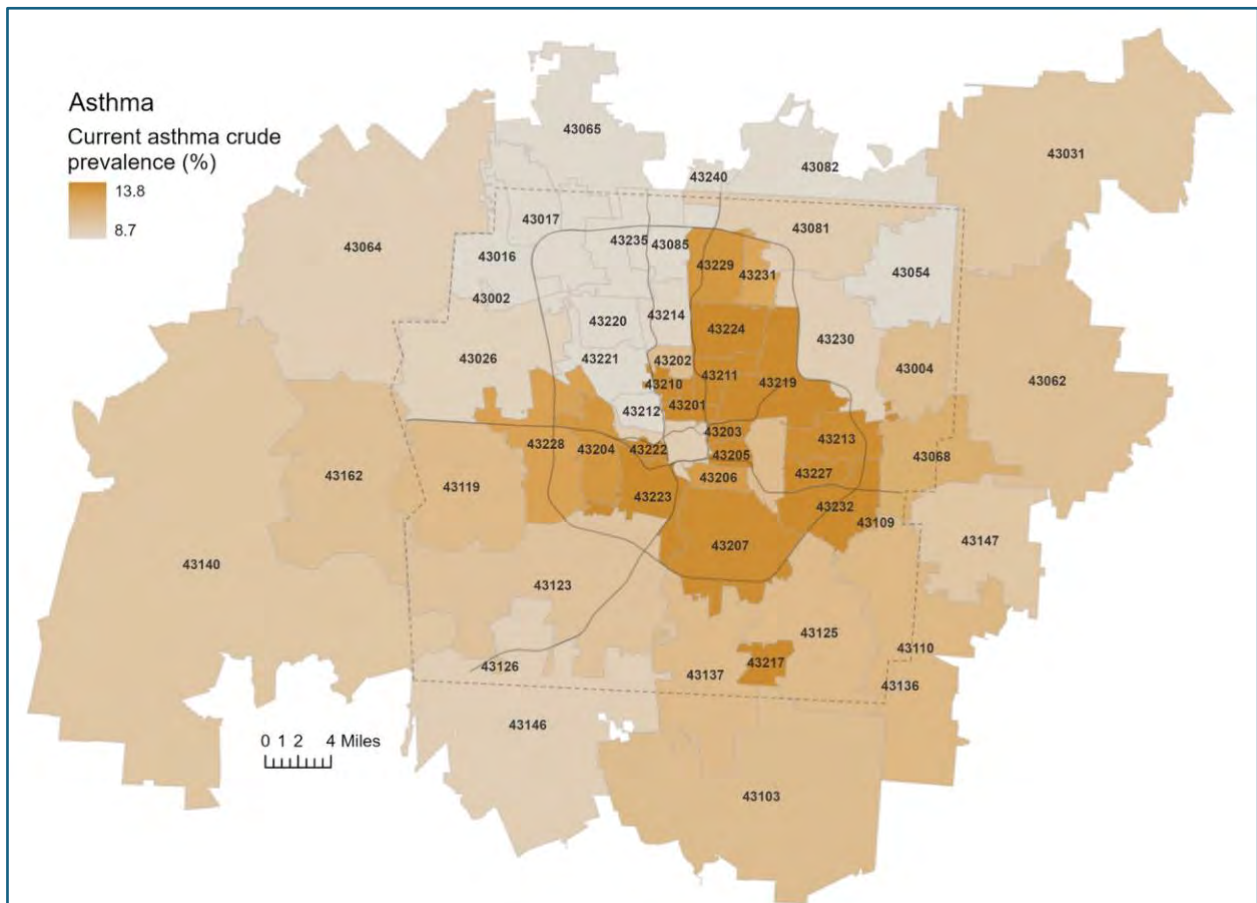
A recent analysis of asthma prevalence by poverty status revealed that among Franklin County residents living in poverty, 22.7% of adults and 18.8% of children have ever been diagnosed with asthma (see below).



Additionally, a recent analysis revealed that black and Hispanic adults and children in Franklin County had much higher rates of asthma-related hospitalization and emergency department visits as compared to white individuals.



As shown in the map below, asthma prevalence is higher in most Franklin County zip codes that are within I-270, except for those zip codes in the northwestern quadrant.



[Additional Information & References](#)

Readers who are interested in learning more about this topic should also consider visiting the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's 2023 Report on Central Ohio's Air Quality, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#), as well as Franklin County Public Health's Data Hub Climate & Health webpage which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

To assess the prevalence of this chronic condition, *HealthMap2025* obtained recent data from the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which completes structured survey interviews with residents via telephone.³ In most cases, survey respondents were asked if a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ever told them that they had a specific chronic health condition.

To enable comparisons by demographic subgroups (e.g., age, sex, race), Columbus Public Health staff analyzed BRFSS data using the most recent year or two available (typically 2021 & 2022). To map the prevalence of these indicators at the zip code level, Franklin County Public Health staff obtained prevalence estimates from the CDC's PLACES⁴ resource, which uses BRFSS data (2021 or 2022), Census Bureau data (either the 2020 decennial census or 2022 annual population estimates), and American Community Survey data (2018-2022 estimates).

Franklin County Public Health staff conducted the analyses of asthma prevalence by poverty status and rates of asthma-related hospitalization by racial/ethnic background and created the visuals depicting the key findings from those analyses.⁵

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) About Asthma.
<https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/about/index.html>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Environmental Triggers of Asthma.
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/asthma/treatment_management_prevention.html#outdoor

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2022 (HM2025), 2019 (HM2022), 2015 (HM2019)

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES: Local Data for Better Health. (n.d.).
<https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

⁵ Franklin County Public Health. (2024). Personal communication: Asthma Grant Statement of Need.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's 2023 Report on Central Ohio's Air Quality can be accessed at https://www.morpc.org/2023/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MORPC_End-of-season-AQ-report-2023-updated.pdf. Franklin County Public Health's Data Hub Climate & Health webpage can be accessed at <https://fcph-data-hub-fca.hub.arcgis.com/pages/climate>.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that can occur after a person is bit by a tick. The Annual Summary of Reportable Diseases (2022) for Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#), presented recent data about the number of Lyme disease cases, along with various rate calculations. A snippet from that report is displayed below.

DISEASE SPOTLIGHT:

LYME DISEASE

LYME DISEASE		2022
Number of Cases		38
Rate*	Overall	2.9
	Female	2.4
	Male	3.4
Age of cases (in years)	Mean	29
	Median	18
	Range	4-72

* Rate per 100,000 population

LOCAL FACTS:

In Columbus and Franklin County in 2022:

- The Lyme disease rate among males was higher than the rate among females.
- 50% of confirmed and probable cases were pediatric cases.
- 96.8% of confirmed and probable cases were among whites of non-Hispanic or non-Latino descent.

EPIDEMIOLOGY³

Infectious Agent: *Borrelia burgdorferi* or *Borrelia mayonii*, spirochete-type bacteria

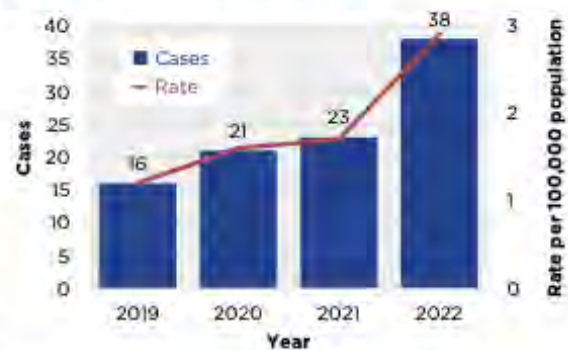
Case Definition: Please see the Ohio Infectious Disease Control Manual: Lyme Disease.

Mode of Transmission: The spirochete-type bacteria is transmitted through the bite of a tick: *Ixodes pacificus* in the western and *Ixodes scapularis* in the eastern and midwestern United States.

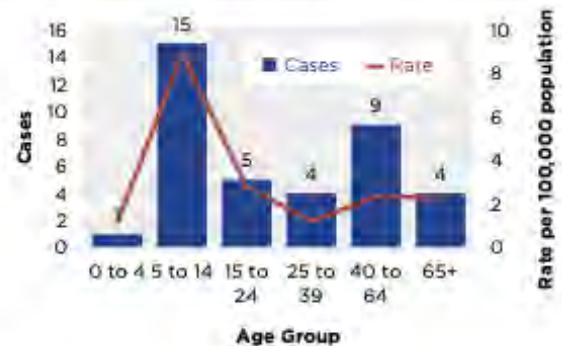
Incubation Period: Erythema migrans rash appears 3-32 days after tick bite (mean 7-10 days); early stages of the illness may be unapparent and the patient may present with later manifestations.

Symptoms: Approximately 70-80% of infected persons develop a circular rash called erythema migrans (EM) that begins at the site of a tick bite after a delay of 3-32 days (average is 7 days). The rash gradually expands over a period of several days, reaching up to 12 inches (30 cm) across. Other symptoms include fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and swollen lymph nodes.

LYME DISEASE CASES AND RATES BY YEAR, FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2019-2022



LYME DISEASE CASES AND RATES BY AGE GROUP, FRANKLIN COUNTY, 2022



***VISION OF A HEALTHY FRANKLIN
COUNTY***

Vision of a Healthy Franklin County

Over the course of eleven community focus groups and multiple Steering Committee meetings, Franklin County residents shared their perceptions of and vision for a healthy community.

According to community members, a healthy community is one in which:

- Residents have **financial stability** at a level that allows them **to meet their basic needs**. In this vein, residents also believe that a healthy community is one in which it is easier to access financial assistance when needed.
- Residents **feel connected to their community**; they know their neighbors and have open communication with members of the community, including government officials.
- Residents can **move more easily around Franklin County**, which includes having better public transportation options and more walkable communities.
- Residents' **health needs are reflected in the built environment**, which would contain more green spaces, spaces to socialize with neighbors, grocery stores, and medical offices.
- Residents feel **safe** in their homes and neighborhoods.
- Residents can **easily access healthy food**, specifically unprocessed and nutritious food.
- The community's **youth have resources they need to thrive**. This includes ensuring youth can access safe and engaging parks and playgrounds. It also includes ensuring parents and others in the community provide youth with the needed support to achieve good outcomes in terms of mental health, education, and jobs.

Community Voices: Financial Stability

Franklin County residents believe that addressing poverty and income inequality is necessary to have a healthy community. They know that residents cannot focus on improving their health when they are worried about finances, and also that a lack of financial stability is related to crime in their communities.



"You have to eliminate poverty in order to have a healthy community so that people will see opportunity. They don't see opportunity as long as they don't have any [resources]. If you don't have any resources, then your whole day is taken, scrambling. You only see the next 10 hours, the next 12 hours, the next maybe 24 if you're feeling good on that day. And that's not a way to have a healthy community."

"I think where everybody's needs are met, whatever they may be, at whatever level they are at, from the very wealthy to those with pennies. It shouldn't be such a struggle for so many. I think about the single moms...rent is astronomical, and people want to be independent, but they

can't because it's prohibitive. And the equality of just a standard of living, I think should be more easily reachable than it is."

"Healthy looks like everybody being able to go 8 hours and be able to pay your bills, because a lack of resources or money leads to crime. Everything is a trickle-down effect, and until people that are sitting high and looking low meet people where they're at, it will always look unhealthy because people don't have what they need."

"Everybody being able to survive. Not so much worrying about, 'I got this, but my neighbor doesn't. So are they gonna try to come and get it?' If everybody was able to, not so much have the same thing, but to be able to afford the same things...being able to get your groceries weekly, being able to keep your lights on, keeping your roof over your head without having to worry..."

Many Franklin County residents need help securing basic needs due to a lack of financial stability. Residents believe that a healthy community would better promote the resources available to help residents.



"I think a healthy community could be a community that is well educated and knows what resources are available to them. And because we've got all these generational gaps, the information is given in certain ways that it's hard to say for the masses, 'This is where you can go get food at Mid-Ohio. These are the times that this church will let you come and get clothing, or this is what the Buckeye Ranch is for. This is what the Lions International does here in Grove City or our Rotary department.' Like, what are all our nonprofits that are available throughout Franklin County, and what they do."

"I noticed that my whole community is families. And at one point in time, I was just gonna put my feet on the ground, just go out there and just start passing off flyers because there's so much stuff that goes on that people don't know about. We have people out there who are not computer literate. You have grandparents raising their grandkids that don't know about resources or that need help with certain things and they can't get it because how can they know if you're not out there advocating in the community?"

"Resources, like the community just coming out advocating— I noticed in my neighborhood we have churches, and those churches do not come out there and say, 'Hey, we're having this or we're having that.' None of that. I stay in the area which is off of Fairwood. I get most of my resources over off of Parsons. It's really bad."

Residents also think that in a healthy community, it would be easier to access resources for assistance. They named specific barriers to utilizing childcare support and housing support that need to be addressed in Franklin County.



"A lot of the older community doesn't know how to access [things], because it used to be picking up the phone. They don't know how to text, and now you have to text or you have to use your laptop or your computer."

"Don't make them beg for it, if they need it. It takes six months [to get assistance], when they was hungry six months ago. Don't do that."

"Even with Title 20, I could not afford work because daycare for my two babies cost me \$2,600 a month. I think they work backwards. I understand that you have to have the job, but you take forever to process my application to put my kids in daycare. So if I say I start work this day and you say, 'Well, your application is not processed,' then what am I supposed to do with my kids? So there goes my job. Now I got to start back over again."

"They were supposed to have something set up within the city where landlords could not restrict certain people who did not meet the income criteria if they had a voucher. Well, they've gotten around that. [housing program] just recently gave over 10,000 vouchers. And so you look at all the people who have had vouchers before on top of that, and then when [housing program] switched over to [housing program], people have just been losing places where they live because the process has not been set straight properly yet, and so it's just not a good thing all the way."

Community Voices: Feeling Connected to their Community

Franklin County residents think a healthy community is one where people feel connected with each other, where lines of communication between neighbors and others in the community are open and mutually beneficial.



"I think it's a community where you feel safe to share what you truly need, and you can go to any neighbor for what that need is. Maybe they can help, maybe they can't. But you feel safer to share what you need and who you are."

"The ability to interact with other people and meet people. It's really important to have a social community."

"I think a healthy community is what people make it. So I feel like a lot of togetherness and a lot of people coming together to promote healthiness, do group walks or things like that."

"Communication in the community. I grew up, we were never friends with our neighbor. She told us the neighbors just want to be in your business. It was like a 'hi', 'bye.' But I think now, as I got older, I realized that communicating with other people in the community actually helps the neighborhood. We're all on the court, let's help clean this up. Like, we had

an older gentleman who couldn't cut his grass. So we started taking turns helping him out with his yard."

"There's more and more interaction between the people living there...when we think about our government officials and making decisions about laws and financial decisions, even involving property taxes and all those types of things. It feels like there's a big disconnect in many different levels between community members, legislators, neighbors. And it'd be great if we could all just get along."

Residents believe that in a healthy community, neighbors feel safe talking to each other about issues in the community and ways that they can better coexist.



"Being able to communicate with your neighbors. Just having that dialogue, if something's going on, knowing that you are safe to go to that person and say, 'Hey.'...Just being able to have that, without a fear of retaliation kind of thing."

"Sensitivity and respect to boundaries. I think that a simple one could be, 'Hey, I would prefer you not to walk through my grass.' And picking up after dogs. Some people can just be completely disrespectful, disregard things like that."

Residents also feel that in a healthy community, residents would not fear or stigmatize people based on their race, religion, or past incarceration.



"Neighborhoods where anybody can belong, no matter what color, what religion."

"People don't trust each other anymore. People, they need to talk and come together. And I think it's almost like a racial divide... A lot of times I'm profiled...Just assuming 'she got a bookbag, she must be-' It happens, especially in the summertime. I love books. I'm in [a neighborhood bookstore]. A lot of people [there], they're scared of me. Why are you scared of me? That's why people need to come and talk to each other, period."

"Breaking stigmas [around] restored citizens, no matter what their background is. Normalizing, getting over a stigma for your neighbors, like, what if it is your brother? What if it is your sister? I think helps build relationships and be more accepting. Because I do believe, even if they have done some of the most egregious crimes...they still have to be our neighbors, and they still deserve a second chance, in my opinion."

Community Voices: Mobility in Franklin County

Franklin County residents believe that public transportation needs to be improved for the community to be healthy.



"I think there has to be good transportation. It's great if you have a car, but if you don't have a car, it's hard to get places. It takes a long time. You really have to think about it. Like, it's a task. And I think that's detrimental to getting people where they need to be. And I just think that it would be nice if there was some sort of transportation that would make getting places easier."

"[public transportation provider] is not always the best. They have some sketchy characters and different things that don't make you feel as safe."

Residents also think their communities could be healthier if they were more walkable. Along with having more resources within walking distance, residents say sidewalks need to be improved for people to feel safe walking in their communities.



"Walkability to do your errands, like grocery shopping, post office, or whatever it could be."

"Where I live at, there's not a lot of sidewalks. So a lot of times you see people walking the brims or drain part or whatnot. There's accidents that be out there. You walk at night, there's not a lot of lights. So you could be out there and nobody sees you."

"I live in a really more aging community. Even though I find it walkable, because we do have sidewalks, a lot of people have a hard time getting around if the sidewalks aren't fixed or if they can't necessarily drive themselves. And we don't have a lot of public transportation where I live."

"When I think of a healthy community, I think of places where there are sidewalks, the sidewalks are accessible, and ideally clean. Not only that, but walkable access to resources. So it's not mandatory that you have to have a car to be able to get to those resources."

Community Voices: A Healthy Built Environment

A healthy community would also have improvements to the built environment, including more parks, more places to socialize aside from bars, and more grocery stores, daycares, and medical facilities. Overall, the residents would be more mindful of the environment, keeping it clean and quiet.



"Having a lot of places where neighbors can gather, even if that's like a park or coffee shop or like, a grassy space available. And ideally, places where neighbors can gather that aren't always driven by alcohol, like a bar. Both of those options...those physical elements can kind of facilitate those social elements. So I'm thinking, like, unless I'm going door to door, how would I meet my neighbors if I'm not going for a walk in my neighborhood or something like that?"

"Access to green space."

"We don't have any grocery stores. We don't have daycares. I've got to go over to OSU East in order to find medical care. I mean, there's a clinic on Main Street, but it's just overflowing."

"People take care of their yards or, you know, keeping the trash off the streets. [No] noise pollution. That drives me crazy."

Community Voices: Accessing Nutritious Food

Residents believe that for the community to be healthier, it needs to be easier to access quality and nutritious foods. Multiple residents brought up the fact that their neighborhoods are currently in food deserts, and more opportunities to access food need to be brought into the community.



"The community has quality food, accessible grocery stores, farmers markets and things like that."

"A healthy neighborhood for me is in my neighborhood they provide pantries, and a lot of things go on in our community center, like a fish fry Friday and stuff like that. So they provide to those that have lower incomes."

"Having access to free produce."

"Natural foods being grown and sold."

"Healthy neighborhood has diversity and resources. But we are in a food desert."

"We're still in a food desert, obviously. I gotta drive to, like, Whitehall or wherever is closest cause I live off of Fairwood. We just need more resources."

Community Voices: Feelings of Safety

Residents think that there could be improvements to how safe they feel in their homes and out in their communities. In a healthy community, they would see more evidence that crimes are addressed, and they would feel it is safer for children to play outside. Community members also worry about how safe youth are at school.



"Some sense of security, like physical security. If there is some type of crime, to have an actual response. Currently, if there's an issue that happens in our neighborhood, it's very rare that an officer comes out. You do an online report which just kind of disappears. I think that's a concern from an officer's standpoint. But security makes your neighborhood feel healthy."

"I think feeling safe in your community. And in your house and walking."

"Children feel safe to play in a neighborhood. Where they don't have to be concerned about what's happening around them. They can just be kids and play."

"We really want our kids to be outdoors and walk or ride their bikes and stuff. That's a health thing, right? That helps your health a lot. But all these speeding drivers on your streets, that's a barrier for our kids to be outside. Or for us to be outside."

"A safe and adequate education. Shouldn't have to worry they are gonna die every day they walk out the door. Safe getting there. Safe in the building. Safe."

Community Voices: Resources for Youth to Thrive

Many Franklin County residents say that a community looks healthy when they see children playing outside. They think that to encourage more children to do this, they need more opportunities and better infrastructure for playgrounds and parks.



"I was able to buy a house. And the street's awesome. And there's kids playing outside. And to me seeing kids playing and having fun, that's a sign of a healthy community."

"Kids really don't play outside. The engagement of kids being outside and them knowing their neighbors and being able to go to the park...But even parks nowadays need to be updated, they're run down, rusting, or have been torn down completely. So even when they're going to the park, they don't have anything to entertain them."

"Something as simple as having sidewalks in all communities, so kids can get up and get out all around...just playgrounds, sports courts, things like that to get kids outside active."

Residents also believe a healthy community better supports youth when it comes to their education. They believe that the issues that keep kids from having good grades, school attendance, and future success are part of larger problems that need to be addressed.



"We lost the slogan of 'It Takes a Village.' I honestly believe that even with the school system, I feel like the support is just not there. Even when COVID happened, they threw these kids in homes talking about 'get on the computer and do the work.'"

"Y'all don't know who they're staying with. Y'all don't know their living situations. Y'all don't even know if they're even living anywhere. Y'all don't even know what's going on. So I just feel like the support is just not there like it used to be...You're worried about attendance and kids coming to school every day, but y'all really need to be asking, why aren't these kids coming?...Because you've got older kids that have to stay home with the younger kids so that parents and guardians can go to work to keep a roof over their head. And these are problems that this town is not looking at."

"We work in this school system...and school is nothing like it used to be. Because you have so many kids that are traumatized...You have more children with behavioral problems and emotional problems. And you can look at each classroom, maybe six or seven in each classroom that are doing what you're supposed to be doing. And it's a zoo. I mean, all the resources are there. You have psychologists, you have counselors, you have all this, and then you have a lot of wonderful parents. But then you got parents that don't care."

"I work with the kids who have been kicked out of their home schools. And it is just really hard to get them motivated in this day and age to want to work or to learn a new skill. If we could have more resources to get them those hands-on skills to work jobs...I mean, I have a student who's 18, I've tried to get him to get his temps. I tried to get him to get a job or to volunteer, and they just say, 'I don't want to work fast food. I don't want this.' And I'm like, you have to try something."

Other features of healthy communities brought up by community members included:

- A greater variety of small businesses in their communities.
- More accessible and affordable health care options throughout the county, such as mobile clinics that they typically only see in the inner city.
- Better access to mental health resources.

Community Assets and Resources

The list of non-profit and private organizations working to impact the priority health needs reviewed in this document is endless. The Central Ohio community is well positioned to impact adverse health outcomes because of these collective efforts.

The partners and multi-sector partnerships described in this section are currently working to address aspects of each prioritized health need identified by *HealthMap2025*; see page 185 for a visualization of the interrelated nature of this work. A more extensive resource list will be identified during subsequent health improvement planning; it will be included in future documents and at centralohiohospitals.org.

- **Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH)** - plans, funds, and evaluates behavioral health care services that address mental health, addiction, and substance abuse. More information can be found at www.adamhfranklin.org.
- **Beautiful Beginnings** - a program funded by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners that provides home visiting and care coordination services to pregnant and postpartum individuals and their infants up to age 3. This program is one of several home visiting programs that are focused on serving Black community members and community members of color to impact racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes. Examples of key focus areas include reducing infant mortality, reducing maternal mortality and other maternal complications, and increasing access to social determinants of health.
- **CelebrateOne** - created in November 2014 as a collective impact approach to carry out the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force's recommendations and to ensure Franklin County meets its ambitious goal. More information can be found at <https://www.columbus.gov/Government/Mayors-Office/Initiatives/CelebrateOne/CelebrateOne-About-Us>.
- **Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan** - a collaborative, multi-sector, comprehensive effort to address addiction and behavioral health issues impacting Franklin County residents. More information can be found at <https://cfcap-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>.
- **Columbus Community Action Resilience Coalition (CARE)** - the CARE Coalition works to build a resilient community that honors survival and fosters hope by strengthening trauma-related policies, programs, and practices through collaboration and collective impact, and by mitigating the impact trauma has on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. More information can be found at

<https://www.columbus.gov/Services/Public-Health/Find-Health-Care-Resources/Neighborhood-Social-Services/Columbus-CARE-Coalition>.

- **Columbus Urban League** - the mission of the local affiliate of National Urban League is to empower African Americans and disenfranchised groups through economic, educational, and social progress. Visit www.cul.org for more information.
- **Community Shelter Board** - Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home, and is a collective impact organization driving strategy, accountability, collaboration, and resources to achieve the best outcomes for people facing homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. More information on CSB can be found at <https://www.csb.org>.
- **Franklin County Human Service Chamber** - serves and represents over 200 health and human service nonprofit organizations that prioritize public policies that include food and nutrition, health, housing, transportation, legal and reentry services, refugee and immigration services, workforce development, as well as youth and education policy. A comprehensive list of members can be found at www.humanservicechamber.org.
- **Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition** - aims to increase communication, coordination, and collaboration efforts in Franklin County to prevent suicide and bring hope and support to those affected by suicide. It bridges organizations together with the end goal of enhancing the overall success of our collective suicide prevention efforts. These efforts include decreasing stigma, increasing awareness of available support, promoting suicide prevention education, and improving suicide data quality. Visit <https://franklincountyspc.org> for more information.
- **Ohio Better Birth Outcomes** - The Ohio Better Birth Outcomes (OBBO) collaborative is dedicated to reducing the infant mortality rate in Franklin County by improving the delivery of health care services for women and their families using quality improvement science to guide our work. OBBO is focused on three key initiatives: Improving reproductive health; Expanding access to prenatal care; and Enhancing clinical quality initiatives to help reduce prematurity. Visit <https://ohiobetterbirthoutcomes.org> for more information
- **Rise Together Innovation Center** - oversees implementation of "A Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Franklin County," which was released by the Franklin County Commissioners in 2019 and includes 13 overarching goals and 120 action plans to address jobs, housing, health, and youth. More information on the Center can be found at <https://risetogether.franklincountyohio.gov/>.
- **The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity** - an interdisciplinary research institute at The Ohio State University that strives to connect individuals and communities with opportunities needed to thrive. More information can be found at <https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu>.
- **United Way of Central Ohio** - fights poverty by funding and coalescing a network of more than 90 non-profit partners providing opportunities and resources to meet basic needs. More information can be found at www.liveunitedcentralohio.org.

Organization / Collective Impact Effort	Mental Health	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	Maternal and Infant Health	Violence and Injury-related Deaths	Social Drivers of Health (with a focus on housing)
Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH)	✓	✓		✓	
Beautiful Beginnings			✓		
CelebrateOne			✓		
Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan	✓	✓		✓	
Columbus Community Action Resilience Coalition (CARE)	✓	✓		✓	
Columbus Urban League	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Shelter Board					✓
Franklin County Human Service Chamber		✓		✓	✓
Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition	✓	✓			
Ohio Better Birth Outcomes			✓		
Rise Together Innovation Center		✓		✓	✓
The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
United Way of Central Ohio		✓			✓

Summary

Franklin County HealthMap2025 provides a comprehensive overview of our community's health status and needs. There are numerous indicators that suggest the health of Franklin County, Ohio's residents compares favorably with the state and country.

