

Licking Memorial Health Systems

# 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment



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# Introduction

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Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) remains responsive to the healthcare needs of the Licking County area that it has served for more than 100 years. The 227-bed facility offers a full spectrum of quality patient care services, from emergency medicine to home healthcare. In addition, LMH offers a number of specialized medical services unique for a Hospital of its size. Comprehensive services are available in areas such as cancer care, heart care, maternity services, and mental health. The mission of Licking Memorial Health Systems (LMHS) is to improve the health of the community.

The Licking Memorial Health Professionals (LMHP) is a group of 100-plus physicians in various practices. Physician offices are located throughout Licking County including Granville, Hanover, Heath, Hebron, Johnstown, Newark, and Pataskala.

The Licking Memorial Health Foundation (LMHF) is supported by the Development Council, which has various committees consisting of business leaders in Licking County. The Foundation is the fundraising and resource development organization for LMHS.

The LMHS staff consists of more than 2,000 employees in many areas. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, cooks, environmental service staff, accountants, engineers, computer specialists, laboratory technicians, administrators, and many others work diligently together to provide the best care for patients and visitors.

LMH is pleased to present this Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report to fulfill a requirement in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, enacted in March 2010, requiring every 501(c)(3) tax-exempt hospital to conduct a CHNA to identify and prioritize the significant health needs of the community it serves and develop an implementation strategy to address those significant health needs identified. As part of this process, we solicited input from those representing the broad interests of our community. We would like to thank our community partners for participating in this process.

Written comments on LMHS' 2022 CHNA report and related Implementation Strategy may be directed to the Director of Process Improvement at Licking Memorial Hospital, 1320 West Main Street, Newark, Ohio 43055 or [bthatcher@LMHealth.org](mailto:bthatcher@LMHealth.org). Any written comments received will be considered in conducting the next CHNA. To request a copy of this report at no charge, contact our the Director of Process Improvement at (220) 564-4354 or by email at [bthatcher@LMHealth.org](mailto:bthatcher@LMHealth.org).

# Executive Summary

LMH defines the “community served” to be Licking County, Ohio. Licking County is located in Central Ohio, just east of Columbus. Of the county’s predominately rural 687 square miles, less than 2 percent represent urban areas. Licking County has 5 major cities, 11 villages, 25 townships, 17 school districts, 3 universities, and 2 technical schools. In conducting the 2022 CHNA, LMH identified primary and secondary community data sources, solicited input from those representing the broad interests of the community, utilized existing community reports and surveys, and leveraged internally available data. The CHNA Committee reviewed this information and identified significant health needs of the Licking County community. The next step was to develop an implementation strategy to address these health needs. Through their implementation strategy, LMH will work with community partners to engage in collaboration among healthcare and social service providers to address these significant health needs.

The following significant health needs for the 2022 LMH CHNA were identified and prioritized:

1. Behavioral health – reduce the burden of addiction and reduce untreated depression and anxiety
2. Chronic disease – decrease negative health conditions associated with obesity, decrease the prevalence of tobacco use, and decrease the burden of cancer
3. Infant mortality – reduce infant mortality



# Community Served

LMH is located at 1320 West Main Street in Newark, where all inpatient and certain outpatient services are provided. Approximately one mile from the main Hospital location is Licking Memorial Hospital – Tamarack, located at 2000 Tamarack Road. This location serves outpatients, including outpatient specialty clinics, outpatient surgery, and laboratory draw services. Additionally, Shepherd Hill, located at 200 Messimer Drive, services inpatients and outpatients in need of addiction treatment and behavioral healthcare. LMHS also has three Urgent Care facilities that include Licking Memorial Urgent Care – Pataskala, located at One Healthy Place in Pataskala, Licking Memorial Urgent Care – Granville, located at 14 Westgate Drive in Granville, and Licking Memorial Urgent Care – Newark, located at 20 West Locust Street, in Downtown Newark.

LMH’s “community served” is identified as residents of Licking County, which includes the following areas that fall primarily within Licking County:

## Licking County Municipality and ZIP Code(s)

Alexandria – 43001	Homer – 43027
Brownsville – 43721	Jacksontown – 43030
Buckeye Lake – 43008	Johnstown – 43031
Croton – 43013	Kirkersville – 43033
Etna – 43018	Newark – 43055, 43058, and 43093
Granville – 43023	Pataskala – 43062
Gratiot – 43740	Saint Louisville – 43071
Hanover – 43055	Summit Station – 43073
Heath – 43056	Utica – 43080
Hebron – 43025	

The Ohio Department of Health requires each hospital that is registered in Ohio to file an Annual Hospital Registration and Planning Report by March 1 of each year for the previous calendar year. A review of the patient origin data from the Annual Hospital Registration and Planning Report for Licking Memorial Hospital and internal hospital data supports the definition of the “community served” as being the community and residents of Licking County, Ohio.

Calendar Reporting Year	Total Hospital Admissions	Total Hospital Admissions from Licking County	Percent of Total Hospital Admissions from Licking County
2021	7,657	6,758	88.26%
2020	8,401	7,419	88.31%
2019	8,635	7,629	88.35%
2018	8,482	7,423	87.51%
2017	8,255	7,123	86.29%
2016	8,181	7,077	86.51%
2015	8,519	7,533	88.43%

# Demographic Information

The following provides a summary of Licking County demographic characteristics. Data was primarily collected from the US Census, American Community Surveys (ACS), and Bureau of Vital Statistics.

## Population

In 2021, Licking County had a total population of 180,401.

## Race/Ethnicity

Percent of Population in 2021	Category
89.3%	White/Caucasian
4.0%	Black/African American
2.8%	Asian
0.1%	American Indian/Alaska Native
0.3%	Other
2.2%	Two or more races

## Age

Percent of Population in 2020	Age Category
6.0%	Persons under 5 years of age
16.8%	Persons 5-17 years of age
8.6%	Persons 18-24 years of age
23.8%	Persons 25-44 years of age
28.1%	Persons 45-64 years of age
16.4%	Persons 65 years and over

The median age is 40.6 years.

