



Sandusky County Health Department

2016 Annual Report



Sandusky County Health Department

2000 Countryside Drive

Fremont, OH 43420

419.334.6377

info@sanduskycohd.org

www.alwayschoosehealth.com



Board of Health Members

Jim Mason
 John Yuhas, D.O.
 Fran Gierhart.
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Administrative Staff

Marsha Overmyer – Registrar/Office Manager/Coroner's Secretary
 Laura Burkin, BSN - Director of Nursing
 Bethany Brown, MSN, RN – Health Commissioner
 Stacey Gibson, LSW – Director of Health Planning and Education
 Marti Swander, MBA – Director of Support Services
 Martha Bowen, BS, RS – Director of Environmental Health



Medical Director

Dr. Francis K. Aona, MD

A Letter from the Health Commissioner



The Sandusky County Health Department continues to work towards creating a healthier community in which everyone has the best possible opportunity to lead a healthy and productive life. In 2016, new programs were initiated to address health priorities, and steps were taken toward improving services and processes moving us towards becoming accredited.

The Sandusky County Health Department continues to work with community partners, community members, faith-based organizations, and business to address health priorities in the community. During 2016, we successfully received funding to target the priority area of Infant Mortality. The Newborn Welcome Home program funded by the United Way, Moms Quit for Two grant funded by the Ohio Department of Health, and Cribs for Kids program funded by Sandusky County Communities Foundation, were initiated to help reduce infant mortality rates in our county. These programs have provided education, free cribs to families, health screenings, and home visits to ensure our infants are getting a healthy start. The rate of infant mortality is a good indicator of how healthy the community is, and these initiatives are needed to reduce the rates in our county.

Accreditation drives public health departments to continuously improve the quality of their practice and performance. The accreditation process provides standards and measures that health departments must meet in order to ensure they are continuously improving as they work to keep their communities healthy. The Sandusky County Health Department has worked over the past two (2) years to collect the documentation needed to demonstrate meeting those standards and measures. Thirteen (13) staff members have stepped into leadership roles and led their teams throughout the documentation selection process. In December 2016, all documentation was uploaded and submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The health department is now awaiting the site visit from PHAB that will include staff, board members, and community partners that will provide further information towards becoming accredited.

The Sandusky County Health Department staff continue to keep the highest standards possible for all programs and services that are provided to the county. By embracing the concept of collective impact and working together, we continue on the path of making our community healthy and safe for all of our residents.

Bethany Brown, RN and MSN
Health Commissioner

2016 Board of Health Funds

Revenue

Levy	571,259.15	20.085%
State Subsidy	10,445.67	0.367%
Vital Stats	105,257.54	3.701%
Permits, Fees	182,614.75	6.421%
Subdivisions	37,025.00	1.302%
Contracts	271,585.75	9.549%
Patient Fees	22,906.14	0.805%
Medicare	9,045.21	0.138%
Private Insurance	352,341.24	12.388%
Local Projects	208,633.11	7.336%
Federal Projects	-----	0.000%
State Projects	879,024.01	30.907%
Medicaid	188,993.41	6.645%
Other	5,008.14	0.176%

2,844,139.12 100.000%

Expenses

Personnel	1,836,736.58	64.088%
Equipment	57,324.62	2.000%
Supplies	330,632.99	11.537%
Travel	65,936.15	2.301%
Utilities/Maint.	44,919.71	1.567%
Other Expenses	161,006.33	5.618%
Contract Services	369,388.31	12.889%
	2,865,944.69	100.00%

Grants

FEDERAL

Drug Free Communities -----

STATE

Women Infants and Children	270,433.77
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	71,408.89
Reproductive Health and Wellness	48,677.51
Immunization Action Plan	53,140.68
CFHS	44,331.86
Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps	31,670.00
Prevention Partnership	20,490.60
SPF-SIG	-----
Help Me Grow	176,548.47
Creating Healthy Communities	93,424.13
	35,434.53
OTSO – Safe	
MQ42	33,463.57

Public Health Accreditation

In December, the Sandusky County Health Department officially submitted their application towards achieving national public health department accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). With this achievement, the Health Department will become one of the first county health departments in Ohio to reach this status. To receive accreditation, a health department will undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.



