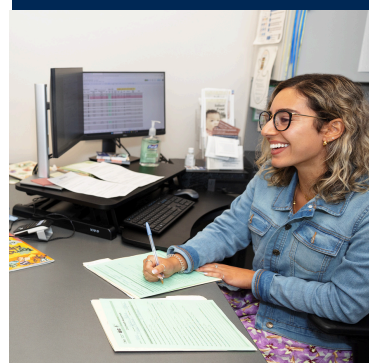


Community Health Assessment























2025 Lorain County




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Navigating this document:

- Information related to a 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) goal will be labeled with a: 
- All data sources can be found at the end of the document.

Introduction and Acknowledgements



Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) and its community partners conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every three years. It involves extensive data collection and input from community residents, and those who serve our county.

The purpose of the CHA is to monitor health outcomes and the social and environmental factors that influence them. The information learned from the CHA guides our collective work toward improving health in Lorain County, and advancing health equity so that all residents can benefit from opportunities to reach their full potential.

LCPH would like to thank:

- The community residents and stakeholders who contributed their time and insights to the development of this assessment.
- The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Steering Committee:
 - [Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital](#)
 - [Lorain County Health and Dentistry](#)
 - [Lorain County Metro Parks](#)
 - [Lorain County Public Health](#)
 - [Mental Health, Addiction, and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County \(MHARS\)](#)
 - [Mercy Health Allen Hospital](#)
 - [Mercy Health Lorain Hospital](#)
 - [University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center](#)
- Additional community organizations and service providers who serve on the CHIP subcommittees. They enrich and inform our work every day to ensure the needs of their constituents are being met.
 - Catholic Charities
 - Child Care Resource Center
 - Cornerstone Pregnancy Services
 - El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc.
 - Elyria Public Library System
 - Horizon Education Centers
 - Lorain County Community Action Agency
 - Lorain County Educational Service Center
 - Lorain Public Library System
 - Neighborhood Alliance
 - Oberlin Kids
 - OhioGuidestone
 - Riveon
 - Save Our Children
 - Second Harvest Food Bank
 - United Way of Greater Lorain County
 - Veterans Affairs

The CHA was funded by:

- Lorain County Health and Dentistry
- Lorain County Public Health
- Mercy Health Lorain Hospital
- University Hospitals

Introduction and Acknowledgements



Project management, secondary data, and report development by Lorain County Public Health.

LCPH is an accredited local health department, located in Elyria, Ohio. They facilitate community health assessments and planning processes in Lorain County. LCPH works with coalitions and groups in Lorain County communities to ensure a collaborative approach to community health improvement that includes multiple key stakeholders, such as those listed above. Lead LCPH project staff have their master's degree in public health, with emphasis on epidemiology and population health.

- **Mark Adams, MPH, REHS** | Health Commissioner
- **Amanda Accordino-Napoli, M.Ed, CHES** | Population Health Strategist
- **Katherine Bray, M.S, CHES** | Population Health Supervisor
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- **Juan Schwartzman, MPH** | Epidemiologist
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- **Kiara Williams, BSPH** | Population Health Strategist

Primary data from surveys and focus groups was graciously provided by Mercy Health Lorain, conducted through Moxley Public Health

Request to adapt and use the Lorain County CHA.

To adapt and use CHA, take these steps:

1. Ask for permission via email to Contact@LorainCountyHealth.com. Include your agency's name, and a brief description as to how you plan to use the piece.
2. Include the credit statement: *Created by and used with permission from Lorain County Public Health.*
3. With additional questions, call Lorain County Public Health at 440-322-6367 and ask to speak to a Public Information Officer.

Introduction

Dear Reader,



Since our last assessment was conducted in 2021, our nation—and Lorain County—has experienced significant political and social change, with shifting policies and priorities that have, at times, created uncertainty in public health. However, these challenges have also underscored the importance of collaboration, resilience, and staying grounded in our shared mission to improve the health and well-being of all residents. Through these turbulent times, Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) and its partners have remained steadfast in their commitment to equity and collective action. Now, in 2025, we stand at a crossroads—recognizing both the progress we've made and the persistent challenges we face in creating a healthier Lorain County for all.

If you're reading this report, it's because you share our vision of thriving communities where everyone can live, work, and play in an environment that supports health and well-being. Our health is shaped not just by the personal choices we make—like eating nutritious foods, staying physically active, avoiding smoking, staying up-to-date on vaccinations, and seeking regular healthcare—but also by the broader systems and environments in which those choices are made.

These underlying systems, known as social determinants of health, include economic stability, access to education, neighborhood and built environment, social and community support, and access to quality healthcare. These factors continue to shape health outcomes, especially for those who face systemic barriers to opportunity and resources.

In 2022, LCPH made a critical commitment to reorganizing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process to better align strategies with the strengths and resources of our community partners. This reorganization shifted the focus to actionable strategies that multiple organizations could address collaboratively, fostering a shared responsibility for health improvement. The 2025 CHA reflects these efforts and emphasizes not only the work that still needs to be done, but the work done through the CHIP over the past three years.

In 2024, LCPH worked with partners to expand community engagement efforts like focus groups and surveys to include diverse voices across all regions of Lorain County. This input has informed the initiatives and resources detailed in this report.

Yet, challenges persist. The data show that while we've made strides in reducing drug overdose deaths and deaths by suicide, disparities in maternal health and chronic disease outcomes remain significant hurdles. This report highlights not only our successes but also the gaps that require collective action and advocacy.

We invite you to explore this report, reflect on its findings, and join us in our mission to improve health equity in Lorain County. Whether you are a healthcare provider, educator, policymaker, or community advocate, your role is vital. Together, we can address the root causes of health disparities and build a healthier future for everyone.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Adams

Mark H. Adams, REHS, MPH

Health Commissioner at Lorain County Public Health,

on behalf of Lorain County Community Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee

Executive Summary



The Lorain County Community Health Assessment (CHA) serves as a critical tool for understanding the health needs, priorities, and resources of our community. Conducted in collaboration with hospitals, community organizations, and residents, the CHA provides a comprehensive snapshot of the factors influencing health and well-being in Lorain County. Its purpose is to inform strategic planning efforts that improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

The CHA fulfills several essential requirements for public health and healthcare institutions and is conducted every three years.

The CHA meets the collaborative community health assessment standard for maintaining accreditation status with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). By identifying critical health issues, measuring progress, and ensuring community involvement, the CHA demonstrates Lorain County Public Health's commitment to evidence-based decision-making and accountability.

Additionally, the CHA aligns with federal requirements for nonprofit hospitals set forth by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Under the Affordable Care Act, hospitals must conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to maintain their tax-exempt status. The CHA provides hospitals with the necessary data and insights to identify priority health issues, develop strategies, and address gaps in care through their Implementation Plans.

This collaborative approach strengthens partnerships between public health agencies and healthcare providers, ensuring coordinated efforts to address community needs.

CHA Availability

The 2025 Lorain County CHA can be found on LorainCountyHealth.com/cha.

Evaluation of Impact

The evaluation of impact is a report on the actions taken and effectiveness of strategies implemented since the last CHNA. UH Avon Rehabilitation Hospital and UH Elyria Medical Center, complete a joint CHNA.

Adoption by Board

The LCPH Board of Health adopted the 2025 Lorain County CHA on April 9, 2025.

Written Comments for University Hospitals

Individuals are encouraged to submit written comments on the current joint CHNA to CommunityBenefit@UHhospitals.org. These comments provide additional information to hospital facilities regarding the broad interests of the community and help to inform future CHNAs and implementation strategies.

Potential Resources to Address Need

Priorities identified through the planning process will result in a comprehensive 2025-2027 Lorain County CHIP. The CHIP will serve as the 2025-2027 Community Health Implementation Strategy (IS) for UH Elyria Medical Centers and UH Avon Rehabilitation Hospital. Potential resources available can be found in Appendix V.

Executive Summary



Definition of community and service area determination

The community defined in the CHA is all Lorain County cities, townships, and villages serviced by LCPH. The exception is the City of Vermilion, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Erie County Health Department. Hospitals and community partners that worked together on this CHA also provide services to residents at the county level and are involved in collaborative assessments and community health improvement planning.

In looking at the community population served by the hospital facilities and Lorain County as a whole, it is clear that all partnering organizations involved in the CHA define their community in the same manner. Defining the community as such also allows the hospitals to more readily collaborate with public health partners for both community health assessments and health improvement planning. Per Section 501(r) federal compliance, a joint CHNA is only allowable if it meets all the requirements of a separate CHNA; clearly identifies the hospital facilities involved; and if all of the collaborating hospital facilities and organizations included in the joint CHNA define their community to be the same. This assessment meets 501(r) federal compliance.

Inclusion of vulnerable populations

The Lorain County CHIP Steering Committee carefully takes vulnerable populations of Lorain County into consideration during the CHA process. Vulnerable populations are often under threat and face inequitable burdens relating back to the social determinants of health. Vulnerable populations in Lorain County are identified through continuous community-based work and analysis of primary and secondary data, made available through the Social Vulnerability Index and the American Community Survey. It is described more fully in the Primary Data Collection Methods section of this report in Appendix I. Additionally, the planning committee itself includes a variety of human service organizations working collaboratively to complete the CHA and provide valuable stakeholder information about their constituents.

Quantitative and qualitative data analysis

Primary data for the 2025 Lorain County CHNA were obtained by researchers from Moxley Public Health via Mercy Health, and LCPH. An in-depth description of this process can be found in the Methodology section. Additional information was collected from health department data sources (e.g. vital statistics, Ohio Disease Reporting System, etc.) to supplement findings from the primary data collection.

Identifying and prioritizing needs

The 2026 Lorain County CHA shows an overall trend of worsening health for residents, particularly in maternal health and chronic disease. Social determinants of health, such as healthcare access and quality and neighborhoods and built environment, contribute greatly to Lorain County health outcomes in all three priority areas—behavioral health, chronic disease and maternal and child health. Lorain County partners are committed to working together to address poor health outcomes among residents. Strategies include closing the gaps of inequity among race, particularly in healthcare, education, and housing.

Key Findings of the Lorain County Community Health Assessment

Behavioral Health



- Drug overdose deaths decreased.
- Suicide rate leveled off.
- Youth emergency department visits for self harm were elevated.

Chronic Disease



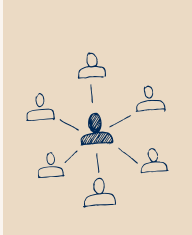
- Cancer outcomes were negatively affected by COVID-19.
- Heart disease deaths worsened.
- Diabetes death rates for people who are Black improved.

Maternal and Child Health



- Preterm birth worsened.
- Infant mortality leveled off.
- Childhood outcomes worsened:
 - Kindergarten readiness
 - Middle school proficiency
 - Emergency department visits for self harm
 - Child abuse rate

Community Conditions



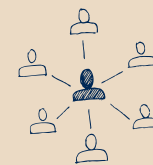
This section provides a detailed profile of Lorain County population characteristics, using estimated data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS). ACS is an ongoing survey that provides vital information concerning education, housing, employment, healthcare coverage, poverty, and other topics. This section includes Lorain County data from 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates.²

Between 2018 and 2023, the Lorain County population increased by 2.5%.²

Total Population	2018 Lorain County 306,713	2023 Lorain County 314,588	2023 Ohio 11,780,046																																				
Population by Age	<table><tr><th>Age Group</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>0-4</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>5-19</td><td>19%</td></tr><tr><td>20-59</td><td>51%</td></tr><tr><td>60+</td><td>24%</td></tr></table>	Age Group	Percentage	0-4	6%	5-19	19%	20-59	51%	60+	24%	<table><tr><th>Age Group</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>0-4</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>5-19</td><td>19%</td></tr><tr><td>20-59</td><td>50%</td></tr><tr><td>60+</td><td>26%</td></tr></table>	Age Group	Percentage	0-4	6%	5-19	19%	20-59	50%	60+	26%	<table><tr><th>Age Group</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>0-4</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>5-19</td><td>19%</td></tr><tr><td>20-59</td><td>51%</td></tr><tr><td>60+</td><td>25%</td></tr></table>	Age Group	Percentage	0-4	6%	5-19	19%	20-59	51%	60+	25%						
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Demographics

Community Conditions



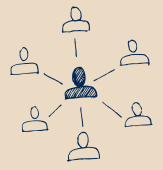
Selected Lorain County Demographics²

	Lorain County 2018	Lorain County 2023	Ohio 2023
Disability (all ages)	15.2%	14.7%	14.2%
Veterans (18 years and older)	8.5%	7.7%	6.8%
Language spoken at home, other than English (5 years and older)	7.5%	7.7%	7.7%
Education, highest level achieved (25 years and older)			
Less than high school	10.3%	8.6%	8.3%
High school graduate or some college	55.3%	53.0%	51.7%
Associate's degree	10.3%	10.6%	9.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	24.0%	27.9%	30.9%
Occupational characteristics			
Educational, healthcare, social services	24.6%	24.6%	24.2%
Manufacturing	16.4%	15.5%	14.9%
Retail trade	11.4%	11.5%	11.1%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, food services	9.2%	8.4%	8.5%
Other	4.2%	3.9%	4.3%
Unemployment (16 years and older)	3.9%	2.7%	3.1%

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 6% of households in Lorain County speak Spanish as their primary language at home. Ninety-one percent primarily speak English, and 2% speak languages other than Spanish or English.

Demographics

Community Conditions

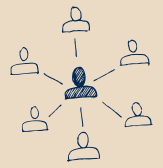


Selected Lorain County Demographics¹

	Lorain County 2018	Lorain County 2023	Ohio 2023
Healthcare coverage			
With Health Insurance Coverage	94.9%	94.7%	93.6%
Private	72.4%	69.9%	68.2%
Public	37.2%	39.1%	38.0%
No Health Insurance Coverage	5.1%	5.3%	6.4%
<i>In certain cases, both private health insurance and Medicaid can be use together.</i>			
Poverty (all ages)	13.7%	12.8%	13.2%
Rent burdened (when 30% or more of a person's income goes to rent payment)	50.8%	46.2%	45.1%
Household income			
Less than \$10,000	6.8%	5.1%	5.2%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.4%	4.4%	4.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	9.7%	7.0%	7.4%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9.1%	7.6%	7.7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.7%	11.6%	11.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.9%	17.0%	17.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13.7%	13.0%	13.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	14.4%	17.1%	16.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5.0%	8.0%	8.0%
\$200,000 or more	4.3%	9.2%	8.5%
Median household income (dollars)	\$56,965	\$70,693	\$69,680
Mean household income (dollars)	\$74,676	\$96,343	\$94,766

Demographics

Community Conditions



What help do people need?

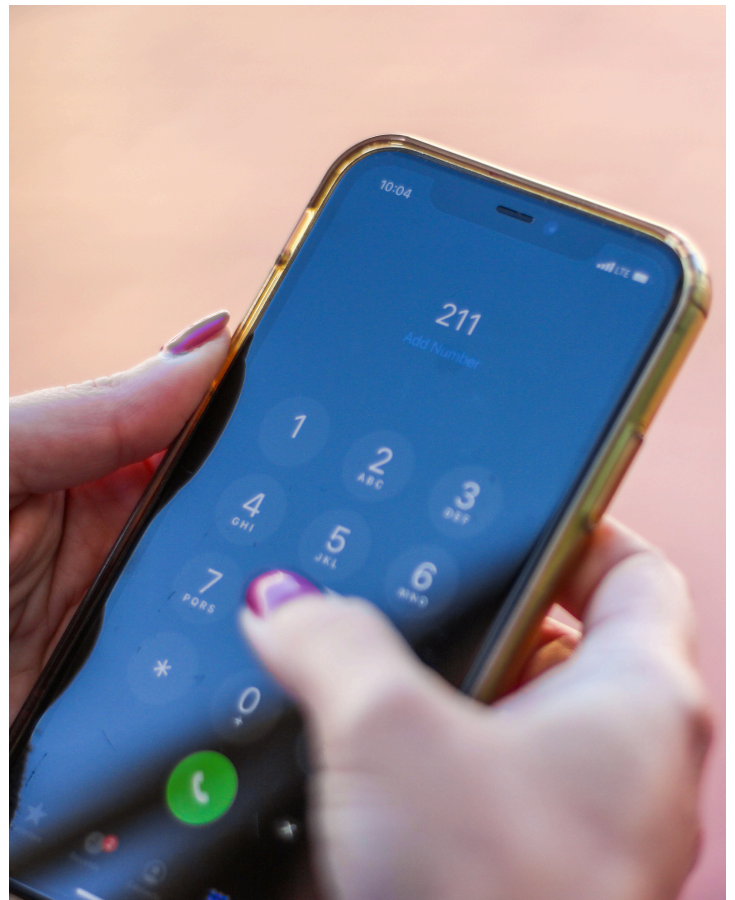
Based on data from United Way 211, the county's local hotline for resources, the top needs identified in 2023 and 2024 are as follows. **Note this excludes tax preparation services, as this number is also used as a scheduling mechanism for that service.*

2023 and 2024
Food Pantries
Rent Payment Assistance
Electric Service Payment Assistance

Between 2023 and 2024, requests for assistance with finding resources for low-income housing, diapers, motel vouchers, and soup kitchens increased slightly.

Between 2023-2024, there was an increase in the percent of unmet needs for rent payment assistance, rental deposit assistance, and food pantries. Some of this can be explained by a loss of resource availability in these areas, like discontinuing food delivery from pantries post-COVID-19.

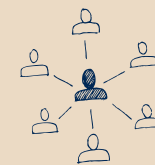
Over 50% of the calls to 211 are from zip codes 44035 and 44052.



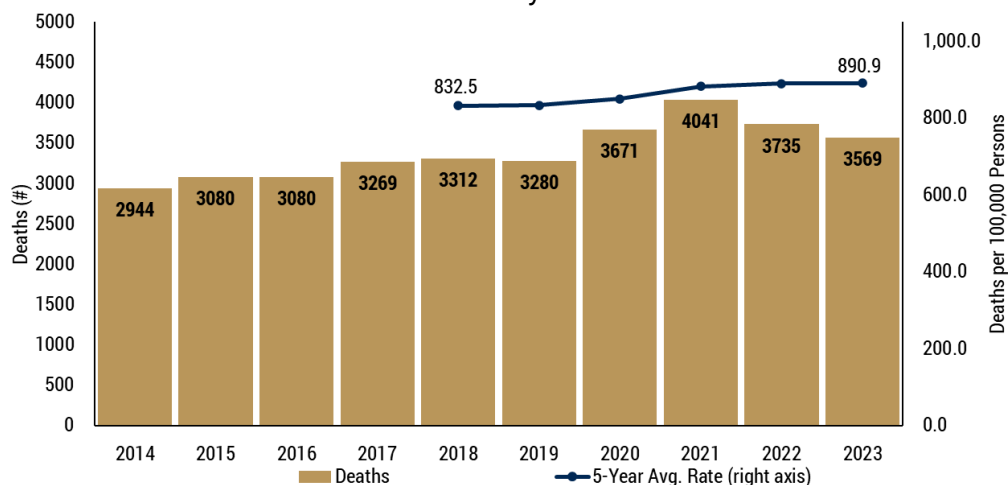
Overall Mortality

Community Conditions

This section presents Lorain County mortality data on number of deaths and death rates. Mortality statistics are an important component of public health surveillance an assessment.

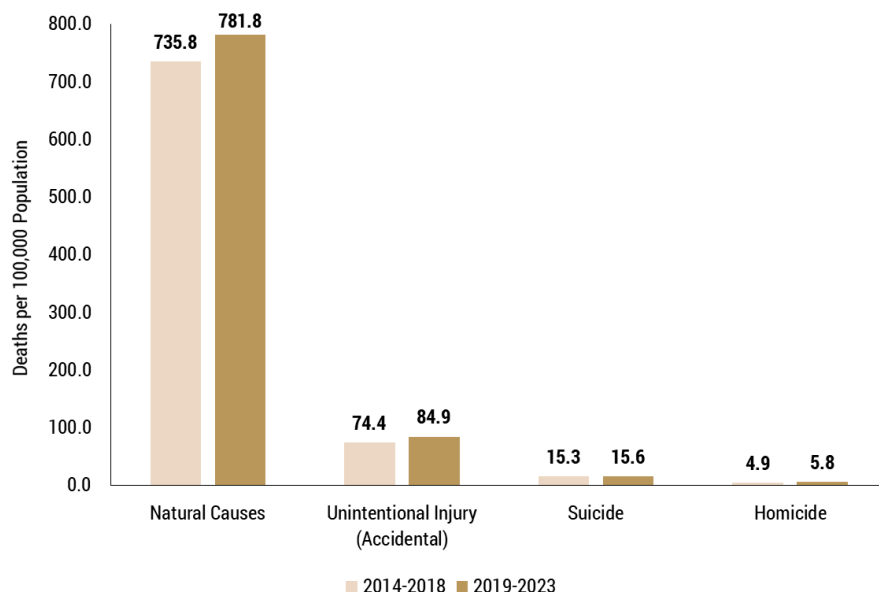


Age-Adjusted Death Rates (All Causes),
Lorain County 2014-2023¹



The unusually high death rate seen in 2020-2021 was due, in part, to the combination of COVID-19 and a **higher-than-average number of drug overdose deaths.**

Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Manner of Death,
Lorain County 2014-2023^{1,2}



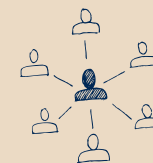
Medical examiners and coroners determine the circumstances behind each death and record on the individual's death certificate. Here are the general principles that guide manner-of-death classification:²

- **Natural:** deaths due solely or nearly totally to disease and/or the aging process.
- **Unintentional Injury:** injury or poisoning deaths with little or no evidence that the injury or poisoning occurred with intent to harm or cause death. In essence, the death was unintentional. This classification includes drug overdose deaths.
- **Suicide:** injury or poisoning deaths as a result of an intentional, self-inflicted act committed to do self-harm or cause the death of one's self.
- **Homicide:** death results from a willful act committed by another person to cause fear, harm or death.

Overall Mortality

Community Conditions

This section presents Lorain County mortality data on number of deaths and death rates. Mortality statistics are an important component of public health surveillance an assessment.



Top Causes of Death

Lorain County, Ohio¹

2023	% of Total Deaths	Death Count
1. Heart Disease	21.4%	762
2. Cancer	20.0%	714
3. Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	8.0%	286
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	6.4%	228
5. Stroke	4.3%	155
6. Alzheimer's Disease	3.3%	119
7. Diabetes	3.1%	114
8. COVID-19	2.4%	85
9. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	1.8%	66
10. Chronic Kidney Disease	1.8%	65

2014-2022	% of Total Deaths
1. Heart Disease	20.5%
2. Cancer	20.4%
3. Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	7.0%
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	6.7%
5. Stroke	4.9%
6. Alzheimer's Disease	3.7%
7. COVID-19	3.4%
8. Diabetes	2.7%
9. Chronic Kidney Disease	1.8%
10. Influenza and Pneumonia	1.8%

Social Determinants of Health



Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. These factors are oftentimes referred to as the 'upstream' contributors to health.

SDOH can be grouped into 5 domains:



Economic stability

People have career support and are able to earn steady incomes that allow them to meet their health needs.



Education access and quality

Educational opportunities that help children and adolescents do well in school.



Healthcare access and quality

Access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare services.



Neighborhood and built environment

Neighborhoods promote health and safety, have low pollution, safe transportation and no violence.



Social and community context

Social and community support for everyone, which includes positive relationships at home, work and in the community.

Economic Stability

Social Determinants of Health




Affording basic needs like housing, healthcare and food is important to health. Without economic stability, stress and poor living conditions can contribute to health problems.

In 2022, Lorain County's food insecurity rate was 14.7% compared to 14.1% for the state of Ohio.⁵

Food insecurity may be experienced when a household has limited or uncertain access to adequate food. It has been linked to negative health outcomes such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. In addition, children experiencing food insecurity may perform poorly at school compared to their peers.

In Lorain County, the food insecurity rate was 14.7% in 2022, higher than the national average. Food insecurity can be summarized as households that lacked access to adequate food at some point within a calendar year. Over half of these households are not eligible for programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because they are above the income threshold.

Food insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is associated with numerous adverse social and health outcomes and is increasingly considered a critical public health issue. Key drivers of food insecurity include unemployment, poverty, and income shocks, which can prevent adequate access to food. Alternatively, multiple interventions have been shown to reduce food insecurity, including participation in food assistance programs and broader societal-level improvements in economic stability.



A summary of what we heard from you.

- Many residents work hard but still struggle to afford basic needs.
- Many local, available jobs are low-wage with little opportunity for advancement, and childcare costs prevent many from working or improving their financial situation.
- Limited public transportation outside of Lorain and Elyria make it difficult for residents to access employment, childcare, and other essential services in other parts of the county. Without reliable transportation, many families face added financial strain.

Economic Stability

Social Determinants of Health



Assets and success

Food Forward Lorain (FFL) is a partner group focused on urban farm and retail expansion, food as medicine, and connecting people to food through technology and transportation. Over the past several years, they have addressed food insecurity in the City of Lorain through a number of initiatives. FFL completed an updated assessment of neighborhood food insecurity in the City of Lorain. This includes a GIS mapping of healthy food assets, resources, needs, and gaps overlaid with population demographics and overall Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) rankings.

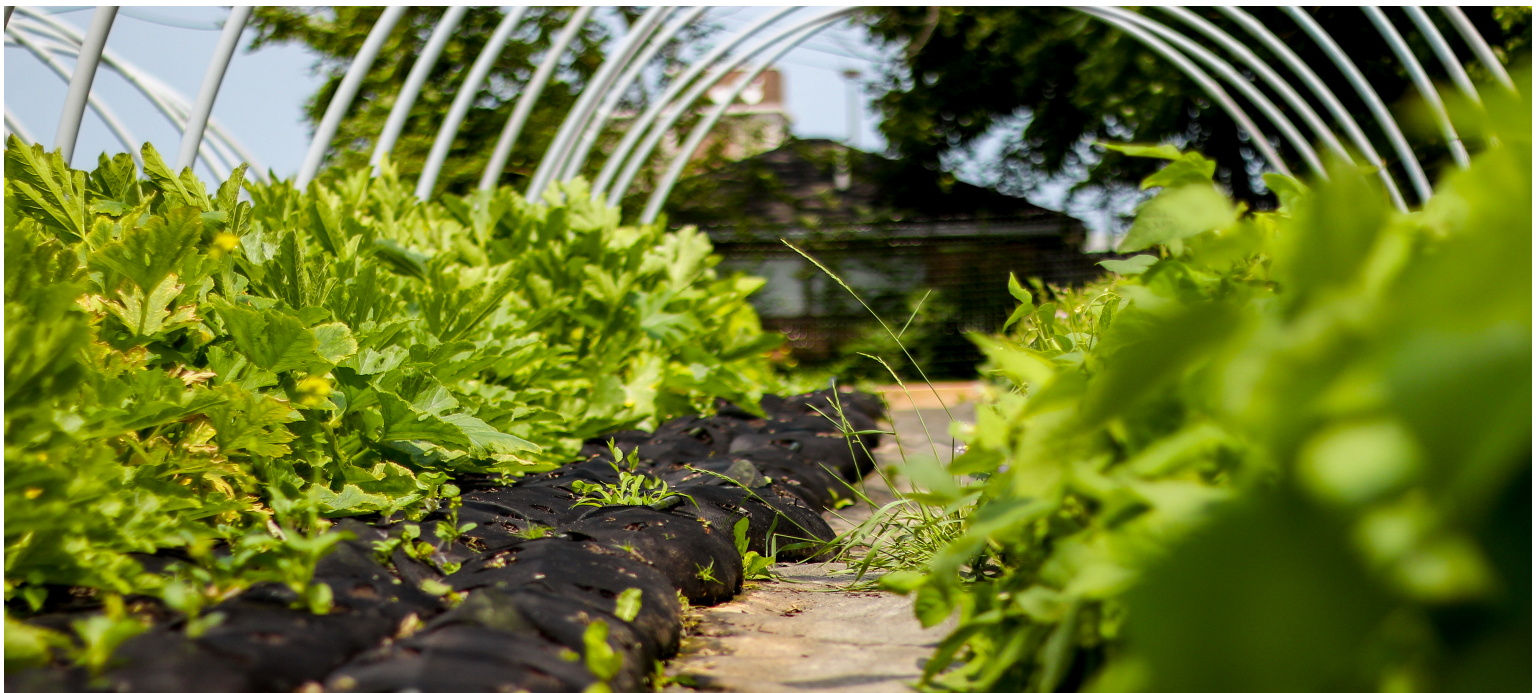
To further support food access, a pilot senior food delivery project has been launched at Second Harvest to deliver federal CSFP (Senior Food Boxes) to seniors at or below 200% of the poverty level within a 10-mile radius of Second Harvest. This initiative delivers 300 boxes per month through a combination of volunteers and DoorDash drivers.

2023-2025 CHIP Goal



Additionally, FFL launched The Cleveland Clinic Avon food pantry pilot. This program aims to serve patients identified as food insecure prior to discharge and embodies Food as Medicine principles. Its success is paving the way for expansion, with discussions now underway to replicate the model with other health systems.

In the future, FFL plans to expand its efforts to Elyria to implement policy, systems, and environmental changes that improve access to healthy food for all residents. These efforts aim to build upon existing community momentum, sustain progress, and support new partnerships to enhance food access and overall community well-being.



Economic Stability

Social Determinants of Health

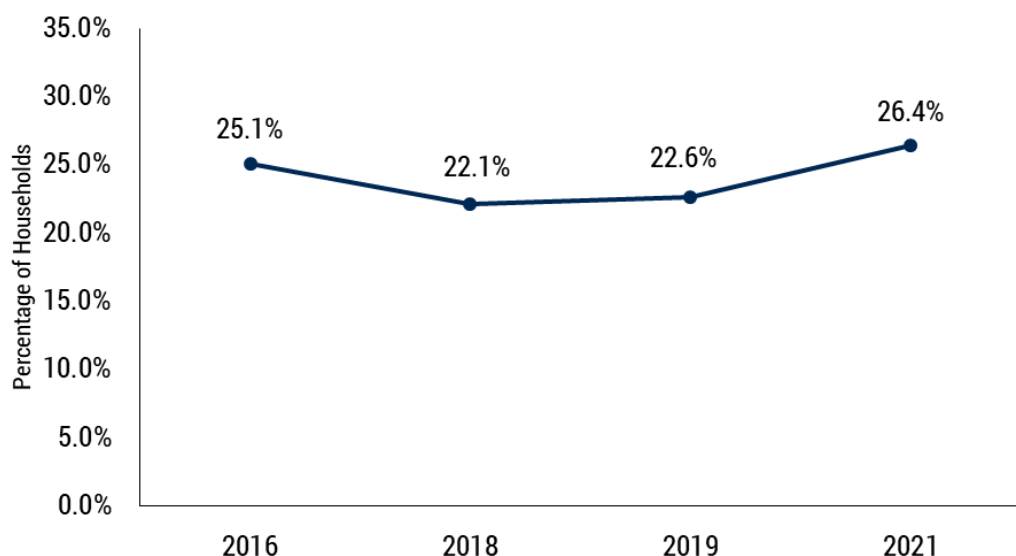


"There are jobs out there. But what I'd say is, they're jobs that aren't going to pull them out of poverty, so it's enough to maybe pay the rent, but not pay the rent and get a car, or vice versa."



Lorain County Stakeholder

Households That Are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE),
Lorain County 2016-2021¹



Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) describes people who work but still struggle to afford basic needs like housing, food, childcare, transportation and healthcare. These families earn more than the federal poverty level but not enough to cover all their expenses.

ALICE households often face tough choices, like skipping meals to pay rent or avoiding medical care to save money.

Economic Stability

Social Determinants of Health

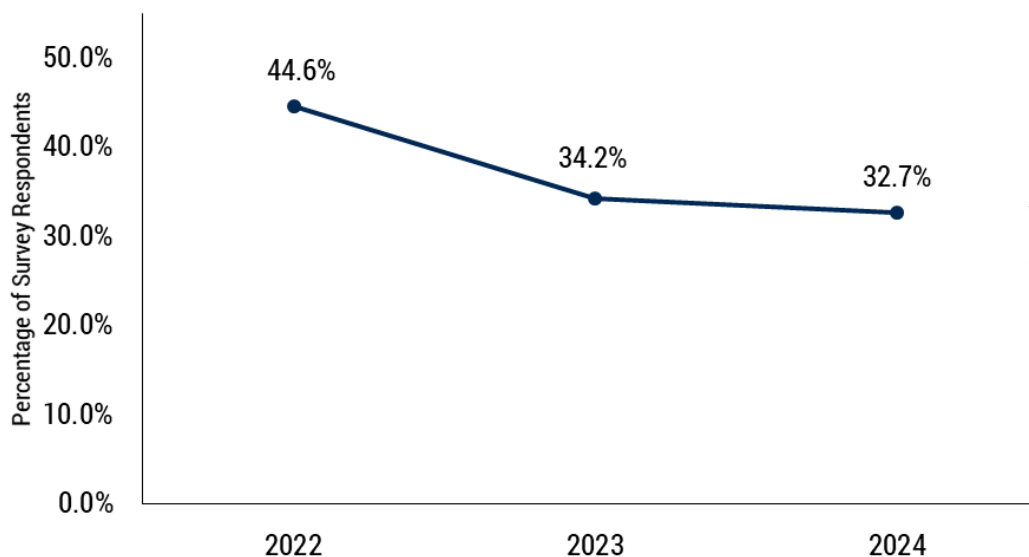


"People have jobs. And, they're working really hard and thriving at those jobs. But they don't make enough money to sustain everyday life."



Lorain County Stakeholder

Adults Who Feel Overwhelmed by Financial Burdens,
Lorain County 2022-2024²



Families that spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing are considered cost-burdened.

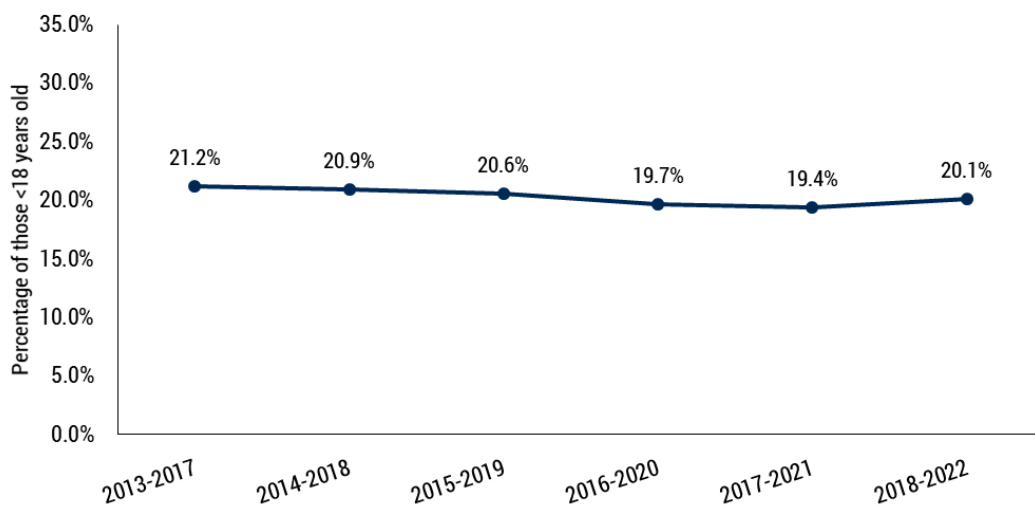
When families have to spend large amounts of money for housing, they may not be able to afford things like healthy food or healthcare.

Economic Stability

Social Determinants of Health

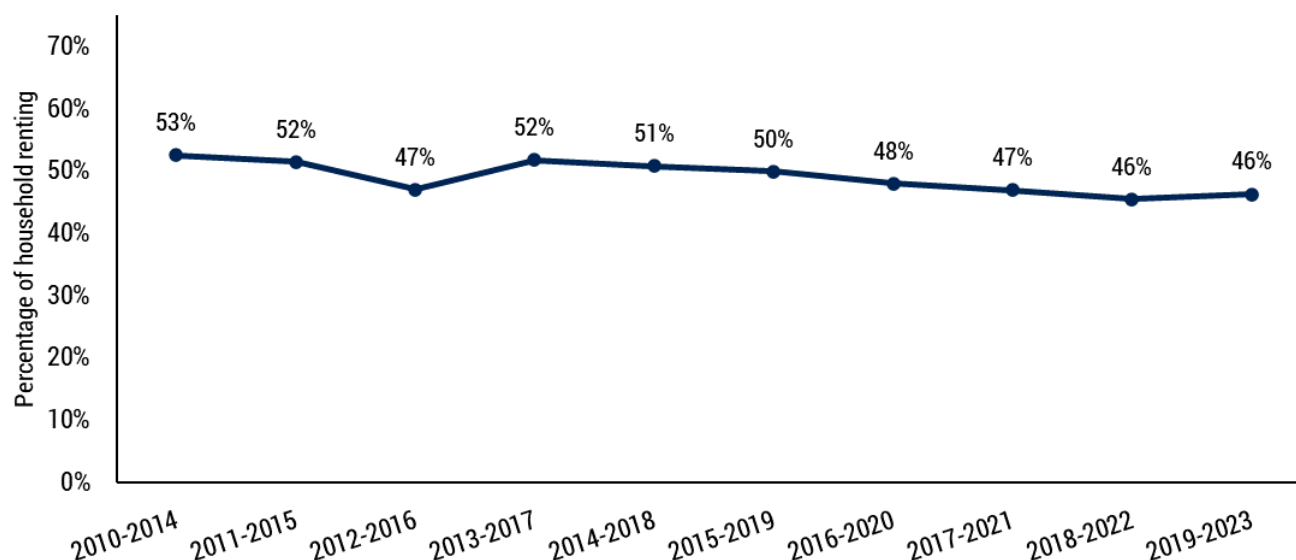


Children Living Below Poverty Level,
Lorain County 2013-2022⁵



Children living in households below the poverty level have an **increased risk of injury due to unsafe living environments**, and are susceptible to chronic conditions like asthma, obesity, diabetes, and anxiety.

Renters Spending More than 30% of Income on Rent,
Lorain County 2013-2023¹⁰



Education Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health



Educational attainment is a strong predictor of health outcomes. Higher education levels are associated with higher income, better healthcare access, and improved well-being.

A summary of what we heard from you.

- Lorain County has mixed educational outcomes, with some districts excelling while others struggle with low kindergarten readiness scores. The high cost of childcare makes it difficult for many families to prepare their children for school.
- Poverty significantly affects education in the county, especially for middle and high school students.
- Lorain County Community College is a key resource, providing essential job training and higher education opportunities.

Lorain County Stakeholders

Assets and success

The Child Care Resource Center, early childhood centers, and local partners worked together over the past several years to increase kindergarten readiness screening in the community.

Between 2023 and 2024, the number of Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screenings administered increased by 10%. THE ASQ is used to review developmental progress in children between birth and six years old. It is a tool to help measure kindergarten readiness. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), children who enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn are more likely to meet academic milestones throughout their school years, which has been associated with a range of better economic, social, and health outcomes long term. By using the ASQ for screening, children can be quickly linked to resources to address identified delays.

2023-2025 CHIP Goal



Education Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health

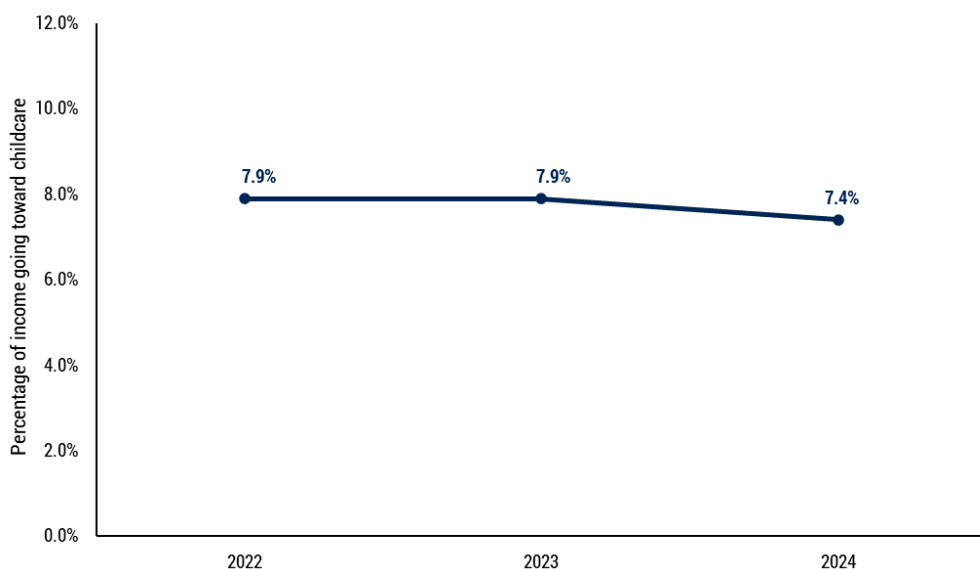


Educational attainment is a strong predictor of health outcomes. Higher education levels are associated with higher income, better healthcare access, and improved well-being.

High school graduation rates overall in Lorain County are in the lowest 25% when compared to all 88 Ohio counties.

Over time, the percentage of Lorain County residents over age 26 that have a high school diploma has been increasing, but disparities exist among racial and ethnic groups.

Day Care Center and Preschool Spending-to-Income Ratio,
Lorain County 2022-2024⁹



Among racial and ethnic groups, Black populations had the highest spending-to-income ratio. In 2024, **over 12% of income within these communities was allocated to childcare expenses.**

High-quality child care and early childhood education play a crucial role in supporting children's health and development. Access to affordable, high-quality child care, including day cares and preschools, is essential to enable parents and guardians in furthering their education or engaging in the workforce.

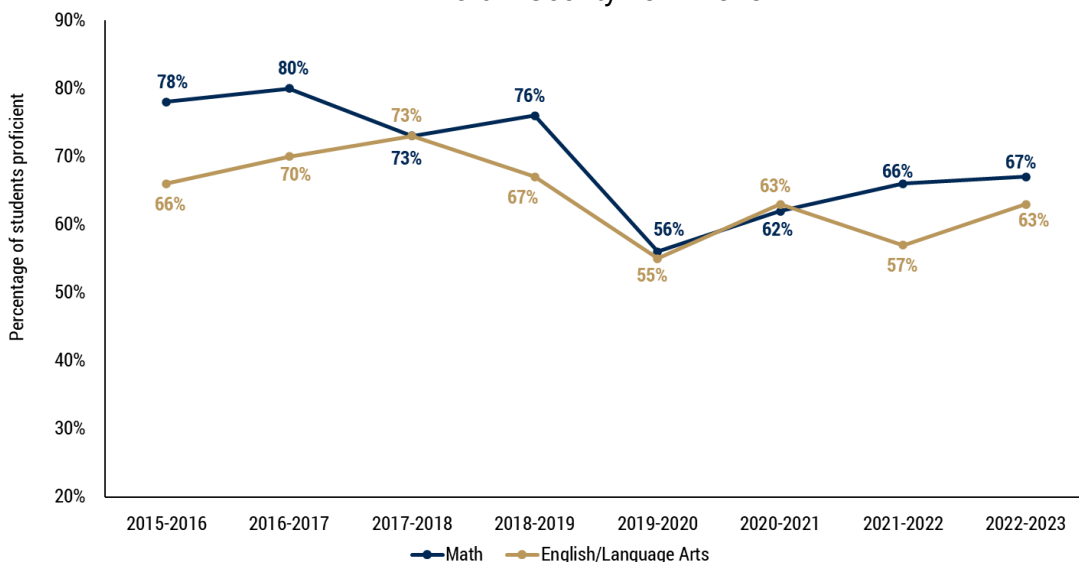
This indicator shows the ratio between the average spending among households that spent on day care and the median household income in Lorain County, which is \$70,963. If a household is not making the median household income, then this ratio increases.

Education Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health

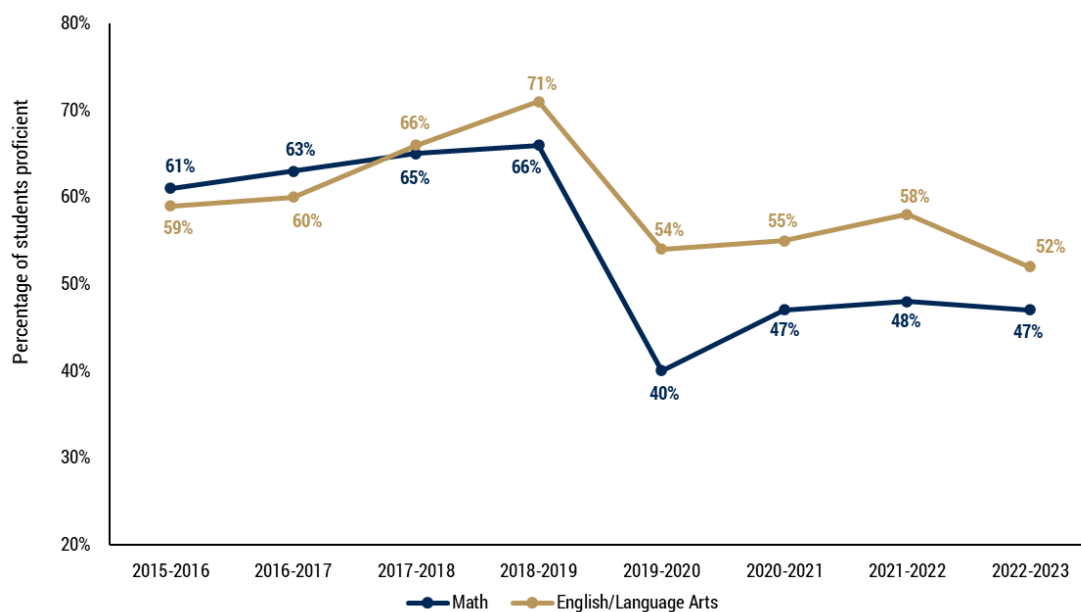


**4th Grade Student Proficiency,
Lorain County 2014-2023⁷**



Proficiency levels in language and math among 4th grade and 8th grade students **have yet to return** to levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**8th Grade Student Proficiency,
Lorain County 2014-2023⁶**

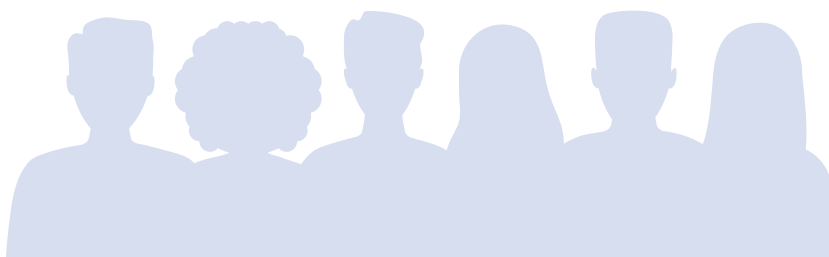


Education Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health

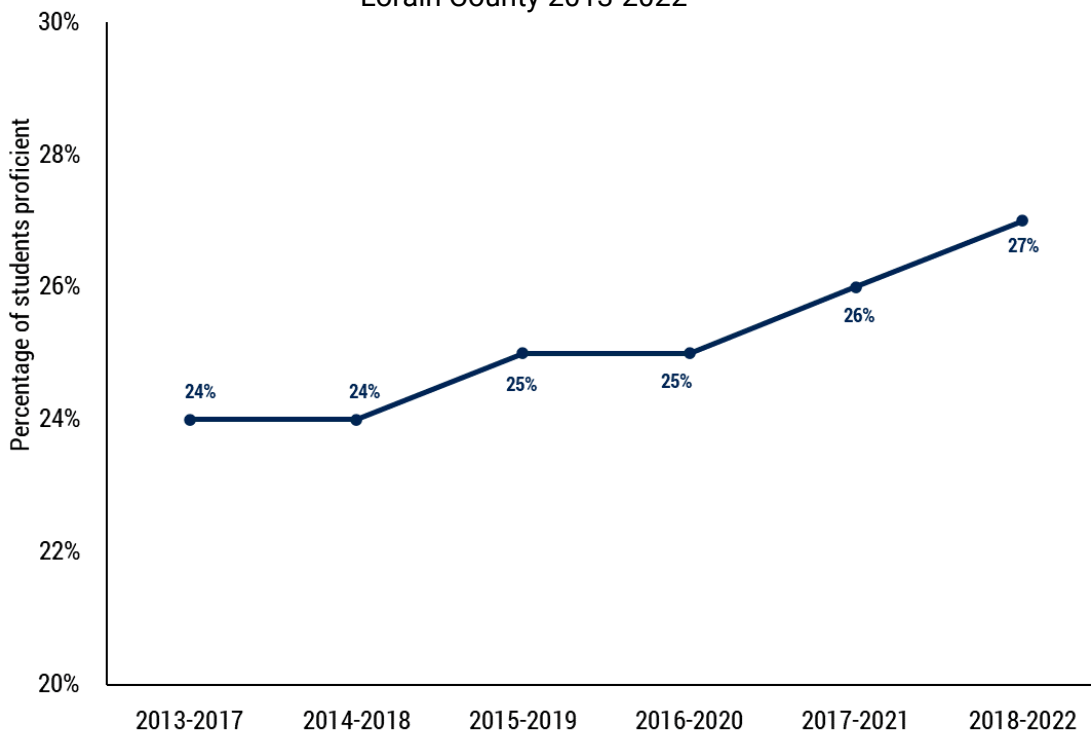


"The biggest issue is education. That's where it all starts. A broken school system affects our kids' health, motivation, and their whole outlook on life."



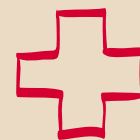
Lorain County Stakeholder

**People Age 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher,
Lorain County 2013-2022⁸**



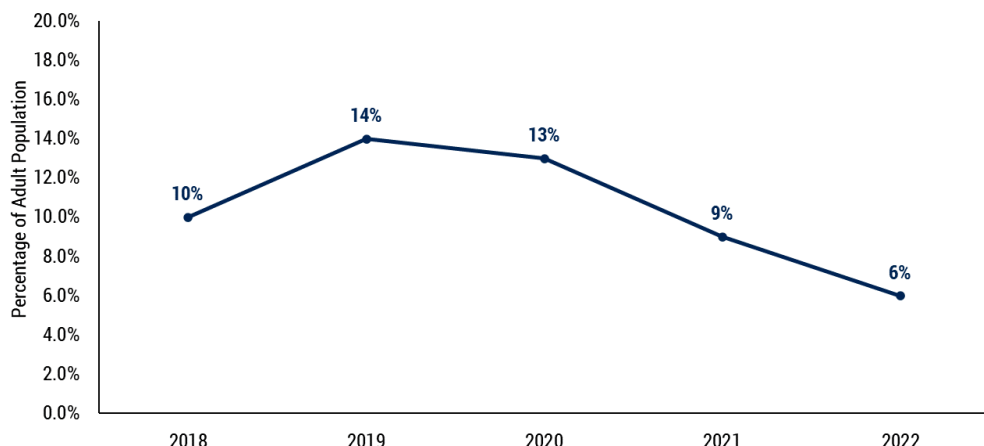
Healthcare Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health



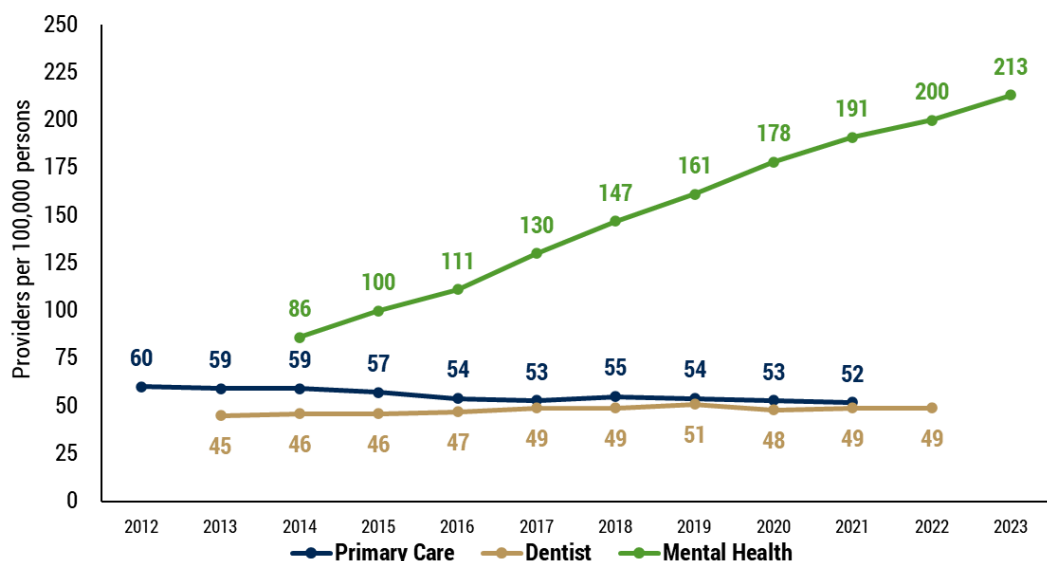
Affording basic needs like housing, healthcare and food is important to health. Without economic stability, stress and poor living conditions can contribute to health problems. Access to quality healthcare plays an important role in the health status of our community. If it is difficult or expensive to access healthcare, people may make decisions to delay screenings, or not seek treatment for a chronic illness.

**Adults Without Health Insurance,
Lorain County 2018-2022¹**



There has been some improvement in the percent of the adult population without health insurance. This may be attributed to Medicaid expansion in the state, as well as availability of Marketplace coverage through the Affordable Care Act. Having health insurance may prevent individuals from delaying care due to fear of cost.

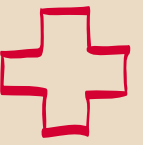
**Primary Care Provider Rate,
Lorain County 2012-2023^{2,4}**



The availability of providers is key to improving healthcare access in a community. Rates have remained fairly steady over the past five years in the county. And, while Lorain County has a lower rate of providers compared to some surrounding counties, it still ranks in the top 50% of counties in the state.

Healthcare Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health



"The number one fear is, if I have to go to the emergency room or to the doctor, this could set me back. I'm afraid to get that bill, you know. I don't want any more bills."

"Healthcare for a lot of people is lower on the priority list. When you have to pay your rent, your car insurance, or put warm clothing on your children or grandchildren that you're taking care of, you have to triage."

"The county is very well equipped to offer resources. These hospital systems are some of the best in the nation. No one should go without care at any level, whether it be a newborn baby or somebody who is 98 years old. We as a community need to connect those dots for people."

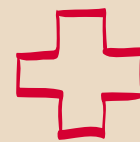
A summary of what we heard from you.

- The decline in the local economy has led to a lack of jobs offering benefits and healthcare, leaving many without insurance or with limited coverage. This results in delayed care, leading to more severe health issues that ultimately become more costly for both patients and hospitals.
- Residents prioritize basic needs like rent, car insurance, and clothing over healthcare, fearing that medical bills from an emergency department visit or doctor's appointment could set them back financially.
- There continues to be barriers in accessing behavioral healthcare, with more disparities in the Black population.
- Despite challenges like limited access to healthcare and transportation, the county is well-equipped with excellent hospital systems and resources, and the community is committed to connecting individuals to the care they need, ensuring no one is left without care.

