



Hope for the future.



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# Message from the Health Commissioner 2021: A hopeful future...

It is hard to believe that COVID has been with us for two years. The year began with everyone being hopeful that vaccine delivery would get us back to somewhat of a normal existence. However, we now have realized that a mutating virus, lack of equitable vaccines around the globe, and chronic misinformation have created additional challenges throughout 2021.

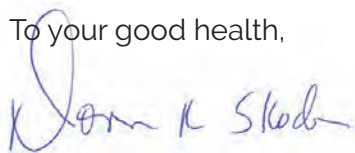
It was a hard year for the world and public health professionals. Summit County Public Health team members have worked tireless hours investigating complaints, completing initial investigations, contact tracing, conducting large testing and vaccination events and so much more. Every single program has been affected in some way, shape, or form. Whether it was a reassignment of staff, shifting to virtual delivery of services, or keeping up with the ever-changing science and guidance, our workforce has remained flexible and committed.

We are grateful the State of Ohio has continued to provide additional funding for pandemic response, and we are waiting to determine what will be available for 2022, including any lost revenue for 2021 programs. We are hopeful that we can continue to respond at the same level as needed. Moving forward we will continue to work with cities, villages and townships regarding the needs of our communities.

## **A focus on returning to a new normal for a better 2022.**

I hope that in the near future we will see COVID-19 infection become endemic, which will reduce the resource drain on staff and funding. As more citizens become vaccinated, we will likely see far fewer hospitalizations and deaths. Our focus moving forward will be to adhere to all policies and procedures established by the State of Ohio, address COVID-19 response and all public health issues, maintain fiscal stability and concentrate on retention of staff. Within this annual summary report are some of the activities, accomplishments and challenges of SCPH programs throughout 2021. Please let me express my sincere gratitude for all of the support from the Board of Health, our communities and residents during a very difficult year.

To your good health,



Donna R. Skoda, MS, RD, LD  
Health Commissioner

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# GENERAL SERVICES

## Operations and General Support Services

- Increased the number of sites where job opportunities are posted in an effort to recruit a diverse workforce.
- Created and implemented a set of new employee evaluation forms and increased frequency of staff check-ins.
- Completed infrastructure projects to include upgraded HVAC, automatic touchless doors, vestibule for Building B, and a remodel of Emergency Operations space.

## Fiscal and Vitals Highlights

- Achieved a clean audit for 2020.
- Implemented new public records request tracking process that aligns with Auditor of State's best practices.

- Completed administrative agent transition of Family Children First Council from SCPH to Summit County Department of Developmental Disabilities.
- Maintained all Vital Statistics services during the pandemic.
- Maintained fiscal stability.

## Epidemiology and Biostatistics

- Responded to and completed 100% of data requests from internal and external partners.
- Monitored daily COVID-19 analytics regarding cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Created a new COVID-19 Weekly Case Summary report.
- Distributed COVID-19 Summary Report.
- Created a Drug Overdose data brief.
- Developed an Older Adults data brief.
- Developed an Older Adults needs assessment.
- Completed the 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan.



- Continued to work with the Opiate Abatement Advisory Council to distribute funding obtained through the opiate settlement. Funding distributed to date includes project management and discretionary and non-discretionary funding totaling over \$6.8 million. Product settlements totaling \$380,000 have been distributed to Summit County's three adult hospitals.

## Emergency Preparedness

- Updated exercise and training 5-year plan for both SCPH and the region.
- Developed and updated an Infectious Disease Preparedness Plan & Surge Annex for the region.
- Coordinated and facilitated the Summit County Healthcare Coalition meetings throughout the year.
- Participated in the regional Burn Surge tabletop exercise.
- Updated SCPH's Volunteer Management Plan.
- Updated plans to distribute medical countermeasures.
- Coordinated and facilitated a regional training and exercise workshop to determine the future focus of exercises and trainings in the next five years.