## Income

In 2020, the median household income is \$67,736 with 9.8 percent living in poverty.

## Education

Percent of Persons 25 Years of Age and Older in 2020	Category
92.5%	High school graduate or higher education
27.6%	Bachelor's degree or higher

## Housing

In 2021, 72.5 percent of housing units were owner occupied. The median value of owner-occupied housing units was \$183,500.

# Process and Methods

## Process for Obtaining Data

LMH identified data sources and indicators which reflected a healthcare issue that was pertinent to the community and came from sources that are reliable and are likely to be available in the future. Identified areas of concern from the data sources by comparing Licking County data to state and national data for the metric and health issues that were identified by multiple data sources. Web-sourced data and existing reports for federal, state, and local sources were also utilized in this CHNA.

## Process for Consulting with Persons Representing the Community Interests

The Licking County Community Health Improvement Committee (CHIC) Community Health Assessment (CHA) sub-committee convened on July 30, 2021, August 5, 2021, and November 5, 2021 to develop a draft CHA. In addition to the CHIC sub-committee, the Ohio Department of Health provided the Licking County Health Department with an epidemiologist who contributed to the development of the CHA. On October 14, 2022, the CHIC committee convened to finalize the CHA. In developing the CHA, primary data was collected through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey that was conducted in Licking County by the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio. The BRFSS was first developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and issued nationwide to collect population health data. There were 430 respondents for the 2020 Licking County BRFSS, which is comparable to previous BRFSS surveys at the county, state, and national levels. Information in the draft CHA was heavily utilized in this CHNA because the final CHA was not available at the time this CHNA was published.

Secondary data collection included data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys (ACS), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System (OCISS), Bureau of Vital Statistics, and the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program.

The CHIC and CHIC sub-committee includes key members of LMH's senior leadership team, as well as members of the Hospital's Process Improvement Department. Input was obtained from all required sources. No written comments on the previous CHNA or implementation strategy were received.

The CHIC reviewed data to identify common themes. In identifying significant health needs, the CHIC considered:

- Whether the need was identified as a problem across multiple sources
- Whether there is an adverse trend in the health need
- Whether the need is an emerging issue
- How the Licking County community compares to state and federal benchmarks

To prioritize the community health needs identified, the CHIC members considered the following:

- The size of the population affected by this need
- The severity of this need
- Ability to evaluate the outcome of efforts to positively impact this need
- Whether the community is currently addressing this need
- Whether addressing this need will impact other needs identified
- Impact of addressing this need on systems or health within the community
- The cost of addressing the need

# Prioritized Health Needs

The following significant health needs were identified and prioritized by LMHS for the Licking County Community:

1. Behavioral health – reduce the burden of addiction and untreated mental health needs
2. Chronic disease – decrease negative health conditions associated with obesity, decrease the prevalence of tobacco use, and decrease the burden of cancer
3. Infant mortality – decrease the infant mortality rate

## Description of Significant Health Needs and Resources Available to Address Identified Needs:

Behavioral Health		
Need	Description	Resources
Reduce the burden of addiction	<p>In 2017, there were 31 deaths per 100,000 population due to unintentional drug overdoses in central Ohio, compared to 44.1/100,000 for Ohio.</p> <p>In 2019, there were 36 unintentional overdose deaths in Licking County, down from 42 in 2018, a 14 percent decrease.</p> <p>In 2020, there were 47 unintentional overdose deaths in Licking County, up from 36 in 2019, a 30 percent increase. Fentanyl was responsible for 75 percent of these deaths. The Licking County overdose death rate for 2020 was 31.1 deaths per 100,000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health America</li> <li>• Licking Memorial Hospital’s Medication Assistance Treatment program</li> <li>• Licking Memorial Health Professionals</li> <li>• Mental Health and Recovery for Knox and Licking County</li> <li>• Licking County Health Department</li> <li>• Newark Addiction Recovery Initiative</li> <li>• United Way’s Community Blueprint Communities to promote a healthy community that addresses addiction</li> <li>• “Our Futures in Licking County” initiative to reduce the use/abuse of marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs</li> <li>• Free “Q&amp;A” sessions with addictionologist</li> <li>• Community Health Clinic</li> <li>• Local school districts</li> </ul>
Need	Description	Resources
Reduce untreated depression and anxiety	<p>According to Mental Health America, in January 2020 through December 2021 statistics, severe depression was identified in 385 total depression (PHQ-9) responses and 130 scoring severe depression = 78.33 per 100,000 county population. This is above the State of Ohio (70.25 per 100,000) for the same reporting timeframe.</p> <p>In 2021, there were 30 deaths by suicide in Licking County. This was up from 20 deaths by suicide in 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licking County Health Department</li> <li>• Licking Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Department to increase access/options to receive services</li> <li>• Licking Memorial Health Professionals</li> <li>• United Way’s Community Blueprint Communities</li> <li>• Psychiatric counseling services</li> <li>• Mental Health America</li> <li>• Mental Health and Recovery for Knox and Licking County</li> <li>• Our Futures in Licking County</li> <li>• Community Health Clinic</li> <li>• Local school districts</li> </ul>