Lorain County Stakeholders

Healthcare Access and Quality

Social Determinants of Health

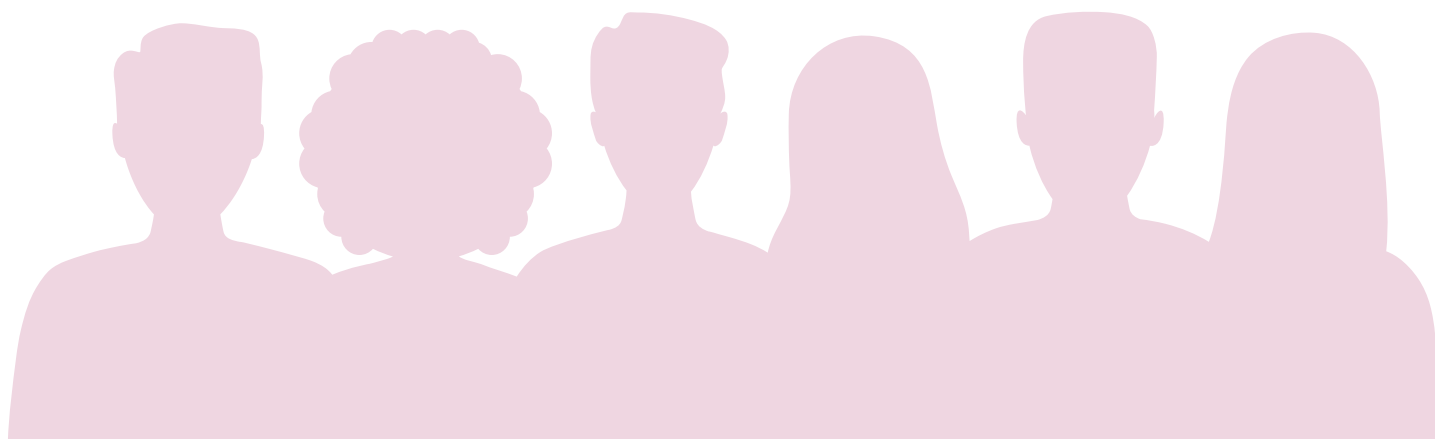


"Organizations need to stop trying to be everything. Let's link up, share resources, and move smarter together."

"Community health workers from the neighborhood who can show folks where to go, what to do, and walk with them through it."

"Nonprofits need to partner up more. Everybody wants to do everything, but that doesn't work. One group focuses on housing, another on food, another on health-work together and refer to each other. That way folks get the full picture, not a broken one."

"If y'all really want to help the community, don't just take notes, show up, follow through, and do it with us, not for us."



Lorain County Stakeholders



Neighborhood and Built Environment

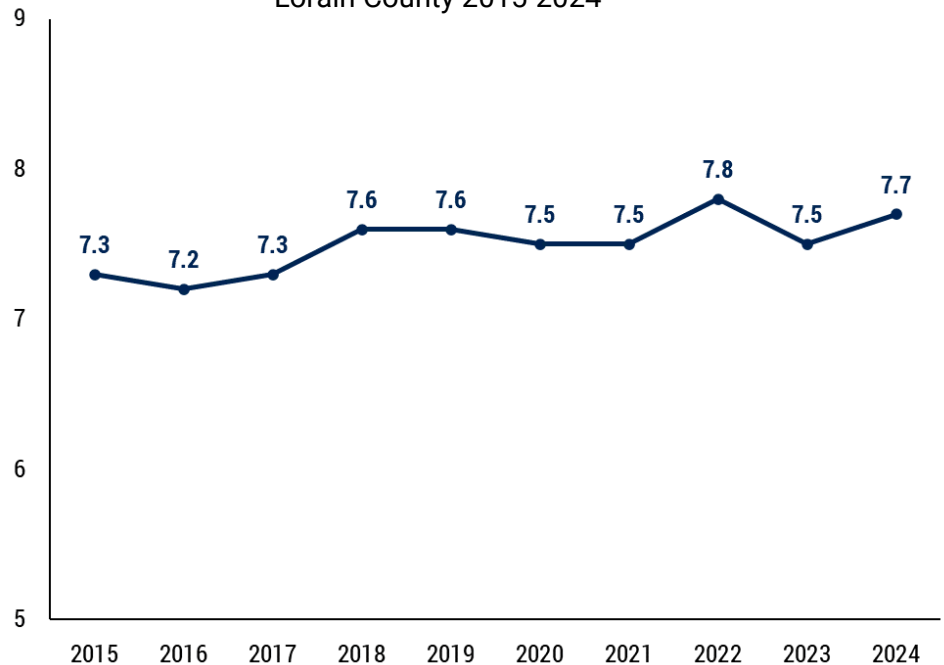
Social Determinants of Health



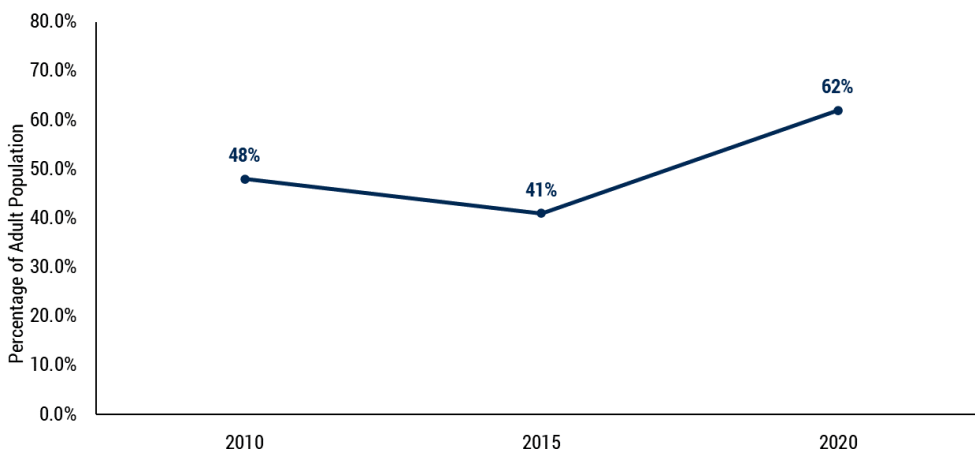
Affording basic needs like housing, healthcare and food is important to health. Without economic stability, stress and poor living conditions can contribute to health problems. The physical environment and neighborhoods people live in have a major impact on their health. Accessible transportation infrastructure, clean parks and greenspaces, and healthy homes all contribute to an overall feeling of safety and well-being, which leads to an improved quality of life.

Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, from 0 (worst) to 10 (best). The Food Environment Index accounts for both proximity to healthy foods and income. This measure includes access to healthy foods by considering the distance an individual lives from a grocery store or supermarket, locations for health food purchases in most communities, and the inability to access healthy food because of cost barriers.

Food Environment Index,
Lorain County 2015-2024³



Access to Parks,
Lorain County 2018-2022⁴



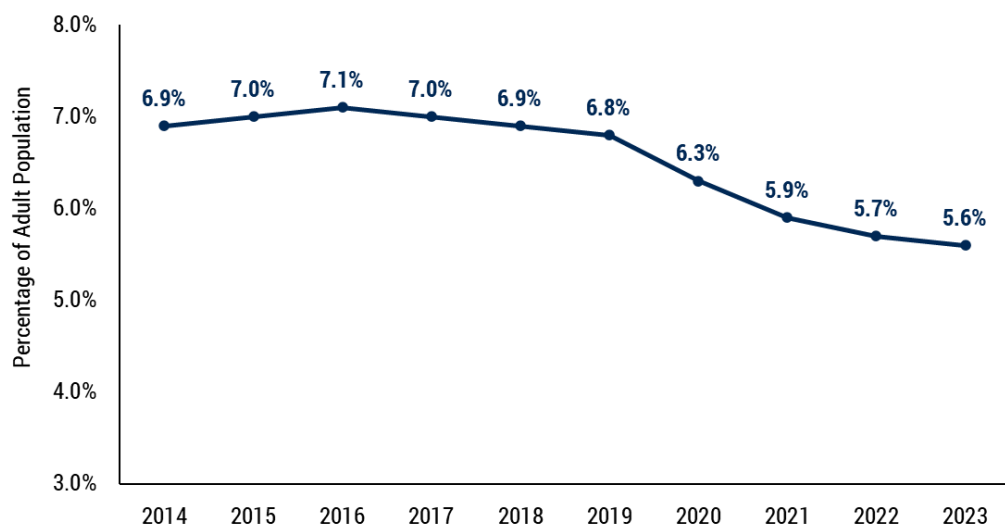
This measure is defined as percent of population living within ½ mile from a park. Over time, this has increased, and Lorain County has some of the best access to parks in the state. The rate does not vary greatly based on race or ethnicity, demonstrating that investments are being put into parks across the county.

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Social Determinants of Health



Households Without a Vehicle,
Lorain County 2018-2022¹



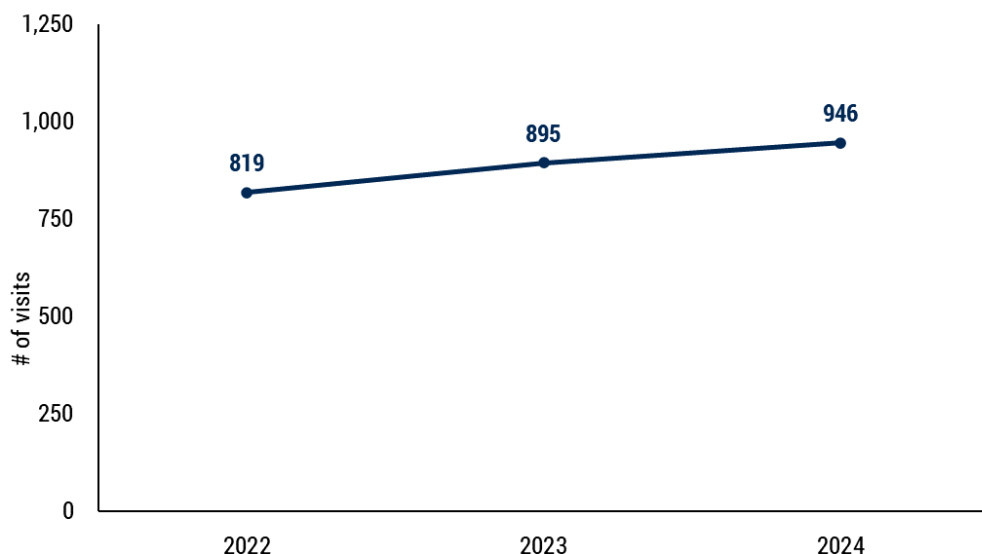
While the overall percentage of households without a vehicle has declined over time, in 2023, **over 45% of those without a vehicle were households of those age 65 and older**. This may demonstrate a continued need for investment in public transportation or active transportation (biking, walking, rolling) across the county to ensure that older adults have ways to meet their needs.

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Social Determinants of Health

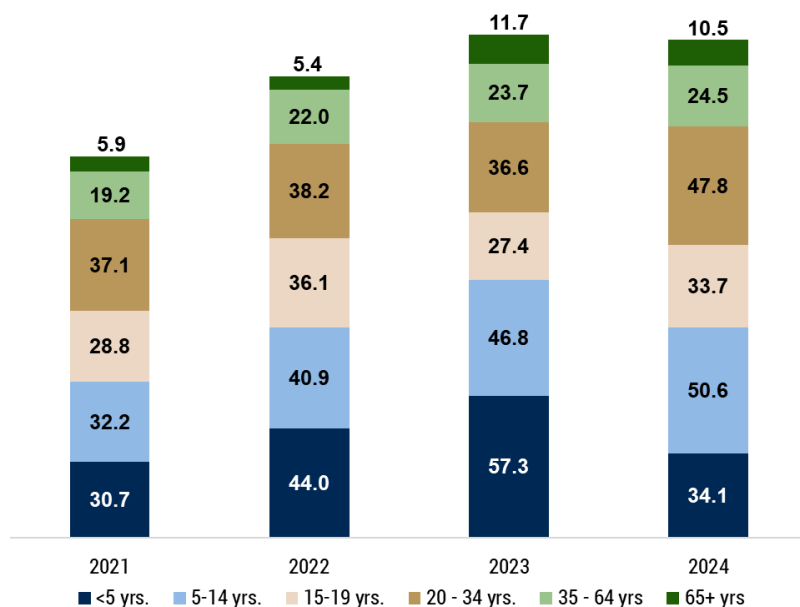


Emergency Department Visits for Asthma-Related Events,
Lorain County 2022-2024²



Visits to the emergency room for asthma have increased over time. This could be an indicator of the need for better asthma management strategies in the county. A segment of asthma management is understanding both indoor and outdoor air quality in a community.

Emergency Department Visit Rates for Asthma-Related Events by Age,
Lorain County 2021-2024¹



In 2024, there were 30.3 emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 people in Lorain County. **This is a 34% increase from 2021,** when the rate was 22.7 per 10,000 people.

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Social Determinants of Health



Assets and success

When the roadways are built for all road users, they are safer for everyone. This means that roads with dedicated spaces for pedestrians, bikers, motorists, freight, and people of all abilities, from young to old, can actually impact risky behaviors leading to serious injury and death. Specifically, roadways built for all users can slow vehicle speeds, increase visibility, and increase the appeal, look, and feel of communities.



Between 2023-2024, LCPH received federal funding to facilitate a countywide process to improve the built environment and community design, so that roadways are safer for everyone. As a result, the first county-wide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) was completed. The plan will fuel projects over time, and bring additional dollars to the county for implementing recommended improvements.

"We have wonderful parks, some of the best in the country. So there are resources, but not everybody feels comfortable going to them and many of our folks of color don't feel welcome-don't feel comfortable being in those environments and they pay their tax dollars to support those."

A summary of what we heard from you.

- Transportation is limited in the county, with few options available to residents, especially for those without cars. Public transportation is scarce, and there is no system that connects the county effectively. Programs like the Via service for high school students help, but more comprehensive solutions are needed.
- The community is rich with parks, but depending on where you live, they may be difficult to get to without transportation. People need to feel safe to use them.
- Despite efforts like neighborhood watches, many areas lack basic infrastructure like sidewalks, making walking unsafe in some neighborhoods.
- There is a growing focus on adding active transportation infrastructure, such as sidewalks and bike lanes, to improve access to education, services, and community resources.
- Affordable housing remains a major issue. Many residents rely on temporary shelters, but these only provide short-term relief and don't address the long-term housing crisis.

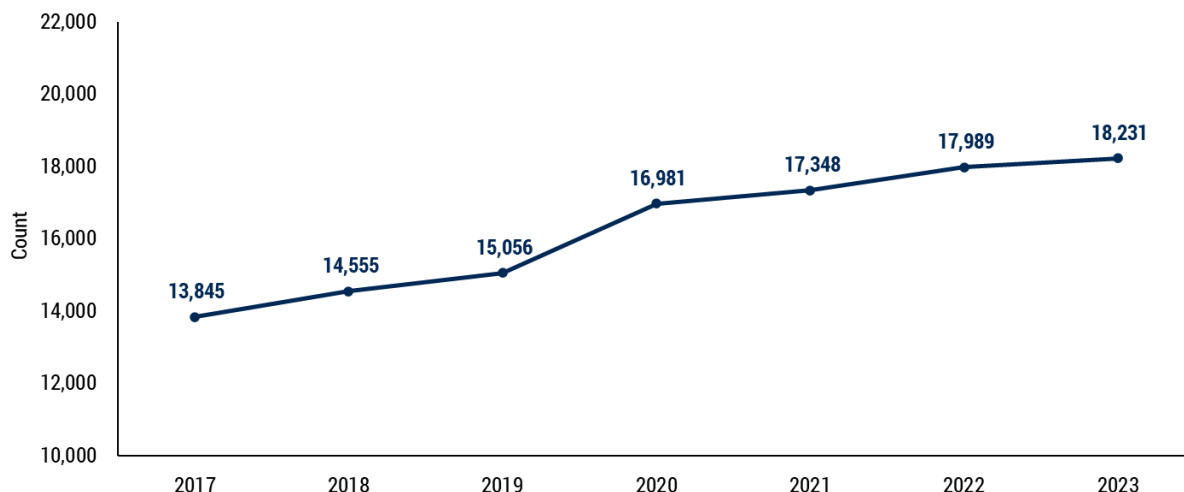
Social and Community Context

Social Determinants of Health



Educational attainment is a strong predictor of health outcomes. Higher education levels are associated with higher income, better healthcare access, and improved well-being. People's relationships and interactions with family, neighborhoods, friends, school and work environments play a key role in health and well-being. Poverty, violence, racism and discrimination can create an adverse community environment. While strong networks and feelings of connectedness to the community and one another are protective factors.

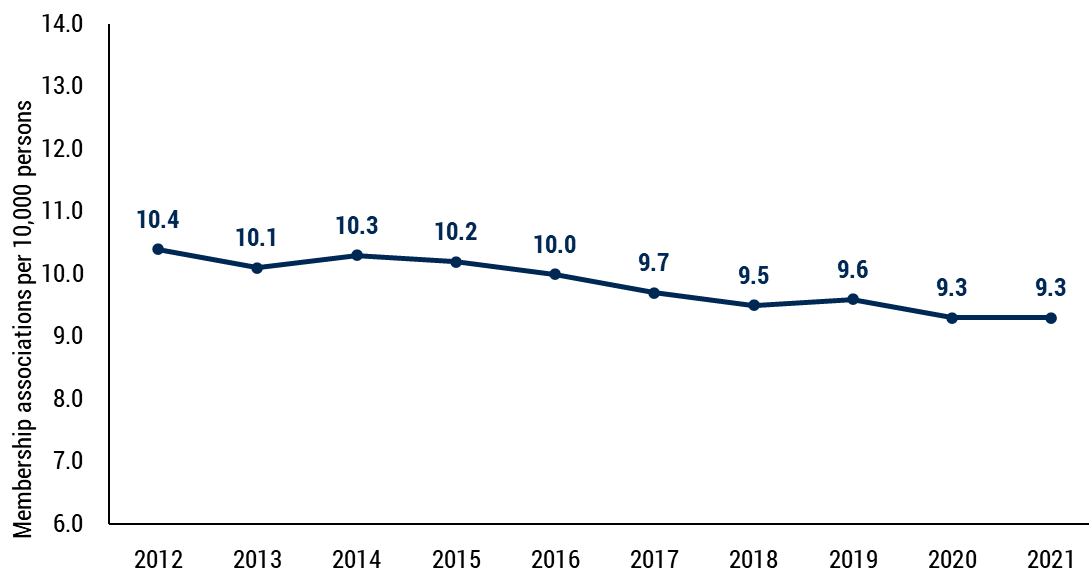
People 65+ Living Alone,
Lorain County 2017-2023⁴



Examples of social associations may include civic organizations like Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, religious organizations, and hobby clubs.

Living alone, or not being part of a social association does not necessarily mean someone feels lonely or socially isolated. However, **people who are experiencing social isolation and loneliness are at higher risk** for ED visits, cognitive decline, heart disease, and depression or anxiety.¹

Social Associations,
Lorain County 2012-2021²

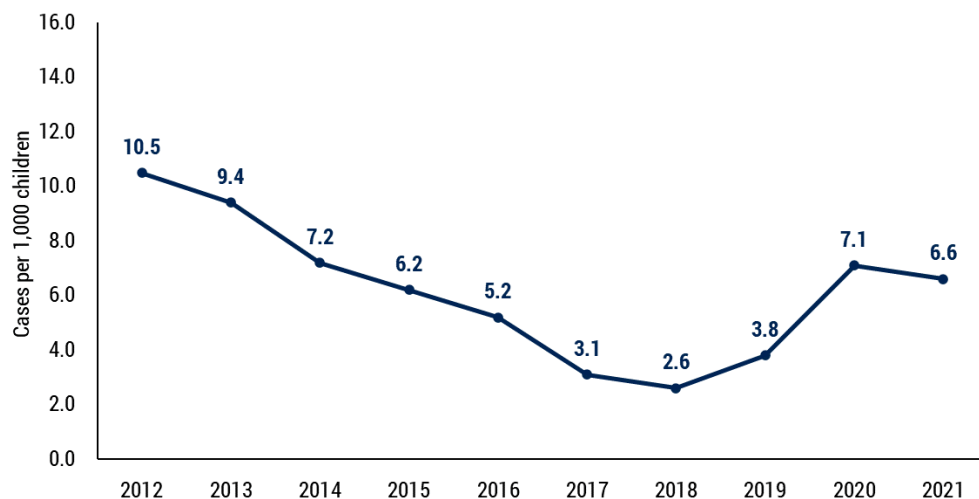


Social and Community Context

Social Determinants of Health



**Substantiated Child Abuse Rate,
Lorain County 2012-2021¹**



Definition of substantiated child abuse rate: The number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, including emotional maltreatment, neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. The rate is the number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children in the population.¹



Assets and success

Race equity work has been a focal point in Lorain County. During COVID-19, the Health Equity Task Force was created in partnership with Lorain County Urban League (LCUL). This Task Force includes Lorain County partners focused on specific goals and objectives in overburdened communities. One of many successful initiatives that came from the Health Equity Task Force is the Serving Our Streets initiative. This initiative looks at violence prevention as a public health crisis as opposed to a criminal lens. Piloting in the city of Elyria, and organized by LCUL, community organizers build relationships with community members to learn about the growing violence, provide prevention and resources, and help to rebuild relationships with law enforcement agencies. LCUL has been very successful in the city of Elyria, and have decided to duplicate these efforts in the city of Lorain.

Social and Community Context

Social Determinants of Health



"It's the people. There's a lot of love here, even when things are hard. Cookouts, community events, folks looking out for each other. That's what makes it home."

"We got heart. People around here grind hard and still find time to give back. You see it in how we mentor the youth, support small businesses, or rally behind someone when they're going through it."

"I would say that togetherness, the closeness of our community. We're pretty diverse and we all work well and get along together."

"One of the great things about Lorain County is they have a lot of great partnerships and coalitions that exist here in the community, which is unlike what I've seen in a larger community. So I think that's a strength here."

"The culture runs deep, food, music, family. You can walk down the street and run into someone you grew up with. That kind of connection? You don't find that everywhere."

A summary of what we heard from you.

- There is a strong sense of community in Lorain County, with residents and organizations working together to improve well-being. Nonprofits, coalitions, and partnerships are key to addressing local issues, and the diversity in the community is celebrated.
- Efforts are being made to encourage active lifestyles, with initiatives promoting biking, walking, hiking, and recreational activities like pickleball as ways to improve health and well-being.
- The community is passionate about helping one another, and there is a strong commitment to providing resources and support to families. This collaborative spirit helps families navigate challenges and provides a sense of peace and serenity, despite the challenges and barriers.

Lorain County Stakeholders

Priority Health Needs



Community health improvement is complex and requires strategies that address the underlying factors of the social determinants of health and health behaviors, as well as a systems approach to better link healthcare, public health, community-based organizations and sectors beyond health.

Community engagement was a central part of this assessment. Through partnership with the CHIP steering committee, residents and key stakeholders were invited to share their perspectives on the health needs of Lorain County.

Current Lorain County priority areas for health improvement identified in the 2026-2028 CHA include behavioral health, chronic disease, and maternal and child health. There is also a very clear connection between health outcomes and the social determinants of health, which impact all of the priority areas.

These priority areas remain unchanged for the most part from the 2022-2025 CHA, and they are in alignment with regional, state, and national priorities.



Behavioral Health



Chronic Disease



Maternal and Child Health



Behavioral Health



Mental health is a vital component to a person's overall health. Mental health and substance use challenges impact families and the community as a whole.

"Vaping and other drugs continue to be a challenge within our middle school and high school populations."

"I know a lot about the substance use problems of grandparents that are having to take over, grandparents are raising grandkids because of substance use."

"Stop acting like mental health isn't real. We need to say it out loud: it's okay to ask for help. It's okay to cry. It's okay to heal."

A summary of what we heard from you.

- The stigma around mental health issues prevents many residents from seeking help, and the fear of judgment makes it even harder to reach out. However, there's a growing movement in the community to create more understanding and open dialogue around mental health. Programs like 988 are helping reduce stigma, and more residents are beginning to utilize these services. The community's willingness to help each other and the increasing awareness are driving change in how mental health is approached.
- Mental health and substance use challenges persist, with strong services but provider shortages making mental health the most unmet need. Youth struggle with vaping, rising marijuana use, and self-harm.

Lorain County Stakeholders

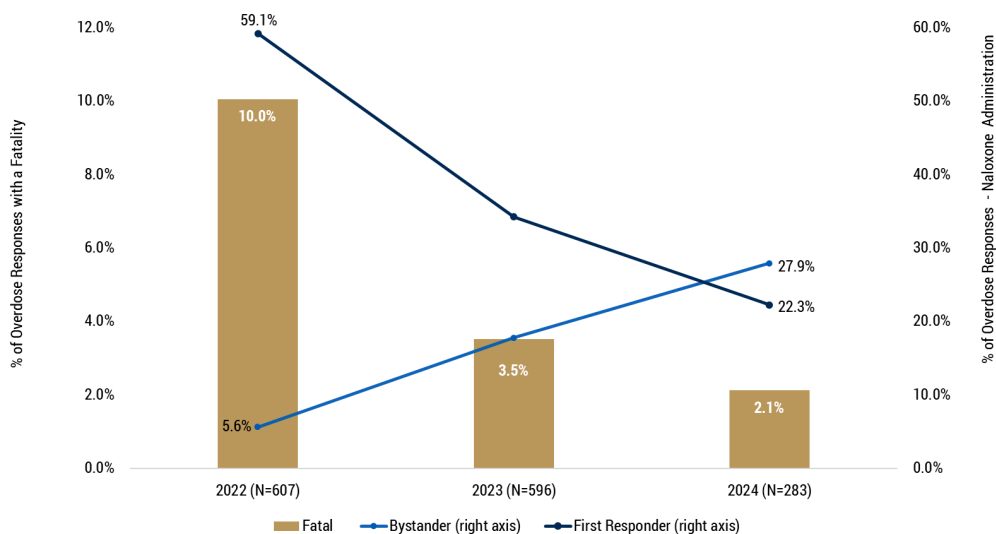
Drug Overdose

Priority: Behavioral Health



Between 2021 and 2023 **Lorain County experienced a 19% reduction in overdose-related deaths due to fentanyl**. This may be correlated with an increase seen here in bystander saves. LCPH and partners like the Rural Response Network and the Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services Board (MHARS) have worked to make Naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication, accessible through community based programs and harm reduction initiatives. By equipping individuals with this life-saving medication and training, bystanders can act quickly in critical moments. In 28% of overdose responses logged by county first responders during 2024, a bystander (family, friend, other) had administered Naloxone to the victim prior to EMS arrival.

Percentage of EMS and Police Responses Resulting in Death After Naloxone Administration Description, Lorain County Overdose Detection Mapping 2022-2024¹



2023-2025 CHIP Goal



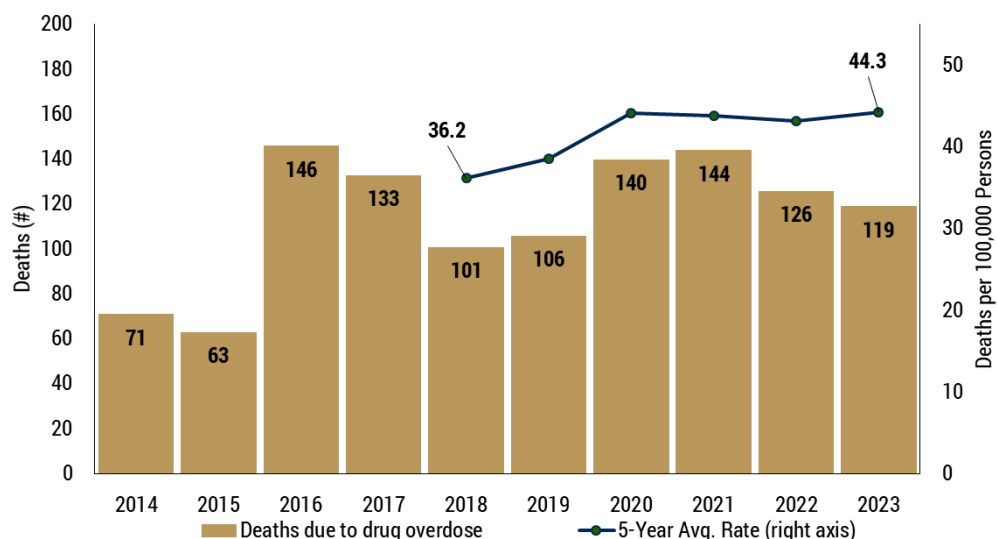
Drug Overdose

Priority: Behavioral Health

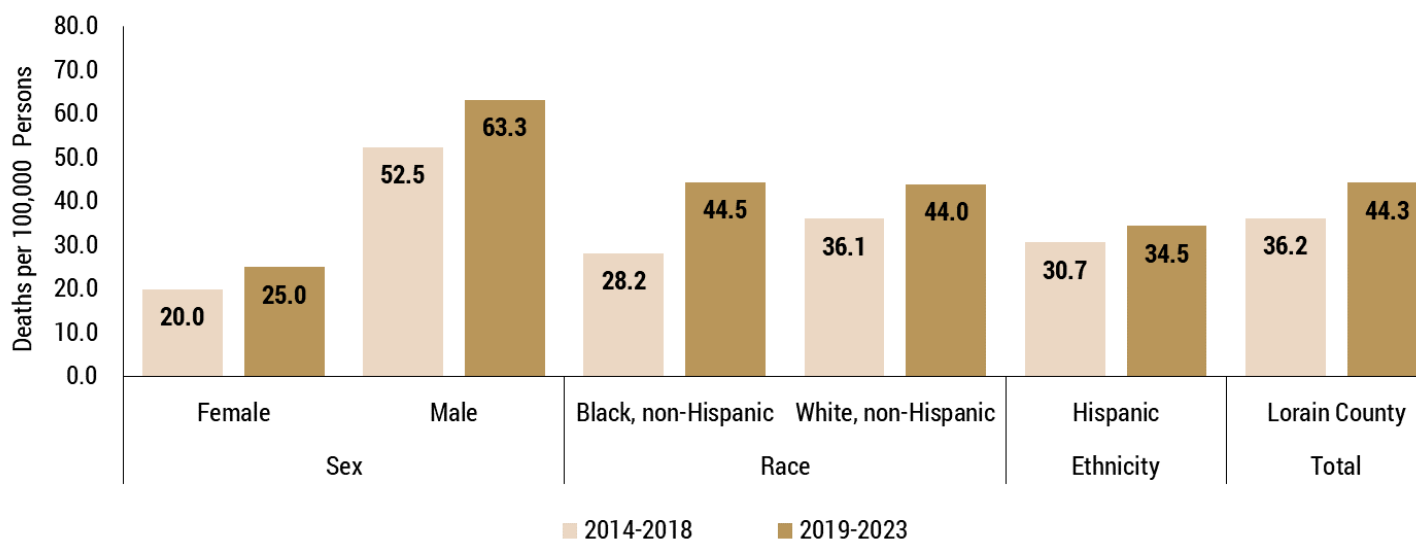


Drug overdose deaths are one of the leading contributors of the lowering of life expectancy in Lorain County. Unintentional overdose deaths are caused by a variety of addictive drugs such as opioids, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamines and prescription medications.

**Drug Overdose Age-Adjusted Death Rate,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



**Drug Overdose Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Sex, Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



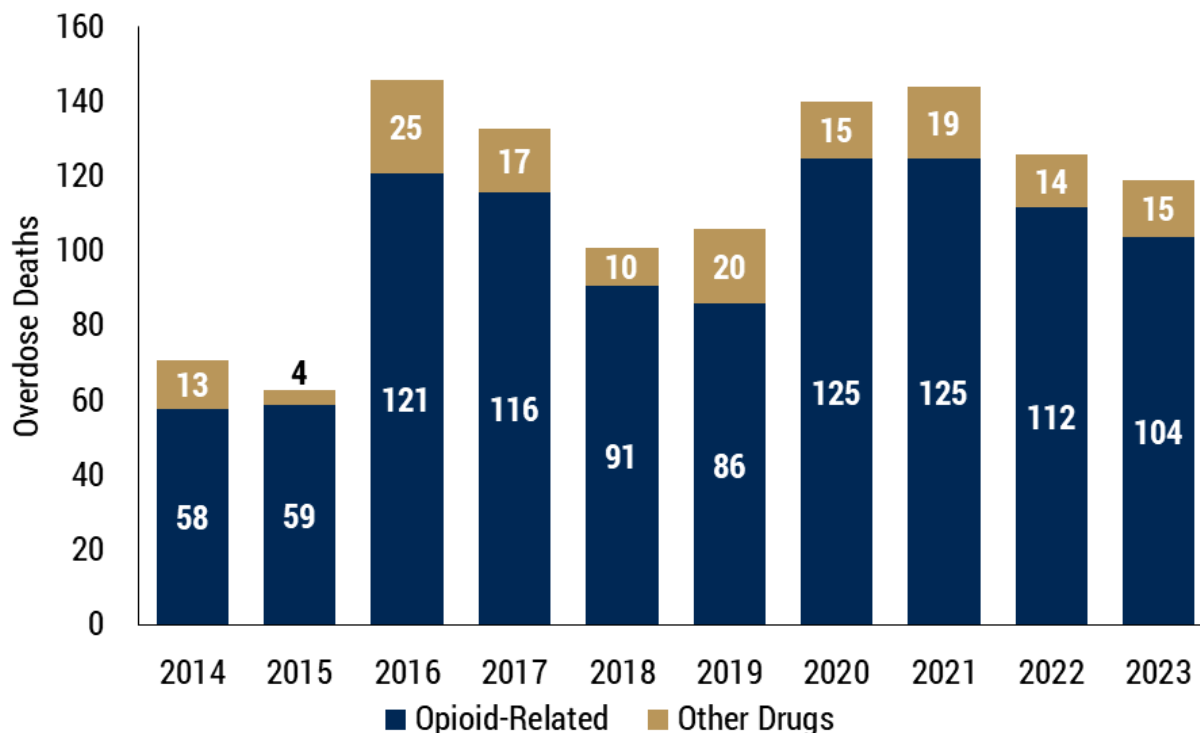
* = Rates calculated with < 20 observations should be interpreted with caution

Drug Overdose

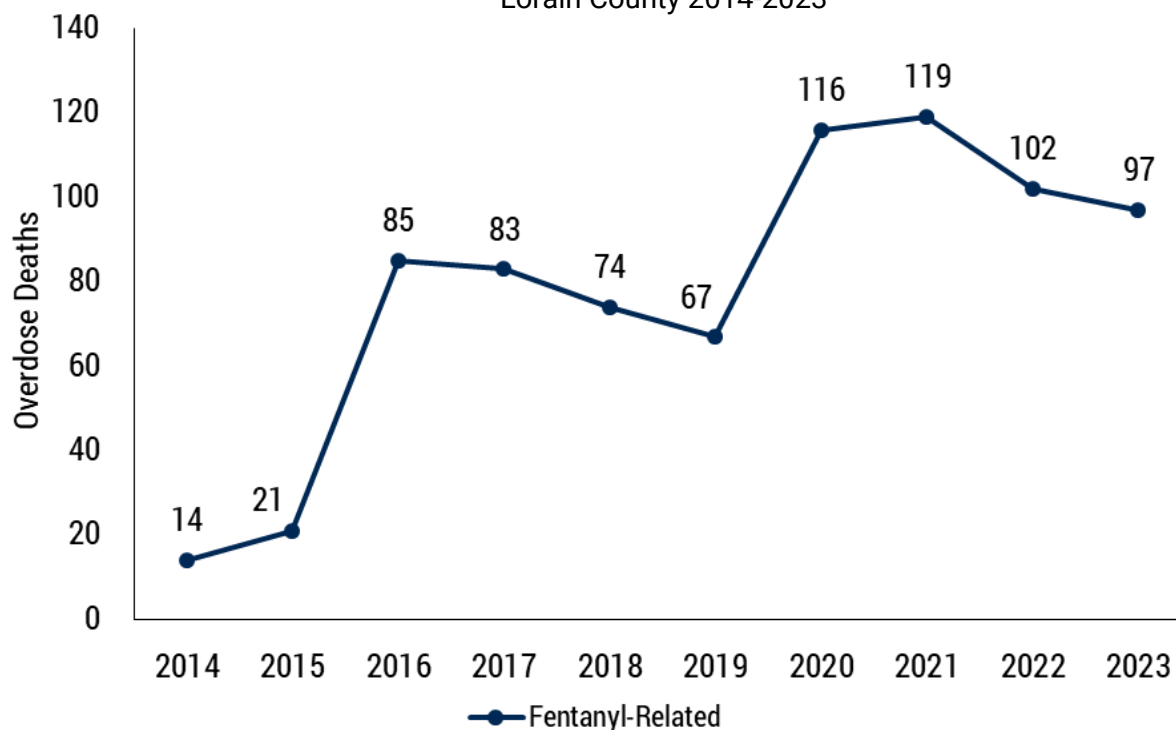
Priority: Behavioral Health



Deaths Due to Drug Overdose by Drug Type,
Lorain County 2011-2020¹



Deaths due to Drug Overdose Related to Fentanyl (a synthetic opioid),
Lorain County 2014-2023¹

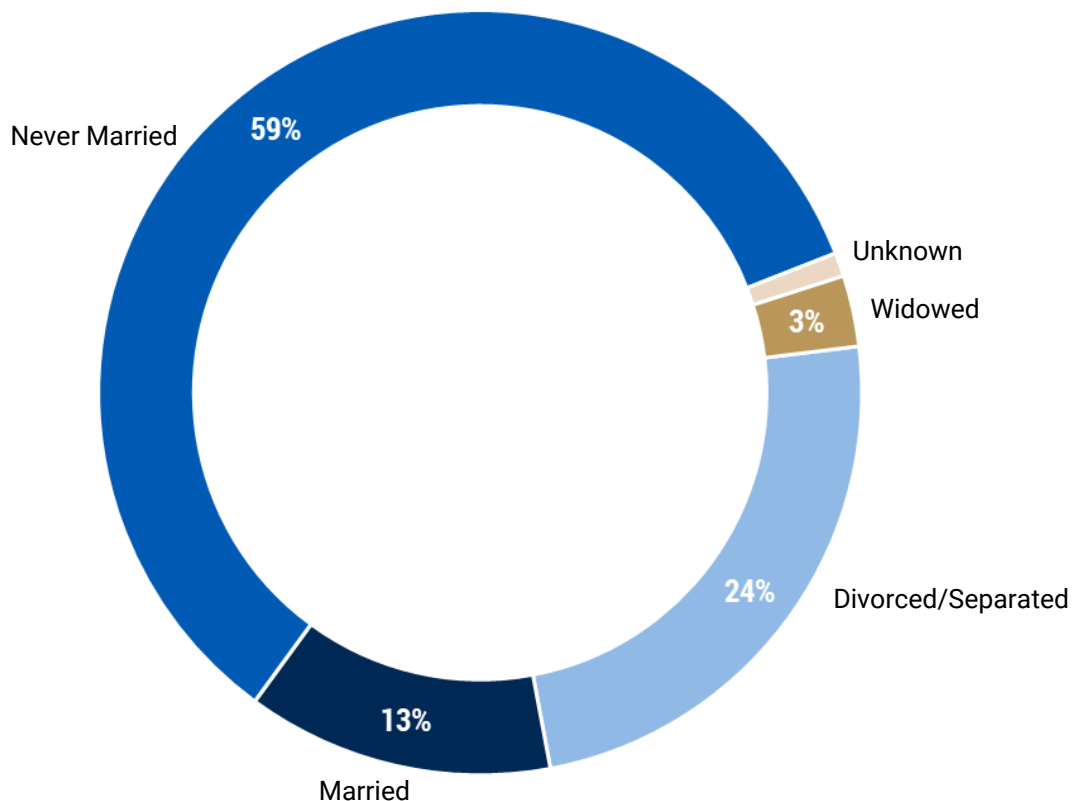


Drug Overdose

Priority: Behavioral Health

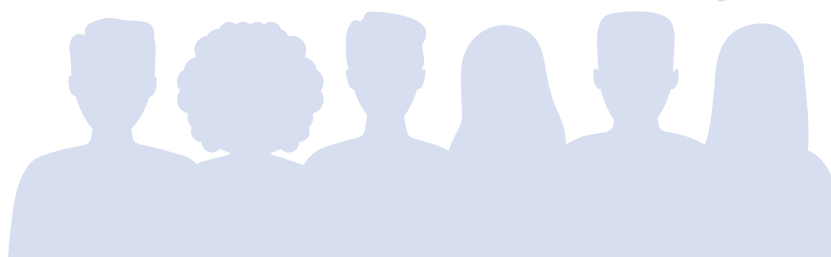


Drug Overdose Deaths by Marital Status,
Lorain County 2019-2023¹



"Mental health is being ignored. There's still too much shame around it. We were raised to tough things out, but that's killing us— slowly."

"We need mental health support that's built for us. Not just therapy—but spaces where men can talk, unpack trauma, and not feel soft for doing it. Bring in more Black male therapists, coaches, or barbers who can guide brothers toward healing."



Lorain County Stakeholders

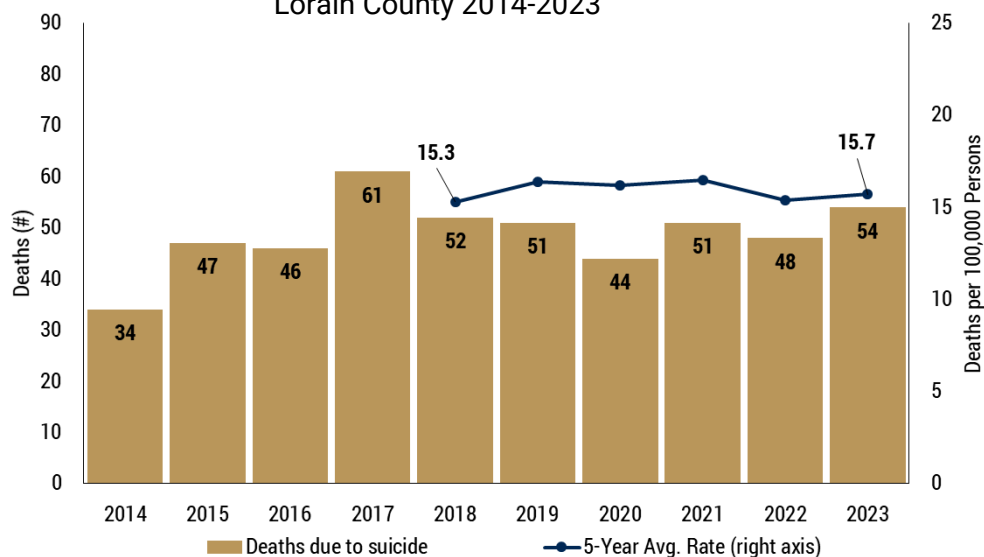
Suicide

Priority: Behavioral Health



Suicide is a serious public health problem that can have lasting harmful effects on families and communities. Suicide has many risk factors, and it is a leading contributor to declining life expectancy.

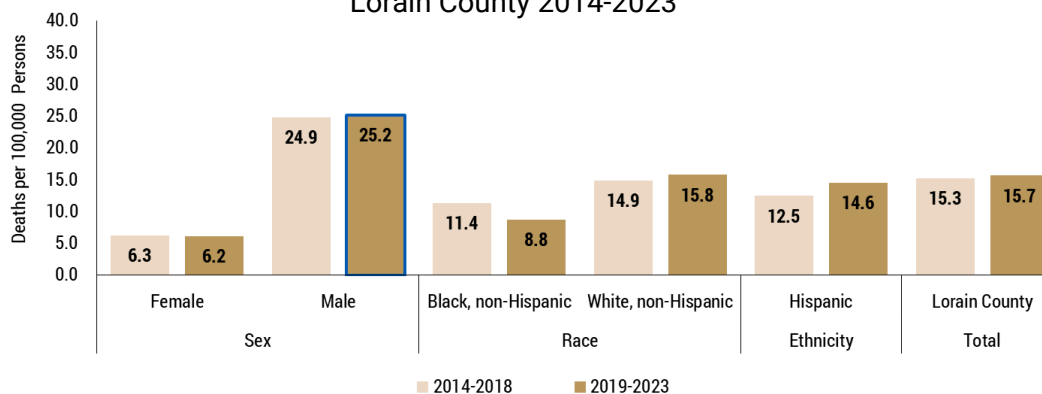
**Suicide Age-Adjusted Death Rate,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



2023-2025 CHIP Goal

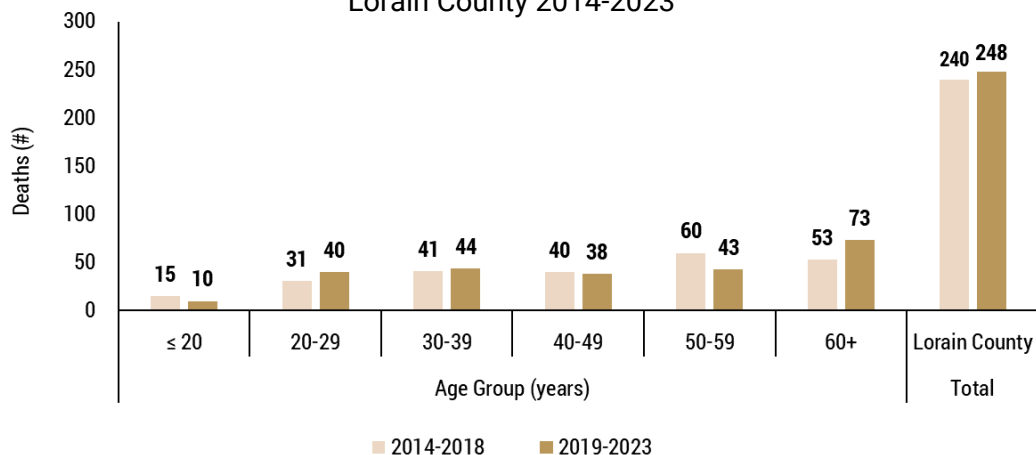


**Suicide Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Sex, Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



Males were **three times more** likely to die by suicide compared to females.

**Suicide Deaths by Age,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



Center for Health Statistics Cause of Death ICD10 Codes: U03, X60-X84, Y87.0

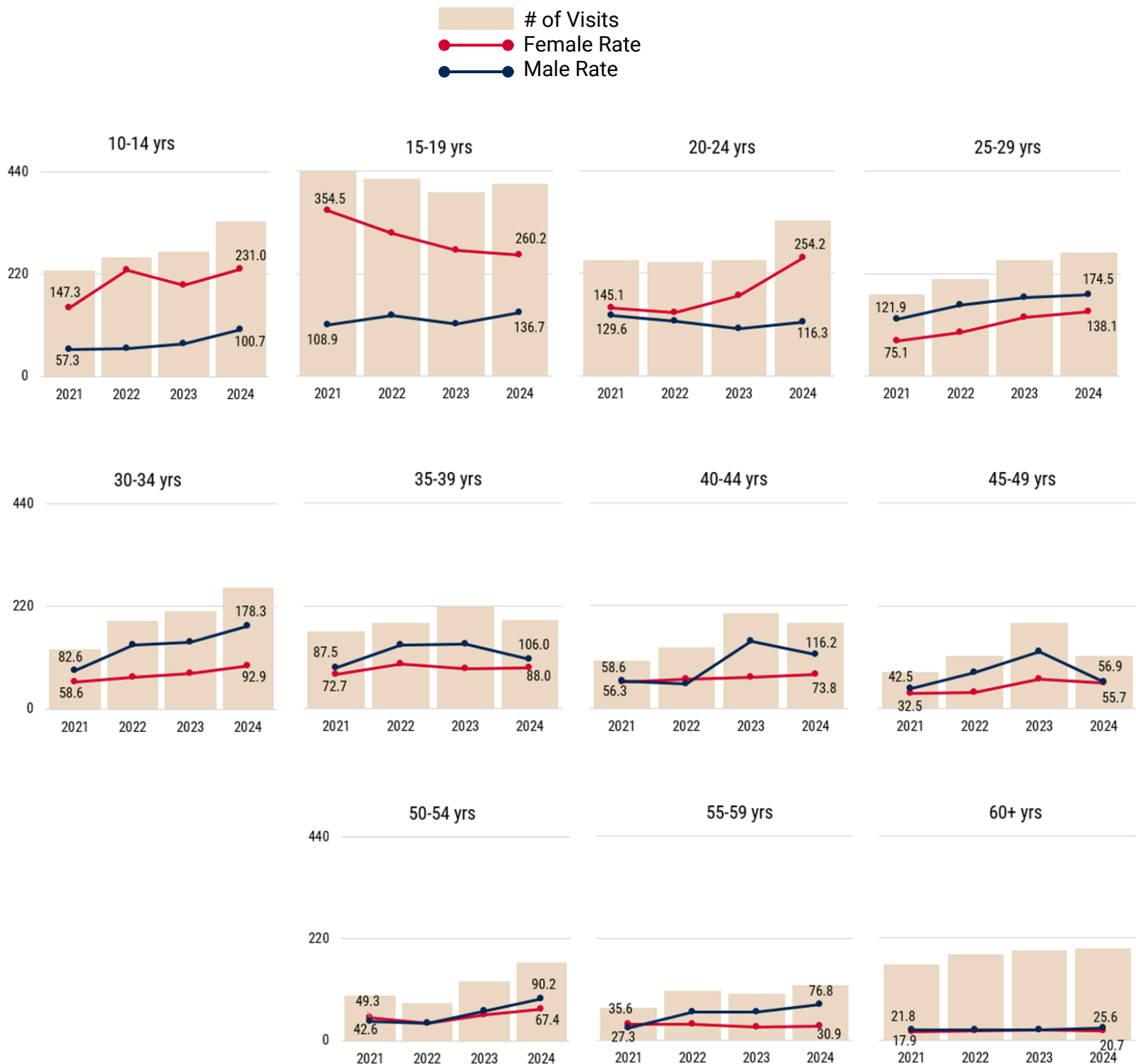
Suicide and Self-Harm

Priority: Behavioral Health



Adolescent females ages 15 to 19 had the highest emergency department visit rate for self-harm and suicide ideation, with more than 260 visits per 10,000 people in 2024. After age 25, males had higher visit rates than females. Most age groups show a year-over-year increase in the number of visits.

Self-Harm and Suicide Ideation Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Age Group, Lorain County, 2021-2024¹



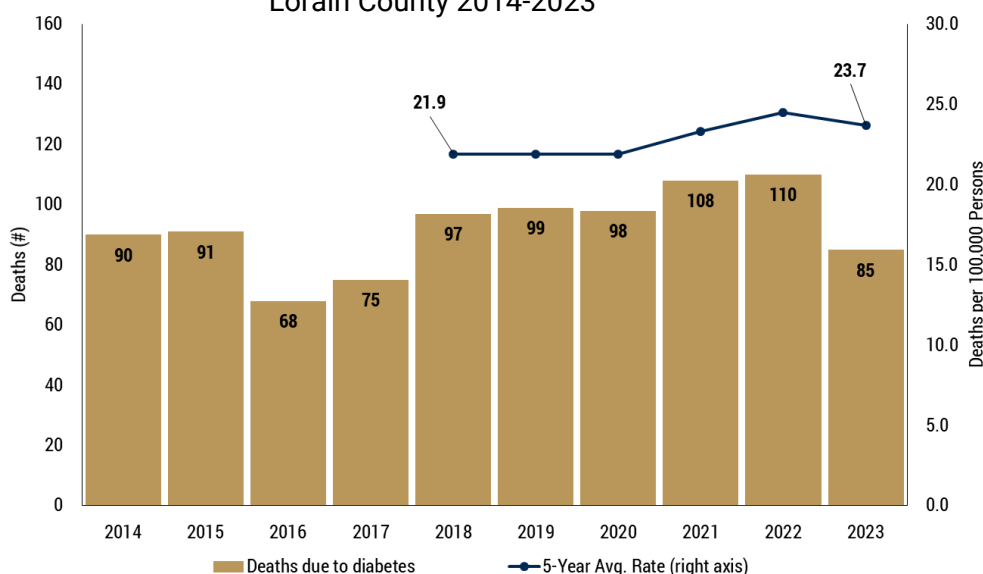
Chronic Disease



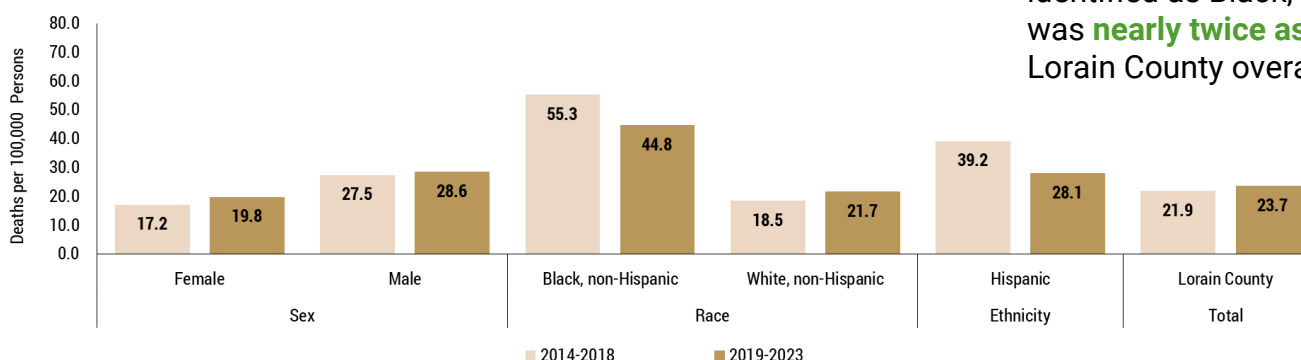
Chronic disease is well-recognized as one of the defining community health challenges of Lorain County. Chronic diseases impact the community as a whole, with worsened impacts on people with lower incomes, people who are Black and people with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Diabetes is a chronic health condition that is closely linked to other serious health problems and leading causes of death such as heart disease and kidney disease. There are three main types of diabetes: type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes (diabetes related to pregnancy). Active and healthy lifestyles play an important role in diabetes prevention and management.

**Diabetes Age-Adjusted Death Rate,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



**Diabetes Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Sex, Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



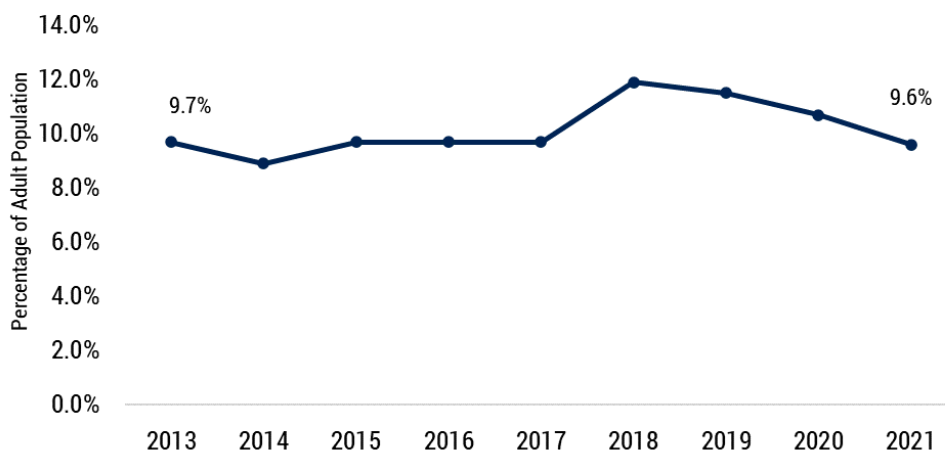
From 2019-2023, the death rate due to diabetes among those who identified as Black, non-Hispanic was **nearly twice as high** as Lorain County overall.³

Diabetes

Priority: Chronic Disease



**Diagnosed Diabetes Age-Adjusted Percentage (Adults Ages 20+ Years),
Lorain County 2013-2021²**

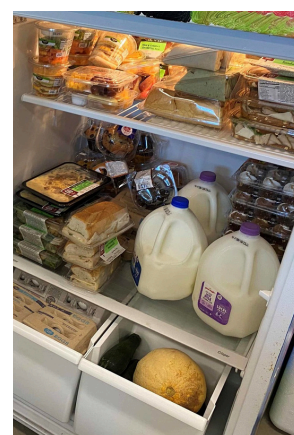
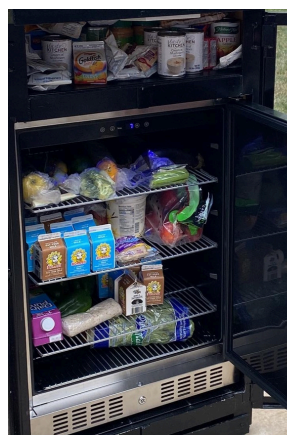


Assets and success

Over the past three years, library partners in the county have invested resources into their culinary literacy programs. The goal was to help community members learn how to prepare healthy food, while keeping local culture at top of mind for food choices. Based on this investment, there was a 30% increase in the number of education sessions offered to the community. The significant increase in hours of education since the beginning of the CHIP cycle can be attributed to several factors. Dedicated staff were hired to focus on expanding these programs, allowing for more consistent offerings and outreach. Additionally, the Lorain County community demonstrated a clear need for culinary literacy opportunities, with residents expressing strong interest in learning cooking skills, nutrition and meal preparation. This growing demand helped drive the expansion of programs to better serve the community's needs.