The goal of accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of state and local public health departments.

Some of the many benefits of accreditation include:

- Increased credibility, accountability, and visibility in our community, in Ohio, and in our nation
- Valuable, measurable feedback to continuously improve the quality of work
- Evidence that public dollars are being spent on effective and useful programs
- Enhanced services that lead to healthier people and a healthier community
- Recognition of excellence
- Possible funding advantages

Community Health Assessment

The Sandusky County Health Department has been a leader in assessing the health of the community for over 16 years. Along with health partners throughout the community, our Health Department has made a commitment to follow the Community Health Improvement Cycle, with Health Assessment as a primary focus of these efforts. On April 5, 2017, the findings of the 2016-2017 Sandusky County Community Health Assessment will be presented to the public and the community partners. This data allows stakeholders to formulate strong strategic plans, evaluate current practices, write better grants and answer a call to action. The end result of these efforts will be a community that focuses on wellness, improving general health status, increasing access to services, and addressing unmet needs.



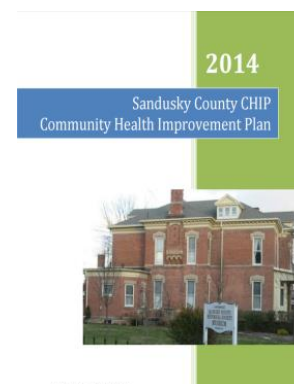
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Sandusky County has been involved in community health assessment since 1993 through a group known as Health Partners. These assessments have allowed Sandusky County to identify priority areas of concern. A number of issues have been identified as important to the community and the constituent groups who use the health assessment.

During the spring of 2013, a process was undertaken to further this work and more formally articulate ways to address community issues as part of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. The four priority areas of concern are:

1. Obesity and Wellness
2. Risky Behaviors with an emphasis on Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse
3. Mental Health and Wellness
4. Infant Mortality

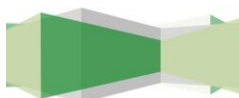
Local partners will meet once again in the spring of 2017 to identify new public health related priorities based on the results of the 2016-2017 Community Health Assessment that will be released in April 2017.



Strategic Plan



The Health Department completed an organizational strategic plan in December 2013. That work was accomplished in tandem with completion of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in partnership with the community in June 2013.



Implementation activities continued throughout 2016 and are integral to moving the organization into ongoing quality improvement activities. The many attributes of the Health Department suggest that the plan will result in a strengthened department, broader collaboration with community partners, and will contribute to improved health status among county residents.

The plan envisions a series of activities to address measurable objectives framed by three strategic directions:

- **Health Education and Promotion:** Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- **Improve and Build upon Community Relationships:** Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- **Workforce Development:** Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.

Health Partners

The Sandusky County Health Department has been a leader in assessing the health of the community for over 15 years. Health Partners' mission is to monitor and improve the health status of Sandusky County residents. The group has made a commitment to follow the Community Health Improvement Cycle, with Health Assessment a primary focus of this group. Members contribute to ensure that Health Assessments occur on a regular basis. Adults (ages 19-75), youth (ages 12-18), and children (ages 0-11) are assessed every three years. Results of the 2013-2014, Sandusky County Youth Health Assessment are available on the Health Department website at www.alwayschoosehealth.com.