## Chronic Disease

Need	Description	Resources
<p>Decrease negative health conditions associated with obesity</p>	<p>In 2015, 38 percent of Licking County adults polled were obese and 32 percent are overweight.</p> <p>In 2017, 3.2 percent of adults in central Ohio were diagnosed with coronary heart disease, compared to 4.7 percent for Ohio; 4.1 percent of adults in central Ohio were diagnosed with a heart attack, compared to 5.5 percent for Ohio; 32.8 percent of adults were diagnosed with hypertension, compared to 34.7 percent for Ohio; 9.3 percent of adults were identified by a health professional as having diabetes, compared to 11.3 percent for Ohio; 10.1 percent of adults in central Ohio were identified by a health professional as having prediabetes, compared to 8.8 percent for Ohio.</p> <p>In 2019, 32 percent Licking County adults polled were obese.</p> <p>In 2021, 33 percent of Licking County adults polled were obese.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licking County Health Department</li> <li>• LMHP</li> <li>• Newark Advocate</li> <li>• Ohio State University Extension – Newark Campus</li> <li>• Pathways of Central Ohio/2-1-1</li> <li>• Licking County YMCA</li> <li>• Licking County Diabetes Forum</li> <li>• Licking County Wellness Coalition</li> <li>• Active•Fit Youth Wellness Program</li> <li>• Active•Senior Adult Wellness Program</li> <li>• Diabetes education with licensed diabetes educators</li> <li>• Free diabetes screenings at community events</li> <li>• Canal Market District to promote healthy food choices</li> <li>• Wellness Center &amp; CTEC with exercise equipment for the general public</li> <li>• Walk with a Doc program</li> <li>• Running/walking marathons and sports programs</li> </ul>
Need	Description	Resources
<p>Decrease the prevalence of tobacco use</p>	<p>In 2015, 24 percent of adults were identified as smokers.</p> <p>In 2019, 21 percent of adults reporting smoking. 22.6 percent of adults 18+ in Licking County use tobacco, compared to 21.7 percent for Ohio.</p> <p>In 2021, 20.9 percent of Licking County adults report smoking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licking County Health Department</li> <li>• Licking Memorial Health Professionals</li> <li>• LMH Tobacco Cessation</li> <li>• Community Health Clinic</li> <li>• American Red Cross of Licking County</li> <li>• Pathways of Central Ohio/2-1-1</li> <li>• Our Futures in Licking County</li> <li>• Tobacco Use Reduction Network of Licking County</li> <li>• Local school districts, Quit For Your Health, Quit for You, and Quit for Your Baby Programs</li> <li>• Smoking cessation education by respiratory therapists</li> </ul>

Need	Description	Resources
Decrease the burden of cancer	<p>As reported by the Ohio Department of Health in 2021, data from 2014 to 2018 shows that cancer deaths for Licking County were 491.8 per 100,000 residents, compared to 467.5 per 100,000 for Ohio and 450.5 per 100,000 for the US.</p> <p>For this same time period, the Licking County cancer mortality rate was 174.9 per 100,000 residents, compared to the Ohio rate of 172.3 per 100,000, and the U.S. rate of 155.5 per 100,000.</p> <p>Cancer incidence and mortality rates among males were higher than the rates among females in Licking County.</p> <p>The top five cancers by percentage of new cancer cases in Licking County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lung and Bronchus – 16.4%</li> <li>• Breast – 14.7%</li> <li>• Prostate – 11.5%</li> <li>• Colon and rectum – 7.8%</li> <li>• Melanoma of the skin – 5.8%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licking County Health Department</li> <li>• LMHP</li> <li>• LMH</li> <li>• Comprehensive Cancer Committee</li> <li>• Newark Advocate</li> <li>• Community Health Clinic</li> <li>• LMH Tobacco Cessation</li> <li>• Community education on importance of timely screening</li> <li>• Free screening mammogram days</li> <li>• Low-dose CT scanning for patients at high risk for lung cancer</li> <li>• ACR lung cancer screening registry</li> <li>• Community smoking cessation programs</li> </ul>

### Infant Mortality

Need	Description	Resources
Decrease the infant mortality rate	For the State of Ohio, in 2020, 864 infants died before their first birthday, which was a 6.7 percent overall infant mortality rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LMH initiatives to promote best practices in infant feeding and bonding, “Baby Friendly” hospital</li> <li>• LMHP</li> <li>• Community Health Clinic</li> <li>• Ohio Hospital Association</li> <li>• Licking County Health Department</li> <li>• Ohio Department of Health</li> <li>• “Safe Sleep” education for new parents</li> <li>• “Safe Sleep Sacks” for newborn babies and those admitted to the hospital nursery</li> <li>• Provide “onesie” to all newborns that states “This Side Up”</li> <li>• Smoking cessation programs at Licking Memorial Women’s Health, “Quit for You, Quit for Baby”</li> <li>• Suboxone Clinic targeting pregnant mothers suffering from addiction</li> <li>• LMH Level II Special Care Nursery</li> <li>• Licking County Coroner’s Child Fatality Review Board to review all infant deaths and discuss opportunities to reduce infant death rate</li> <li>• LMH Centering Pregnancy program</li> </ul>

# State Health Improvement Plan

## Alignment with the State Health Improvement Plan

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) identified three priority topics in the 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). As part of the alignment process, the ODH encourages hospitals and local health districts to select at least two priority topics and at least one priority outcome for the topics chosen from the SHIP to address in the collaborative community health improvement plan and implementation strategy. However, the final priority health needs selected by the hospitals and local health districts should be guided by the needs identified through the data collection and analysis for the community served. As such, the CHNA, CHIC, and LMH, through review of the data and discussion, identified the following significant health needs for the Licking County community which align with all three priority topics in the SHIP.

