



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Canton City Public Health

420 Market Avenue North
Canton, Ohio 44702
(330) 489-3231
www.cantonhealth.org

Canton City Public Health 2021 Annual Report Health Commissioner

James M. Adams, RS, MPH

I am pleased to present this 2021 Canton City Public Health annual report. This report is just a small sample of the magnificent work done by the public health professionals at Canton City Public Health in 2021. As in 2020, our work has been dominated with our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have provided over 20,000 COVID-19 vaccinations, consulted with thousands of individuals, provided information and guidance, and helped you navigate through the pandemic.

You will see in this report that COVID-19 is not the only public health issue in our community. We have seen a rise in drug overdose events and deaths, an increase in syphilis infections, and continuing challenges with maternal and infant health. We are making strides to address health equity and disparities in health outcomes. Canton City Public Health is committed to serving the public health needs of our community, now and into the future.

When reviewing this report, keep in mind that each statistic represents a pivotal event in our community. It is not just a number; it tells a story of struggle, sadness, sacrifice, and triumph. It tells a story of how our community responds to a great challenge. I congratulate each of you for the part that you have played during the pandemic. I thank you for your patience, understanding, and hard work. Because of you, we are emerging from this pandemic a better and stronger community.

James M. Adams, RS, MPH

Inside

Laboratory	1
Finance	2
Environmental Health	3
Vital Statistics	3
Air Pollution Control	4
Nursing / Medical Director	5
Office of Public Health Information	6
THRIVE	7
SWAP	8
WIC	12

Laboratory

Christina Henning, Laboratory Director

In 2021, the Laboratory, like other areas of the department, did their part to help support our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting with COVID-19 case investigations, contact tracing and immunization clinics, while continuing most of our regular services and even adding a new service.

Beach Water Testing, a new service for our lab, was added to help support the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Beach Water Testing program. Beach water testing is required for bodies of water that are licensed for public swimming, such as lakes and ponds. With the addition of beach water testing, we have the capability of performing fecal coliform testing should the need arise.

Another improvement for the lab was the replacement of an aging pollen sampler. Pollen season usually runs from April 1 to October 14. In spite of a slight delay to our pollen reporting due to adding the new sampler, 2021 saw the most days of pollen sampling completed since 2004 when electronic records first started. The high number of sample readings were due in part to two key items: our department met its goal of no more than 2 missed days due to lab accidents; and record breaking warm weather in October. As a result of the unusually warm October weather, our last reading did not take place until October 28, two weeks past the "usual" end of pollen season.

Testing in our clinical and drinking water areas remained steady throughout 2021.

Find information about water testing and our daily pollen counts at: www.cantonhealth.org/lab



2021 Board of Health

President

Mayor Thomas M. Bernabei

President Pro-Tem

Stephen Hickman, DVM

Vice President

Patrick Wyatt

Members

James Johns, MD, FAAFP

Amy Lakritz, MD, FAAP

Cleo Lucas

Finance

Christi Allen, Fiscal Officer

2021 EXPENSES					
<u>Foundational Capabilities</u>	Non-Labor	Itemized/Outlier	Share Services	Labor	TOTAL
Assessment (surveillance/epidemiology)	\$49,242	\$839,308	\$0	\$859,087	\$1,747,637
Emergency preparedness	2,816	2,983	0	49,132	54,931
Communication	343	0	0	5,976	6,319
Policy development & support	1,721	0	0	30,025	31,746
Community partnership development	3,083	0	0	53,778	56,861
Organizational competencies	20,120	28,750	0	351,015	399,885
<i>Services performed that may cut across multiple if not all foundational areas.</i>					
<u>Foundational Areas</u>	Non-Labor	Itemized/Outlier	Share Services	Labor	TOTAL
Communicable disease control	\$28,535	\$154,635	\$32,199	\$497,824	\$713,193
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention	4,448	2,646	25,863	77,609	110,566
Environmental Public Health	37,274	114,457	0	650,299	802,030
Maternal/Child/Family Health	1,618	0	0	28,223	29,841
Access/linkage with clinical health care	682	0	0	11,900	12,582
<i>Services performed specific to each foundational area or responsibility that it not related to any foundational capability.</i>					
<u>Expanded Service Activities</u>	Non-Labor	Itemized/Outlier	Share Services	Labor	TOTAL
Communicable disease control	\$20,441	\$72,461	\$0	\$356,621	\$449,523
Chronic disease and injury prevention	2,385	4,509	1,400	41,616	49,910
Environmental public health	45,819	156,640	0	799,375	1,001,834
Maternal/Child/Family Health	51,784	631,840	665,277	903,433	2,252,334
Access/linkage with clinical health care	1,828	31,956	623	31,890	66,297
<i>Services performed to each expanded area or responsibility that is not related to any foundational capability or area.</i>					
TOTAL	\$272,139	\$2,040,185	\$725,362	\$4,747,803	\$7,785,489