Health Partner Members include:

- Bellevue Hospital
- Community Health Services
- Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services
- Fremont City School District
- Promedica Memorial Health Care System
- Mental Health & Recovery Service Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wvandot Counties
- Francis Aona, M.D., Physician
- Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Sandusky County Health Department
- Sandusky County Family and Children First Council
- United Way of Sandusky County
- WSOS Community Action Commission



Clerical Support



In 2016, there were 253 births, 467 deaths, and two fetal deaths in Sandusky County. With the initiation of statewide certified copy of birth certificate issuance, an individual may obtain his or her birth certificate from any local registrar. Certified copies of death certificates must be

obtained in the county of death. In 2016, Sandusky County was one of the first local registrars in the State of Ohio to be able to electronically file death certificates directly from the funeral home. The cost for a certified copy of a birth/death certificate in Sandusky County is \$22.00. Credit cards are accepted with a three percent convenience fee charged or a minimum of \$1.50. As always, cash or check is accepted. Issuance of birth and death certificates are done on demand during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.), or requests may be made by phone or mail.

Public Health Nursing

Programs include: Maternal Child and Health Program, Immunization Clinics, Mass Vaccination Clinics, Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps Program (BCMH), Communicable Disease, Reproductive Health and Wellness Program (Family Planning), Emergency Preparedness, Immunization Action Plan Grant, Pediatric Cardiac Clinic, Maternal Health and Infant Mortality, Newborn Welcome Home Visits, Cribs for Kids, Child Fatality Review Board, and Lead Surveillance.



Tuberculosis Testing and Surveillance

Public Health Nurses administered 204 Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests and read 192. There were no positive TB skin tests. The TB Program is not limited to the number of TB tests administered. The scope of the program involves surveillance, referrals, and consulting with other counties and health care providers. This includes hospitals, the Ohio Department of Health, and agencies outside of Ohio. Whether seen through the health department or referred from another health care provider, suspected cases include a thorough investigation and follow up.

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh)

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

BCMh's mission is to assure, through the development and support of high quality, coordinated systems, that children with special health care needs and their families obtain comprehensive care and services that are family centered, community based and culturally sensitive. BCMh promotes early identification of children with handicapping conditions and treatment of those children by appropriate health care providers.

Major components of the program include: conducting quality assurance activities to establish standards of care and to determine unmet needs of children with handicaps and their families; funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions; collaborating with public health nurses to assist in increasing access to care; supporting service coordination for children with selected diagnoses; and assisting families to access and utilize appropriate sources of payment for services for their child. In 2016, there were 193 children served who are active on the BCMh diagnostic, treatment, and/or service coordination program.

Immunization Clinic

The Sandusky County Health Department is one of the main providers in the county that administers vaccinations to infants, children, adolescents, and adults. The goal of the Health Department's immunization program is to reduce and eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases among Sandusky County residents. The nursing staff provided services for 3,026 clients and administered 7,232 immunizations. The Health Department participates in:

- The Vaccines for Children Program, provided by the Ohio Department of Health.
- The Statewide Immunization Information System (ImpactSIIS).
- The Immunization Action Plan Grant, which allows nurses to assess immunization rates and provide immunization education to local healthcare providers.
- Working with local providers to prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization rates for the county.

Immunization Clinic Schedule		
Fremont	2000 Countryside Drive	Monday- Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. LATE NIGHT CLINIC- Every Thursday until 6:00
Clyde	206 S. Main Street	3 rd Wednesday every month 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Gibsonburg	317 E. Madison Street	2 nd Wednesday every month 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Flu Clinic

In 2016, a total of 862 flu vaccines were administered to infants six months of age and older, children and adolescents, men and women, and the elderly. Four separate flu clinics were offered at the Health Department, as well as the additional opportunity for clients to walk-in Monday thru Friday to get a vaccine. To increase access to the flu vaccine, the Health Department partnered with area churches and small businesses. A total of ten additional flu clinics were offered outside of the Health Department. Clinics were offered not only after hours but on weekends as well. These clinics were successful and will continue next flu season.