SHIP Priority Topic	SHIP Priority Outcomes	LMH Significant Health Needs that Align	LMH Outcomes that Align
Community conditions	Reduce depression Reduce suicide Reduce drug dependency/abuse Reduce drug overdose deaths	Mental health and addiction behavioral health	Reduce untreated depression and anxiety Reduce burden of addiction
Health behaviors	Reduce heart disease Reduce diabetes Reduce childhood conditions (asthma, lead)	Chronic disease	Decrease negative health conditions associated with obesity
Maternal and infant health	Reduce preterm births Reduce maternal morbidity Reduce infant mortality	Maternal and infant health	Reduce infant mortality

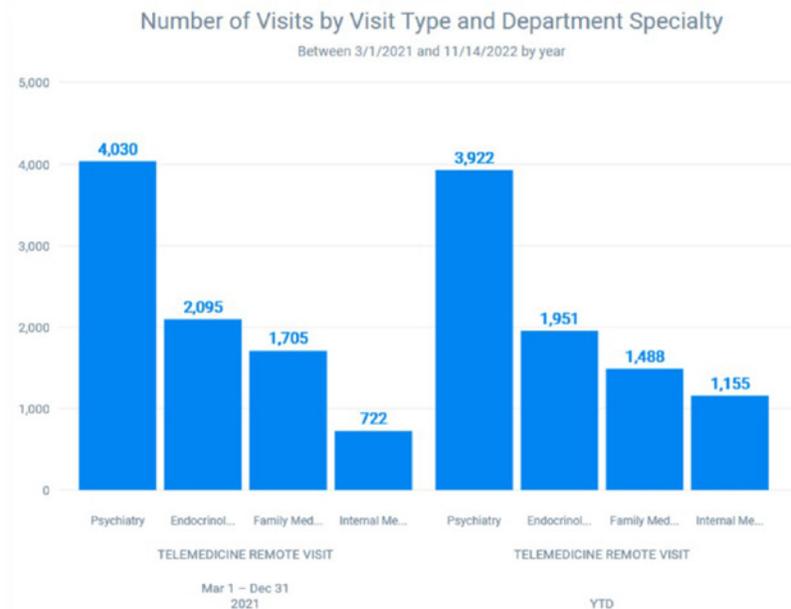
# Impact of Prior CHNA

## Evaluation of the Impact of the Actions in the 2019 CHNA

### Reduce the Burden of Addiction and Address Mental Health Issues

LMHS maintained both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health care services to the community, including its service-referral programs to non-LMHS entities, both inside and outside of Licking County, that are specifically tailored to the individualized needs of each patient. Services offered include emergency behavioral healthcare, inpatient psychiatric care, inpatient chemical dependency, outpatient psychiatric, outpatient chemical dependency, ambulatory psychiatric care, and medication-assisted therapy services.

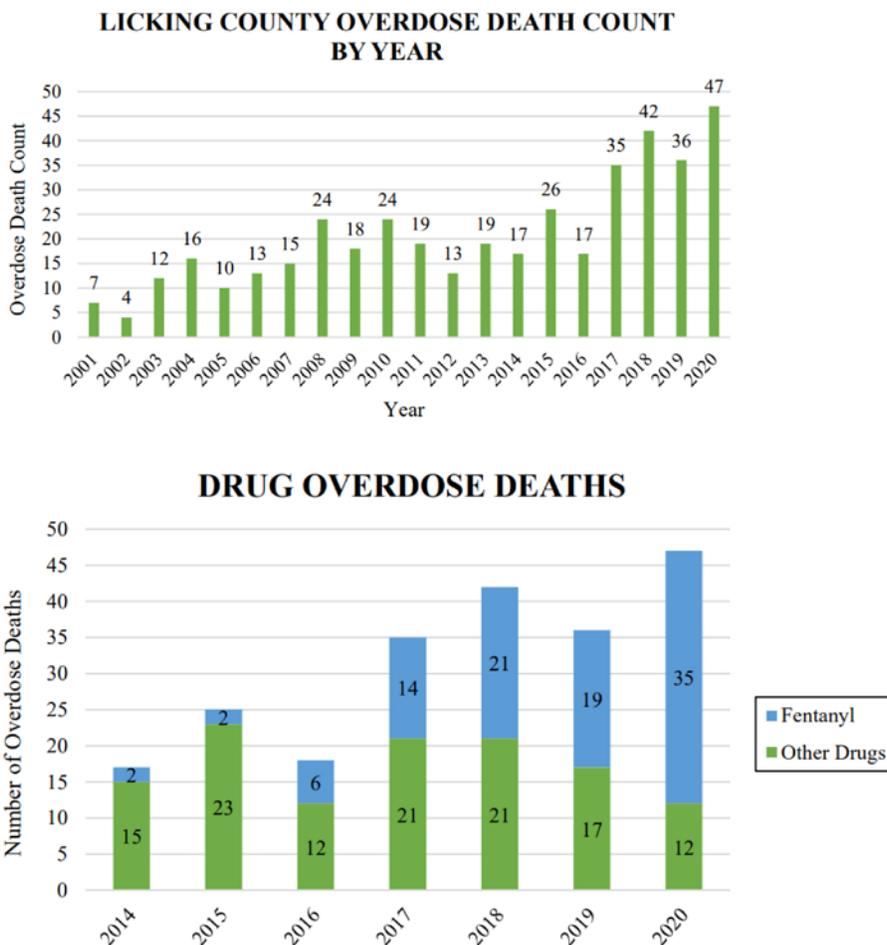
Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in law with respect to telemedicine, nearly 8,000 patient encounters have occurred via telemedicine over the past 18 months (March 2021 through October 2022). Since the inception of the telemedicine program at LMHS, psychiatry is the highest utilized service line within the LMHS telemedicine program. There are a number of patients in this group who otherwise would not have sought (or have been able to seek) care for mental health issues within Licking County.



With regard to Emergency visits for primary chief complaints surrounding behavioral health conditions, at least 1,701 patients were seen in the LMH Emergency Department (ED) in 2021, and 1,679 were seen from January through October 2022. In addition, at least 1,573 patients with behavioral health diagnoses were seen and treated at LMHS' three Urgent Care locations in 2021, with an additional 1,455 treated from January through October 2022. Combining both the ED and Urgent Care locations together for 2021 and YTD 2022, an excess of 6,400 patient urgent/emergency encounters were provided.