2021 REVENUES			
<u>Local Source Funds</u>			
Carryover	\$0	<u>State Funds</u>	
Local governmental funds	\$2,092,315	Carryover	\$0
Personal health services	\$358,847	State subsidy	\$27,470
Home health services	\$0	ODH funded projects/grants	\$2,629,112
Environmental health fees	\$223,195	Other state (non-ODH) funded projects	\$1,561,418
Vital statistic fees	\$503,496		\$4,218,000
Laboratory	\$48,840		
Locally funded projects contracts	\$226,847	<u>Federal Funds</u>	
Donations	\$5,200	Carryover	\$0
Miscellaneous income	\$3,607	Grants received directly from fed gov't	\$0
\$3,462,347			\$0
		TOTAL	\$4,218,000

Environmental Health

**Anmarie Butusov, RS;
Director of Environmental Health**

A healthy environment increases quality of life and improves the health of city residents. Canton City Public Health’s Environmental Health Division staff work hard to prevent the spread of disease by decreasing human exposure to health hazards such as contaminated food and water, hazardous chemicals, indoor smoking, and vector borne diseases caused by mice, mosquitoes, and roaches. The division inspects homes, businesses, restaurants, tattoo parlors, schools, swimming pools, waste disposal and composting facilities, hospital autoclaves, and vacant properties. We ensure proper animal vaccination to prevent the spread of rabies. In partnership with the City of Canton and Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Recycling District, we operate the Canton Recycle Center to reduce the amount of chemicals, tires, and electronics that go to landfills. We also organize and participate in property cleanups with assistance from Canton City’s Building and Code Department and the Court’s Community Services Division.



In 2021, the Recycle Center added a full-time manager and three part-time Public Health Technicians. Each of these employees completed required trainings on the forklift, skid steer, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Incident Command System for emergency preparedness. A \$50,000 grant award provided by the Environmental Protection Agency will fund improvements to the facility including paving the customer drive through area, concrete pads under the dumpsters and installation of automatic gates.

Our Food Safety Program was awarded a \$2,500 grant for our participation in the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) Voluntary Self-Assessment of Retail Standards. We met three of nine standards and will be working closely with the FDA to meet a fourth standard in Spring 2022. The grant will be used to cover costs for

software upgrades and employee training/certification in the Food Safety Program.

If you would like to know more about our Environmental Health programs or services, please contact me at abutusov@cantonhealth.org or (330) 438-4641.

Vital Statistics

Justin Kuemerle, Deputy Registrar

City of Canton Vital Statistics*			
	2021	2020	2019
Deaths	2,626	2,172	1,803
Births	3,842	3,908	4,239
- Teen Births (13 - 19)	225	266	292

*For all births occurring in Canton, not only residents

Certificates Issued			
	2021	2020	2019
Birth	10,057	8,453	10,557
Death	11,980	8,097	6,666



Air Pollution Control

Terri Dzienis; APC Director

Canton City Public Health’s Air Pollution Control Division (APC) is the contractual representative for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Division of Air Pollution Control for all of Stark County. We process applications for air permits, conduct inspections to ensure compliance by the regulated community, and monitor air quality throughout the county.

APC’s ambient air monitoring site on Georgetown Road once again measured exceedances of the lead air quality standard in May 2021, requiring Republic Steel to suspend leaded steel operations and decrease emissions from the facility. (Previous exceedances were measured in 2018 and 2019.) A joint effort by APC, Ohio EPA, and the Attorney General’s Office to address this exceedance resulted in a July 2, 2021 Order issued by the Stark County Court of Common Pleas that required Republic Steel to complete several actions before resuming leaded steel operations in July 2021. Canton APC and Ohio EPA hosted a community meeting on July 20, 2021 to share details of these actions.

Further exceedances of the lead air quality standard occurred at the end of July 2021, thus requiring Republic Steel to suspend leaded steel operations and take additional actions to reduce lead emissions per the court order. Republic Steel completed several actions and was approved to resume leaded steel operations in October 2021 at only one of their two casting operations. APC and Ohio EPA hosted a public meeting on November 16, 2021 to share the details of these actions with the community. The remainder of 2021 had no exceedances of the lead air quality standard.

As a result of requests from community members during the July 20, 2021 public meeting, the following actions were taken:

- CCPH hosted a blood lead screening clinic for adults living near Republic Steel on December 8, 2021. Nineteen residents were screened. Test results showed no elevated levels of blood lead.
- CCPH requested ODH conduct a Public Health Consultation on the public health impacts of the lead ambient air exceedances. This process is on-going and includes regular meetings and data exchanges. ODH anticipates their work to be completed by December 2022.



- APC is setting up a second ambient air monitoring site for lead and metals at the corner of Marietta Ave. and Georgetown Rd. NE. The site will be within 240 feet of residential neighborhoods as compared to the Georgetown Rd. site which is approx. 1,400 feet from residential neighborhoods. The new site is expected to be operational in April 2022.