- Updated Regional Volunteer and Surge Staffing Implementation Plan.
- Completed an After Action Report and Improvement Plan for the COVID response (one regional, one for SCPH), covering the response from the beginning until October 31.
- Conducted drills to ensure good communications and ability to set up and facilitate a point of dispensing site.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## 2021 Environmental Health Highlights

### Air Quality Program

- Received the 2021 Model Practices Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for the MATH (Managing Asthma at Home) Program.
- The MATH program is being expanded into the Mahoning Valley. We are working with Akron Children's Hospital and Mahoning County Health Department to help them get their program started using funds MCHD identified.

- Our Mow Greener program is being expanded at the Ohio EPA's request to all of Northeast Ohio and Southwest Ohio to help with the ozone exceedance issue. We are leading the discussions to help those agencies implement the program.
- Revised an Engineering Guide for the Ohio EPA (#23 – Determination of Significant Figures for TSP Emission Limitations) which is used by all the local air agencies and the OEPA.
- Expanding the Non-High Priority Facility Inspection Program (NHPFIP) program to include inspecting small businesses that are currently operating without permits to determine compliance with the Ohio rules and regulations.
- Met all contractual obligations to the Ohio EPA, even with the restrictions placed on our field activities by the Ohio EPA.

### Food and Recreational Safety Programs

- Staff completed 215 pre-license inspections (~4% decrease from 2020), 4,314 standard inspections (~21% increase from 2020), and 281 follow-up inspections (~ 92% increase from 2020).
  - Staff investigated 287 complaints and foodborne illness complaints (~0.3% increase from 2020).
    - Staff reviewed 135 (~14% increase from 2020) plan submitted review packets.
    - Staff completed 336 (~48% increase from 2020) pool inspections and 283 (~11% increase in 2020) equipment inventory inspections.
    - Staff demonstrated professionalism, flexibility, and their commitment to public health in the face of goals, objectives, and job duties that continuously changed and evolved throughout the year.





- Coordinated efforts to make 43 homes in Summit County lead safe using enforcement, grant funds, and partnerships, despite the COVID environment and long logistical delays.
- Collected and disposed of 974 scrap tires in the county, reducing mosquito-breeding sites and limiting the risk of vector-borne diseases.
- Inspected 3,772 larvicide sites resulting in 124 acres of water being treated for mosquitos.
- Conducted 77 adulticide spraying events resulting in 28,016 acres of land being treated for mosquitos.

## Neighborhood Health/Healthy Homes Programs

- Increased access to free and inclusive play opportunities through the refurbishment of Kerr Park (West Akron).
- Collaborated with the City of Barberton to adopt a Complete Streets Policy that outlines a complete and connected integrated multimodal transportation network that balances the needs of all users and assists in designing a healthier city.
- Painted activity stations, yoga poses, hopscotch, and wayfinding animal prints on the sidewalks around six Akron Public Schools to encourage safe walking and biking to and from school.
- Increased access to fresh produce through the establishment of a community garden in West Akron (St. Paul's Church) and the expansion of two community gardens in Barberton (Van Buren Homes and Hilltop House).
- Implemented foodservice guideline nutrition standards at New Exodus Food Pantry (East Akron) to promote healthy-nutritious food options.
- Completed 161 Tobacco-21 merchant compliance checks and provided educational resources to all merchants.
- Trained local pharmacy staff to facilitate the "Ask, Advise, Refer" tobacco cessation program to clients.
- Managed 89 child lead poisoning cases and received a 0% contact rate from ODH for referrals of elevated blood levels in children, reducing further lead poisoning of children. (ODH standard is below 24%).



## Water Quality Program

- Collaborated with the Summit County Engineer's Office on the development of a county-wide Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) code.
- Successfully developed and fully executed new five-year contracts to provide stormwater services based on the new state-wide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Ohio EPA.
- Created a Water Quality online records portal for access by the general public, to go live in 2022.
- Received 492 water related complaints, 316 of those complaints were abated and five were referred to legal review.
- Staff continues to meet all requirements of the Ohio Administrative Codes in regard to review times, inspection frequency and reporting requirements.
- 17% of Water Quality staff's time was diverted to COVID response. This response included time spent in the Call Center, CDU, and vaccination clinics.