Driven by growing community momentum and need, the concept of "Freedges" (free community refrigerators) has gained traction in Lorain County as an accessible solution for addressing food insecurity. Freedges provide individuals in need with access to fresh, nutritious food stored in a refrigerated space, ensuring perishable items remain safe for consumption. Freedges are entirely free and open to all members of the community.

The Freedges are stocked through generous donations from community members, local organizations, and partners committed to food access initiatives. Currently, Freedges are available at the Lorain Public Library South Branch, sponsored by El Centro de Servicios Sociales, and at the Elyria Public Library South Branch, sponsored by the Southside Pride collaborative. These community-driven efforts continue to expand access to fresh, nutritious food for residents in need.



Photos of Freedges courtesy of Lorain Public Library System and Elyria Public Library System.

2023-2025 CHIP Goal



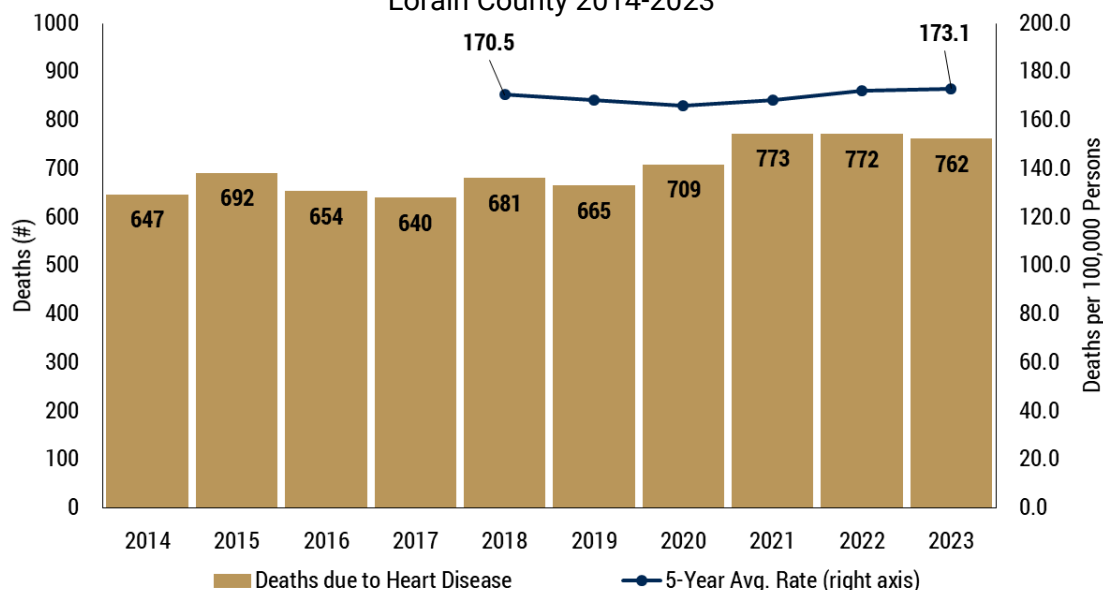
Heart Disease

Priority: Chronic Disease



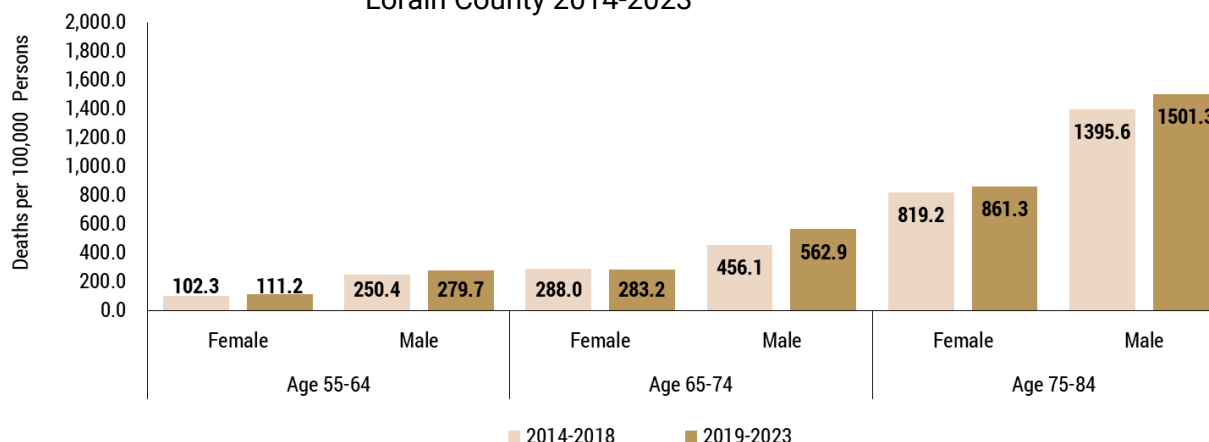
Heart disease refers to several types of conditions that cause heart attacks and heart failure. Each year heart disease is among the leading causes of death for Lorain County residents. Active and healthy lifestyles play an important role in heart disease prevention and management.

**Heart Disease Age-Adjusted Death Rate,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**

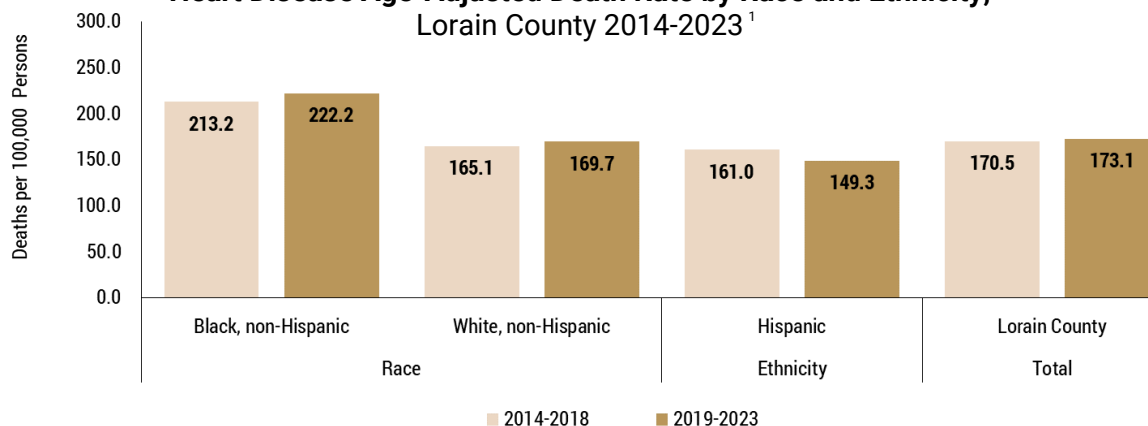


Heart disease death rates have shown a slight increase in recent years after declining and leveling off in recent decades. This trend reversal has also been observed nationally.¹

**Heart Disease Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Sex and Age,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



**Heart Disease Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



Center for Health Statistics Cause of Death ICD10 Codes: I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51

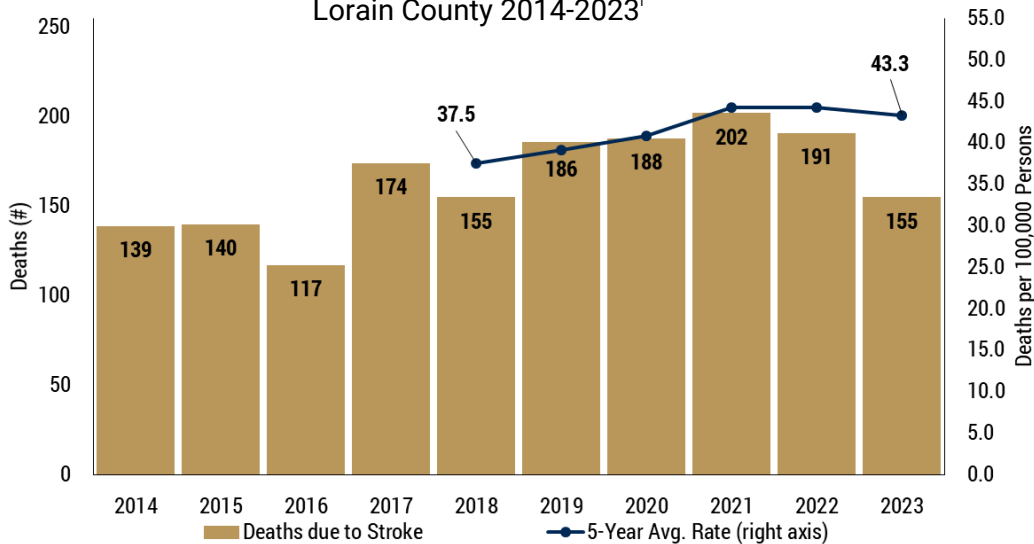
Stroke

Priority: Chronic Disease

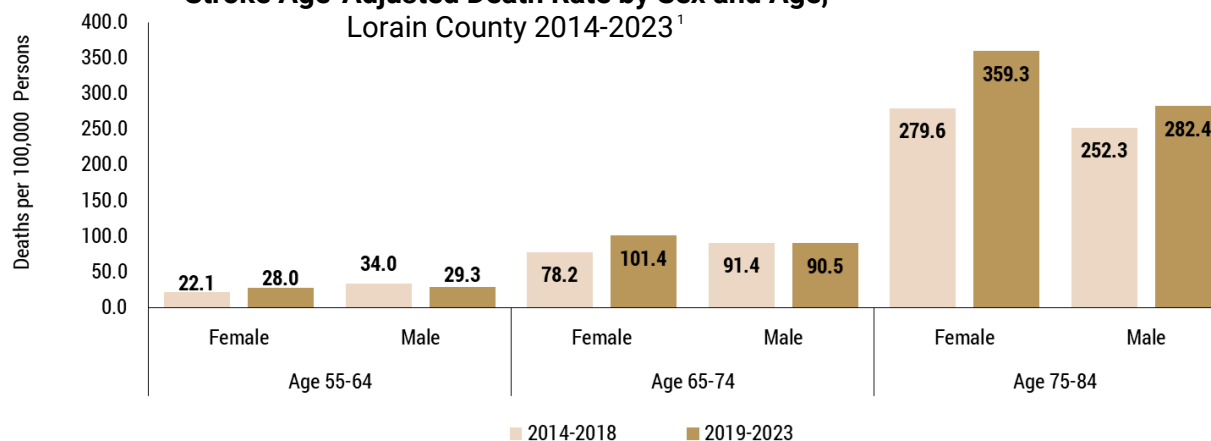


A stroke, sometimes called a brain attack, happens when blood flow to an area of the brain is blocked or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts. When brain cells are starved of oxygen, they die. Stroke is a leading cause of death and a significant contributor to long-term disability. Active and healthy lifestyles play an important role in prevention and treatment of strokes.

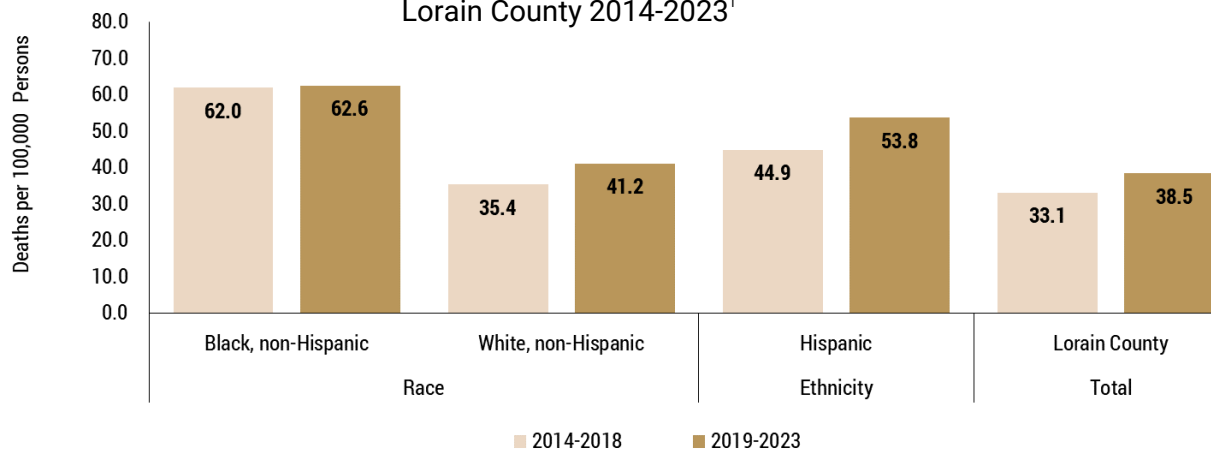
**Stroke Age-Adjusted Death Rate,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



**Stroke Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Sex and Age,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



**Stroke Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



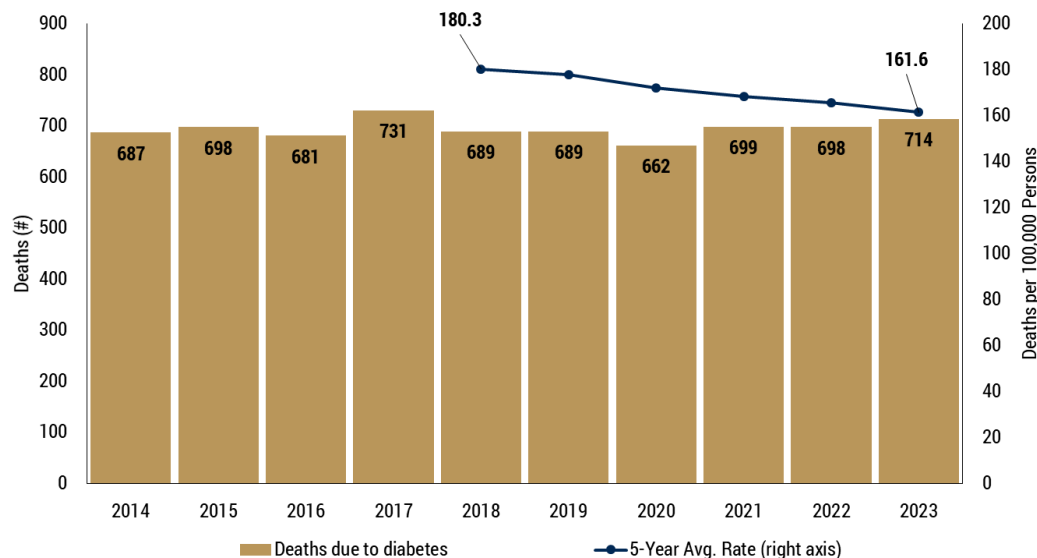
Cancer

Priority: Chronic Disease

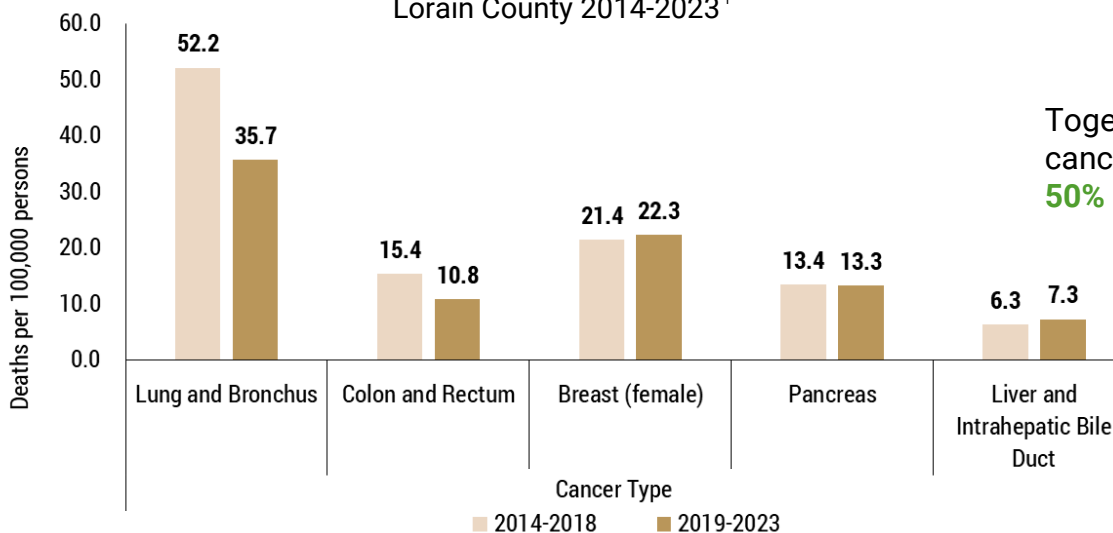


Cancer is a disease caused when cells divide uncontrollably and spread into surrounding tissues.

Cancer Age-Adjusted Death Rate,^Q
Lorain County 2014-2023¹

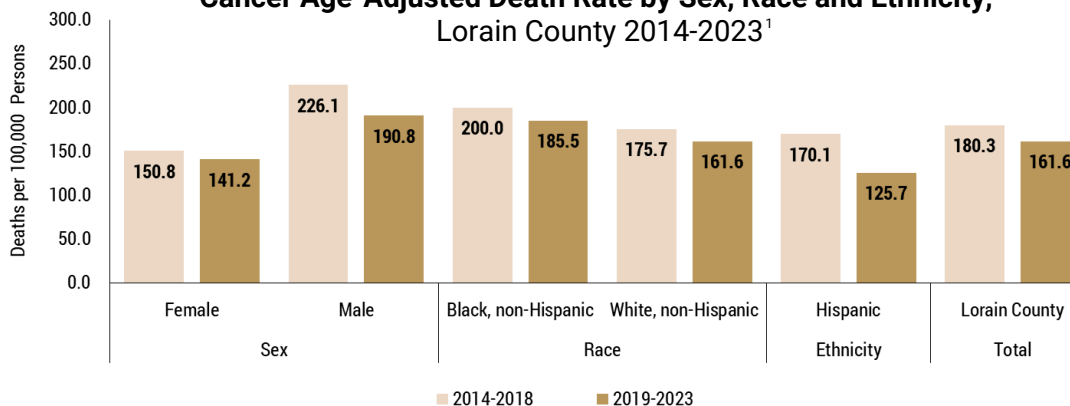


Cancer Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Type,^Q
Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Together, these top five cancers accounted for **over 50% of all cancer deaths.**²

Cancer Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Sex, Race and Ethnicity,^Q
Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Cancer

Priority: Chronic Disease



**Cancer Age-Adjusted Incidence (new cases⁰ per 100,000 persons),
Lorain County 2013-2022¹**

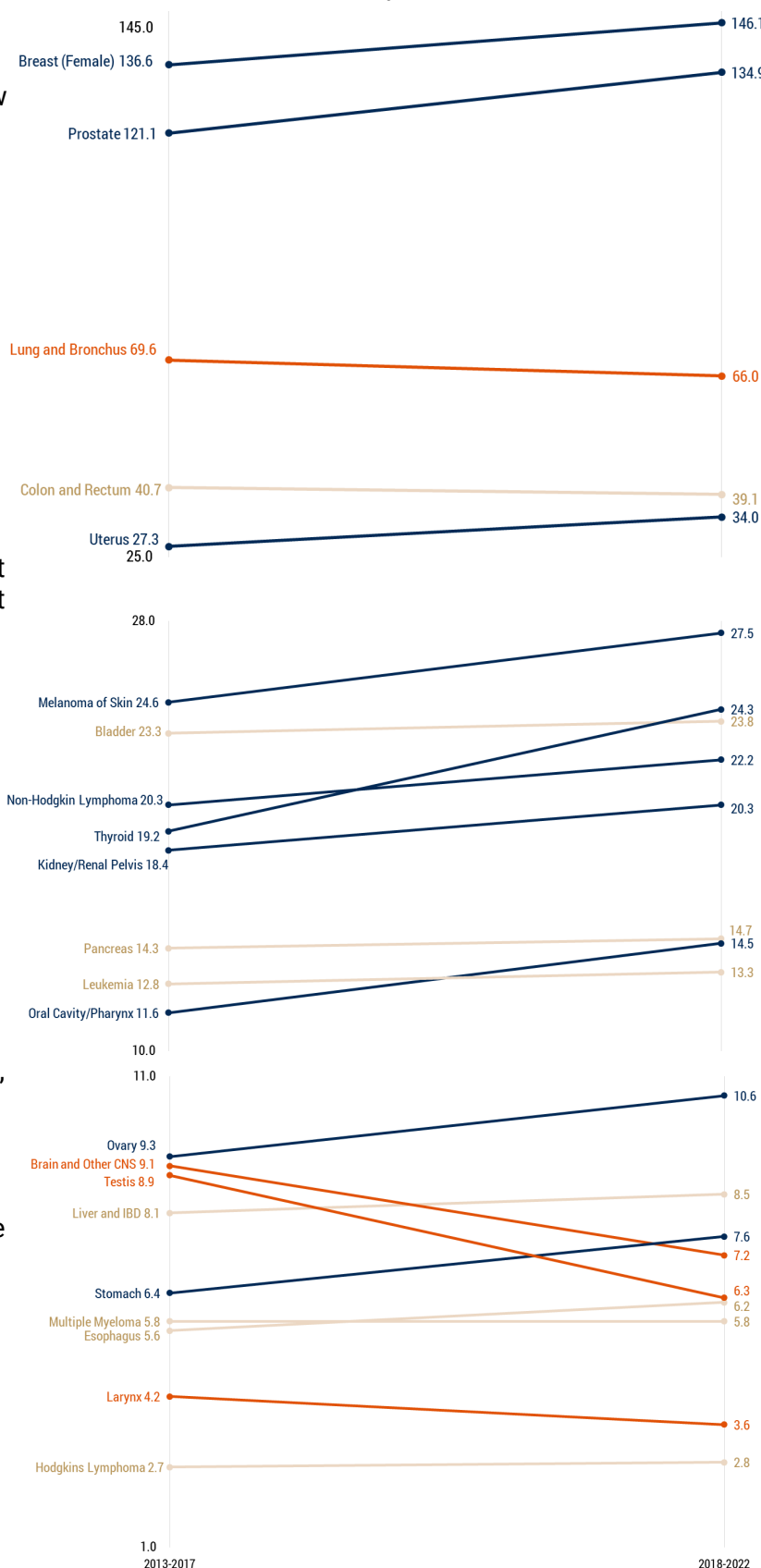
Female breast cancer had the highest incidence at 146.1 new cases per 100,000 persons (2018-2022) which was a small increase when compared to 2013-2017 (145.0).

Conversely, **lung and bronchus cancer** incidence decreased from 69.6 to 66.01.

Incidence of **uterine cancer** had the highest percentage increase at nearly 28% (from 27.3 to 34.9 per 100,000 persons).

Thyroid had the next highest percentage increase at 24% (from 19.2 to 23.8 per 100,000 persons).

Oral cavity/pharynx, brain and other central nervous system (CNS), testis, liver and intrahepatic bile duct (IBD), esophagus, and larynx, also showed decreases in incidence between the two periods.



⁰: Calculations of new cases and incidence included only newly diagnosed invasive cancers (all types) and in-situ bladder cases.

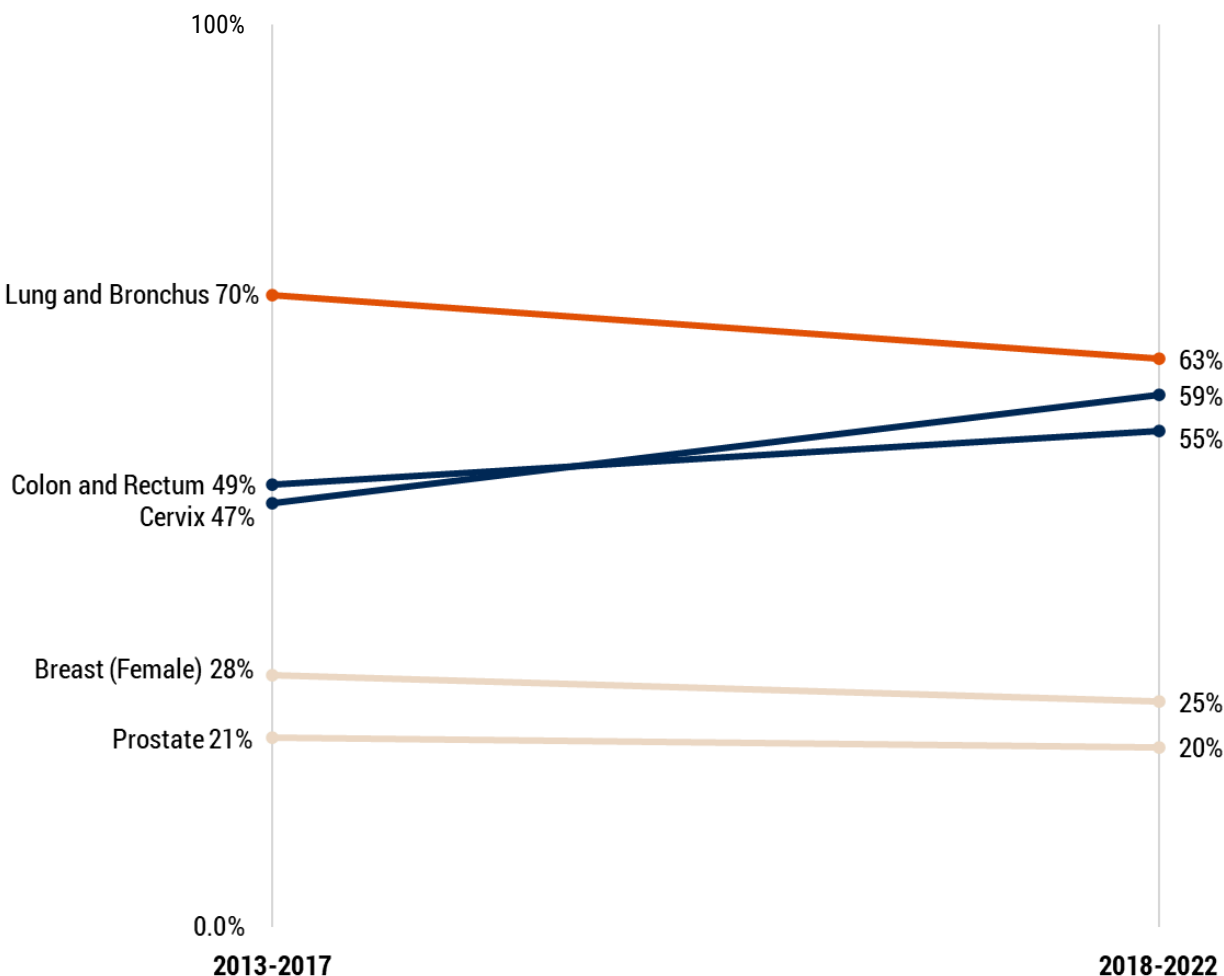
Cancer

Priority: Chronic Disease



Percentage of New Cases Diagnosed in Late Stage,^Ω
Lorain County 2013-2022¹

Of the cancer types which have regular screening recommendations, **lung and bronchus** cancer was the most likely to be diagnosed in the late stage (63% of new cases from 2018-2022). The percentage of new cases that were diagnosed in the late stage increased among **colon and rectum** and **cervical** cancer.



Late Stage: cancers diagnosed at the regional or distant stage.

Regional Stage: cancer that has spread to regional lymph nodes, tissues, or organs.

Distant Stage: cancer that has spread to distant parts of the body.

^Ω: Calculations of new cases and incidence included only newly diagnosed invasive cancers (all types) and in-situ bladder cases.

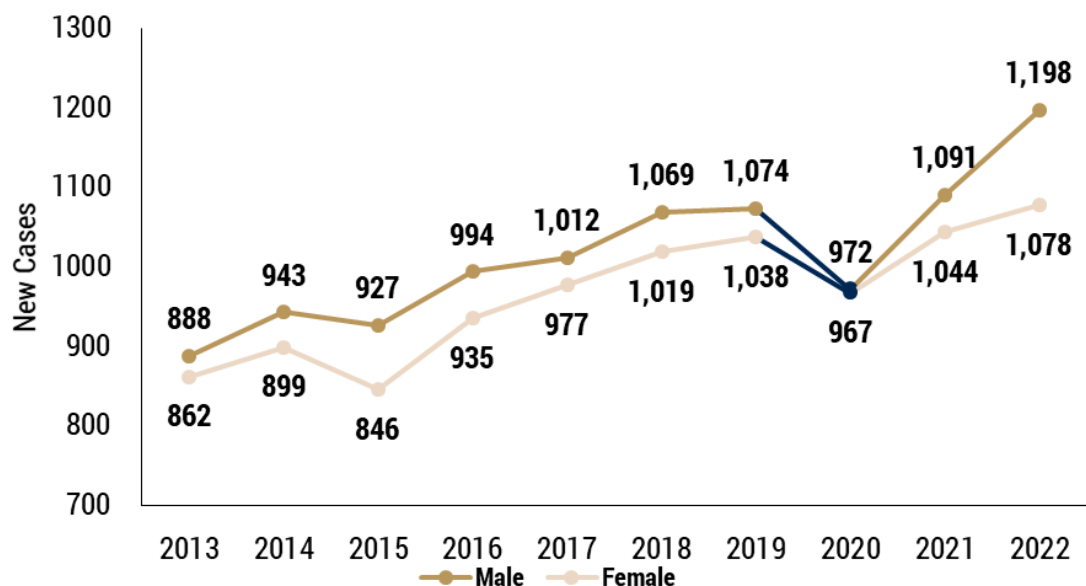
Cancer

Priority: Chronic Disease

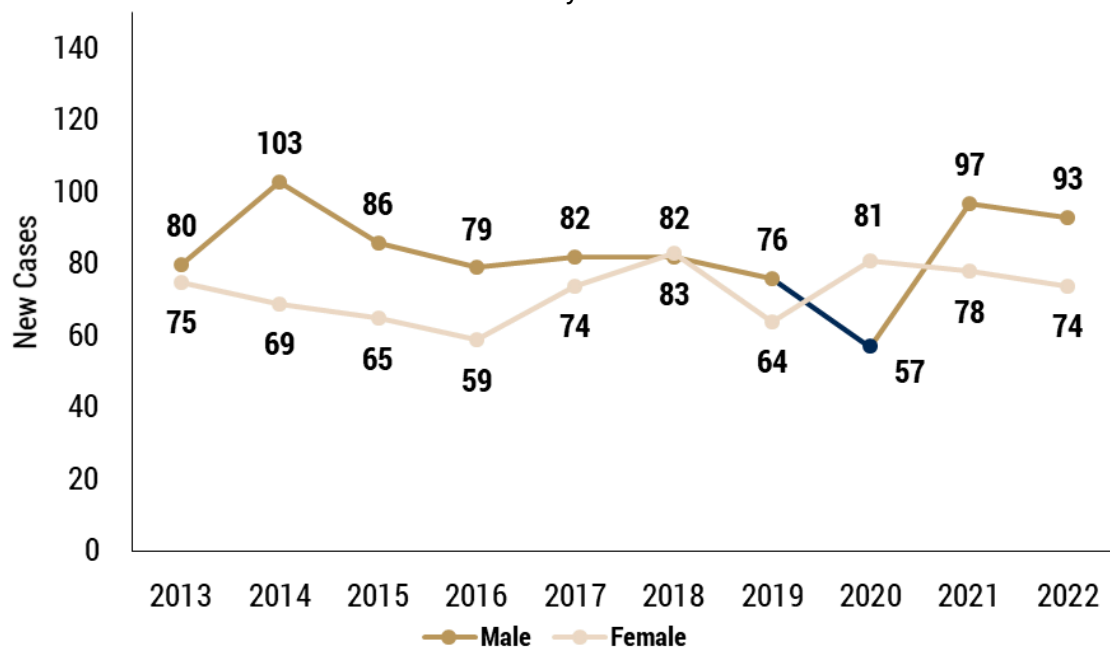


Delays and avoidance of cancer screenings resulted in a significant **decline** in the number of newly identified cancer cases, a trend observed both locally and nationally due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³

**All Types of Cancer Cases,^Q Newly Diagnosed,
Lorain County 2013-2022¹**



**Colon and Rectum Cancer Cases,^Q Newly Diagnosed by Sex,
Lorain County 2013-2022¹**



^Q: Calculations of new cases and incidence included only newly diagnosed invasive cancers (all types) and in-situ bladder cases.

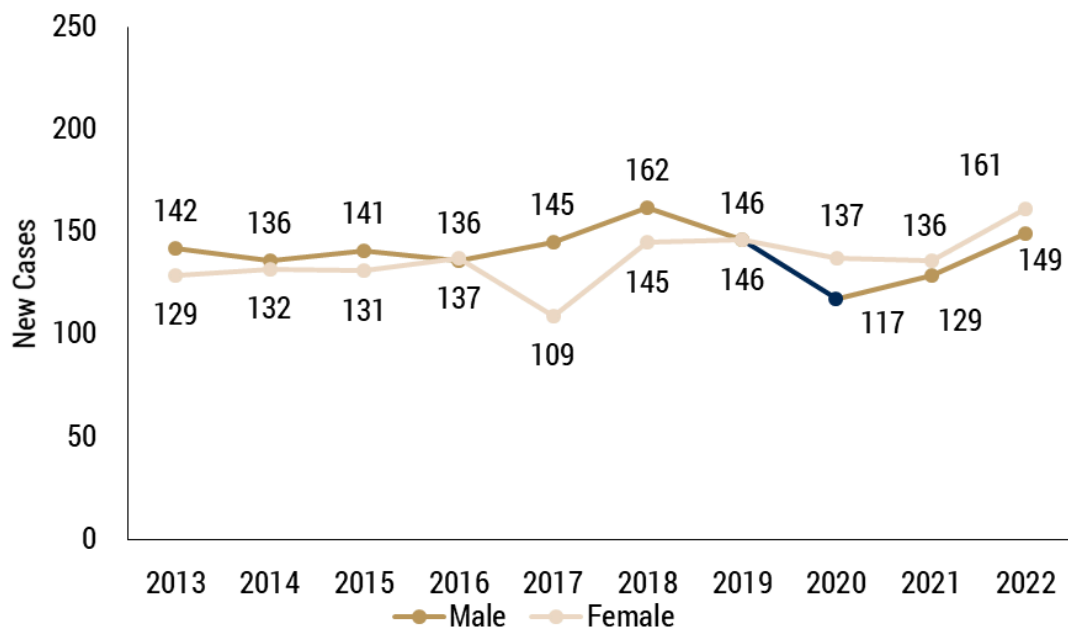
Cancer

Priority: Chronic Disease

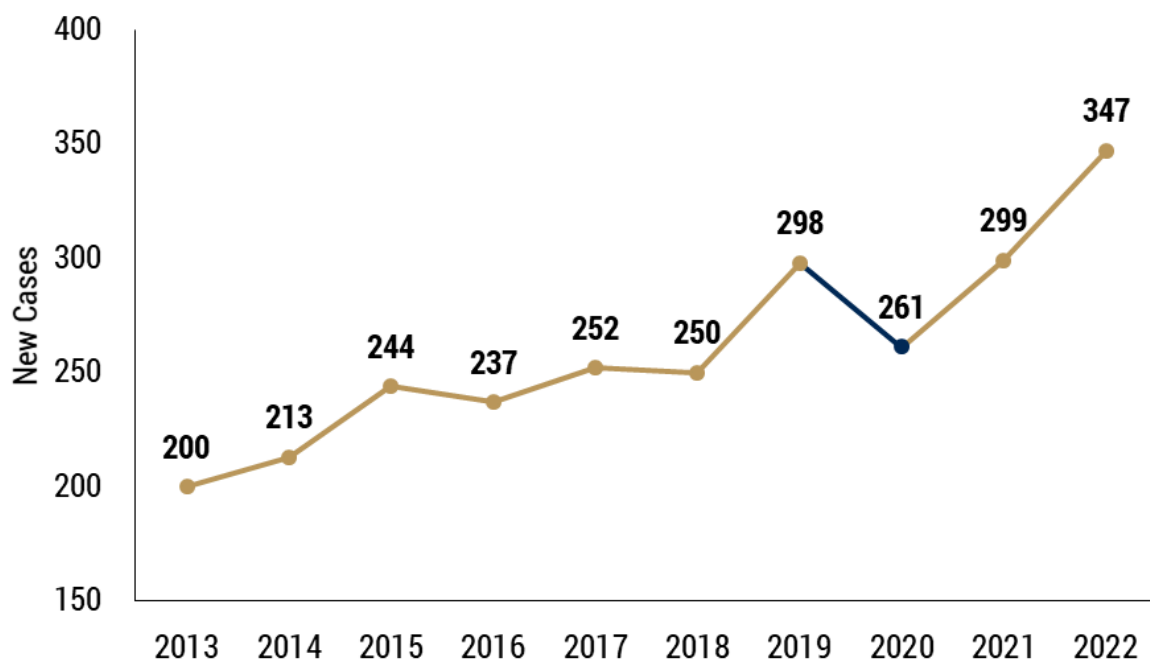


Delays and avoidance of cancer screenings resulted in a significant **decline** in the number of newly identified cancer cases, a trend observed both locally and nationally.⁴

Lung and Bronchus Cancer Cases,^Q Newly Diagnosed by Sex,
Lorain County 2013-2022¹



Prostate Cancer Cases,^Q Newly Diagnosed,
Lorain County 2013-2022¹



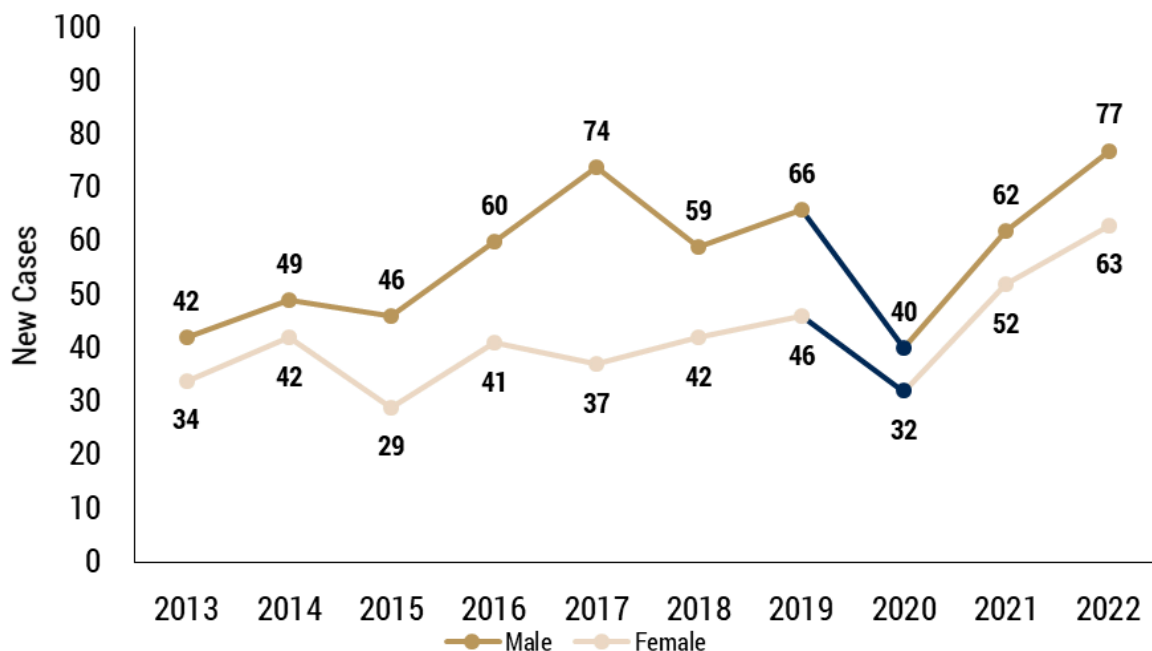
^Q: Calculations of new cases and incidence included only newly diagnosed invasive cancers (all types) and in-situ bladder cases.

Cancer

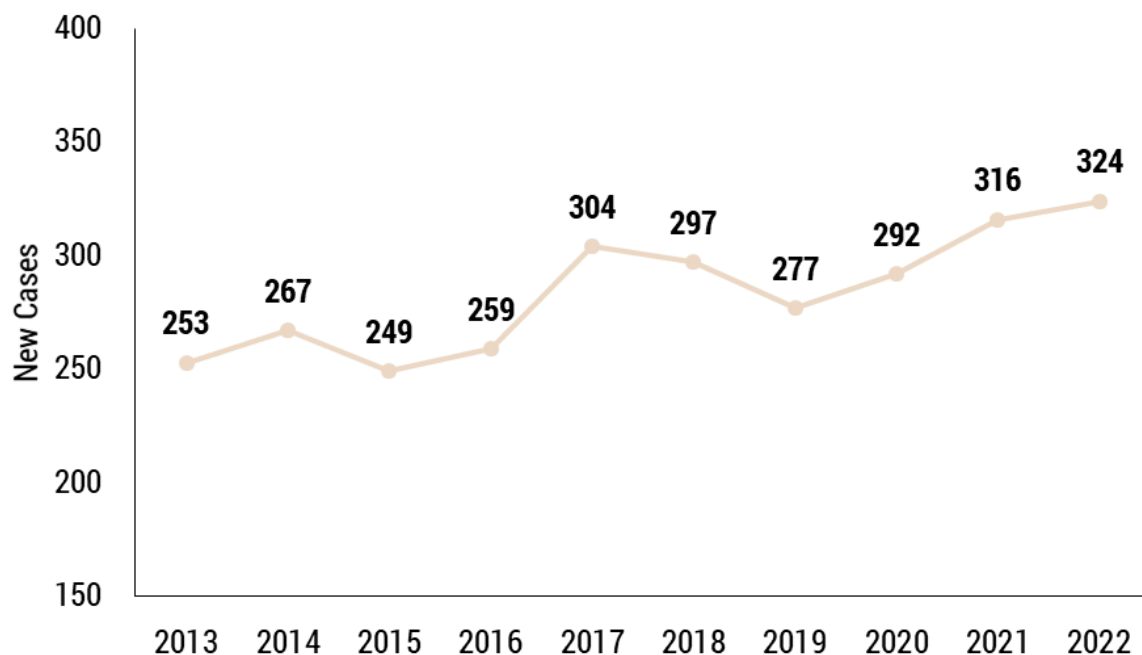
Priority: Chronic Disease



Skin Cancer Cases⁰, Newly Diagnosed by Sex,
Lorain County 2013-2022¹



Female Breast Cancer Cases⁰, Newly Diagnosed,
Lorain County 2013-2022¹



0: Calculations of new cases and incidence included only newly diagnosed invasive cancers (all types) and in-situ bladder cases.

Maternal and Child Health

Women's Health Assessment



As part of Lorain County's efforts in the Ohio Equity Initiative's (OEI) eponymous grant program, Neighborhood Navigators facilitated connections between clients (typically Black women of reproductive age, either mothers already, expecting mothers or those in the interconception period) with needed resources in their communities. When examining OEI efforts in terms of its impact on preterm birth among the served cohort, it was discovered that **Black mothers enrolled in the program, who were served in 2022 and 2023, went on to experience an 83% reduction in preterm birth**, when compared to a non-enrolled cohort of demographically-similar peers in their community. While these findings are preliminary and only weakly statistically significant, they highlight the critical need to sustain and expand these efforts. Continued support for mothers in Lorain County is essential to bridge the gap between the current reality of health inequities and the burden they impose. This support ensures a future where mothers can live healthy, productive lives, and rest assured of their ability to get their children through the perilous first year of life, in which the overwhelming majority of child deaths occur, both in Lorain County and beyond.

Resident Survey on Women's Health

Between Oct. and Nov. 2024, LCPH implemented a survey to gather insight from community members on the state of maternal and child health.

The women's health assessment surveyed women and their partners between ages 18-44, to determine what issues they were facing in the community. Some of the topics explored were: housing affordability and quality, safety of neighborhoods, the ability of respondents to maintain their health through exercise, and accessibility of healthcare services.

What we discovered was that while many respondents did not report significant issues with the above topics, those that did stated housing in Lorain County was a major financial strain, and housing-related issues topped the list of concerns (Figure 1).

Respondents residing in urban zip codes made up the majority of respondents that stated that unstable housing was a concern for them, highlighting the tenuous availability of housing in those areas (Figure 2).

Similarly, of the respondents that stated that access to transportation was a major barrier to making their appointments, urban respondents were overwhelmingly impacted (Figure 3). However, housing is only part of the problem. Of the 390 respondents, 128 (32.8%) stated that they routinely felt down, hopeless, or like they took less pleasure in activities that they once enjoyed. Even among our clients who'd been treated for mental health symptoms, 36 of 180 respondents (20%) stated that they still struggled with their symptoms. This confirms a need for continued investment of resources into maternal and child health, in an effort to support families expecting a baby, or caring for infants.



Maternal and Child Health

Women's Health Assessment



Figure 1: Percentage of Respondents Reporting Areas of Need,
Women's Health Assessment Lorain County Health Resources and Services Administration, 2024

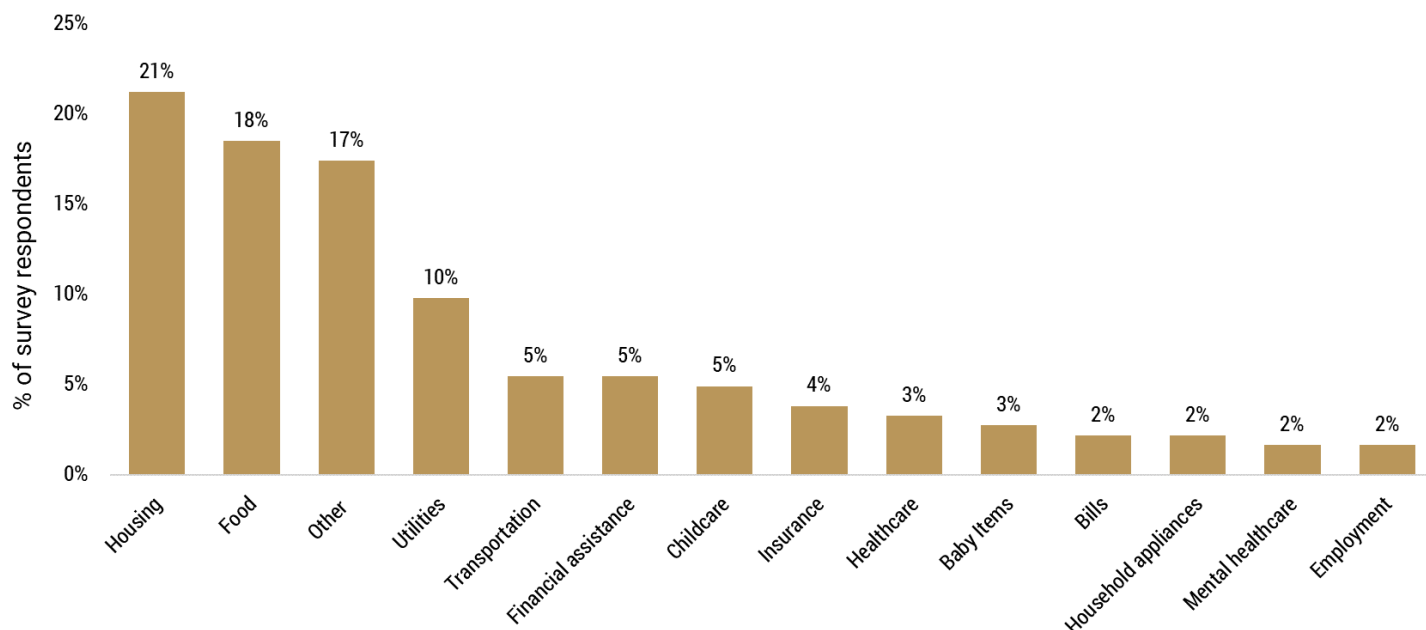
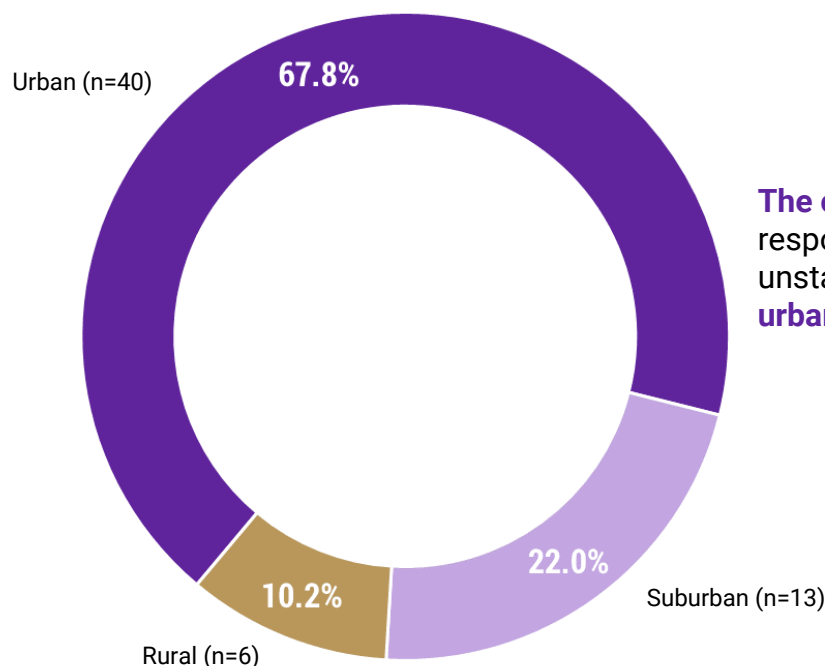


Figure 2: Percentage of Respondents Who Struggle With Maintaining Stable Housing by Zip Code Area,
Women's Health Assessment Lorain County Health Resources and Services Administration, 2024



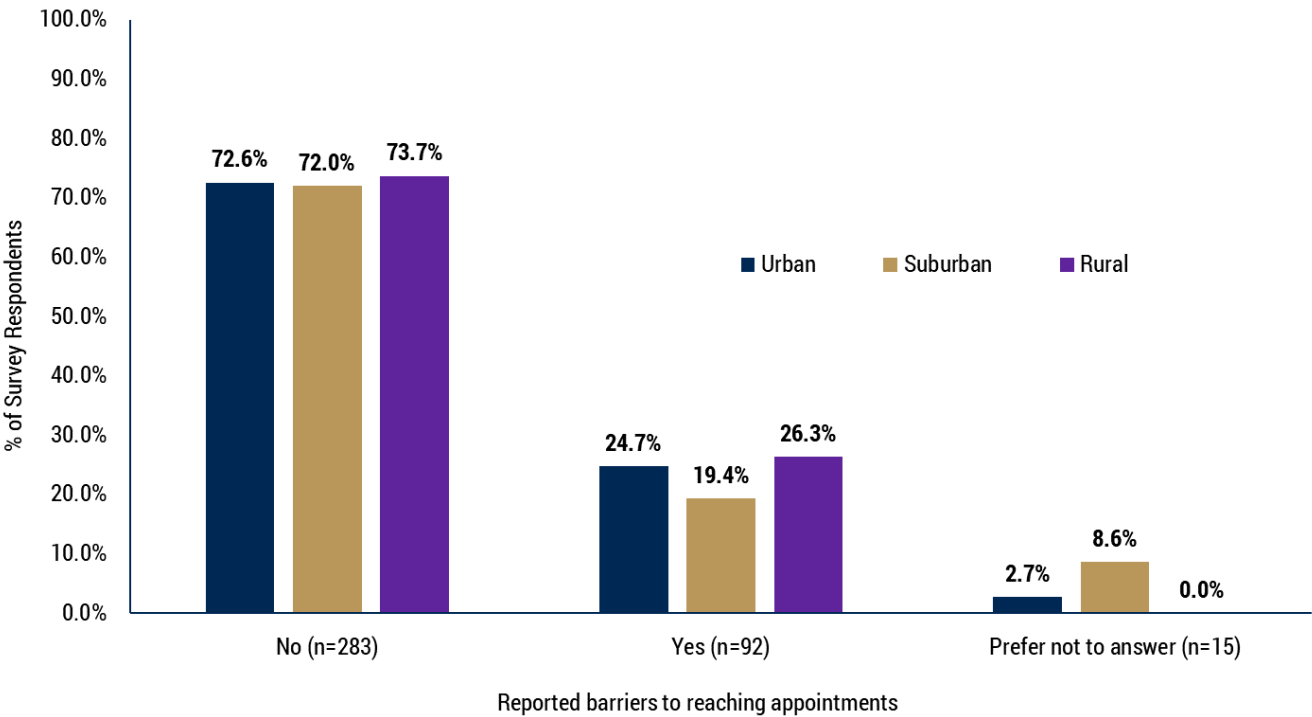
The overwhelming majority of respondents who worry about unstable housing came from **urban zip codes**.

Maternal and Child Health

Women's Health Assessment

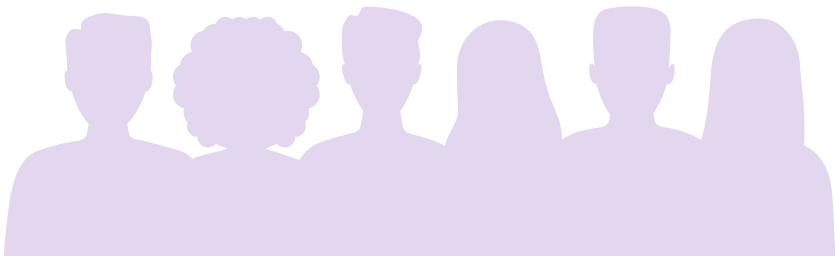


Figure 3: Percentage of Respondents Who Experience Barriers to Reaching Appointments,
Women's Health Assessment Lorain County Health Resources and Services Administration, 2024



"Access is a big issue. We lost the birthing center in Elyria, and now moms have to travel out of the city to give birth. That's crazy."

"Single parents working two jobs, trying to survive. They don't have time to navigate five different agencies for help."