Count	Clinic
538	Sandusky County Health Department
52	Private Business
61	St. Joseph Parish Hall
23	First United Church of Christ
19	Clyde Senior Center
43	Sacred Heart Church
29	Terra State Community College
36	Faith United Methodist Church
26	Trinity United Methodist Church
10	Woodville Fire Department
25	Clyde Christian Church
862	TOTAL

Pediatric Cardiac Clinic

The Health Department works with ProMedica Memorial Hospital and Pediatric Cardiologist, Dr. William Suarez, to provide a Pediatric Cardiology Clinic on the second Tuesday of each month. The clinic is held at ProMedica Memorial Hospital and has provided care to 1,847 children from Sandusky and surrounding counties since it first began in 1986. A Public Health Nurse from the Health Department attends the monthly clinics to provide Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) assistance and ongoing case management for families. BCMh is a program through the Ohio Department of Health that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality provider. This program also helps families obtain payment for these necessary services.

2016 Cardiac Clinic

Total Clinics	12
New Clients	39
Returnees	96
No-Show	1
Cancelations	3

Counties Served									
Sandusky	Seneca	Ottawa	Huron	Franklin	Allen	Wood	Hancock	Out of State	Total
106	15	6	2	1	1	1	1	2	135

Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition

The Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition was established in 2015 to improve maternal health and birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality in Sandusky County. Coalition members include:

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

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

Maternal Child and Health Program



The Maternal Child and Health Program, formally known as the Child and Family Health Services (CFHS) Program, has been providing support services for the Health Department by identifying health needs, service gaps, and barriers to care for families. The goals of the Maternal and Child Health Program are to

eliminate health disparities, improve birth outcomes, and improve the health status of Ohio women, infants, children, youth, and families through a life course approach. The goals are addressed by our Public Health Nurses. Our Public Health Nurses provide case coordination, education, and follow-up to patients in an effort to eliminate health disparities. The priorities for this program were identified using Community Health Assessment data. Through this program, Public Health Nurses work in the community and in school settings implementing evidence based nutrition education and physical activity promotion curriculums and programming. In 2016, lessons and activities from My Plate, Veggie U, and Let's Move were delivered to 1,155 children. Infant mortality is being addressed in the community by providing safe sleep environments through the Cribs for Kids and Newborn Welcome Home programs.

Welcome Home Newborn Visit

The Newborn Welcome Home Visit Program was established through the collaboration of the Maternal Health and Infant Mortality Coalition. Funding for this program was provided through the generosity of the United Way of Sandusky County, Sandusky County Communities Foundation, and the Sandusky County Health Department. This program consists of a free visit by a Public Health Nurse from the Health Department, education on safe sleep and newborn care, and referrals to community resources. The Newborn Home Visit Program works in partnership with the Cribs for Kids Program to ensure every infant in Sandusky County has a safe place to sleep.

Child Fatality Review Board (CFR)

The Sandusky County Child Fatality Review Board meets to decrease the incidence of preventable deaths in children under 18 years of age. This board is reducing the incidence of preventable child deaths by:

- Promoting cooperation, collaboration and communication between all groups, professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children.
- Maintaining a comprehensive database of all child deaths that occur in the county or region by the CFR board in order to develop an understanding of the causes and incidences of those deaths.
- Recommending and developing plans for implementing local service and program changes to the groups, professions, agencies or entities that serve families and children that might prevent child deaths.
- Advising the Ohio Department of Health of aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning child deaths.

Communicable Disease

Ohio Revised Code requires certain diseases of public health concern be reported to local health departments. Our Health Department personnel investigate and follow up on all reports of communicable diseases in an effort to prevent the spread of those diseases. In 2016, 145 individual reports for 18 diseases or conditions were received and investigated. Additionally, two community disease outbreaks were investigated and resolved.