Inpatient psychiatric patient care days fell in conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic by approximately 20 percent from the 2019 baseline; however, chemical dependency patient care days increased by approximately 20 percent between 2019 and 2021. Results from 2022 for both psychiatric and chemical dependency encounters appear to be returning closer to baseline. The average length of stay for behavioral patients has been stable, ranging from 3.8 to 4.3 days per encounter. The average length of stay for chemical dependency patients has also been stable.

Licking County overdose deaths showed a decrease from 2018 to 2019, although deaths increased in 2020. The majority of those deaths were contributed to Fentanyl.



## Reduction in Cancer Mortality

### Colon Cancer

LMHS offers routine colon cancer screenings to patients within the community, and over the past two years has implemented additional tools to improve community awareness, identification and screening of at-risk patient populations, reducing access-to-care delays through physician/provider recruitment, and new electronic tools for tracking compliance. LMH expanded adoption of the use of Cologuard in patients with contraindications, or an adversity to colonoscopy. Since its implementation, the use of Cologuard in patients has increased by over 400 percent.

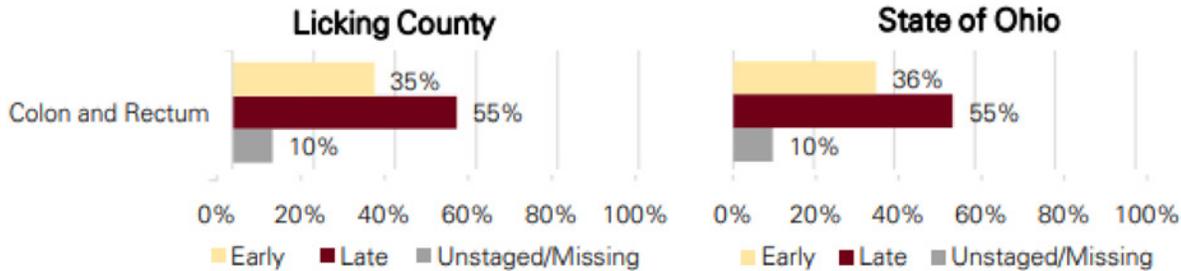
While county-level cancer data tends to be outdated because of reporting timelines (currently available are cases from 2014-2018), colon cancer in Licking County makes up approximately 7.8 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers, and is the second-highest type of cancer resulting in death (8 percent of total cancer deaths). Incidence rates in Licking County have improved and are now lower than the state averages; however, Licking County remains higher than the national average according the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System and the Bureau of Vital Statistics (*Ohio Department of Health, 2021, reported as number of cases or deaths per 100,000 population*).

- Licking County colon/rectum cancer incidence rate: 39.9
- Ohio colon/rectum cancer incidence rate: 41.3
- National colon/rectum cancer incidence rate: 37.8

Colon cancer mortality rates are now exhibiting a similar pattern:

- Licking County colon/rectum cancer mortality rate: 14.5
- Ohio colon/rectum cancer mortality rate: 15.1
- National colon/rectum cancer incidence rate: 13.7

Late-stage colon and rectum cancer identification rates have fallen, coming in line with state averages. Previously, late-stage identification rates were higher than the state average, but now match Ohio averages:



Improved community awareness of the need for colonoscopy screening to aid in the detection of colon cancer is achieved through the use of community education programs and colon cancer-specific educational offerings and materials. Since implementation, program participation by community members has more than doubled. The COVID-19 pandemic had a tangible impact on colonoscopy screening volumes. The total number of colonoscopy procedures performed during the height of the pandemic averaged 172 procedures per month. This has subsequently improved to an average of 220 procedures per month, a 28 percent increase in volume.

### Breast Cancer

LMHS provides breast cancer screening services to the community in its efforts to improve early identification of breast cancer. LMHS invested in new mammography technology that uses artificial intelligence to better identify subtle, very early stage breast cancers. Mammograms are offered for free to members of the community that are uninsured or underserved, which has reduced barriers and delays to care.

Breast cancer in Licking County makes up approximately 14.7 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers, and is the third-highest type of cancer resulting in death (6.9 percent of total cancer deaths). Incidence rates in Licking County remain higher than both state and national rates according to the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System and the Bureau of Vital Statistics (*Ohio Department of Health, 2021, reported as number of cases or deaths per 100,000 population*).

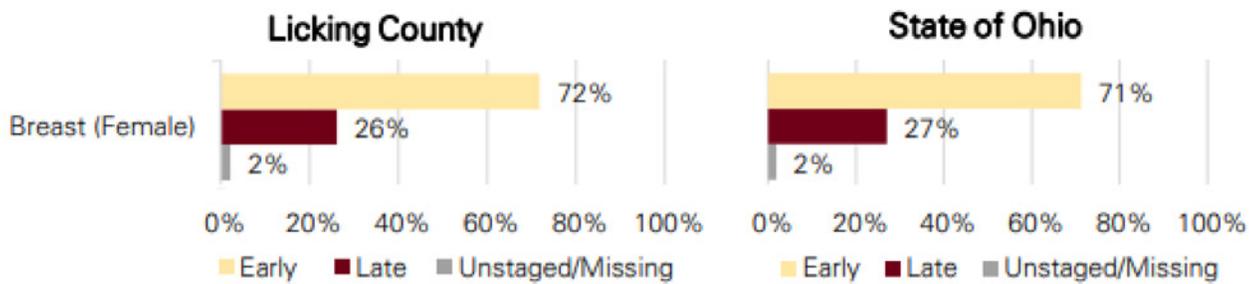
- Licking County breast cancer incidence rate: 138.2
- Ohio breast cancer incidence rate: 129.6
- National breast cancer incidence rate: 129.1