APC conducted 10 inspections in 2020 and 14 inspections in 2021 at Republic Steel, identifying violations that resulted in 8 notice of violation enforcement actions issued by APC (4 each year). APC continues to work with Ohio EPA and the Attorney General’s Office to address these violations and community concerns regarding the facility.

Air Pollution Control Activities			
	2021	2020	2019
Open Burning Program			
Inspections (non-complaint)	0	1	2
Complaints Investigated	214	236	154
Enforcement Actions	140	148	134
Violations Resolved	129	123	91
Open Burning Permissions	11	11	19
Asbestos Program			
Inspections (non-complaint)	14	5	23
Complaints Investigated	7	8	8
Enforcement Actions	8	5	11
Violations Resolved	9	3	9
Facility Program			
Inspections (non-complaint)	46	20	51
Complaints Investigated	46	29	27
Enforcement Actions	27	22	21
Violations Resolved	19	19	18
Tests Observed	8	10	20
Opacity Observations	8	7	18
Permits Issued	46	58	53
Other Programs			
Anti-tampering Inspections	0	1	2
Inspections (non-complaint)	0	0	0
Complaints Investigated	15	17	19
Opacity Observations	1	0	3
Enforcement Actions	2	3	3
Violations Resolved	2	1	1

Nursing

Diane Thompson, RN, MSN; Director of Nursing

The year 2021 was a year like no other. The COVID-19 virus took a terrible toll and continued to resurge despite all-out efforts to control its progress. In early 2021, our COVID-19 vaccination program was well underway. Clinic sites were held at several locations to meet the needs of the community and initially, turnout was high. There was hope that vaccination efforts would allow a gradual return to normal interaction; however, new variants of the virus continued to pose ongoing threats.

As the year progressed, clinical processes at CCPH reopened with adjustments made to avoid the spread of illness. Mask wearing and physical distancing became the norm. The terms fully vaccinated, unvaccinated, and up-to-date vaccinated became second nature to those of us in the nursing department. We have learned that we must rethink how we approach illness in our society – encouraging individuals to stay home when they are sick and to keep children home when symptoms of illness are present.

The World Health Organization defines pandemic as uncontrolled spread of a virus across the globe, and an epidemic is when the spread is limited to a country or region. A steady level of transmission that doesn't result in a widespread outbreak is generally considered endemic. Where we will go from here is unknown; however, the experience of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact, particularly on the most vulnerable in our society, will long be with us.



Medical Director

Jon Elias, MD

The past year has been a challenge. Although COVID-19 dominated our work, we continued to provide for the general health of our community.

Our pediatric vaccination clinics were open providing needed protection from the many childhood diseases. STI clinics were open. Our SWAP program, which is funded through grants and donations, was open, providing clean needles to injection drug users. We also provided resources and referrals for substance use services. We expanded our Narcan distribution program into more communities and other high risk locations.

Looking ahead to 2022, we will be starting a wound clinic for SWAP participants who have developed severe abscesses and wounds. This population frequently avoids medical care at hospitals and clinics. Lack of care has led to bad outcomes including amputation. In addition, we hope to be reopening our travel clinic this spring.

We are all excited about this coming year.

Nursing Outreach			
	2021	2020	2019
Disease Intervention Specialist	147	148	131
Dental - Students Screened	1,804	916	2,985
Dental - Students Sealed	1,366	518	1,665
Clinic Services			
	2021	2020	2019
STI Clinic	330	385	850
International Travel	0	51	224
Tuberculosis Testing	73	57	194
Well-Baby Immunizations	235	313	455
HIV Testing	103	97	180
SWAP Visits	2,980	2,752	2,756
SWAP HIV Tests	18	6	25
COVID-19 Vaccinations	20,494	200	-

Office of Public Health Information and Innovation

Amanda Archer, MPH; Director

The Office of Public Health Information and Innovation (OPHII) includes work in epidemiology, emergency preparedness, communications, accreditation, performance management, quality improvement and naloxone distribution. The team is tasked with using data to inform programming for our community as well as internally for staff and department improvements.



2021 was another difficult year for public health that required our staff to perform at peak levels due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many of OPHII's staff were still assigned to COVID-19 work, and unable to realize their own program goals. In early 2021, OPHII staff were the backbone to planning and executing mass clinics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to the community. Ohio created a hierarchy of vaccine eligibility, starting with the most vulnerable populations. Through our emergency preparedness and nursing teams, CCPH began small clinics in-house. Efforts then moved to the Memorial Civic Center to accommodate a larger pool of eligible residents, where we vaccinated up to 1000 people per day. Clinics were held throughout the week and continued into the spring to accommodate 1st and 2nd doses and the expanding eligibility list. Through partnerships with Canton City School District and Canton Parks & Recreation, CCPH hosted vaccination clinics at Lehman Middle School and the Edward 'Peel' Coleman Community Center. The continued success of our clinics was

due to the collaborative nature of multiple CCPH divisions and staff, our community partners and especially the support and dedication of our Medical Reserve Corp volunteers (www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov/). The efforts of our MRC volunteers netted nearly 6,400 hours of donated time from the start of our clinics. MRC staff worked in multiple roles at each clinic including vaccinating, scheduling, observation staff, patient assistance and outdoor logistics/traffic control. CCPH owes them a giant THANK YOU and a nod of gratitude for stepping up during difficult times.