# FAMILY HEALTH

## 2021 Family Health Highlights

### Senior and Adult Services:

- Represented the work of Summit County Public Health Senior and Adults Services at two national platforms:
  - Geriatric Society of America (GSA)
  - National Alzheimer’s Disease and Research Center (NADRC)
- Trainings
  - Gatekeeper Trainings – 191
  - Dementia Friends Living Alone – 232
  - Dementia Friends Intellectual Developmental Disabilities – 647
  - Dementia Friends Intellectual Developmental Champions – 15
  - Behavioral Interventions for Caregiver – 52
- Number of Gatekeeper Referrals Received – 96
- Received a \$48,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the Alzheimer’s Association for the Healthy Brain Initiative Strategist position and the projected work related to the Road Map. (Funding Period 10/1/2021-11/30/2022).
- Through SCPH partnerships with the Summa Health Center Emergency Room department, 11,308 adults 60 years of age and older were screened for fall risk and were provided resource information related to evidenced falls prevention programming.
- Began the process to obtain Age Friendly Public Health Accreditation.
- Implemented a new educational series focused on Brain Health that includes the following presentations:
  - Talking about Brain Health and Aging: The Basics – 19
  - Medicine, Age and Your Brain – 7
- Presented SCPH Senior and Adults Services grant outcomes related to the DD workforce trainings at the first Annual Dementia Summit, sponsored by the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program.
- In partnership with the Hoarding Task Force, provided Hoarding 101 Training to 154 social workers and counselors, nurses, sanitarians, Summit DD – SSA’s and other health care and social service representatives.
- Received \$113,000 in grant support for Senior and Adults Service Programming.
  - \$60,000 Ohio Department of Health – Falls Risk and Prevention
  - \$5,000 Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program for geriatric education
  - \$48,000 from the Alzheimer’s Association for Brain Health Technical Assistance





## Maternal and Child Health

- Increased caseload by 125 participants since August by providing WIC card loads at community events.
- Overall increased breastfeeding rates across the project – 53% of moms breastfeeding and 31% of infants compared to 2020 (45% for breastfeeding women and 26% of infants).
- Provided online nutrition education for participants via Google Forms.
- Developed a housing program with Akron Metropolitan Housing to assist pregnant women.
- Hosted six online training courses focusing on various topics related to pregnancy and postpartum care (Financial Empowerment, Toxic Stress, Maternal Depression, Breastfeeding, Resume Writing, Safe Sleep).
- In collaboration with more than 15 community partners, hosted two community baby showers serving 462 people, providing essential care items.
- SCPH in partnership with Summit County Department of Job & Family Services hosted a series of diaper distributions throughout the community. Sixteen distributions occurred at various locations in Summit County, serving 1,212 individuals.

## Harm Reduction Summit Safe Syringe Services

Increased the number of syringes and supplies distributed to the community, the number of new clients attending, and the number of instances of services (how many times we gave a service).

	2020	2021 (through Nov. 30th)	Rate Increase
Syringes distributed	347,722	496,300	+42.73%
Clients in the program	586	649	+10.75%
Instances of services	4,362	5,686	+30.35%

- Implemented a database to reduce redundant paperwork and repetitive data collection from participants as part of a quality improvement project.
- Streamlined supply distribution by color-coding supply bags to expedite distribution, reduce waste, and more accurately track supplies and costs.



## Project DAWN

Increased the number of naloxone kits distributed, reported reversals and people receiving overdose prevention education.

	2020	2021 (through Nov. 30th)	Rate Increase
Naloxone kits distributed	3,809	5,115	+34.28%
Number of reversals	1,450	1,637	+12.89%
Number of people trained in overdose prevention	911	986	+8.23%

- Partnered with The American Heart Association to add CPR training to community Project DAWN trainings. Distributed 76 CPR Anytime Kits in past three months.
- Developed a peer network for lay distribution of naloxone, which includes one church and two peer recovery organizations. This has expanded our reach into high overdose burdened areas where SCPH does not have a presence.
- Collaborated with COVID vaccine clinics in high overdose areas to distribute naloxone (farmer's markets, transit stations, etc.).
- Assisted the City of Green in developing a Project DAWN naloxone distribution site as part of their Community Paramedicine Program.