Emergency Preparedness

A public health emergency is any event or situation demanding immediate action on the part of the public health system in order to prevent disease and injury or maintain public health within the community of service. Emergencies can be natural or man-made. The Health Department creates and maintains plans for all types of emergencies, and works closely with the Sandusky County Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, hospitals, law enforcement, and other local partners. The Sandusky County Healthcare Coalition and Sandusky County Local Emergency Planning Committee are two preparedness groups that the Health Department participates in. The Health Department conducted emergency preparedness exercises in 2016 that focused on Ebola and on mass fatalities. Health Department staff attended trainings on a wide variety of topics, including radiation, Ebola, epidemiology, community preparedness, exercise design, Zika,

and public health law. Health Department staff also provided trainings on infectious diseases and personal emergency preparedness.

Reproductive Health and Wellness Program



The Reproductive Health and Wellness Program provides contraceptive options, pregnancy testing, preconception care, STD testing and treatment, screenings for breast and cervical cancer, free and confidential HIV testing and reproduction education. Contraceptive options include but are not limited to; oral contraceptives, long acting reproductive contraceptives (LARC), and hormonal injections.

We have clinics at both the Sandusky County and Seneca County Health Departments, and we offer after hour clinics every Thursday in Fremont. Services are available to both women and men.

Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Gonorrhea	35
Chlamydia	216
Syphilis	2
HIV	0

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (**SBIRT**) is an evidence-based practice used to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. Fireland's Regional Medical Center Counseling and Recovery Services offers free SBIRT services through a screener to the Sandusky County Health Department on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This service is provided in the WIC and Family Planning clinics, and any clients served through our public health nursing services. In 2016, SBIRT saw a total of **520** clients; **47.7 percent** of these clients were flagged for further review with the SBIRT screener.

Screening: Universal screening for substance use and depression are incorporated into the routine patient visit and integrated as standard of care. Screening is done through interviews and a patient self-reporting validated screening tool. For patients who report concerns regarding alcohol or other drug use and/or mental health issues, one of three follow up services can be provided.

Brief Intervention: A Brief Intervention is an educational session provided to motivate patients to change patterns of drug/alcohol use in order to avoid health consequences in the future.

Brief Treatment/Therapy: The screener provides a series of brief sessions in an effort to help the patient see the risks associated with drug/alcohol use and motivate behavior change to reduce these behaviors.

Referral to Treatment: Patients who report more serious concerns on the screening tools are referred to formal treatment services. Counseling and Recovery Services will work with the patient and family to help facilitate these referrals.

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) of Sandusky County is a nutrition program that provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods, and iron-fortified infant formula to promote good health for pregnant women, women who just had a baby, breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age five. In 2016, our WIC staff served **823** new participants in Sandusky



County. The average caseload per month was **1,220** participants. A total of **1,596** participants were referred to prenatal and pediatric health care or other maternal and child health and human service programs. On average, 36 percent of postpartum women on the program exclusively or partially breastfed their babies.

This year, we welcomed our newest Breastfeeding Peer Helper, Kelsey Rosenberger, to our staff, replacing our former Breastfeeding Peer Helper, Megan Sweeney, who is now a support staff clerk in the WIC clinic. Breastfeeding peer helpers are women who have been on WIC and have personal breastfeeding experience. They give mother-to-mother information and support which help mothers reach their breastfeeding goals. Peer Helpers connect with families via phone or texting to help with common concerns and provide encouragement.

After a week of intense breastfeeding and lactation education and training in April, Tanya Halbeisen, RN, WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator, earned her Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) credentials! Tanya joins Angie with this credential, making two Certified Lactation Counselors on staff full time, providing expert help and support to breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women with breastfeeding questions.

Angie Ruth, DTR, CLC, WIC Director of the Sandusky County Health Department, was recognized for her outstanding achievements by the Ohio Department of Health's WIC Program. Nominees for this award demonstrated significant and sustained contributions to the program through commitment such as excellence in service; high degree of productivity; initiative in the performance of responsibilities; innovative ideas; creative resolution of problems; leadership and outstanding teamwork. Angie collaborated services between the Sandusky County WIC Program and Promedica Memorial Hospital OB Department. This service is specific to meet the needs of infants, post-partum mothers, breastfeeding mothers, and potential WIC participants. By working together, both the Sandusky County WIC and ProMedica Memorial Hospital have strengthened screening to identify mothers and infants who may be at risk for infant mortality

or nutrition barriers. This partnership also strengthened follow-up with new mothers who are breastfeeding and increased awareness of the WIC Program and the benefits of breastfeeding.