Communication avenues used to keep our community and partners informed during the pandemic included our website (www.cantonhealth.org), Health Alert Network (HAN) messages and social media. Social media provided the opportunity to provide real time information and has proven effective as an outreach tool. During 2021, our Facebook following increased 19.8% from 8,519 followers to 10,210 by the end of the year (This was after a 75% increase from 2020 to 2021). Additionally, our content reached over 591,000 Facebook users, which is nearly a 6% increase from 2020. You can also find us on Twitter @cantonhealth, and all of our social media content can be found by using our hashtag, #cantonhealth.

The Epi Branch of our pandemic response (infectious disease epidemiologist, lab director and THRIVE epidemiologist) continued to rally around each other, tracking the incidence of COVID-19 in the community, and responding to and man-

Case Count of Select Reportable Diseases		
	2021	2020
Campylobacteriosis	12	10
Chlamydia infection	745	791
COVID-19	8098	3366
CP-CRE	3	6
Cryptosporidiosis	5	7
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	0
Giardiasis	2	1
Gonococcal infection	503	507
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1	0
Hepatitis A	1	22
Hepatitis B - acute	0	1
Hepatitis B - chronic	14	18
Hepatitis C - acute	5	3
Hepatitis C - chronic	68	84
HIV	12	21
Influenza-associated hospitalization	1	102
Legionellosis - Legionnaire's Disease	5	8
Lyme Disease	6	1
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	8	2
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	0	1
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	1	0
Salmonellosis	8	6
Shigellosis	2	0
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	6	4
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	0	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown/non-resistant	6	8
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	4	5
Syphilis - any stage	29	21
Varicella	1	3
Vibriosis (not cholera)	1	1
Yersiniosis	4	1
Grand Total of All Reportable Diseases	9,552	5,001
Grand Total (without COVID-19 or MIS-C)	1,453	1,635

aging outbreaks across the City. The COVID-19 Epi Report, created in 2020, was issued weekly to keep the community informed. All issues of the COVID-19 Epi Report can be found at: cantonhealth.org/?pg=562.

Additionally, reporting for other communicable diseases didn't stop. Our epidemiologist(s) focus on disease surveillance to identify, investigate and prevent outbreaks in our community. The attached table shows the incidence of reportable diseases reported to public health during 2021. In 2021, COVID-19 cases dominated the resources of our epi team and our nursing team. Being a Class A reportable disease, the influx of COVID cases accounted for 84.8% of the caseload, and was a 425.8% **increase** in total cases when compared to our 5-year average (8098 vs 1540).

2021 Epi Outbreak Responses	
COVID-19 Healthcare associated (non-congregate care)	11
COVID-19 Congregate living center (non-healthcare)	4
COVID-19 Workplace (Other)	3
Hand, Foot and Mouth (daycare center)	1
RSV (daycare center)	1

There is a statistically significant increase in Lyme Disease, Aseptic/Viral Meningitis and Gonococcal Infections from 2020 to 2021. A statistically significant increase was also noted in Gonococcal Infections in 2021 when compared to the 5 year annual average.

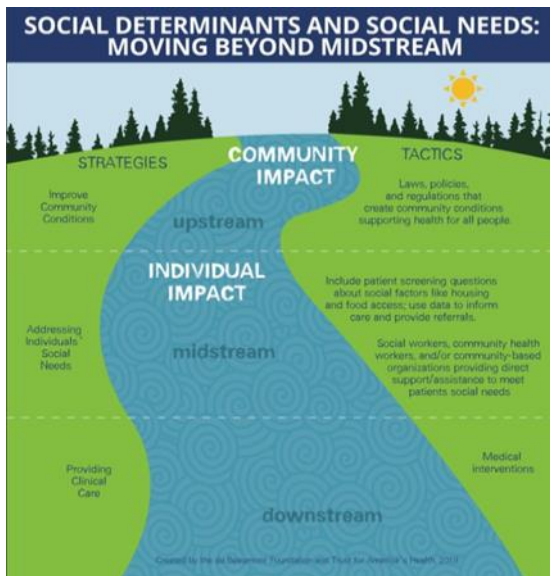
There is a statistically significant decrease in Hepatitis A infections, Influenza Associated Hospitalizations from 2020 to 2021. A statistically significant decrease was also noted in Influenza Associated Hospitalizations and Pertussis in 2021 when compared to the 5 year annual average.