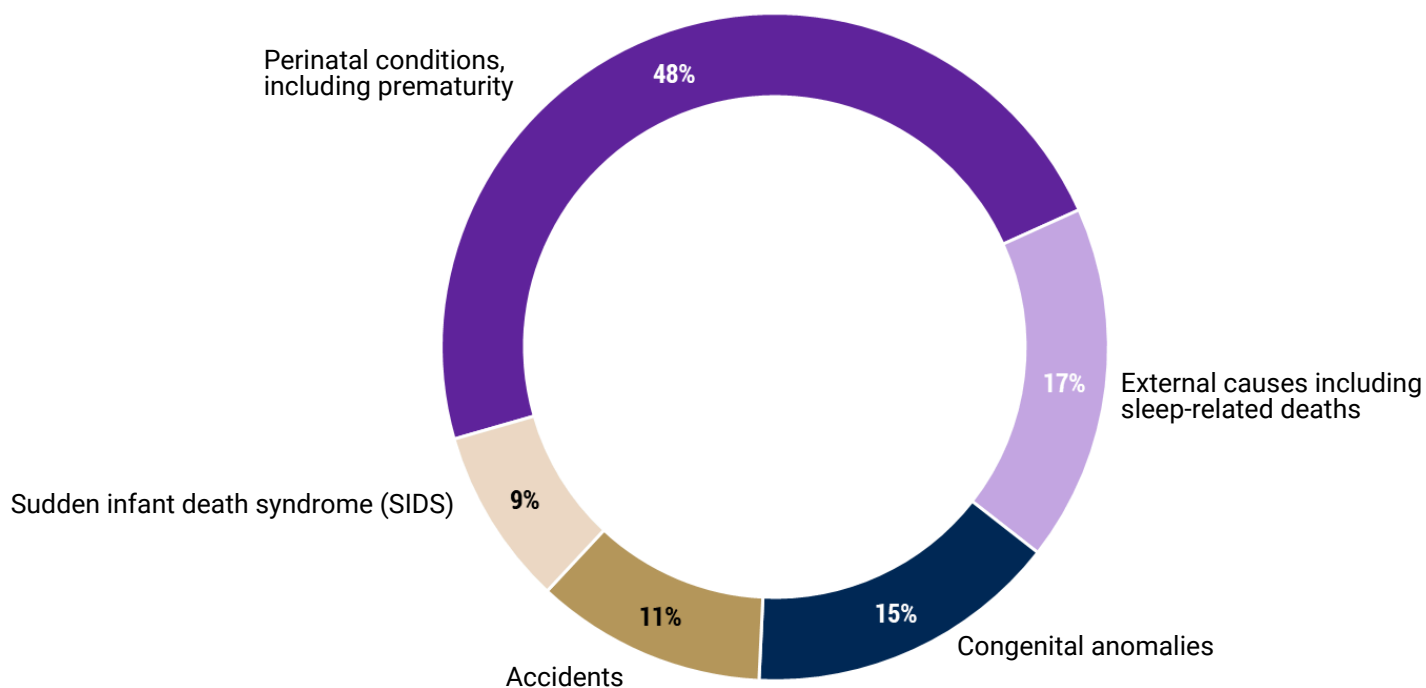
Lorain County Stakeholder

Maternal and Child Health



Infant mortality is when an infant dies before their first birthday; this is a significant indicator of overall health of a community. Definitions for fetal death, fetal mortality rate (FMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) can be found in Appendix II.

**Causes of Infant Death,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**

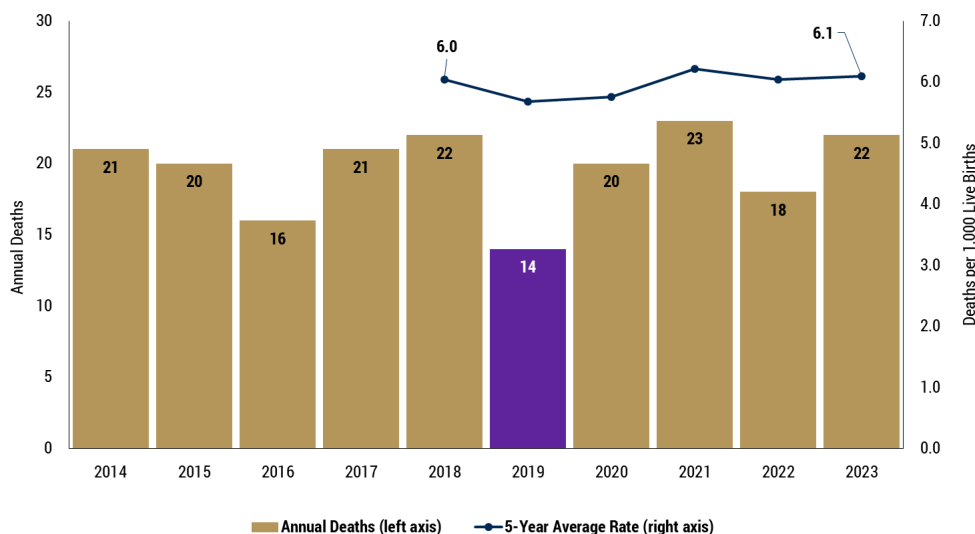


Infant Mortality

Priority: Maternal and Child Health

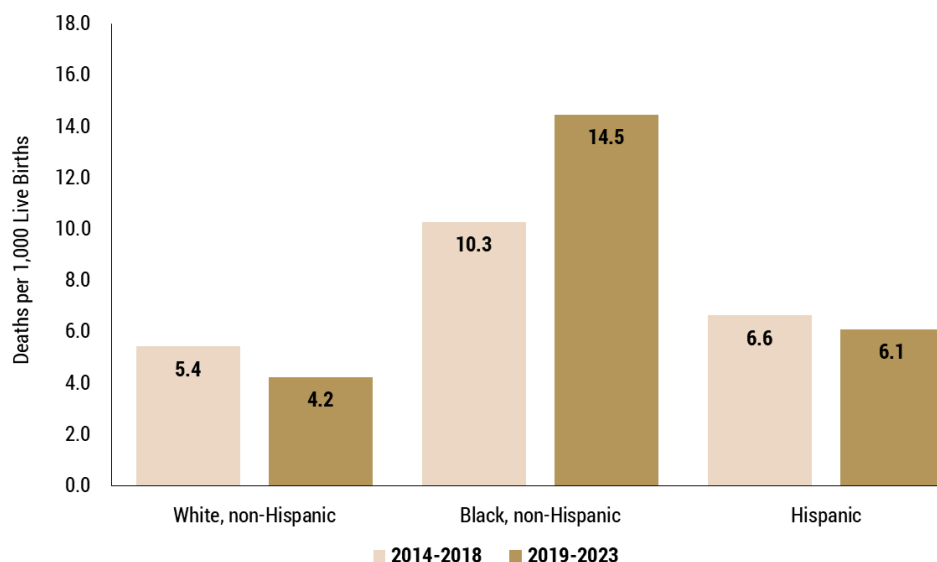


**Infant Mortality Rate, Annual and 5-Year Average,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



2019 was the year with the **fewest infant deaths** in a decade.

**Infant Mortality Rate by Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



The infant mortality rate for people who are **Black, non-Hispanic** from 2019-2023 **is the highest of any group or time period.**

Ohio's Black, non-Hispanic infant mortality rate was 13.2 deaths per 1,000 live births from 2020-2022.⁴

N/A = Rates for categories with < 10 observations are not calculated

* = Rates calculated with < 20 observations should be interpreted with caution

Fetal Death

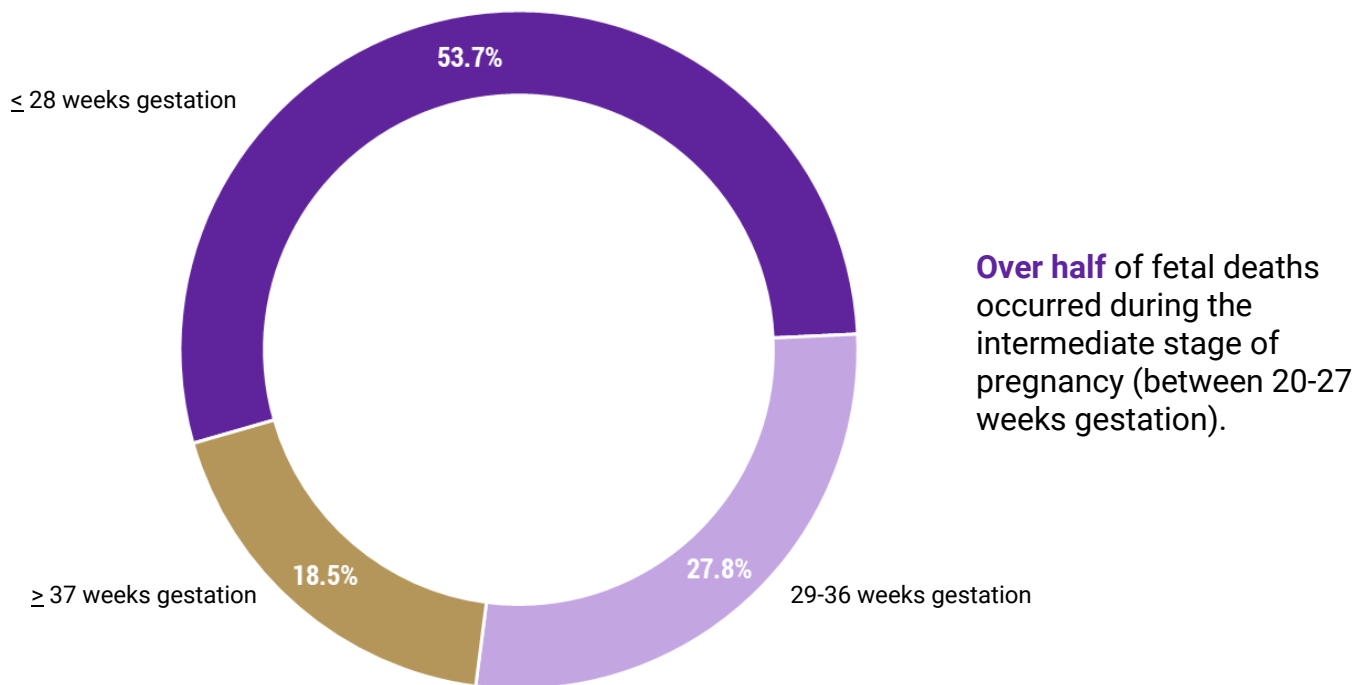
Priority: Maternal and Child Health

While the fetal mortality rate (FMR) for Lorain County as a whole remains steady, there is a disparity in FMR between non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black babies.

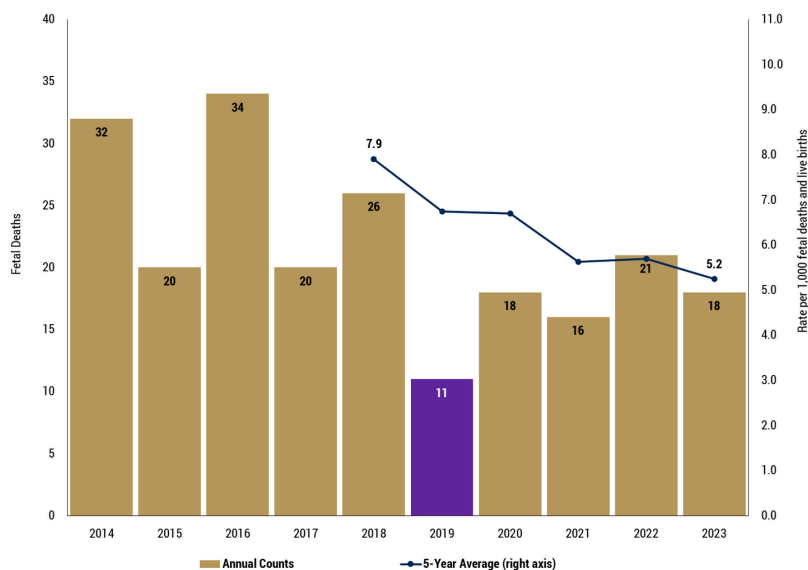


According to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the fetal death gestational age for which reporting is mandatory in Ohio is 20 or more completed weeks. The fetal mortality rate (FMR) is defined as the number of fetal deaths at 20 weeks gestation or more per 1,000 fetal deaths and live births.

**Fetal Deaths by Gestational Period,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



**5-Year Fetal Mortality Rate (FMR) and Annual Counts,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



N/A = Rates for categories with < 10 observations are not calculated

* = Rates calculated with < 20 observations should be interpreted with caution

The 5-year fetal mortality rate (FMR) for Lorain County was 5.2 in 2023 and has continued to **decrease since 2018**.

The county rate is **higher** than the provisional 2022 Ohio rate of 5.8.³

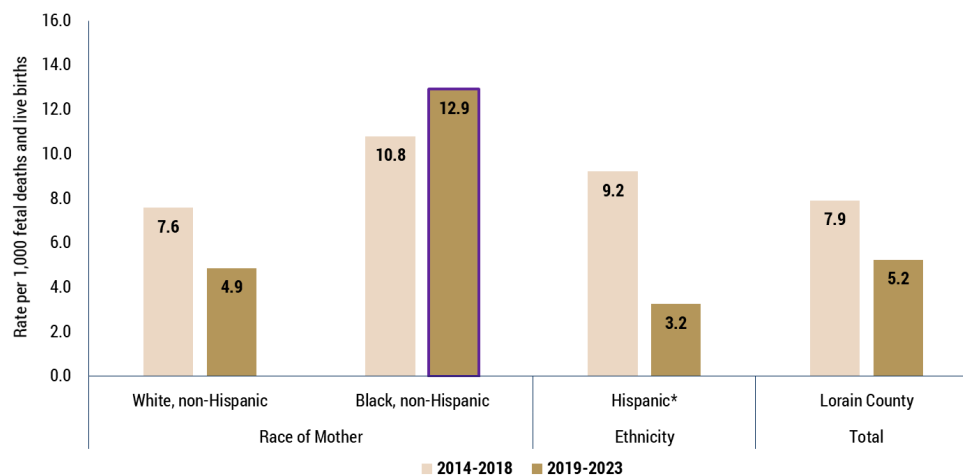
In 2023, 18 fetal deaths occurred among pregnant women in Lorain County.

Fetal Death

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



**Fetal Death Rate by Ethnic Group,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**

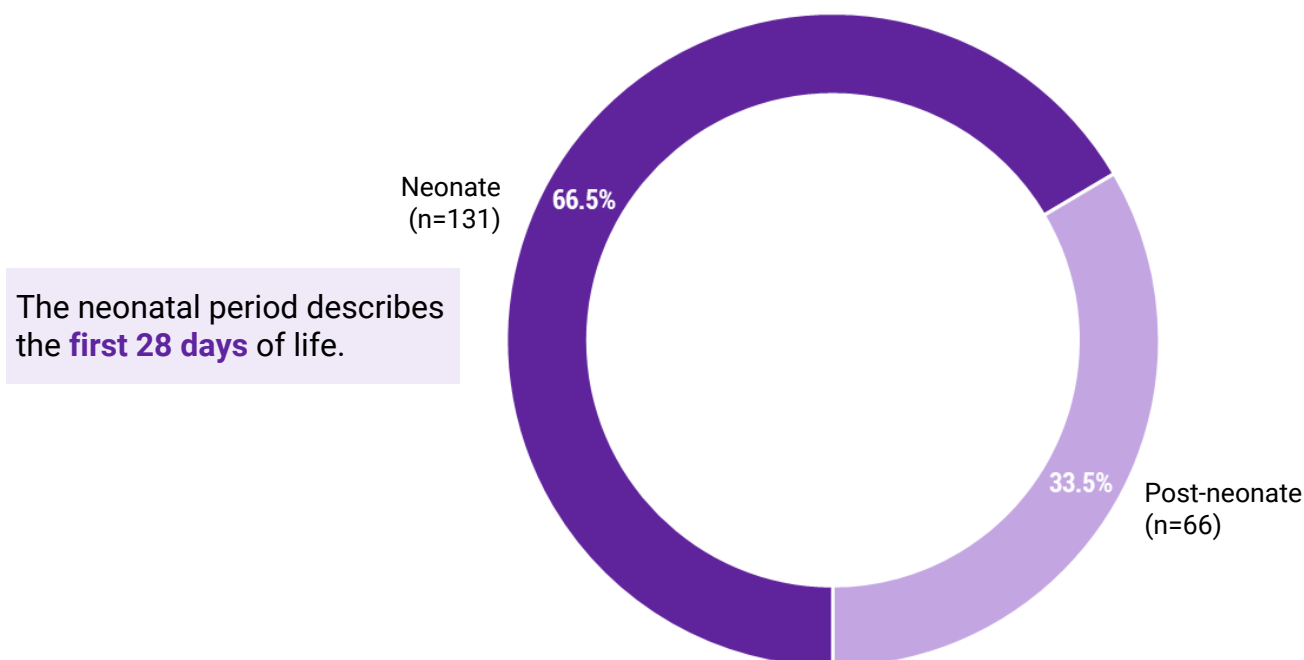


The fetal mortality rate (FMR) for Black, non-Hispanic is **nearly 3x higher** than the White, non-Hispanic FMR, with the difference increasing significantly from 2014-2018 into 2019-2023.

This same disparity is also demonstrated throughout the state of Ohio.³

*The counts of Hispanic fetal deaths ranged from 0-8 per year under study, and thus the rate should be interpreted with caution.

**Infant Deaths by Age at Time of Death,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**



The neonatal period describes the **first 28 days** of life.

N/A = Rates for categories with < 10 observations are not calculated

* = Rates calculated with < 20 observations should be interpreted with caution

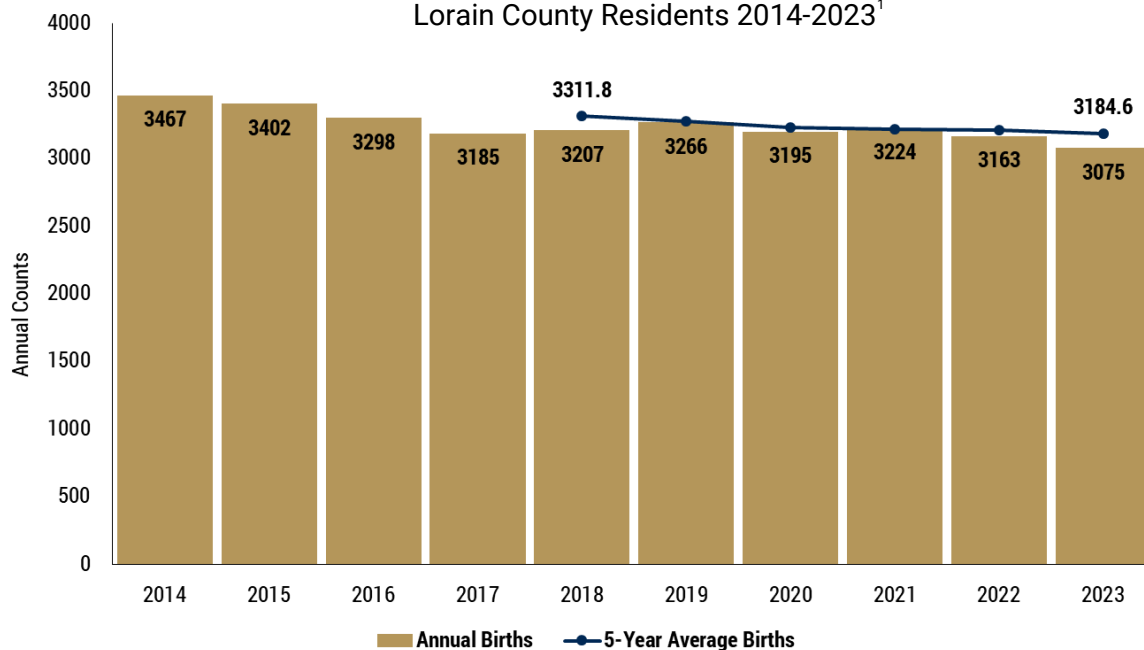
Live Births

Priority: Maternal and Child Health

This section presents data on Lorain County live births. Birth certificate data can provide information on a variety of maternal and infant characteristics relevant to public health surveillance.

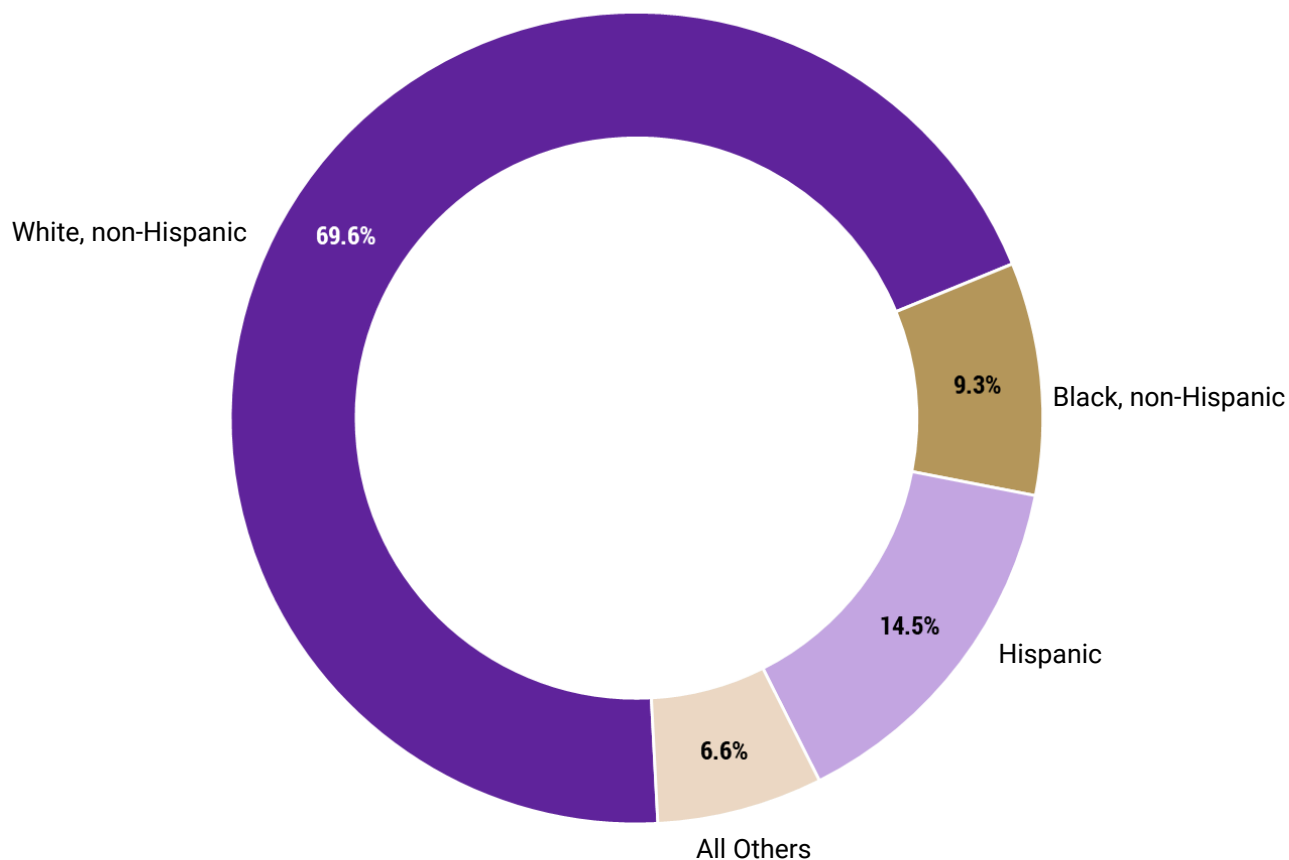


Live Births,
Lorain County Residents 2014-2023¹



The number of live births per year have consistently **decreased** since 2014.

Live Births by Race, Ethnicity of Mother,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹



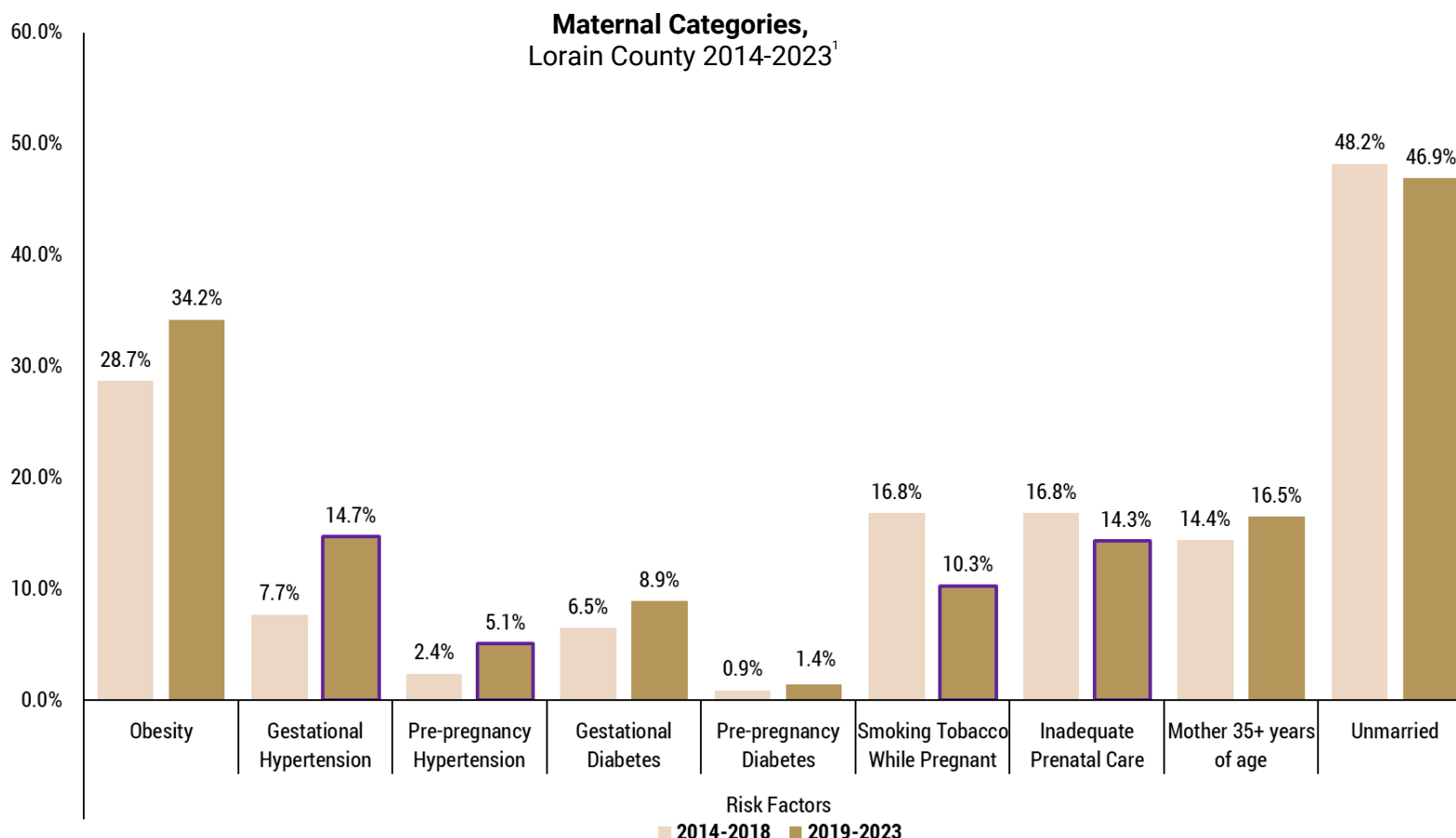
Live Births

Priority: Maternal and Child Health

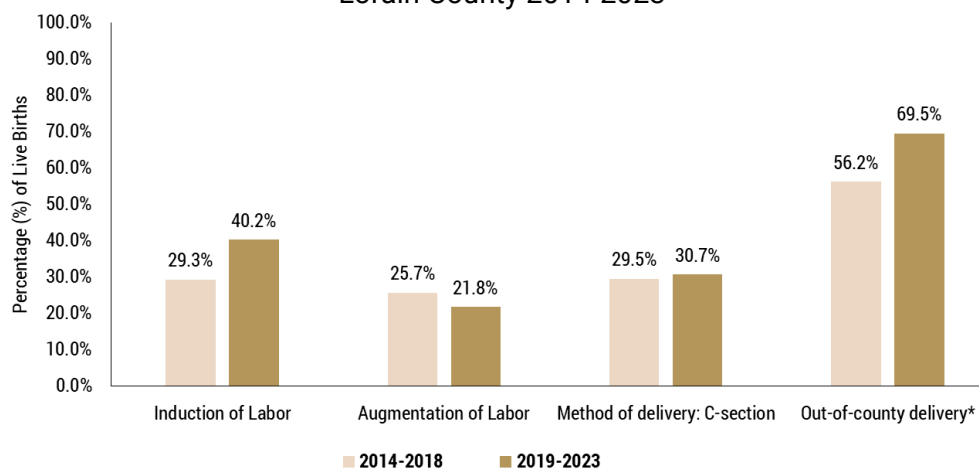


Since 2014-2018, smoking during pregnancy **decreased 39%**. However:

- ↑ Pre-pregnancy hypertension **more than doubled**.
- ↕ Gestational hypertension **increased 91%**.
- ↓ The percentage of women who received inadequate prenatal care **decreased 15%**.



Conditions of Labor and Delivery, Lorain County 2014-2023



*The UH Elyria birthing center closed October 2020.

The percentage of induced labors resulting in **preterm births increased** from 16.2% in 2014-2018 to 27.8% in 2019-2023.

β - Based on the Kotelchuck Index which uses factors such as when prenatal care began and the number of prenatal visits from when prenatal care began until delivery.

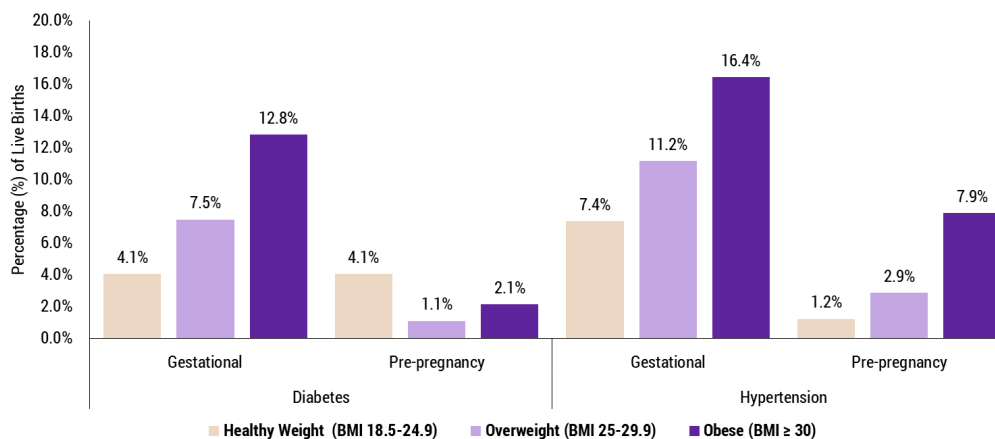
Live Births

Priority: Maternal and Child Health

Risk Factors

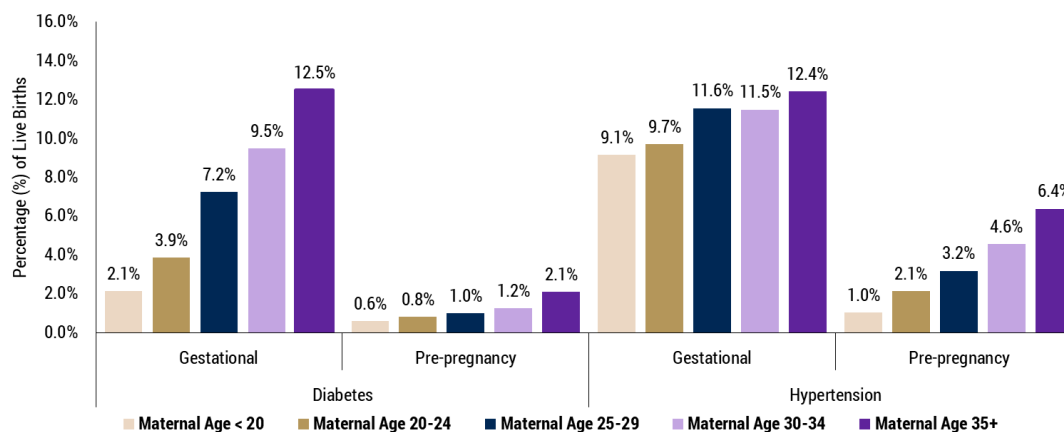


Diabetes and Hypertension Among Women with a Live Birth by Maternal Body Mass Index (BMI)
Lorain County Residents 2014-2023 ¹



The prevalence of pre-pregnancy hypertension is **6.6 times higher** among women in the obese BMI category than those in the healthy weight BMI category.

Diabetes and Hypertension Among Women with a Live Birth by Maternal Age
Lorain County Residents 2014-2023 ¹



The prevalence of diabetes **increases** along with the live birth age of women.

This is especially true for gestational diabetes.

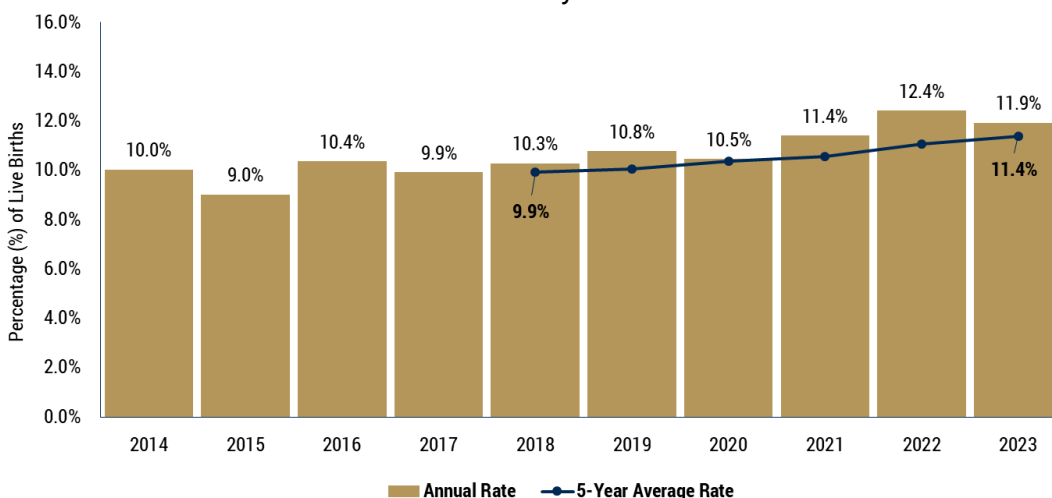
The prevalence pre-pregnancy hypertension is **6.4 times higher** among women who are 35+ years of age, compared to those who are younger than 20.

Preterm Birth

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



**Preterm Birth Rates, Annual and 5-Year Average,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**

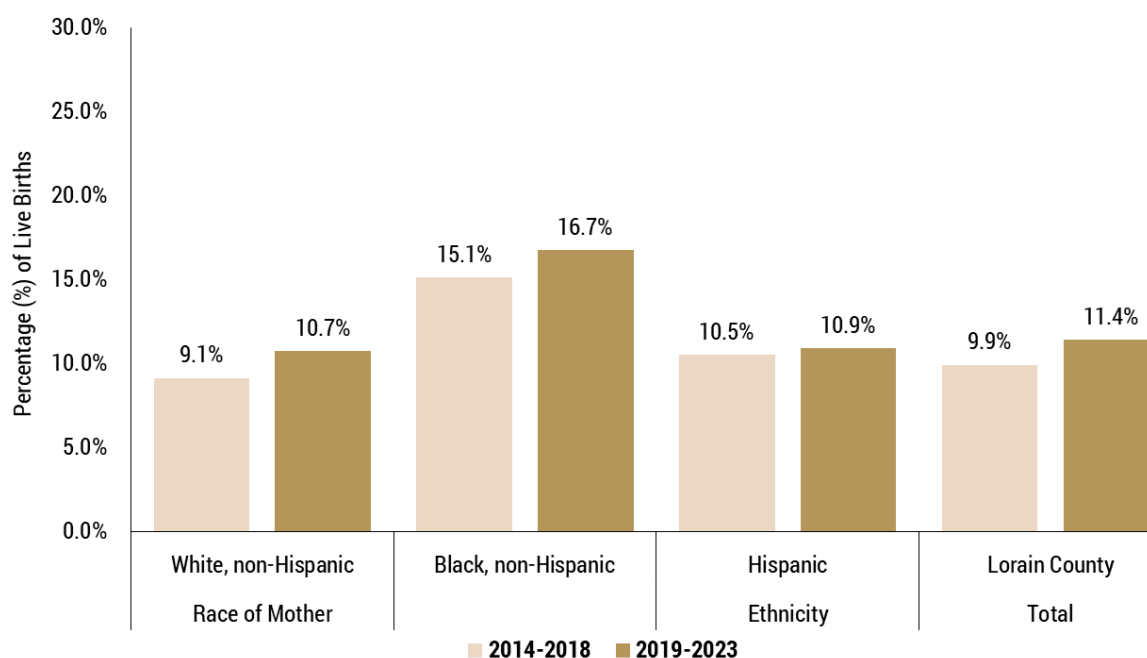


More than **one in every 10** births in Lorain County is preterm.

The preterm birth rate in Lorain County has been **rising** steadily since 2014.

Ohio's preterm birth rate was 10.8 in 2022.²

**Preterm Birth Rates, 5-Year Rate by Race and Ethnicity,
Lorain County 2014-2023¹**

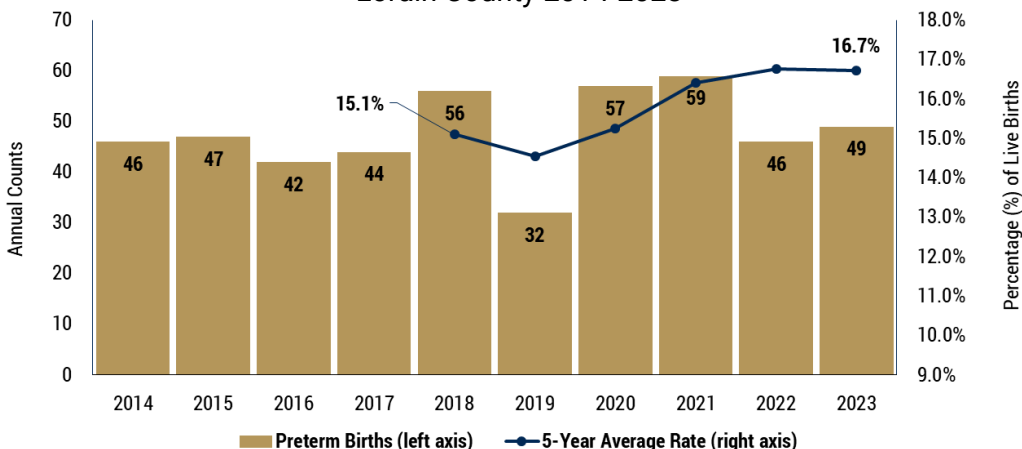


Preterm Birth

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



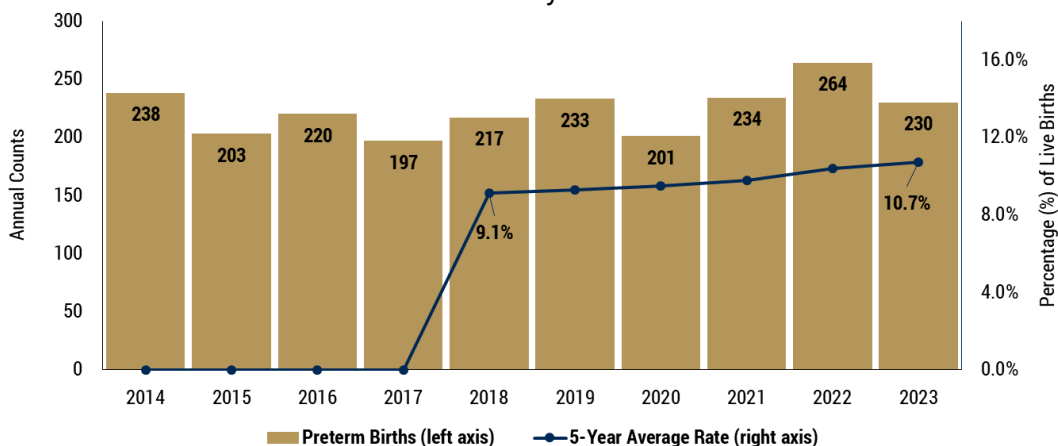
5-Year Preterm Birth Rate and Annual Counts for Black, Non-Hispanic, Lorain County 2014-2023¹



The preterm birth rate for people who are Black, non-Hispanic was at its highest 5-year value of 16.7% from 2019-2023.

Ohio's Black, non-Hispanic preterm birth rate was 14.7% from 2021-2023.⁴

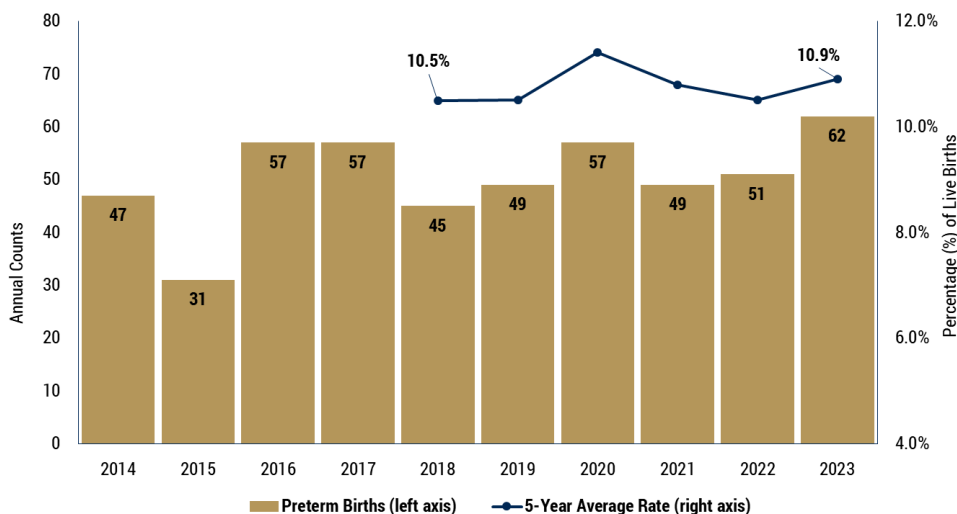
5-Year Preterm Birth Rate and Annual Counts for White, Non-Hispanic, Lorain County 2014-2023¹



The preterm birth rate for people who are White, non-Hispanic was at its highest 5-year value of 10.7% from 2019-2023.

Ohio's White, non-Hispanic preterm birth rate was 14.7% from 2021-2023.⁴

5-Year Preterm Birth Rate and Annual Counts for Hispanic, Lorain County 2014-2023¹



The preterm birth rate for people who are Hispanic was at its highest 5-year value of 10.9% from 2019-2023.

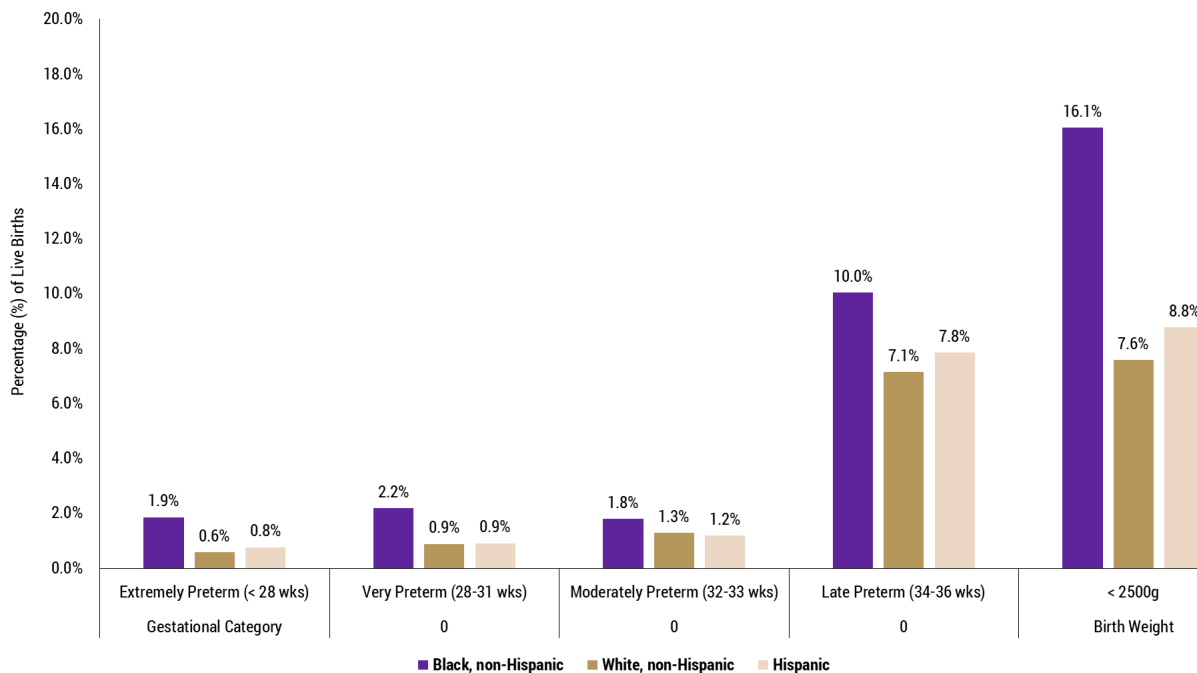
Ohio's Hispanic preterm birth rate was 10.3% from 2021-2023.⁴

Preterm Birth

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



Low Birth Weight and Preterm Birth Rates by Gestational Category and Ethnicity of Mother, Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Low birthweight births occur at **more than double the rate** for people who are Black, non-Hispanic than they for White, non-Hispanic births.

"Bring the birthing center back. You shouldn't have to leave your city to deliver your baby. That's basic. That's safety."

"Without prenatal care close by, moms and babies are at risk. It makes people second guess starting or growing their family."



Lorain County Stakeholder

Preterm Birth

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



What factors increase a woman's risk for preterm birth?

Mothers who had adequate prenatal care had a 70% reduced risk for preterm birth, as compared to women who receive inadequate or intermediate prenatal care. Prenatal care is a significant factor in predicting the risk for preterm birth.

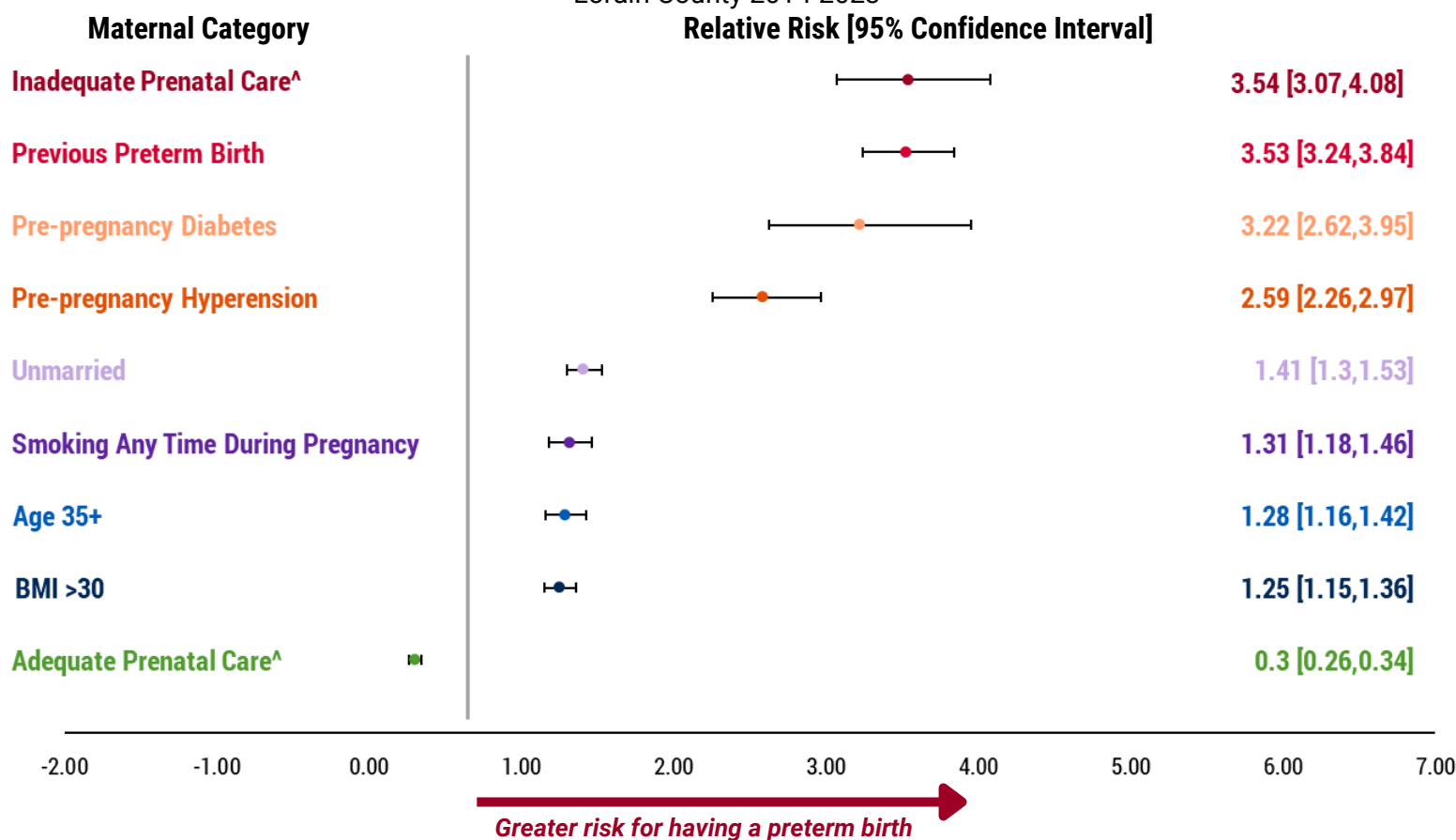
The risk for preterm birth was 3.5 times higher among women who have a history of preterm birth, as compared to women without those underlying conditions.

The risk of preterm birth was more than twice as high for women with pre-pregnancy diabetes (3.2 times) or pre-pregnancy hypertension (2.6 times) compared with those without these conditions.

Additional maternal factors that are associated with a greater risk for preterm birth:

- Age 35+
- BMI >30
- Being unmarried (fewer access to resources needed to ensure healthy delivery)
- Inadequate prenatal care
- Previous preterm birth
- Pre-pregnancy diabetes
- Pre-pregnancy hypertension
- Smoking any time during pregnancy

Relative Risk of Preterm Birth (Single Birth Deliveries Only) According to Maternal Risk Category, Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Risk Ratio >1 = Greater risk association between maternal category and preterm birth

Risk Ratio <1 = Protective category for decreased risk of preterm birth

Kindergarten readiness

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



At the start of each school year, children in public and community school kindergarten programs are assessed using Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). The assessment results guide teachers to align instruction with student skills and the kindergarten standards.



The KRA contains 50 items. This formative assessment is completed by the student by answering questions and demonstrating skills observed by the teacher as part of the regular school-day activities and instruction. KRA score categories, include:

- **Demonstrating Readiness:** describes students who received an overall score between 270 and 298. These children demonstrated foundational skills and behaviors that prepare them for instruction based on Ohio's kindergarten standards.
- **Approaching Readiness:** describes students who received an overall score between 258 and 269. These children demonstrated some of the foundational skills and behaviors that prepare them for instruction based on Ohio's kindergarten standards.
- **Emerging Readiness:** describes students who received an overall score between 202 and 257. These children demonstrated minimal skills and behaviors that prepare them for instruction based on Ohio's kindergarten standards.



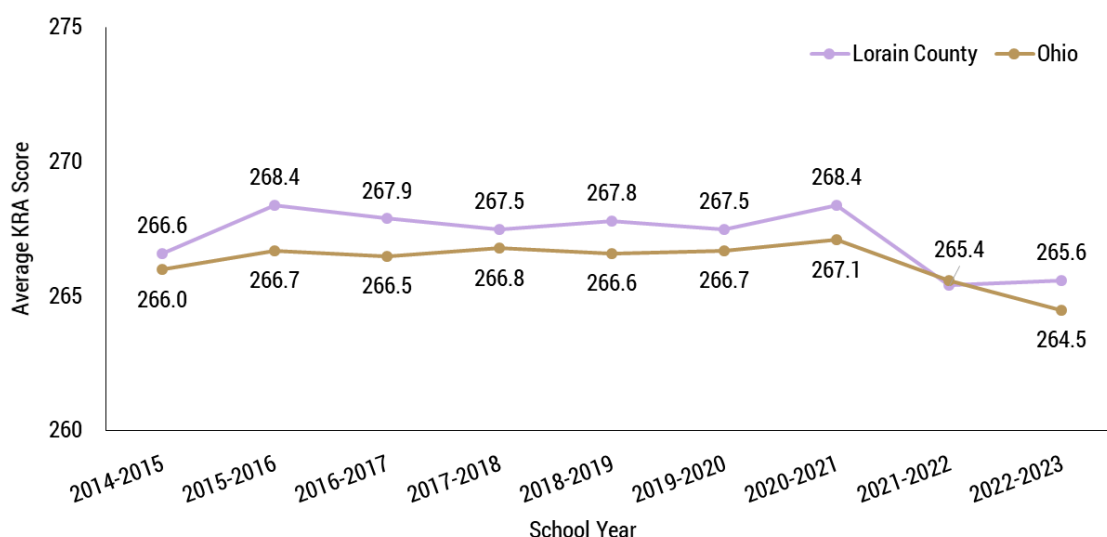
Kindergarten readiness

Priority: Maternal and Child Health



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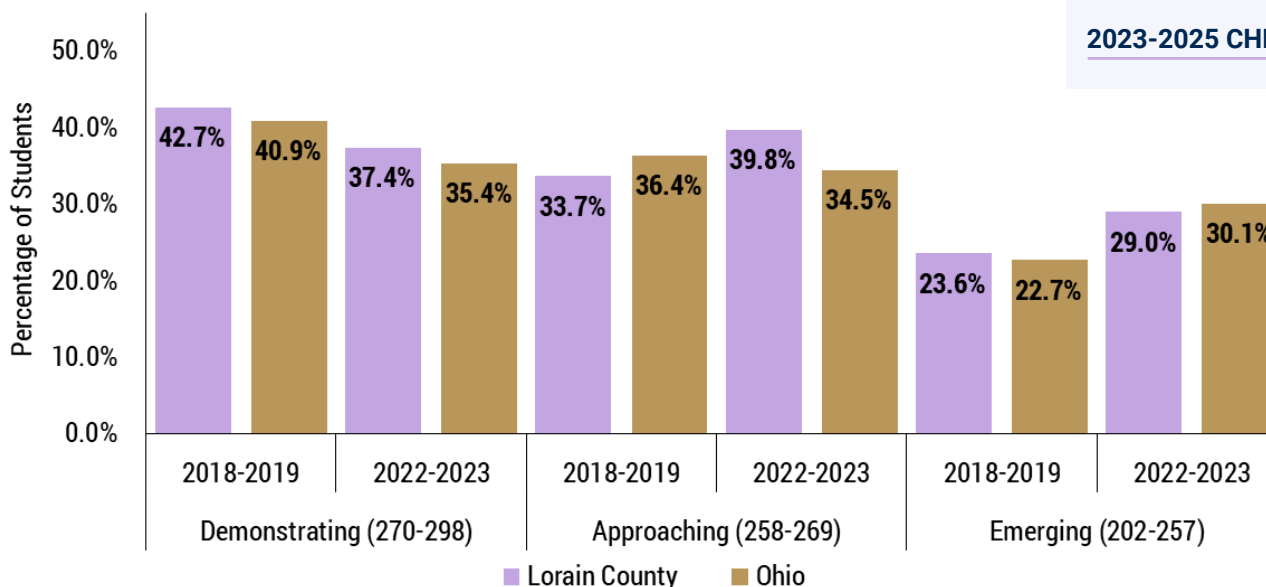
**Average in Overall Kindergarten Readiness,
Lorain County and Ohio 2014-2024¹**



The average KRA score of Lorain County students has slightly increased since the 2016-2017 school year.