WIC Hospital Visit Report

2016 Month	Number of Mom's seen	Number of Mom's Breastfeeding	Number of Mom's Currently on WIC	Number of Mom's <u>activated as new to WIC services</u>	Number of <u>BF WIC Mom's Referred to Peer for f/u</u>
January	8	4	2	3	2
February	17	10	10	2	8
March	14	10	4	1	2
April	10	7	5	1	7
May	2	1	1	0	0
June	6	5	3	1	2
July	10	4	5	1	1
August	8	4	5	0	2
September	11	7	6	0	4
October	2	1	1	0	1
November	4	4	2	2	2
December	10	6	4	0	3
TOTAL:	102	63 (61%)	48 (47%)	11 (10%)	34 (33%)

Help Me Grow (HMG)



success. These initial achievements last a lifetime, as scientific evidence strongly suggests that a child's success is significantly determined by the quality of nurturing in the first three years of life. In 2016, Sandusky County Ohio Early Childhood Program received **289** referrals and **889** home visits were made to families who reside in Sandusky County.

The Ohio Early Childhood Programs for Ohio's expectant parents, newborns, infants and toddlers up to the age of 3 years. An integral part of Ohio's prenatal to age three system supports; the services equip parents with the means to help their child acquire the early building blocks necessary for long term

Environmental Health



The Environmental Division has a new staff member, LaTasha McDonald. She began her employment with us in July of 2016. Currently, she is conducting inspections of food services & retail food establishments. We welcome her

aboard and will begin introducing her into other programs in 2017.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund grants through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & ODH totaled \$250,000. These funds have been used to aid Sandusky County residents replace or repair their failing household sewage treatment systems. Ten property owners have replaced their systems and six more are under contract once the weather allows for construction to continue. For the 2017 grant, we have received another \$250,000 to use through October of 2018.

Educational classes provided during 2016 included two classes for food service operations and retail food establishments to obtain their Level Two Ohio Certification in Food Safety. Two classes were also provided for sewage system contractors to obtain their state required six hours of continuing education.

The staff has completed a streamlining of our cost methodology. By Ohio Administrative Code,



we can only cover the cost of operating our licensed programs. We cannot generate income on our license fees. Licensed programs include retail & food operators, private water, household sewage systems, public pools & beaches, campgrounds, and body art facilities. Modifying activity codes to accurately account for time spent in the seven programs should increase our productivity and keep costs in line. Additionally, we are responsible for conducting investigations in programs for which no funding is available. These

include rabies control, solid waste inspections, housing nuisances, school inspections, lot splits, emergency response, and disease investigation.

Among our many duties, 675 inspections were conducted for food facilities, mobile food services, and vending locations. 60 inspections were conducted for the 19 pool/spa facilities to prevent waterborne illness. All 25 school buildings were inspected for safety issues. 7 licensed body art facilities were inspected, and 25 inspections were conducted on the 12 licensed campgrounds in Sandusky County.

Health Planning and Education

The Health Planning and Education Division strives to engage and empower individuals, family and the community to make positive changes towards a healthy and active lifestyle. Division goals are driven by the Community Health Improvement Plan priorities and strategies selected through a network of collaborative partnerships. Funding for programming comes from a variety of sources including state and federal grants, program allocations, and local levy dollars.



While much of the work of the division is focused on environmental strategies and population level change, the health educators are also the facilitators and hosts of many community trainings, events, presentations and collaborative meetings. This includes monthly health education training series titled, Tomorrow's Health Starts Today, which was held at Birchard Public Library. This series included topics such as: 411 on Marijuana, Generation Rx, Dealing with Addiction, Rethink your Drink and among others.