Stark County THRIVE Project

Dawn Miller, MBA, Project Manager



The goal and purpose of Stark County's Ohio Equity Institute's funded work is to improve health equity for birthing persons in Stark County to reduce disparities in birth outcomes therefore improving infant vitality. The program is focused on both upstream and downstream changes. Health equity is achieved when all people in a community have access to affordable, inclusive and quality infrastructure and services that, despite historical and contemporary injustices, allows them to reach their full health potential.



Downstream: Neighborhood Navigator identifies and connects with pregnant Stark County residents, with a focus on Black/African Americans, in order to link them up with clinical and social services. Making these connections works to decrease stress and improve access to resources needed. Outreach efforts are focused on non-traditional avenues in order to reach those who are not yet connected with various services.

Upstream: OEI staff works alongside local organizations and community members in order to facilitate the development, adoption, or improvement of policies and/or practices that impact the social determinants of health (SDOH) that can influence poor birth outcomes which often drive the inequities within the OEI counties.

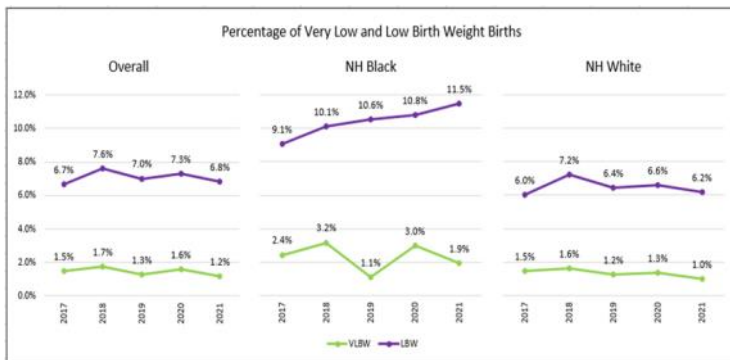
Building upon the work of OE20 Stark County THRIVE has:

- * Expanded locations in which information posters and hot cards are placed by the Neighborhood Navigator. To track effectiveness, all women screened by Neighborhood Navigator are asked how they found out about the program.
- * Continued work with community partners and content experts to improve SDOH for residents. This includes tracking policy/program changes implemented during OE19 and OE20 and identification of at least one additional policy and/or practice change during OE21. Improved monitoring and evaluation efforts for effective program analysis.
- * Improved monitoring and evaluation efforts for effective program analysis.

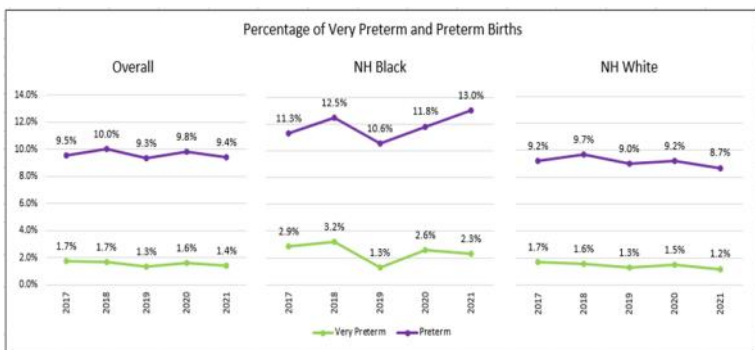
The Stark County THRIVE OEI SDOH teams continue to work to address areas that will improve programs and or policies that impact birth outcomes. Through a collaborative process member of the THRIVE core team and community advisory committee selected two areas of focus: Adolescent Health/Family Planning led by OEI Epidemiologist and Housing led by OEI Project Manager. To help facilitate this practice focus, team members include representation from a variety of stakeholders including but not limited to: managed care plans, local housing programs, City of Canton Department of Development, local reproductive clinics, pediatricians, and members of the community served.

Birth Outcomes in Stark County

Premature and low birth weight births are common indicators monitored overall. In 2021, the percentage of very low birth weight (VLBW=less than 1,500g) accounted for 1.2% of births overall, low birth weight (LBW=1,500-2,499g) births is in line with the past 5 years of accounting for 6.8% of births. While NH Black infants saw a dramatic decrease in the percentage of VLBW births in 2019, that may be an anomaly year if the trend doesn't continue. The percentage of low birth weight births has been increasing for this group since 2017. VLBW and LBW births for NH White infants has remained consistent over the past 5 years.