# CLINICAL SERVICES

## 2021 Clinical Services Highlights

- General clinic visits: 2,100 (400 of these were for Reproductive Health).
- Children with medical handicap case management caseload: 1,753 individuals.

### Non-COVID Communicable Disease Unit

6,154 disease reports investigated.

- 38 outbreaks including a multi-state Tuberculosis (TB) outbreak.
- 23 TB patients identified.
- 66 people/groups investigated as TB contacts.
- 41 miscellaneous TB suspect cases screened.

**ODH HIV/STI Grant - covers Summit, Portage, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties. Partners include CANAPI, EQUITAS, Ursuline Sisters/Comprehensive Care Center and Warren City Health District.**

- 552 patients tested for HIV.
- 14 positives representing a 2.54% positivity rate (goal  $\geq 1\%$ ).
- Countywide, we had 52 HIV cases and 192 syphilis cases.

### Dental Services

- 2,063 patients and 5,283 procedures in 2021. Production at our current fee schedule was \$333,876; we collected \$185,921 from self-pay and insurance; we wrote off about \$164,360 in adjustments due to Medicaid fees which pay about 37–40% of current fees, and sliding fee scale write-offs.
- 632 new patients in 2021.
- 5,727 active patients of record.
- Earlier in 2021 we were able to resume more normal dental clinic operations and schedule more patients as COVID stabilized.
- Have been able to keep the dental clinic operating.



# COVID

COVID-19 has challenged public health staff and capacity for most of 2021 as we have had to respond at multiple levels. SCPH has had to shift staff and resources in order to meet essential functions of this pandemic response. These functions have included communicable disease investigation, contact tracing, outbreak investigation, testing, enforcement, public awareness, vaccine distribution, and more.

The Ohio Department of Health signed numerous Public Health Orders (PHO's) and carried over existing orders from 2020.

## JANUARY

**01/07/21** – Sixth Amended Director's Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Nursing Homes and Similar Facilities, with Exceptions

**01/22/21** – Director's Third Amended Order that All Persons Stay at Home During Specified Hours Unless Engaged in Work or Essential Activity

**01/27/21** – Director's Fourth Amended Order that All Persons Stay at Home During Specified Hours Unless Engaged in Work or Essential Activity

## FEBRUARY

**02/12/21** – Director's journal entry COVID 19 Volunteer Vaccine Providers

## MARCH

**03/23/21** – Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Nursing Homes

**03/23/21** – Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Residential Care Facilities

## APRIL

**04/05/21** – Director's Order Rescinding Various Orders

**04/05/21** – Director's Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating

**04/09/21** – Director's Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating

**04/27/21** – Amended Director's Order Rescinding the Director's Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs) and Permit Visitation