Franklin County HealthMap2025 also uncovered several indicators that suggest areas in which the health of Franklin County's residents either has diminished over time or compares unfavorably to Ohio or the nation.

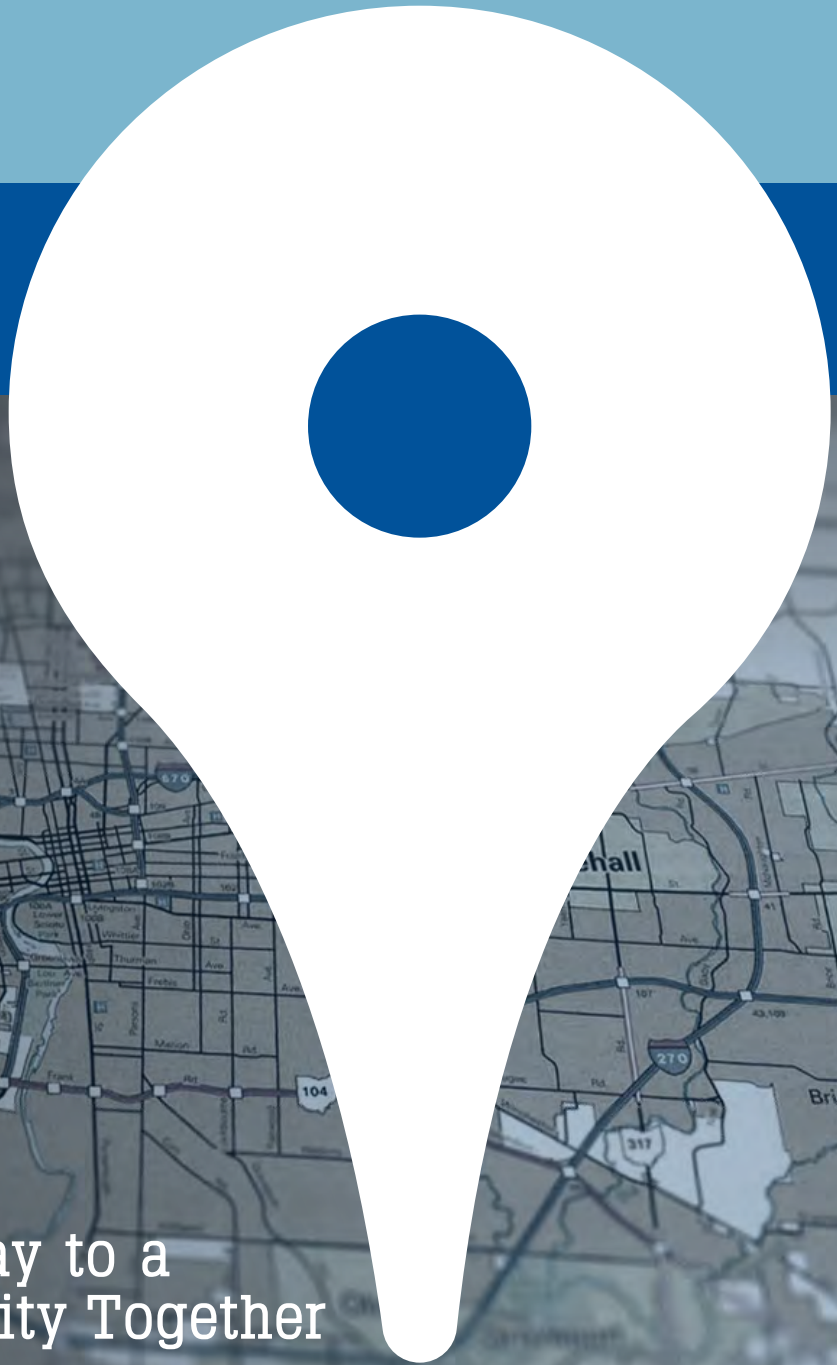
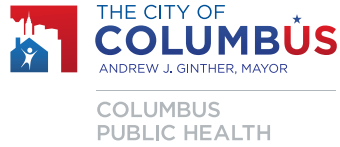
Consistent with requirements, the participating hospitals and health departments will use this report to inform development and implementation of strategies to address its findings. It is intended that a wide range of stakeholders - many more than are represented on *Franklin County HealthMap2025's* Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee - will also use this report for their own planning efforts. Subsequent planning documents and reports will be shared with stakeholders and with the public.

Users of *Franklin County HealthMap2025* are encouraged to send feedback and comments that can help to improve the usefulness of this information when future editions are developed.

Questions and comments about *Franklin County HealthMap2025* may be shared with:

Jeff Klingler, Central Ohio Hospital Council
614-358-2710 | jeffk@centralohiohospitals.org

Orie Kristel, PhD, Illuminology
614-447-3176 | orie@illuminoLOGY.net



Navigating Our Way to a Healthier Community Together



2025

Fairfield County Community Health Assessment

Published October 2025



Presented By:



Moxley

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Note From Fairfield County Health Department	3
Acknowledgments	4
Introduction	5
What Is A Community Health Assessment (CHA)?	
Overview Of The Process	
Step 1: Plan And Prepare For The Assessment	8
Brief Summary Of 2022 CHA	
Written Public Comments to 2022 CHA	
2023-2025 Priority Health Needs And Impact Evaluation of Implemented Strategies	
Step 2: Defining the Fairfield County Service Area	11
Demographics At-a-glance	
Steps 3-5: Identify, Understand And Interpret The Data	14
Primary & Secondary Data Collection	
Key Informant Interviews	
Things People Love About the Community	
Top Community Priorities	
Community Member Survey And Ranking Of Health Needs	
2025 Health Needs: Community Conditions (In Order As Ranked By The Public)	22
#1: Housing and Homelessness.....	23
#2: Access to Healthcare.....	25
#3: Substance Misuse.....	27
#4: Income/Poverty and Employment.....	29
#5: Food Insecurity.....	31
#6: Adverse Childhood Experiences.....	33
#7: Nutrition and Physical Health.....	34
#8: Crime and Violence.....	37
#9: Transportation.....	38
#10: Education.....	40
#11: Access to Childcare.....	42
#12: Preventive Care and Practice.....	44
#13: Tobacco and Nicotine Use.....	46
#14: Environmental Conditions.....	48
#15: Internet/Wi-fi Access.....	49
2025 Health Needs: Health Outcomes (In Order As Ranked By The Public)	50
#1: Mental Health.....	51
#2: Chronic Diseases.....	53
#3: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health.....	57
#4: Injuries.....	59
#5: HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).....	60
Leading Causes of Death	61
Ideas for Change from Our Community	62
Current Partners and Resources Addressing Priority Health Needs	63
Step 6: Document, Adopt/Post and Communicate Results	65
Conclusion and Next Steps	67
Appendices	
Appendix A: Impact And Process Evaluation.....	69
Appendix B: Benchmark Comparisons.....	79
Appendix C: Key Informant Interview Participants.....	81
Appendix D: Community Member Survey.....	84
Appendix E: PHAB CHA Requirements Checklist.....	95
Appendix F: References.....	97

A NOTE FROM FAIRFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Every 3 years the Fairfield County Health Department, along with our community partners from healthcare, mental health, social services, education, local government, grant funders, and more, conducts a Community Health Assessment (CHA).

FCHD continuously monitors health factors including the leading causes of death, as well as communicable and chronic disease rates. The CHA allows us to look at trends over the past 3 years and identify changes, both positive and negative, in the health of our residents. It also allows us to compare Fairfield County's health to other counties, the state of Ohio, and national rates.

Social Determinants of Health, community conditions that impact the health of our population, are also assessed during the CHA, including statistical data and community opinions collected through surveys. Social determinants include factors such as economic stability, education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community support. Examples of priorities identified during surveys include transportation, healthcare access and affordability, and housing.

The CHA helps identify our community health needs and areas where Fairfield County is behind compared to our peers. We are then able to use that information to work with our public health system partner organizations to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the county.

This Community Health Improvement Plan will be developed in early 2026. It will help us work collectively to identify priorities for funding and program development over the next 3 years.

Conducting the CHA and publishing this report relies on the participation of many individuals in our community who committed to participating in interviews and focus groups and completing our community member survey. We are grateful for those individuals and organizations who are committed to promoting the health of the community, just as we are, and who take the time to share their health concerns and ideas for improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Joseph Ebel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Joseph Ebel, MS, MBA, REHS

Health Commissioner
Fairfield County Health Department

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This Community Health Assessment (CHA) was made possible thanks to the collaborative efforts of Fairfield County, community partners, local stakeholders, non-profit partners, and community residents. Their contributions, expertise, time, and resources played a critical part in the completion of this assessment.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS REPORT:

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Agency

211 Fairfield County

Bloom-Carroll Local School District

City of Lancaster

Fairfield Community Health Center

Fairfield County

Fairfield County 211

Fairfield County ADAMH Board

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

Fairfield County Board of Health

Fairfield County EMA/Healthcare Coalition

Fairfield County Emergency Management

Fairfield County Family and Children First Council

Fairfield County Foundation

Fairfield County Health Department

Fairfield County Job and Family Services

Fairfield County Library

Fairfield County Protective Services

Fairfield County Educational Service Center

Fairfield Medical Center

Juvenile Court

Lancaster City

Lancaster City Schools

Lancaster Fire Department

Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

Lutheran Social Services

Major Crimes Unit

Mount Carmel Health System

New Horizons

OhioGuidestone

OhioHealth Pickerington Methodist Hospital

OSU Extension Office

Park National Bank

Pickerington Local School District

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

The Senior Hub/Meals on Wheels

United Way of Fairfield County

Violet Township Fire Department

FUNDING PARTNERS

Fairfield County Health Department

Fairfield Medical Center

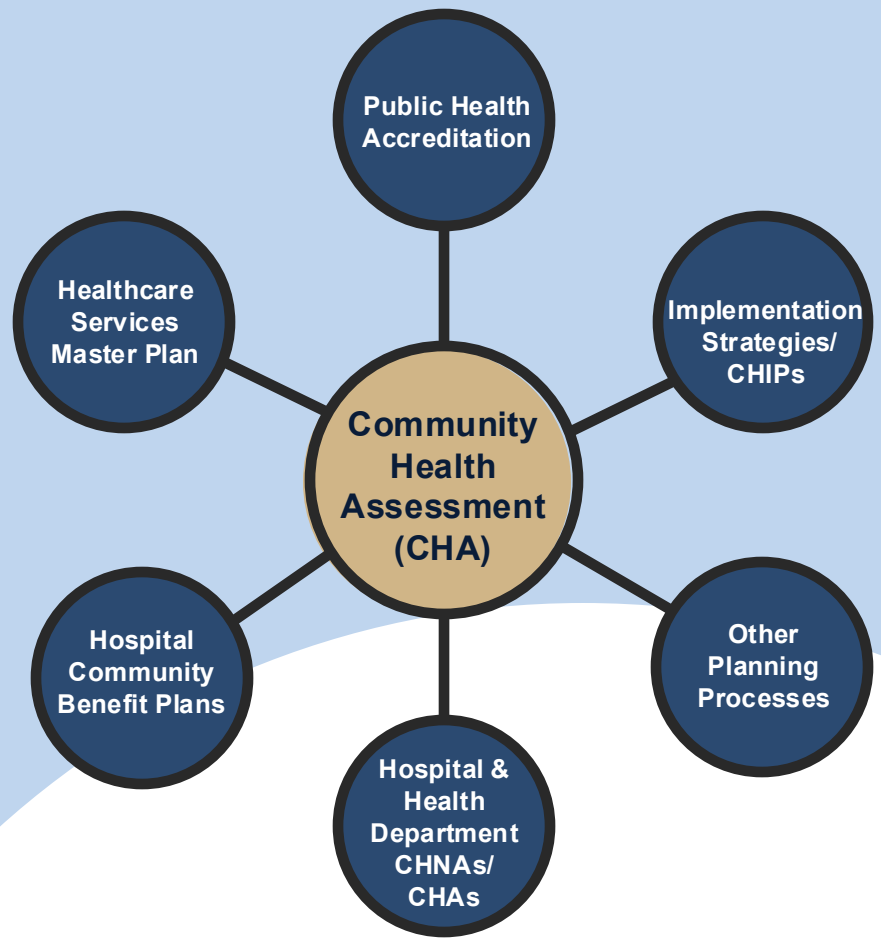
Fairfield Community Health Center

Fairfield County ADAMH Board



INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT?



A **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)** is a tool that is used to guide community health improvement activities and for several other purposes. For health departments, it is used to identify and address key health needs and supports the requirements for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The data from a CHA is also used to inform community decision-making: the prioritization of health needs and the development, implementation, and evaluation of an Improvement Plan (CHIP).

A CHA is an important piece in the development of a CHIP, because it helps the community to understand the health-related issues that need to be addressed. To identify and address the critical health needs of the service area, Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) utilized the most current and reliable information from existing sources, in addition to collecting new data through interviews and surveys with community residents and leaders.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS



In order to produce a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA), Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) followed a process that included the following steps:

STEP 1: Plan and prepare for the assessment.

STEP 2: Define the community.

STEP 3: Identify data that describes the health and needs of the community.

STEP 4: Understand and interpret the data.

STEP 5: Define and validate priorities.

STEP 6: Document and communicate results.



Affordable Care Act Requirements

Enacted on March 23, 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided guidance at a national level for CHAs for the first time. Federal requirements included in the ACA stipulate that hospital organizations under 501(c)(3) status must adhere to new 501(r) regulations, one of which is conducting a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Implementation Strategy every three years.

Accreditation Requirements

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards & Measures serves as the official guidance for PHAB national public health department accreditation and includes requirements for the completion of Community Health Assessments (CHAs) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) for local health departments.

Ohio Department of Health Requirements

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is required by state law to provide guidance to hospitals and local health departments on Community Health (Needs) Assessments (CHNAs/CHAs) and Implementation Strategies/Improvement Plans (CHIPs). In July 2016, HB 390 (ORC 3701.981) was enacted by Ohio in order to improve population health planning in the state by identifying health needs and priorities by conducting a CHNA/CHA and subsequently developing an Implementation Strategy/CHIP to address those needs in the community.

**THE 2025 FAIRFIELD COUNTY CHA MEETS ALL OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS.**

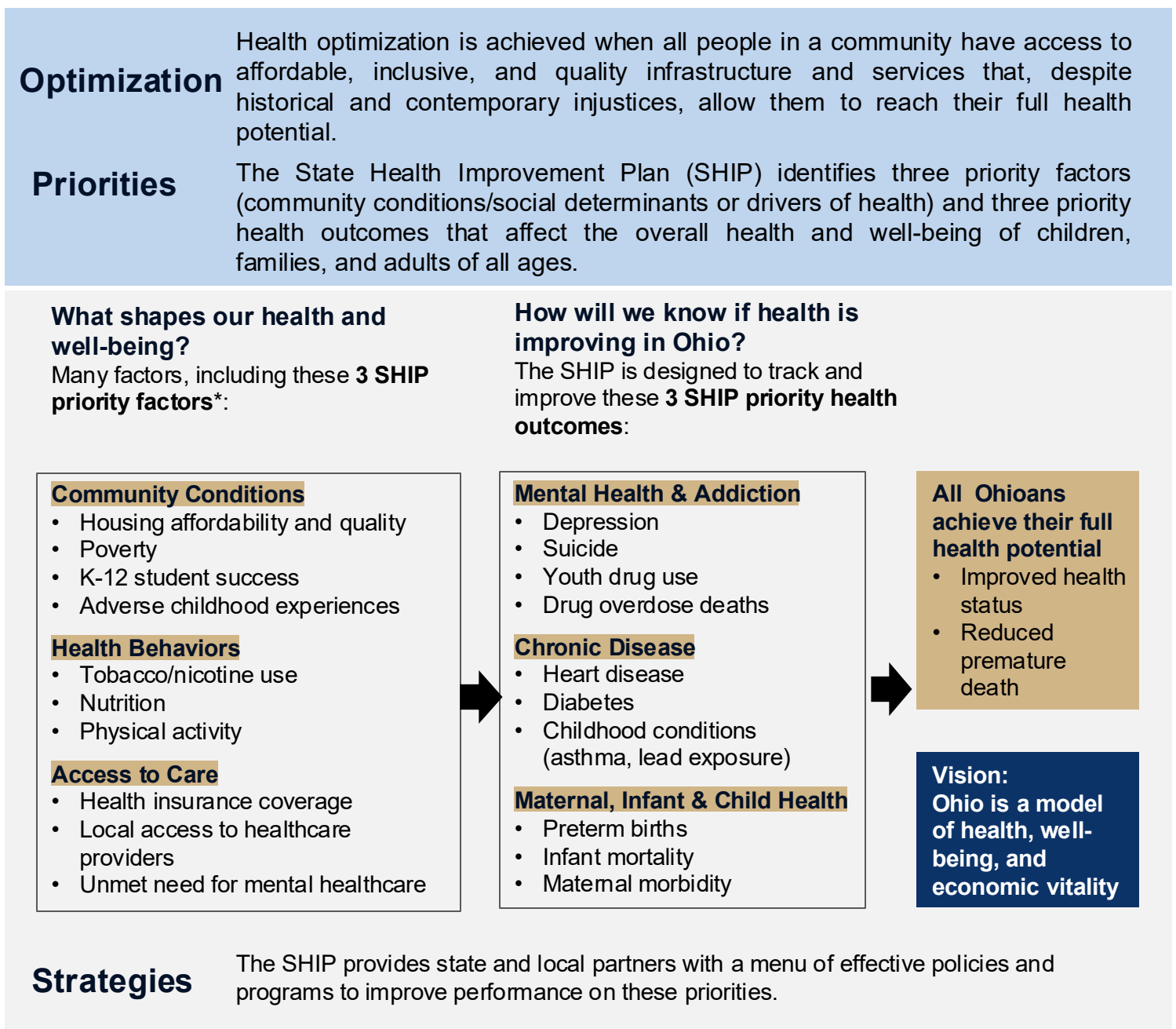
OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS (CONTINUED)



Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Requirements

The following image shows the framework from ODH that this report followed while also adhering to federal requirements and the community's needs.

Figure 1: Ohio State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Framework



* These factors are sometimes referred to as the social determinants of health or the social drivers of health.

STEP 1 PLAN AND PREPARE FOR THE ASSESSMENT



In this step, Fairfield County Health Department:

- ✓ Determined who would participate in the needs assessment process
- ✓ Planned for community engagement
- ✓ Engaged health department
- ✓ Determined how the community health assessment would be conducted
- ✓ Developed a preliminary timeline

PLAN AND PREPARE

Fairfield County Health Department began planning for the 2025 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment in January 2025. They involved health board leadership, kept partnership members informed of the assessment activities, allocated funds to the process, and most importantly, engaged the community through various established relationships with leaders of organizations and people populations, in collaboration with Moxley Public Health.

The assessment team worked together to formulate the multistep process of planning and conducting a CHA. They then formed a timeline for the process.

“ *Community Health Assessments (CHAs) are the foundation for improving and promoting the health of community members. The role of a community assessment is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to adequately address these factors.*

- Catholic Health Association

”



PREVIOUS COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA) & COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)



PREVIOUS CHA (2022) AND CHIP

In 2022, Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) and Fairfield Medical Center conducted its previous CHA. Significant health needs were identified from issues supported by primary and secondary data sources gathered for the CHA. The Implementation Strategy/CHIP associated with the 2022 Fairfield County CHA addressed access to care and chronic disease.

The previous CHA and CHIP were made available to the public on the following website:

Fairfield County Health Department: <https://www.fairfieldhealth.org/FDH-Community-Health-Assessment.html>

(Written comments on this report were solicited on the website where the report was posted.)

IMPACT/PROCESS EVALUATION OF 2023-2025 STRATEGIES

In collaboration with community partners, FCHD developed and approved a CHIP report for 2023-2025 to address the significant health needs that were identified in the 2022 Fairfield County CHA (access to care and chronic disease). **Appendix A** describes the evaluation of the strategies that were planned in the 2023-2025 CHIP.



STEP 2

Defining The Fairfield County Service Area



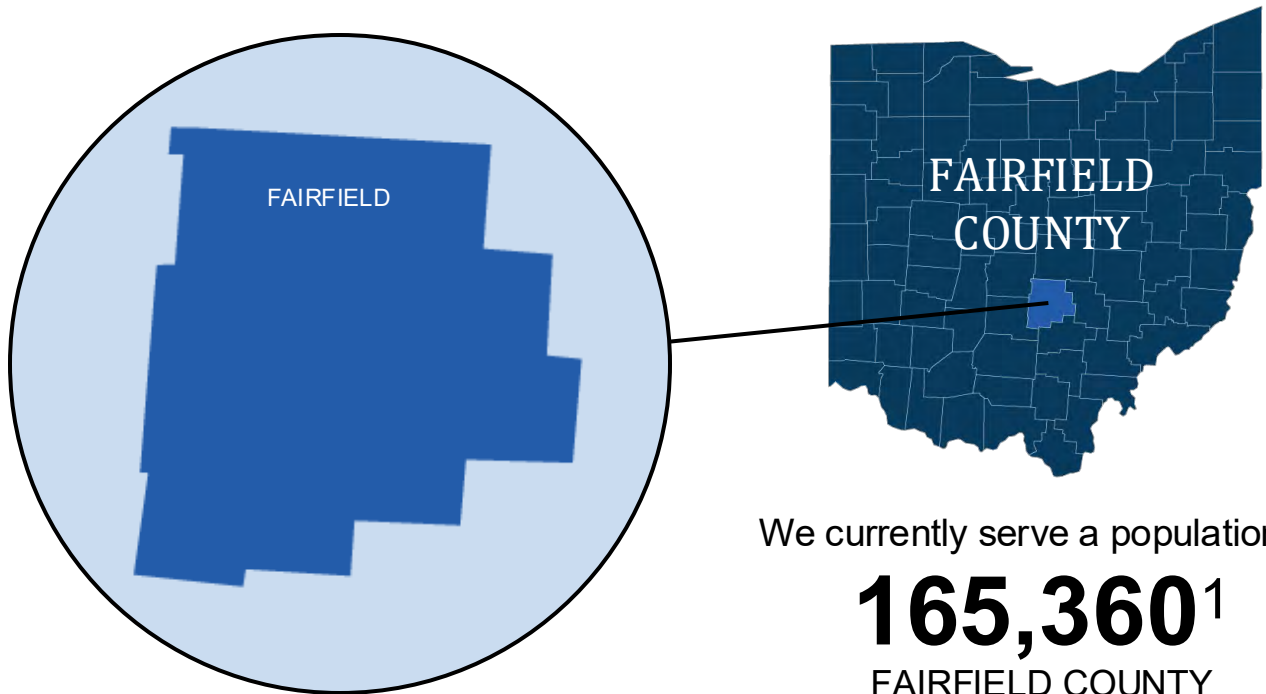
In this step, Fairfield County Health Department:

- ✓ Described Fairfield County's service area
- ✓ Determined the purpose of the needs assessment

DEFINING THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY SERVICE AREA



For the purposes of this report, Fairfield County Health Department defines their primary service area as being made up of Fairfield County, Ohio.



FAIRFIELD COUNTY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AREA ¹		
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	POPULATION	PERCENT OF POPULATION
Lancaster	41,422	25.0%
Pickerington	25,155	15.2%
Portions of Columbus, Reynoldsburg, and Canal Winchester	14,242	8.6%
12 Villages & 12 Townships	84,541	51.1%

FAIRFIELD COUNTY AT-A-GLANCE

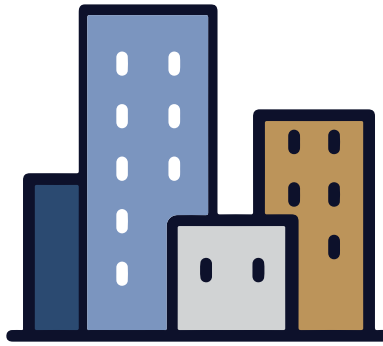
Fairfield County's population is **165,360**. The population of Fairfield County has **slightly increased** while Ohio's **remained relatively the same** in the past 3 years.¹



+3.3%
FAIRFIELD
COUNTY

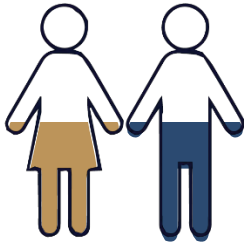


-0.1%
OHIO



Fairfield County ranked **14th of 88** ranked counties in Ohio in Health factors, according to social, economic, and health factors (with 1 being the best), placing it in the **top 10%** of the all the state's counties.²

The percentage of males are **equal** to females.³



50% 50%



7%

of Fairfield County residents are **veterans**, slightly lower than the state rate.⁴



Youth, ages 0-18, and seniors 65+ make up

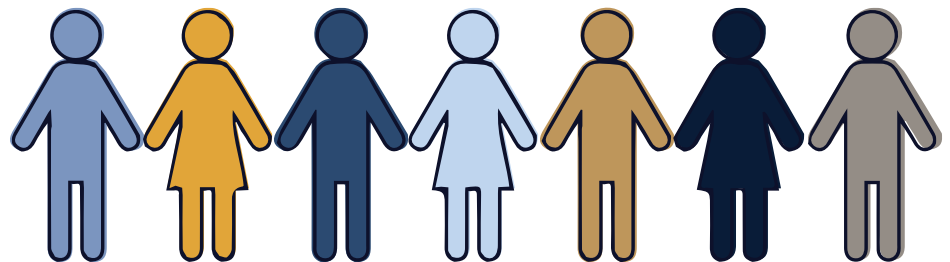
40% of the population

In Fairfield County, **nearly 1 in 6 residents (16%) are age 65+**.³



95% of the population in Fairfield County **speaks only English**. **4%** are **foreign-born**.^{4,5}

The **majority (82%)** of the population in Fairfield County identifies as **White** as their only race.³



82%
WHITE
RESIDENTS

2.7%
HISPANIC
OR LATINO
RESIDENTS

8.9%
BLACK/
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
RESIDENTS

0.0%
AMERICAN
INDIAN/
ALASKA
NATIVE
RESIDENTS

2.6%
ASIAN
RESIDENTS

0.1%
NATIVE
HAWAIIAN/
PACIFIC
ISLANDER
RESIDENTS

3.6%
MULTI-
RACIAL/
OTHER
RESIDENTS



The life expectancy in Fairfield County of **76.4 years** is **1.2 years longer** than it is for the state of Ohio.²



1 in 244

Fairfield County residents will **die prematurely**, which is lower than the Ohio state rate.²

STEPS 3, 4 & 5

Identify, Understand, And Interpret The Data And Prioritize Health Needs

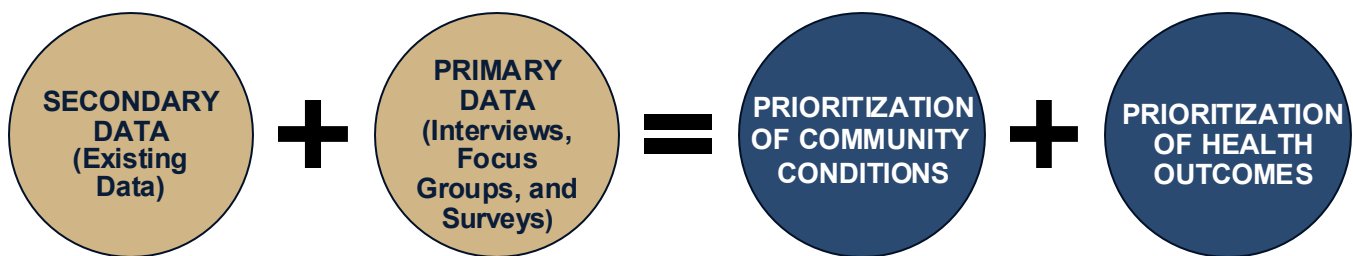


In this step, Fairfield County Health Department:

- ✓ Reviewed secondary data for initial priority health needs
- ✓ Collected primary data through interviews, focus groups, and a community member survey
- ✓ Collected community input and feedback
- ✓ Reviewed prior assessments and reports
- ✓ Analyzed and interpreted the data
- ✓ Identified disparities and current assets
- ✓ Identified barriers or social determinants of health
- ✓ Identified and understood causal factors
- ✓ Established criteria for setting priorities
- ✓ Validated priorities
- ✓ Identified available resources
- ✓ Determined resource opportunities



UNDERSTANDING PRIORITIZATION OF HEALTH NEEDS



COMMUNITY CONDITIONS (OR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH OR BARRIERS TO HEALTH) are components of someone’s environment, policies, behaviors, and healthcare that affect the health outcomes of residents of a community. (Examples include housing, crime/violence, access to healthcare, transportation, access to childcare, nutrition and access to healthy foods, economic stability, etc.).