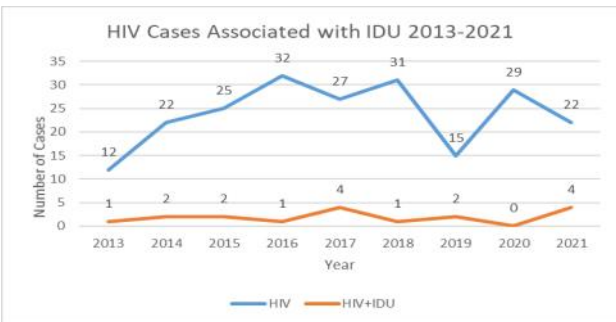
In reviewing very preterm (<32 weeks gestation) and preterm (<37 weeks gestation, includes very preterm births), Stark County overall has not seen much changes in these percentages over the past 5 years. NH Black infants have seen gradual improvements in very preterm births for the past 5 years but have also been seeing an increase in preterm births.



SWAP Clinic

This report provides an update of the Canton City Public Health (CCPH) Syringe Services Program (SSP) as required by Ohio law, Ohio Revised Code 3707.57. The SSP is a program that provides syringe exchange services in the County of Stark, in the City of Canton. This report outlines all aspects of the program including the distribution and receipt of syringes. This report does not account for other sources of syringes (prescription or nonprescription) available in the county.

REDUCING TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE - HIV/AIDS Data



Incidence of HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in Stark County. Source: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/hiv-aids-surveillance-program/resources/stark-county-hiv-surveillance-data-tables> with the exception of the most recent year being data from the Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS).

Note: IDU associated exposure are inclusive of total case count per year. (Ex: Stark County had 12 cases of HIV in 2013, and 1 of those cases reported an IDU associated exposure).

The next table summarizes newly reported cases of chronic Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS among Stark County residents from 2013 through 2021. HIV/AIDS case reporting generally takes at least 6 months to be considered complete, and all case data is subject to change as more information is collected.

Conditions by Year of Diagnosis - Stark County Residents (2014-2021)

Stark County Total Cases of Bloodborne Pathogens								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hepatitis C	277	391	344	306	313	322	207	202
HIV/AIDS	22	25	32	27	33	16	24	22
HIV/AIDS with IDU exposure	2	3	1	4	2	2	0	4

* Due to the COVID pandemic, unable to provide up-to-date Hepatitis C data.

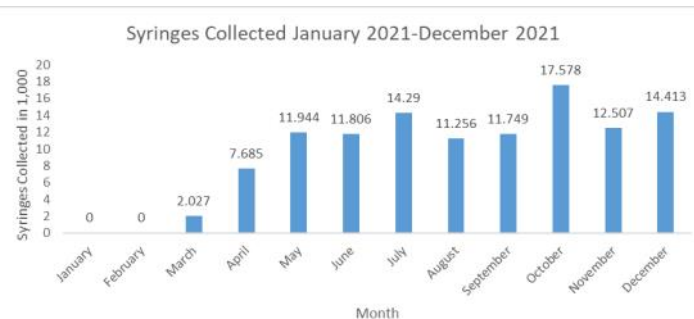
We are hopeful that the decline in Hepatitis C cases since 2016 may be in some way attributed to the implementation of SWAP in 2017.

Number of SWAP Visits by Month of Visit

During the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, there were 3,001 visits to SWAP and at least 639 unduplicated clients were served by the program. SWAP was closed from January 2021 until March 19, 2021 due to COVID-19. This closure was a continuation of the closure from the spike in community spread that was seen at the end of 2020. This explains the lack of encounters from January through March on the graph below. To reduce possible exposure among clients and staff operating SWAP, a modified process of exchange occurred. Staff spent time pre-packing bags of harm reduction materials each week, used syringes were placed into sharps containers instead of being ground by the NeedleSharks, and at times incomplete data was collected to expedite the process. On a few occasions, client codes were not individually collected and COVID-19 was used as an identifier for the program, which leaves the possibility that the program served more than 639 unique individuals and could have implications on the demographic information collected as well. Clients were offered Narcan during the hours of clinic, and resources were posted on the front doors and on social media about locations to receive Narcan during the periods in which SWAP was closed.

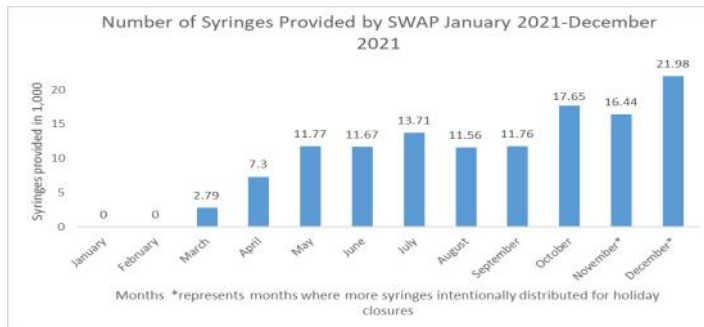


Number of Syringes Collected per Month



Above data indicates that during the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, SWAP collected 114,750 used syringes and distributed 127,190 sterile syringes. It is important to note that there are other legal sources of syringes in the community. There is also the impact the winter holidays had on the program in which SWAP distributed enough supplies for clients to hold them over from Dec 17, 2021 until January 7, 2022.