**04/27/21** – Addendum to Director's Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating

## MAY

**05/04/21** – Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Residential Care Facilities

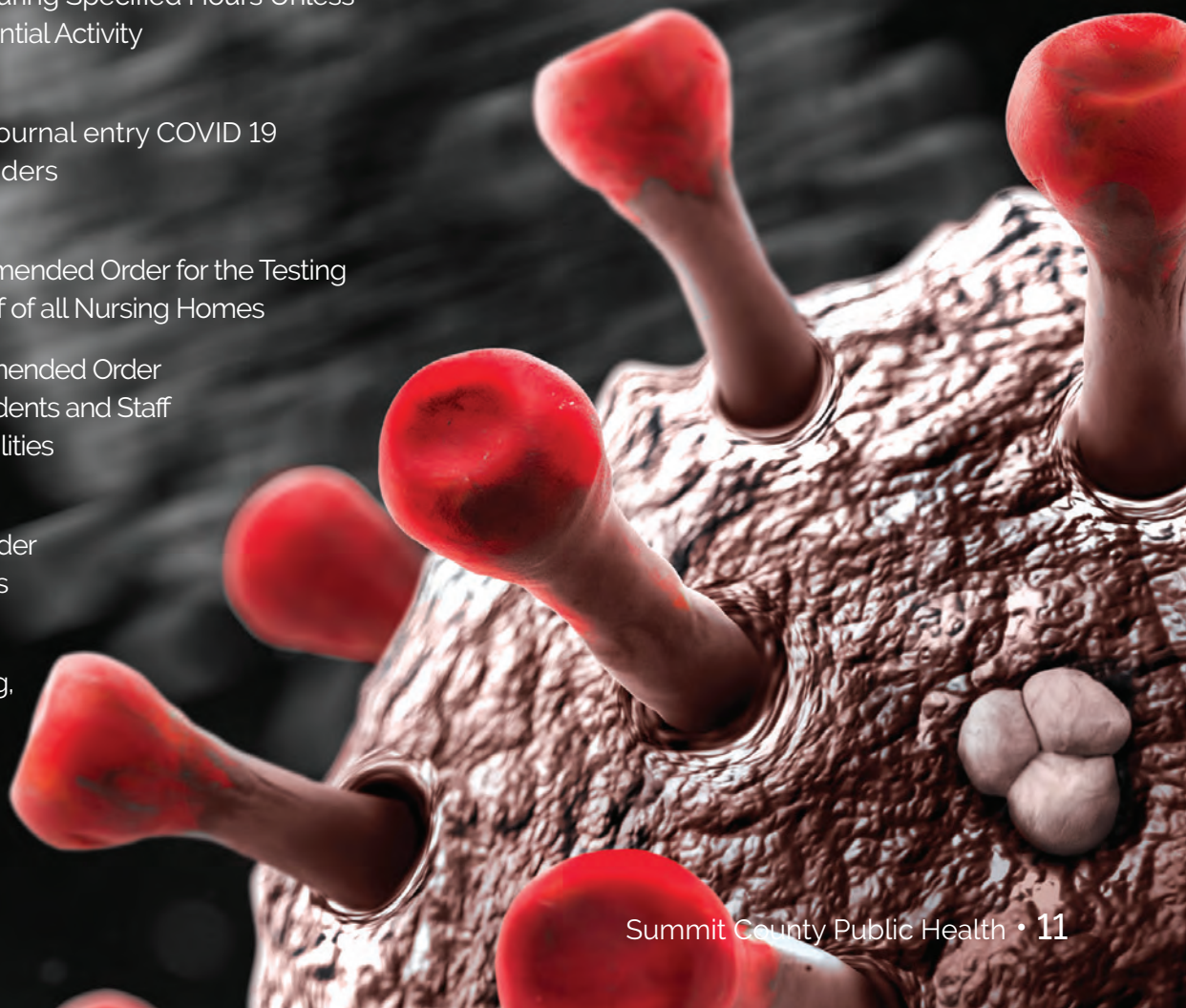
**05/04/21** – Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Nursing Homes

**05/17/21** – Director's Second Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating

## JUNE

**06/01/21** – Director's Order Rescinding Various Orders

**06/18/21** – Director's Order Rescinding Various Orders



# COVID (Continued)

## Remaining Public Health Orders:

**04/15/20** – Director's Order to Facilities to Notify Residents, Guardians and Sponsor of Positive or Probable Cases of COVID-19

**09/03/20** – Director's Order Requiring Reporting and Notification Regarding COVID-19 Cases in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Schools