HEALTH OUTCOMES are health results, diseases or changes in the human body. (Examples include chronic diseases, mental health, suicide, injury, and maternal/infant health).

In order to align with the Ohio Department of Health’s initiative to improve health, well-being, and economic vitality, Fairfield County Health Department included the state’s priority factors and health outcomes when assessing the community.



PRIMARY & SECONDARY DATA DATA COLLECTION

ASSESSING HEALTH NEEDS THROUGH COMMUNITY DATA COLLECTION

Health needs were assessed through a review and analysis of the secondary (existing) health data, interviews with community leaders, focus groups with priority populations, and a community survey (primary data collection). Priority health needs were identified using the following criteria.

Criteria for Identification of Priority Health Needs:

1. The ranking of the problem using data from the community survey, focus groups, and interviews with residents.
2. The seriousness of the problem as indicated from secondary data.
3. The identification of how the health need affects sub-populations within the community.

Furthermore, the health need indicators of the Fairfield County Service Area identified in the secondary data were measured against benchmark data, specifically state rates, national rates and/or Healthy People (HP) 2030 objectives (HP 2030 benchmark data can be seen in **Appendix B**).

The health needs were assessed through the primary data collection – key informant interviews, focus groups, and a community member survey. The information and data from both the secondary and primary data collection informs this CHA report and the decisions on health needs that Fairfield County Health Department will address in its Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The data collection process was designed to comprehensively identify the priority issues in the community that affect health, solicit information on disparities among subpopulations, ascertain community assets to address needs, and uncover gaps in resources.

REVIEW OF PRIOR CHA DATA

In order to build upon the work that was initiated previously, the prior 2022 CHA was reviewed. When making final decisions for the 2026-2028 CHIP, previous efforts will be assessed and analyzed.

SECONDARY DATA DEFINITIONS

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Region 8: Fairfield County is a part of BRFSS Region 8, which also includes Licking, Franklin, Madison, and Pickaway counties.

2025 HEALTH NEEDS TO BE ASSESSED:

- Access to healthcare (primary, dental/oral, and mental)
- Chronic diseases (asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, etc.)
- Community conditions (housing, education, income/poverty, internet access, transportation, adverse childhood experiences, crime and violence, access to childcare, food insecurity, etc.)
- Environmental conditions (air and water quality, vector-borne diseases, etc.)
- HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Injury
- Leading causes of death
- Maternal, infant, and child health (infant mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality, etc.)
- Mental health (depression and suicide, etc.)
- Nutrition and physical health (overweight and obesity population, etc.)
- Preventive care and practices (vaccines/immunizations, screenings, mammograms/pap smears, etc.)
- Substance use (alcohol and drugs, etc.)
- Tobacco and nicotine use

The secondary and primary data collection will ultimately inform the decisions on health needs that Fairfield County Health Department will address in the CHIP.

This report will focus on presenting data at the county level where available. The geography for each indicator will be specified where county-level data is not available.

Secondary data was collected for the Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Fall 2025. The most up-to-date data available at the time was collected and included in the CHA report. Please refer to individual sources in the References section for more information on years and methodology.



PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

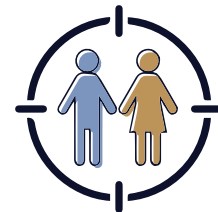
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Key informant interviews were used to gather information and opinions from persons who represent the broad interests of the community. We spoke with **22 experts** from various organizations serving the community, including leaders and representatives of medically underserved, low-income, minority populations, and leaders from local health or other departments or agencies (a complete list of participants can be seen in **Appendix C**). The interview questions asked can be seen below.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:
Broad questions asked at the beginning of the interview:
What are some of the major health issues affecting individuals in the community?
What are the most important socioeconomic, behavioral, or environment factors that impact health in the area?
Who are some of the populations in the area who are not regularly accessing healthcare and social services? Why?
Questions asked for each health need:
What are the issues/challenges/barriers faced for the health need?
Are there specific sub-populations and areas in the community that are most affected by this need?
Where do community residents go to receive help or obtain information for this health need? (resources, programs, and/or community efforts)



THINGS PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FROM INTERVIEWS



"My favorite part of the community is how collaborative we are amongst organizations."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I love how we try and support each other and help out when it matters."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I just love how focused we are on community events and the focus on connectedness."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"What I love is that it's such a diverse community with natural sites while also close to a metropolitan area. It's the best of both worlds."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"It seems like everyone comes together to get things accomplished, and there is a sense of belonging and responsibility."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We have a very active housing coalition in Fairfield County, where they are actively working on a strategic plan to address some of the gaps in services."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"It's a small town, but it's close enough to a larger urban setting. There is plenty of things to do!"

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I'm thankful we have transit services to be able to get seniors to appointments."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

TOP PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS FROM INTERVIEWS



FROM COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS:

Major health issues impacting community:

1. Access to care
2. Homelessness/housing insecurity
3. Substance use/drug addiction
4. Lack of specialists/specialty care
5. Aging population/geriatric care

How health concerns are impacting community:

1. Access to healthcare
2. Lack of affordable/low-income housing
3. Lack of affordable childcare

“In our community it stinks to try to find a doctor. Let alone a doctor who takes Medicare patients. So, I think the shortage of positions within our community, the time lag or needing a specialist and that type of thing. Our seniors find a lot of times that they're needing to go to Columbus for care which causes a problem, then for transportation. It's more costly.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Our community is impacted by all chronic diseases, and I think that healthcare specialists are limited to help treat some of those people, I also think that some of those conditions could be addressed by improving access to healthy food.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Even for those who work, there are high-deductible health plans that they cannot afford and then are forced to delay the care they need.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Individuals that are on a fixed income have a very difficult time affording rent right now.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“People need to have at least two incomes to afford a house and car, let alone childcare.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

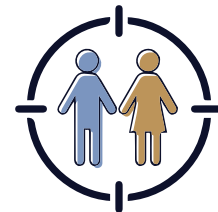
“Vaping has been increasing in youth, because it's been marketed for them to use.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“The seniors with limited mobility face a lot of barriers in getting care.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

TOP PRIORITY GROUPS & RESOURCES FROM INTERVIEWS



FROM COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS:

Sub-populations in the area that face barriers to accessing healthcare and social services:

1. Elderly/aging population
2. Children/youth
3. Rural population

Resources people use in the community to address their health needs:

1. Fairfield Medical Center
2. Fairfield County Health department

Top resources that are lacking in the community:

1. Access to healthcare
2. Affordable childcare
3. Low-income housing

“There’s a huge childcare desert in the county, especially high-quality, early learning centers.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“We need more youth mental health services in the county and ways to assess how they are doing.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Services that help seniors remain independent are essential. Having access to transportation and help getting to appointments is needed.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Mental health plays a large role in crime for our community. Many people I see have mental illness.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Substance use has an impact on the rise of crime on the smaller communities in the county.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“We need more educational support in place to teach people how to eat better, shop better, and how to make their dollars count to getting healthier foods.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY



The health department, hospitals, and community partners shared the online community survey link with clients, patients, and others who live and/or work in the community. Additionally, other methods were used to distribute the survey to the community such as each key informant interview participant was asked to complete it. The survey was available in English and Spanish. This resulted in **654 responses** to the community survey. The results of how the health needs were ranked in the survey for Fairfield County are found in the tables below, separated by community conditions (including social determinants of health, health behaviors, and access to care) and health outcomes. More details about the survey, questions, and demographics can be found in **Appendix E**.

COMMUNITY CONDITIONS RANKING FROM COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY
#1 Housing and homelessness
#2 Access to healthcare (e.g. doctors, hospitals, specialists, medical appointments, health insurance coverage, mental healthcare, oral/dental care, vision care, health literacy, etc.)
#3 Substance misuse (alcohol and drugs)
#4 Income/poverty and employment
#5 Food insecurity (e.g. not being able to access and/or afford healthy food)
#6 Adverse childhood experiences (e.g. child abuse, mental health, family issues, trauma, etc.)
#7 Nutrition and physical health/exercise (includes overweight and obesity)
#8 Crime and violence
#9 Transportation (e.g. public transit, cars, cycling, walking)
#10 Education (e.g. early childhood education, elementary school, post-secondary education, etc.)
#11 Access to childcare
#12 Preventive care and practices (e.g. screenings, mammograms, vaccinations)
#13 Tobacco and nicotine use (e.g. smoking and vaping)
#14 Environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality, vector-borne diseases, etc.)
#15 Internet/Wi-Fi access

HEALTH OUTCOMES RANKING FROM COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY
#1 Mental health
#2 Chronic diseases (heart disease/stroke, high blood pressure/cholesterol, diabetes, cancer, asthma, arthritis, kidney disease, cognitive decline, etc.)
#3 Maternal, infant, and child health (e.g. pre-term births, infant mortality, maternal mortality and morbidity)
#4 Injuries
#5 HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)



HEALTH NEEDS

Community Conditions



Health Needs: Community Conditions

The following pages rank the community conditions category of health needs, which include the social determinants of health, health behaviors, and access to care. They are ranked and ordered according to the community member survey as seen on page 21 (note that not every health need has its own section and some health needs have been combined to form larger categories, such as access to healthcare). Each health need section includes a combination of different data sources collected from our community: secondary (existing) data, and primary (new) data – from the community member survey and key informant interviews with community leaders. Priority populations who are most affected by each health need and experience health disparities are also shown. Finally, where applicable, Healthy People 2030 Goals are highlighted, including the performance of Fairfield County and the state compared to the benchmark goal.

#1 Health Need: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



Housing and homelessness is a concern in terms of quality and affordability, which has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. **45%** of community survey respondents ranked **housing and homelessness** as a priority health need, while **67%** of community member survey respondents report **affordable housing** as a resource that is lacking in the community.

Affordable housing was the #1 reported resource needed in Fairfield County.



11% of households in Fairfield County—compared with 13% statewide in Ohio—experience severe housing problems, defined as having at least one of the following issues: overcrowding, high housing costs, or inadequate kitchen or plumbing facilities.²

IN OUR COMMUNITY



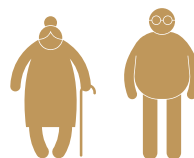
Freddie Mac estimates that the vacancy rate should be 13% in a well-functioning housing market. There was a **5% vacancy rate** in Fairfield County in 2023.^{4,22}



In 2024, there were **134 people experiencing homelessness** in Fairfield County, out of 3,564 in Ohio.²⁴



25% of Fairfield County households are “cost burdened” (spend more than 35% of their income on housing), vs. 24% for Ohio.³



Data shows that **10% of Fairfield County and 13% Ohio households are seniors who live alone**. Seniors living alone may be isolated and lack adequate support systems.⁴



The number of **affordable and available units per 100 very-low-income renters** (<50% of area median income) in Fairfield County was **35** vs. 44 for Ohio. This puts renters at risk for rent burden, eviction, and homelessness.²³



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“Individuals that are on a fixed income have a very difficult time affording rent right now.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“I think housing is a huge issue in our community. And, because of the lack of affordable low-income housing, the homeless population grow to the point where our shelters are overflowing, and we don't have enough shelter beds in the community.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

#1 Health Need: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think generally, not just here in this community, but in Ohio, and perhaps other places across the country, housing affordability has become a significant issue."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We have no inventory of affordable housing, not even affordable housing, low income, affordable housing. Once a unit is vacated that was once considered low income or affordable low-income housing landlords are raising the rent to reflect market rate value, and that is creating more homelessness in our community."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"Well, issues with homelessness, sadly, go back to mental health and drug abuse—they're seeing that with the people coming in."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/barriers for housing and homelessness (from interviews):

1. Housing shortage
2. Homelessness
3. Affordability
4. Shelter issues

Sub-populations most affected by housing and homelessness (from interviews):

1. Homeless population
2. Elderly/seniors
3. Individuals with mental health/substance issues

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for housing and homelessness:

1. Local shelters
2. Lutheran Social Services

PRIORITY POPULATIONS HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

While **housing and homelessness** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



According to the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care, nearly 23% of the Fairfield County homeless population lives with **mental illness**, 14% had **chronic substance abuse challenges**, 10% were **survivors of domestic violence**, 7% were **youth and young adults** (ages 18-24), and 5% were **veterans**.²⁶

According to the community survey, **76%** of **residents aged 35-44** felt that affordable housing resources were lacking.

Residents in **Lancaster** (43130) and **Pickerington** (43147) ranked housing and homelessness as a top concern in the community survey, significantly more than residents in any other zip code.



In the community survey, 74% of residents with a household income of **\$50,000 to \$74,999** felt that affordable housing resources were lacking, more than other income groups.

Housing was reported as a top health need in **48% of females** in the Fairfield County community survey, while **32% of men** felt the same.



#2 Health Need: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

According to the Health Resources & Service Administration, Fairfield County has **less access to primary care and dental care providers** than Ohio overall, based on the ratios of population to providers.

Fairfield County is considered both a **primary care provider** and **dental health professional shortage area**.¹³

IN OUR COMMUNITY

18% of community survey respondents say that **primary healthcare access is lacking** in the community, while **42%** ranked it as a priority.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

*1,790:1²



OHIO

*1,328:1²

*residents : primary care providers

12% of community survey respondents say that **dental healthcare access is lacking** in the community.

Fairfield COUNTY

**2,011:1²



OHIO

**1,535:1²

**residents : dental care providers

23% of community survey respondents say that **specialist healthcare access is lacking** in the community.

BARRIERS TO CARE



35% of community survey respondents **could not obtain a necessary prescription** in the past year.



12% of community survey respondents have **delayed or went without medical care** due to being unable to get an appointment.



8% of survey respondents **delayed or went without medical care** due to the not having health insurance.



19% of community survey respondents had to travel outside of the county to access primary care.



25% of community survey respondents **went outside of Fairfield County for specialty services**.



24% of community survey respondents reported they have not been to a dentist in the past year, because they **do not have enough money to pay for the visit**.



Nearly 2 in 10 (15%)

Community survey respondents **did not have enough money to pay for the cost of health care** in the past year.



Nearly 1 in 4 (23%)

Community survey respondents **did not have a routine checkup** in the prior year.



More than 1 in 4 (30%)

Survey respondents **have either never been to the dentist for a checkup or have not been in over a year**.



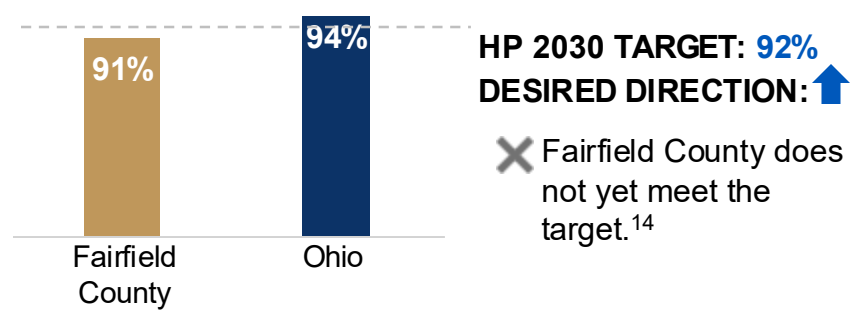


#2 Health Need: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“Well, we've got plenty of specialists. I think we have lots of specialists in Lancaster, but if your insurance doesn't cover it, then you're going to be forced to go to Columbus. That is difficult if you don't have the transportation to.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“There is the typical lack of access to care especially as you get more rural. A lot of people don't have an ongoing relationship with a primary care provider.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“In our community it stinks to try to find a doctor. Let alone a doctor who takes Medicare patients. So, I think the shortage of positions within our community, the time lag or needing a specialist and that type of thing. Our seniors find a lot of times that they're needing to go to Columbus for care which causes a problem, then for transportation. It's more costly.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

While **access to healthcare** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



9% of **adults** and 4% of **children** in the Fairfield County are uninsured.²

According to the community survey, individuals **ages 45-54** in Fairfield County were more likely than other age groups to indicate access to primary healthcare as a high concern (22%).



Of all age groups surveyed, **adults 18-34** (47%) were most likely to report denying medical care due to having no insurance.

Top issues/barriers for access to healthcare (from interviews):

1. Transportation barriers
2. Insurance barriers
3. Healthcare provider shortage

Sub-populations most affected by housing and homelessness (from interviews):

1. Low-income population
2. Agricultural/Rural communities
3. Homeless population

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for access to healthcare:

1. Fairfield Medical Center
2. Fairfield Community Health Center
3. Fairfield County Health Department
4. Fairfield County Job and Family Services

#3 Health Need: SUBSTANCE MISUSE



IN OUR COMMUNITY



In the community member survey, **more than one third (36%)** of respondents reported **substance misuse** as one of their top health concerns, while **18%** say that **services are lacking in the community**.



18% of Fairfield County twelfth graders surveyed through YBS have **used marijuana at least once** in the **past 30 days**.³⁶

67% of Fairfield County twelfth graders rated their ease of access to marijuana.³⁶



In the community survey, **28%** of residents ages 18+ said they have **used marijuana one or more times** in the past 30 days.



40% of motor vehicle crash deaths in Fairfield County involve **alcohol**, compared to 32% for Ohio.²



2% of community survey respondents reported that, in the past 30 days, they **used prescription medication that was not prescribed for them**.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"There is definitely a lack of available substance use treatment on an inpatient basis."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I think we've kind of shifted from having an opioid epidemic to now a little less opioids, with more people turning to different drugs."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

The Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) conducted **53 tobacco retailer compliance checks** from February 2025-April 2025 using an underage purchaser. **6** out of the **53** retailers sold.⁵⁴

From February to April 2025, nearly one in nine (**11%**) tobacco retailers checked for compliance in Fairfield County unlawfully sold a tobacco product to a person under age 21.⁵⁴

Fairfield County tobacco retail clerks who did **not** ask an underage purchaser to present ID sold tobacco products **100% of the time**.⁵⁴



Clerks who **did** ask for identification **refused the sale 92% of the time** (47 out of 51).⁵⁴



20% of Fairfield County adults reported binge or heavy drinking within the past month, vs. 21% for the state of Ohio.² On the community survey, **59%** of respondents reported drinking in the past month.

ACCORDING TO THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY YOUTH BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YBS)³⁶:

22%

of Fairfield County twelfth graders have **frequently used alcohol in the past month**.

75%

of Fairfield County twelfth graders rated their ease of access to alcohol.

15.0

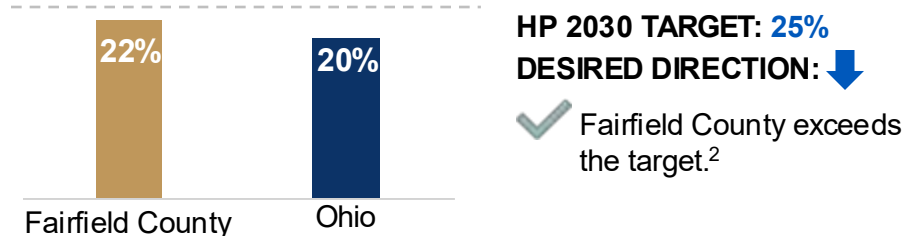
Years old is the average age of first use of alcohol for twelfth graders in Fairfield County

#3 Health Need: SUBSTANCE MISUSE

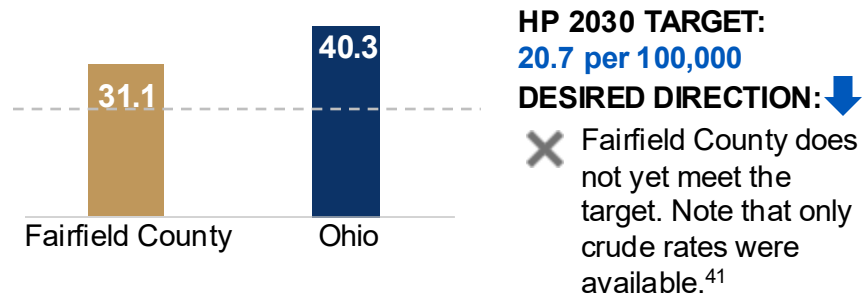


HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

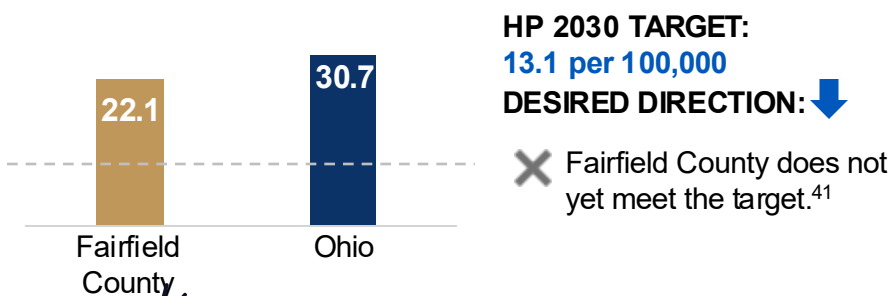
ADULT BINGE OR HEAVY DRINKING



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS PER 100,000



OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS PER 100,000



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We do not have the resources in this county for treatment programs or programs where we're serving kids with significant mental health and addiction issues."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"When I talk to people in law enforcement, many times drug use is part of the reason someone ends up in the legal system."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS SUBSTANCE MISUSE

While **substance use** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

In the community survey, more **Rushville (43150)** residents (60%) rated substance use as a top concern than residents of other areas.



According to research, **boys** were more likely than girls to try drinking alcohol at a younger age.¹⁰

State binge drinking rates are highest among **men, adults ages 25-39, White people, and higher income households.**¹⁴

According to the community survey, more residents **under 18** (57%) feel substance use is a top health concern in the community than residents of other ages.



Youth are more impacted by substance use due to their developing brains.¹⁰

Top issues/barriers for substance use (from interviews):

1. Treatment access
2. Maternal and infant health
3. Mental health

Sub-populations most affected by substance use (from interviews):

1. Homeless
2. Pregnant women
3. Youth

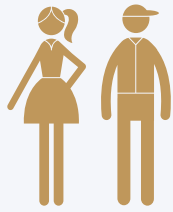
Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for access to healthcare:

1. ADAMHS Board
2. Starlight Center



#4 Health Need: INCOME/POVERTY & EMPLOYMENT

Economic stability includes **income, employment, education**, and many of the most important social factors that impact the community's health. **28% of community survey respondents ranked income/poverty and employment as a priority health need.**



4% of Fairfield County teens 16-19 are at risk because they are **not in school or are unemployed**, which is lower than the 6% seen statewide.²



3% of Fairfield County vs. 4% of Ohio adults are unemployed.²

IN OUR COMMUNITY

The median household income in **Fairfield County** is **higher** than the state average.²



9% of low-income Fairfield County adults utilize food stamps, vs. **12%** for Ohio.⁷

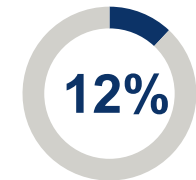
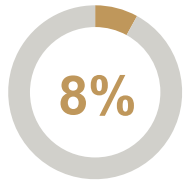
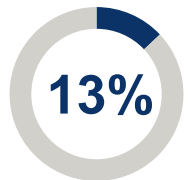
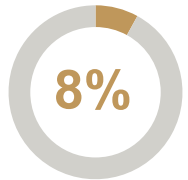


FAIRFIELD COUNTY: \$84,700
OHIO: \$67,900

According to the U.S. Census Bureau

POVERTY RATE

LOW-INCOME RATE



FAIRFIELD

OHIO

FAIRFIELD

OHIO

Poverty rates are **higher** for Fairfield County than for Ohio.⁶

Low-income rates are **higher** for Fairfield County families than for Ohio.⁷

2%

of both Fairfield County and Ohio residents receive public assistance.⁷

5%

of Fairfield County residents receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), vs. 6% for Ohio.⁷



#4 Health Need: INCOME/POVERTY & EMPLOYMENT



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I feel like we have a population that wants to work, and we have employers that have jobs available. But, for some reason, they're not making a connection."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"Employment for veterans is oftentimes a challenge."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We're right on the edge of Appalachia, if not part of our region is in Appalachia. So, I think that just comes with struggles to find decent employment and high paying jobs."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"People that can't get jobs, or, you know, want a job that don't have education or low income are funneled into these lower income jobs. Lower salary jobs oftentimes have to figure out how to get there."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/barriers for income/poverty and employment (from interviews):

1. Childcare barrier
2. Lack of employment in the area
3. Not having transportation

Sub-populations most affected by income/poverty and employment (from interviews):

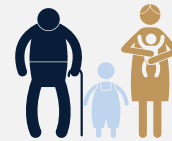
1. Low-income population
2. Homeless population
3. Minimum wage workers

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for income/poverty and employment:

1. 2-1-1
2. Fairfield County Workforce Development Center

PRIORITY POPULATIONS INCOME/POVERTY & EMPLOYMENT

While **income/poverty and employment** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



10% of **children**, 8% of **seniors**, and 23% of **female heads-of-household** (HoH-live with minors) live in poverty.^{6,9}

13% of Fairfield County **65+ year-old** community survey respondents earn a relatively low household income of \$20,000-\$34,000 per year, a significantly higher percentage than 55-64-year-olds.



In the community member survey, those with a **high school degree** (28%) were more likely to rank employment as a top concern.