Number of Syringes Provided per Month



The table above indicates the number of new syringes dispensed monthly from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The number of syringes collected and distributed follow a similar pattern, aside from November and December. These discrepancies can be explained by the closure of SWAP for the winter holidays and three increased dispensing days.

New Developments

In 2021, utilizing the department's WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System) system, SWAP initiated a text alert program for interested clients so that information about SWAP or overdoses in the area could be sent directly to those who were most at risk. From the initiation of the program through the end of 2021, SWAP staff have sent out 12 mass text alerts in total, 6 alerts about overdose risks in the community and 6 alerts of SWAP closure reminders. Participation in the texts is completely voluntary and also anonymous.

Demographics

The tables below reflect the utilization data and basic demographics for SWAP over the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021. These values are incomplete as during parts of the pandemic, client ID codes were not always collected and COVID-19 was used as an identifier. It is possible that these values are not a full representation of the clients at SWAP.

Age Groups	Count	Rate†*	% of Total
15-19	0	-	-
20-24	25	113.39	3.92%
25-29	89	386.49	13.95%
30-34	160	723.92	25.08%
35-39	132	609.00	20.69%
40-44	107	516.48	16.77%
45-49	47	218.99	7.37%
50-54	34	144.11	5.33%
55-59	17	65.92	2.66%
60-64	18	67.39	2.82%
65+	9	11.95	1.41%
Unknown/Unreported	1	-	-
Total	639	172.81	100.0%

Sex ¹	Count	Rate†*	% of Total
Female	240	126.31	37.56%
Male	399	221.97	62.44%
Transgender*	-	-	-
Unknown/Unreported	-	-	-
Total	639	172.81	100%

*Transgender client/s has/have been placed into the category that fits with their current gender identity and not with their sex at birth.

Race ²	Count	Rate†*	% of Total
White	526	199.88	82.32
Black	19	80.84	2.97
Biracial	17	-	2.66
Other	7	-	1.10
Unknown/Unreported	70	-	10.95
Total	639	219.53	100%

Age Range: 21-73; Median Age: 36

†*All rates were calculated from the Ohio Department of Health Data Warehouse 2021 data on Stark County. Not all SWAP participants reside in Stark County. All rates are per 100,000 persons.

*Rates were not calculated for case counts < 5 or where rate could not be calculated due to limited data.

¹Sex rates were compiled from using the population in the age ranges of those at SWAP 18-70.

²Race rates were compiled using ages 18+ in Stark County, because those above the age range for SWAP could have sought services despite not being captured in our program.

SWAP participants presented from 86 different zip codes. 57% of those reported were from somewhere within Stark County. SWAP does not have any requirements to reside in Stark County and will serve anyone who comes to the program.

OTHER SWAP PREVENTION ACTIVITIES FOR INJECTION DRUG USE

- HIV and Hepatitis C prevention education and rapid testing services
- Linkages for making follow up medical appointments for new HIV-positive people to reduce the number of individuals falling out of care and adherence to HIV medications.
- Bi-annual training in harm reduction last completed in 2019. CCPH will explore options for 2022 to complete another training.
- Distribution and education of Narcan Kits through CommQuest and the Integrated Naloxone Access and Infrastructure Grant through the Ohio Department of Health.
- Vaccination and education on Hepatitis A/B and COVID-19.
- Wound care education

Comprehensive Services & Referrals	2021	Average per Visit	Average per Month*
Narcan	1322	.44	139.16
Mental Health Referral	-	.-	-
HIV Testing	10	.003	1.05
Hepatitis C Testing	3	-	.32
Wound Care Education**	4	-	.42
Total Services & Referrals	1339	.45	140.95

* average per month was reduced to 9.5 months to account for the amount of time SWAP was closed during 2021.

** represents the total number of times that wound care education was documented. Wound care education happens much more frequently than indicated.

Substance use referrals and mental health referrals were not as easily documented in 2021 as they have been in the past due to a modified process/paperwork change. Due to an allotment of Narcan kits through Ohio MHAS, SWAP was able to provide Narcan to clients without any paperwork necessary for dispensing. With this barrier removed, SWAP saw an increase in the number of Narcan kits being dispensed each month. While we know that some of these referrals to treatment options and mental health happened, the program does not have an adequate count and has modified the process to ensure that these numbers are collected in 2022. SWAP utilized the naloxone grant through CCPH's OPHII division to provide naloxone to SWAP clients. With the continuation of the modified process for SWAP during COVID-19 procedures through 2021 and into 2022, gaps in documentation have been recognized and attempts to fill in the missing pieces are being established.