Lorain County students have higher KRA scores compared to the state average.

**Students by Readiness Category,
Lorain County and Ohio 2018-2023¹**



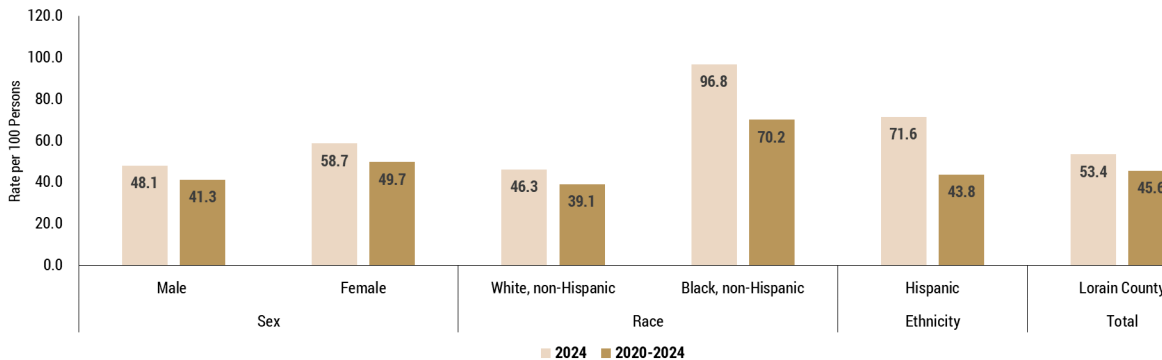
2023-2025 CHIP Goal



Emergency Department Visits

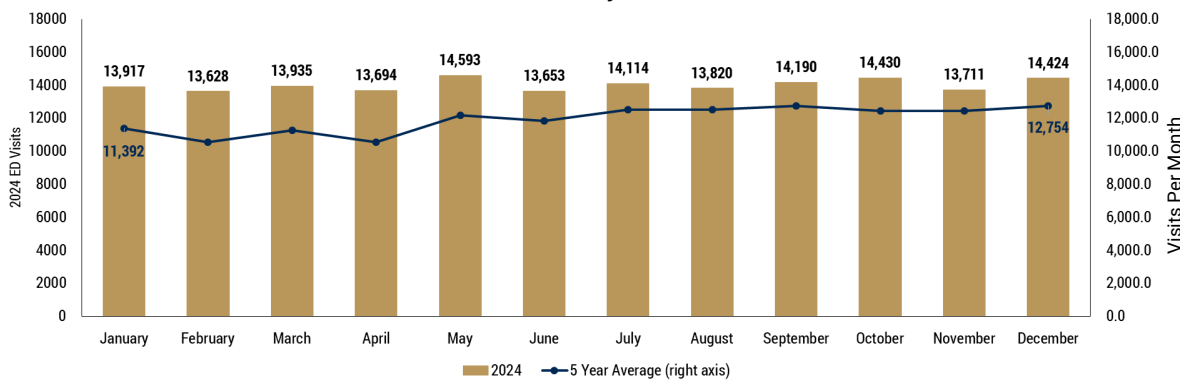


Emergency Department (ED) Visit Rates by Sex, Race and Ethnicity
Lorain County, 2020-2024²



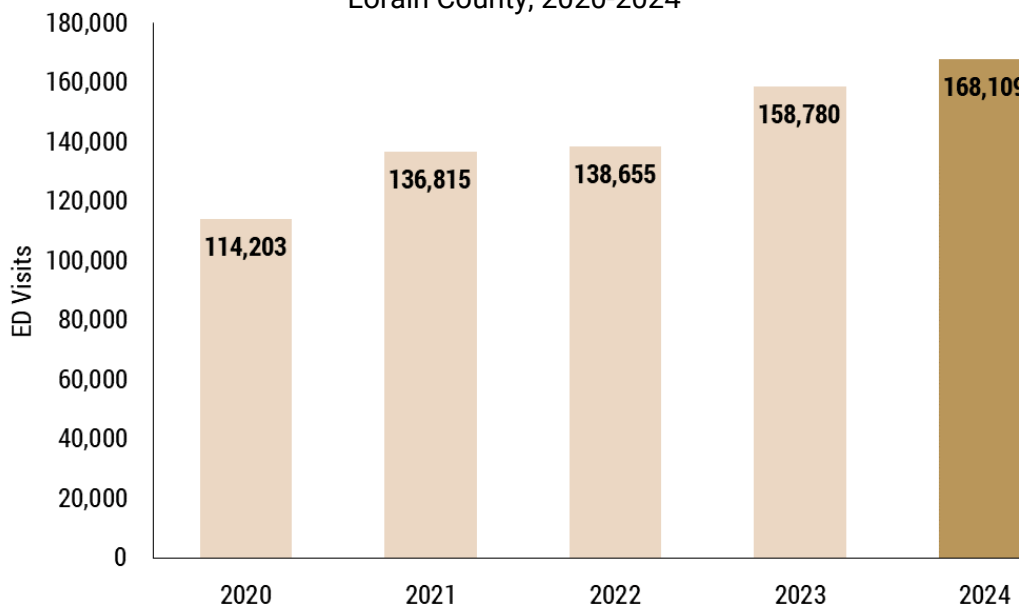
In 2024, ED visit rate was **highest for people who are Black, non-Hispanic** and experienced a rate **2 times higher** than people who are White, non-Hispanic. For every 100 Black, non-Hispanic person, 96.8 visited the ED.

Emergency Department (ED) Visits Rates and 5-Year Average,
Lorain County, 2024²



In 2024, the total emergency department visits were **higher** than the 5 year average for every month. The month of May had the highest number of visits followed closely by October and December.

Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Year
Lorain County, 2020-2024²



From 2020 to 2024, ED visits **increased** by 47.2%.

Emergency Department Visits



From 2020 to 2024, the emergency department (ED) visit rate for Lorain County residents was 46 visits per 100 people. This is slightly lower than the national ED visit rate of 47 visits per 100 people in 2022. The highest visit rate in Lorain County occurred in 2024, reaching 54 visits per 100 people.

There were 716,562 ED total visits in Lorain County from 2020 to 2024. For 441,801 (61.7%) of these visits, the reason for the visit was recorded. The top five reasons for these recorded visits accounted for 16.3% of the total.

Top 5 Reasons for Emergency Department Visits, Lorain County, 2020-2024	Number of Visits	Percentage of Visits with Discharge ICD 10 Coding*
Chest Pain	16,159	3.7%
Nausea with Vomiting	14,922	3.4%
Fall	14,418	3.3%
Abdominal Pain	14,360	3.3%
Injury of the Head	12,355	2.8%
Total	72,214	16.3%

*International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10 codes are used at discharge to explain the reason for the emergency department (ED) visit, they are alphanumeric codes that classify diseases, symptoms and procedures.

Methods: Emergency department visits were extracted from the EpiCenter Health Monitoring Surveillance System for Lorain County residents. The top 5 reasons for visits were extracted using the following discharge ICD-10 codes:

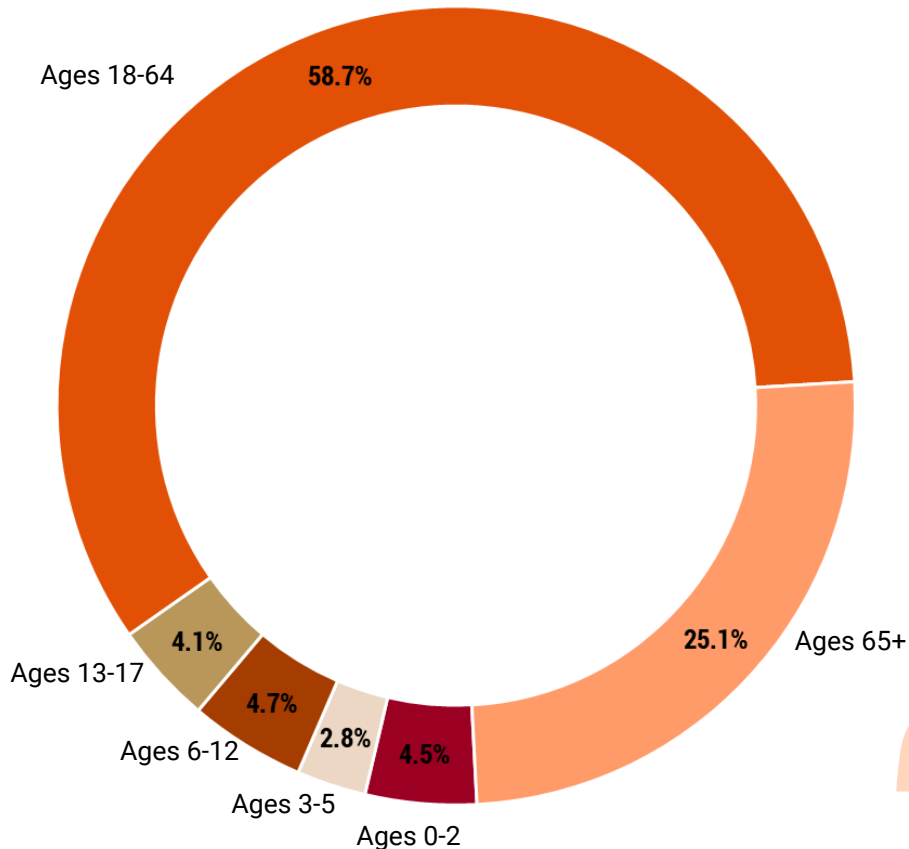
- S099: Unspecified Injury of the Head
- R079: Unspecified Chest Pain
- R112: Nausea with Vomiting
- W19: Unspecified Fall
- R109: Unspecified Abdominal Pain

Rates were calculated using the US Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for 2019-2023.

Emergency Department Visits

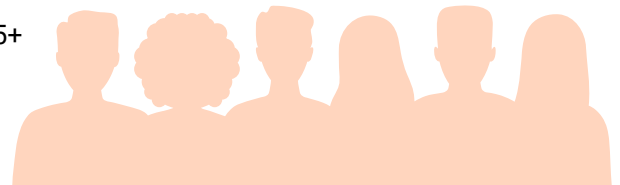


Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Age
Lorain County, 2020-2024²



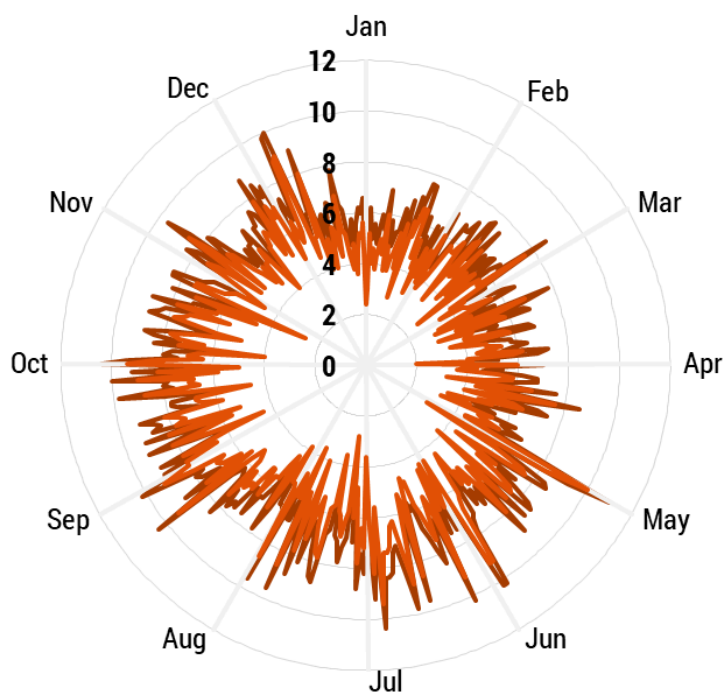
People ages 18-64 accounted for the highest percentage of ED visits followed by adults ages 65+.

"People wait hours at the ED or avoid going altogether. You shouldn't have to choose between a bill and your health."



Lorain County Stakeholder

5 Year Average for Head Injury-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Month
Lorain County, 2020-2024²



June to September had the most head injury-related ED visits, making up 36.5% of visits.

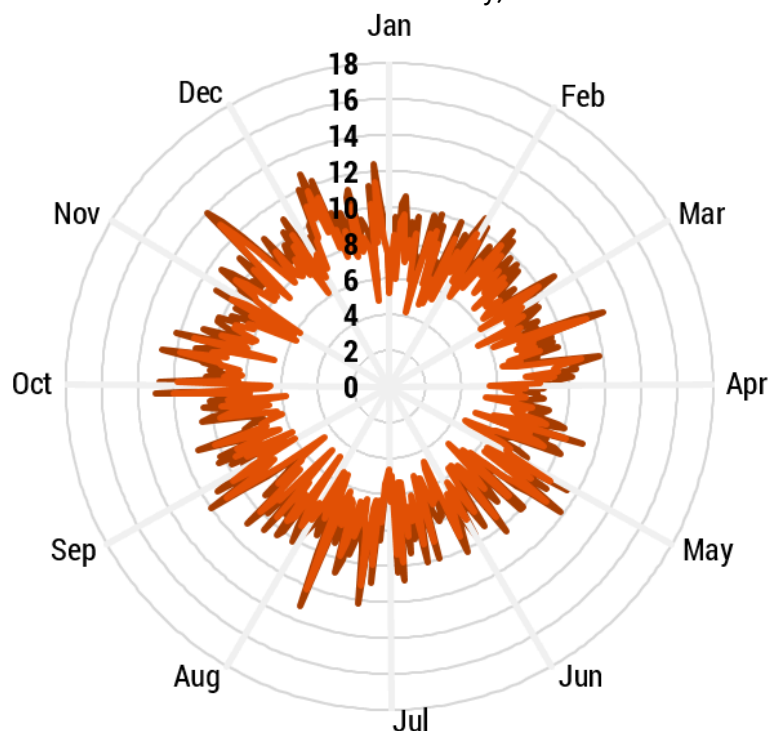
Lorain County resident emergency department visits for unspecified injury of the head (ICD-10 code S099) were extracted from the EpiCenter Health Monitoring Surveillance System.

Emergency Department Visits



5 Year Average for Chest Pain-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Month

Lorain County, 2020-2024²

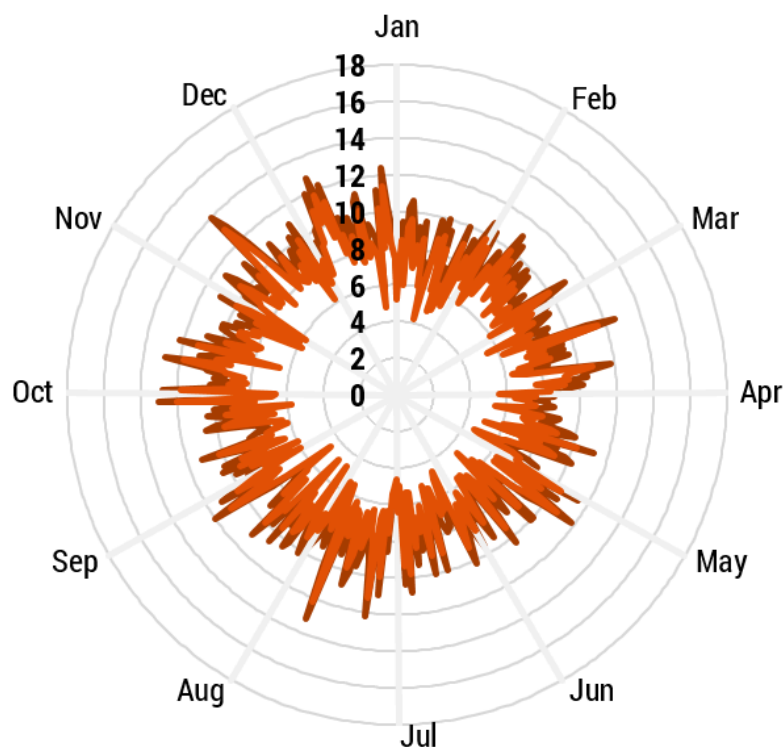


Chest pain was the most common reason for ED visits. October through December had the most chest pain-related ED visits, making up 27.8% of visits.

Lorain County resident emergency department visits for unspecified chest pain (ICD-10 code R079) were extracted from the EpiCenter Health Monitoring Surveillance System.

5 Year Average for Nausea with Vomiting-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Month

Lorain County, 2020-2024²



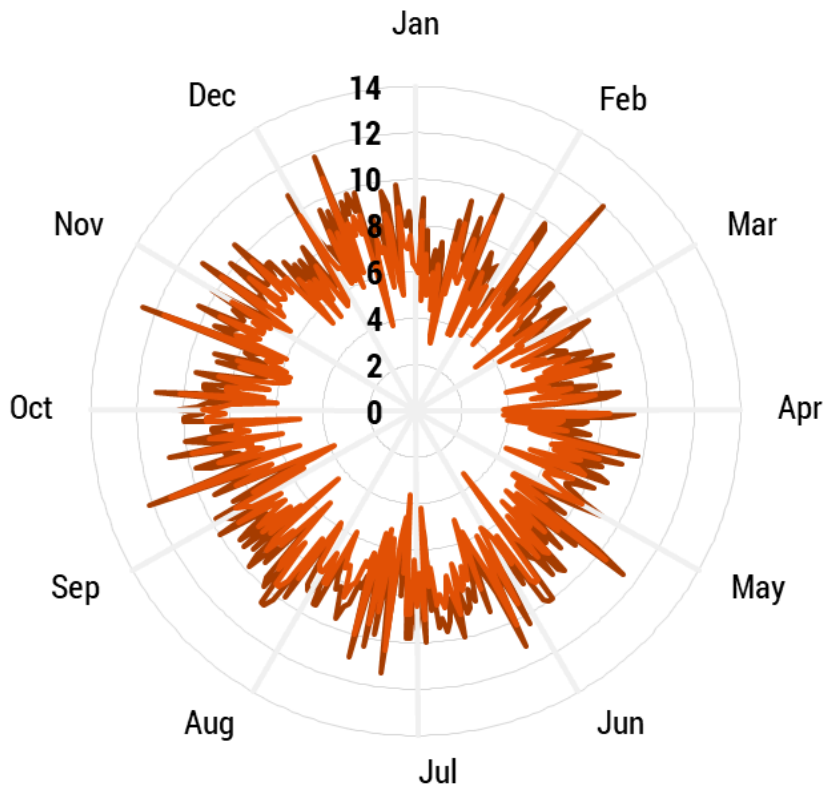
November and December had the most nausea with vomiting-related ED visits, making up 20.2% of visits.

Lorain County resident emergency department visits for nausea with vomiting (ICD-10 code R112) were extracted from the EpiCenter Health Monitoring Surveillance System.

Emergency Department Visits



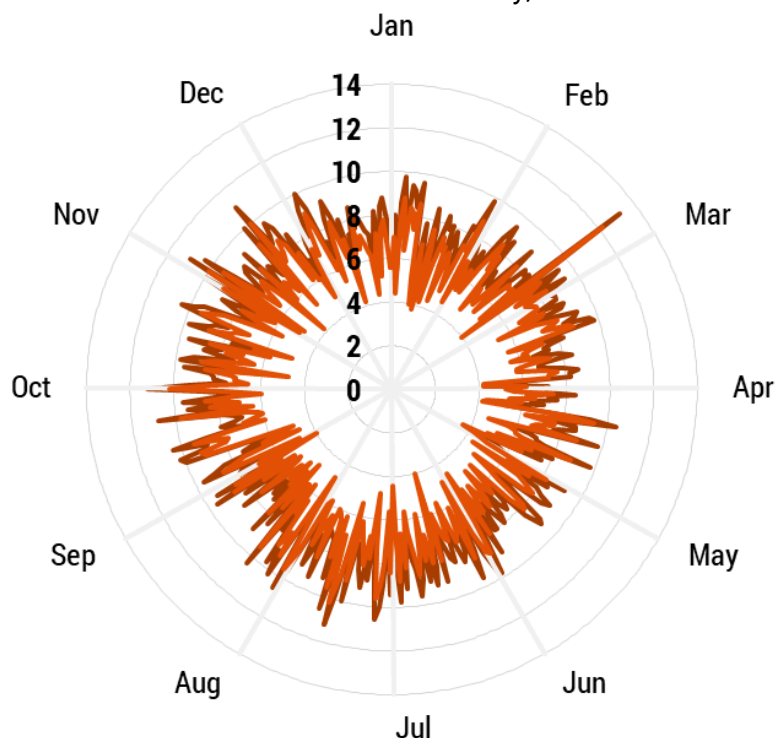
5 Year Average for Falls-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Month Lorain County, 2020-2024²



June to September had the most falls-related ED visits, making up 35.6% of visits.

Lorain County resident emergency department visits for unspecified falls (ICD-10 code W19) were extracted from the EpiCenter Health Monitoring Surveillance System.

5 Year Average for Abdominal-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Month Lorain County, 2020-2024²



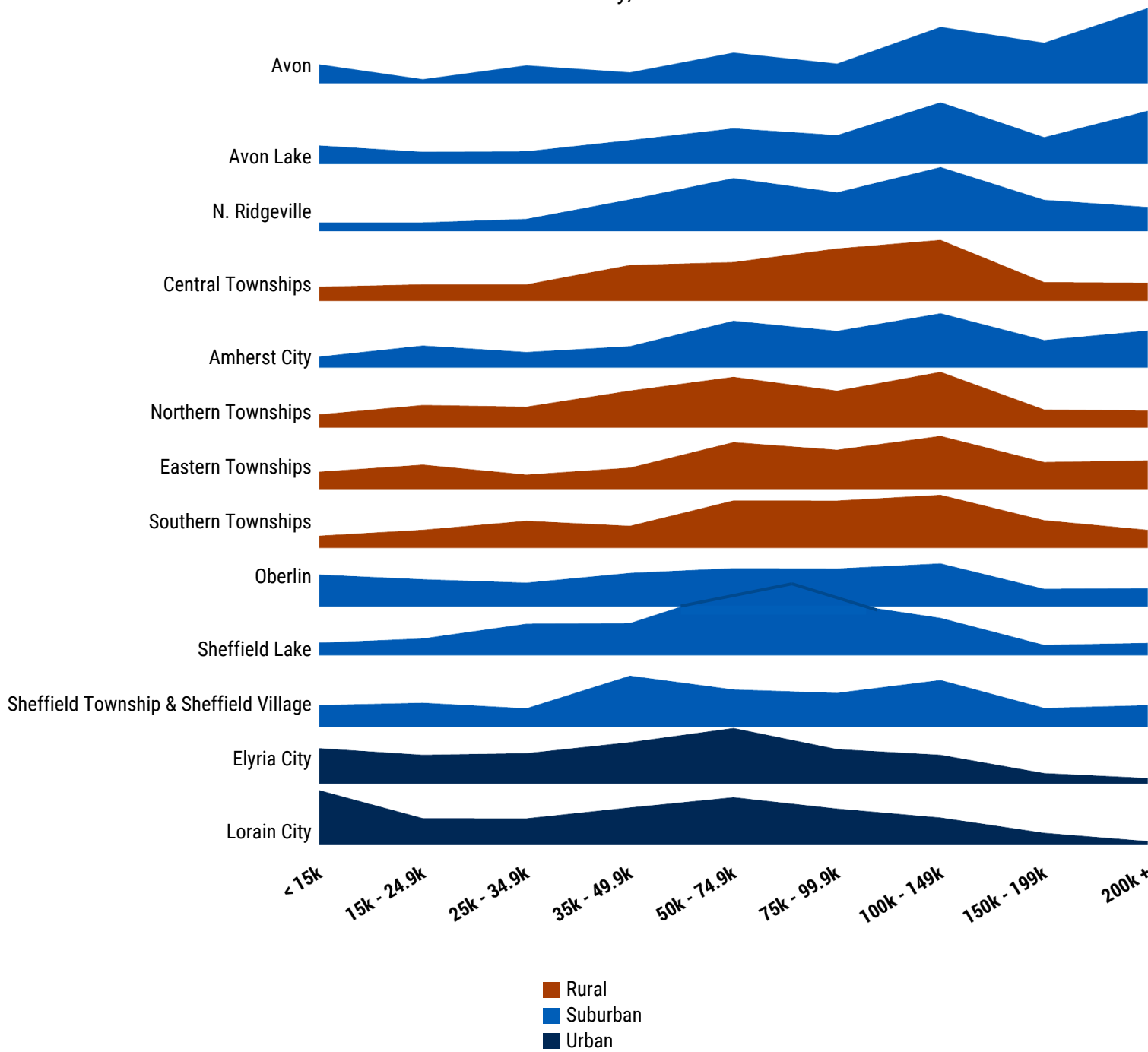
October had the most abdominal pain-related ED visits. Visits from September through December accounted for 34.4% of visits.

Lorain County resident emergency department visits for unspecified abdominal pain (ICD-10 code W109) were extracted from the EpiCenter Health Monitoring Surveillance System.

Lorain County Data



Household Income by Geographic Region, Percent of Households,
Lorain County, 2023³



Lorain County Data



	Percentage of Households			Percentage of Population	Percentage (%) of Population of 5+ Years of Age
	Without an Internet subscription	65+ non-family household, householder living alone	Households with individuals under 18	Families below 185% of Federal Poverty Level*	Non-English language spoken
Lorain County	17.1%	12.9%	28.1%	19.7%	6.7%
Amherst City	13.3%	13.3%	26.8%	10.6%	3.4%
Avon City	5.9%	11.8%	41.5%	6.3%	6.5%
Avon Lake	9.9%	14.8%	30.5%	7.9%	5.9%
Central Townships	16.0%	10.9%	22.9%	12.6%	2.2%
Eastern Townships	15.2%	16.9%	23.1%	9.4%	2.2%
Elyria City	16.6%	14.1%	25.8%	33.9%	4.9%
Lorain City	12.3%	13.2%	29.6%	37.2%	14.6%
North Ridgeville	7.7%	12.6%	28.8%	11.8%	4.8%
Northern Townships	18.1%	12.7%	21.6%	12.0%	1.7%
Oberlin	16.7%	18.4%	20.8%	16.0%	11.4%
Sheffield Lake	9.8%	11.1%	25.7%	11.2%	4.9%
Sheffield Township & Sheffield Village	20.0%	12.3%	25.2%	21.9%	6.6%
Southern Townships	15.2%	14.6%	27.6%	11.1%	1.5%

American Community Survey (ACS; 2021 5-year estimates) were used for all measures except "Non-English Language Spoken." For this, 2020 Decennial Survey data was used.

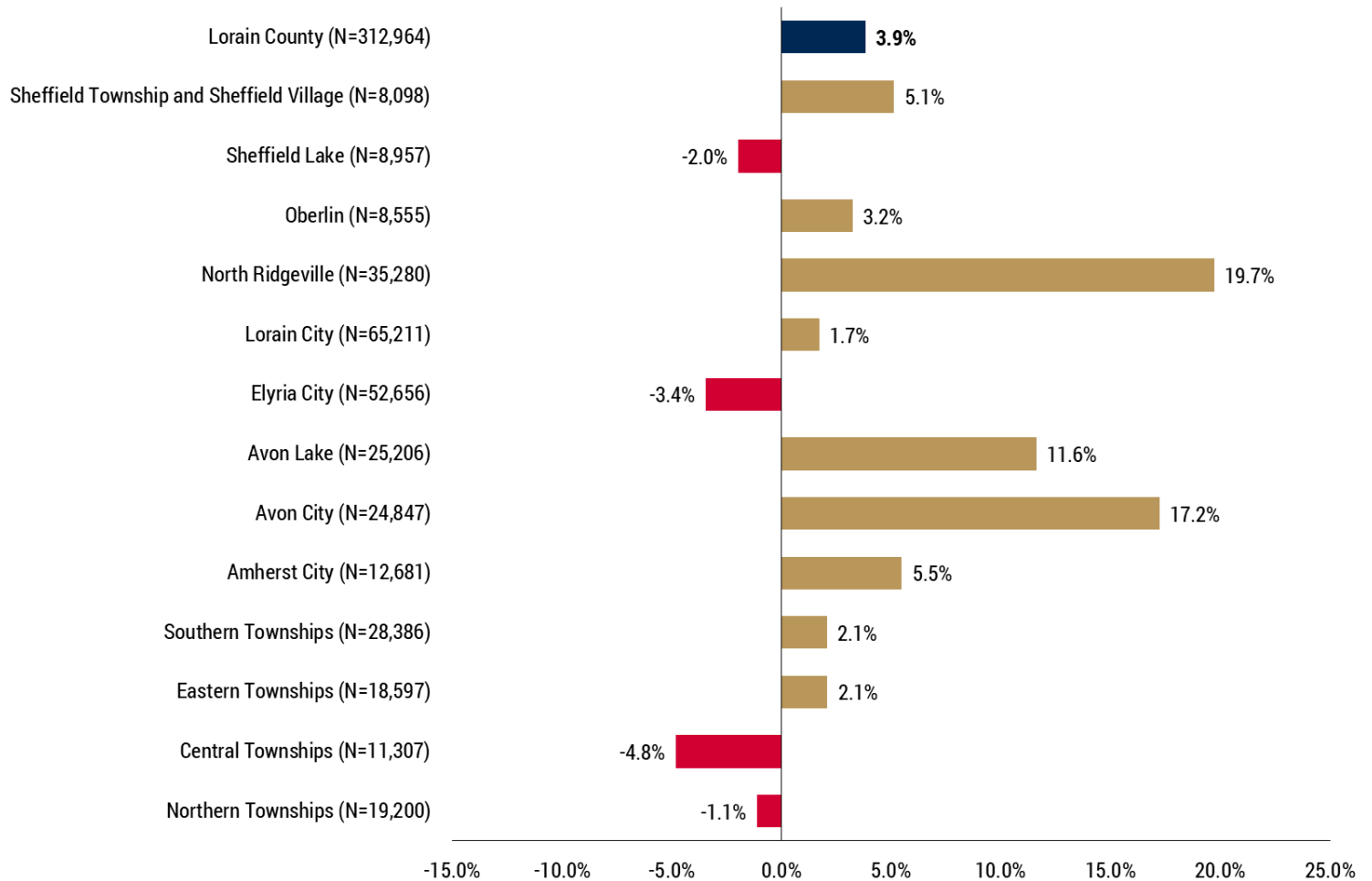
***185%** of the Federal Poverty Level is the maximum income cut-off for the USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). These percentages are derived from the ACS data on families for whom poverty status was able to be determined, and thus are subject to change.

Lorain County Data



Even with a **declining birth rate**, the population of Lorain County has **grown** over the last decade.

Population Changes in Lorain County by Region,
Lorain County, 2010-2020[†]
(N = 2020 Population)



[†] Populations derived from 2010 and 2020 Decennial Censuses

Lorain County Maps by Region

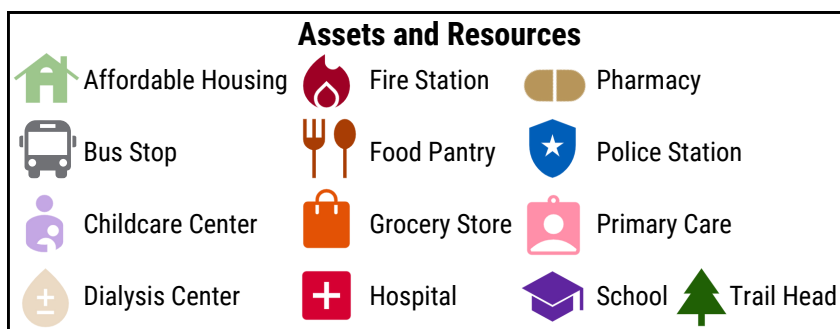


This year, the assessment team decided to include local and regional maps. These maps can be a powerful tool for understanding and addressing health disparities in different parts of Lorain County.

We hope the maps will foster a deeper understanding of how geography influences health. They reveal barriers such as transportation deserts and proximity to food sources. They also reveal strengths and assets of each community.

This added context of place will enhance the ability to design effective, and equitable health interventions that address the unique needs of different communities.

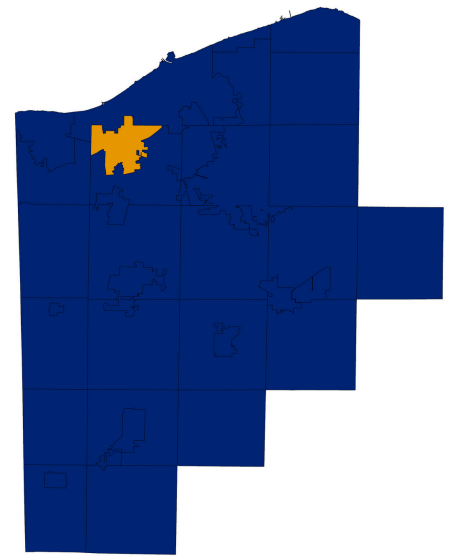
Some icons may be difficult to view due to the static nature of the map. View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap or scan the QR code.



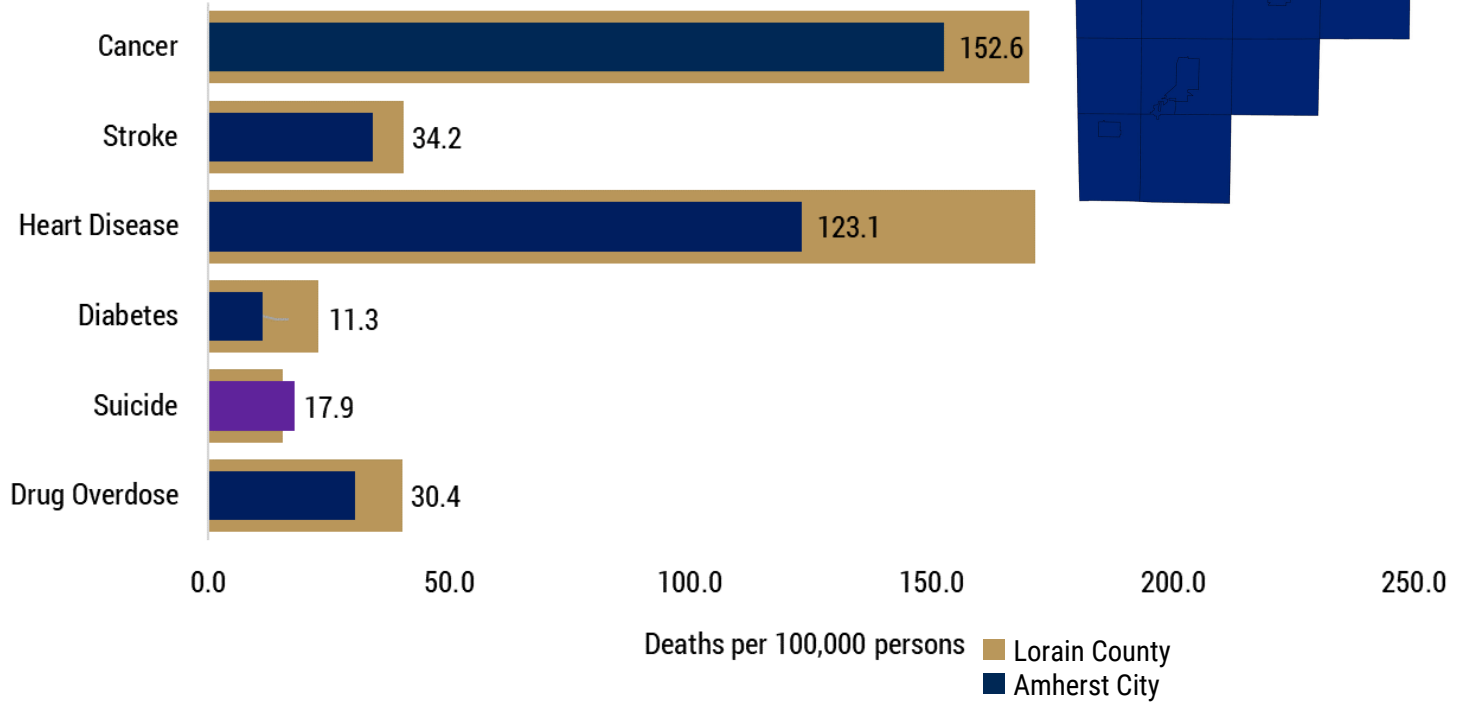
For cities and townships, **purple bars** highlight the risk factors or birth outcomes with the highest values that are also higher than in all of Lorain County.



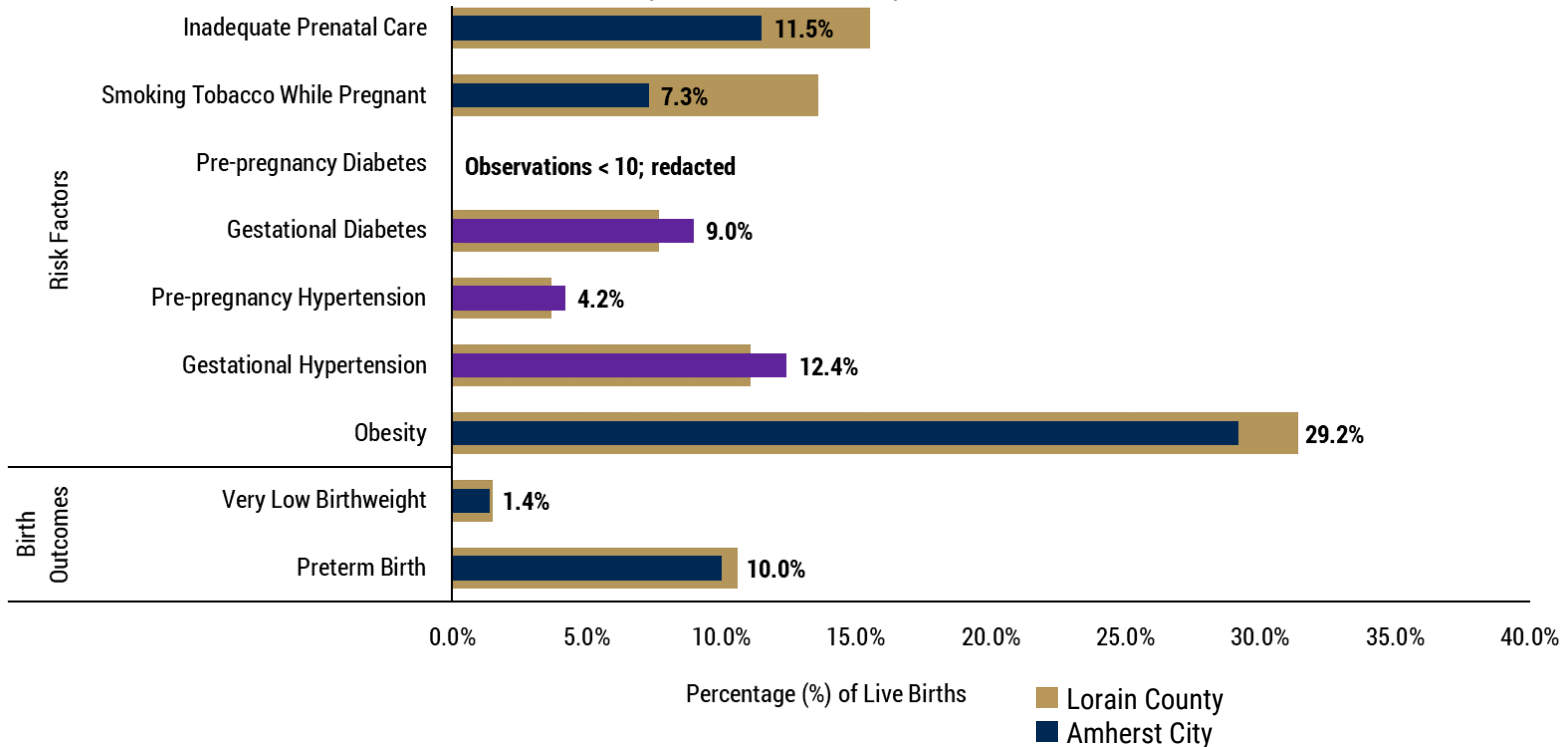
Amherst City



Age-Adjusted Death Rates
Amherst City and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,
Amherst City and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

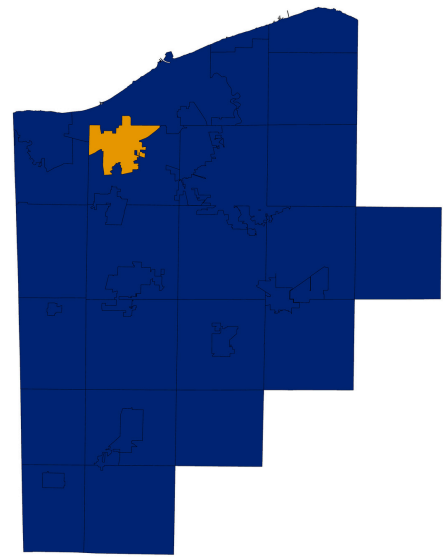


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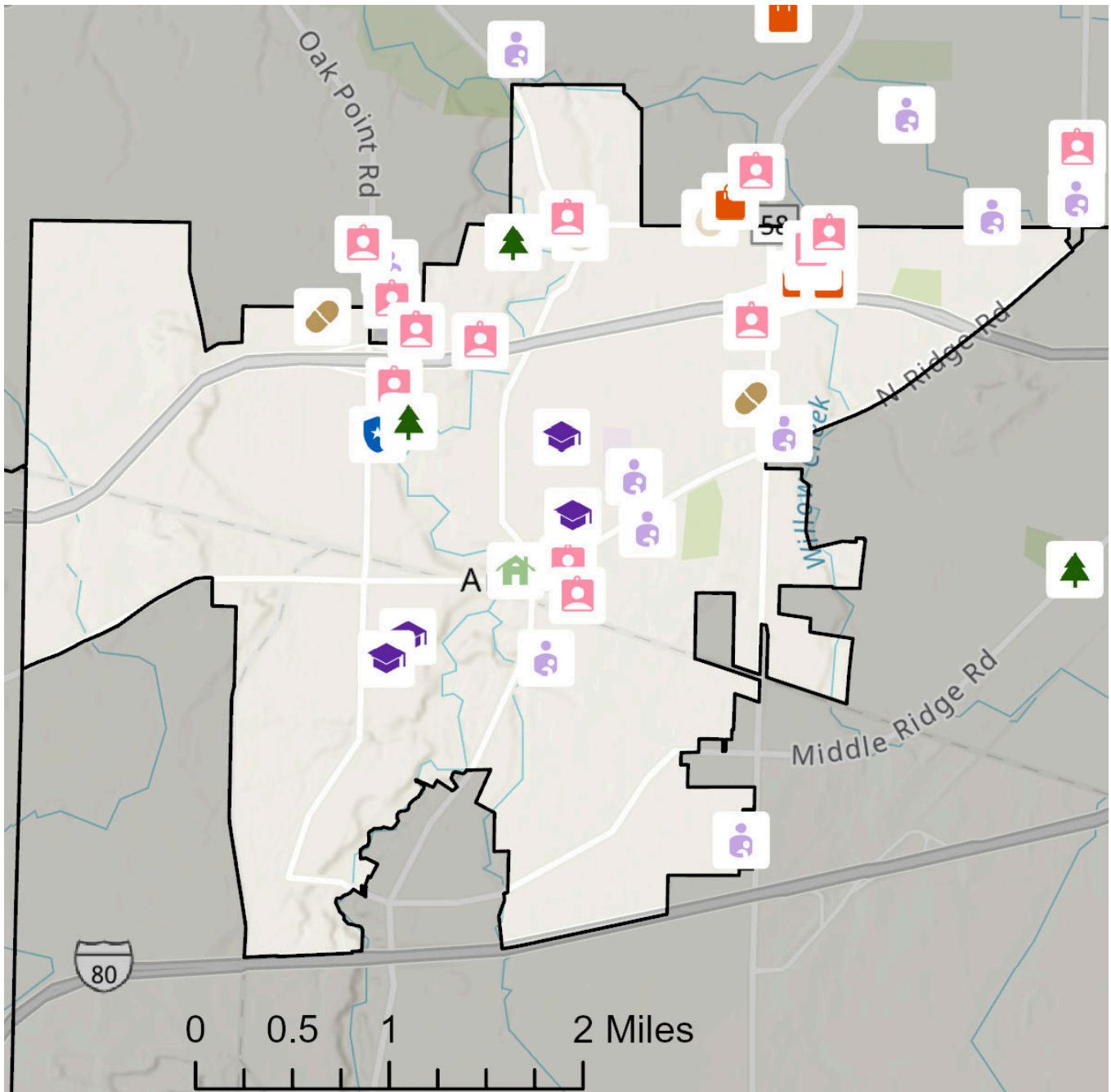
Amherst City

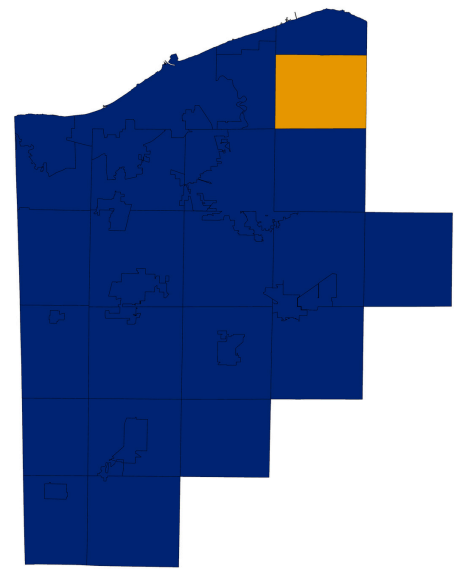
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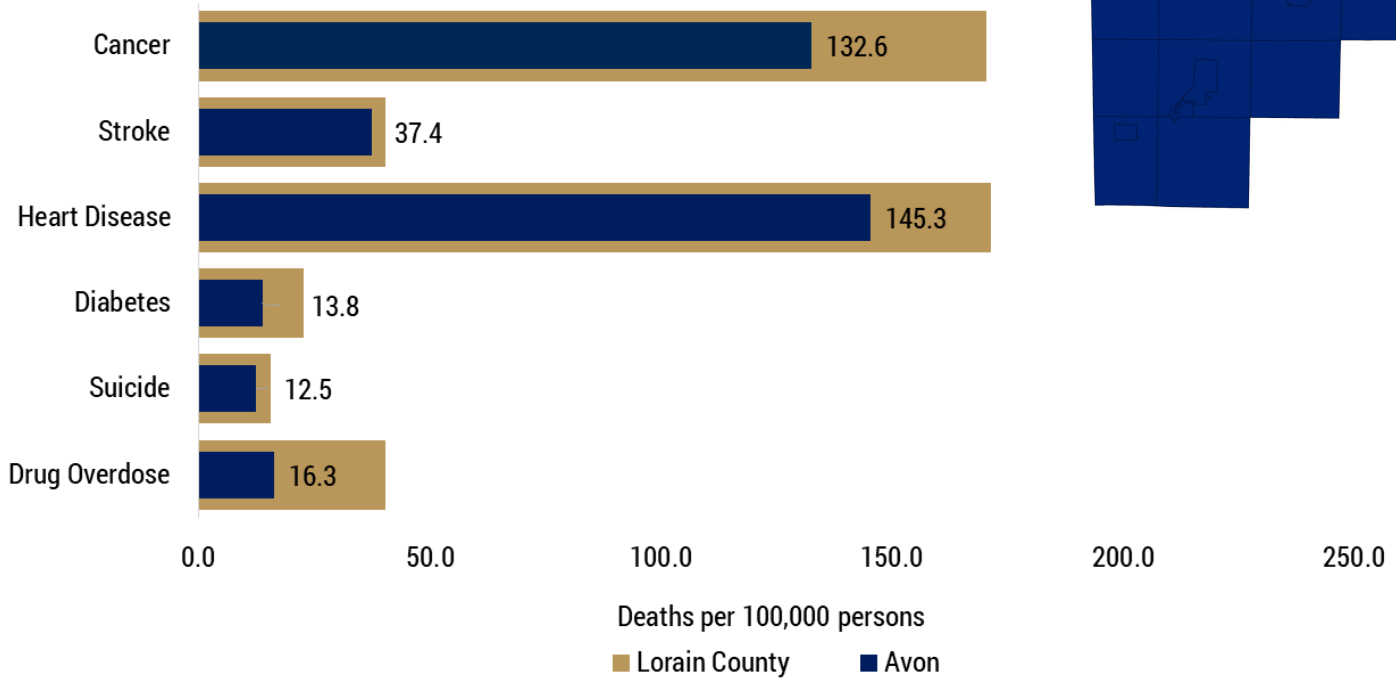
Assets and Resources

 Affordable Housing	 Fire Station	 Pharmacy
 Bus Stop	 Food Pantry	 Police Station
 Childcare Center	 Grocery Store	 Primary Care
 Dialysis Center	 Hospital	 School  Trail Head

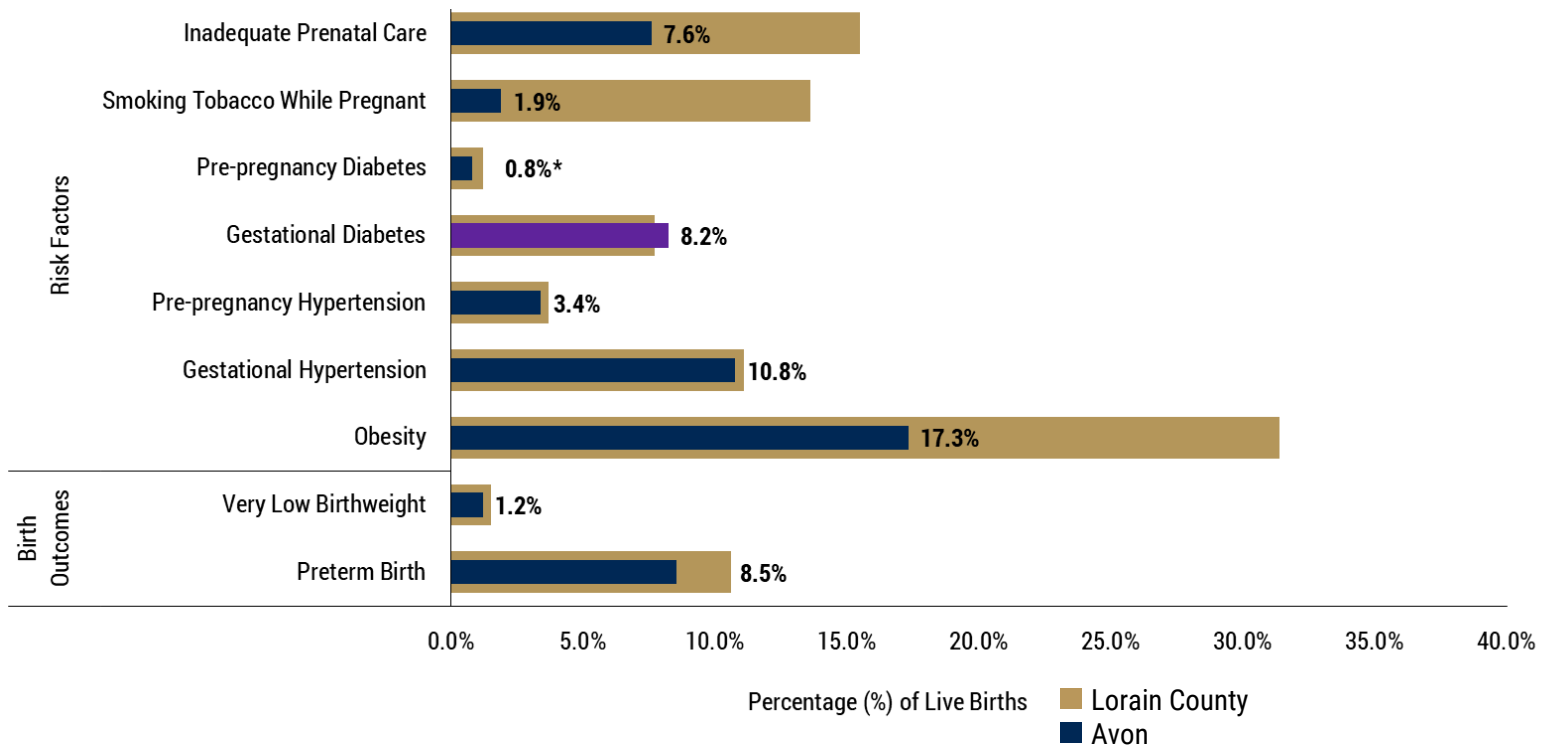




Age-Adjusted Death Rates
Avon and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

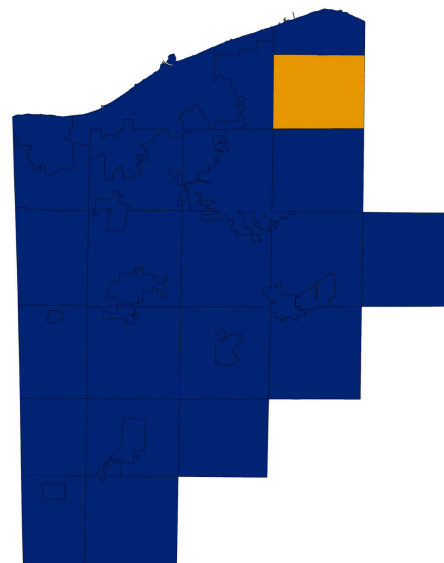


Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,
Avon and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