Breast cancer mortality rates for Licking County also remain higher than state and national rates:

- Licking County breast cancer mortality rate: 22.6
- Ohio breast cancer mortality rate: 21.9
- National breast cancer incidence rate: 20.1

(*Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System and Bureau of Vital Statistics, ODH, 2021*)

When comparing late-stage onset statistics for breast cancer, Licking County is very similar to the state averages, with slightly better performance identifying breast cancer at early and late stages:



LMHS' Comprehensive Cancer Care Committee has established new workflow changes that have been intended to reduce the wait times between screening-mammograms-to-diagnostic-mammograms (in days) and diagnostic-mammograms-to-biopsy (in days) in an effort to reduce patient stress and improve satisfaction when suspected or confirmed cancers are identified. This effort has resulted in the following:

- Wait times to schedule a mammogram screening has been reduced to only 1-2 days.
- Wait times between mammogram screening until diagnostic mammogram reduced to 4 days (down from 5 days)
- Wait times between diagnostic mammogram until biopsy reduced to 4.5 days (down from 5.5 days)

LMHS' genetic testing and counseling program for patients identified as high-risk for breast cancer continues to expand, with the creation of a new Epic-based patient registry. These patients are continually tracked and managed by the Genetics Navigator and Cancer Registrar to ensure that all appropriate care targets are being followed.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in some degree of patient disengagement from care, as well as procedural delays due to imposed restrictions, which temporarily increased wait times. However, wait times appear to be gradually returning to pre-pandemic levels of performance.

New tools available within Epic, LMHS' newly implemented electronic medical record system, are now providing LMHS with additional capabilities for tracking patients who are coming due or are overdue for screenings, and generating reminder letters, as well as new tools for reporting screening results in a more timely and effective manner.

## Lung Cancer

LMHS provides screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for both lung cancer patients, and those who may be at risk for lung cancer. LMHS has expanded its programming in an effort to reduce the high rates of lung cancer diagnoses in Licking County, as well as higher-than-average rates of mortality. New Epic tools streamline the management of lung cancer registries for both those patients who have been formally diagnosed with lung cancer, as well as those who have been identified as high-risk for lung cancer.

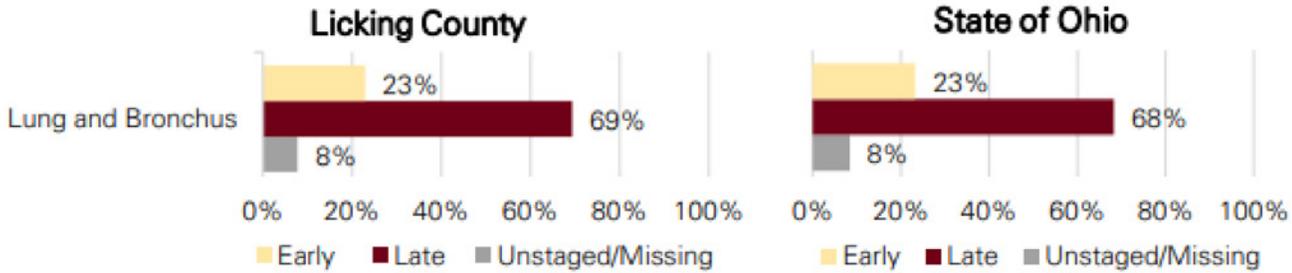
Lung cancer in Licking County makes up approximately 16.4 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers, and is the most common type of cancer resulting in death (31.5 percent of total cancer deaths). Incidence rates in Licking County remain higher than both state and national rates according the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System and the Bureau of Vital Statistics (*Ohio Department of Health, 2021, reported as number of cases or deaths per 100,000 population*).

- Licking County lung cancer incidence rate: 78.3
- Ohio lung cancer incidence rate: 67.3
- National lung cancer incidence rate: 53.1

Lung cancer mortality rates for Licking County remain higher than the state and national rates:

- Licking County lung cancer mortality rate: 53.6
- Ohio lung cancer mortality rate: 46.7
- National lung cancer incidence rate: 38.5

This data is complicated by the County’s comparably high smoking rates, in addition to the high concentration of Radon in homes within the community. When comparing late-stage onset statistics for lung cancer, Licking County is very similar to the state averages, which is an improvement since Licking County results have historically been higher than state averages:

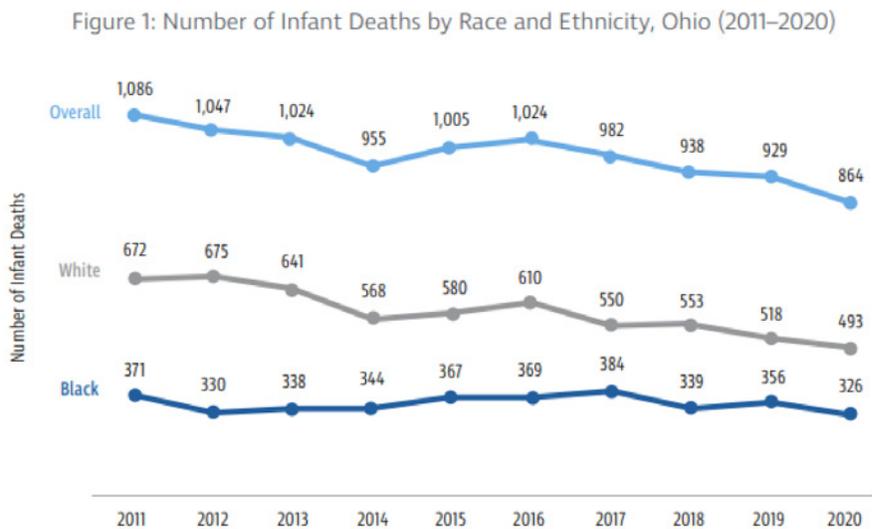


LMHS’ Comprehensive Cancer Care Committee has engaged in efforts to expand its low-dose lung CT screening program in order to identify lung cancer early in patients who are screened and found to be at high-risk. This program identifies patients who have a greater than 20 percent lifetime risk for developing lung cancer, who are then placed into a dedicated registry. Patients in this registry are actively followed, and ongoing low-dose CT scans are ordered in an effort to reduce a late-stage diagnosis of lung cancer, detect tumors earlier, and ultimately reduce mortality. The registry has expanded significantly under Epic as new workflows have been established to effectively track these patients over time to ensure compliance with screening recommendations.

