



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Summit County 2022 Community Health Assessment Findings Released**

Summit County, Ohio - Summit County Public Health, in collaboration with multiple community partners, completed the 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA collected data about Summit County residents on over 250 indicators relating to physical, mental, social, and financial health. CHA data provides a comprehensive picture of the health of Summit County residents and provides a guide for SCPH, other governmental agencies, community partners and grassroots organizations to make data driven recommendations for programming, policies and health related goals for the county.

The 2022 CHA can be found at the following link: [https://scph.link/2022\\_CHA](https://scph.link/2022_CHA)

**Brief Summary of Significant Improvements / Strengths:**

Physical Health

- Flu and pneumonia deaths in Summit County decreased by 69%
- Gastrointestinal disease rates dropped 24%
  - It is likely that efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 such as masks and social distancing also contributed to the decline of flu, pneumonia, and gastrointestinal diseases during the pandemic's worst years.
- More than 90% of Summit County residents have health insurance, with Medicaid expansion, the Affordable Care Act, and Medicaid waivers granted during the pandemic likely playing a significant role in the increase in health insurance since the 2019 CHA.

Mental Health & Addiction

- The ratio of Summit County population to mental health providers improved, suggesting an increase in access to mental health services for the community.





- Wait times for the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board funded residential treatment facilities for both males and females decreased.

#### Social and Financial Health

- Access to broadband internet has grown to an estimated 90% of households. Much of the increase was among low- and moderate-income households. This access is important both for social connectedness and as an essential tool for job seekers.

#### **Brief Summary of Significant Declines / Issues:**

##### Length and Quality of Life

- Life expectancy dropped 1.2 years since the 2019 CHA. The drug overdose crisis beginning in 2016 and the COVID-19 pandemic were the biggest drivers of these negative changes.

##### Physical Health

- Gonorrhea rates increased by 58% and syphilis rates increased 47% from rates in 2018.
- Summit County adults who say they binge drink (five drinks for men in one sitting, four for women) increased to 6.0%, which is up almost 25% from 2019.
- More than 1,400 people died of COVID-19 by the end of 2021, making it a top-five cause of death for all Summit County residents ages 35 and older.

##### Mental Health

- The 2019 CHA identified an increase in teens reporting feeling sad and hopeless before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Additionally, research is showing that the pandemic has significantly increased anxiety, stress, and depression among teens around the country. This data will be collected again in the upcoming Youth Behavior Risk Survey.

##### Social and Financial Health

- Race continues to be a significant factor driving social and economic disparities in our community. Many health outcomes, such as infant mortality, poverty,





unemployment, COVID-19, or diabetes are worse for Black individuals than White.

- The economic upheaval caused by COVID-19 drove about 10,000 people out of the workforce; many of whom haven't returned.
- Housing affordability worsened during the pandemic, especially for renters and low-income families. Someone earning minimum wage would have to work at least 74 hours a week to afford a market-rate 2-bedroom apartment in Summit County without having to make unacceptable sacrifices in areas such as food or transportation costs.

**Acknowledgements:**

SCPH was proud to partner with Kent State University (KSU) for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ data, KSU completed the Greater Akron LGBTQ+ Community Health Needs Assessment that was released in August 2022 which allowed SCPH to include data collected from the LGBTQ+ population in Summit County in the 2022 CHA.

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