

Jackson County

# Community Health Improvement Plan

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February 2018

Prepared By:



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**Jackson County Health Department**  
**Community Health Improvement Plan**

**February 2018**

Prepared by:

The Jackson County Health Department

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Introduction**

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This Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was initiated because of the mandate from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that all Local Health Departments (LHDs) become accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) by 2020 or else become ineligible for any state funding or other monies passing through the state. Not only does the CHIP fulfill one of the requirements for accreditation, but it also provides the Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) with a process and plan for addressing the community's health and the community's health needs.

The CHIP process began with the completion of the Jackson County Health Department's Community Health Assessment (CHA) in February of 2017. This document summarized health statistics for Jackson County and helped highlight the most severe health issues. Staff from the JCHD engaged a wide range of community partners to gather inputs to inform a vision of health for Jackson County, review the CHA data, select health priorities based on the data, and collectively create a plan of action to address these issues. The CHIP process takes the results of the CHA and allows the participating organizations to formulate health improvement goals and specific steps needed to achieve them.

This report begins with a description of the methodology or process used to engage community and stakeholders in the development of the CHIP. Following this description of the process, there is a section for each identified priority. This document lists the goals and key measures selected for each health priority accompanied by data that is evidence of its significance. A more detailed action plan that includes objectives, action steps, assets and resources and evidence-based strategies for each priority are attached at the end as appendices.

This report concludes with a summary of the next steps relative to implementation, ongoing monitoring, and evaluation of the CHIP.

## Methodology

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Jackson County Health Department was responsible for providing oversight for the CHIP development process. The entire community was publicly invited to participate in the CHIP process, and eight organizations chose to participate in the development of the CHIP, which occurred over a four-month period. Milestones in the process are as follows:

•Community Health Assessment completed & released	February 2017
•Prioritization meetings, priority setting	May-July 2017
•Workgroup formation, action plan creation	July 2017
•Action plans are beginning to be enacted	August 2017
•CHIP released	February 2018

The process began by the planning group reviewing the CHA and identifying priority health problems in our community based on those data. Criteria used to select priorities included:

1. Magnitude of issue – how big is the problem in Jackson County?
2. Impact of issue on vulnerable populations – does it impact populations like minorities, children, and the elderly more than the general population?
3. Is the issue a greater problem in Jackson County than in the State of Ohio?
4. Feasibility to impact the issue – do we have the resources and ability to create positive change?

In addition to the criteria above, Ohio’s State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) priorities were also reviewed. Special consideration is being taken across the State of Ohio to align local

CHIPs with the SHIP to improve resource allocation for health improvement. The 2017 SHIP priorities are Mental Health and Addiction, Maternal and Infant Health, and Chronic Disease, and our planning committee incorporated those state priorities into our local priority selection.

As a result of this priority selection process, the planning group selected the following as the three highest priority health issues in Jackson County (in no particular order):

- Substance Abuse
- Obesity
- Housing Issues

Workgroups were then established for each priority area. Through subsequent meetings and further analysis of the data, the workgroups further refined the issues and crafted goals aimed at improving Substance Abuse, Obesity, and Housing. The workgroups strived to focus the identified priorities into specific actions plans that target as specifically as possible the problem in question. These priorities and their specific action plans are addressed each in turn in the next section of this document.

# Priorities

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## Priority 1: Substance Abuse

Goal: Decrease the number of Jackson County residents that abuse opioids.

Key Measure: Decrease from 100 to 75 the number of drug court cases per year in 2020.

Substance abuse, particularly of opioids, is a leading health concern in Jackson County. The 2017 Community Health Assessment revealed that:

- In Jackson County, four unintentional drug overdose deaths were recorded in 2016;
- 76.8% of Jackson County CHA survey respondents reported that “Drugs” were the community’s biggest health concern. About 30% said that there was no place for residents to get help for someone struggling with addiction in our community.
- Jackson County had an acute and chronic HCV prevalence rates several times higher than Ohio, which is an indicator of IV drug use.

Despite several existing policy and system-based programs to address the issue in Jackson County (i.e. drug court, Project DAWN, SPARC the Substance-Abuse Prevention and Resource Council), substance abuse remains a priority. To augment and enhance existing programs, residents need better education and awareness of existing services to increase healthy decisions and behaviors. To this end, the community will collaborate on objectives that pertain to implementing programs and interventions that increase opportunity for healthy decision making among residents in order to leverage existing community efforts to reduce substance use. In addition, the community will implement evidence based programs that impact youth substance use initiation.

Objectives:

- Implement a youth-focused media contest focusing on preventing substance abuse behaviors before they become patterns in Jackson County by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- Implement the Community Connectors Mentoring Program in Jackson County by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

## **Priority 2: Obesity**

Goal: Decrease the obesity rate and thereby improve the overall health of Jackson County residents.

Key Measure: Decrease the obesity rate to less than 33% of adults by December 2020.

Obesity is a major health problem for Jackson County residents, and is a risk factor for many other diseases including those that cause the most illness and death in our community. The 2017 Community Health Assessment revealed that:

- The Obesity rate in Jackson County is 36.8%, higher than the state of Ohio's rate.
- In Jackson County, mortality rates for heart disease and cancer are higher than Ohio's rates overall.
- 88.3% of residents reported eating too few fruits and vegetables, and 35.2% adults reported being physically inactive.
- 28.6% of survey respondents stated that obesity was the county's biggest health concern.