IDENTIFIED AREAS FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

- Referrals/Linkages
CCPH, with the assistance of CommQuest Recovery Services will continue to improve the referral and linkages aspect of the program. CCPH continues to develop relationships with other recovery organizations in the community improve the quantity and quality of referrals, linkages to treatment, and services and other services to SWAP participants when appropriate.
- Hours of Operation
Currently, SWAP operates out of the health department. The day and time of operation appears to work for the high risk population (consistent attendance during hours of operation). There are limitations as to the days and time of operation because of the other services offered by CCPH. However, the hours of operation should efficiently serve the population while reducing the impact that SWAP has on the clinic and clinic staff – this is something the planning group will periodically evaluate and address.
- Wound Care
When SWAP reopened in March of 2021, clients coming back to the program reported wounds that often needed more medical attention than CCPH could offer. CCPH realized this is a need not being met often enough in this community and is working to establish a wound clinic for clients coming to SWAP.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

To date, the cost to operate SWAP is estimated to be \$56,000-\$63,000. It is anticipated that program costs will increase as the need increases. Initially, funding was secured from United Way Foundation (to purchase NeedleShark grinder), startup funds from AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and a grant from the Comer Family Foundation to purchase syringes. With the addition of the Early Intervention Services grant, funds can be allocated to the purchase of harm reduction materials. CCPH was awarded a mini grant of \$3571.43 to purchase syringes from the Ohio Department of Health in 2021. CCPH also received \$1039.95 worth of syringes from a student led harm reduction organization at Ohio State University to assist with the purchasing of syringes.

CONCLUSION

- Access to sterile needles is making a positive difference in Stark County and remains an important component of the overall strategy to reduce transmission of blood borne disease.
- Needle exchange services in Stark County plays a significant role in the strategy to reduce the number of improperly discarded syringes.
- Syringe service programs allow for one on one interactions with clients at risk of overdose and provides interventions for overdose/death and other harms.

2022 Goals

- Establish sustainable and reliable funding for the program.
- Continue anonymous, safe services to reduce the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C infection in our communities by promoting revisits by clients and to encourage clients to tell others about SWAP.
- Continue to offer free HIV and Hepatitis C testing and counseling at each visit.
- Establish a wound care clinic to fill a gap in care for PWID.
- Monitor the size of the program to see if it is becoming too large for our space at CCPH. Consideration of partnering with other agencies for more room/more hours.
- Continue naloxone access and overdose prevention education and resources.
- Continue to inform clients at each visit of resources available at SWAP and in the community.

Annual SWAP Costs	
Line Item	Annual
Personnel (Salary/Benefits)	\$16,104.45
Syringes (by grant allocations)	\$4,611
Supplies	\$28,998
Total Cost of SWAP	\$49,713.45



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Canton City Public Health

Canton City Public Health

420 Market Ave. North
Canton, OH 44702

Phone: (330) 489-3231

info@cantonhealth.org

www.cantonhealth.org



Canton City Public Health is proud to present our annual report for 2021. This report represents a brief summary of the activities of an amazing group of public health professionals. Health Department staff are working to improve our neighborhoods, protect our food, monitor the air we breathe, follow up on a contagious disease, track vital records, work with new moms to provide better nutrition for their babies and provide immunizations and education that will help improve the health of those who live, work and play in the City of Canton.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Laura Roach, RD, LD; WIC Director

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program is a health program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, nutritious foods, and referrals to health care providers and community programs. Throughout all of 2021, the Stark WIC Project was able to continue uninterrupted service by adhering to COVID-19 WIC waivers.

Monthly Average WIC Program Participants			
	2021	2020	2019
Canton City WIC	1,783	1,967	2,094
Total Stark County WIC	4,766	5,095	5,446

Early in the COVID-19 public health emergency, USDA established these waivers to allow for social distancing and other administrative flexibilities. Extensions of these program modifications have continued. In fact, a USDA memorandum in September 2021 explained that certain WIC waivers will now remain in place until 90 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency (under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act). As the memorandum stated, this revised timeframe targets a safe and successful return to normal operations.

The social distancing waiver that relates to our program's physical presence requirement is one of the most notable changes to previous procedures. This allows for the deferral of anthropometric and bloodwork requirements. While remote counseling continues to be preferred by the majority of individuals we serve, the increased workload for local staff is simply not represented in WIC caseload data as it was during in-person clinics. This is due to a significant number of individuals who receive counseling and referral services remotely, but then do not come into the office to receive their

food benefits. WIC caseload data only captures individuals who have current month food benefits. This is an issue that needs addressed at the State and Federal level. Ohio WIC has offline food cards that require in-office visits for this program benefit to be provided.

While virtual services have been crucial during this pandemic, data that has been historically viewed as an overall representation of WIC services does not fully capture all community members who have received services in the last two years. I commend local staff for all their hard work, remote and in person. Each day they have the opportunity to provide health information and/or referrals that could have a significant impact on someone's overall well-being. Together, we will continue to build a healthy Canton City!