According to research, **people who are immigrants and/or experience language barriers** may have additional challenges with accessing employment, education, and health and social services.²



Research suggests that people with **disabilities** may experience additional challenges obtaining and maintaining employment.²



#5 Health Need: FOOD INSECURITY

11% of Fairfield County residents and 14% of Ohio residents experience food insecurity.¹⁹



When asked what resources were lacking in the community survey, **32%** of respondents answered **affordable food**, while **23%** of survey respondents ranked **access to healthy food** as a top health concern.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



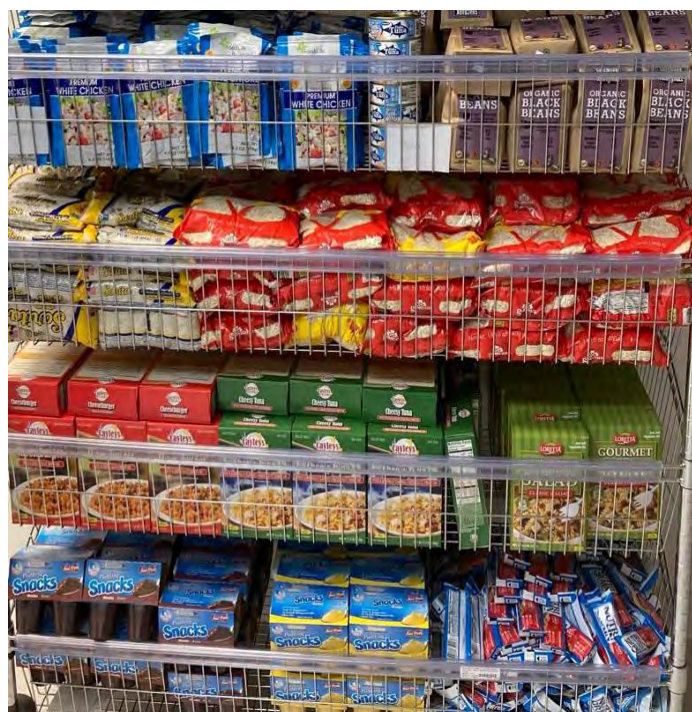
Children experience the highest food insecurity rate in Fairfield County (16%), which is lower than the food insecurity rate for Ohio children (20%).²⁰



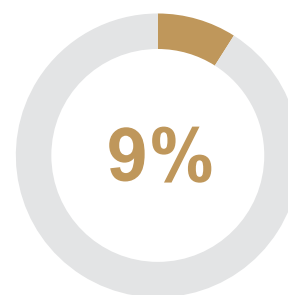
37% of students in Fairfield County are eligible for the **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Free & Reduced Price Meals**, which is higher than the states 35% average.²¹



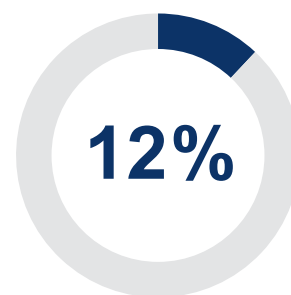
9% of Fairfield County households receive food stamps, **29%** of single moms with children receiving food stamps, and **39%** senior households receive food stamps.^{8,20}



Fairfield County households access SNAP benefits at a **lower rate** than the state average.⁸



FAIRFIELD COUNTY



OHIO

8.2/10

The Fairfield County **food environment rating** out of 10 (0 being worst and 10 being best) is **8.2/10**, slightly higher than Ohio at 7.0.²

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*

#5 Health Need: FOOD INSECURITY



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"The problem isn't the fact that people don't have food, it's that they don't have access to that healthy food or perishable items or things that lead to healthy, active lifestyles."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I hear stories about kids who are shoving extra breakfast into their book bags after the free breakfast that they're getting at the school. And likely that is a result of not having food in the evenings or on the weekends when they're not in school."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I think if we had a more expansive food pantry network, it would help address it. I think if we had food delivery options from food pantries, it would be amazing."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"The elderly population in our community is significantly impacted. Those who qualify for SNAP EBT at about \$16 a month doesn't get them far at the grocery store."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/barriers for food insecurity (from interviews):

1. Access to healthy foods
2. Food assistance programs

Sub-populations most affected by food insecurity (from interviews):

1. Children
2. Elderly/Seniors
3. Low-income

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for food insecurity:

1. Food pantries
2. Meals on wheels
3. SNAP Education Program
4. Seniors Farmers Market

PRIORITY POPULATIONS FOOD INSECURITY

While **food insecurity** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

According to Feeding America, food insecurity among **Black or Latino** individuals is higher than White individuals in 99% of American counties. 9 out of 10 high food insecurity counties are **rural**.²⁵



According to the community survey, 60% of **Millersport (43046)** respondents feel that access to healthy foods needs to be addressed in Fairfield County, more than other areas.



Based on the community survey, Fairfield County residents with **autism** (36%) were more likely to rank access to healthy foods as a community health concern.

Community survey respondents **35-44 years old** felt that affordable food resources (47%) were more lacking in the community than other age groups.

Food insecurity was reported as a top health need in 26% of **females** in the Fairfield County community survey, while 11% of males reported the same.





#6 Health Need: ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), including abuse, neglect, mental illness, substance abuse, divorce/separation, witnessing violence, and having an incarcerated relative, can have lifelong impacts.¹¹

5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the U.S. are associated with ACEs.¹⁶

IN OUR COMMUNITY

22% of survey respondents said that **ACEs** are a top concern in the community.



Fairfield County has a higher rate of substantiated child abuse reports per 1,000 children than the state of Ohio.¹⁷

PCSAO reports that in 2023, the **primary reasons for child removals in Fairfield County** were³⁹:

- Neglect (34%)
- Physical abuse (23%)
- Parental substance abuse (10%)
- Sexual abuse (7%)

*Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)

Research shows that **youth with the most assets are more likely to:**¹⁶

- do well in school
- be civically engaged
- value diversity

Research shows that **youth with the most assets are less likely to engage in:**¹⁶

- alcohol use
- violence
- sexual activity

PRIORITY POPULATIONS ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

While **adverse childhood experiences** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Girls were more likely than boys to report adverse events at the Ohio state level.¹¹

Children with the following **risk factors:**¹⁸

- Lower income
- Precarious housing/homelessness
- Parents have mental health and/or substance use challenges
- Witnessing violence/incarceration
- Parents are divorced/separated
- Lack of connection to trusted adults

Significantly more **Millersport (43046)** residents (60%) than residents from other geographical areas ranked ACEs as a top health concern in the community survey.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We have more kids with more issues than we've ever had. A lot of issues are linked to poverty and abuse and neglect issues with children"

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/barriers for ACEs (from interviews):

1. Abuse and trauma in children
2. Institutional and system issues

Sub-populations most affected by ACEs (from interviews):

1. Children in foster care
2. Families

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for ACEs:

1. Harkham House
2. Fairfield County Job and Family Services

#7 Health Need: NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH

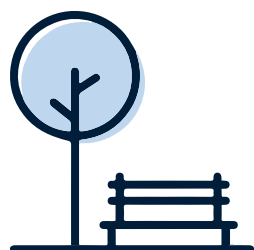


19% of community survey respondents ranked nutrition as a priority health need.

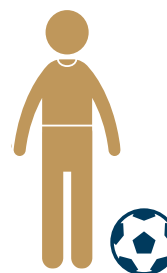
IN OUR COMMUNITY



42% of community survey respondents rated their physical health as “good”, 33% rated it as “very good”, and 15% rated it as “fair”.



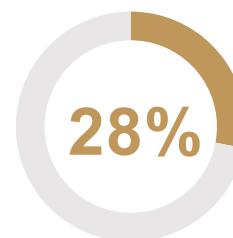
39% of Fairfield County residents are obese, slightly higher than the state rate of 38%.²



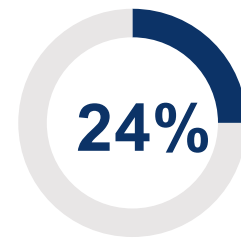
In 2018, Fairfield County high school students reported low levels of healthy behaviors, with only 25% meeting the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity.³⁶



27% of community survey respondents say that recreational spaces are lacking.



FAIRFIELD COUNTY



OHIO

According to the 2025 County Health Rankings program, more Fairfield County than Ohio adults are sedentary (did not participate in leisure time physical activity in the past month).²



In Fairfield County, 30% of high school students eat at least one serving of vegetables daily, compared with just 2% of high school students statewide in Ohio.³⁶

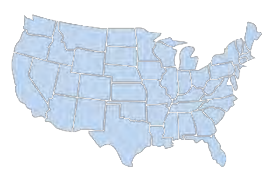
#7 Health Need: NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH



According to the community survey, **7%** of Fairfield County residents feel that there is a **lack of gyms or fitness centers to go to near them.**

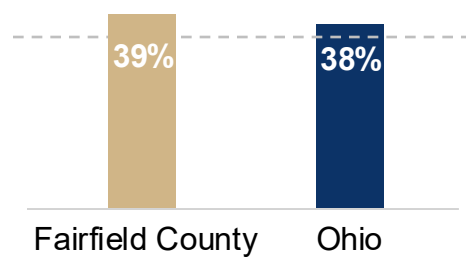


In the community survey, **22%** of residents from Fairfield County feel that **convenience (eating out is easier)** is a barrier to them getting healthier or in better shape. While another **10%** reported **not liking to cook** as a barrier.



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

ADULT OBESITY



HP 2030 TARGET: 36% DESIRED DIRECTION ↓

✗ Fairfield County does not yet meet the target.²

PRIORITY POPULATIONS NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH

While **nutrition and physical health** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



According to data, **teen girls** are much more likely than boys to report trying to lose weight, regardless of BMI.¹⁰

Among all races/ethnicities surveyed, **Asians, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders** in Ohio are the most likely to report being "inactive".¹³



According to research, **lower income individuals, males, and older adults** in the United States are more likely to be overweight or obese, not exercise, and not eat enough fruits and vegetables.¹³

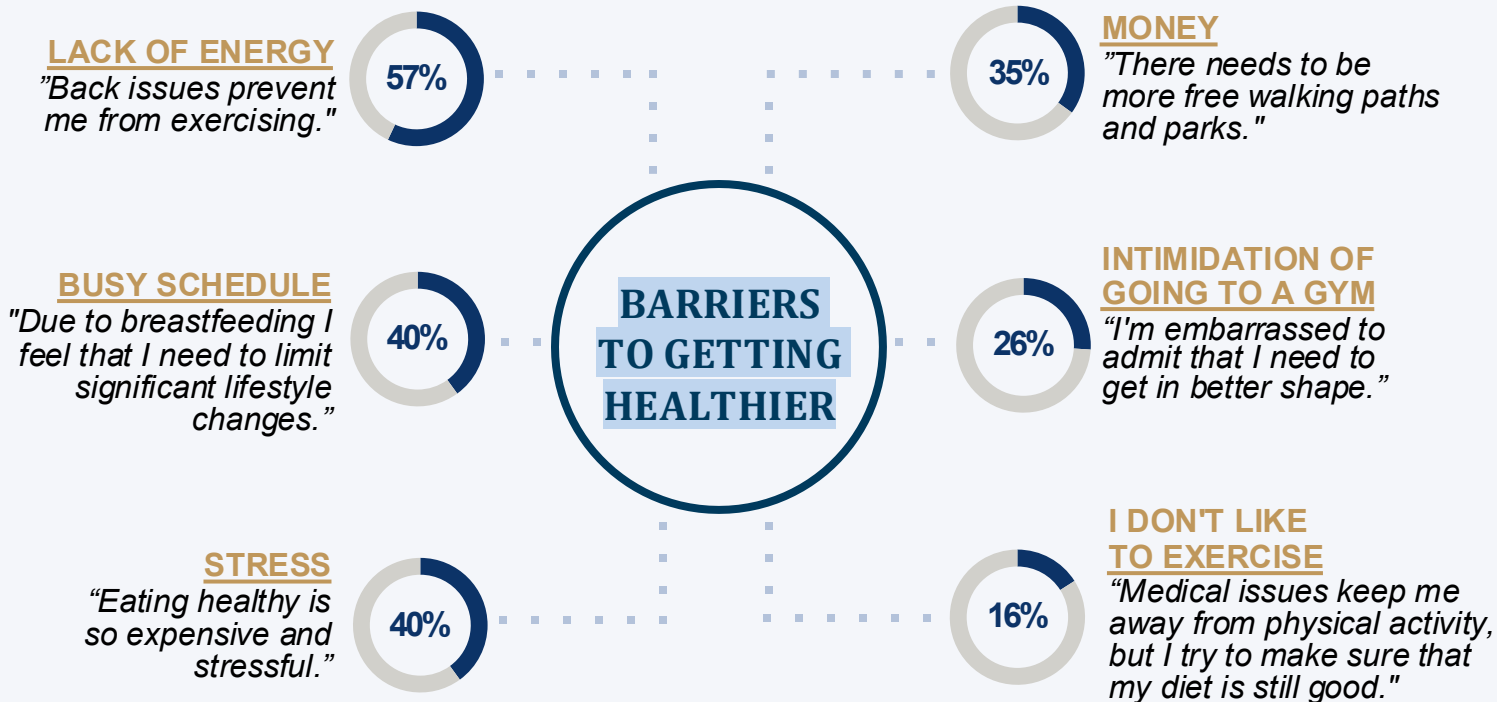
Young adults ages 18-24 are at risk for being inactive.¹⁰

67% of **Canal Winchester (43110)** survey respondents feel that their busy schedule (not having time to cook or exercise) impacts their ability to get healthier and in better shape, more than respondents from other zip codes in Fairfield County.

19% of **Stockport (43787)** community survey respondents indicated not enjoying exercise as a barrier to getting in shape, more than other county respondents.



#7 Health Need: NUTRITION & PHYSICAL HEALTH



Barriers reported in community member survey, and quotes from key informant interviews and community survey.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"You can get a gym membership for \$10 a month. But \$10 a month is kind of pricey for some people who can't determine whether or not they should pay their electric bill or buy food."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"But when we get outside, where there's there's no walking paths, there's no parks. You might have a little bit more challenge to the student, for to adults, and youth being active."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/ barriers for nutrition & physical health (from interviews):

1. Limited options/resources

Sub-populations most affected by nutrition & physical health (from interviews):

1. Elderly/seniors
2. Low-income population

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for nutrition & physical health:

1. Parks/trails/bike paths
2. Y.M.C.A.



#8 Health Need: CRIME & VIOLENCE

16% of community survey respondents feel that **crime and violence is a top issue** of concern in the community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Fairfield County's 2024 property and violent crime rates are much lower than the state of Ohio overall.²⁹

PROPERTY CRIME RATES PER 100,000²⁹



VIOLENT CRIME RATES PER 100,000²⁹



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We see a lot of mental health and substance use folk that are getting in trouble with the law."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"More and more you hear about shootings and violent crimes."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS CRIME & VIOLENCE

While **crime and violence** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

According to the community survey, 14% of **Pleasantville (43148)** respondents ranked crime and violence as a top concern, significantly more than other community survey respondents.



In the community survey, **16% of women and men** felt that crime and violence was a top concern.

Top issues/barriers for crime and violence (from interviews):

1. Violent crime
2. Drug-related crime

Sub-populations most affected by crime and violence (from interviews):

1. Homeless
2. Individuals with mental health/substance issues

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for crime and violence:

1. Lancaster Police Department
2. 2-1-1

#9 Health Need: TRANSPORTATION



Transportation has a major influence on health and access to services (for example, attending routine and urgent appointments, as well as running essential errands that support daily life). **15% of community survey respondents reported transportation as a top health need in Fairfield County.**

IN OUR COMMUNITY



18% of community survey respondents say that **transportation is lacking** in Fairfield County.

According to the **American Community Survey**.³¹



70% of all workers in Fairfield County **drive alone to work**, compared to 77% for Ohio.⁴



When analyzing a few of the communities in Fairfield County, according to *Walkscore.com*, four of the communities were identified as 'Car Dependent'.³⁰



2% of Fairfield County residents **use methods such as public transportation, walking, or biking to get to work**.³¹



Fairfield County workers spend an average of **28 minutes per day commuting** to work, vs. 24 minutes for Ohio workers.³¹



#9 Health Need: TRANSPORTATION



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think it stinks that when people get discharged from the emergency room or the hospital, and they don't have transportation. There's really nothing that we can offer them to get them to someplace safe, or to get them home or get them to a homeless shelter. That's a concern."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I also think that transportation is a huge problem in this county. So, if you're a family or a person who does not own a car, and you need to access childcare or other resources in the community, it is very difficult to get access."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I also think when you talk about some of that private transportation cost is a factor. We have a group here that does private transportation, and depending on where you're going, it can be a little pricey."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I think we need to do a better job of connecting older folks with transportation and where they can go to be for the day."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/barriers for transportation (from interviews):

1. Lack of public transportation
2. Barriers to utilizing public transportation

Sub-populations most affected by transportation (from interviews):

1. Elderly/senior populations
2. Agricultural/Rural populations
3. Homeless

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for transportation:

1. Fairfield County Transit
2. Fun bus

PRIORITY POPULATIONS TRANSPORTATION

While **transportation** is a major issue for the entire community, some groups are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Residents of rural areas have less access to public transit and must travel farther to access essential services.³⁰

40% of both **Amanda (43102)** and **Millersport (43046)** survey respondents feel that transportation is lacking, more than other areas.



26% of surveyed community members with a **mobility-related disability** ranked transportation as a top concern.



Transportation was most reported as a top concern in the Fairfield County community survey by residents that are **Hispanic/Latino/a** (38%).

According to the community survey, 19% of residents that are **female** feel that transportation is lacking in the area, while 14% males felt that transportation was a top concern.

19% of surveyed community members aged **18-24** ranked transportation as a top concern, more than other age groups.

#10 Health Need: EDUCATION



Educational attainment is a key driver of health; **14% of community survey respondents reported education and literacy as a top health need.**

IN OUR COMMUNITY



According to census data, **6% of Fairfield County residents did not graduate high school, vs. 8% for Ohio.**²

67% of Fairfield County residents have at least some college education (vs. 66% for Ohio).²



35% of 3- and 4-year-olds in Fairfield County are enrolled in preschool. This is lower (and worse) than the overall Ohio rate of 43%.³³



Preschool enrollment can improve short- and long-term socioeconomic and health outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children.³⁴



Fairfield County and Ohio both have an **87% 4-year high school graduation rate.**²



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

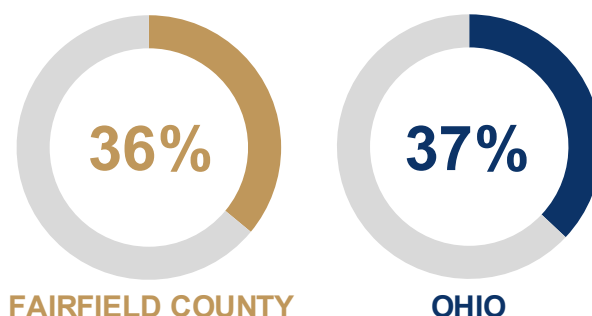
"When they had needed special services or special education in the schools, I do believe that sometimes those services might be a little hard to get, or the appropriate services might be hard to get. And that's probably because of the rise."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I think that probably one of the things that we could work on better as a community is working on truancy and trying to figure out, why students truant, and how can we help them?"

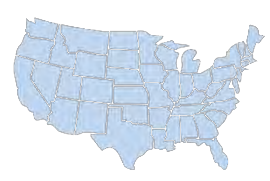
- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

KINDERGARTEN READINESS³²



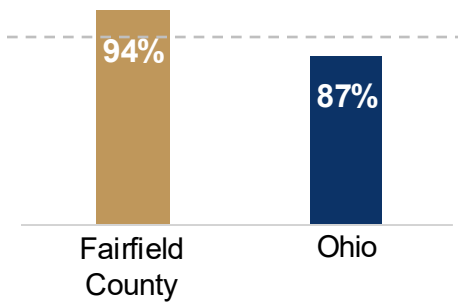
The average Kindergarten readiness rate for Fairfield County schools was lower than Ohio for 2022-2023.³²

#10 Health Need: EDUCATION



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE



HP 2030 TARGET:
91% DESIRED
DIRECTION: ↑
 ✓ Fairfield County meets the target.²

In 2023-2024, **Fairfield County** had a high school chronic absenteeism rate of (20%), vs 24% for Ohio overall.³⁵



*Chronic absenteeism = missing 10% or more of school days in an academic year for any reason (excused or unexcused).



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I know that preschool is difficult for some families, particularly because some schools or districts offer only half day or part day preschool, they don't offer full day."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We have children that are not getting in [head start] because we don't have enough resources to deal with everyone who wants in."

- Community Member Focus Group from Fairfield County

"I think we are seeing more preschool age kids and families wanting them to go to school. So preschools are kind of busting at the seams right now, with so many kids registering for preschool."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS EDUCATION

While **education** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



20% of community members surveyed reported having a **high school degree or less.**



According to the community survey, **females (17%)** were more likely than males (10%) to have a high school education only.

The community survey found that those **ages 65+** were more likely to have completed higher education compared to other age groups.

Education that meets the needs of **people with developmental disabilities** and the **deaf population** were priorities raised in focus groups with these populations.

Top issues/barriers for education (from interviews):

1. Lack of childcare/preschool
2. Truancy and attendance issues

Sub-populations most affected by education (from interviews):

1. Low-income population
2. Agricultural/Rural communities

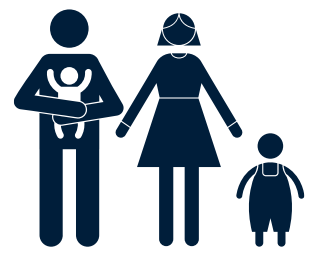
Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for education:

1. Fairfield County Workforce Development Center
2. After school programs

#11 Health Need: ACCESS TO CHILDCARE



IN OUR COMMUNITY



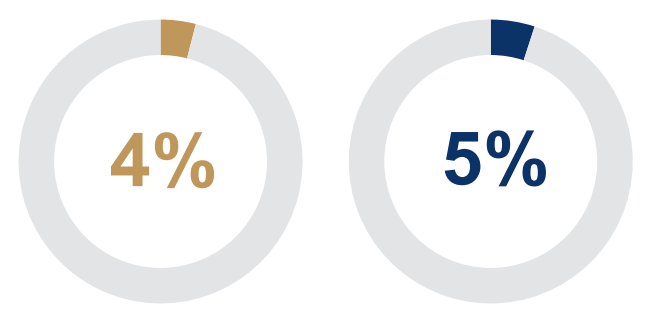
The average **two-child Fairfield County household spends 33% of its income on childcare**, with the state average being 32%.²

CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY



Both Fairfield County and Ohio have an average of **8 daycare centers per 1,000 children under 5 years old as of 2025**.²

CHILDREN IN PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILDCARE



FAIRFIELD COUNTY **OHIO**
The 2023 Fairfield County rate is **4%**, **below** the state average of 5%.¹⁰

According to the 2024 Ohio Childcare Resource & Referral Association Annual Report, the average cost of childcare in Ohio ranges from **\$7,958** per year (for school-aged children cared for outside of school hours) to **\$13, 859** per year (for infants under one year of age).¹¹



14% of Fairfield County community members surveyed reported that **access to childcare** is an issue of concern in their community, while **28%** say that it is a resource that is lacking.

73% of Ohioans surveyed say that quality childcare is expensive where they live.¹²

According to the Groundwork Ohio statewide survey, **49% of working parents** stated that they have had to **cut back on working hours to care for their children**.¹²

#11 Health Need: ACCESS TO CHILDCARE



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“Daycare is a huge need, and we are at a deficit here in our county and our community. Not enough and not affordable.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“I think the cost of childcare, like lots of things, keeps going up which creates barriers, especially for those who aren't working.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Even those that have the ability to pay for it sometimes aren't able to find it. The childcare that meets their needs, or even are there even enough openings.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“So you find those folks who are are living on one income staying at home because they can't afford to work until their kids are school age.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County



PRIORITY POPULATIONS ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

While **access to childcare** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Lower-income residents may have challenges affording childcare.

25% of **Hispanic/Latino/a** residents who responded to the community survey rated access to childcare as a top concern, more than other racial groups.



Single parents who lack social support may have a greater need for childcare.¹¹

According to the community survey, Fairfield County residents **ages 25-34** (22%) were significantly more likely to report childcare access among their top health concerns than residents of other ages.

Top issues/barriers for access to childcare (from interviews):

1. Affordability
2. Limited childcare/daycare facilities
3. Limited hours for second/third shift employees

Sub-populations most affected by access to childcare (from interviews):

1. Low-income population
2. Parents

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for access to childcare:

1. Fairfield County Job & Family Services (JFS)

#12 Health Need: PREVENTIVE CARE & PRACTICES



Access to preventive care has been found to significantly increase life expectancy, and can help prevent and manage chronic conditions, which are the most common negative health outcomes.²

IN OUR COMMUNITY

10% of community survey respondents said that addressing **preventive care and practices** is a top concern.



Childhood immunization rates entering kindergarten in Ohio **slightly lag behind** U.S. rates for all required vaccines, ranging from 89% for chickenpox to 93% for Hepatitis B.³⁷



53%
Just over half (53%) of Fairfield County Medicare enrollees received a flu vaccine in 2025.²



1 in 4 (26%) Fairfield County women ages 50-74 have not had a mammogram in the past two years.¹⁵



1 in 3 (33%) Fairfield County adults ages 50-75 do not meet colorectal screening guidelines.¹⁵



1 in 5 (21%) Fairfield County women ages 21-65 have not had a pap test in the past three years.¹⁵



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think better communication about mammograms and when the mobile clinic is doing them or more outreach would be a benefit to everyone."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"Parents are choosing not to have their children immunized, due to false information that gets put out there and that can lead to a public health issue. If there's outbreaks, we haven't seen it in our in our location, however, in other parts of the country that is happening because of unvaccinated children."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

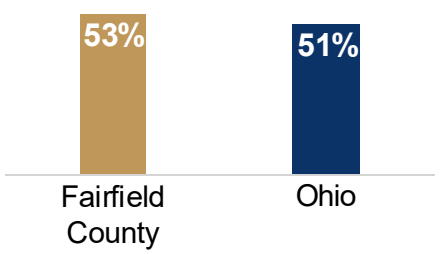


#12 Health Need: PREVENTIVE CARE & PRACTICES



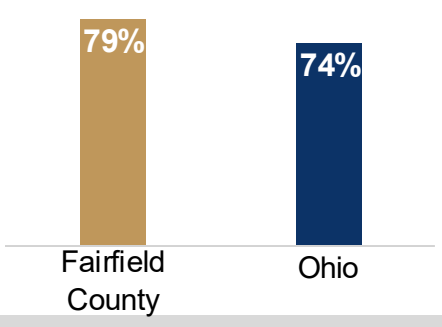
HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

MEDICARE ENROLLEE ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION



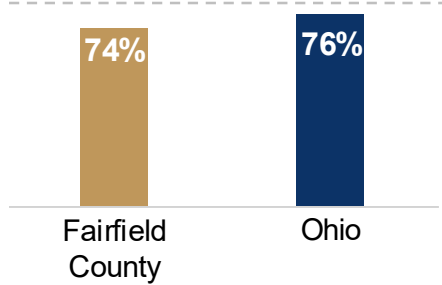
HP 2030 TARGET: **70%**
 DESIRED DIRECTION: **↑**
 ✗ Fairfield County does not yet meet the target.²

WOMEN 21-65 WITH PAP SMEAR IN PAST 3 YEARS



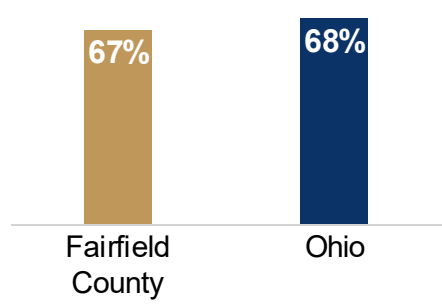
HP 2030 TARGET: **84%**
 DESIRED DIRECTION: **↑**
 ✗ Fairfield County does not yet meet the target.⁴⁴

WOMEN 50-74 WITH MAMMOGRAM IN PAST 2 YEARS



HP 2030 TARGET: **77%**
 DESIRED DIRECTION: **↑**
 ✗ Fairfield County does not meet the target.⁴⁴

ADULTS 50-75 WHO MEET COLORECTAL SCREENING GUIDELINES



HP 2030 TARGET: **74%**
 DESIRED DIRECTION: **↑**
 ✗ Fairfield County does not yet meet the target.⁴⁴

PRIORITY POPULATIONS PREVENTIVE CARE & PRACTICES

While **preventive care** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

Data shows that Ohioans are less likely to engage in preventive care the **less educated they are, the less money they have, the younger they are, and if they are men.**¹⁵



Residents who **lack health insurance** and/or have **difficulties affording care.**¹⁵

According to the community survey, residents **ages 65+** (14%) were more likely to rank preventive practices as a top concern.