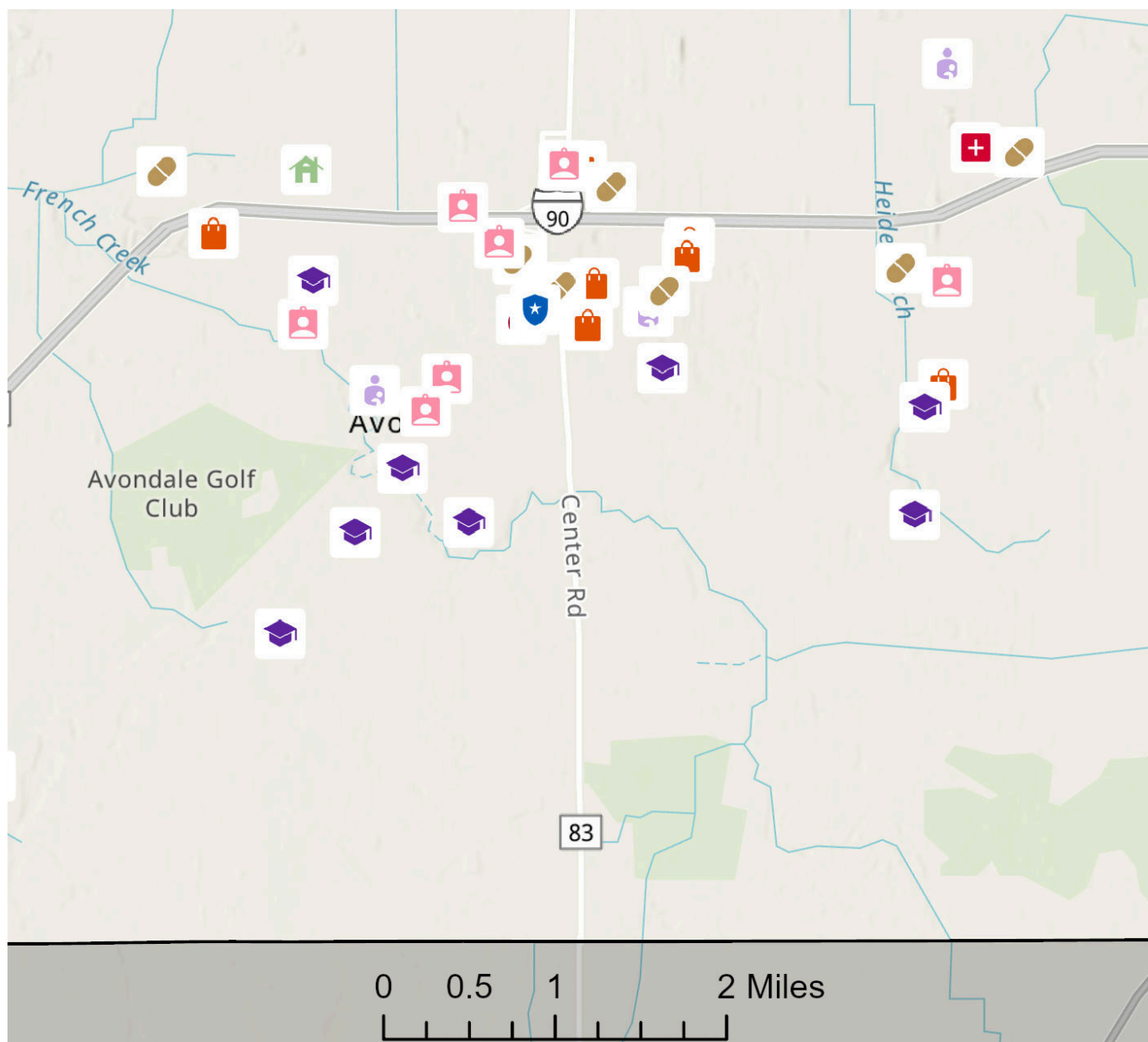
Avon

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap

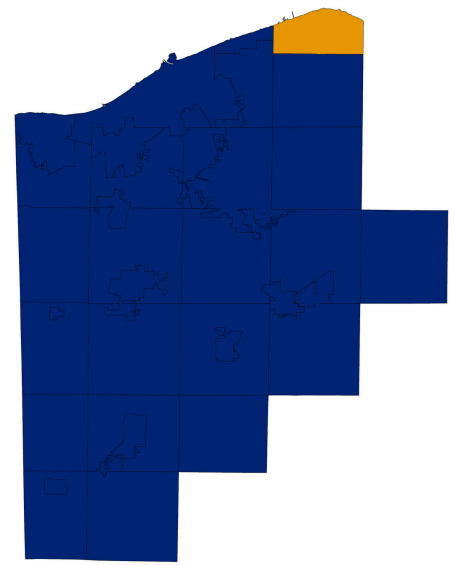


Assets and Resources

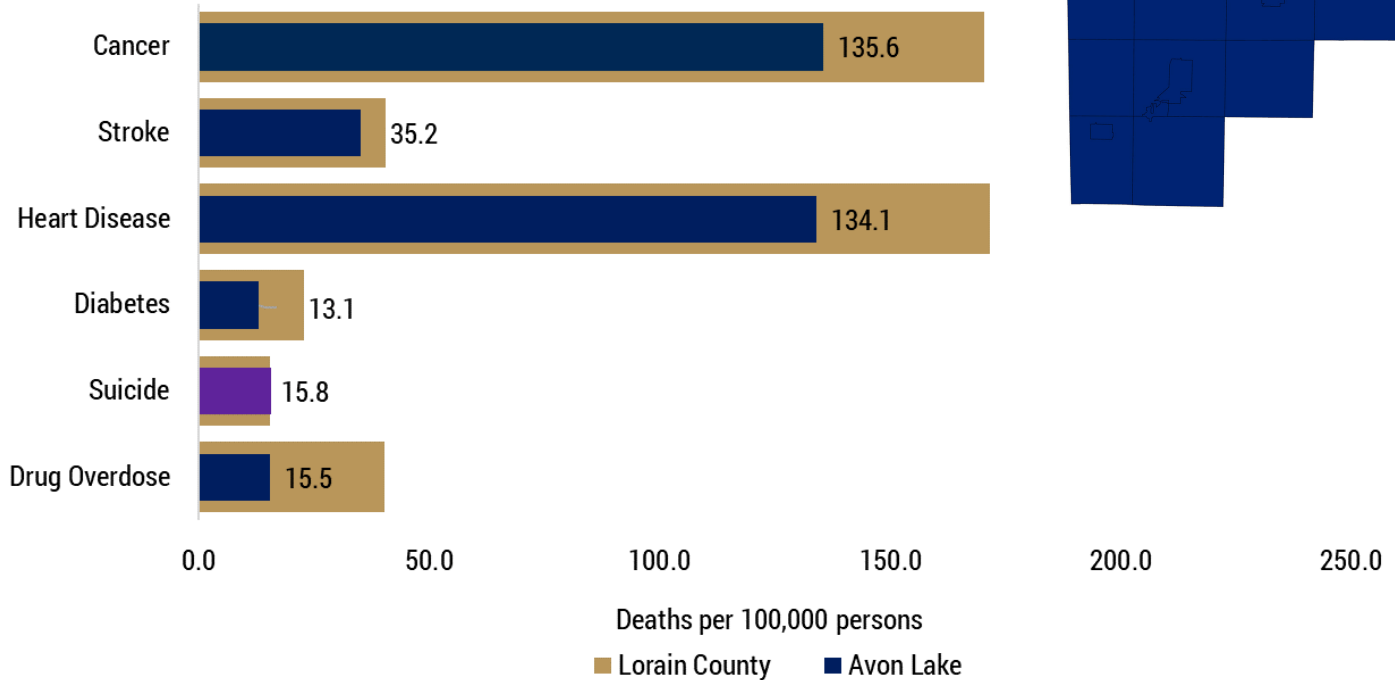
Affordable Housing	Fire Station	Pharmacy
Bus Stop	Food Pantry	Police Station
Childcare Center	Grocery Store	Primary Care
Dialysis Center	Hospital	School
		Trail Head



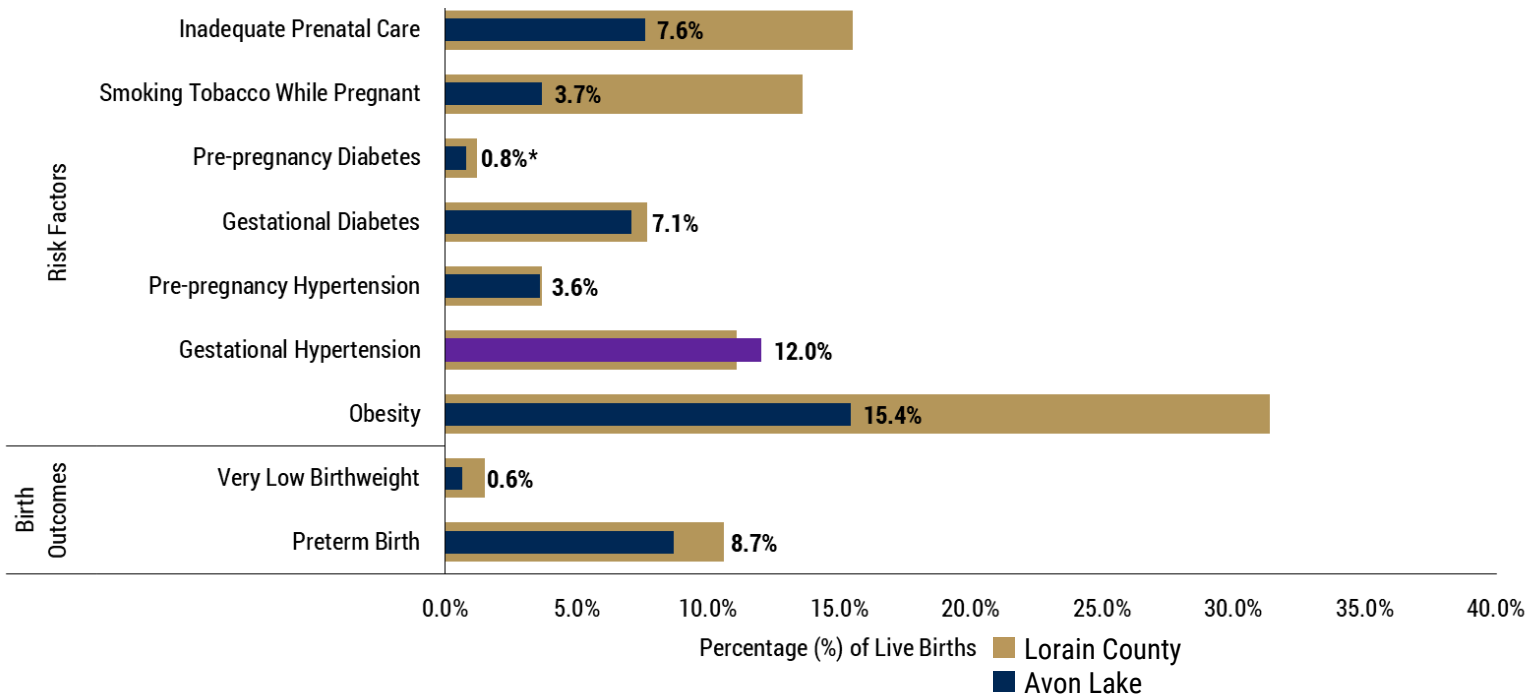
Avon Lake



Age-Adjusted Death Rates
Avon Lake and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

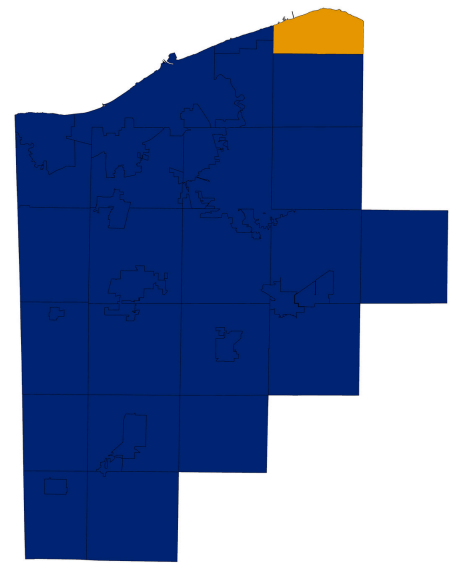


Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,
Avon Lake and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



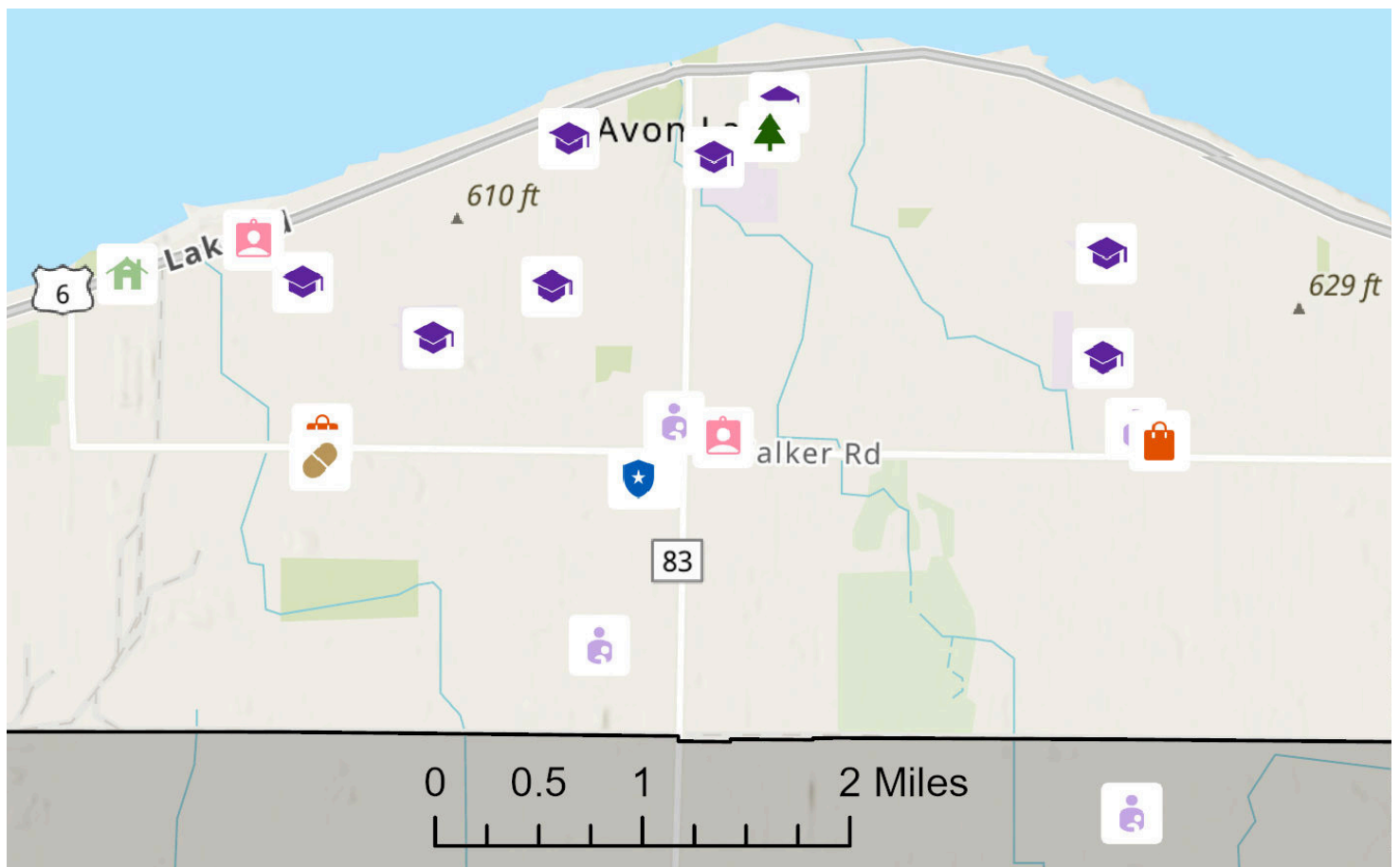
Avon Lake

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap

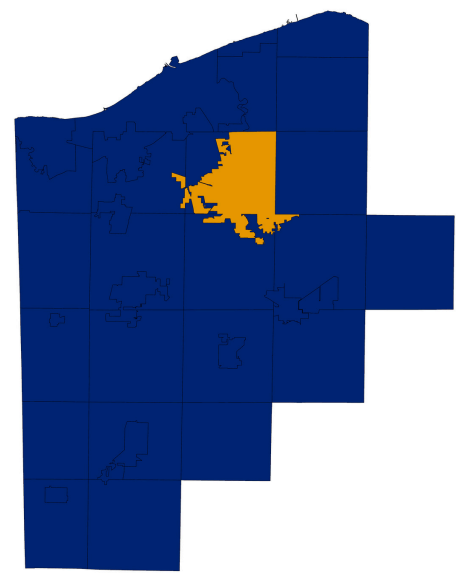


Assets and Resources

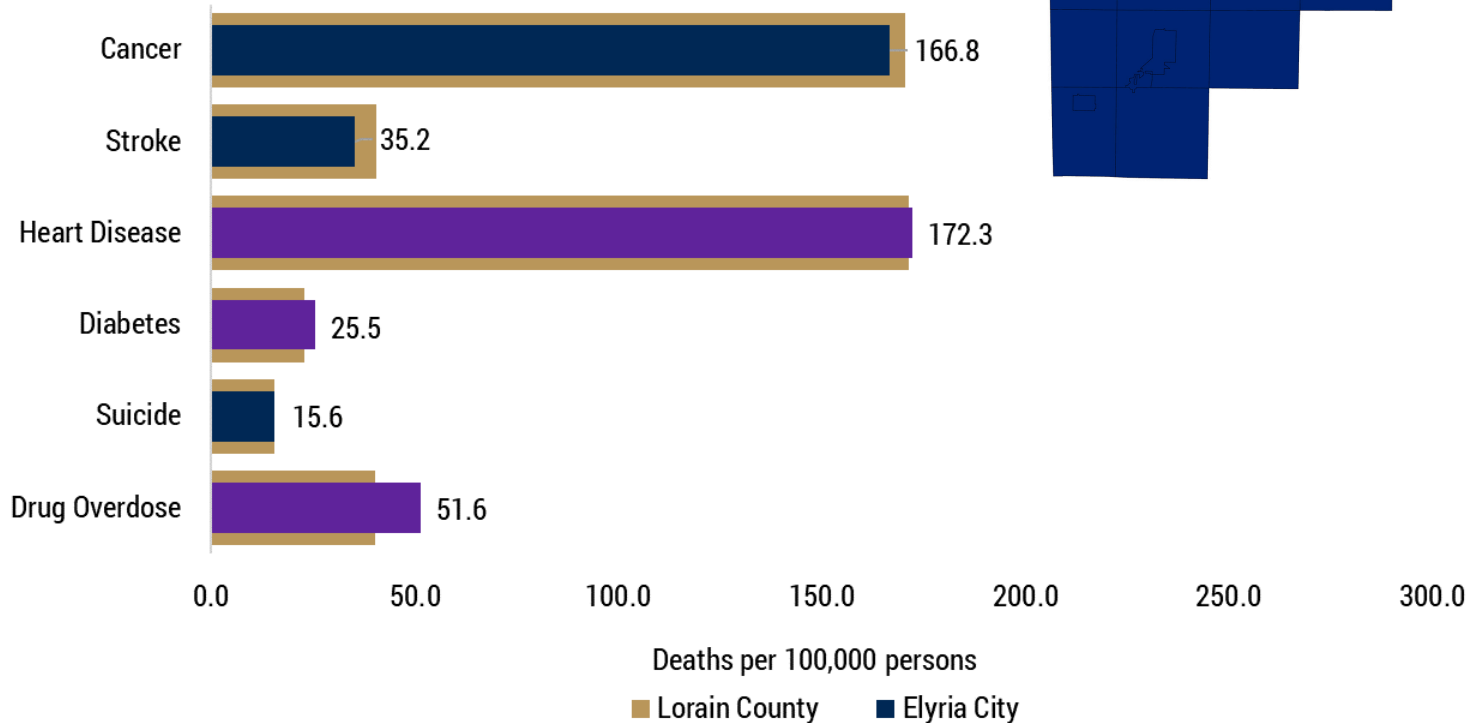
 Affordable Housing	 Fire Station	 Pharmacy
 Bus Stop	 Food Pantry	 Police Station
 Childcare Center	 Grocery Store	 Primary Care
 Dialysis Center	 Hospital	 School
		 Trail Head



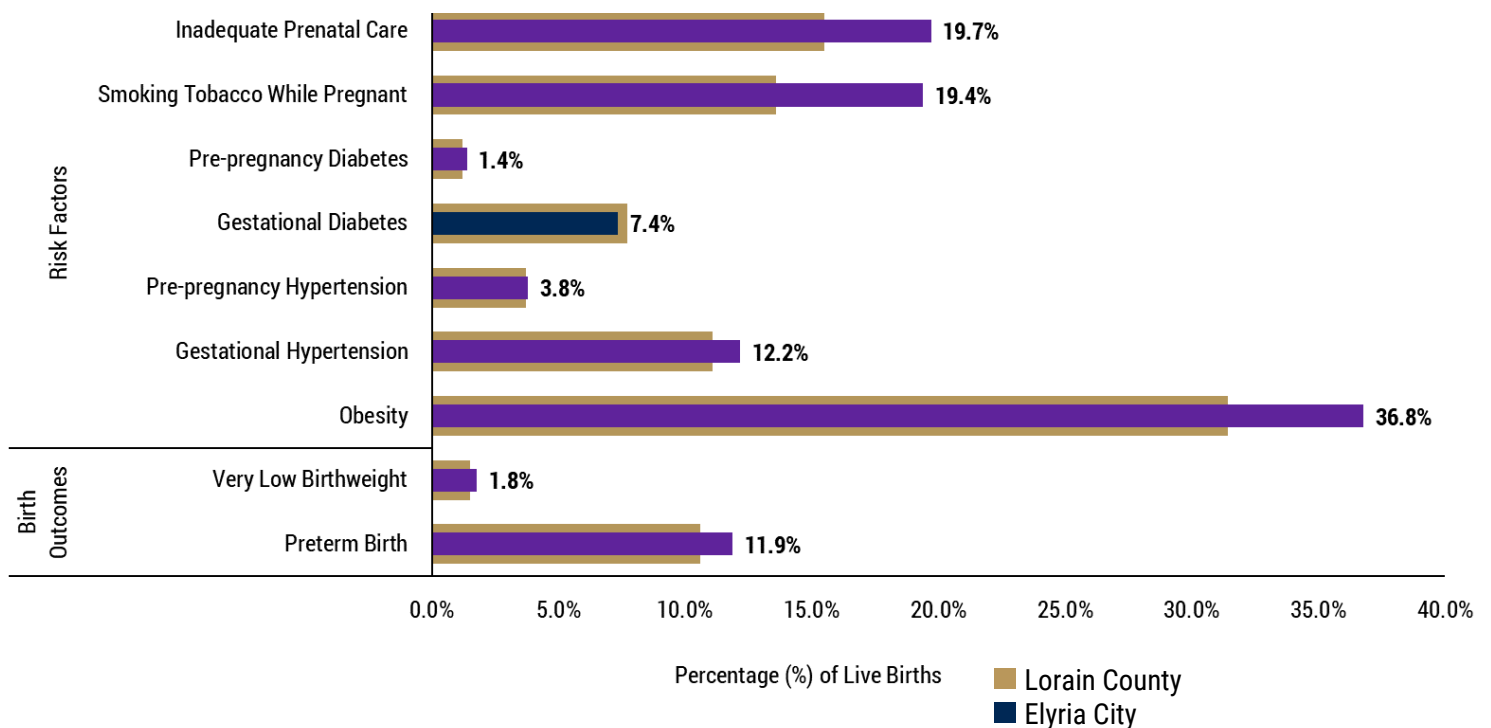
Elyria City



Age-Adjusted Death Rates
Elyria City and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

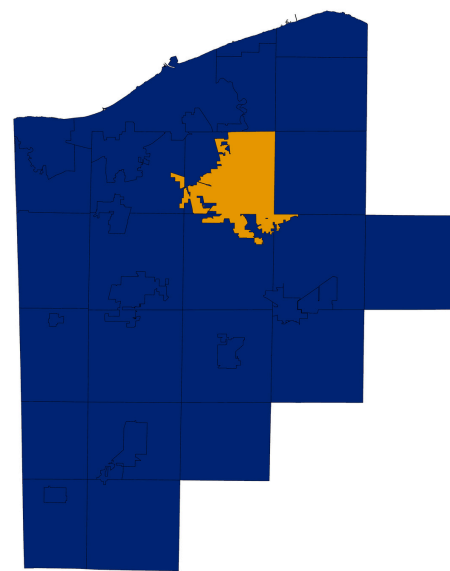


Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,
Elyria City and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



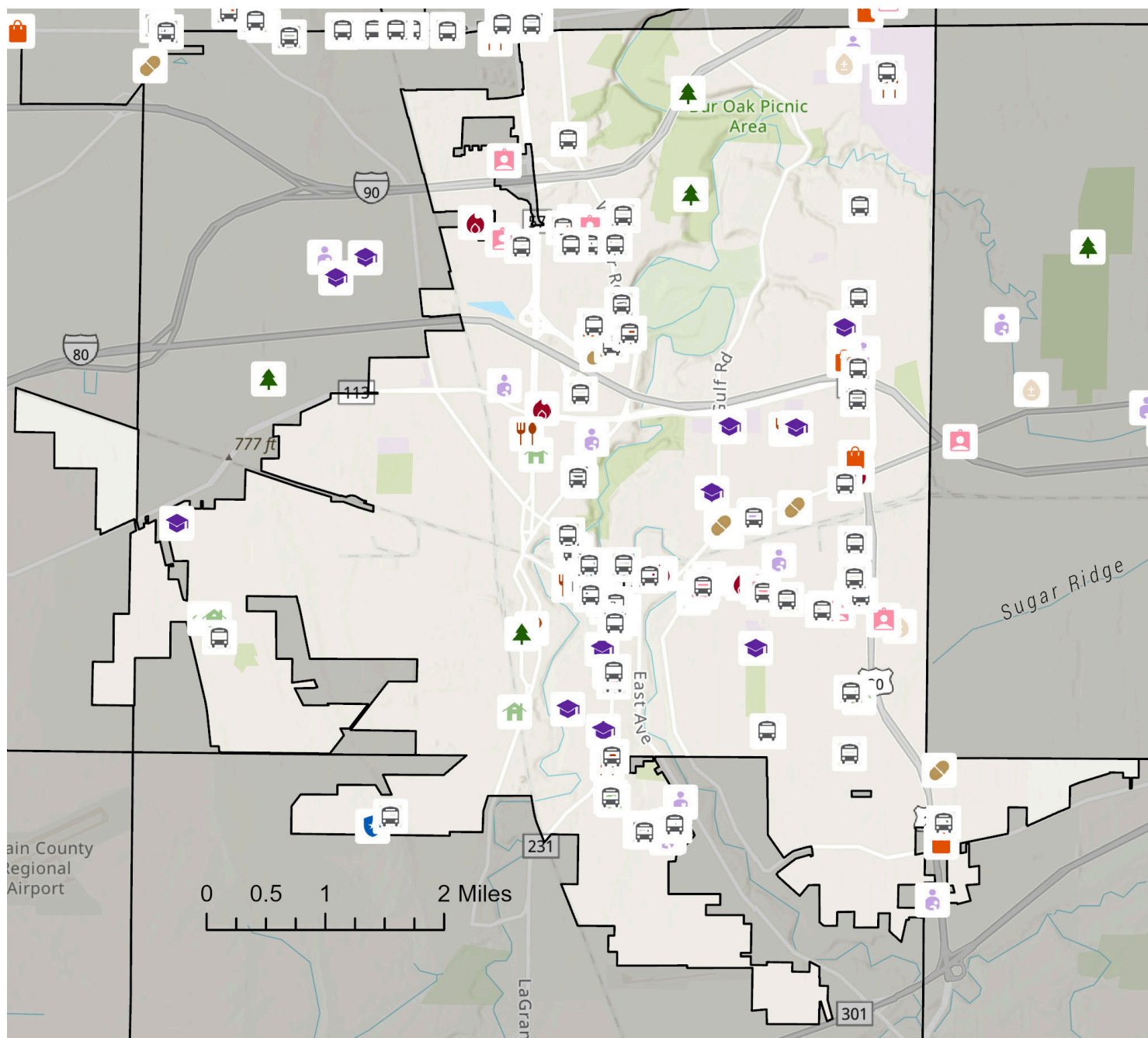
Elyria City

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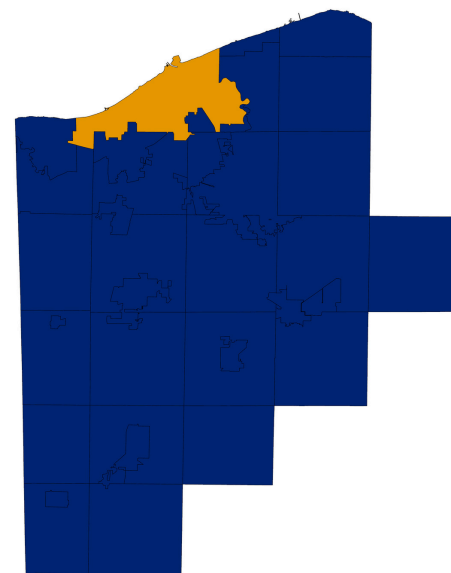


Assets and Resources

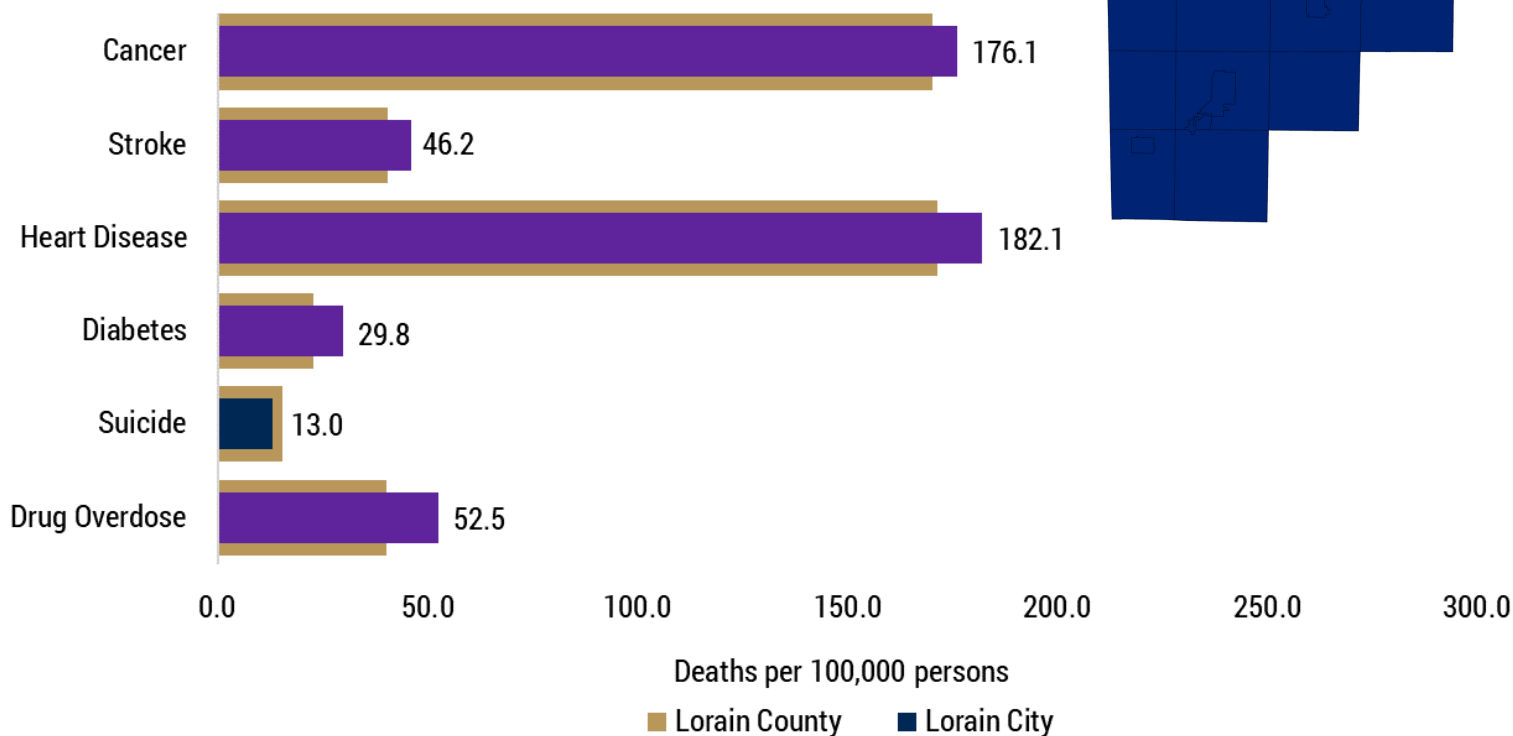
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	Bus Stop		Food Pantry		Police Station
	Childcare Center		Grocery Store		Primary Care
	Dialysis Center		Hospital		School
					Trail Head



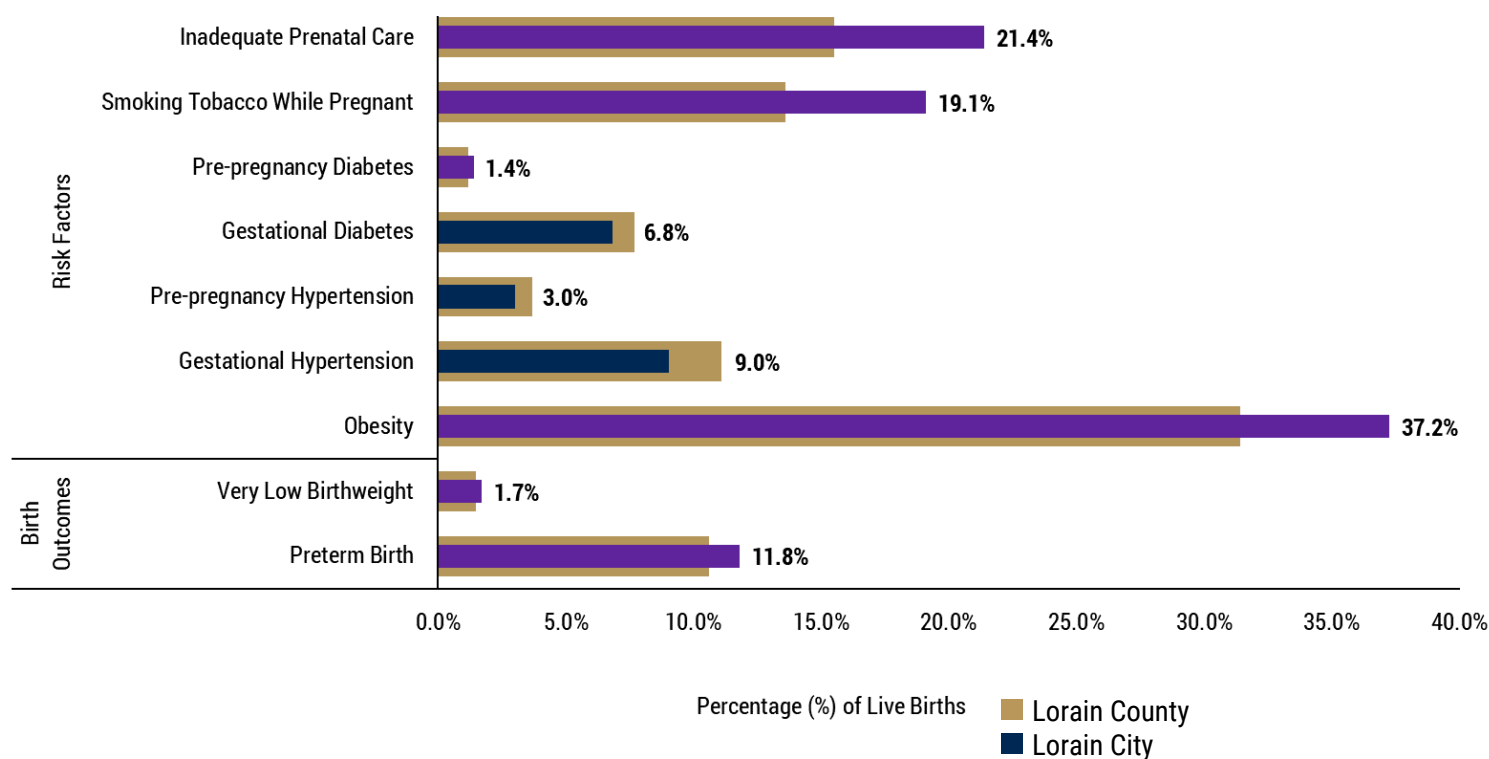
Lorain City



Age-Adjusted Death Rates
Lorain City and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

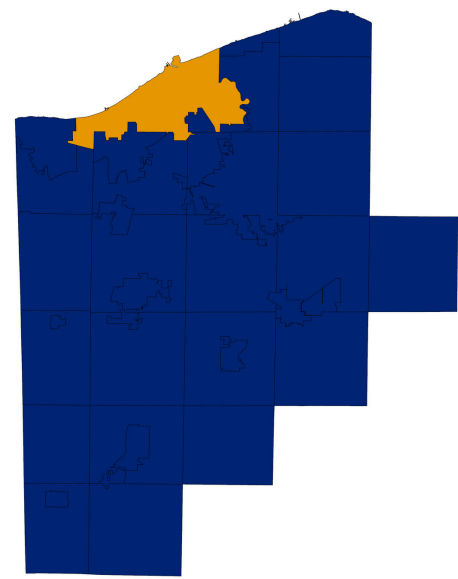


Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,
Lorain City and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



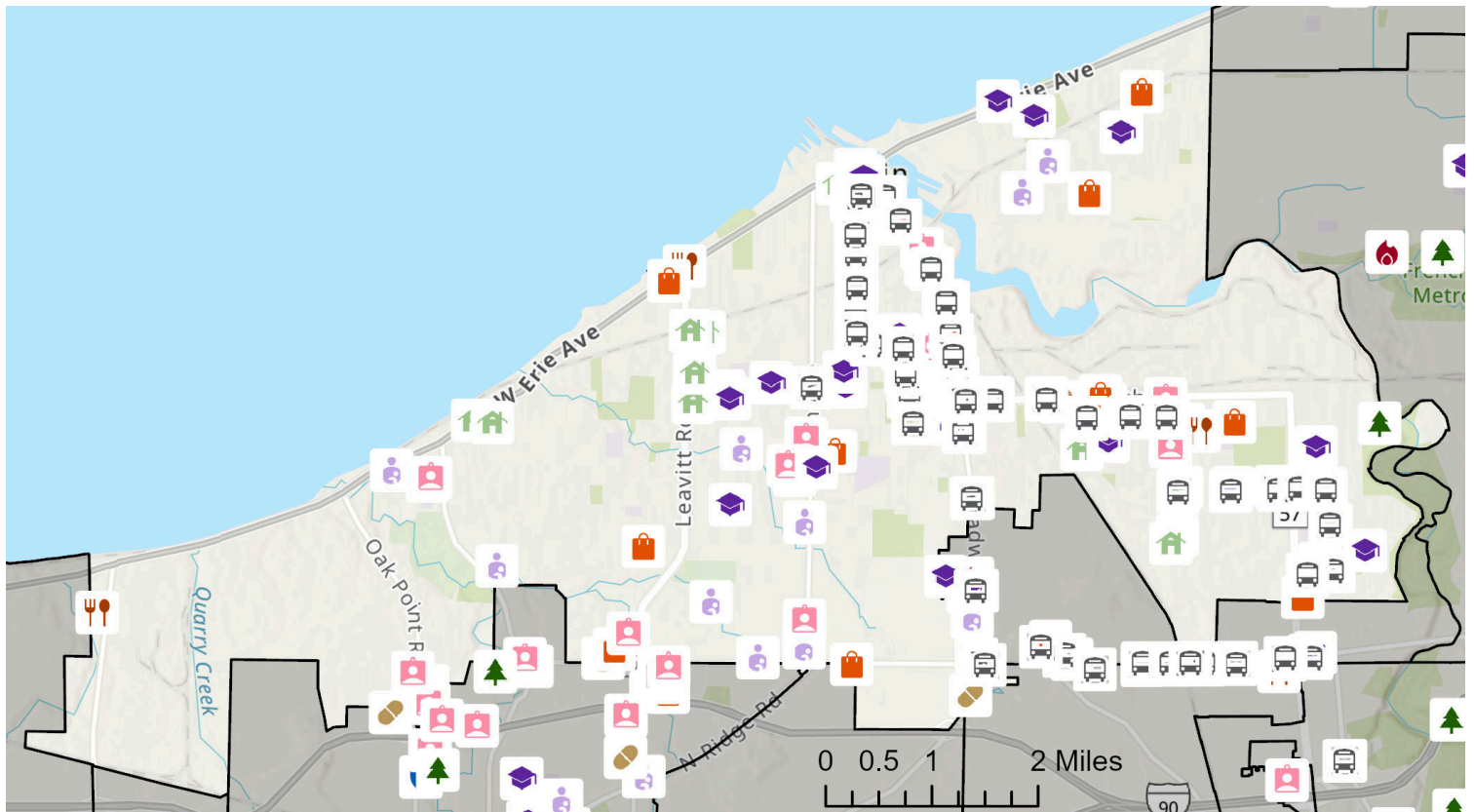
Lorain City

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap

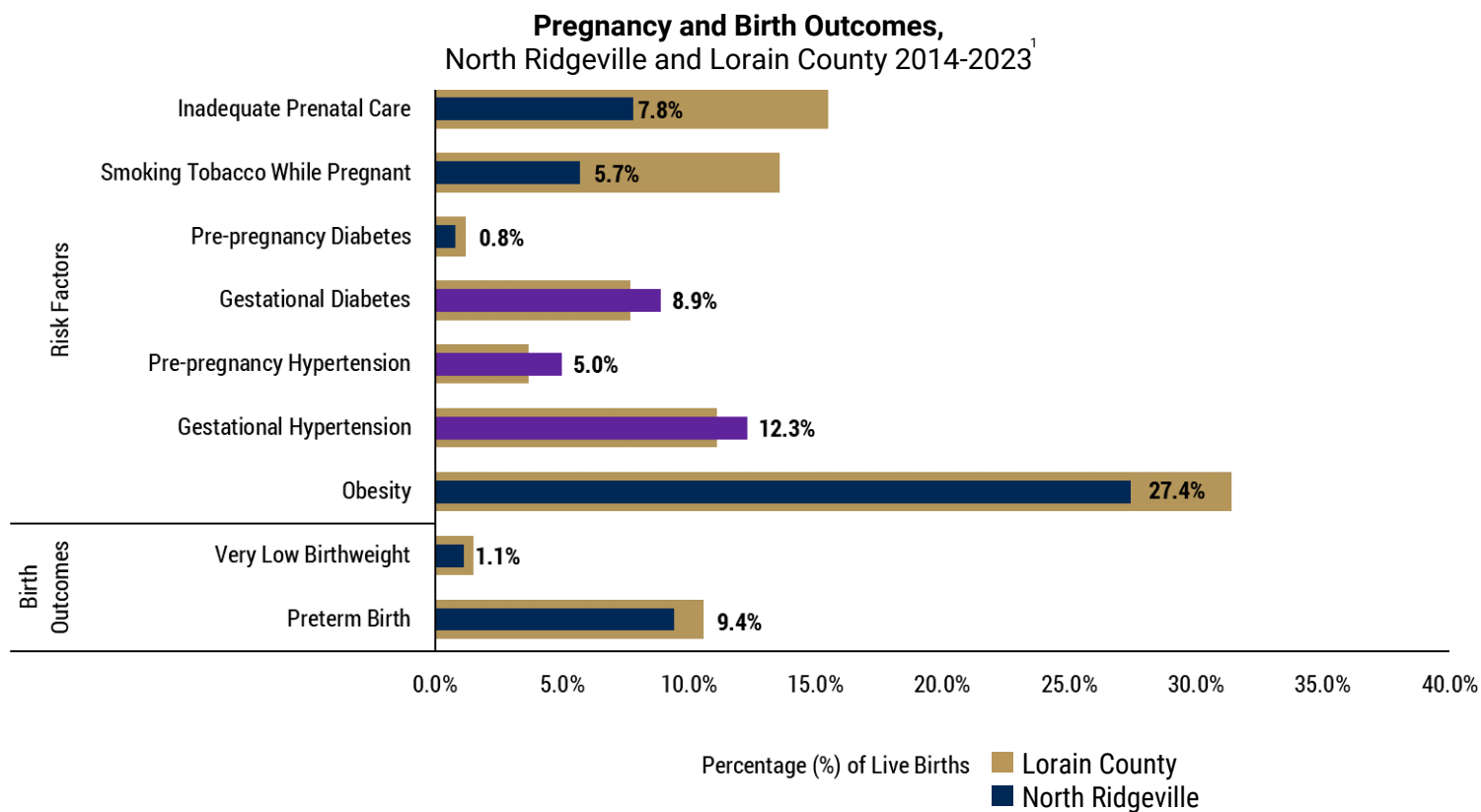
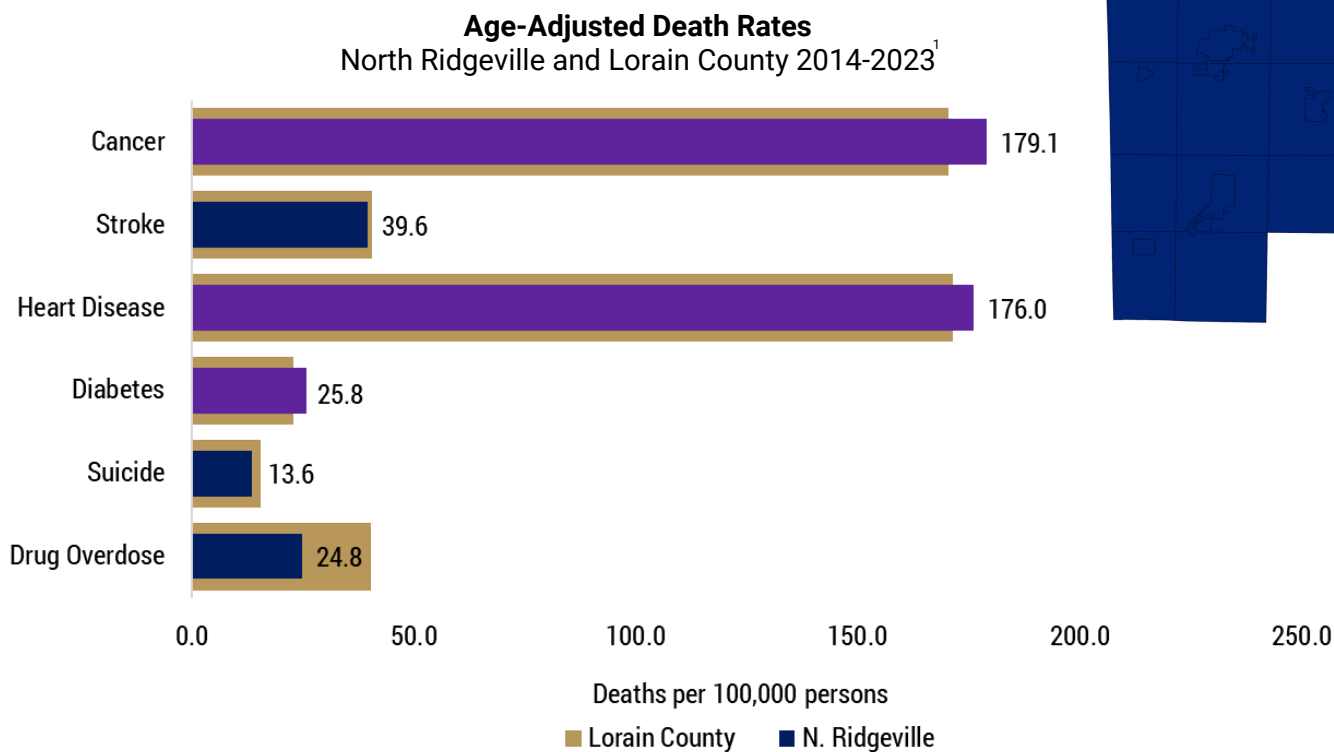
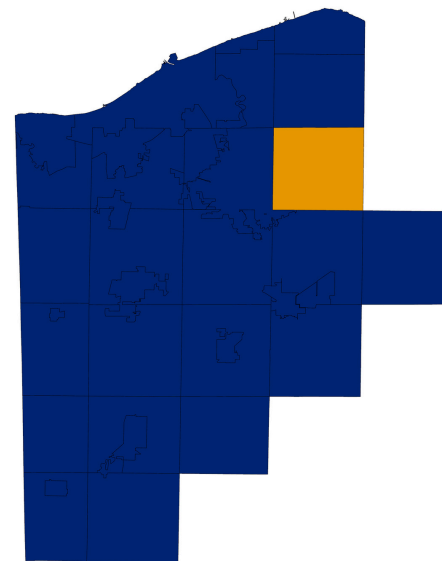


Assets and Resources

 Affordable Housing	 Fire Station	 Pharmacy
 Bus Stop	 Food Pantry	 Police Station
 Childcare Center	 Grocery Store	 Primary Care
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		 Trail Head

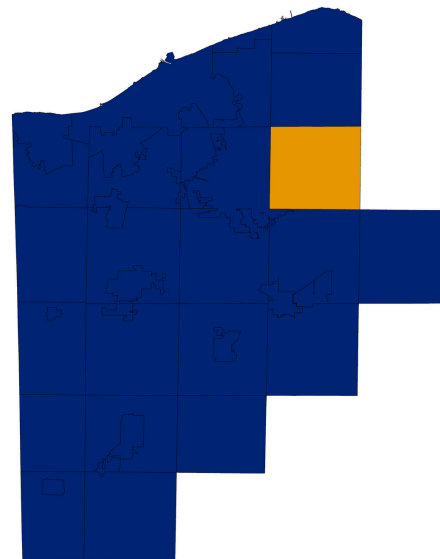















North Ridgeville

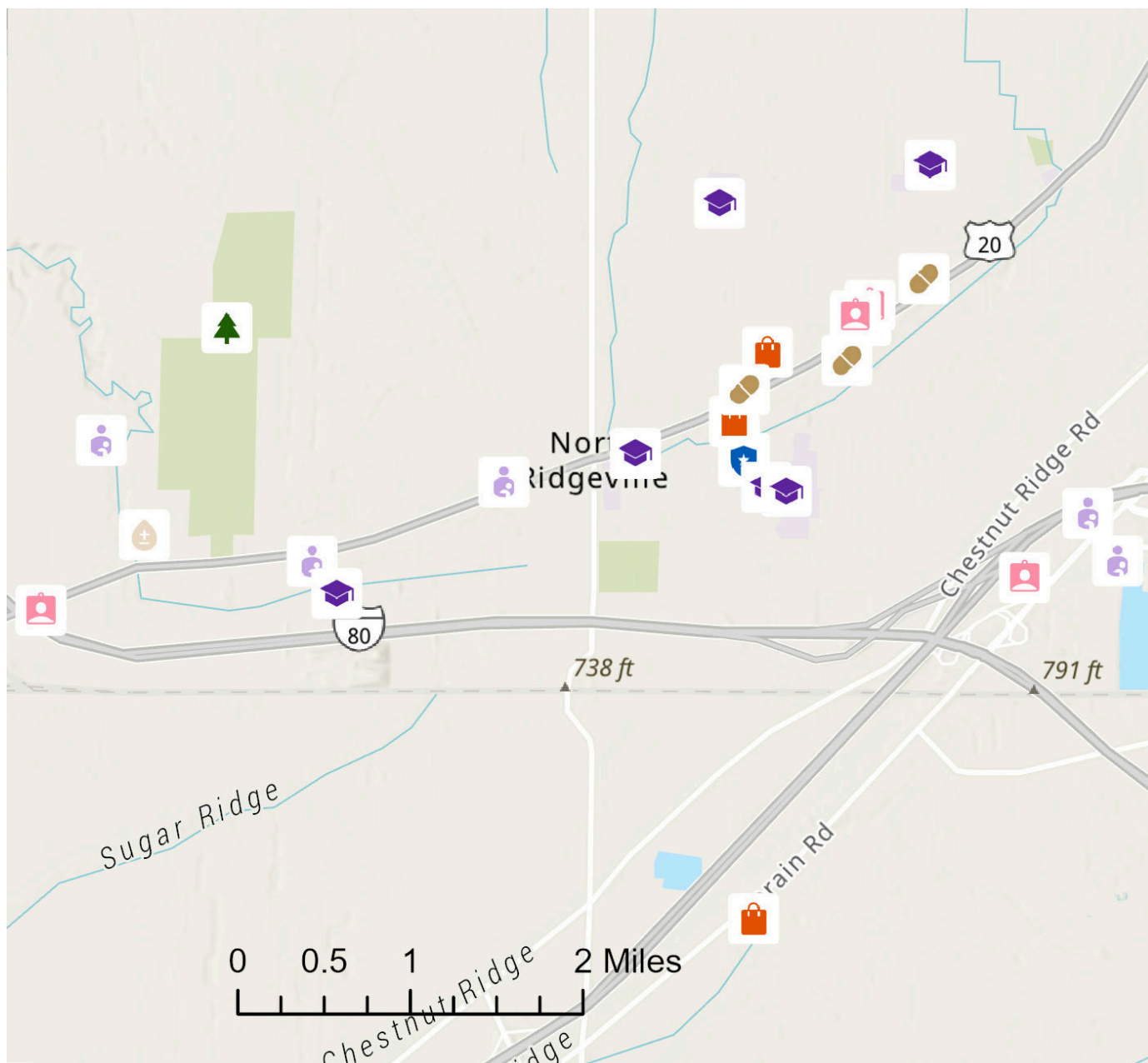


North Ridgeville

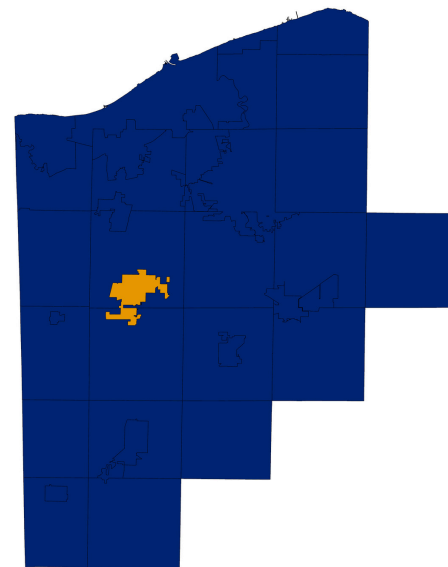
View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap



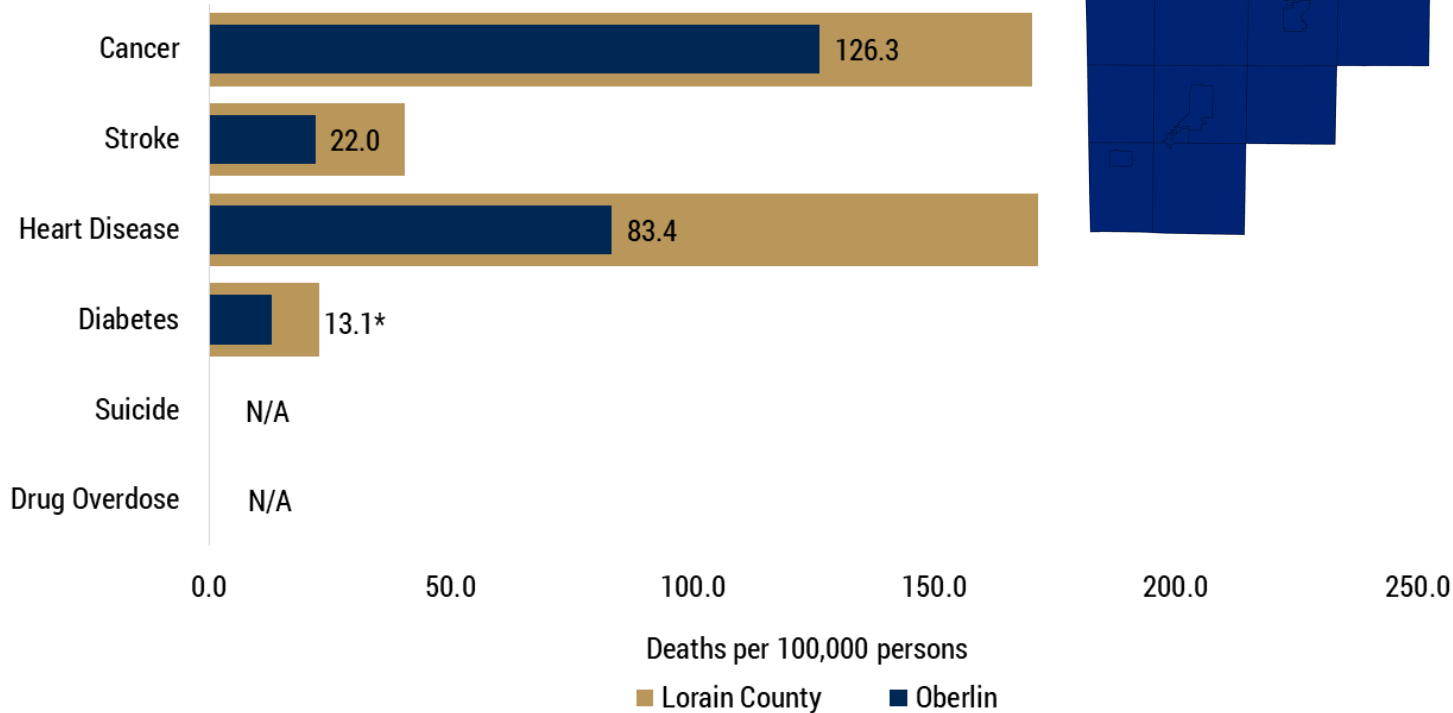
Assets and Resources			
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 Bus Stop	 Food Pantry	 Police Station	
 Childcare Center	 Grocery Store	 Primary Care	
 Dialysis Center	 Hospital	 School	 Trail Head