**05/04/21** – Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Nursing Homes

**05/04/21** – Director's Amended Order for the Testing of the Residents and Staff of all Residential Care Facilities

## Summit County Public Health COVID-19 Unit Statistics

Process	Bulk Numbers	Additional Statistics	
CDU	≈71,000 cases reviewed <sup>^</sup>	≈78,000 actions completed*	≈46% interview completion rate
		≈373 outbreaks reported	≈52,000 cases closed
Contact Tracing	≈42,300 contacts received	≈39,100 actions completed*	
SCPH Testing	≈9,000 clients tested	7 major testing initiatives	daily testing available
	≈35,300 tests given out	≈28,000 home kits	≈7,300 professional kits
SCPH Vaccination	≈75,000 vaccines given	≈20,000 vaccines given (VMS)	≈55,000 vaccines given (SCPH System)
	≈247 homebound given	≈1,790 replacement vaccination cards issued	
Data Systems	≈5,000,000+ data points collected	5 outside agency reporting systems	150+ Google applications
Enforcement Task Force	≈12,500 complaints received and resolved		
Call Center	≈40,000 phones calls received and logged		
Labs Entered into ODRS	≈5,000 labs entered from phone calls, faxes, and online submissions		
Facility Reporting	≈20,000 workplace and school positive reporting submissions		
Long Term Care	≈3,048 long term care resident disease investigations completed		
Variant Submissions	≈417 fully vaccinated/hospitalized/deceased patient samples requested for variant testing		

<sup>^</sup>While the total number of cases for Summit County is ≈ 58,000, SCPH has investigated over 71,000 possible cases.

\* Actions may include: attempted/completed phone calls, door tags, welfare checks, etc.





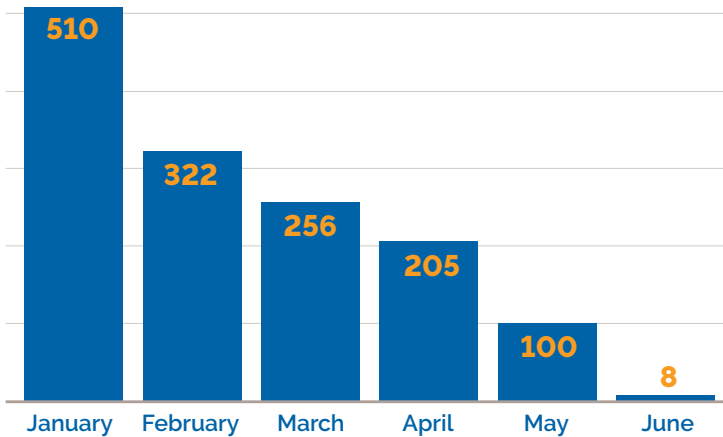
# COVID (Continued)

## COVID-19 Enforcement

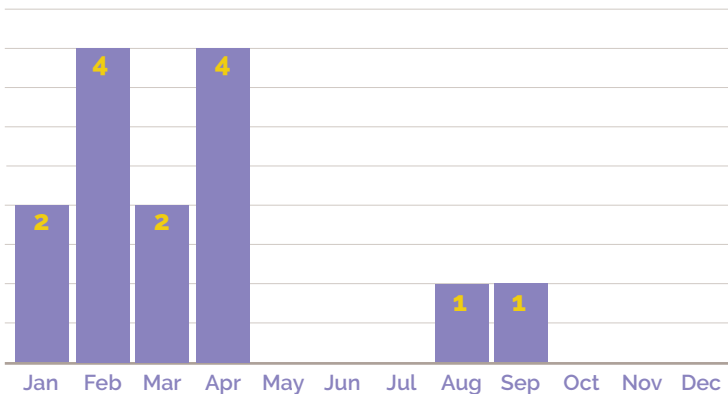
The Enforcement Task Force (ETF) is comprised of mainly food and recreation staff who reviewed and responded to complaints received regarding businesses not complying with Public Health Orders issued by the Ohio Department of Health.

Summit County Public Health received 1,401 complaints in 2021 related to COVID-19 and 11,669 complaints in 2020 for 13,070 complaints between March 10, 2020 and June 03, 2021. The complaint intake form was disabled, and ETF demobilized on June 03, 2021 after Ohio Department of Health rescinded the majority of public health orders on June 02, 2021.

### ETF Complaints Received in 2021



### COVID-19 Complaints Records Request 2021



## Vaccine Delivery

SCPH completed 285 vaccination events in 2021.