Top issues/barriers for preventive care and practices (from interviews):

1. Lack of health education
2. Vaccination issues
3. Health misinformation

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for preventive care and practices:

1. Fairfield County Health Department
2. Fairfield County Community Health Center
3. Fairfield Medical Center

#13 Health Need: TOBACCO & NICOTINE USE



10% of community survey respondents indicated that tobacco and nicotine use were top concerns.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

The leading chronic disease causes of death in Fairfield County are:⁴⁰

#1 Cancer

#2 Heart Disease

#3 Ischemic heart disease

Smoking is a risk factor for all these chronic diseases.



20% of Fairfield County adults are current cigarette smokers (vs. 18% for Ohio). **9%** of BRFSS Region 8** and **8%** of state adults use e-cigarettes.^{2,42}

7% of community survey respondents reported that they smoked cigarettes **every day**, while the rate was **5%** for vaping and **2%** for other tobacco or other nicotine products.

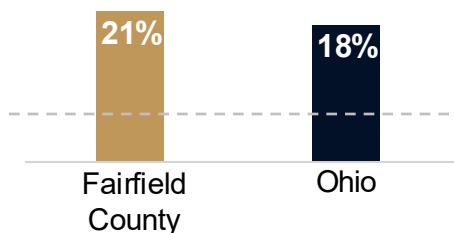


#13 Health Need: TOBACCO & NICOTINE USE



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

ADULT CIGARETTE SMOKING



HP 2030 TARGET: **5%**
DESIRED DIRECTION: ↓

✗ Fairfield County does not yet meet the target.²



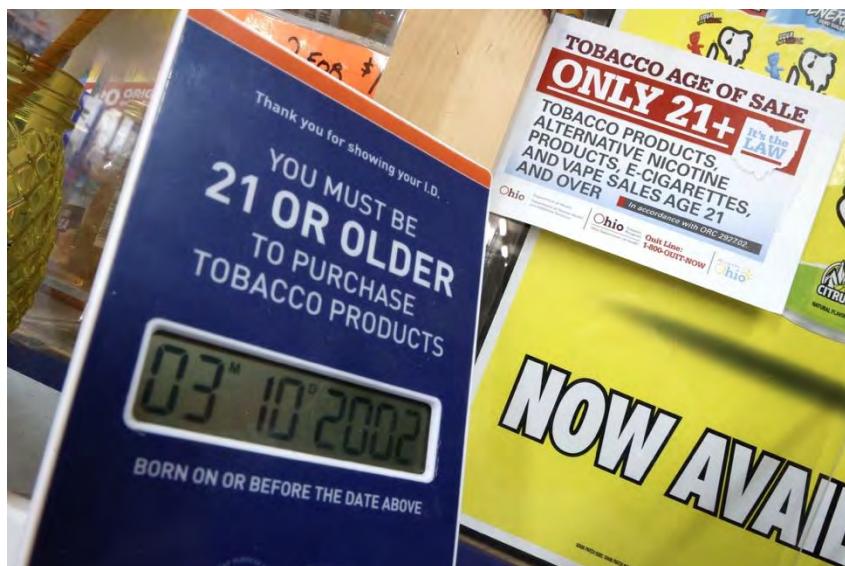
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We see vaping more in the younger population, because it's cooler with all the flavors."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We see smoking and obesity in the more rural, underserved populations."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County



PRIORITY POPULATIONS TOBACCO & NICOTINE USE

While **tobacco and nicotine use** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



In the survey, residents with **less than a high school diploma** were most likely to rank tobacco and nicotine use as a top concern (56%).

According to Ohio data, the smoking rate is highest in **Multiracial people, women, people ages 35-44, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and lower income and less educated people.**⁴⁵

At the Ohio level, vaping rates are highest in **ages 18-24, men, Hispanic people, people with disabilities, and lower income and less educated people.**⁴⁵



29% of survey respondents **18-24** said that they have used vapes or e-cigarettes **daily** in the last 30 days.

Top issues/barriers for tobacco & nicotine use (from interviews):

1. Vaping

Sub-populations most affected by tobacco & nicotine use (from interviews):

1. Youth

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for tobacco & nicotine use:

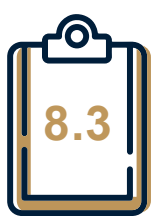
1. Health department programs



#14 Health Need: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

9% of community survey respondents reported **environmental conditions** as a top community health need.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



FAIRFIELD COUNTY

In 2020, Fairfield County had a better air quality measurement (number of micrograms of particulate matter per cubic meter of air, with lower being better) than Ohio overall.²



OHIO



In 2025, Fairfield County had 0 community water systems report a health-based drinking water violation.³⁸



4 mosquito traps in Fairfield County tested positive for West Nile Virus in 2024.⁵⁴



In contrast, **35** traps tested positive in 2025, indicating a significant increase in local mosquito activity and potential transmission risk.⁵⁴



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think in our community, we need to continue to focus on pure air, pure water, and keep reaching for that makes a big difference on persons overall health and wellness."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

While **environmental conditions** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Children, particularly young children, are more vulnerable to air pollution than adults, including long-term physical, cognitive, and behavioral health effects.²

23% of **Pickerington (43147)** survey respondents feel that environmental conditions are a top concern to address in Fairfield County, higher than residents of other areas.



14% of survey respondents **ages 65+** environmental conditions as a top concern, higher than other age groups.

Top issues/barriers for environmental conditions (from interviews):

- 1. Air and water quality

Sub-populations most affected by environmental conditions (from interviews):

- 1. Elderly/seniors

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for environmental conditions:

- 1. Fairfield County health department

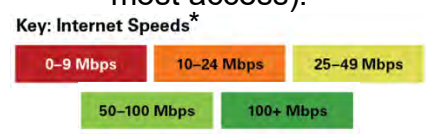
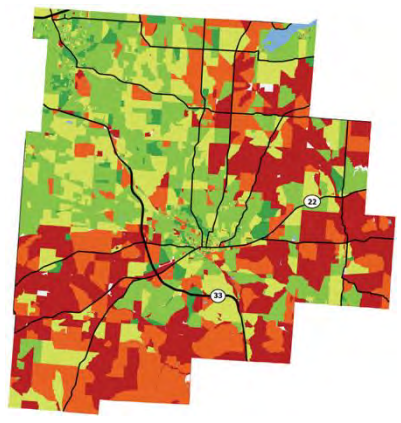


#15 Health Need: INTERNET/WIFI ACCESS

Ohio ranks 30th out of the 50 U.S. States in Broad band Now’s 2024 rankings of internet coverage, speed, and availability (with 1 being better coverage).²⁷ 3% of community survey respondents ranked internet access as a **priority health need**.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

The map to the right shows **broadband internet access** across Fairfield County (red areas have the least access to internet while green areas have the most access).²⁸



*megabits per second

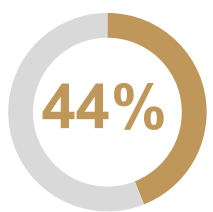
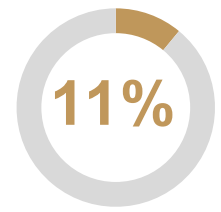
PRIORITY POPULATIONS INTERNET ACCESS

While **internet access** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Lower income people have a lower likelihood of having internet access, according to research.²⁷

According to the community survey, residents **ages under 18** (14%) were most likely to rank internet as a top concern in Fairfield County.



11% of households in Fairfield County lack access to broadband internet (25/3 mbps*—standard internet speed).²⁸

44% of households in Fairfield County without access to broadband internet have low internet speeds (10/1 mbps* of less).²⁸



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I recently moved to a more rural area and couldn't work from home for my job, because the Internet that I had went out anytime it rained.."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I think for older folks it is just either not interested or not knowing how to access and utilize the internet."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

Top issues/barriers to internet access (from interviews):

1. Lack of coverage in rural areas
2. No fiber optics/broadband coverage

Sub-populations most affected by internet access (from interviews):

1. Low-income population
2. Rural areas

Top resources, services, programs, and/or community efforts for internet access:

1. Library

HEALTH NEEDS

Health Outcomes



Health Needs: Health Outcomes

The following pages rank the health outcomes category of health needs. They are ranked and ordered according to the community member survey as seen on page 24 (note that not every health need has its own section and some health needs have been combined to form larger categories, such as mental health). Each health need section includes a combination of different data sources collected from our community: secondary (existing) data, and primary (new) data – from the community member survey, key informant interviews with community leaders, and focus groups with community members. Priority populations who are most affected by each health need and experience health disparities are also shown. Finally, where applicable, Healthy People 2030 Goals are highlighted, including the performance of Fairfield County and the state compared to the benchmark goal.



#1 Health Need: MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health and access to mental healthcare was the **#1 ranked health outcome** in the community survey, with **over 95% of respondents selecting this option.**



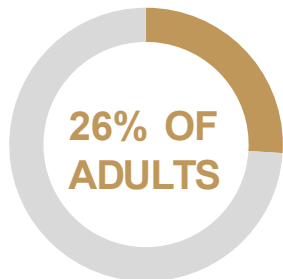
38% of survey respondents say that **mental healthcare access is lacking** in the community. The top reasons for not accessing care include **unsure what is available/not knowing where to go (13%), cost (12%), and lack of availability (10%).**

5.9 **mentally unhealthy days per month** are reported by Fairfield County adults compared to 6.1 for Ohio.²

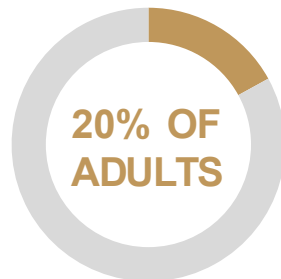


IN OUR COMMUNITY

5% of respondents to the community member survey had **thoughts of suicide** in the last year.



in Fairfield County have been diagnosed with **depression** by a mental health professional, compared to 22% for Ohio.¹⁵



in Fairfield County experienced **frequent mental distress** (2+ weeks/month in the past month), the same for Ohio.²

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

494:1

OHIO

286:1

The 2025 County Health Rankings found that Fairfield County has **fewer mental health providers** relative to its population when comparing the ratio to Ohio. Fairfield County is considered a **mental health professional shortage area.**^{2,13}

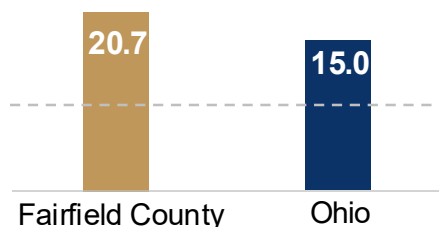


#1 Health Need: MENTAL HEALTH



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

SUICIDE RATE



HP 2030 TARGET:
12.8 PER 100,000
DESIRED DIRECTION: ↓

✗ Fairfield County does not yet meet the target.⁴³



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We have more kids with suicidal thoughts because we have not taught them how to cope and overcome adversity. Sometimes getting access to care in a timely manner is difficult."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"If you're not getting treated for your mental health that keeps you from following through with your care, taking your prescriptions, going to the doctor's appointments, eating the right diet, you know all that. Because if you're depressed and lonely, you're going to eat whatever And then you're back in the hospital"

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We continue to have issues that people continue to struggle with depression, anxiety, and substance use. And we saw that increase a bit during Covid, and we're continuing, especially in our youth population, to see that."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS MENTAL HEALTH

While **mental health** is a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



13% of residents from **Fairfield County** were more likely to say that they did not know where to go for mental/ behavioral health services in the community survey.

25–34 year-olds were most likely to rank their mental health as a top concern in the community survey.

Top issues/barriers for mental health (from interviews):

1. Youth mental health issues
2. Lack of mental healthcare services/resources
3. Lack of/not enough providers

Sub-populations most affected by mental health (from interviews):

1. Elderly population
2. Homeless population

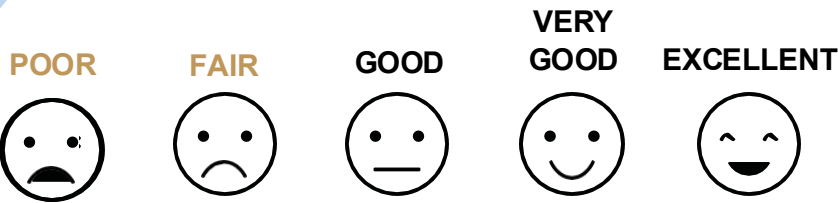




#2 Health Need: CHRONIC DISEASES

The most prevalent chronic conditions in Fairfield County are **arthritis, diabetes, asthma, COPD, cancer, and heart disease.**^{42,44}

IN OUR COMMUNITY



19% of Fairfield County adults rate their health as **fair or poor** (vs. 18% for Ohio), while the other 79% rank it as excellent, very good, or good.²



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“As far as chronic disease when working with seniors, we see chronic mobility issues and chronic pain. Arthritis and mental acuity isn’t as sharp as it once was.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“Diabetes is the biggest, along with high blood pressure, which they kind of go hand in hand. I think that’s what we see the most of with the chronic conditions.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

“There’s a lot of obesity, hypertension, and respiratory issues. These are all related to smoking, genetics, not eating or exercising right.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

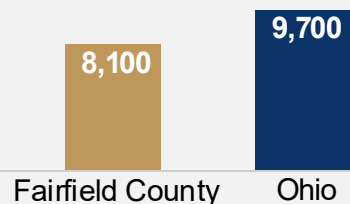
“I think our community is impacted by all chronic diseases. I think that healthcare specialists are limited to help treat some of those people, and I also think that some of those conditions could be addressed by improving access to healthy food.”

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

The prevalence of diabetes among adults in Fairfield County is 13%, compared to 11% for Ohio.¹⁹



86% of community survey respondents chose **chronic diseases** as a top community health need. The most frequently mentioned chronic diseases of concern were **diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.**



There were an average of **8,100 (age-adjusted) years of potential life lost** among Fairfield County residents under age 75 per 100,000 people, vs. 9,700 for Ohio.²

Top issues/barriers for chronic diseases (from interviews):

1. Diabetes
2. Heart disease
3. Issues with nutrition and diet

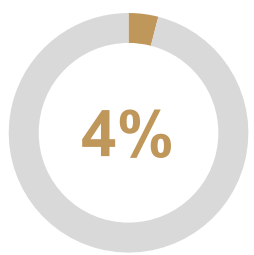


#2 Health Need: CHRONIC DISEASES

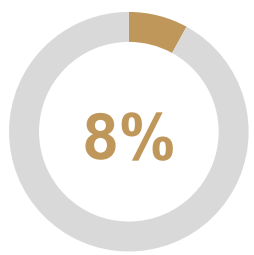


Cancer is the **leading cause of death** in Fairfield County.⁴⁰

HEART DISEASE & STROKE

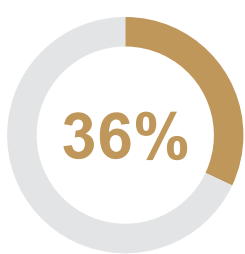


of both Fairfield County and Ohio adults reported that they have had a **stroke**.¹⁹

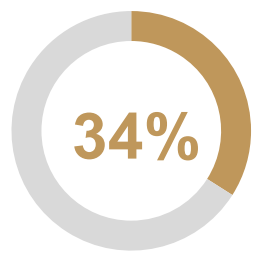


of Fairfield County and Ohio adults reported having had a **heart attack, angina, or coronary heart disease**.¹⁹

HYPERTENSION & HIGH CHOLESTEROL



of Fairfield County adults have **hypertension**, vs. 35% for Ohio.¹⁹



of Fairfield County adults have **high cholesterol**, compared to 36% for Ohio.¹⁹



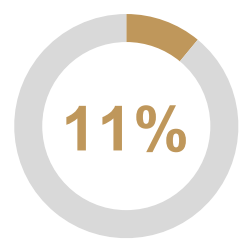
DIABETES



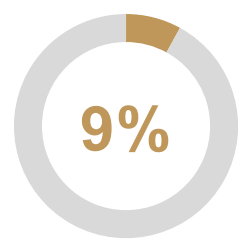
13% of Fairfield County adults have diabetes, vs. 11% of Ohio adults.¹⁹

Diabetes prevalence rises with age and is also highly impacted by income and level of education.⁴²

ASTHMA & COPD



of Fairfield County and Ohio adults have **asthma**.¹⁹



of Fairfield County adults have **COPD**, vs. 10% for Ohio.¹⁹

Many hospital admissions due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma **may be preventable** each year through access to primary care.⁴²



#2 Health Need: CHRONIC DISEASES

According to DataOhio, cancer is the **leading cause of death** in Fairfield County. Fairfield County has a **lower overall incidence of cancer** per 100,000 than Ohio.⁴⁴

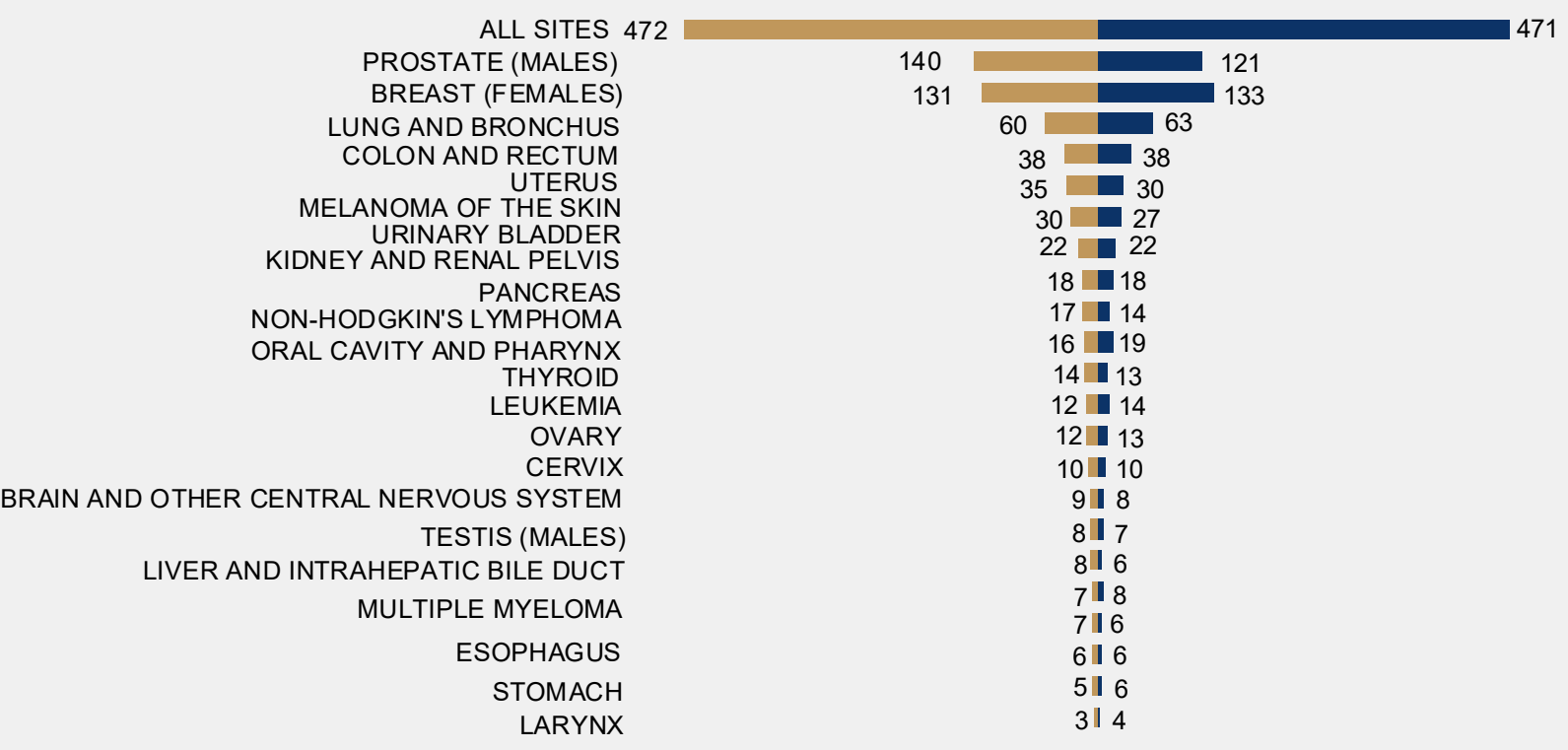
458

FAIRFIELD COUNTY⁴⁴

465

OHIO⁴⁴

Prostate (Males), Uterus, Melanoma of the skin, Oral cavity and pharynx, Brain and other CNS, Cervix, Hodgkins Lymphoma, Ovary, Pancreas, and Testis (Males) cancers had higher incidence rates in Fairfield County than Ohio.⁴⁴



*Age-adjusted rates per 100,000, 2016-2020 average

Fairfield County*

Ohio*



HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS



Fairfield County does not yet meet the Healthy People 2030 target for lung, colorectal, and overall cancer mortality rates, while it meets the target for breast and prostate cancer.⁴⁰



#2 Health Need: CHRONIC DISEASES

PRIORITY POPULATIONS CHRONIC DISEASES

While chronic diseases are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

- Residents **ages 25-34** that responded to the community survey were more likely to rank chronic diseases (such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, asthma) among their top health concerns than residents ages 55-64.
- **Thomville (43076), Bremen (43107), and Sugar Grove (43155)** survey respondents were more likely to rate chronic diseases as top concerns to address in the community.
- **Male** residents (90%) were more likely to rank chronic diseases as top concerns to address than female residents (86%) on the community survey.
- **Multiracial** (100%) community survey respondents were the most likely to rank chronic diseases as a top concern.
- **Lower-income** people are at a higher risk of developing many chronic conditions.⁴²
- Chronic conditions are more common in **older adults**.⁴²
- People with **high exposure to air pollution**.⁴²
- People who **smoke**.⁴²
- People with **challenges with physical activity and nutrition**.⁴²



#3 Health Need: MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH



52% of community survey respondents say that addressing **maternal and child health** in the community is a top concern. 9% of survey respondents say that maternal, infant, and child healthcare **resources are lacking** in the community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



Fairfield County has a **teenage birth rate** for ages 15-19 (13 per 1,000 females) is **lower** than that of Ohio's (17 per 1,000 females).²



Fairfield County has a **low-birth-weight (LBW) rate** of 8%, vs. 9% for Ohio.²

*LBW = A baby born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 lbs 8 oz)



Within Fairfield County, **7 ZIP Codes** were identified as high risk for elevated blood lead levels (43076, 43107, 43113, 43130, 43148, 43150, and 43155).^{46,47}



Severe maternal morbidities (SMM) are unexpected outcomes of childbirth that result in significant health consequences. In Ohio, **59% of all SMM from 2016 to 2019 were blood transfusions**. The rate of SMM in Ohio is 71 per 10,000 deliveries.⁴⁸

The pregnancy-related maternal mortality rate in Ohio is **15 per 100,000 live births**. The leading causes are:⁴⁹

#1 Mental health conditions (47%)

#2 Infections (11%)

#3 Cardiovascular conditions (8%)

#4 Embolisms (8%)

#5 Hemorrhage (6%)

More than half (57%) of these deaths may be preventable⁴⁹



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"If you have state sponsored insurance, there's not one OBGYN that's taking new patients that accepts that insurance in our community. So, folks must find transportation to other counties or cities to be able to get access to that care."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"There's limited providers who will take on a pregnant mom that has substance abuse issues. Getting them care has its challenges."

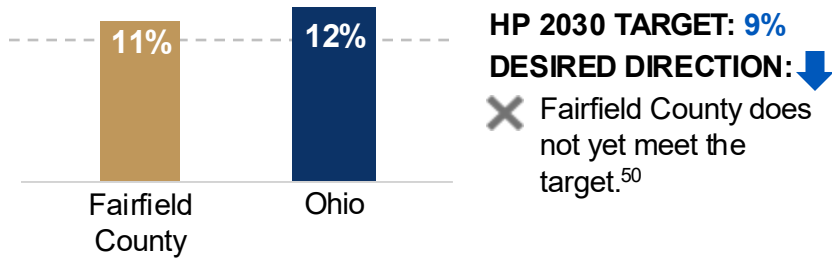
- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

#3 Health Need: MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH

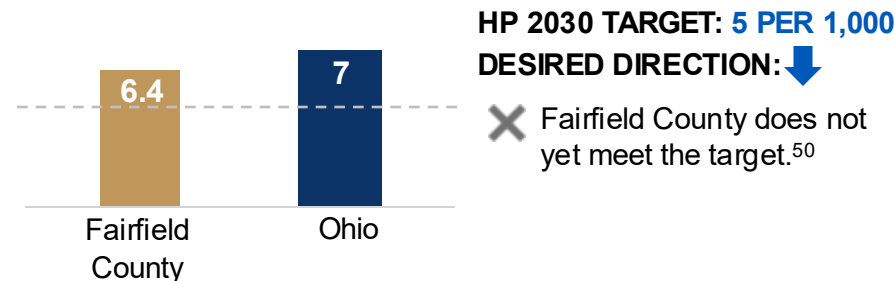


HEALTHY PEOPLE (HP) 2030 NATIONAL TARGETS

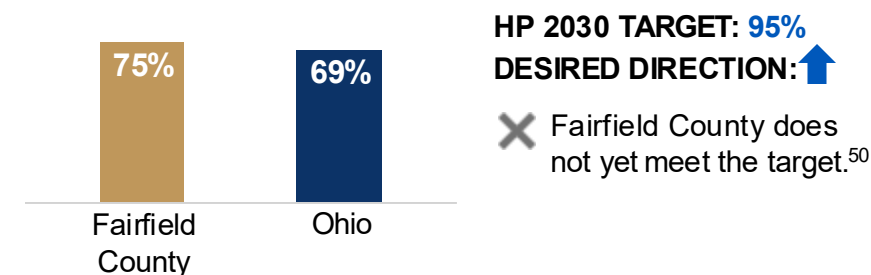
PRETERM BIRTH RATE



INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000



ON-TIME PRENATAL CARE



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I would say, that probably the biggest one that comes to mind would be like for prenatal care again, especially for those expectant moms that are on Medicaid. We are very limited on our providers for expecting moms who are on Medicaid."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILD HEALTH

While **maternal, infant & child health** are major issues for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...