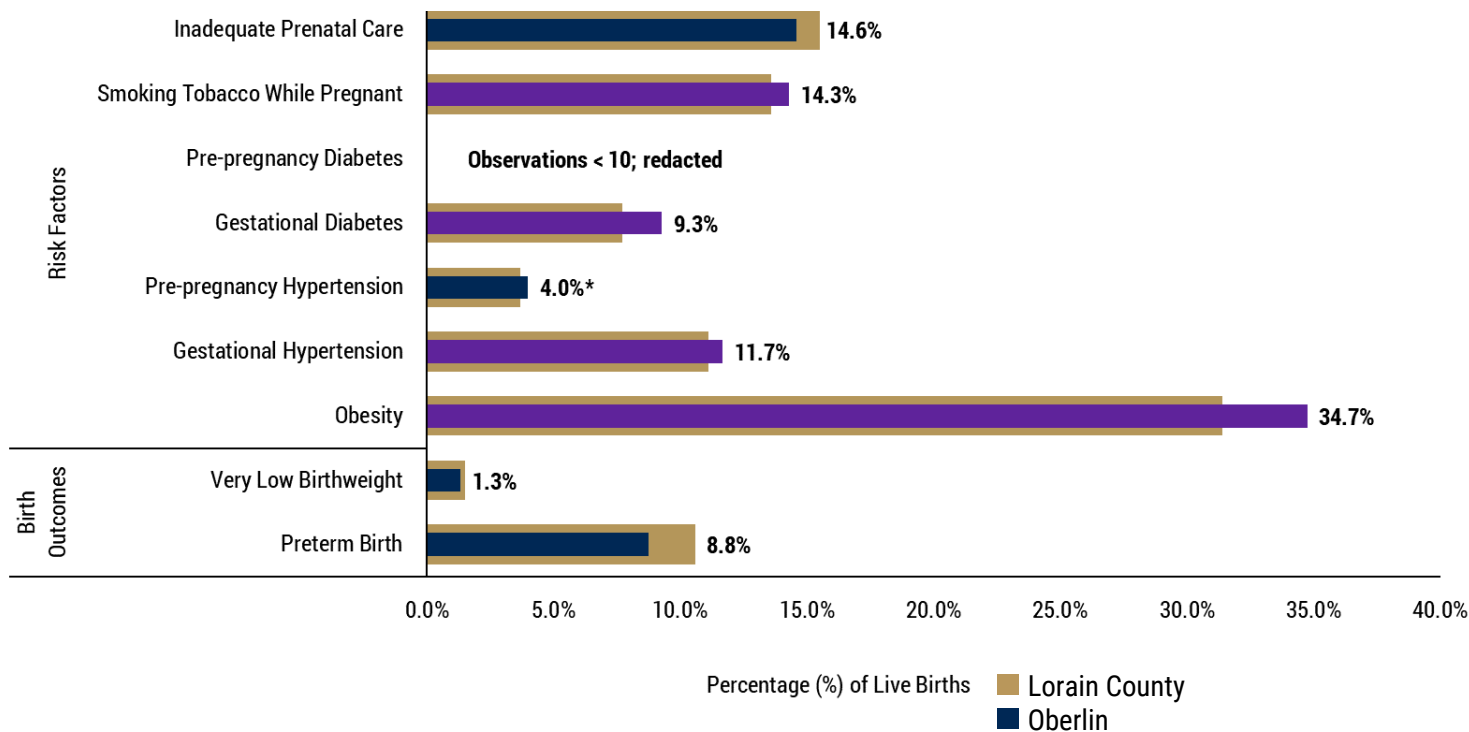
Oberlin



Age-Adjusted Death Rates
Oberlin and Lorain County 2014-2023 ¹



Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,
Oberlin and Lorain County 2014-2023 ¹

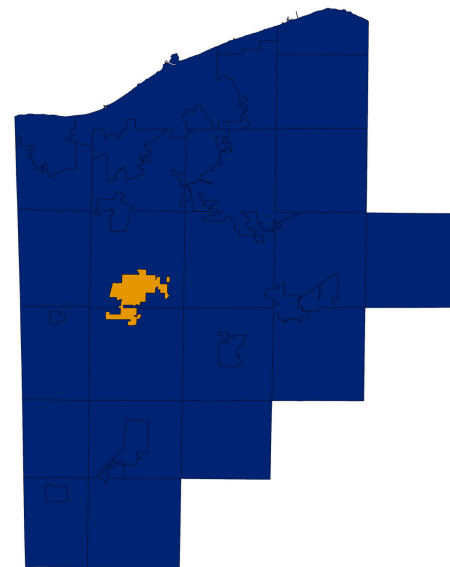


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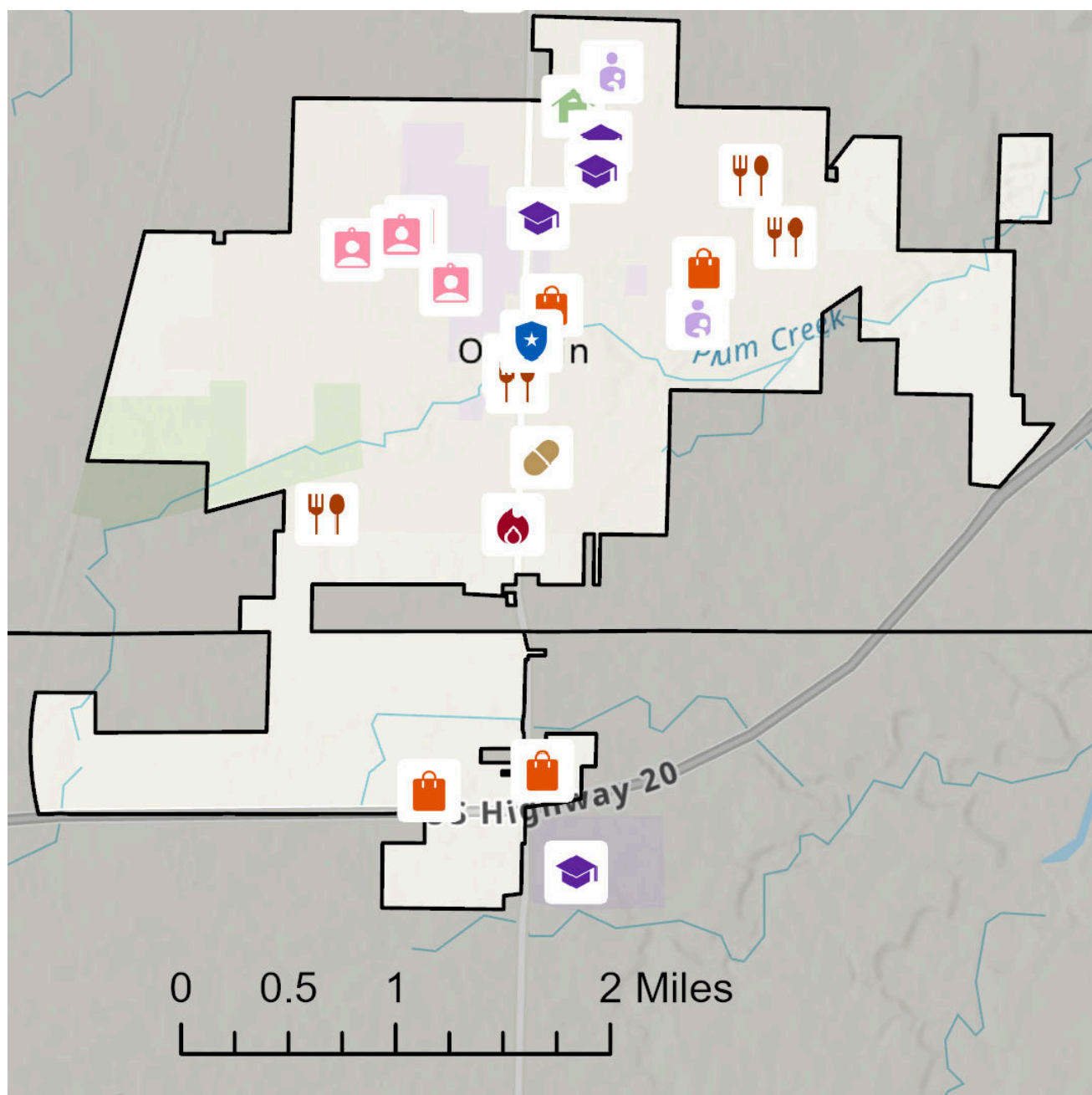
Oberlin

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap

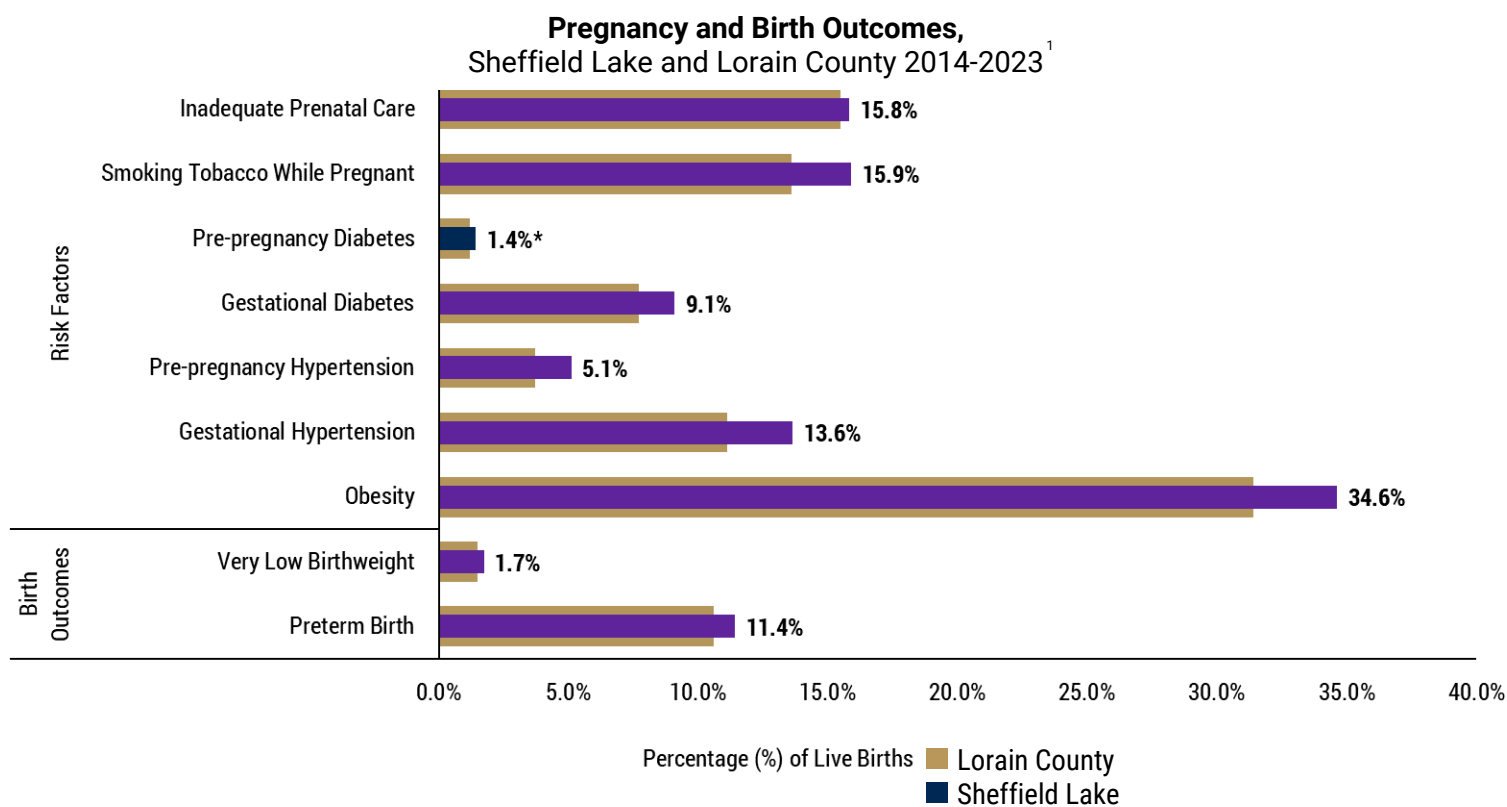
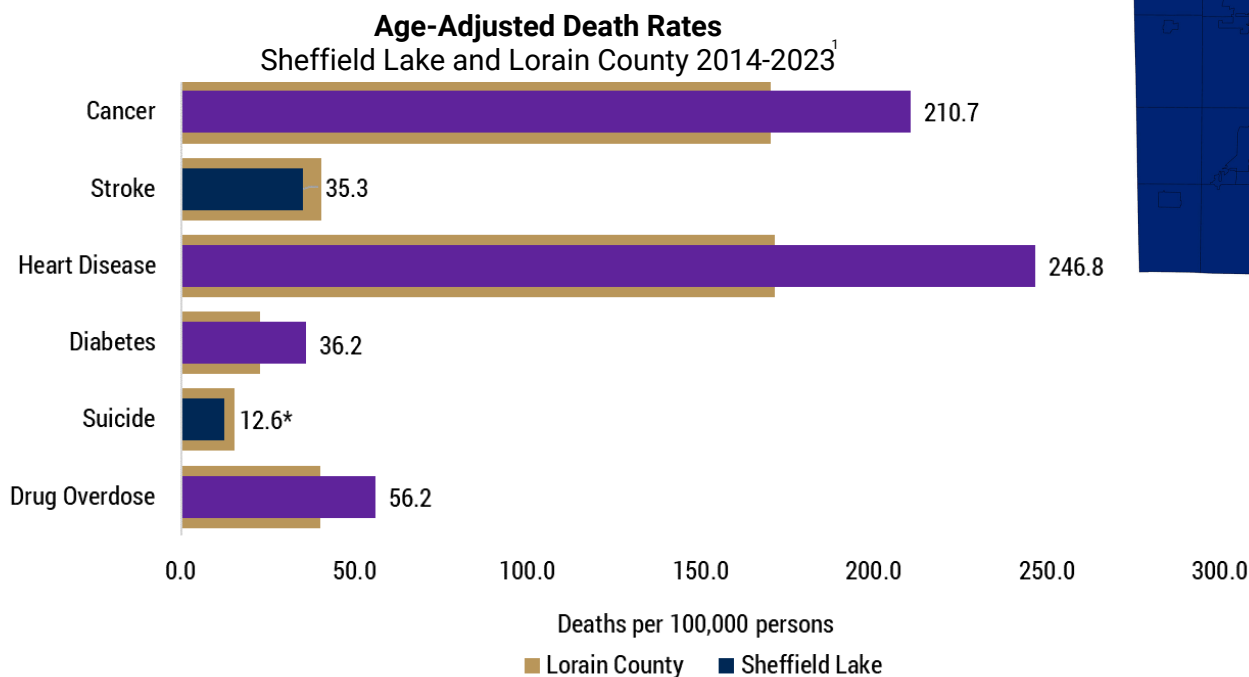
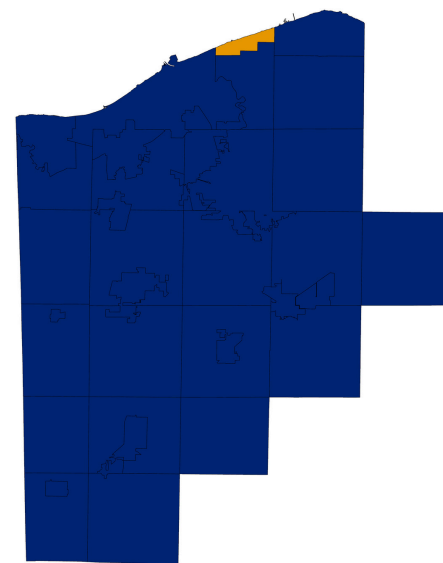


Assets and Resources

	Affordable Housing		Fire Station		Pharmacy
	Bus Stop		Food Pantry		Police Station
	Childcare Center		Grocery Store		Primary Care
	Dialysis Center		Hospital		School
			Trail Head		



Sheffield Lake

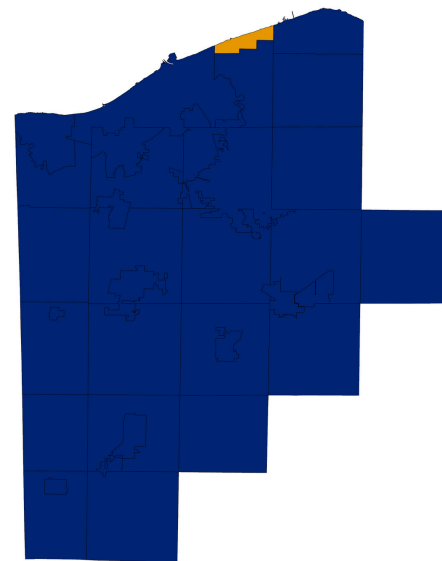


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* = Rates calculated with < 20 observations should be interpreted with caution

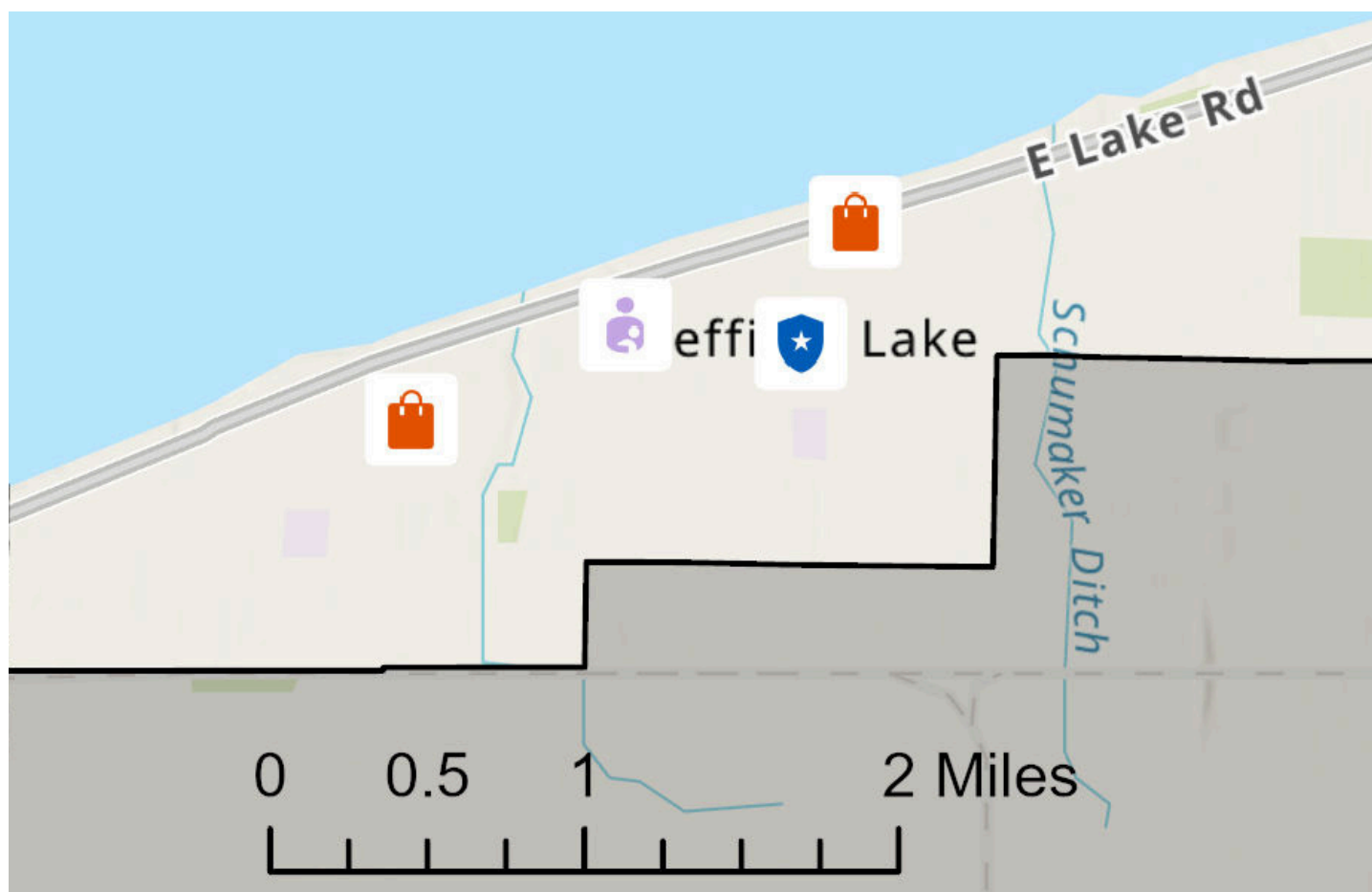
Sheffield Lake

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap



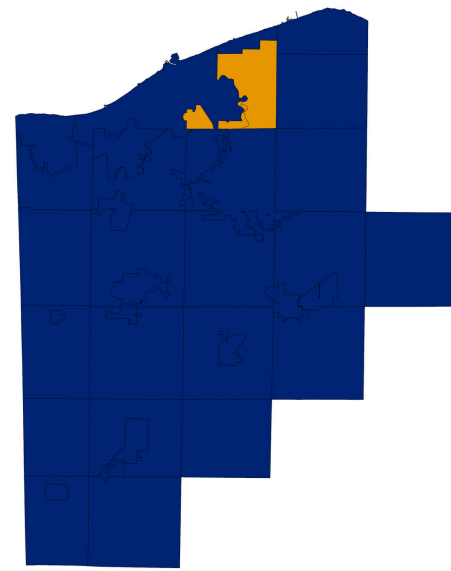
Assets and Resources

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	Bus Stop		Food Pantry		Police Station		
	Childcare Center		Grocery Store		Primary Care		
	Dialysis Center		Hospital		School		Trail Head



Sheffield Township and Sheffield Village

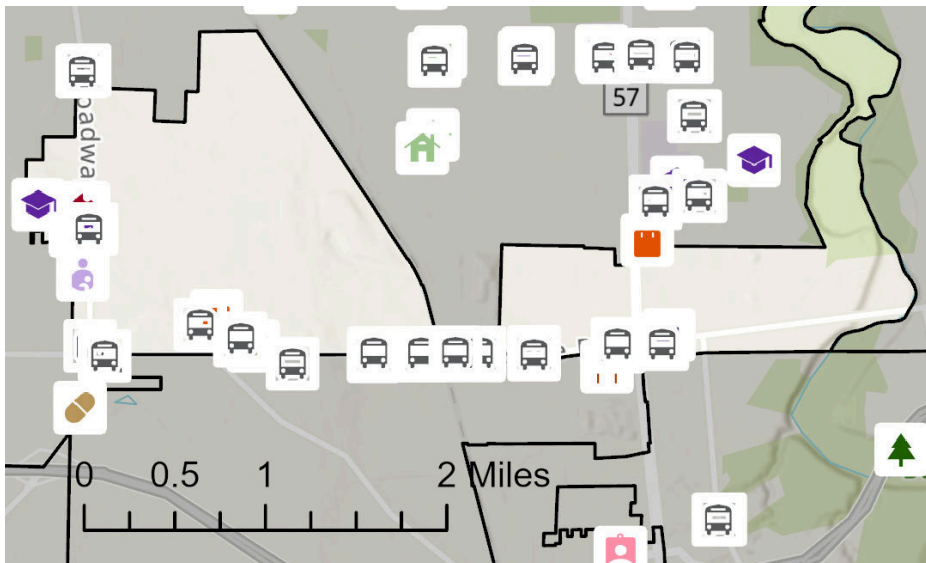
View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap



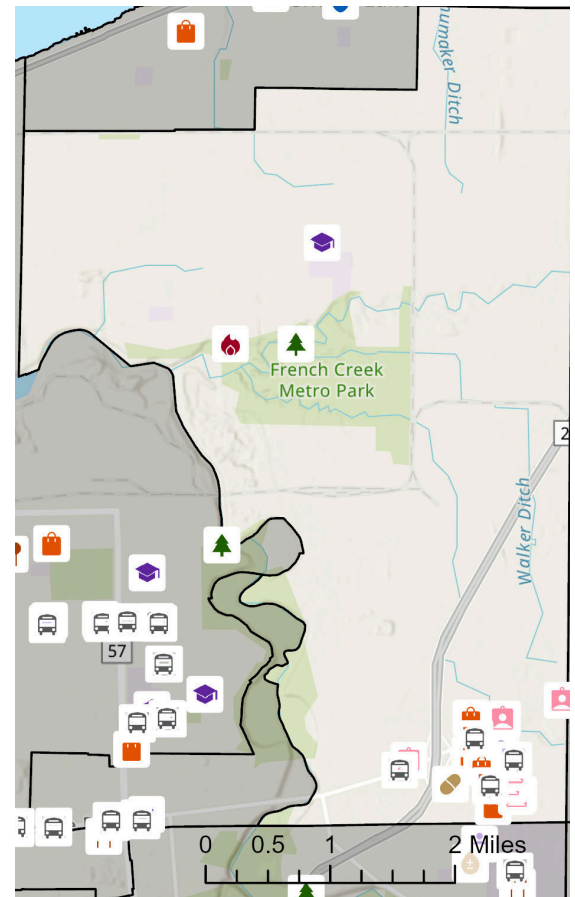
Assets and Resources

 Affordable Housing	 Fire Station	 Pharmacy
 Bus Stop	 Food Pantry	 Police Station
 Childcare Center	 Grocery Store	 Primary Care
 Dialysis Center	 Hospital	 School
		 Trail Head

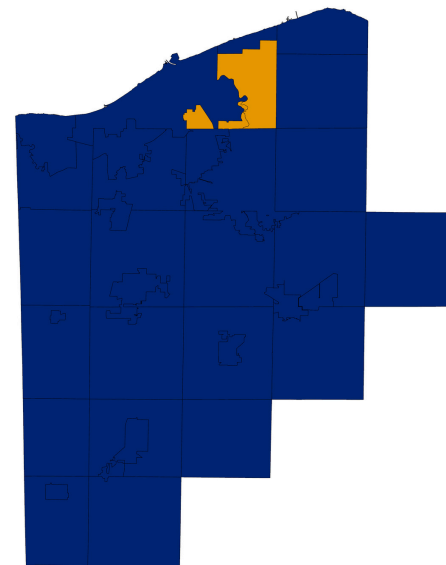
Sheffield Township



Sheffield Village

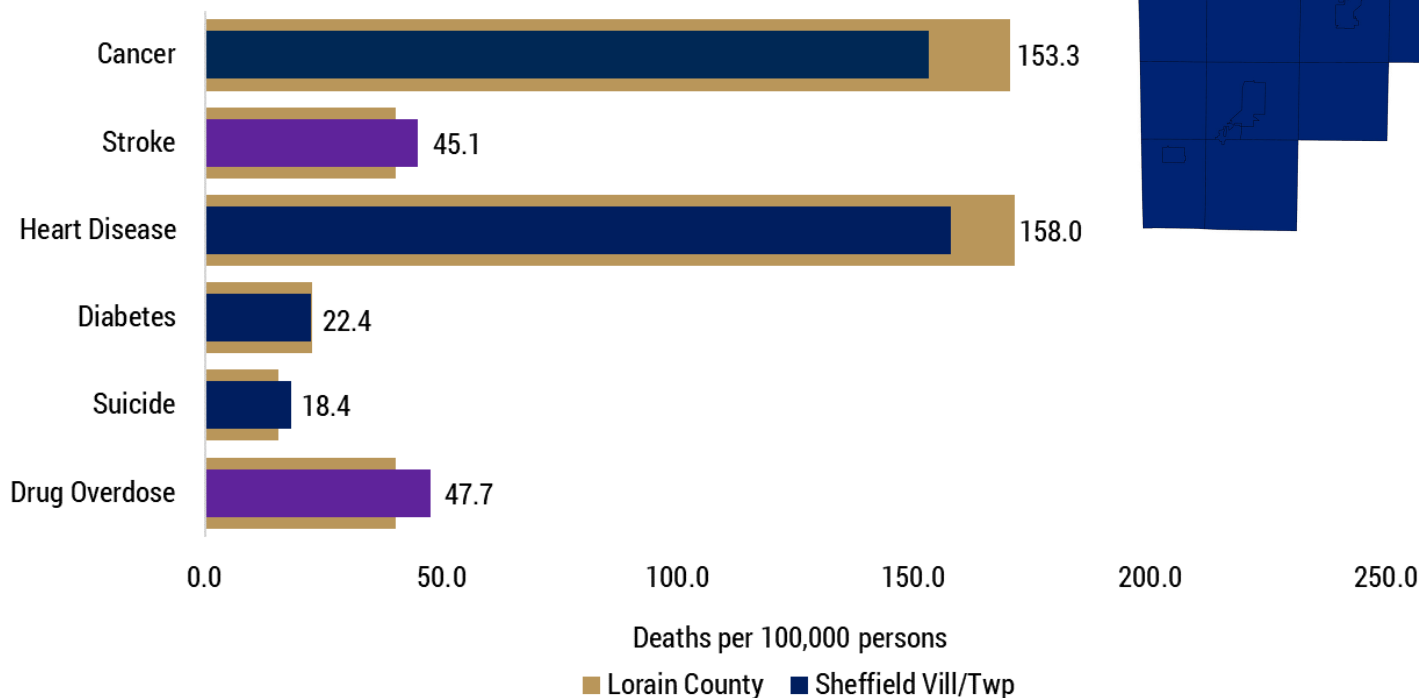


Sheffield Township and Sheffield Village



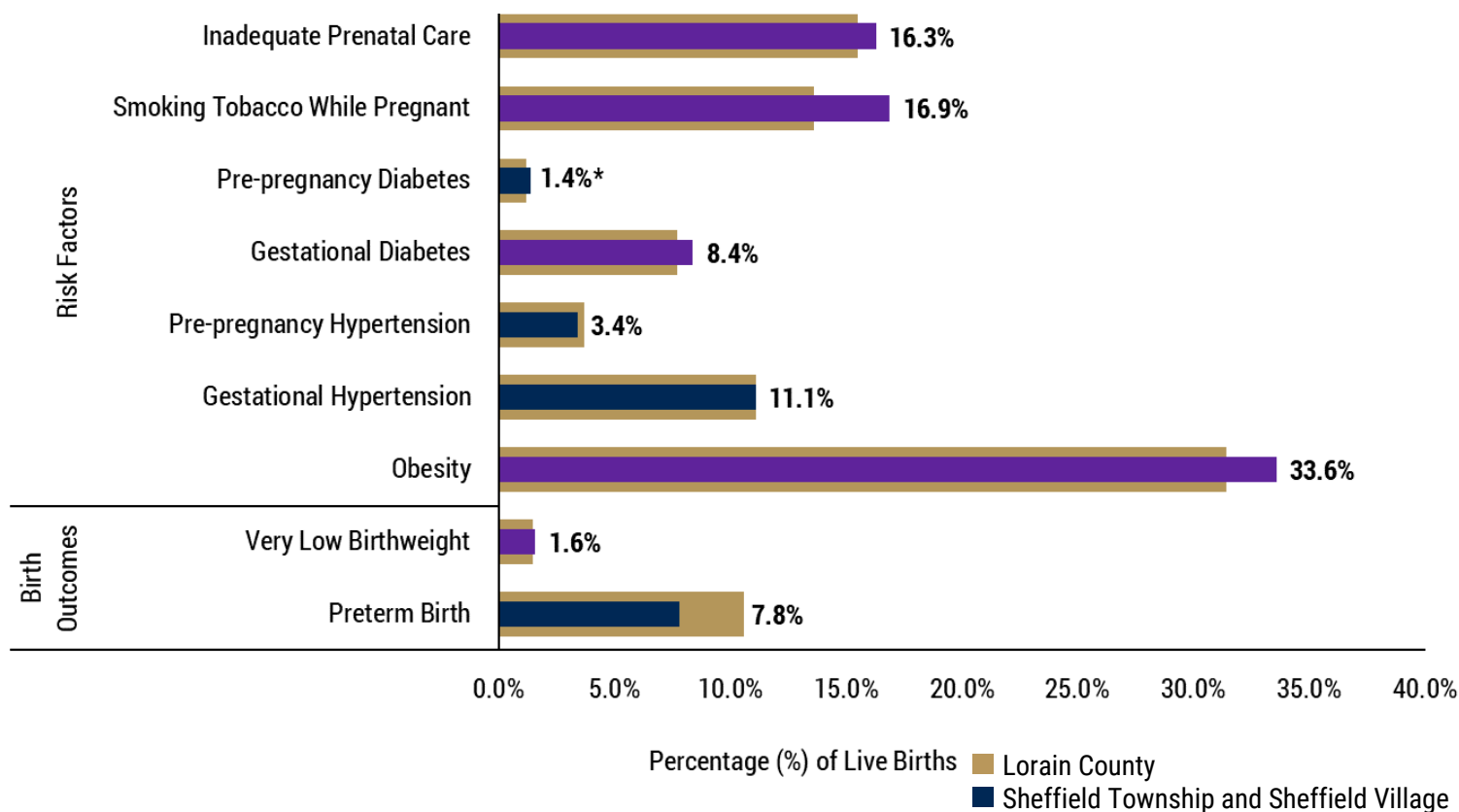
Age-Adjusted Death Rates

Sheffield Township, Sheffield Village and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



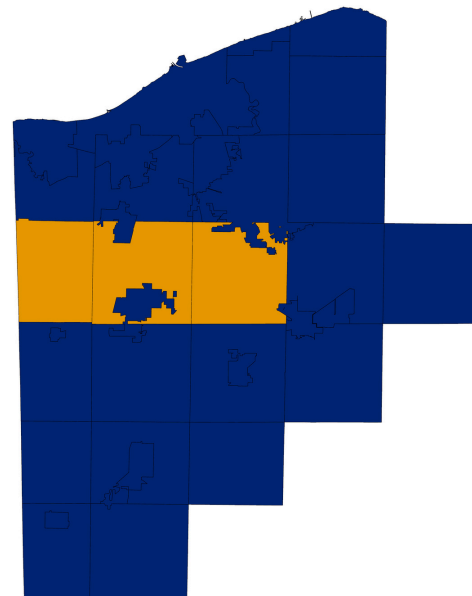
Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,

Sheffield Township, Sheffield Village and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

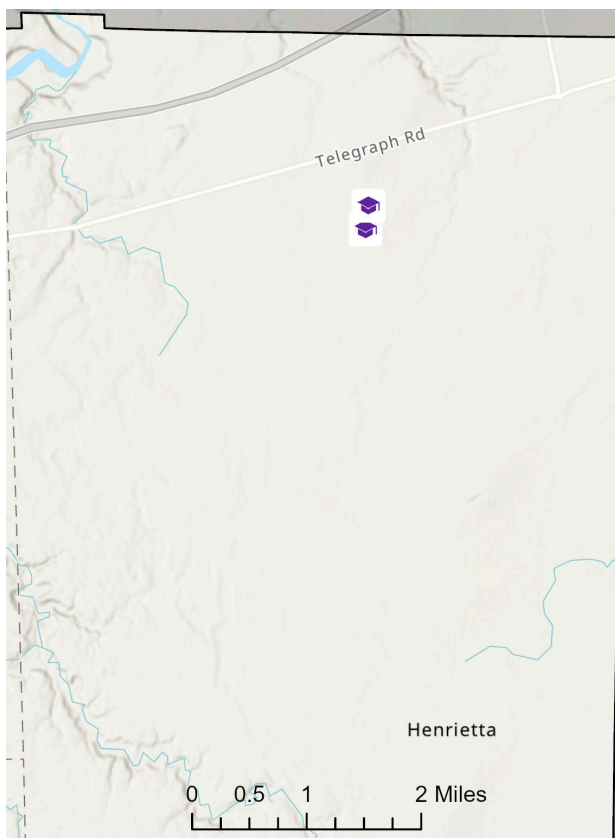


Central Townships

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap



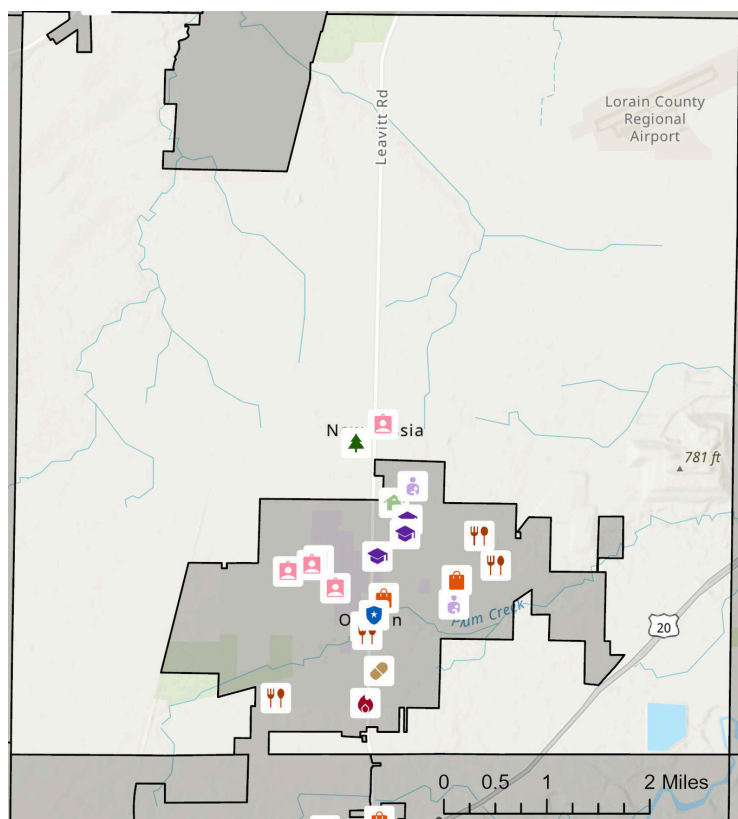
Henrietta Township



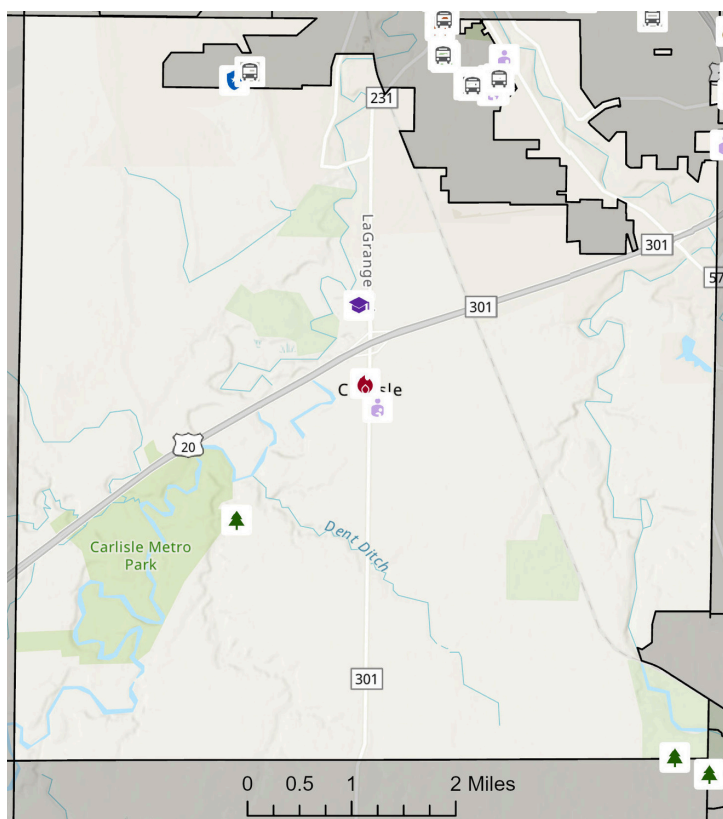
Assets and Resources

	Affordable Housing		Fire Station		Pharmacy
	Bus Stop		Food Pantry		Police Station
	Childcare Center		Grocery Store		Primary Care
	Dialysis Center		Hospital		School
					Trail Head

New Russia Township

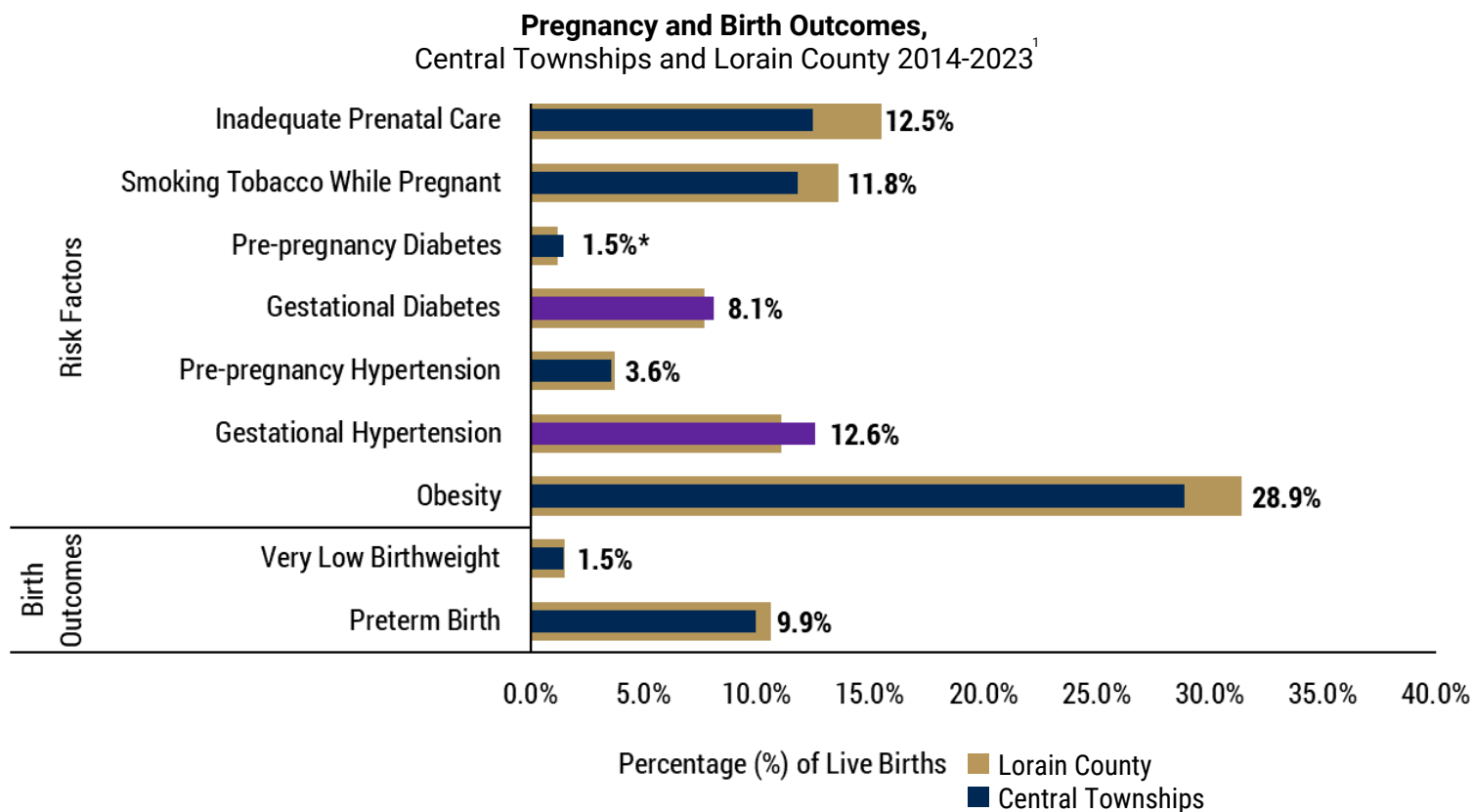
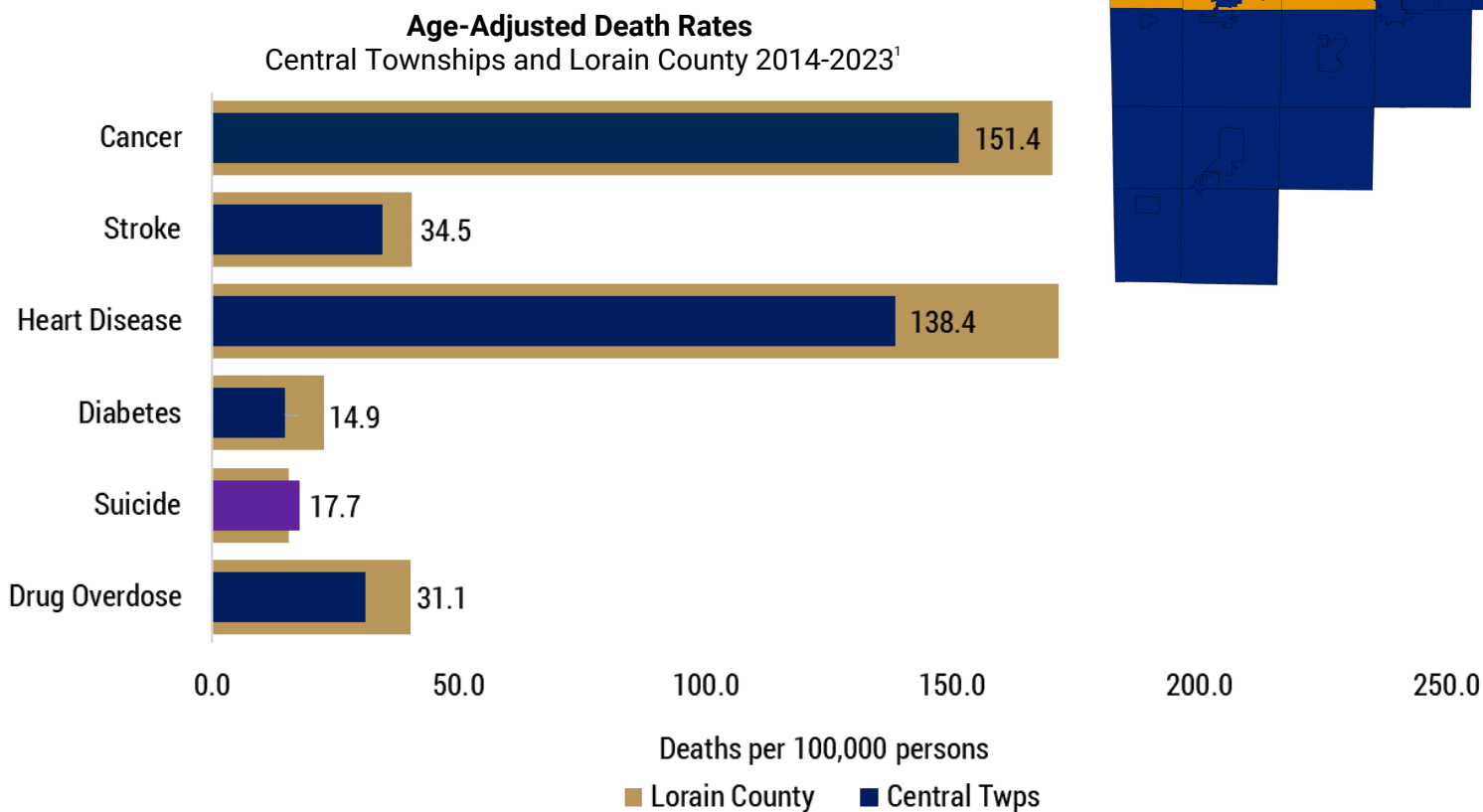
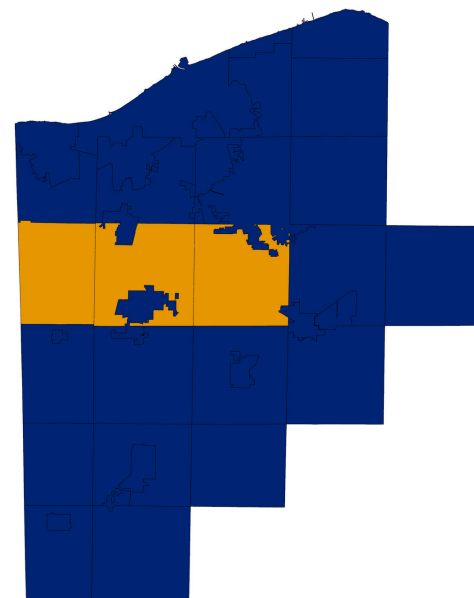


Carlisle Township



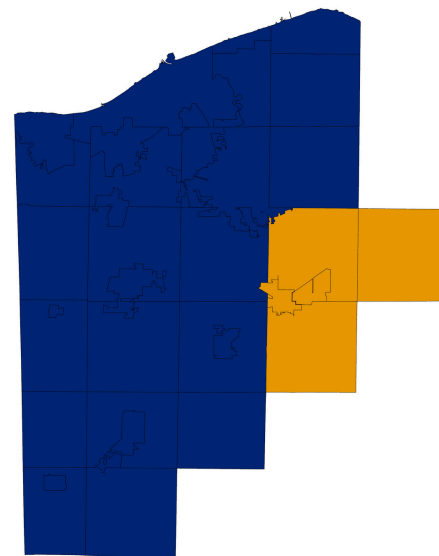
Central Townships

Carlisle
Henrietta
New Russia

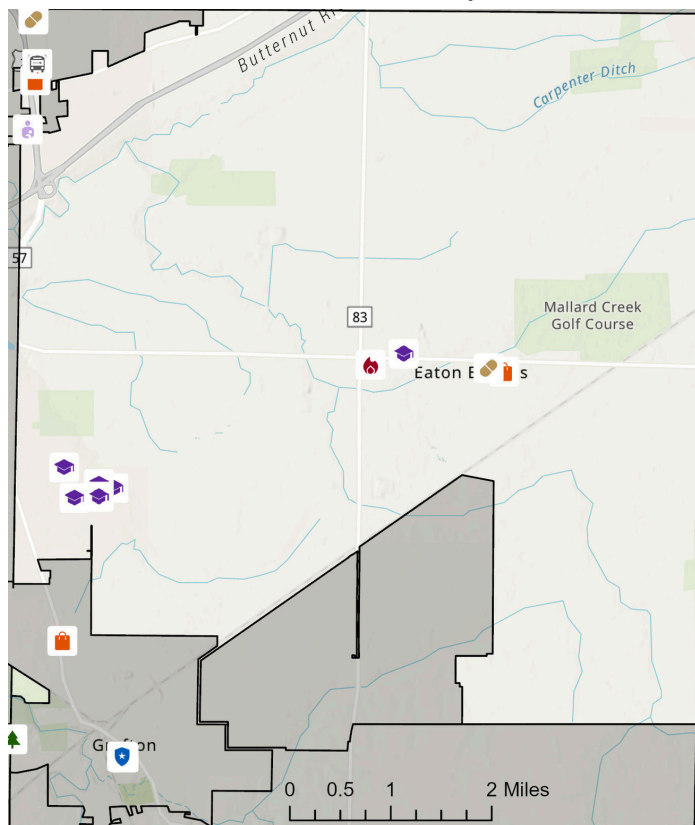


Eastern Townships and Villages

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAmap



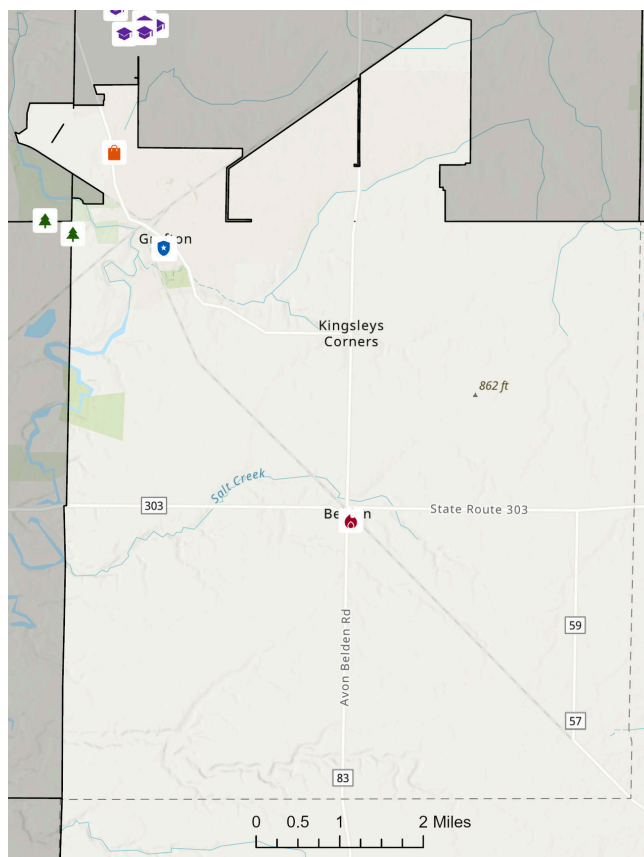
Eaton Township



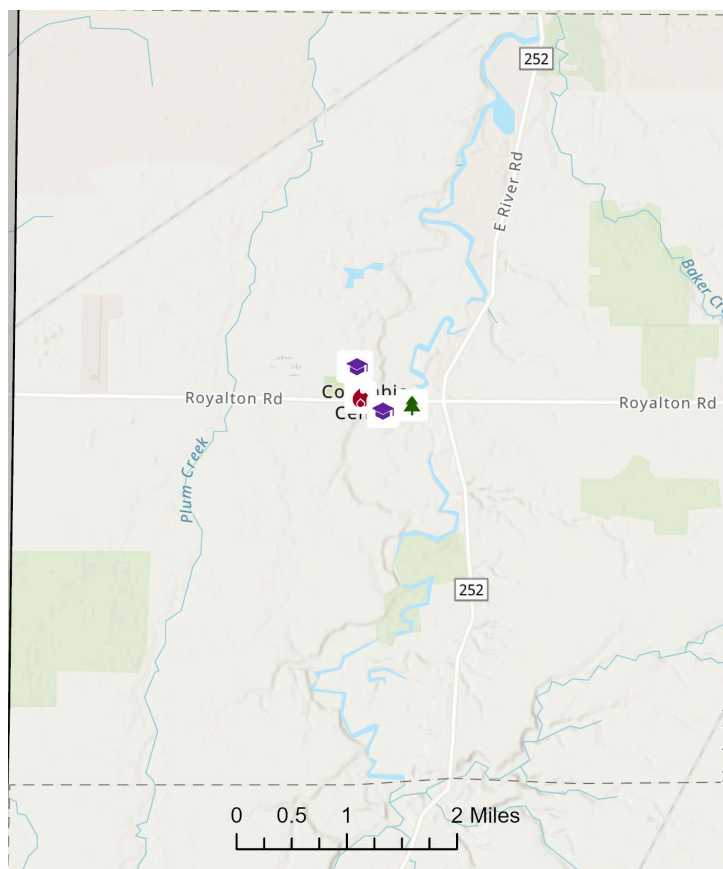
Assets and Resources

	Affordable Housing		Fire Station		Pharmacy
	Bus Stop		Food Pantry		Police Station
	Childcare Center		Grocery Store		Primary Care
	Dialysis Center		Hospital		School
			Trail Head		