Year-to-date 2022, at least 921 high-risk patients have undergone low-dose CT screenings for early identification of lung cancer. With the ongoing efforts underway, we expect these volumes to continue to increase.

### Reduce Infant Mortality

Historically, Licking County and the State of Ohio have demonstrated infant mortality rates higher than the national average. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the reporting of county-level infant mortality rates. As a result, recent Licking County infant mortality rates are unclear; however, the most recent available data from 2020 shows that Licking County rates have improved in comparison to the state as a whole, with the lowest overall rates occurring in 2020:

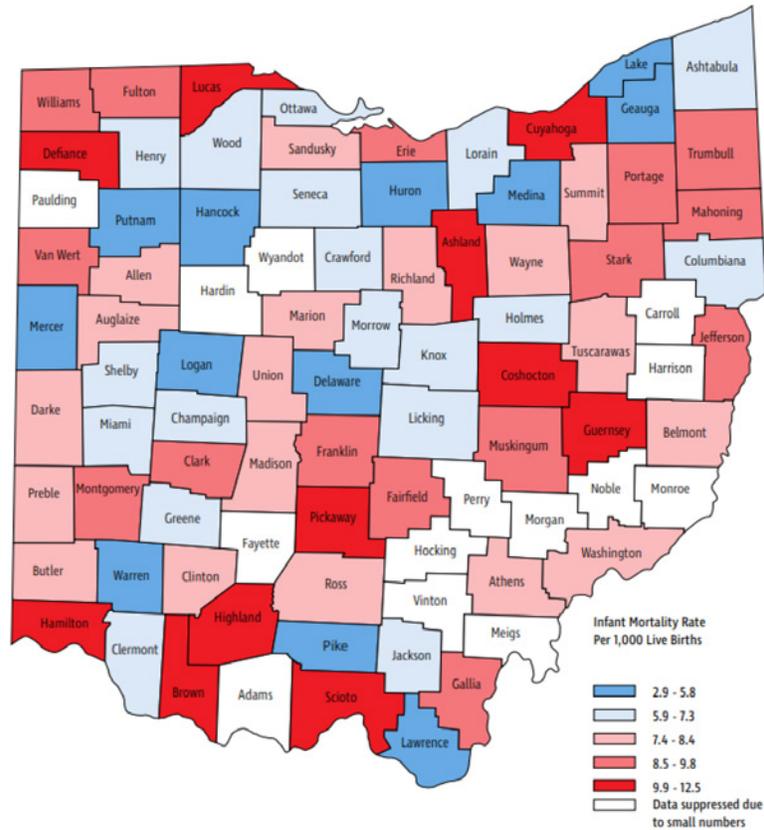


Data Source: Resident Birth and Mortality Files from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Compared to the state target of 6 deaths per 1,000 live births, Licking County performed in the second quintile, in the ranging from 5.9 to 7.3 deaths per 1,000 live births; however, the actual Licking County mortality rate is unpublished.

### Ohio Five-Year Average Infant Mortality Rate by County

Figure 6: Five-Year Infant Mortality Rate by County, Ohio (2016-2020)



Data Source: Resident Birth and Mortality Files from the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics.

LMHS continues to provide Safe Sleep education to new parents and remains a Baby-Friendly designated hospital.

From January 2019 through October 2022, a total of 1,161 pregnant mothers who smoke were referred to the LMHS Quit for You, Quit for Your Baby tobacco cessation program.

LMHS has maintained the Medication-assisted Therapy Clinic to assist pregnant mothers suffering from addiction issues. Referrals to this Clinic remain stable from 2019 through 2022.

In-hospital fetal deaths and intrauterine fetal deaths are monitored closely to include case reviews to identify potential causes and contributing factors by the Hospital's Obstetrical Quality Committee.

Special Care Nursery (SCN) volumes and total birth counts have fallen since 2019; however, the SCN unit continues to provide immediate and ongoing medical care to infants with critical care needs. The percentage of newborns requiring admission to the SCN has gradually decreased, in part, because of improved prenatal care practices.

Year	Total Births	Special Care Nursery Admissions	Special Care Nursery Admission Rate
2019	975	140	14.4%
2020	884	114	12.9%
2021	868	103	11.9%
2022 YTD (annualized)	802	72	9.0%

The Ohio Department of Health identified infant mortality as a priority topic to be addressed by the State Health Improvement Plan. While improvement has been shown, efforts must continue to see sustained improvement and address racial disparities in birth outcomes. The December 6, 2018 News Release from the Ohio Department of Health, *Ohio Infant Deaths in 2017 Second-Lowest on Record While Racial Disparities in Birth Outcomes Continue*, notes that the number of infants who died before their first birthday declined from 1,024 in 2016 to 982 in 2017. Although Licking County’s infant mortality rate per 1,000 births is better than the state average (6.5 vs. 7.7), continued focus on improvement is still needed.

### Decrease the Prevalence of Tobacco Use

LMHS continues to maintain its free smoking cessation program to residents of Licking County. This program offers free counseling to smokers, as well as complimentary nicotine patches and gum to aid participants in quitting.