- Equity Outreach – 68 (including schools in high-risk areas, homeless shelters and correctional facilities)
- Special Groups – 72 (including health care, childcare, home health, homebound, mental health, etc.)
- Nursing homes – 8 (most were assigned to a pharmacy provider)
- General Clinics – 137 (note that for all of our general clinics, priority registration was given to high-risk and minority populations)







# SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH IN MEDIA & ONLINE

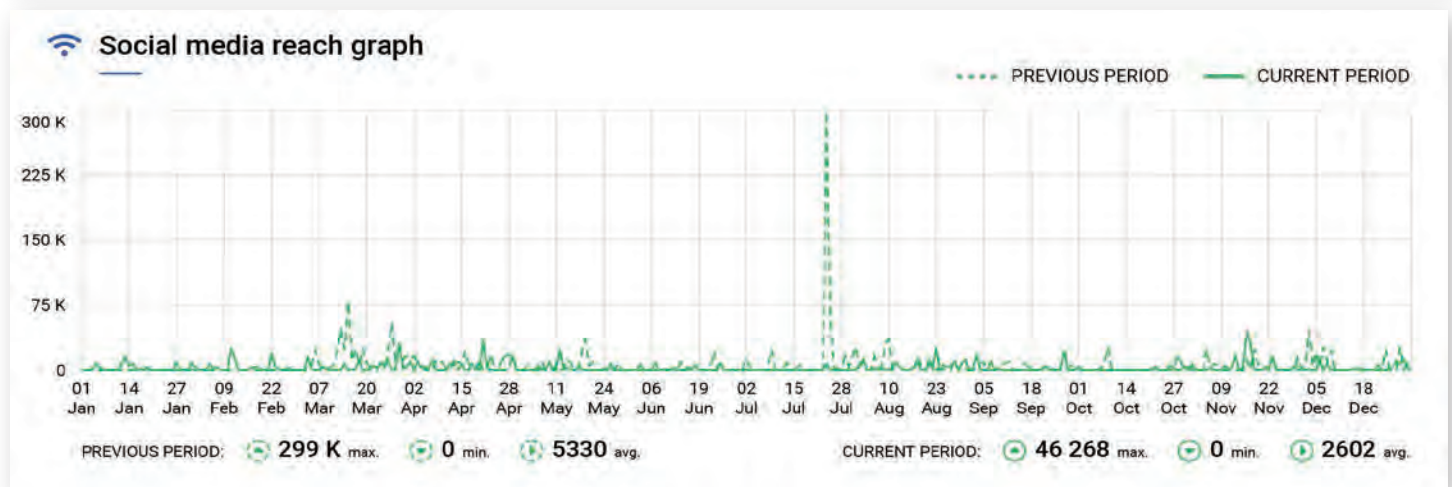
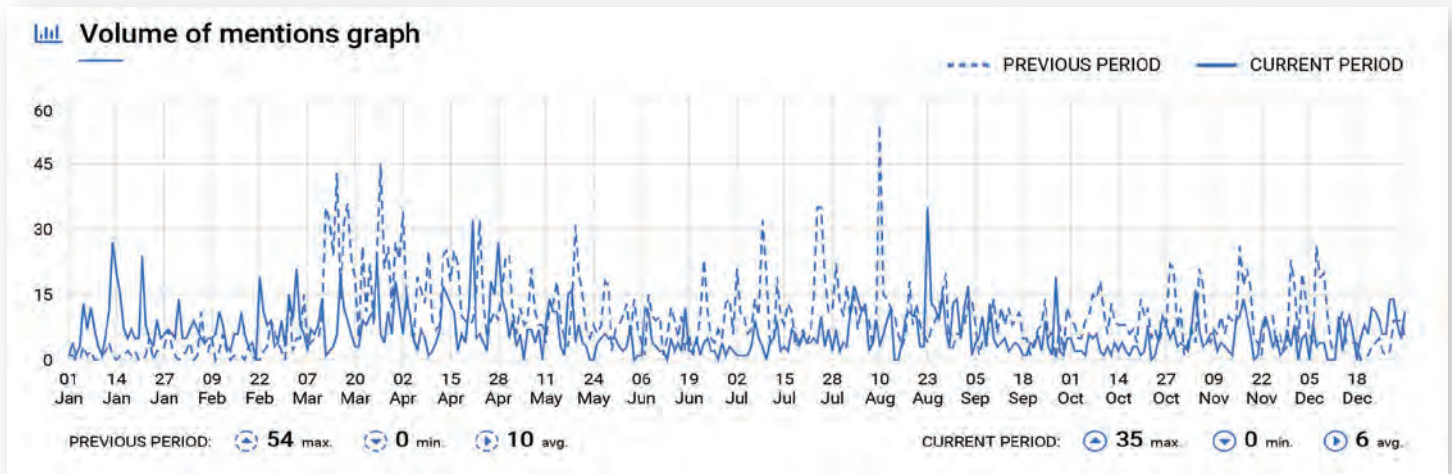
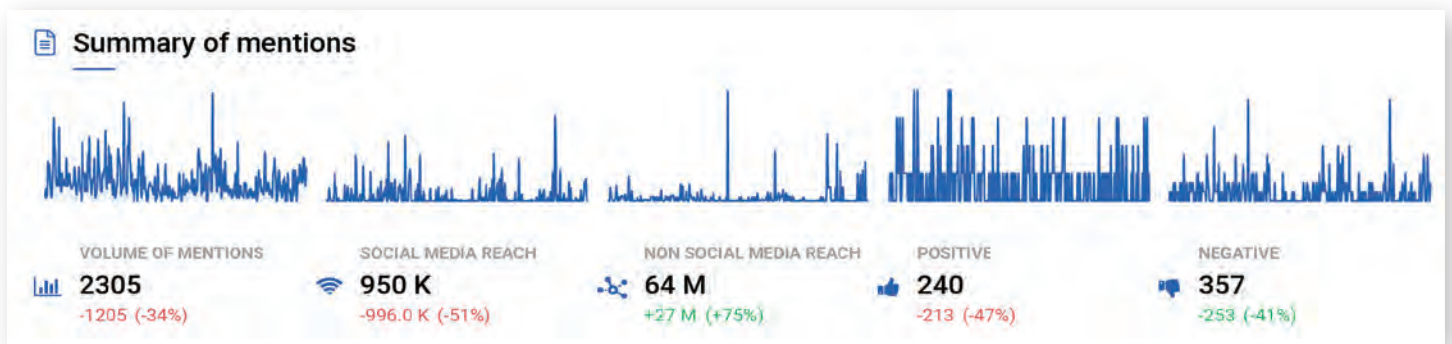
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Summit County Public Health utilizes an automated online public relations monitoring service to continuously monitor mentions of SCPH in the news, online and across social media. Our PR monitoring service captured a total of 2,305 mentions of Summit County Public Health online in the year of 2021. This is a 35% decrease from the year 2020.