Stored energy in adipose tissue is a function of excess calories ingested while not burning enough calories in exercise. Jackson County has many residents with unhealthy behavior patterns when it comes to calorie intake and exercise. CHIP partners will try to influence these behavior patterns in young people to prevent the formation of lifelong unhealthy habits.

Objectives:

- Institute walking programs with Jackson County elementary students so they learn to exercise regularly by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- Implement a healthy lifestyle campaign focused on importance a healthy diet and/or regular exercise by December 31<sup>st</sup>,2020.

### **Priority 3: Housing**

Goal: Decrease the number of Jackson County residents that have housing issues.

Key Measures: Decrease the number of residents living in homes that have major violations of the Jackson County Housing Regulations from 18 to 9 by December 2020.

Housing issues are a major health problem in Jackson County. Adequate housing/shelter is a basic human need, and there are no homeless shelters in the entire county. Housing problems, and particularly homelessness, are difficult to measure because of the way they are defined and tracked. The planning team discovered that:

- In Jackson County, the median year of home construction is 1950. This means that many homes were constructed before current standards of safe housing were in place, such as lead-free paint and two means of egress.
- The median household income for Jackson County households is only \$37,393, over ten thousand dollars less than Ohio's average. Over 20% of the population is in poverty. Poverty is the primary cause of homelessness and inadequate housing.
- The JCHD had 18 complaints and 6 abatements/condemnations in 2016.
- The Jackson County Homelessness Committee had 249 requests for assistance in 2017.

Adequate shelter is a fundamental human need. The JCHD and its partners are in a unique position in the community to address its housing issues.

Objectives:

- Support land bank to help convert 24 blighted properties so that they are no longer presenting housing issues by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- The JCHD will abate 20 Housing nuisances by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

## Summary

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The CHIP process involved a careful analysis of the Jackson County CHA and the feedback from important community stakeholders. Priorities for improvement were selected based on the available data and the assembled partners' opportunities for making an impact on the issues, and specific action plans were developed to address the identified priorities.

The Jackson County Health Department, along with other community partners, are grateful for this opportunity to better the health of our residents and our community as a whole. Together, the health department and these partners will work in close relation with those in the county because improving our community's health is not a task that simply one agency can accomplish. The goal is to build relationships across all domains the service Jackson County in hopes of providing a healthier and safer environment for everyone who calls Jackson County home. This CHIP will be executed and periodically evaluated for its effectiveness, and results will be shared with the partners involved and with the community. Future CHIPs will build upon this process so that the Jackson County Health Department can continuously accomplish its mission of creating a healthier and safer community.

## References

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1. Jackson County Health Department Community Health Assessment, 2017.

[www.jacksoncountyhealthdepartment.org](http://www.jacksoncountyhealthdepartment.org)

2. Jackson County 2017 Annual Report.

[www.jacksoncountyhealthdepartment.org](http://www.jacksoncountyhealthdepartment.org)

## Appendices

### Action Plan A

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Priority 1: Substance Abuse				
Action Plan A: Decrease the number of Jackson County residents that abuse opioids				
Objectives	Measure	Action Steps	Timeframe	Lead
Objective 1.1: Implement a youth-focused media contest focusing on preventing substance abuse behaviors	1) # of campaigns Baseline: 0  2) # of contest participants Baseline: 0	1) Obtain partnership with schools 2) Establish contest rules 3) Publicize and conduct contest 4) Publicize contest results and evaluate contest	Start: August 2017  End: November 2017	Sasha Payadnya (JCHD representative)
Objective 1.2: Implement a youth mentoring program called Community Connectors Mentoring Program	1) # of mentees Baseline: 0  2) # of youths mentored Baseline: 0  3) Decrease to 75 the number of drug court cases per year Baseline: 100	1) Develop program and apply for funding 2) Recruit mentees and mentors 3) Operate program 4) Evaluate program	Start: August 2017  End: December 2018	Susan Rogers (RSVP representative)

## Action Plan B

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Priority 2: Obesity				
Action Plan B: Decrease the obesity rate of Jackson County residents				
Objectives	Measure	Action Steps	Timeframe	Lead
Objective 2.1: Implement walking programs for primary school children	1) # of participants Baseline: 0	1) Obtain partnership with schools 2) Establish program guidelines 3) Recruit students into the program	Start: January 2018  End: December 2018	Kevin Aston (JCHD representative)
Objective 2.2: Implement a healthy lifestyle campaign focused on importance a healthy diet and/or regular exercise	1) # of participants Baseline: 0  2) Decrease to less than 33% Jackson County adults who are obese Baseline: 36.8%	1) Develop program 2) Recruit program participants 3) Operate program 4) Evaluate program	Start: January 2018  End: December 2020	Mikie Strite (JCHD representative)

## Action Plan C

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Priority 3: Housing				
Action Plan C: Decrease the number of residents living in homes that have major violations of the Jackson County Housing Regulations				
Objectives	Measure	Action Steps	Timeframe	Lead
Objective 3.1: Support land bank to help convert 20 properties dilapidated so that they are no longer presenting housing issues	1) # of properties rehabilitated by the land bank Baseline: 0	1) Complete land bank inception 2) Identify properties for acquisition 3) Apply for funding 4) Acquire and rehabilitate properties	Start: August 2017  End: December 2020	Gary Radabaugh (JCHD representative)
Objective 3.2: Abate Housing Nuisances	1) # of housing nuisances abated Baseline: 6	1) Refine Nuisance Complaint Procedure 2) Refine how Housing Regulations are enforced 3) Evaluate program	Start: January 2018  End: December 2020	David Ramby (JCHD representative)

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**2018**

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