2016 Health Education Numbers Served

Information Dissemination	24
Education	33
Alternative Activities	8
Community-Based Process	7
Environmental Approach	4
Problem ID and Referral	0

Substance Abuse Prevention



The Sandusky County Health Department and Prevention Partnership Coalition is dedicated to building a healthier community by preventing and reducing substance abuse in Sandusky County. Members of the coalition include health department officials, law enforcement, parents, youth, school personnel, faith leaders, and juvenile court officials. The coalition focuses on environmental prevention strategies aimed at changing or influencing community conditions, and systems and policies which lead to long-term outcomes.

Prescription drug abuse and heroin use is on the rise across the nation, and our county is not immune from this issue; locally, claiming the lives of over **40 county residents in the past five years**. The Prevention Partnership was instrumental in placing six permanent drop locations for unwanted, unused, and expired medications throughout the county for the safety and well-being of community members.



Prevention education and harm reduction efforts are at the forefront in local public health efforts to prevent unintentional drug related overdose deaths in local communities. Through an allocation by the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Sandusky County Health Department was able to provide 122 doses of Naloxone (Narcan) to area first responders in November 2016. Participating departments include: the Sandusky County EMS, Sheriff's Office, Bellevue, Clyde, Fremont, and Green Springs Police Departments. Although it would be best to stop opiate addiction before it starts, this medication has saved thousands of lives. Narcan is an opioid blocker. When the medication is given to someone who is overdosing, it blocks the effects of the opiates and manages to reverse the effects.

Medication Drop Box Locations:

Bellevue Police Department
 Clyde Police Department
 Fremont Police Station
 Gibsonburg Police Department
 Sandusky County Sheriff's Office
 Woodville Police Department



Gambling Prevention



In 2016, the Prevention partnership was awarded \$12,399 from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties to target Gambling Prevention. The Prevention Partnership Coalition's successful approach and extensive knowledge of gauging Community Readiness, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), and Community Engagement have led to changing community conditions and measureable outcomes in reducing alcohol and tobacco rates. These successes in the substance abuse prevention field have prepared our coalition partners to extend our efforts into other prevention areas, such as gambling prevention.

Safe Communities



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

- Traffic Fatalities- all fatal crashes occurring in Sandusky County are reviewed. Countermeasure recommendations are developed to prevent future crashes of a similar manner.

- Impaired Driving- works to prevent motorists from driving distracted or alcohol impaired through innovative programs, awareness campaigns, education and enforcement.
- Motorcycle Safety- increase awareness of motorcycle safety issues among motorcyclists and general motorists through education, awareness campaigns, and promotion.
- Seat belt use- to increase seat belt use in Sandusky County from 92% to 94% through education and enforcement.

Creating Healthy Communities

The Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program at the Sandusky County Health Department is committed to preventing and reducing chronic disease statewide. Through cross-sector collaboration, CHC is activating communities to improve access to and affordability of healthy food, increase opportunities for physical activity, and assure tobacco-free living where Sandusky County residents live, work, and play.



Major Accomplishments in 2016:

- Increased coalition education and membership by 23 percent.
- Leveraged over \$70,000 in additional resources.
- Made several enhancements near and along the North Coast Inland Trail to promote physical activity including: 12 trailhead signs, 16 park ranger/emergency contact information signs, 11 trail etiquette signs, 15 bike racks, and eight trash cans.
- Created one subcommittee to focus on encouraging sustained physical activity, increasing community engagement, and building support for local active transportation policies and practices.
- Developed and implemented Street Play Saturday (also called “Open Streets”). This initiative closed nearly one mile of streets to automobiles and offered free, healthy and fun activities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



Visit us at our website:

www.alwayschoosehealth.com



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@sanduskycohd