Grafton Township and Village



Columbia Township



Eastern Townships and Villages

Townships

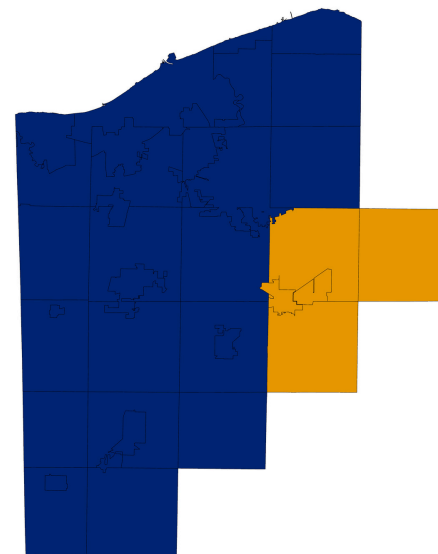
Columbia

Eaton

Grafton

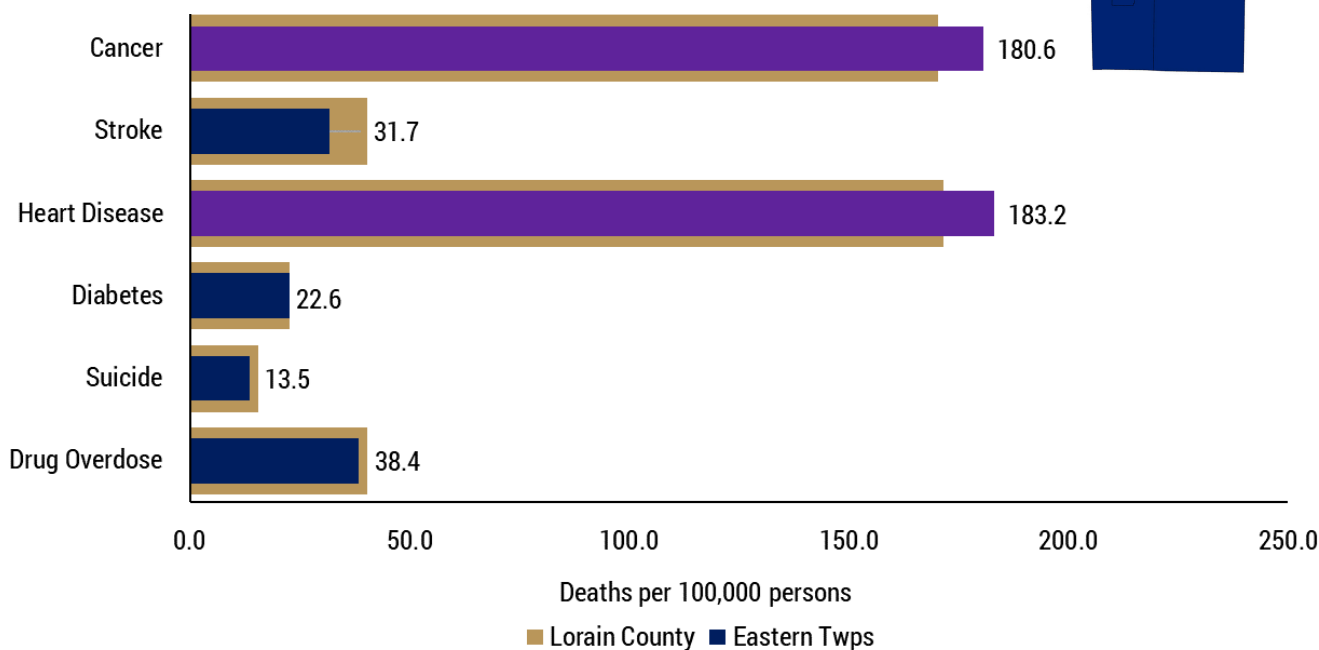
Villages

Grafton



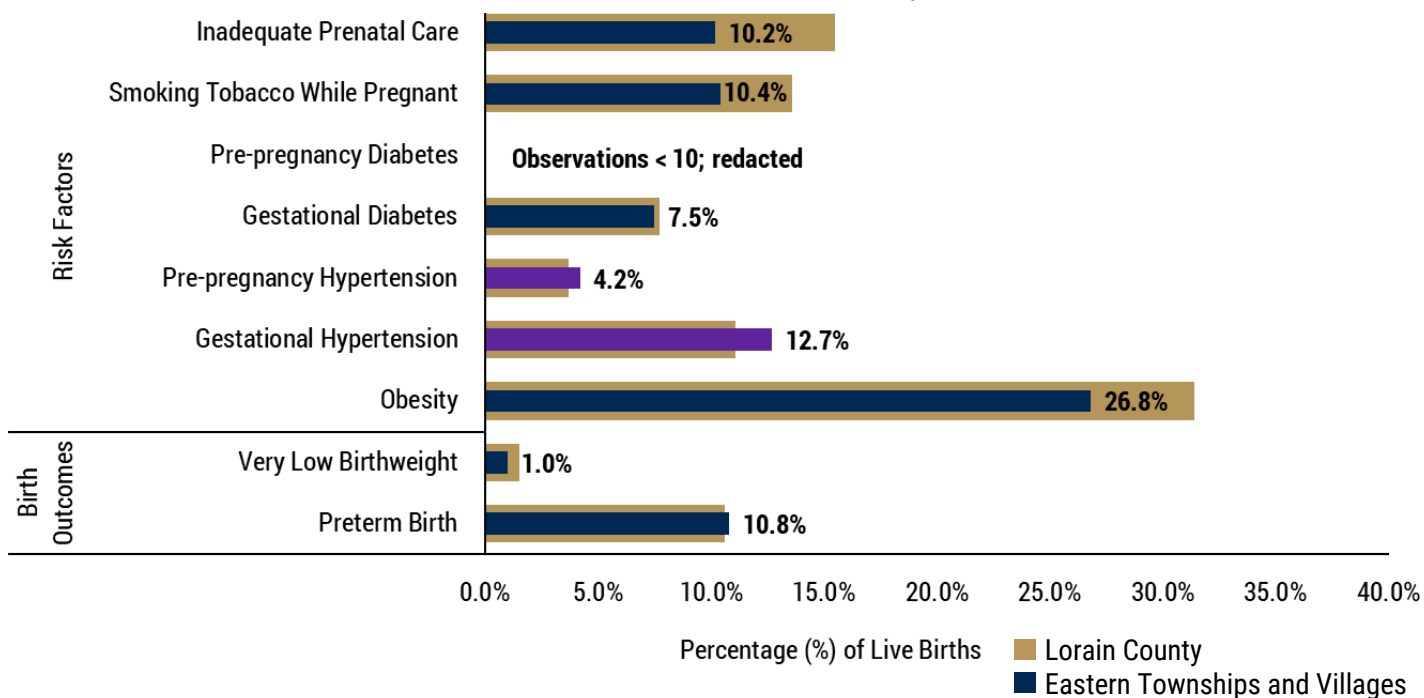
Age-Adjusted Death Rates

Eastern Townships and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,

Eastern Townships, Villages and Lorain County 2014-2023¹

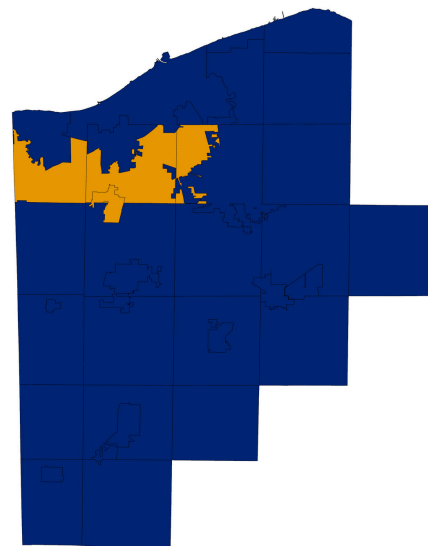


N/A = Rates for categories with < 10 observations are not calculated

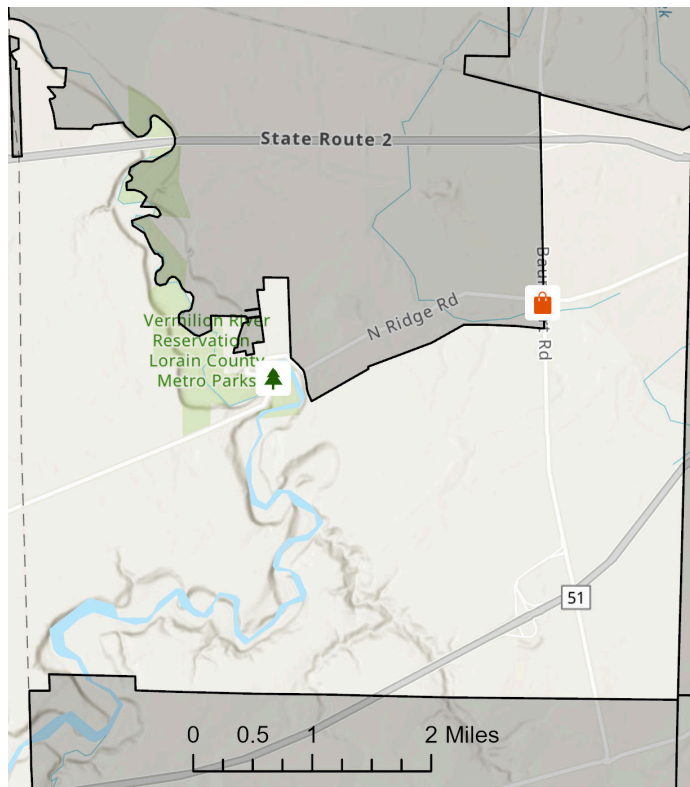
* = Rates calculated with < 20 observations should be interpreted with caution

Northern Townships and Villages

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAmap



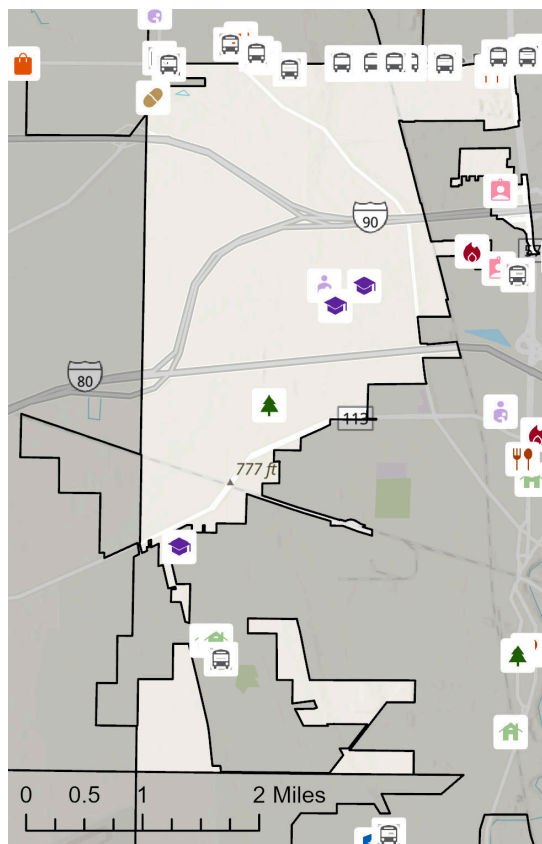
Brownhelm Township



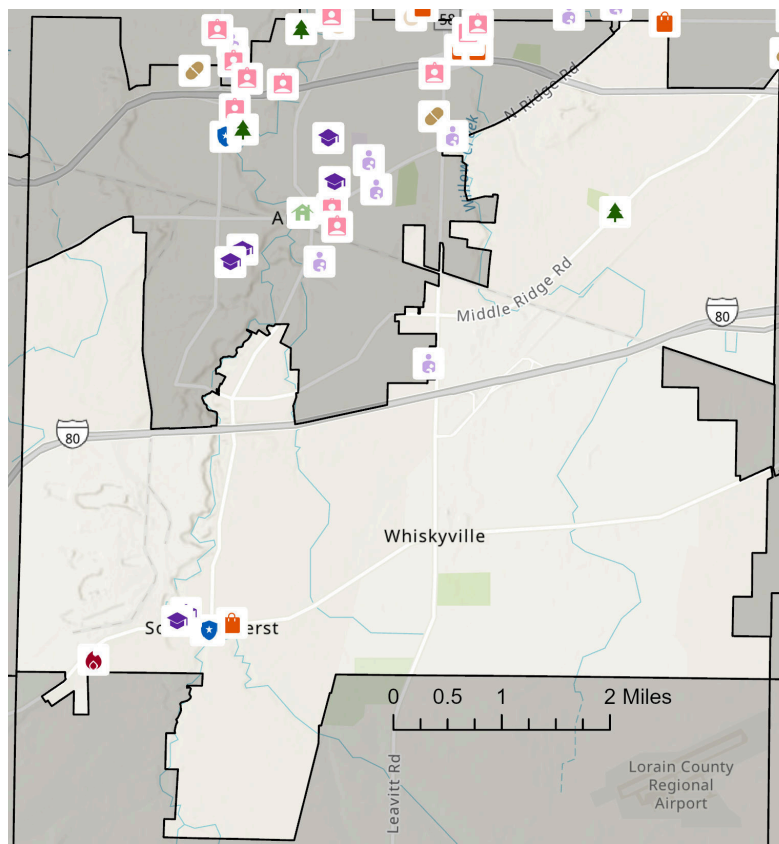
Assets and Resources



Elyria Township



Amherst Township and South Amherst Village



Northern Townships and Villages

Townships

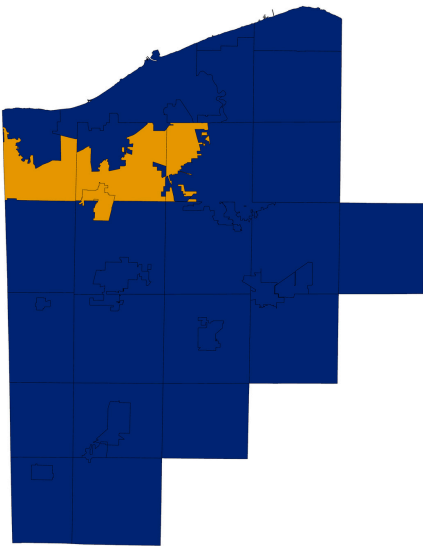
Amherst

Brownhelm

Elyria

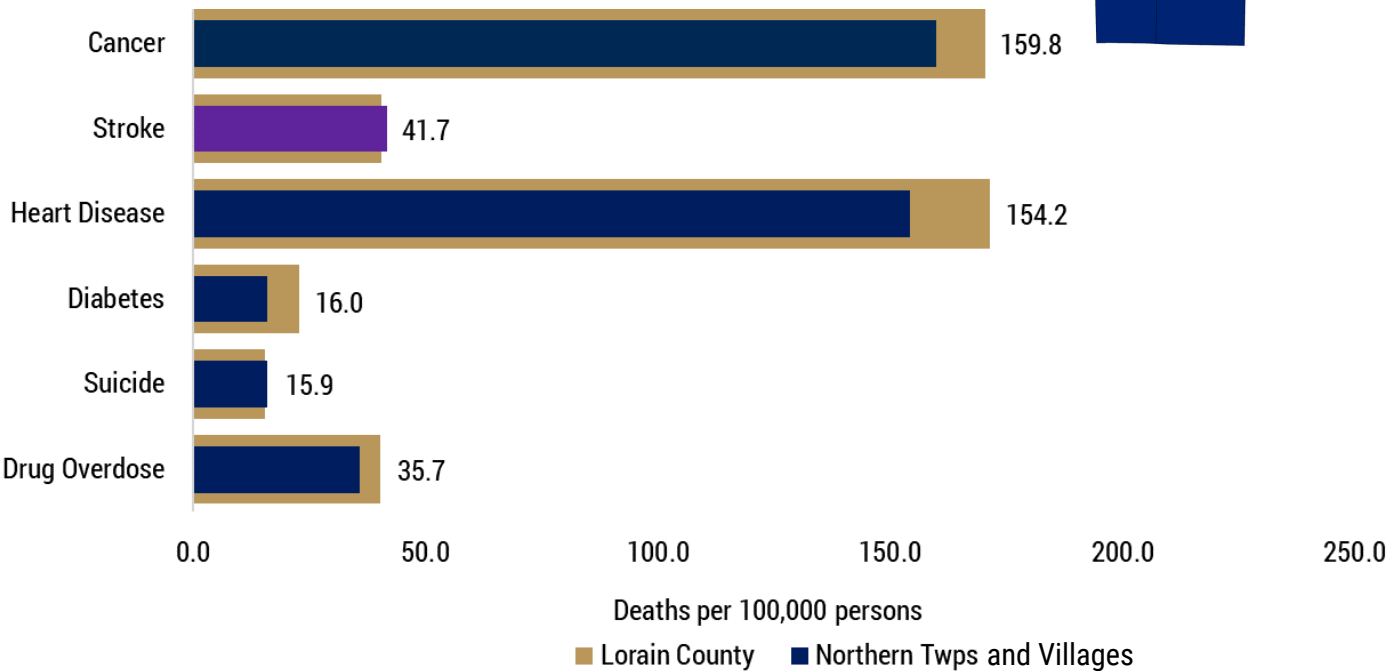
Villages

South Amherst



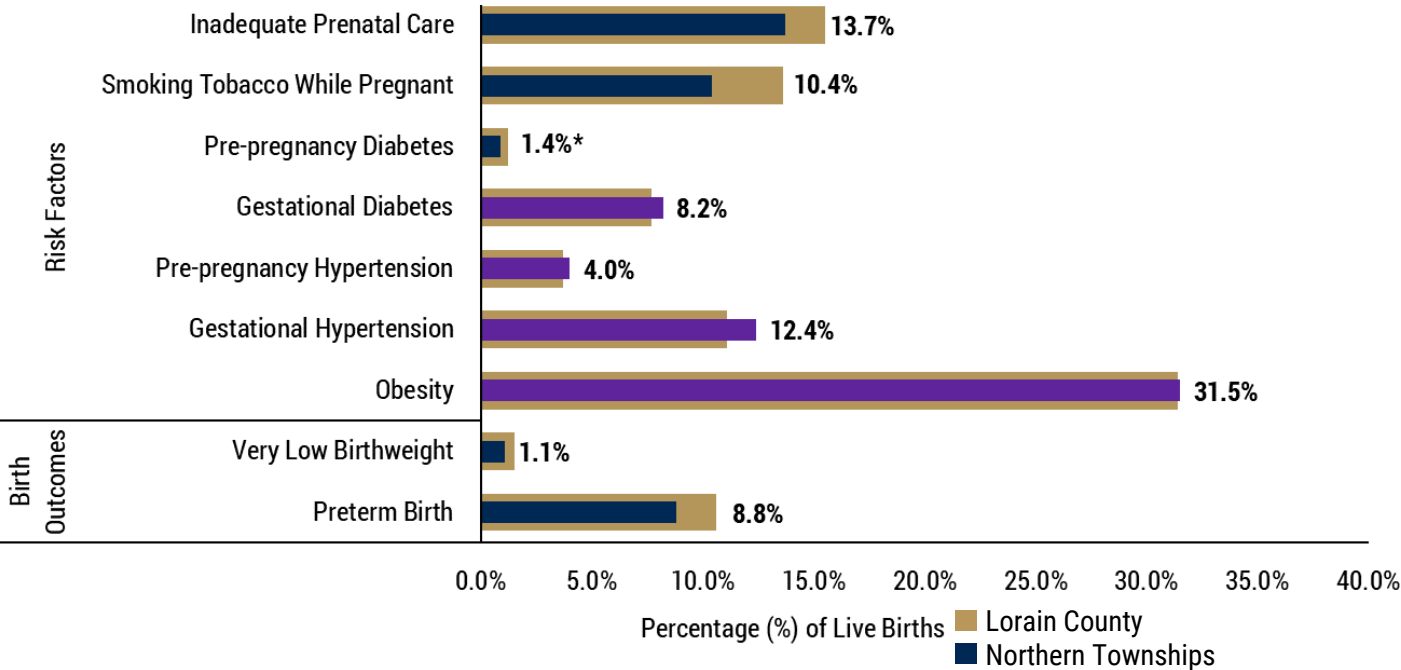
Age-Adjusted Death Rates

Northern Townships, Villages and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes,

Northern Townships, Villages and Lorain County 2014-2023¹



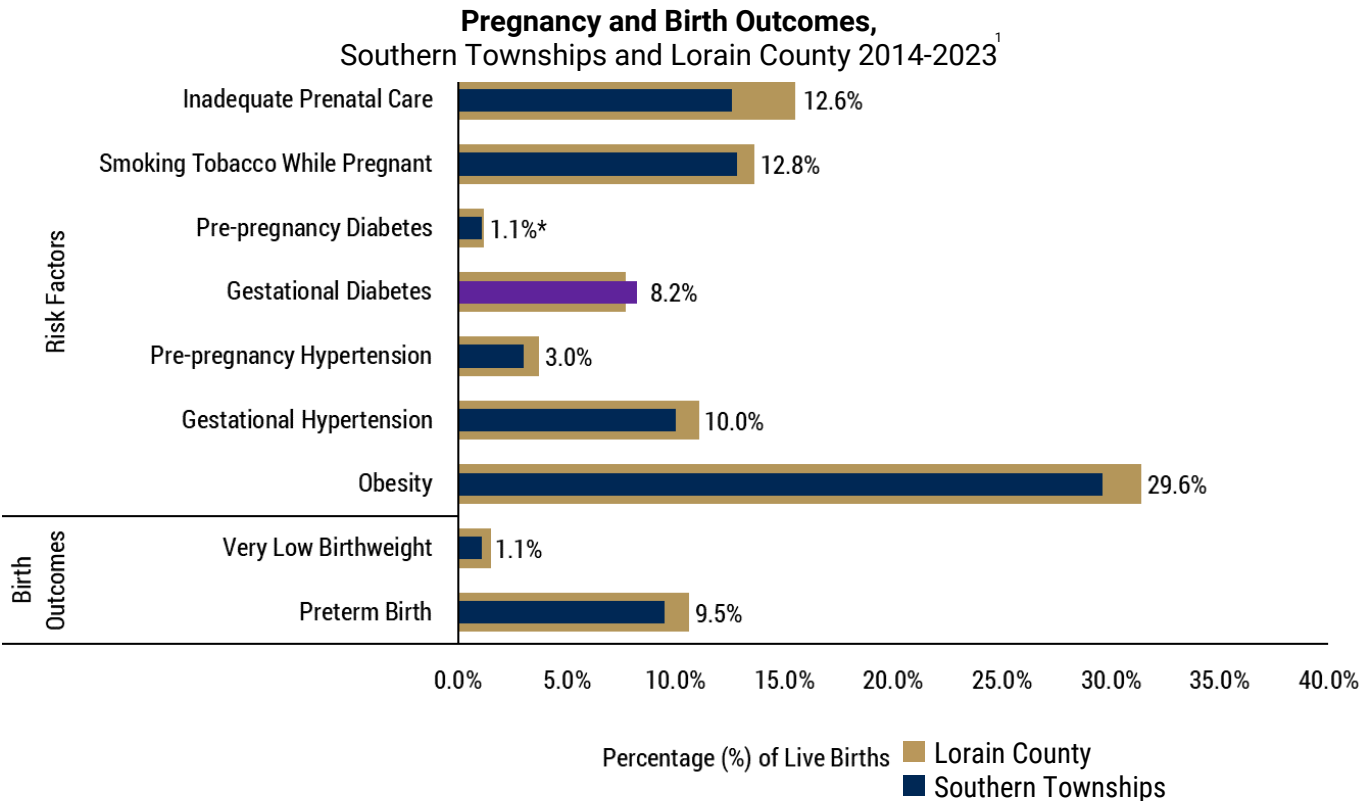
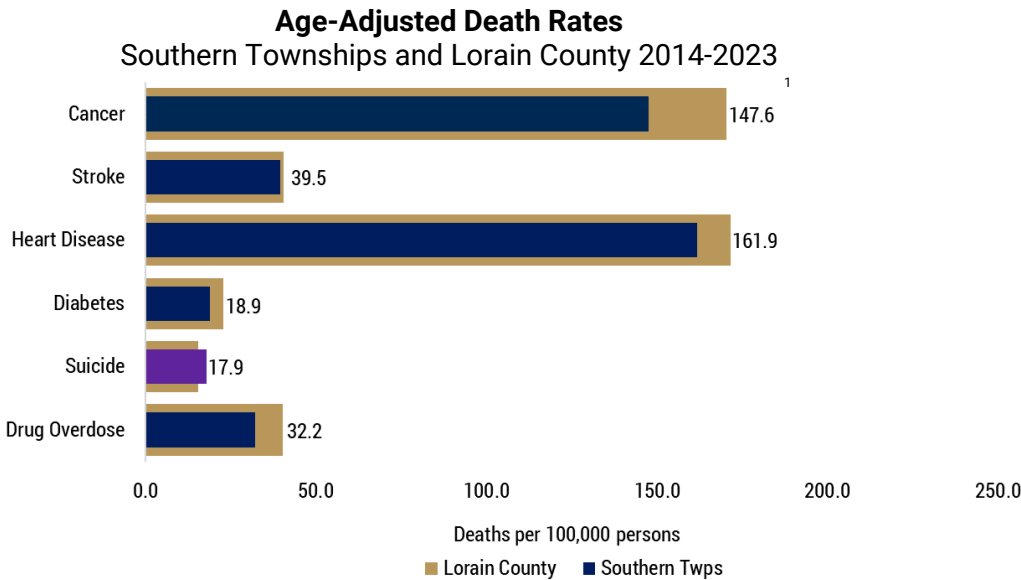
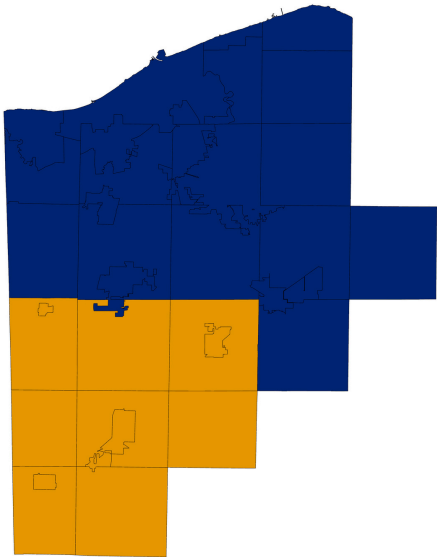
Southern Townships and Villages

Townships

Brighton
Camden
Huntington
LaGrange
Penfield
Pittsfield
Rochester
Wellington

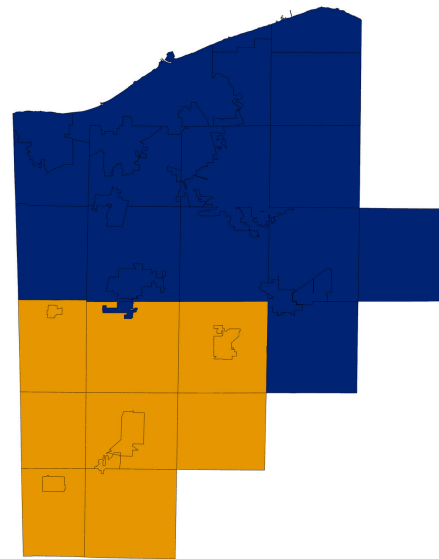
Villages














Kipton
LaGrange
Rochester
Wellington



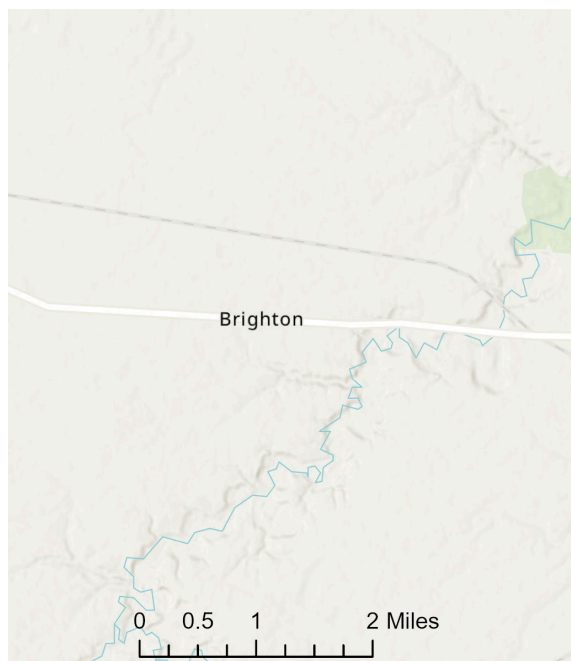
Southern Townships and Villages

View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap

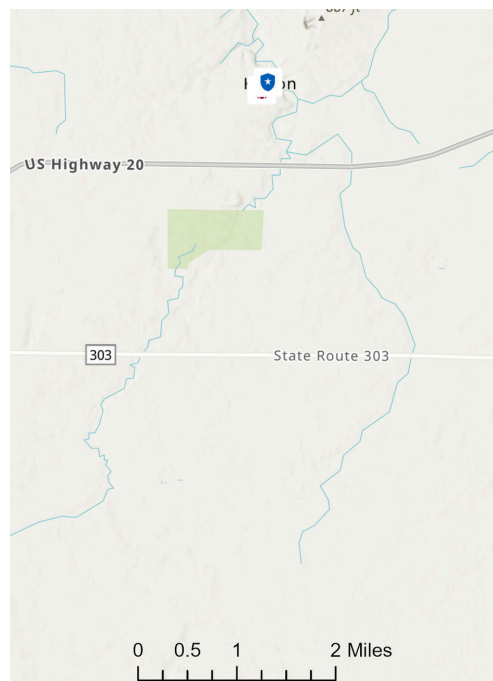


Assets and Resources		
 Affordable Housing	 Fire Station	 Pharmacy
 Bus Stop	 Food Pantry	 Police Station
 Childcare Center	 Grocery Store	 Primary Care
 Dialysis Center	 Hospital	 School
		 Trail Head

Brighton Township



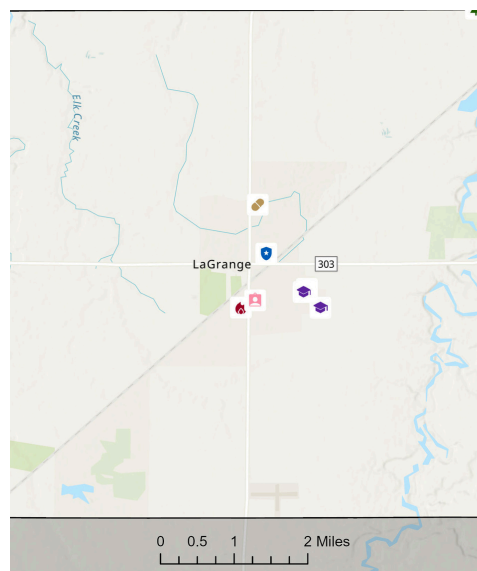
Camden Township and Kipton Village



Huntington Township

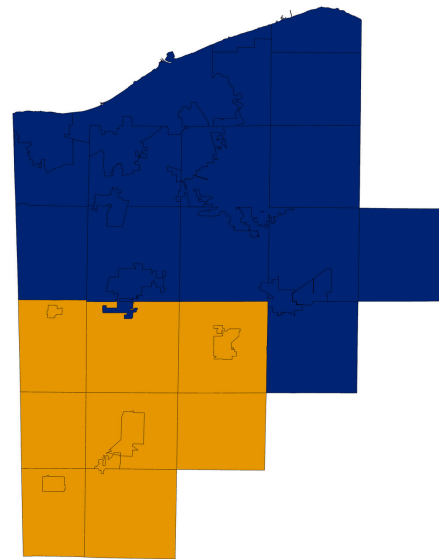


LaGrange Township and Village



Southern Townships and Villages

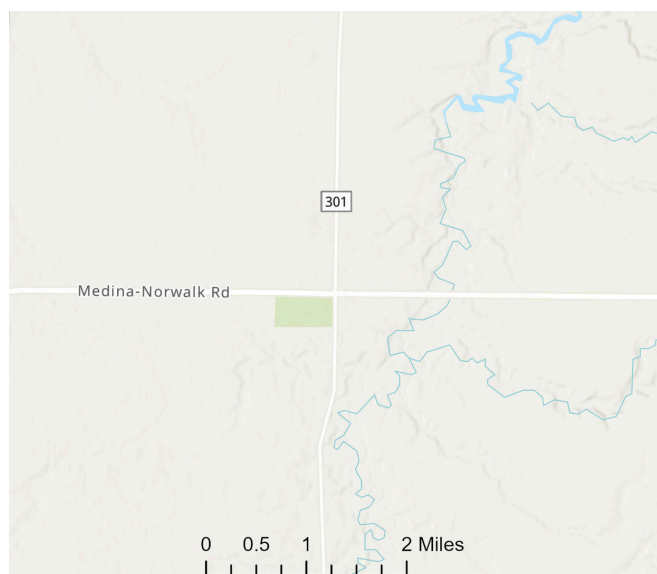
View the interactive map online at bit.ly/LorainCoCHAMap



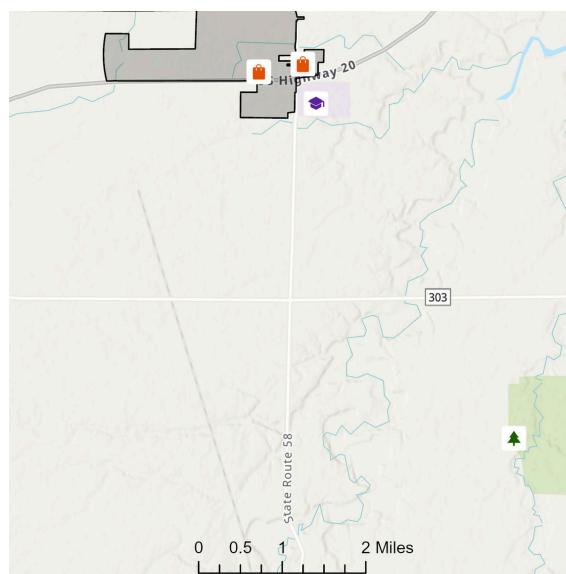
Assets and Resources



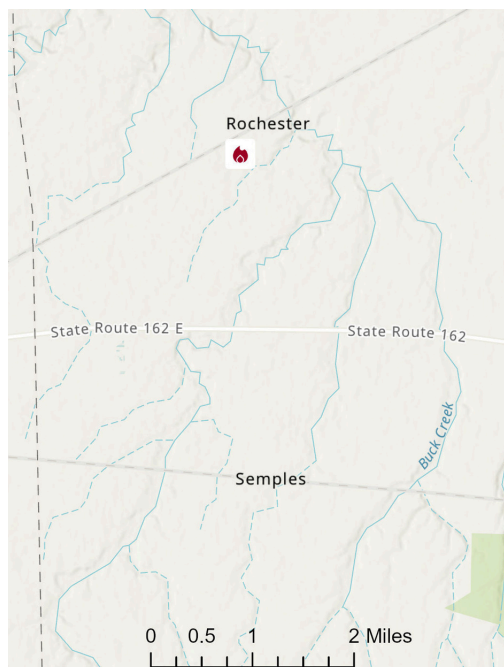
Penfield Township



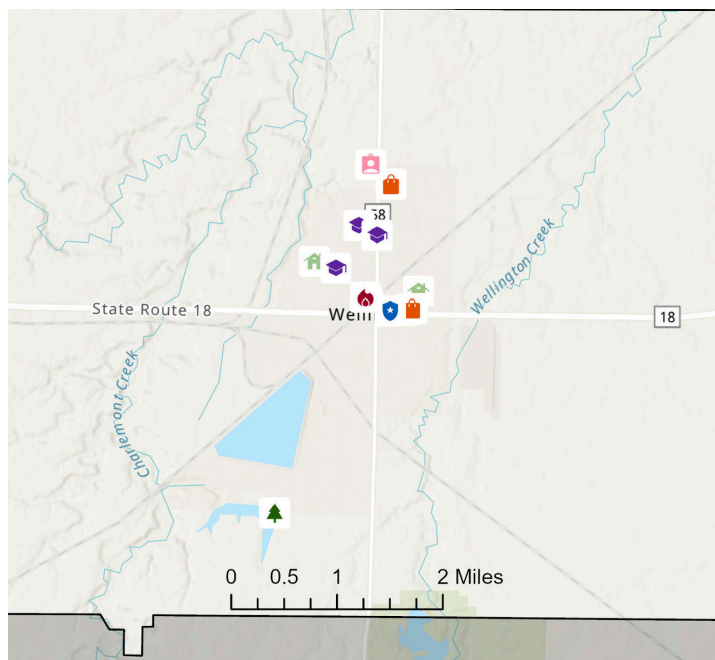
Pittsfield Township



Rochester Village



Wellington Village



Next Steps: A vision for the future

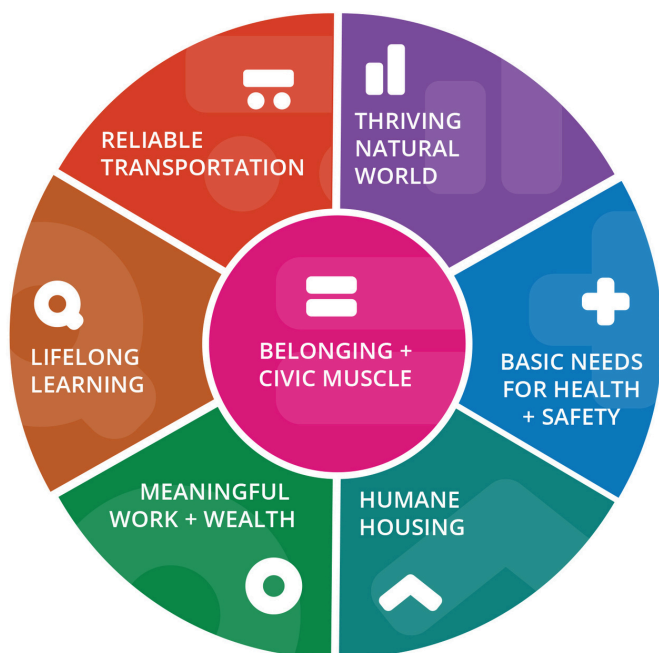


The next phase of the community process is the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).








The 2026-2028 CHIP will outline implementation strategies for addressing the priorities identified in this assessment. The CHIP will also serve as University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center's implementation strategy. Other local hospitals will identify alignment with their strategies as well.

Emerging Ideas

Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being



Belonging & Civic Muscle is at the center because it is both a vital condition and a practical capacity that is necessary for equitable success in every other kind of work.

	Sustainable resources, contact with nature, freedom from hazards Clean air, water, soil; healthy ecosystems able to sustainably provide necessary resources; accessible natural spaces; freedom from the extreme heat, flooding, wind, radiation, earthquakes, pathogens
THRIVING NATURAL WORLD	
	Basic requirements for health and safety Nutritious food, safe drinking water; fresh air; sufficient sleep; routine physical activity; safe, satisfying sexuality and reproduction; freedom from trauma, violence, addiction and crime; routine care for physical and behavioral health
BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH + SAFETY	
	Humane, consistent housing Adequate space per person; safe structures; affordable costs; diverse neighborhoods (without gentrification, segregation, concentrated poverty); close to work, school, food, recreation, and nature
HUMANE HOUSING	
	Rewarding work, careers, and standards of living Job training/retraining; good-paying and fulfilling jobs; family and community wealth; savings and limited debt
MEANINGFUL WORK + WEALTH	
	Continuous learning, education, and literacy Continuous development of cognitive, social, emotional abilities; early childhood experiences; elementary, high school, and higher education; career and adult education
LIFELONG LEARNING	
	Reliable, safe, and accessible transportation Close to work, school, food, leisure; safe transport; active transport; efficient energy use; few environmental hazards
RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION	
	Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world Social support; civic association; freedom from stigma, discrimination, oppression; support for civil rights, human rights; civic agency; collective efficacy; vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life; equitable access to information; many opportunities for civic engagement (voting, volunteering, public work)
BELONGING + CIVIC MUSCLE	

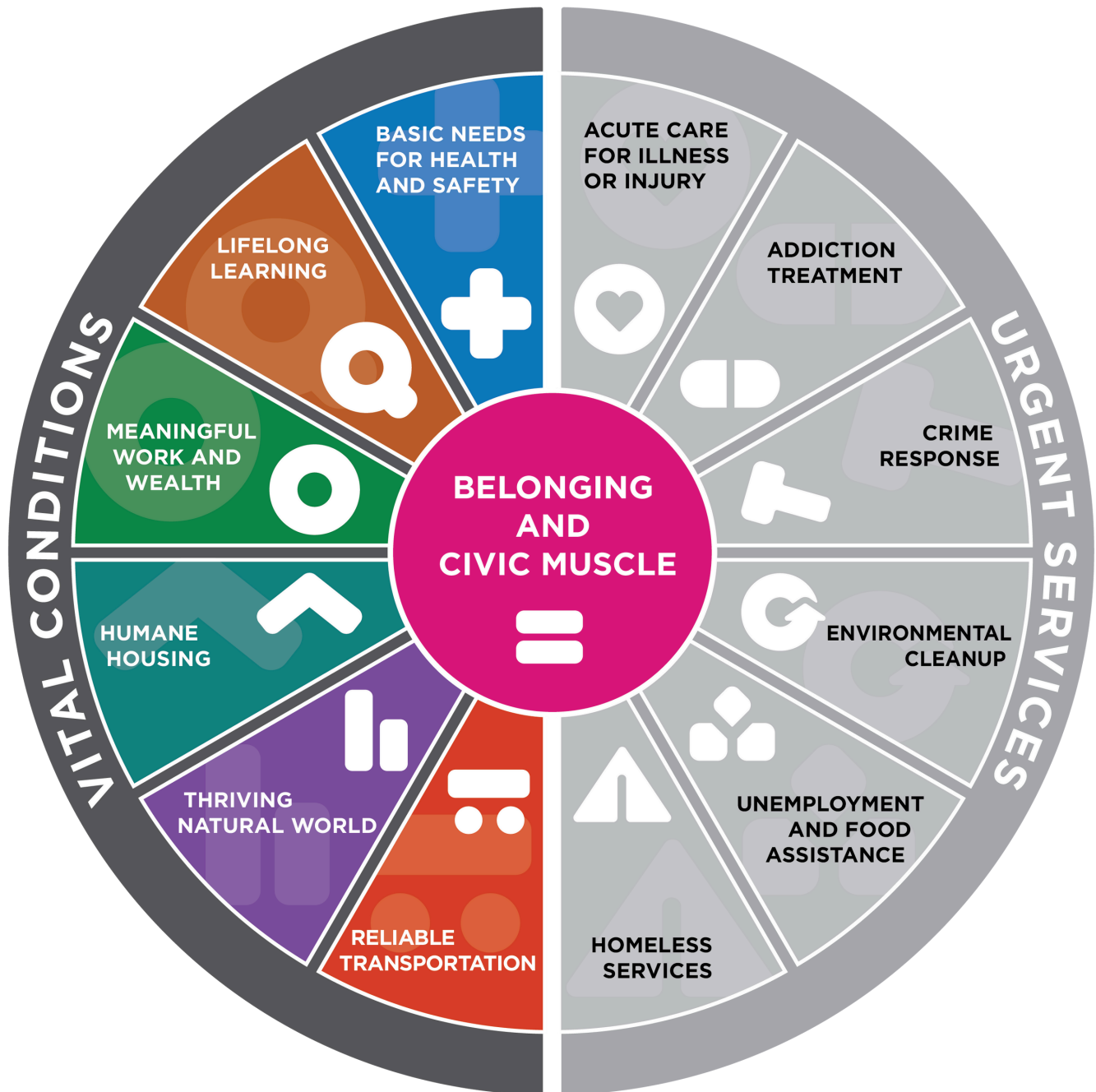
Health Affairs Forefront, 2023

Throughout this document, there have been extensive references to the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Over the past couple of decades, the SDOH framework has played a crucial role in helping professionals understand the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. The Vital Conditions framework is designed to demonstrate the connectedness of these factors, and emphasize that they are interdependent, not separate.

Next Steps: A vision for the future



Taking it a step further, the image below depicts how health and well-being is balanced by both vital conditions and urgent services. In times of crisis, urgent services can be life-changing. But, urgent services cannot produce a sense of health and well-being by themselves. Further, disruptions in the vital conditions can drive demand for urgent services.



Health Affairs Forefront, 2023

LCPH and its partners are committed to identifying and integrating resources that impact the Vital Conditions of Health and Well-Being. We believe that the opportunity for health improvement exists in any community that provides the basic vital conditions and services needed to thrive.

Appendix I

Methodology



Primary Data Collection Methods

Stakeholder Interviews

Mercy Health contracted with Moxley Public Health to conduct in-depth stakeholder interviews in order to gather open and honest perspectives on topics related to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Stakeholders included a diverse set of leaders from across Lorain County, including leadership from health service providers, social service organizations, elected and appointed civic institutions, local and regional businesses, educational institutions, and faith communities. Mercy Health provided transcripts and LCPH staff combined similar themes and responded, then summarized throughout this document.

With each individual, an in-depth telephone interview was conducted using a set of open-ended questions to guide the conversations. The average interview length was 35-40 minutes. Twenty-one interviews were completed between Dec. 1, 2024, and Feb. 1, 2025.

Women's Health Assessment

LCPH created a survey specifically for women of child bearing age, and fathers of young children. The assessment was done to support strategic planning around impacting infant mortality, a significant issue in the county. There were 411 respondents and the assessment was completed between Oct. 1 and Nov. 1, 2024. Results were analyzed by LCPH epidemiologists and summaries were drafted and included throughout this document.

Focus Groups

Mercy Health with Moxley Public Health conducted six focus groups between Dec. 14, 2024 and March 14, 2025 to authentically engage members of the community and generate public knowledge that can help make decisions. LCPH assisted with recruitment of vulnerable populations. Conversations were facilitated by Moxley Public Health via Zoom and in-person. Each session was between 30 and 60 minutes in length and began with introductions and the goals of the conversation. All participants received an explanation on how the data collected will be used and shared. They were provided a gift card incentive for their time. Mercy and Moxley Public Health provided LCPH with transcripts of the focus groups, and LCPH staff analyzed and drafted summaries appearing throughout this document. Specific populations that participated in focus groups included:

- Black males
- Latinx males
- Low-income residents
- Migrant workers
- Unhoused residents
- Women, age 18-55

Appendix I

Methodology



Secondary Data Collection Methods

- Much of the risk factor and health outcome information provided in this health assessment used data that was accessed through the following governmental agencies:
 - Ohio Department of Health
 - Bureau of Vital Statistics
 - Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System
 - Compiled reports or data briefs
 - Ohio Department of Education
 - EpiCenter Health Monitoring Systems
 - State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - United States Census Bureau
 - County Health Rankings

Evaluation

By synthesizing these data sources, LCPH aimed to develop an evidence-based understanding of the most pressing health challenges facing the population.

To ensure a collaborative and structured approach, the CHIP steering committee and its associated subcommittees are presented with data throughout the year. The committees discuss findings, and set overarching priorities on a regular basis. In addition the data was shared with partners who serve on a variety of community based coalitions and collaboratives for feedback or additional insight.

Appendix II

Glossary



Age-adjustment: statistical method used to control for differences in age compositions so that separate geographic populations (e.g. Lorain County vs. Ohio) or the same geographic population over time can be accurately compared.

Death Rate: number of deaths that occur in a defined population per 100,000 during a specified period of time.

Fetal Death: spontaneous intrauterine death of a fetus, also known as stillbirth. The fetus must be of 20+ weeks gestation to be reportable in Ohio.

Fetal Mortality Rate (FMR): the number of fetal deaths per 1,000 fetal deaths and live births during a specified period of time.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR): the number of infant deaths before their first birthday per 1,000 live births during a specified period of time.

Incidence: The number of new cases of a disease that occur in a defined population during a specified period of time.

Prevalence: The proportion of a population that has a specific characteristic in a specified time period.

Social Determinants of Health: The conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of life-risks and outcomes.

Appendix III

Sources



Asthma

1. EpiCenter V4.0.3 (2025). Health Monitoring Systems.

Cancer Incidence

1. Cancer incidence data used in these analyses were obtained from the Ohio Cancer incidence Surveillance System (OCISS), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), a cancer registry partially supported by the National Program of Cancer Registries at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through Cooperative Agreement Number NU58DP007097. Use of these data does not imply that ODH or CDC agrees or disagrees with the analyses, interpretations, or conclusions in this publication.
2. Ohio Department of Health. (2021). Lorain County Cancer Profile. Retrieved from: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-cancer-incidence-surveillance-system/countyprofiles/lorain-county>
3. Bakouny Z, Paciotti M, Schmidt AL, et al. Cancer screening tests and cancer diagnoses during the COVID-19 pandemic. *JAMA Oncol* 7: 458 - 460, 2021
4. Ohio Department of Health. (2023). Lorain County Cancer Profile. Retrieved from: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-cancer-incidence-surveillance-system/countyprofiles/lorain-county>
5. National Center for Health Statistics Cause of Death ICD10 Codes: C00-C97
6. Burus T, Lei F, Huang B, et al. Undiagnosed Cancer Cases in the US During the First 10 Months of the COVID-19 Pandemic. *JAMA Oncol*. 2024;10(4):500–507. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2023.6969

Diabetes

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analysis interpretations or conclusions.

Emergency Department (ED) Data

1. Cairns, C., Ashman, J., & Kang, K. (2024). Emergency Department Visit Rates by Selected Characteristics: United States, 2022. National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief, 503, 1. <https://doi.org/10.15620/cdc/159284>
2. EpiCenter Health Monitoring System. (2025, January 8). EpiCenter 4.0.3. <https://epicenter.hmsinc.com/epicenter/>

Healthcare Access and Quality

1. CDC-PLACES (2022). Maintained by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute via healthyneo.org.
2. <https://www.healthyneo.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=90&localeId=2141>

Heart Disease

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analysis interpretations or conclusions.
2. NCHS Data Query System. Death rates for heart disease [Internet]. Hyattsville (MD): National Center for Health Statistics; c2024 [cited 2025 Mar 25]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/dqs>

Kindergarten Readiness

1. Ohio Department of Education. Ohio School Report Cards. Retrieved from: <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download>

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). (2022) The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, October 3). National Center for Health Statistics Key Health Indicators. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/ohio/oh.htm>
3. Gregory ECW, Valenzuela CP, Martin JA. Fetal mortality in the United States: Final 2020–2021 and 2021–provisional 2022. Vital Statistics Rapid Release; no 32. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. November 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15620/cdc:133319>.
4. March of Dimes. (2024). 2024 March of Dimes Report Card for Ohio. March of Dimes | PeriStats. <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/ohio/report-card>

Next Steps

1. "Organizing Around Vital Conditions Moves The Social Determinants Agenda Into Wider Action", Health Affairs Forefront, February 2, 2023. DOI: 10.1377/forefront.20230131.673841

Overdose

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analysis interpretations or conclusions.
2. Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) (2025). Washington/Baltimore HIDTA.

Regional Data: Central & Eastern Township Charts

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analysis interpretations or conclusions.
2. National Association of Medical Examiners. (2022). A Guide for Manner of Death Classification: First Edition 2002. Retrieved from <https://name.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/MANNEROFDEATH.pdf>

Appendix III

Sources



Self-Harm

1. EpiCenter V4.0.3 (2025). Health Monitoring Systems.

Social and Community Context

1. Kids Count Data Center (2025). The Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/6482-children-abused-and-neglected?loc=37&loct=5#detailed/5/5178-5265/false/2048,574,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868/any/13431,15657>
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Stroke

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analysis interpretations or conclusions.

Suicide

1. Data provided by the Ohio Department of Health (Bureau of Vital Statistics). The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for analysis interpretations or conclusions.

Appendix IV

Additional Recent Assessments



Below are links to other assessments completed by agencies in Lorain County between 2022-2024. The data in these assessments provide insight into other priorities impacting specific areas or populations. LCPH is committed to working with these agencies to find alignment and leverage resources where possible, to make the most impact and leverage resources where possible.

- [Lorain County Office on Aging Older Adults Needs Assessment, 2021](#)
- [Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services strategic plan, 2021-2023](#)
- [Clearview School Travel Plan, 2022](#)
- [Lorain County Community Action Agency Community Needs Assessment, 2022](#)
- [Mercy Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022](#)
- [Downtown Elyria An Action Plan for Vibrancy, 2023](#)
- [Elyria Public Library System Plan, 2023](#)
- [The Elyria City Schools Plan, 2023](#)
- [The Village of Wellington Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)
- [University Hospitals Community Health Implementation Strategy, 2023-2025](#)
- [Lorain County Community Action Agency Strategic Plan, 2023-2026](#)
- [The City of Elyria Comprehensive Plan, 2024](#)
- [The City of Lorain Active Transportation Plan, 2024](#)
- [The City of Oberlin Comprehensive Plan, 2024](#)
- [The City of Sheffield Lake Master Plan, 2024](#)
- [Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan, 2024](#)
- [Lorain County Strategic Action Plan, 2024](#)
- [Ridgeville Ready, 2024](#)
- [Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, 2025](#)
- [The City of Lorain's 5-year plan, 2025-2029](#)

Appendix V

Potential Resources Available

Lorain County is focused on the following three priority areas: behavioral health, chronic disease, and maternal and child health. This list of potential resources are available to meet identified community health priorities. This list is not meant to be exhaustive. For a complete list of community based resources, call 2-1-1, or visit 211lorain.org.



Behavioral Health

2-1-1
Cleveland Clinic
Communities That Care of Lorain County
Educational Service Center of Lorain County
Gathering Hope House
Harm Reduction Clinic
Law enforcement partnerships
Let's Get Real
Local school districts
Lorain County Community College
Lorain County Metro Parks
Lorain County Public Health
Lorain County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Lorain County Urban League
Lorain County Opiate Action Team
Maternal Depression Task Force
Mercy Health
Mental Health, Addiction, and Recovery Services
Board of Lorain County
OhioGuidestone
Ohio Tobacco Quitline
Project DAWN
Riveon
Road to Hope House
University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center
Vaping Task Force
Veterans Affairs
White Butterfly Project

Chronic Disease

2-1-1
Avon RH, LLC
Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital
Community collaboratives and coalitions
El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc.
Elyria Public Library System
Family Planning Services
Local farmers markets, grocery stores and food pantries
Lorain County Community College
Lorain County Health and Dentistry
Lorain County Metro Parks
Lorain County Public Health
Lorain Public Library System
Mercy Health Lorain Hospital
Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
United Way of Greater Lorain County
United We Sweat
University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center and Avon Fitness Center

Maternal and Child Health

Bright Beginnings
Catholic Charities
Child Care Resource and Referral Center
Children with Medical Handicaps
Community collaboratives and coalitions
Community Health Workers
Cornerstone Pregnancy Services
Cribs for Kids
Family Planning Services
Help Me Grow
Lorain County Breastfeeding Support Group
Lorain County Community Action Agency Pathways Hub
Lorain County Health and Dentistry
Mercy Health - Resource Mothers
Neighborhood Alliance
Neighborhood navigation services
OhioGuidestone
Passages
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services

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