65% of community survey respondents in **Pickerington (43147)** ranked maternal and child health as a top concern in Fairfield County, higher than other geographical areas.

In Ohio, as in the nation, rates of severe maternal morbidity are much higher among **non-Hispanic Black women** compared to white women.⁴⁹



Research data shows that the severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rate for **Asian women in rural Ohio counties** was 2.6 times greater than Asian women in suburban Ohio counties.⁴⁸

Top issues/barriers for maternal, infant, and child health (from interviews):

1. Substance use in pregnancy
2. Access to providers/services
3. Prenatal care access

Top resources, services, programs and/or community efforts for maternal, infant, and child health:

1. Plans of safe care
2. Fairfield Community Health Center

#4 Health Need: INJURIES



The unintentional injury death rate in Fairfield County (74.0 per 100,000 population) is **lower** than that of Ohio (76.9 per 100,000).⁴⁰

IN OUR COMMUNITY



29% of Ohio adults ages 65+ fell at least once in the past year.⁵¹



Fairfield County had a **significantly higher unintentional fall death rate in adults 65+ (116.3 per 100,000)** than Ohio (74.5 per 100,000).⁴⁰



22% of community survey respondents feel that **injuries of any kind** are a top concern.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I think sometimes we're seeing issues with people not driving safely, and accidents are a result of this."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"I think some of our homeless individuals end up being in unsafe situations by trying to walk along major roadways to get where they need to go."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

PRIORITY POPULATIONS INJURIES

While **injuries** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



According to the community survey, **44%** of **Rushville (43150)** residents ranked injuries as a top concern, the highest of all Fairfield County.

43% of Fairfield residents **under 18** ranked injuries as a top health need in the community survey, followed by residents ages 65+ (27%).

Individuals who work in jobs with a higher risk of occupational injury, such as **manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, trades, and frontline workers**.⁴²



Older residents are at a higher risk of falling and getting injuries from falling.⁴²

Top issues/barriers for injuries (from interviews):

1. Car/traffic accidents
2. Workplace injuries

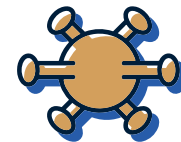
Sub-populations most affected by injuries (from interviews):

1. Elderly/seniors population
2. Homeless population

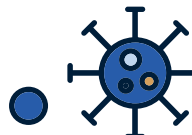
#5 Health Need: HIV & STIs

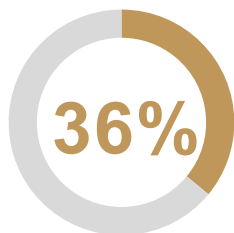
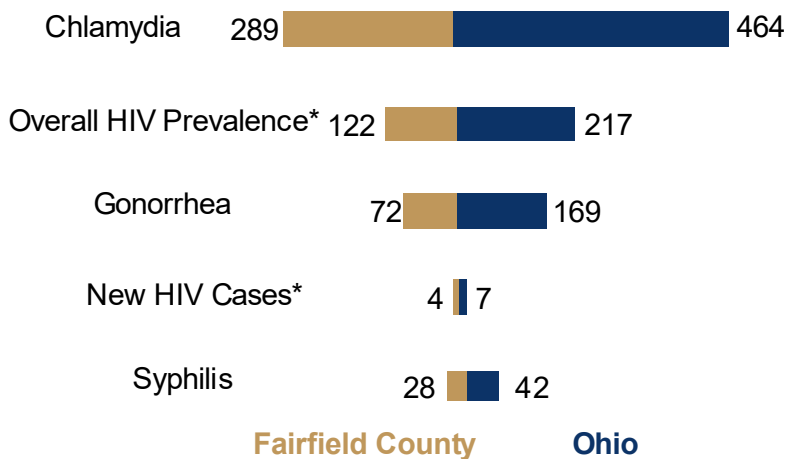


The COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the testing and diagnosis rates for HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).⁵² 1% of community survey respondents feel that HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are a top concern.

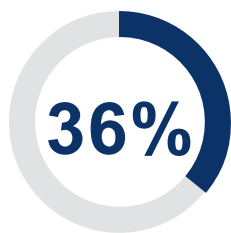


IN OUR COMMUNITY

 Fairfield County has **much lower** rates of STI cases and HIV per 100,000 people than Ohio as a whole.^{52, 53}



BRFSS*
REGION 8³²



OHIO³²

The same proportion of adults in BRFSS Region 8** and Ohio have ever been tested for HIV.⁴²

**Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Fairfield County is a part of BRFSS Region 8.



PRIORITY POPULATIONS HIV & STIs

While **HIV and STIs** are a major issue for the entire community, these groups of people are more likely to be affected by this health need, based on data we collected from our community...



Women have higher rates of chlamydia, particularly those ages 20-24.⁵²



Men have higher rates of syphilis and gonorrhea.⁵²



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"We have a family health care services which is similar to a planned parenthood but doesn't have the same range of services that offer free STI screenings and supports."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

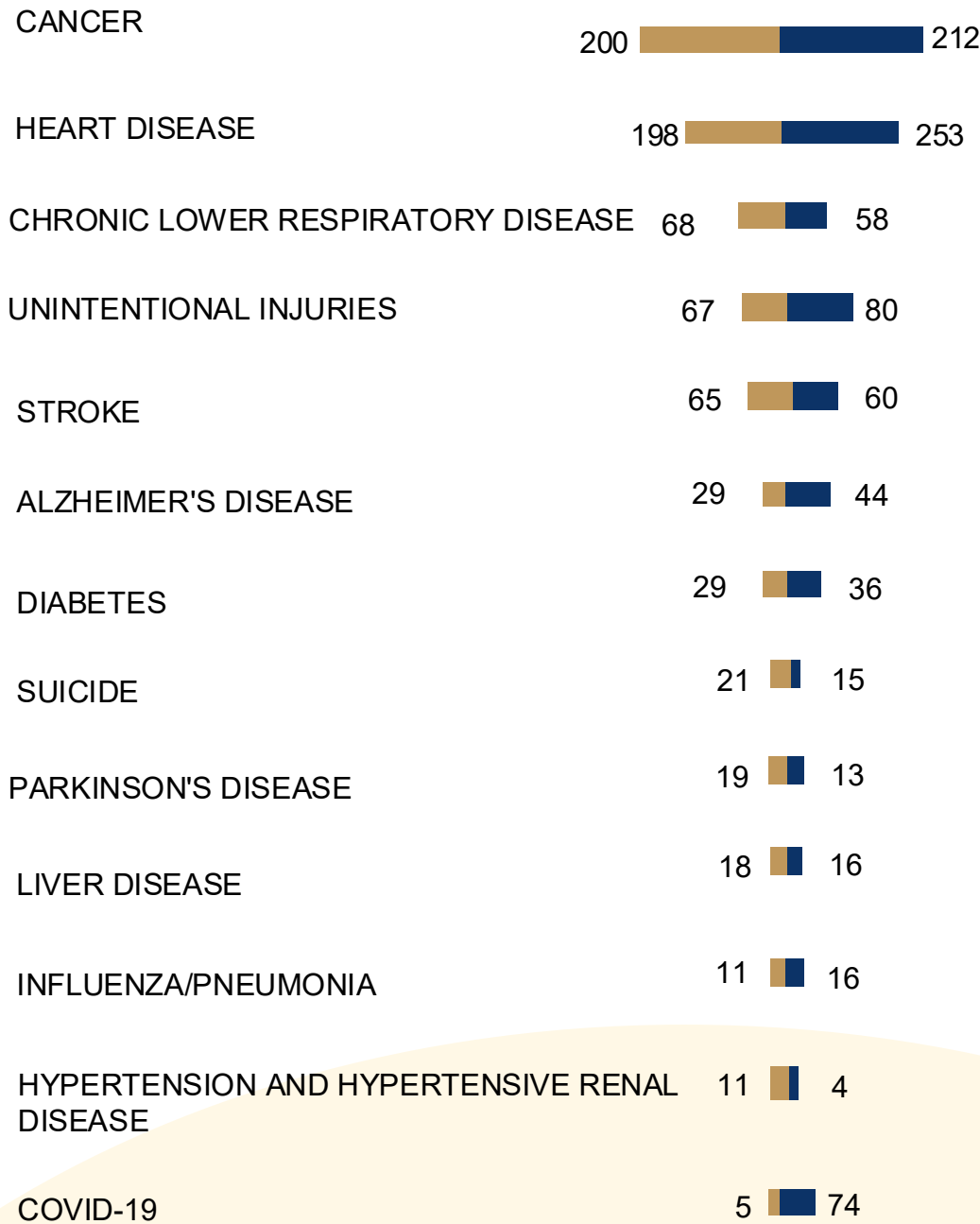
"I'm not sure where screening resources are. We used to have some programs, but I think they have been discontinued."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

"We see some hepatitis and STD issues in the transit community."

- Community Member Interview from Fairfield County

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH



The top two leading causes of death in Fairfield County were cancer and heart disease in 2024.⁴⁰ Fairfield County's overall death rate was lower than the state average. However, rates for chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke, Parkinson's disease, liver disease, and suicide were slightly higher than those observed statewide.⁶

	FAIRFIELD COUNTY	OHIO
ALL CAUSES	1,020	1,160

IDEAS FOR CHANGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY



These are *ideas* that we heard from community leaders and community members for potential suggestions to support community health.

EDUCATION

- Expand childcare capacity and affordability through partnerships with state legislators.
- Provide evening childcare for working parents and adult education programs.
- Address truancy through parent education classes and support systems.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Continue focus on maintaining pure air and water quality standards.

FOOD INSECURITY

- Expand food delivery services.
- Partner with Department of Agriculture on senior farmers market programs.
- Reduce stigma around food assistance programs.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

- Continue development of affordable housing projects.
- Expand family shelter capacities.
- Create transitional housing for veterans.

INJURIES

- Expand in-home fall prevention programs.
- Conduct traffic pattern analysis to reduce accident rates.

MATERNAL/INFANT/CHILD HEALTH

- Address OB-GYN provider shortages.
- Expand prenatal care access.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Reduce mental health provider turnover.
- Expand crisis mental services.
- Reduce stigma around mental health services.
- Improve insurance coverage for mental health services.

NUTRITION/PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Enhance existing food pantries.
- Expand senior meal programs.
- Connect nutrition education with chronic disease management programs.
- Encourage employers to offer gym memberships as employee benefits.

PREVENTIVE PRACTICES

- Increase preventive education efforts.
- Address vaccine hesitancy through improved parent education programs.
- Expand mobile health screening services.

SUBSTANCE USE

- Establish a local detox center.
- Expand support groups for recovery.
- Increase Narcan distribution and overdose prevention education.

TRANSPORTATION

- Expand country public transit system beyond its current limitations.
- Develop referral pathways to connect patients with transportation resources.

TOBACCO/NICOTINE USE

- Create an in-school curriculum on vaping.
- Address generational smoking patterns through family-based interventions.

OTHER OPPORTUNITES

- Create more socialization programs and spaces for the aging population.
- Improve coordination between agencies to reduce service gaps.

CURRENT RESOURCES

ADDRESSING PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

FAIRFIELD COUNTY



Information was gathered on assets and resources that currently exist in the community. This was done using feedback from the community and an overall assessment of the service area. While this list strives to be comprehensive, it may not be complete.

Access to Healthcare

Central Ohio Primary Care
 CVS Pharmacy
 Fairfield Community Health Center
 Fairfield County Health Department
 Fairfield County Job and Family Services
 Fairfield Medical Center
 Family Health Services of East Central Ohio
 Lancaster Veteran Outpatient Clinic
 Mount Carmel Hospital
 Nationwide Children's Hospital
 Ohio Department of Medicaid
 Ohio's Best Rx
 OSU Mobile Clinic
 Single Care

Community & Social Services

911
 Afterschool Programs of Lancaster
 AHA! A Hands-on Adventure-Children's Museum
 Big Brother, Big Sisters of Southeastern Ohio
 Bottoms Up Diaper Bank
 Central Ohio Area Agency On Aging (COAAA)
 Connexion West-Community Center
 Crisis Hotline/Text Line
 Fairfield County 2-1-1
 Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 Fairfield County Domestic Relations Court
 Fairfield County Job and Family Services
 Fairfield County Juvenile Court
 Fairfield County Veterans Service Commission

Community & Social Services (continued)

Harcum House-Child Advocacy Center
 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
 Ohio Legal Help
 Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator (Ohio KAN)
 Olivedale Senior Citizens of Fairfield County
 Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)
 Relink.org
 Safe at Home Program
 Silver Sneakers Program
 Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (LASCO)
 Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)
 The Lighthouse
 The Samaritan Center
 The Senior Hub
 Victims Services of East Central Ohio
 YMCA of Lancaster and Fairfield County

Education

Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools
 Faith Early Learning Academy
 Fairfield County District Library
 Fairfield County Foundation
 Fairfield County Literacy Council
 Hocking College
 Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center (MVESC)
 Ohio University Lancaster Branch
 Pickerington Early Childhood Center
 Pickerington Public Library

Employment

Acloche
 Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 Fairfield County Job and Family Services
 Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

Employment (continued)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 Ohio Means Jobs
 Surge Staffing

Environmental

Fairfield County Health Department
 Fairfield County Master Gardeners
 Fairfield County Soil & Water Conservation District
 Lancaster Fairfield Community Action

Food Insecurity

Deal Hunters Alliance
 Fairfield County Health Department WIC
 Fairfield County Hunger Coalition
 Fairfield County Job and Family Services SNAP
 First Methodist Church
 Hunger Alliance
 Keller Market House
 Maple Street United Methodist Church
 Meals on Wheels
 PB & Joy Project
 Salvation Army

Housing & Homelessness

Fairfield County Job and Family Services
 Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority
 Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio
 Lancaster Community Development
 Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency
 Lancaster-Fairfield County Community Action Emergency Homeless Shelter
 Lutheran Social Services
 Maywood Mission
 Project House Call

CURRENT RESOURCES

ADDRESSING PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

FAIRFIELD COUNTY



Information was gathered on assets and resources that currently exist in the community. This was done using feedback from the community and an overall assessment of the service area. While this list strives to be comprehensive, it may not be complete.

Housing & Homelessness (continued)

- Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL)
- The Foundation Shelters
- The Lighthouse
- Veterans Services and Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Mental Health & Addiction

- Bridge to Success
- BrightView-Lancaster Addiction Treatment Center
- Charlie Health
- Crisis Hotline/Text Line
- Fairfield Center of Hope
- Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board
- Fairfield County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Fairfield Healthcare Professionals Psychiatry
- Integrated Behavioral Health
- Kaleidoscope
- Lancaster Area Recovery Services
- Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Teen Programs
- Lancaster VA Clinic
- Mental Health America of Ohio
- Mid-Ohio Psychological Services
- Mount Carmel Behavioral Health Center
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- National Runaway Safe line
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- New Horizons Mental Health Services
- Ohio Guidestone
- PATH Behavioral Health
- Pearl House
- Project FORT

Mental Health & Addiction (continued)

- Spero Health
- Starlight Center
- The Recovery Center
- Trevor Project Crisis Line
- Veterans Crisis Hotline

Nutrition & Physical Health

- Arms of Faith Free Store
- Center of Hope
- Fairfield County Health Department
- Foundation Dinners
- Maple Street Church
- Meals on Wheels
- YMCA of Lancaster and Fairfield County

Transportation

- Fairfield Center for Independence
- Lancaster Public Transit
- Mobility Management
- Senior Transportation-Canal Winchester
- Veteran Service commission

STEP 6

Document, Adopt/Post And Communicate Results



In this step, Fairfield County Health Department:

- Wrote an easily understandable community health assessment (cha) report
- Adopted and approved cha report
- Disseminated the results so that it was widely available to the public

DOCUMENT, ADOPT/POST AND COMMUNICATE RESULTS



Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) worked with Moxley Public Health to pool expertise and resources to conduct the 2025 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment (CHA). By gathering secondary (existing) data and conducting new primary research as a team (through interviews with community leaders, focus groups with subpopulations and priority groups, and a community member survey), the stakeholders will be able to understand the community's perception of health needs. Additionally, FCHD will be able to prioritize health needs with an understanding of how each need compares against benchmarks and is ranked in importance by service area residents.

The 2025 Fairfield County CHA, which builds upon the prior assessment completed in 2022, meets all Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), and Ohio state requirements.

REPORT ADOPTION, AVAILABILITY AND COMMENTS

This CHA report was adopted by FCHD leadership and made widely available on the FCHD website in December 2025.

Fairfield County Health Department: <https://www.fairfieldhealth.org/FDH-Community-Health-Assessment.html>

Written comments on this report are welcomed and can be made on the following website: <https://www.fairfieldhealth.org/questions-comments.html>



Conclusion & Next Steps



The next steps will be:

- Develop improvement plan (chip) for 2025-2027
- Select priority health needs
- Choose indicators to view for impact change for 2025-2027 priority health needs
- Develop smart objectives for chip
- Select evidence-based and promising strategies to address priority health needs

CONCLUSION

NEXT STEPS FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (FCHD)



- Monitor community comments on the CHA report (ongoing) to the provided FCHD contacts.
- Select a final list of priority health needs to address using a set of criteria that is recommended by Moxley Public Health, MAPP 2.0 and PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board), and approved by FCHD. (The identification process to decide the priority health needs that are going to be addressed will be transparent to the public. The information on why certain needs were identified as priorities and why other needs will not be addressed will also be public knowledge).
- Community partners (including the hospital, health departments, and many other organizations throughout the service area) will select strategies to address priority health needs and priority populations. (We will use, but not be limited by, information from community members and stakeholders and evidence-based strategies recommended by the Ohio Department of Health).
- The 2026-2028 Improvement Plan (CHIP) (that includes indicators and SMART objectives to successfully monitor and evaluate the improvement plan) draft will be reviewed by the public prior to final approval by the Board of Health. Once approved, the final draft will be publicly posted and made widely available to the community.



APPENDIX A

Impact and Process Evaluation



Impact and Process Evaluation

The following tables indicate the priority health needs selected from the 2022 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the impact of the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) on these priority health needs (based on the most recent available data from 2024). The tables that follow are not exhaustive of these activities but highlight what has been achieved in the service area since the previous CHA. The impact data (indicators of each priority health need to show if it is getting better or worse) and process data (to show whether the strategies are happening or not) will be reported and measured in an evaluation plan. That data will be reported annually and in the next CHA.

APPENDIX A: IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #1: SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS					
Goal 1.a.: Increase understanding/awareness of community-wide resources for mental health and substance use and decrease stigma toward mental health and substance use.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective 1.a.1:</i> By January 2024, complete 6 outreach activities to increase awareness of mental health and substance use resources among local leaders and other local parties (e.g., schools, law enforcement/police and fire chiefs, village trustees, Meals on Wheels, utility companies), and via methods such as mayors' meetings and festivals, with the goal of reaching individuals who may be hard to reach (e.g., rural populations, older adults, and children)</p>	<p>Baseline: Some previous outreach via Meals on Wheels and using utility bills</p> <p>Target: Present and/or set up booth at 3 or more events</p> <p>Have direct contact with at least 3 community leaders to provide information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research meetings and events at which to have booth and/or presentations about mental health and substance use resources • Research other ways to distribute mental health and substance use resource information (e.g., agencies providing information to their constituencies, public utilities providing information on utility bills) • Contact local leaders to provide and/or discuss mental health and substance use resources • Follow through to provide information based on research/contacts 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (meet target by January 2024)</p>	<p>Fairfield County Health Department and the Behavioral Health Community Navigator</p>	<p>Complete. FCHD and partners completed 10 outreach activities through social media campaigns, community events, public meetings and presentations at targeted population agencies</p>

APPENDIX A: IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #1: SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS					
Goal 1.a.: Increase understanding/awareness of community-wide resources for mental health and substance use and decrease stigma toward mental health and substance use.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<i>Objective 1.a.2:</i> By January 2024, have at least 3 meetings to explore planning and funding for mental health and/or substance use peer support groups or coaching	Baseline: Mental health and/or substance use peer support groups or coaching not planned Target: At least 3 planning meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore benefits of peer support and coaching Discuss funding options for creating the groups or coaching sessions Establish details about how the groups or coaching sessions will be conducted 	Start: January 2023 End: January 2024	Fairfield County Health Department, Fairfield Community Health Center, Fairfield Medical Center	Complete. Mental Health America (MHA) has support groups and The Prevention, Advocacy, Recovery and Treatment (P.A.R.T.) Coalition monthly meetings

PRIORITY #1: SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS					
Goal 1.b.: Increase the number of mental health and substance use professionals in Fairfield County.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<i>Objective 1.b.1:</i> By December 2025, increase behavioral health patients treated by the Fairfield Community Health Center by 50%.	Baseline: x.x # of behavioral health patients treated each month by FCHC Target: Increase behavioral health patients treated each month by FCHC by 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish FCHC's psychiatric nurse practitioner as a preceptor Attract nurse practitioners who are trained in mental health to complete preceptorships at FCHC who will treat behavioral health patients as part of their preceptorships 	Start: After FCHC completes center expansion End: Ongoing but target complete by December 2025	Fairfield Community Health Center	In progress. A new counselor at Fairfield Community Health Center (FCHC) was hired in 2024, hoping to regain momentum in 2025 after losing two counselors in 2023. FCHC also has a psychiatric nurse practitioner that works one day a week but has not started precepting.

APPENDIX A: IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #1: SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS					
Goal 1.b.: Increase the number of mental health and substance use professionals in Fairfield County.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective 1.b.2:</i> By January 2024, have at least 3 meetings to explore funding and planning for a program to incentivize nurse practitioners to add a mental health specialty</p>	<p>Baseline: Program to incentivize nurse practitioners for adding a mental health specialty not planned</p> <p>Target: At least 3 meetings to explore planning a program that incentivizes nurse practitioners to add a mental health specialty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore similar programs that have been implemented in other communities • Explore potential funding options for programs • Discuss details regarding how this type of program might be implemented in Fairfield County 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: January 2024</p>	<p>Fairfield County Health Department, Fairfield Community Health Center, ADAMH</p>	<p>Completed. The Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board established a social services workforce development committee that meets monthly. ADAMH also provides funds to organizations to pay salaries to behavioral health professionals</p>

APPENDIX A: IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #1: SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS					
Goal 1.c.: Decrease the suicide rate in Fairfield County.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective</i> 1.c. 1: By December 2025, decrease the suicide count to 21.47 or less</p>	<p>Baseline: In 2021, the suicide rate was 19.3 and the count was 30.</p> <p>Target: Suicide rate of 12.8 and death count of 21.47</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Prevention Coalition will establish 9-8-8 suicide hotline • Suicide Prevention Coalition will conduct outreach to increase awareness of 9-8-8 suicide hotline • ADAMH to conduct training on mental health first aid - how to talk to people considering suicide 	<p>Start: January 2023.</p> <p>End: Ongoing (meet target by December 2025).</p>	<p>Suicide Prevention Coalition, ADAMH, potential other partners.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>To make the target more realistic, the measure has been changed from suicide rate to count. Utilizing the Healthy People 2030 suicide rate of 12.8 and the 2024 Vintage Census Bureau population estimate for Fairfield County; the target death count is 21.47. The 2024 preliminary suicide death count is 33, compared to 27 in 2023 and 22 in 2022. Efforts remain focused on reducing suicide deaths in 2025.</p>

APPENDIX A : IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #1: SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS					
Goal 1.d.: Decrease the rate of drug overdose deaths in Fairfield County.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective 1.d.1:</i> By December 2025, decrease the drug overdose death rate to 20.7 deaths per 100,000</p>	<p>Baseline: In 2021, the drug overdose death rate was 40.3</p> <p>Target: Drug overdose death rate of 20.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project DAWN will conduct overdose education and Naloxone distribution • F.O.R.T. (Fairfield County Overdose Response Team) will provide services for those who have overdosed, those at risk for overdosing, and their families 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (meet target by December 2025)</p>	<p>Project DAWN, F.O.R.T., Overdose Prevention Fairfield County PA.R.T. Coalition, and potential other agencies.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>The 2024 preliminary drug overdose death rate is 22.5, showing continued improvement from 40.3 in 2021. While early 2025 data currently shows a rate of 7.4 as of July 8, this data is preliminary and subject to change. The county has seen a significant decline in overdose rates over the past several years, and efforts remain focused on meeting the 20.7 per 100,000 target by December 2025</p>

APPENDIX A : IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #2: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Goal 2.a.: Increase awareness of health resources and events in the community.

OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective 2.a.1:</i> By January 2024, create a shared calendar between health organizations in the county and distribute resources to all organizations with the goal of increasing knowledge of health events and resources between organizations and within the wider public</p>	<p>Baseline: Current health resource directory awareness – estimated not to be widespread. No collaborative event calendar currently exists</p> <p>Target: Health resource directory is distributed to each health organization each time it's updated, and event calendar is created</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a process by which health organizations can add their events to an online calendar. • Distribute health resource directory to health organizations from FCHD email list • Health organizations share the health resource directory and the event calendar via their social media channels or via physical methods with clients of health services and wider public 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (Meet target by January 2024)</p>	Fairfield County Health Department	<p>Completed. The full calendar is maintained and housed at Fairfield County Family and Children First Council (FCFC). A calendar is also available with events on the FCHD website, where known events from other organizations are added (https://www.fairfieldhealth.org/fdh-event-calendar.html).</p>
<p><i>Objective 2.a.2:</i> By January 2024, schedule or increase awareness of 3 events to foster collaboration between health organizations, such as luncheons and other scheduled activities where local leaders in health and other areas can learn about each others' capabilities and resources</p>	<p>Baseline: Current amount of health organization networking events - estimated to be limited</p> <p>Target: Share information about existing networking events and/or schedule at least 3 events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute information about existing county networking events via current email list. • Explore scheduling additional networking events to give health organizations an opportunity to collaborate and share information. 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (Meet target by January 2024)</p>	Fairfield County Health Department	<p>Completed. Healthcare Coalition (HCC) and FCFC meetings have satisfied this. SPC did a resource fair for agencies. FCHD had a Listen and Learn scheduled on 4/1/2025 at the county commissioners meeting</p>

APPENDIX A : IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #2: COMMUNITY OUTREACH					
Goal 2.b: Increase awareness, access, and use of prenatal care.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective 2.b.1:</i> By January 2024, understand potential methods to increase community awareness, access, and use of prenatal care</p>	<p>Baseline: Limited conversations to learn about funding opportunities and methods to increase prenatal care</p> <p>Target: At least 3 meetings to explore funding opportunities and methods to increase awareness, access, and use of prenatal care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct research and have conversations to learn about funding opportunities (United Way & Fairfield County Health Department) Conduct research on evidence-based methods to increase utilization of prenatal health resources 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (meet target by January 2024)</p>	<p>United Way / Fairfield County Health Department</p>	<p>Completed. FCHD presented to and met with United Way, ADAMH & Foundation and received money to start the Newborn Home Visit program</p>
Goal 2.c: Increase use of parks for improving health. Promote the adoption of modifiable risk behaviors including tobacco use, poor eating habits, and lack of physical activity, which contribute to the development of chronic disease.					
<p><i>Objective 2.c.1:</i> By January 2024, increase opportunities for outdoor physical activity and increase awareness of these resources within the community</p>	<p>Baseline: Existing scheduled outdoor activities hosted by parks.</p> <p>Target: Create a resource detailing current and potential outdoor activity clubs and activities (e.g., weekly hikes) and share this with the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks host weekly hikes for community to meet and utilize parks Parks share information about hiking clubs Parks share information about other outdoor activity clubs Parks consider other ideas for increasing outdoor physical activity 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (weekly hikes target by fall 2023)</p>	<p>Park District</p>	<p>Completed. The park district started hosting weekly hikes. There is a calendar on their website and promote events on social media.</p>

APPENDIX A : IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #2: COMMUNITY OUTREACH					
Goal 2.c: Increase use of parks for improving health. Promote the adoption of modifiable risk behaviors including tobacco use, poor eating habits, and lack of physical activity, which contribute to the development of chronic disease.					
OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<p><i>Objective 2.c.2:</i> By December 2025, increase health knowledge, access to screenings/health care by providing community members the opportunity to access information and screenings at community parks.</p>	<p>Baseline: No explicit collaboration between Park District and the medical community.</p> <p>Target: Have at least three events featuring cardiac arrest training and CPR training in area parks. Place AEDs in three community parks. Have at least two other events scheduled where community members can receive health education or services at local parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact medical professionals and determine interest in collaborating Determine appropriateness of park venues to facilitate health information education/ health service delivery and determine what is needed to make venues appropriate Schedule events at parks where medical professionals provide services Plan and schedule times for Community Heart Watch to host their mobile CPR/AED training unit at local parks 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (Meet first two targets by January 2024. Meet third target by 2025)</p>	<p>Park District and Community Heart Watch</p>	<p>In progress. The first two targets have been completed. Smeck Park in Baltimore, Stebelton Park at Rock Mill and Mambourg Park in Lancaster all received AEDS. Trainings have taken place with the first happening at Harvest Celebration at Smeck Park in 2023, a second during Milling Day at Rock Mill, in 2023, and the third at Mambourg park in 2024.</p>
Goal 2.d: Increase access to paramedicine in Fairfield County.					
<p><i>Objective 2.d.1:</i> By December 2025, increase the number of hours spent providing paramedical care in Fairfield County</p>	<p>Baseline: Existing time spent on paramedicine in Fairfield County</p> <p>Target: TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding for additional paramedics in the county Explore changes in training or staffing to increase paramedical care 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: December 2025</p>	<p>Violet Township Fire Department and potential other partners.</p>	<p>In progress. Time has increased in both Lancaster and Violet Township Fire Department (VTFD). Lancaster has a community paramedic program. The FCHD team is currently discussing a target as it is currently listed as TBD.</p>

APPENDIX A: IMPACT AND PROCESS EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2023-2025)

PRIORITY #3: TRANSPORTATION ACCESS

Goal 3.a.: For people in the community have affordable access to get to go where they want, when they want (e.g., food pantries, grocery stores, jobs, medical appointments, community events, social/personal needs).

OBJECTIVES IMPACT	MEASURE	ACTION STEPS	TIMEFRAME	LEAD	STATUS
<i>Objective 3.a.1:</i> By December 2025, have broad community agency collaboration for transportation and mobility funding, with inclusion of funding for bicyclists and pedestrian options.	<p>Baseline: Many local agencies are applying for funding separately and are unaware of what funding exists.</p> <p>Target: All county agencies who are interested in/have a need for transportation funding are able to provide input if wanted and understand the sources of transportation funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about current transportation and mobility funding in the county. Reach out to County Commissioners to discuss funding. Research other local agencies to determine what they are doing and getting them involved. Identify partnerships for funding opportunities and eliminate duplication. Search ways to fund bike path improvements along with other walkways. 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: December 2025</p>	Lancaster Fairfield Public Transit and Fairfield County Health Departme nt	Complete. A mobility manager has been hired by 211.
<i>Objective 3.a.2:</i> By December 2025, increase the activity of the Transportation Advisory Committee (more members, more meetings, and greater awareness).	<p>Baseline: Current state of committee: some county agencies are unaware of the committee.</p> <p>Target: Meetings and membership of the Transportation Advisory Committee increase by 10%.</p> <p>Agencies involved with transportation in the county are aware of the committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-engage current members Invite and recruit new members Determine a set schedule for meetings Include additional pedestrian/bike topics into the committee Use maps to identify gaps in service Create maps for public use Address rural plan for transportation 	<p>Start: January 2023</p> <p>End: Ongoing (target by December 2025)</p>	Fairfield County 2- 1- 1 Mobility Manager and Lancaste r Fairfield Public Transit	Complete. FCHD conducted walk and bike path audits through AARP. The transit advisory committee meets monthly. Regional planning active transportation committee meets monthly. Fairfield County acquired Lancaster Fairfield Public Transit.

APPENDIX B

Benchmark Comparisons



Benchmark Comparisons

The following table compares Fairfield County Service Area rates of the identified health needs to national goals called **Healthy People 2030 Objectives**. These benchmarks show how the service area compares to national goals for the same health need. This appendix is useful for monitoring and evaluation purposes in order to track the impact of our Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address priority health needs.

APPENDIX B: HEALTHY PEOPLE OBJECTIVES & BENCHMARK COMPARISONS



Where data were available, Fairfield County health and social indicators were compared to the Healthy People 2030 objectives. The **black** indicators are Healthy People 2030 objectives that did not meet established benchmarks, and the **blue** items met or exceeded the objectives. Certain indicators were not reported, marked as N/R. [Healthy People Objectives](#) are released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services every decade to identify science-based objectives with targets to monitor progress, motivate and focus action.

BENCHMARK COMPARISONS			
INDICATORS	DESIRED DIRECTION	FAIRFIELD COUNTY	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030 OBJECTIVES
High school graduation rate ²	↑	93.5%	90.7%
Child health insurance rate ¹⁶	↑	96.1%	92.1%
Adult health insurance rate ¹⁶	↑	91.1%	92.1%
Ischemic heart disease deaths ⁴⁰	↓	197.9*	71.1 per 100,000 persons
Cancer deaths ⁴⁰	↓	200.4*	122.7 per 100,000 persons
Colon/rectum cancer deaths ⁴⁰	↓	11.5*	8.9 per 100,000 persons
Lung cancer deaths ⁴⁰	↓	37.8*	25.1 per 100,000 persons
Female breast cancer deaths ⁴⁰	↓	20.9*	15.3 per 100,000 persons
Prostate cancer deaths ⁴⁰	↓	17.1*	16.9 per 100,000 persons
Stroke deaths ⁴⁰	↓	64.5*	33.4 per 100,000 persons
Unintentional injury deaths ⁴⁰	↓	67.0*	43.2 per 100,000 persons
Suicides ⁴⁰	↓	20.7*	12.8 per 100,000 persons
Liver disease (cirrhosis) deaths ⁴⁰	↓	18.2*	10.9 per 100,000 persons
Unintentional fall deaths, adults 65+ ⁴⁰	↓	116.3	63.4 per 100,000 persons ages 65+
Unintentional drug-overdose deaths ⁴⁰	↓	31.1*	20.7 per 100,000 persons
Overdose deaths involving opioids ⁴¹	↓	22.9	13.1 per 100,000 persons
On-time (first trimester) prenatal care (HP2020 Goal) ⁵⁰	↑	75.0%	84.8% (HP2020 Goal)
Preterm births, babies born before 37 weeks of gestation (%) ⁵⁰	↓	11.1%	9.0%
Infant death rate ²	↓	6.4	5.0 per 1,000 live births
Adults, ages 20+, obese ²	↓	39.0%	36.0%, adults ages 20+
Adults engaging in binge drinking ²	↓	21.7%	25.4%
Cigarette smoking by adults ²	↓	21.1%	5.0%
Pap smears, ages 21-65, screened in the past 3 years ⁴⁴	↑	78.8%	84.3%
Mammograms, ages 50-74, screened in the past 2 years ⁴⁴	↑	74.1%	77.1%
Colorectal cancer screenings, ages 50-75, per guidelines ⁴⁴	↑	66.7%	74.4%
Medicare enrollee annual influenza vaccinations ²	↑	53.0%	70.0%, all adults
Food insecure households ²¹	↓	12.8%	6.0%

*Crude rates per 100,000, 2019-2023 average (only crude rates are available starting in 2021)

APPENDIX C

Key Informant Interview Participants



Key Informant Interview Participants

Listed on the following page are the names of **22** leaders, representatives, and members of the community who were consulted for their expertise on the needs of the community. The following individuals were identified by the Community Health Assessment (CHA) team as leaders based on their professional expertise and knowledge of various target groups throughout the service area.

APPENDIX C: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS FAIRFIELD COUNTY



INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS		
NAME(S)	ROLE	ORGANIZATION
1. Anna Tobin	Director	The Senior Hub/Meals on Wheels
2. Aundrea Cordle	Administrator	Fairfield County
3. Carrie Woody	Service Director	Lancaster City
4. Corey Clark	Director	Fairfield County Job and Family Services
5. Courtney VanDyke	Planning and Development Director	Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency
6. David Uhl	Superintendent	Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities
7. Heather O'Keefe	Assistant Director	Fairfield County Job and Family Services
8. Jack Janoso	CEO	Fairfield Medical Center
9. JD Postage	Community Paramedic	Violet Township Fire Department
10. Jeanette Curtis	Executive Director	Fairfield County 211
11. Jeff Schmelzer	Mobility Manager	Fairfield County 211
12. Kacie Funk	SNAP/Ed Program Assistant	OSU Extension Office
13. Lisa Evangelista	CEO	Fairfield Community Health Center
14. Marcy Fields	Executive Director	Fairfield County ADAMH Board
15. Marie Ward	Superintendent	Fairfield ESC
16. Mayor Don McDaniel	Mayor	City of Lancaster

APPENDIX C: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS FAIRFIELD COUNTY



INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS		
NAME(S)	ROLE	ORGANIZATION
17. Melissa Hills	Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Coordinator	Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Head Start
18. Scott Duff	Project Director	Major Crimes Unit
19. Teri Watson	Community Outreach Coordinator	Fairfield Medical Center
20. Tiffany Wilson	Coordinator	Fairfield County Family and Children First Council
21. Tim Hubbell	Outreach Coordinator	Lutheran Social Services
22. Travis Markwood	President	Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce



APPENDIX D

Community Member Survey



Community Member Survey

On the following pages are the questions and demographics from the community member survey that was distributed to Fairfield County residents get their perspectives and experiences on the health assets and needs of the community they call home. **726 responses** were received.

APPENDIX D:

COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

Welcome!

Fairfield County is conducting a Community Health Assessment to identify and assess the health needs of the community. We are asking community members (those who live and/or work in these counties) to complete this 15-20 minute survey. This information will help guide us as we consider services, programs, and policies that will benefit the community.

Be assured that this process is completely anonymous - we cannot access your name or any other identifying information. Your individual responses will be kept strictly confidential and the information will only be presented in aggregate (as a group). Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary and you are free to leave any of the questions unanswered/skip questions you prefer not to answer (so only answer the questions you want to answer!). Thank you for helping us to better serve our community!

Demographics

1. Where do you live or reside? (choose ONE)

- 43130
- 43147
- 43110
- 43076
- 43105
- 43112
- 43102
- 43046
- 43154
- 43107
- 43155
- 43148
- 43150
- 43136
- 43163
- 43157
- Prefer not to answer
- None of the above, I primarily live in the following ZIP Code:

2. Where do you work? (choose ONE)

- 43130
- 43147
- 43110
- 43076
- 43105
- 43112
- 43102
- 43046
- 43154
- 43107
- 43155
- 43148
- 43150
- 43136
- 43163
- 43157
- Prefer not to answer
- None of the above, I do not work or work in a ZIP Code outside the county (optional: share the ZIP code below)

3. Which of the following best describes your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to answer

4. What is your gender? (select all that apply)

- Woman
- Man
- Transgender/Trans woman (person who identifies as a woman)
- Transgender/Trans man (person who identifies as a man)
- Non-binary/non-conforming
- Prefer not to answer
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

5. What is your sexual orientation? (select all that apply)

- Heterosexual or Straight
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Prefer not to answer
- Not Listed (feel free to specify)

6. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (select all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian Indian
- Black/African American
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Hispanic/Latino/a
- Japanese
- Korean
- Multiracial/More than one race
- Native Hawaiian
- Other Asian
- Other Pacific Islander
- Samoan
- Vietnamese
- White
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

7. What is your current living situation? (choose ALL that apply)

- I have a steady place to live
- I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future
- I do not have a steady place to live (I am temporarily staying with others)
- I am staying in a shelter
- I am living outside
- I am living in a car
- I am living elsewhere
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

8. Are you currently employed?

- Yes, full-time (30 hours per week or more)
- Yes, part-time (less than 30 hours per week)
- Not employed - but looking for work
- Not employed - not actively looking for work
- Student
- Retired
- Disabled
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

9. What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000-\$34,999
- \$35,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- Over \$100,000
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

10. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than a High School diploma
- High School degree or equivalent
- Some college but no degree
- Trade School or Vocational Certificate
- Associate's degree (e.g. AA, AS)
- Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BS)
- Graduate degree (e.g. MA, MS, PhD, EdD, MD)
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

11. Do you have any of the following disabilities or chronic conditions?
(choose ALL that apply)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Attention deficit | • Dementia (e.g. Alzheimer's |
| • Autism | • and other worsening |
| • Blind or visually impaired | • confusion |
| • Cancer | • and cognitive decline) |
| • Chronic Liver | • Diabetes |
| • Disease/Cirrhosis | • Health-related disability |
| • Chronic Obstructive | • Heart disease and/or |
| • Pulmonary Disease | • stroke |
| • (COPD) | • Hypertension |
| • Deaf or hard of hearing | • Kidney disease |
| • Mental health condition | • Learning disability |
| • Mobility-related disability | • Substance use disorder |
| • Parkinson's disease | • None |
| • Speech-related disability | • Prefer not to answer |
| | • Other/Not Listed (feel free |
| | to specify or tell us more) |

Ranking Health Needs

12. While it can be hard to choose, do your best to select what you feel are the TOP 3 COMMUNITY CONDITIONS/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH of concern in your community? (please check your TOP 3)

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Access to childcare | • Environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality, vector-borne diseases, etc.) |
| • Access to healthcare (e.g. doctors, hospitals, specialists, mental healthcare, dental/oral care, vision care, medical appointments, health insurance coverage, health literacy, etc.) | • Food insecurity (e.g. not being able to access and/or afford healthy food) |
| • Adverse childhood experiences (e.g. child abuse, mental health, family issues, trauma, etc.) | • Housing and homelessness |
| • Crime and violence | • Income/poverty and employment |
| • Education (e.g. early childhood education, elementary school, post-secondary education, etc.) | • Internet/wifi access |
| • Substance misuse (alcohol and drugs) | • Nutrition and physical health/exercise (includes overweight and obesity) |
| • Tobacco and nicotine use/smoking/vaping | • Preventive care and practices (e.g. screenings, mammograms, pap tests, vaccinations) |
| • Transportation (e.g. public transit, cars, cycling, walking) | • Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify) |

13. While it can be hard to choose, do your best to select what you feel are the TOP 3 HEALTH OUTCOMES (e.g. impacts, diseases, conditions, etc.) of concern in your community? (please check your TOP 3)

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Chronic diseases (e.g. heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, asthma, etc.) - Please specify which chronic disease(s) you feel is the biggest issue in the community in the 'Other' box below. | • Maternal, infant and child health (e.g. pre-term births, infant mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality) |
| • HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) | • Mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety, suicide, etc.) |
| • Injuries (workplace injuries, car accidents, falls, etc.) | • Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify) |

Overall Health

14. Overall, my physical health is:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| • Excellent | • Poor |
| • Very good | • Don't know/not sure |
| • Good | • Prefer not to answer |
| • Fair | |

15. Thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health NOT good?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| • 0 | • 16-20 |
| • 1-2 | • 21-25 |
| • 3-5 | • 26-29 |
| • 6-10 | • 30 |
| • 11-15 | |

APPENDIX D:

COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

16. Has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional EVER told you that you had... (choose ALL that apply)

- Asthma
- Arthritis
- Coronary heart disease
- Heart attack
- Diabetes
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)
- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol
- Anxiety disorder
- Depressive disorder
- None of these

17. During the past 12 months, why did you NOT get a prescription from your doctor filled? (choose ALL that apply)

- I had all my prescriptions filled
- My doctor did not prescribe me any medications
- I have no insurance
- I am taking too many medications
- Too expensive
- There was no generic equivalent of what was prescribed
- I stretched my current prescription by taking less than what was prescribed
- Transportation
- Side effects
- Fear of addiction
- I did not think I needed it
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

18. During the past 12 months, have you delayed getting needed medical care for any of the following reasons? (choose ALL that apply)

- Did not have insurance
- Could not afford the co-pay
- Did not have transportation
- Were unable to schedule an appointment
- Could not schedule an appointment soon enough
- Could not access telehealth care
- Did not delay getting needed care
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Mental Health

19. During the past 12 months, have you delayed getting needed medical care for any of the following reasons? (choose ALL that apply)

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-29
- 30

20. During the past 30 days, for about how many days did poor mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-29
- 30

21. During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide? (choose ONE)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

22. During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide? (choose ONE)

- 0 times
- 1 time
- 2 or 3 times
- 4 or 5 times
- 6 or more times

23. During the past 12 months, have you delayed getting needed mental health care or services for any of the following reasons? (choose ALL that apply)

- Unsure what services were available/Not knowing where to go
- Couldn't afford the care
- Feared admitting a mental health issue/Stigma of mental health issues
- Distrust/Fear of discrimination
- Difficulty finding a provider with availability
- Could not get an appointment quickly enough/too long of a wait for an appointment
- Office hours of provider didn't work with my schedule
- Language barriers
- Lack of transportation to the appointment
- Technology barriers with virtual visits/telehealth services
- Did not delay getting needed care
- Do not need mental health care or services
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Health Care Access

24. In the past 12 months, have you had any of the following problems when you needed health care (or to go to the doctor)? (choose ALL that apply)

- My healthcare plan does not allow me to see any doctors in Fairfield County
- I did not have enough money to pay for health care (the cost)
- I could not find a doctor to take me as a patient
- I could not find a doctor that I am comfortable with
- I could not get appointments when I wanted
- I did not get health services because of discrimination
- I did not get health services because I was concerned about my confidentiality
- I did not have transportation
- I did not have anyone to take care of my children
- I was too busy to get the health care that I needed
- I was too embarrassed to see help
- I had another problem that kept me from getting health care
- I have not had any of these problems in the past 12 months
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

25. Has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional EVER told you that you had any type of cancer? (choose ONE)

- Yes
- No

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

Cancer

26. About how many months passed from the time you first thought something might be wrong until you first saw a health care provider about it?

- Less than a month
- 1-3 months
- 4-6 months
- 7-12 months
- More than a year
- I have not seen a health care provider about it

27. If you waited more than 3 months before you saw a health care provider for your cancer, what were the reasons for this? (choose ALL that apply)

- My healthcare plan does not allow me to see any doctors in Fairfield County
- I did not have enough money to pay for health care (the cost)
- I could not find a doctor to take me as a patient
- I could not find a doctor that I am comfortable with
- I could not get appointments when I wanted
- I did not get health services because of discrimination
- I did not get health services because I was concerned about my confidentiality
- I did not have transportation
- I did not have anyone to take care of my children
- I was too busy to get the health care that I needed
- I was too embarrassed to see help
- I had another problem that kept me from getting health care
- I have not had any of these problems in the past 12 months
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

28. Which of the following would you have liked help with during your illness? (choose ALL that apply)

- Help with understanding my diagnosis and/or treatment options
- Help with applying for any benefits I might be eligible for
- Help arranging care services at my home
- Help with my insurance/billing paperwork
- Help with childcare
- None
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

29. About how long has it been since you have been to the doctor to get a routine checkup when you were well (not because you were already sick)? (choose ONE)

- Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)
- 1-2 years ago (at least 1 year but less than 2 years ago)
- 3-5 years ago (at least 2 years but less than 5 years ago)
- 5 or more years ago
- I have never been to a doctor for a checkup
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

30. About how long has it been since you have been to the dentist or dental clinic for any reason? Include visits to dental specialists, such as orthodontists or oral surgeon, etc. (choose ONE)

- Within the last year (anytime less than 12 months ago) (SKIP next question)
- Within the past 2 years (at least 1 year but less than 2 years ago)
- Within the past 5 years (at least 2 years but less than 5 years ago)
- 5 or more years ago
- I have never been to the dentist
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

31. In the past 12 months, what have been your reasons for not visiting a dentist or dental clinic? (choose ALL that apply)

- My healthcare plan does not allow me to see any dentists in Fairfield County
- I did not have enough money to pay for dental/oral care (the cost)
- I could not find a dentist to take me as a patient
- I could not find a dentist that I am comfortable with
- I could not get appointments when I wanted
- I did not get dental/oral services because of discrimination
- I did not get dental/oral services because I was concerned about my confidentiality
- I did not have transportation
- I did not have anyone to take care of my children
- I was too busy to get the dental/oral care that I needed
- I was too embarrassed to see help
- I'm afraid of going to the dentist
- I had another problem that kept me from getting dental/oral care
- I have not had any of these problems in the past 12 months
- I have visited a dentist or dental clinic in the past 12 months
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

32. During the past 12 months, how many times has the child in your household (aged 0-18, who most recently celebrated a birthday) visited a doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional for an annual physical, sports physical, or well visit? (choose ONE)

- 0 times
- 1 time
- 2 or more times
- Do not have children that are 0-18
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

33. In the past 12 months, have you gone outside of Fairfield County for any of the following healthcare services? (choose ALL that apply)

- I did not use any healthcare services outside of Fairfield County
- Specialty care
- Primary care (family doctor)
- Dental services
- Cardiac care
- Orthopedic care
- Cancer care
- Mental healthcare/counseling services
- Hospice/palliative care
- Pediatric primary care
- Pediatric specialists
- Pediatric therapies (e.g. physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, etc.)
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Addiction services
- Female health services
- Dermatological (skin) care
- Podiatry (foot/ankle) care
- Bariatric (obesity) care
- Ear, nose, and throat care
- Skilled nursing rehabilitation
- I did not go outside of Fairfield County for any of these healthcare services
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

APPENDIX D:

COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

34. [NOTE: If you are 44 years of age or younger, SKIP THIS QUESTION] How long has it been since you had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy? This does not include a colorectal screening done at home. (choose ONE)
This question is about colorectal cancer screening. Sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy are exams in which a tube is inserted in the rectum to view the colon for signs of cancer or other health problems.

- Have never had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy
- Not recommended by my doctor/healthcare professional to get a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy
- Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)
- Within the past 2 years (1 year but less than 2 years ago)
- Within the past 3 years (2 years but less than 3 years ago)
- Within the past 5 years (3 years less than 5 years ago)
- Within the past 10 years (5 years but less than 10 years ago)
- Never
- Don't know
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

35. [NOTE: If you are male, SKIP THIS QUESTION] How long has it been since you had your last Pap test? (choose ONE) A Pap test is a test for cancer of the cervix.

- Have never had a Pap test
- Not recommended by my doctor/healthcare professional to get a Pap test
- Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)
- Within the past 2 years (at least 1 year but less than 2 years ago)
- Within the past 3 years (at least 2 years but less than 3 years ago)
- Within the past 5 years (at least 3 years but less than 5 years ago)
- 5 or more years ago
- Don't know
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

36. [NOTE: If you are male OR younger than 45 years old, SKIP THIS QUESTION] How long has it been since you had your last mammogram? (choose ONE) A mammogram is an x-ray of each breast to look for breast cancer.

- Have never had a mammogram
- Not recommended by my doctor/healthcare professional to get a mammogram
- Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)
- Within the past 2 years (at least 1 year but less than 2 years ago)
- Within the past 3 years (at least 2 years but less than 3 years ago)
- Within the past 5 years (at least 3 years but less than 5 years ago)
- 5 or more years ago
- Breasts were removed
- Don't know
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Health Information Resources

37. Which of the following sources would you trust to provide accurate information about health or prevention? (choose ALL that apply)

- Fairfield County Health Department
- The Ohio Department of Health
- The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Family member or friend
- My doctor or healthcare provider/professional
- Newspaper articles or radio/television news stories
- Faith-based community/church
- The internet
- Advertising or mailings
- Social media medical community (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Billboards
- Texts on cell phone
- In-person education/classes
- Podcasts/webinars
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Environmental Health

38. The following issues are sometimes associated with poor health. During the past 12 months, which of the following issues have been present in or around your household? (choose ALL that apply)

- Lead paint
- Rodents (mice or rats)
- Lice
- Unsafe water supply/wells
- Plumbing problems
- Sewage/waste water problems
- Air quality
- Temperature regulation (heating and air conditioning)
- Agricultural chemicals (pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers)
- Mold
- Asbestos
- Moisture issues
- Radon
- Bedbugs
- Other insects (flies, roaches, mosquitoes, etc.)
- Litter/trash/sanitation issues
- None of these
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Nutrition/Physical Activity

39. If you want to improve your health and fitness, what challenges or obstacles are currently preventing you from doing so? (choose ALL that apply)

- Stress
- Lack of energy
- My busy schedule (I don't have time to cook or exercise)
- Lack of support from friends
- Lack of support from family
- I feel intimidated or awkward going to a gym or fitness center
- Money (gyms and healthy foods are too expensive)
- Lack of gyms or fitness centers to go to near me
- Food and fitness is too confusing
- Convenience (eating out is easier)
- Childcare concerns
- I don't like to cook
- I don't like to exercise
- I don't feel motivated to be healthier
- None of the above. (I'm in good shape or don't want to be in better shape)
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

40. What types of facilities or spaces would you like to have more of for physical activity and/or leisure activities in the area where you live? (choose ALL that apply)

- More sidewalks
- More bike paths
- More walking paths
- More parks
- More places for kids to play
- More places to play sports like basketball, tennis, or pickleball
- More indoor facilities (gyms and/or fitness centers)
- None
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

41. During the past month, other than your regular job, how many times did you participate in any physical activities or exercises (such as running, weight training, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise)? (choose ONE)

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-29
- 30 or more

42. On average, how many hours of sleep do you get in a 24-hour period? (choose ONE)

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13 or more
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

43. How difficult is it for you to regularly access and purchase fresh fruits and vegetables?

- Extremely difficult
- Very difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Slightly difficult
- Not difficult at all
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

44. In a typical week, how many times do you eat fast food? (choose ONE)

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7 or more

Tobacco/Nicotine

45. How often do you...

	Every day	Some days	Not at all
Smoke cigarettes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use e-cigarettes (e.g., vape sticks, vape, Juul)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use other tobacco/nicotine product(s)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

46. Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many did you have during the past 30 days? (choose ONE) One drink is equal to a 12-ounce beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, or a drink with one shot of liquor.