The cessation training program was sustained throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit at lower volumes due to engagement limitations from patients. Average counts of counseling visits per month for the past 3+ years:

- 2019: 257
- 2020: 188
- 2021: 125
- 2022 YTD: 126

Internal metrics available that lend insight into the efficacy of LMHS’ Quit For Your Health tobacco cessation program:

- Patient-reported tobacco cessation rates have been improving gradually over several years, and current patients who have completed the program are reporting high levels of success (following completion of the full cessation program):

Year	Quit Rate (percentage of patients reporting no smoking six months after program completion)
2019	68%
2020	73%
2021	80%

- Total dollars expended (unreimbursed) per month for smoking cessation supplies/aids (nicotine patches/gum) used for patients during cessation treatment:

Year	Total cost per year
2019	\$40,674
2020	\$26,047
2021	\$18,131

## Decrease Negative Health Conditions Associated with Obesity

LMH provides numerous community education programs focused on making healthier food choices, exercise, and good lifestyle habits. The education events include health cooking demonstrations, prescriptions for healthy foods that can be used at local farmers markets to obtain produce for free, sponsorships for local walking and running events, hosting “Walk with a Doc”, provision of exercise equipment for general public use, and a new employee wellness center open 24 hours for use by LMH employees.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on our ability to target this area for improvement. Due to social distancing requirements, limitations on gatherings, and government shutdowns, many of the education programs that have been traditionally used (and newly developed programs) were suspended for the duration of the pandemic, and only recently began again in 2022. As a result, activities targeting this priority have been limited. However, The Healthy People 2020 target for obesity in adults was 30.5 percent. In 2015, Licking County reported an estimated 38 percent of adult residents with a BMI of greater than 30 (obese). In 2021, Licking County reported an estimated 33 percent of adult residents who are considered obese. The Healthy People 2030 target for reducing the overall proportion of adults with obesity is 36 percent (an increase from Healthy People 2020) after seeing a significant worsening in the trend between the baseline and final values.

Examples of current and pre-pandemic LMHS programming includes:

- Dining with Diabetes – this program was reconvened in 2021 as a virtual program, and LMHS returned to in-person educational programming in 2022.
- Healthier for Life – this exercise and healthy living program was temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic and restarted in 2022.
- Adventures in Plant-based Eating – This popular vegan-eating program was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Walk with a Doc – this in-person walking program covers various health topics, including content on healthy lifestyles. The program was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic and was restarted in 2022.
- Free Diabetes Screenings – historically, these screenings have been performed during other community events in which the Hospital is requested to participate, and LMHS anticipates a full return to our community engagement activities in 2023.

LMHS has aggressively restarted community activity participation as COVID-19 transmission levels decrease and government restrictions have been lifted throughout 2022.

## Collaborating Partners To Conduct the CHNA

Licking Memorial Hospital collaborated with the Licking County Health Department and organizations represented on the below chart to conduct this CHNA.

Organization	Populations Represented
Licking County Health Department*	All populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
Licking County Board of Health*	All populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
Licking Memorial Hospital	All populations of Licking County
Pathways of Central Ohio/211	Provides a variety of social services, including a 24/7, 2-1-1 Crisis Hotline and text line, parent education training and support; and youth prevention services
Heath City Schools	Students and families of Licking County
Canal Market District	Farmers market held Tuesdays and Fridays in Downtown Newark Mission is to improve community access to healthy, local food and promote economic development rooted in the county's history, culture, and local bounty Representing food producers and entrepreneurs
Licking County Job and Family Services*	All populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
Mental Health Recovery for Knox and Licking Counties	Use recovery and resiliency methodology to enhance the quality of life for individuals and families, and to diminish the problems caused by alcoholism, drug addiction, and mental illness for the residents of Licking and Knox Counties
Ohio State University	All populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
United Way of Licking County	Advances the common good by creating opportunities for all. The focus is on education, income, and health—the building blocks for a good quality of life and a strong community
Public at Large	All populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
Licking County Children and Families	Association of public and non-profit organizations, schools, clergy, parents, and elected officials, committed to strengthening families and improving the local social and human service delivery system by working together and sharing resources
Licking County Infant Mortality Taskforce	Multiple county agencies working together to put forth an action plan to help prevent future infant deaths
Licking County Diabetes Forum	Reduce the adverse health effects of Type II Diabetes on Licking County residents
Licking County Wellness Coalition	Help to promote healthy lifestyles by increasing physical activity, promoting healthy eating, and reducing tobacco use among Licking County residents
Tobacco Use Reduction Network of Licking County	Work toward system and policy changes to reduce tobacco use among Licking County residents
Food Pantry Network of Licking County	Cooperative to coordinate the acquisition and distribution of emergency food supplies by working through its member food agencies with the goal to ensure that no one in Licking County would have cause to suffer from hunger

Organization	Populations Represented
Hospice of Central Ohio	Provide compassionate, individualized, end-of-life care regardless of the ability to pay. Their desires guide the physical, emotional, and spiritual care support that we provide. Members of our community, patients' families, children, and anyone experiencing loss, find support through bereavement services
Licking County Healthcare Disaster Planning Coalition	All populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
Licking County Prevention Partnership	Dedicated to educating, informing and advocating for effective mental, emotional, and behavioral healthcare for Licking County residents
Licking County Addiction Taskforce	Address addiction services for all populations of Licking County, including medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations
Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Coalition	Addresses prescription drug abuse and overdose issues for Licking County residents through policy, systems, and environmental change strategies

\*Knowledge, information, and expertise in public health

## Hospital Identifying Information

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CHNA Report approved by the Board: 12/21/22  
CHNA Report initially posted to the website: 12/22/22  
Tax identification number: 31-4379519

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**Licking Memorial  
Health Systems**

[LMHealth.org](http://LMHealth.org)