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-29
- 30 or more

47. Do you personally know anyone in Fairfield County who has a drug abuse or addiction problem with... (choose ALL that apply)

- Heroin
- Methamphetamines
- Prescription pain medicine
- Alcohol
- Don't know anyone
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

48. In the past 30 days, have you used prescription medication in a way that was not prescribed to you (such as taking someone else's medication or using more than prescribed)?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

49. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana or cannabis?

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-29
- 30 or more

50. On average, how many hours per day do you spend on the internet, computer, or cell phone (outside of work or school activities)? This includes browsing the web on a desktop, laptop, or cell phone, using apps on a cell phone, checking email, social media usage, etc. (choose ONE)

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- 13 or more
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

APPENDIX D:

COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY

Child Health

51. If you have a child/children living in your household, what would you say are your child(ren)'s biggest challenges in school? (choose ALL that apply)

- Bullying
- Substances, including Juuls, tobacco products, drugs or alcohol
- Doesn't take it seriously
- Behavior
- Academics – Literacy
- Academics – Math
- Limited English Proficiency
- Teen pregnancy
- Stress/mental health
- Pressure to have sex
- Peer pressure in general
- Access to special healthcare needs assessments
- Experienced bullying due to race or ethnicity
- Felt isolated or left out due to race or ethnicity
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to answer
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Transportation

52. In the past 12 months, has lack of reliable transportation kept you from going to (choose ALL that apply):

- Medical appointments (for yourself or another member of your family)
- Work/meetings
- School (for yourself or another member of your family)
- Childcare
- Buying food/groceries
- Physical activity opportunities/the gym
- Getting other things for daily living
- Not applicable
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Community Resources

53. What resources are lacking within your community? (choose ALL that apply)

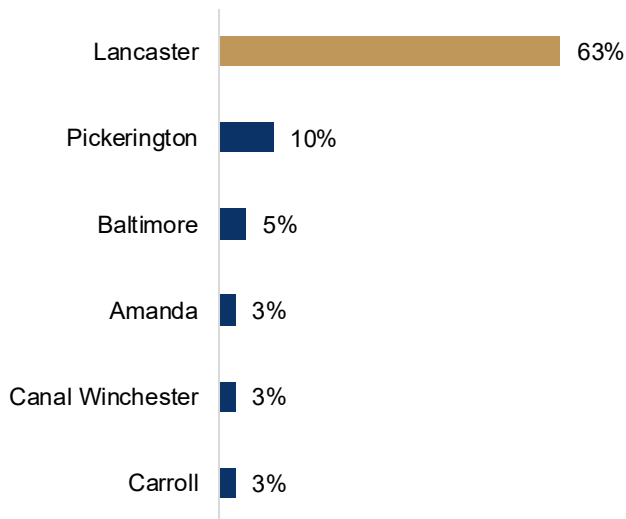
- Affordable food
- Affordable housing
- Childcare
- Dental/oral healthcare access
- Hospital/acute and emergency healthcare
- Maternal, infant, and child healthcare (e.g. OB/GYN, midwives, doulas, pediatricians, etc.)
- Mental healthcare access
- Primary healthcare access
- Recreational spaces (e.g. parks, walking paths, community centers, gyms/workout facilities, etc.)
- Specialist healthcare (e.g. oncologist/cancer care, cardiologist/heart care, nephrologist/kidney care, physical therapy, dietitian, etc.)
- Substance use treatment/harm reduction services
- Transportation
- Vision healthcare access
- There is no lack of resources in my community
- I don't know what resources are lacking in my community
- Other/Not Listed (feel free to specify)

Final Comments

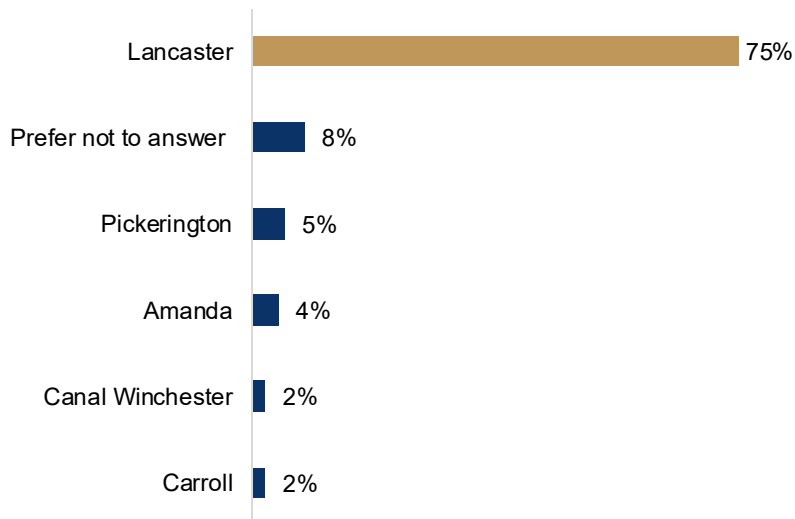
54. Do you have any other feedback or comments to share with us?

APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

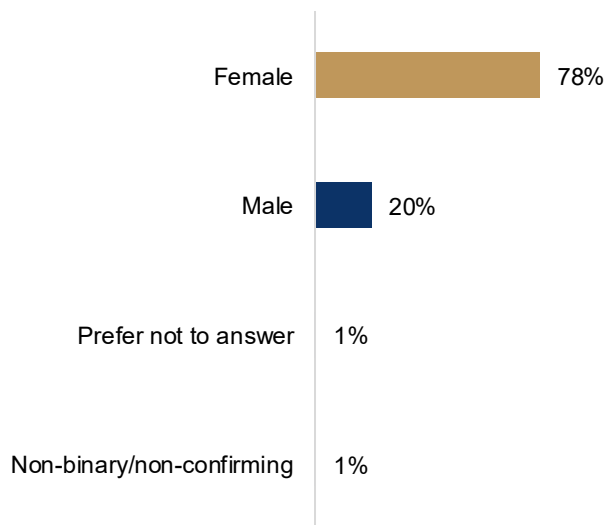
The majority of survey respondents live in **Lancaster (43130)**, while there was representation from Pickerington (43147), Baltimore (43105), and Amanda (43102).



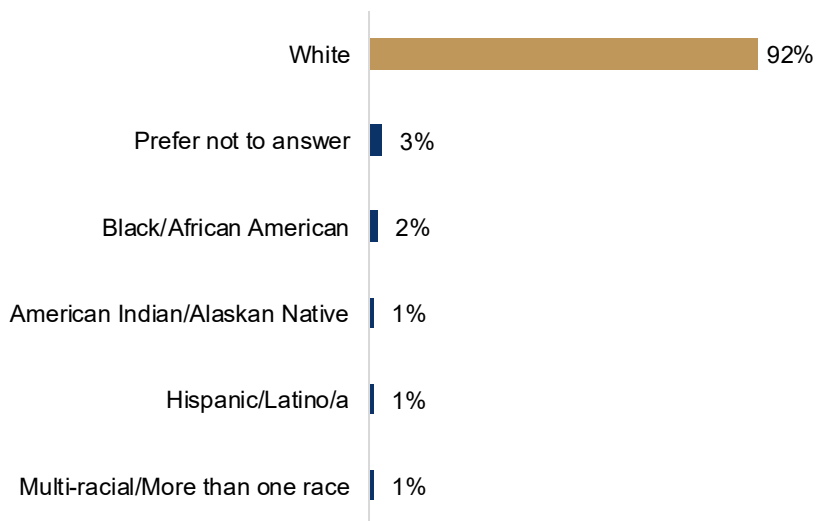
The majority of respondents work in **Lancaster (43130)**, while there was representation from Pickerington (43147), Amanda (43102), and Canal Winchester (43110).



The majority of respondents were **female** (males were underrepresented).

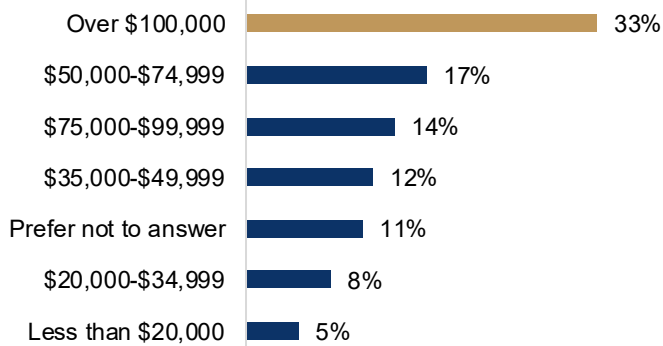


The majority of respondents were **White**, consistent with the composition of the service area. The representation from other racial groups was also similar to the service area as a whole.



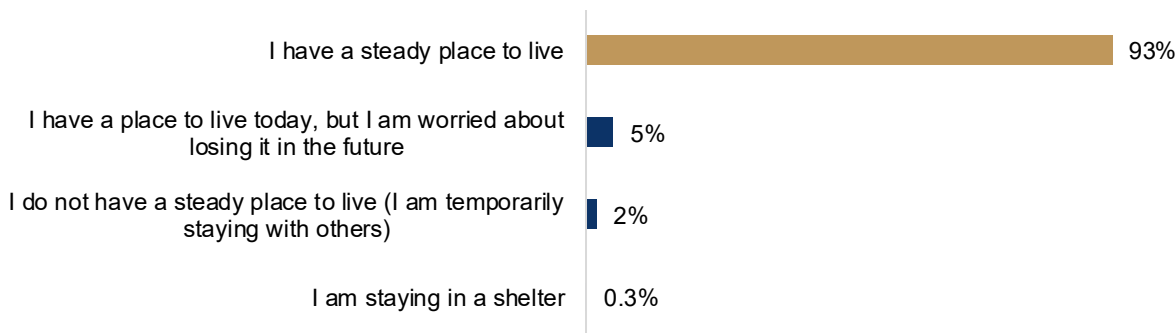
APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondents were generally **higher income**, with one-third having an annual household income of \$100,000 or more. This representation is similar to the service area as a whole.

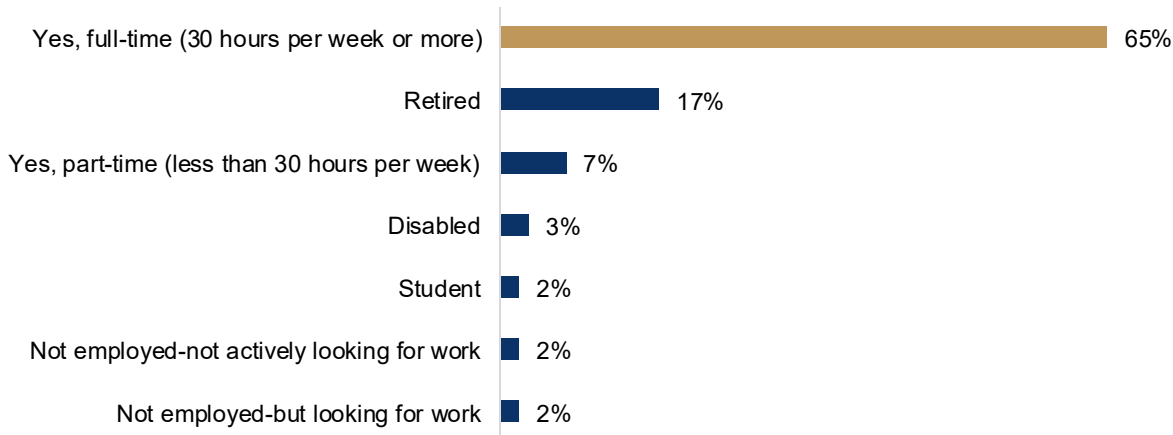


100% of respondents reported that their primary language spoken at home was **English**.

The majority of respondents have a **steady place to live**, while some are worried about losing it in the future.

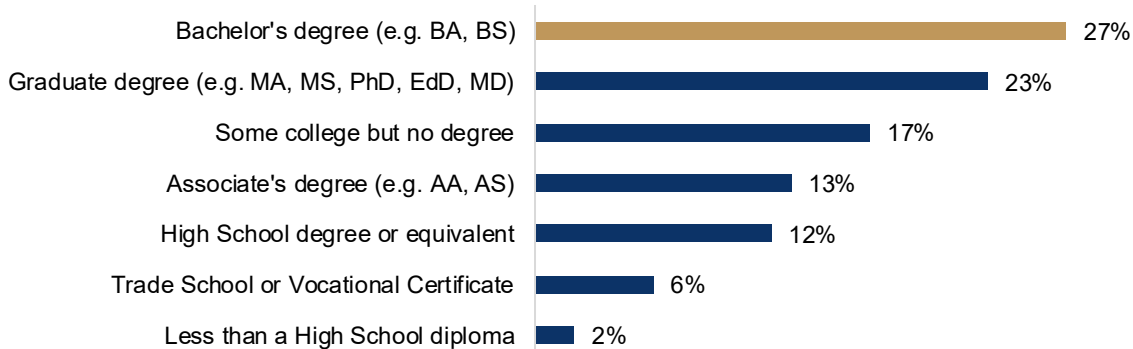


The majority of respondents are **employed full-time**, while significant proportions are retired, employed part-time, have disabilities, or are unemployed.

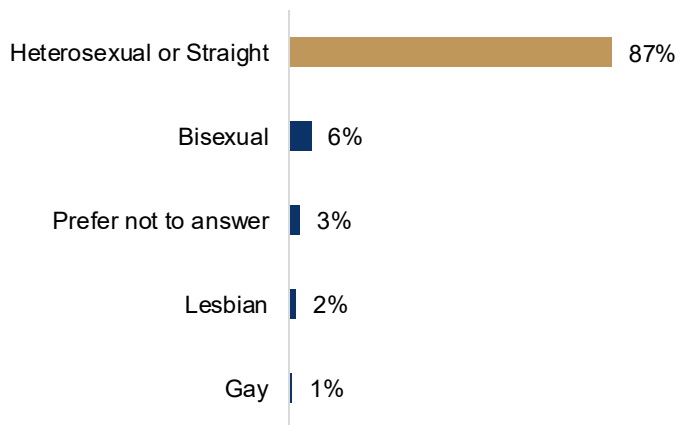


APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

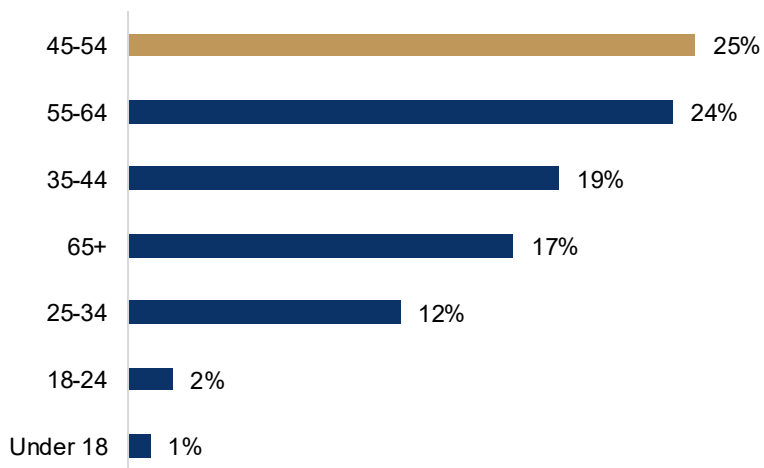
The majority of respondents have at least a **high school degree or equivalent**, with a significant number having a **Graduate or Bachelor's degree**.



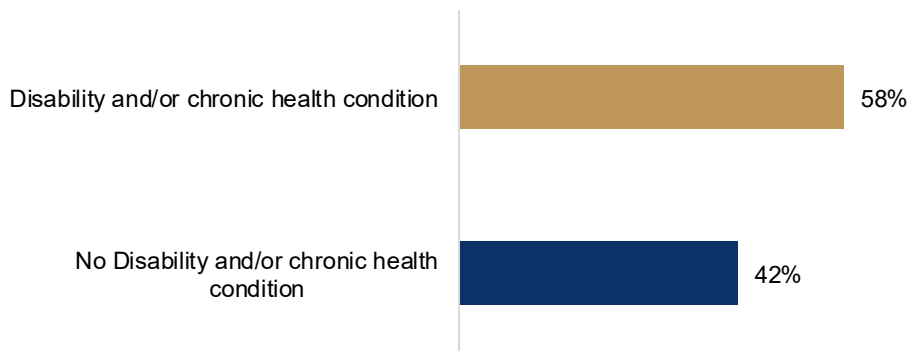
The majority of respondents reported their sexual orientation as **heterosexual or straight**, while there was some LGBTQ+ representation.



There was a greater proportion of survey responses from **middle-aged and older** rather than younger adults, particularly from the 45-54, 55-64, 35-44, 65+ year-old age groups.



The majority of respondents reported having a **disability and/or chronic health condition**, while 42% did not.



APPENDIX E

Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Checklist: Community Health Assessment



Meeting The PHAB Requirements For Community Health Assessment

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards & Measures serves as the official guidance for PHAB national public health department accreditation and includes requirements for the completion of Community Health Assessments (CHAs) for local health departments. The following page demonstrates how this CHA meets the PHAB requirements.

APPENDIX E:

PHAB CHA REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENTS			
YES	PAGE #	PHAB REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST	NOTES/ RECOMMENDATIONS
✓	4	<p>a. A list of participating partners involved in the CHA process. Participation must include:</p> <p>i. At least 2 organizations representing sectors other than governmental public health.</p> <p>ii. At least 2 community members or organizations that represent populations who are disproportionately affected by conditions that contribute to poorer health outcomes.</p>	<p>Integrated throughout the report</p> <p>Community member survey included a question that asked respondents to select their top community health needs and rate the importance of addressing each health need.</p>
✓	5-10	b. The process for how partners collaborated in developing the CHA.	
✓	13, 18-64	<p>c. Comprehensive, broad-based data. Data must include:</p> <p>i. Primary data.</p> <p>ii. Secondary data from two or more different sources.</p>	Primary and secondary data is integrated together throughout the report
✓	13	<p>d. A description of the demographics of the population served by the health department, which must, at minimum, include:</p> <p>i. The percent of the population by race and ethnicity.</p> <p>ii. Languages spoken within the jurisdiction.</p> <p>iii. Other demographic characteristics, as appropriate for the jurisdiction.</p>	
✓	13, 18-64	<p>e. A description of health challenges experienced by the population served by the health department, based on data listed in required element (c) above, which must include an examination of disparities between subpopulations or sub-geographic areas in terms of each of the following:</p> <p>i. Health status</p> <p>ii. Health behaviors.</p>	Integrated throughout the report. Health disparities and potential priority populations are listed clearly for EACH health need.
✓	13, 18-64	f. A description of inequities in the factors that contribute to health challenges (required element e), which must, include social determinants of health or built environment.	Integrated throughout the report. Health disparities and potential priority populations are listed clearly for EACH health need.
✓	62-64	<p>g. Community assets or resources beyond healthcare and the health department that can be mobilized to address health challenges.</p> <p>The CHA must address the jurisdiction as described in the description of Standard 1.1.</p>	

APPENDIX F **References**

APPENDIX F:

REFERENCES

The following reference list provides the sources for the secondary data that was collected for the Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Fall 2025. The most up-to-date data available at the time was collected and included in the CHA report. Please refer to individual sources for more information on years and methodology.

- ¹Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. 2023 Population Estimates: Cities, Villages, and Townships by County. Prepared with data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2023_Pop_Est_-_TwpPlaces_By_County.pdf
- ²County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2025 Data Set, <http://www.Countyhealthrankings.org/>
- ³U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Dp05, 2018-2022 5-Year Estimate. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ⁴U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Dp02, 2018-2022 5-Year Estimate. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ⁵U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, S1601 American Community Survey, 2018-2022 5-Year Estimate. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ⁶U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S1701. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ⁷U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, Dp03. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ⁸The Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) Map Room. Education and poverty levels from U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 2017-2021. https://engagementnetwork.org/map-room/?action=tool_map&tool=footprint
- ⁹U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S1702. <http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ¹⁰Kids Count Data Center (2023). Statistics on children, youth and families in Ohio. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/2481-children-in-publicly-funded-childcare>
- ¹¹Ohio Childcare Resource & Referral Association Annual Report, 2024. https://d2hfgw7vtnz2tl.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/OCCR-3085-Annual-Report-D5_no-bleed.pdf
- ¹²Groundwork Ohio Statewide Survey, <https://columbus.org/ohio-statewide-survey-key-findings-groundwork-ohio/>
- ¹³Health Resource Service Administration. Health Professional Shortage Areas. Retrieved from: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>
- ¹⁴U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S2701. <http://data.census.gov/>
- ¹⁵Ohio Department of Health, Ohio 2022 BRFSS Annual Report. <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/chronic-disease/data-publications/ohio-2022-brfss-annual-report>
- ¹⁶CDC Archive. Press Briefing Transcript, Nov. 6, 2019. https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/t1105-aces.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- ¹⁷Ohio Department Of Jobs & Family Services, Child Abuse And Neglect Referrals And Outcomes Dashboard. (2023). <https://Data.Jfs.Ohio.Gov/Dashboards/Foster-Care-And-Adult-Protective-Services/Child-Abuse-And-Neglect-Referrals-And-Outcomes>
- ¹⁸CDC. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Risk and Protective Factors, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/aces/risk-factors/index.html>
- ¹⁹Ohio Chronic Disease Atlas 2025 <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/chronic-disease/data-publications/ohio+chronic+disease+atlas+2025>
- ²⁰U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, S2201, 2018-2022. <http://data.census.gov>
- ²¹Ohio Department Of Education & Workforce, Data For Free And Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility, October 2023 (Fy2024) Data For Free And Reduced-Price Meals. <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Food-and-Nutrition/Resources-and-Tools-for-Food-and-Nutrition/Data-for-Free-and-Reduced-Price-Meal-Eligibility>
- ²²U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, DP04. <http://data.census.gov/>
- ²³Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Office Of Housing Policy, Southeast Ohio Regional Housing Needs Assessment, 2022. <https://ohiohome.org/research/documents/SEOhio-rHNA.pdf>
- ²⁴Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count, 2024. <https://cohhio.org/boscoc/hicpit/>
- ²⁵Feeding America, 2025 <https://map.feedingamerica.org/>
- ²⁶U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 2024 CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Report - Ohio Balance of State CoC. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/>
- ²⁷BroadbandNow (2025). Ohio Internet Coverage & Availability in 2025. Retrieved from <https://broadbandnow.com/Ohio>
- ²⁸Ohio Department of Development (2021). BroadbandOhio, Ohio's Broadband Availability Gaps, <https://broadband.ohio.gov/view-maps/ohios-broadband-availability-gaps>
- ²⁹Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

APPENDIX F:

REFERENCES

The following reference list provides the sources for the secondary data that was collected for the Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Fall 2025. The most up-to-date data available at the time was collected and included in the CHA report. Please refer to individual sources for more information on years and methodology.

- ³⁰Walk Score. Walkscore.com
- ³¹U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, S0801, 2018- 2022. <http://data.census.gov>
- ³²Ohio Department of Education, State Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Data, 2023-2024. <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download>
- ³³U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022, S1401, <Http://Data.Census.Gov/>
- ³⁴Ansari A. THE PERSISTENCE OF PRESCHOOL EFFECTS FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH ADOLESCENCE. J Educ Psychol. 2018 Oct;110(7):952-973. doi: 10.1037/edu0000255. Epub 2018 Mar 8. PMID: 30906008; PMCID: PMC6426150.
- ³⁵Ohio Department Of Education, District Details Data, 2023-2024. <https://Reportcard.Education.Ohio.Gov/>
- ³⁶Fairfield County Youth Behavior Survey- YBS, 2018. <https://www.fairfieldadamh.org/ADAMH-Local-Data-Reports.html>
- ³⁷U.S. Center for Disease Control's School VaxView, 2023-2024 school year. <https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html>
- ³⁸Ohio Department of Health, Vectorborne Disease Surveillance, 2023. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/news/vectorborne-disease-update>
- ³⁹Public Children Services Association of Ohio. (2023, June). Fairfield County children services profile. PCSAO Factbook. https://www.pcsao.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Fairfield.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- ⁴⁰U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Mortality public-use data 2018-2022*, on CDC WONDER. *Except for COVID-19, which is a 3-Year Average, 2020-2022. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html>
- ⁴¹State of Ohio Integrated Behavioral Health Dashboard. (2020-2023). Opioid Overdose Deaths. *Rates calculated using U.S. Census 2019- 2023 ACS Population Estimates. <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio-ibhd>
- ⁴²Ohio Department of Health, Ohio 2023 BRFSS Annual Report. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/data-and-publications/ohio-2023-brfss-annual-report>
- ⁴³Ohio Department of Health, 2023. 2023 Ohio Suicide report. Retrieved from <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/media/2023-ohio-suicide-report>
- ⁴⁴Ohio Department of Health. (2025). Fairfield County Cancer Incidence Surveillance System. Retrieved from <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-cancer-incidence-surveillance-system/Data-Statistics>
- ⁴⁵Ohio Department of Health, Ohio State Health Assessment, 2023. <https://odh.ohio.gov/about-us/state-health-assessment>
- ⁴⁶ODH, DataOhio Portal, 2023. Blood Lead Testing Public (2016- Present). https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/blood-lead-testing-public-_2016-present_
- ⁴⁷ODH. (2024). Childhood Lead Poisoning Requirements and Zip Codes. Retrieved from <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/childhood-lead-poisoning/for-healthcare-providers/lead-testing-requirements-and-zip-codes>
- ⁴⁸Ohio Department of Health, Severe Maternal Morbidity and Racial Disparities in Ohio, 2016-2019, 2020. https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/0657b23a-baba-4a74-b31c-25e216728849/PAMR+SMM+Final.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1_HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-0657b23a-baba-4a74-b31c-25e216728849-nlNgvoH
- ⁴⁹Ohio Department of Health, A Report on Pregnancy Associated Deaths in Ohio 2017-2018, 2022. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/pregnancy-associated-mortality-review/reports/pregnancy-related-deaths-ohio-2017-2018>
- ⁵⁰DataOhio Portal Births, 2020-2024. https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio_births?visualize=true
- ⁵¹CDC, Older Adult Fall Prevention. Older Adult Falls Data, 2024. https://www.cdc.gov/falls/data-research/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/falls/data/index.html
- ⁵²Ohio Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases Data and Statistics, 2018-2023 reports. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/std-surveillance/Data-and-Statistics>
- ⁵³Ohio Department of Health, 2022. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program. <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/hiv-aids-surveillance-program/Data-and-Statistics>
- ⁵⁴Fairfield County Health Department <https://www.fairfieldhealth.org/>



www.moxleypublichealth.com
stephanie@moxleypublichealth.com