Here is a summary of mentions and analysis:

- 2,305 total mentions
- Estimated 950K impressions across social media
- 971 news articles mentioning SCPH

Most active news sites mentioning SCPH included beaconjournal.com, Cleveland.com, news5cleveland.com, wakr.net, wksu.org, wnir.com, and cleveland19.com. Virtually all news articles and mentions of SCPH are related to coronavirus and COVID-19.



# FISCAL STATEMENT

Statement of cash receipts, cash disbursement and changes in fund cash balances. All funds through December 2021.

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Total
<b>CASH RECEIPTS</b>			
Local Taxation	3,230,675	0	3,230,675
State Subsidy	204,339	0	204,339
Environmental Health Fees	2,743,017	198,388	2,941,405
Vital Statistics	565,578	0	565,578
Personal Health Services	598,015	4,242	602,257
Miscellaneous	588,010	89	588,099
Federal Funds Reimbursement	107,709	14,083,862	14,191,571
Local Contracts (Including Akron)	4,118,272	906,454	5,024,726
State Fees	993,536	0	993,536
Rental of Property	105,488	0	105,488
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<b>13,254,639</b>	<b>15,193,035</b>	<b>28,447,674</b>
<b>CASH DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
Salaries	4,047,338	5,761,194	9,808,532
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	612,732	868,967	1,481,699
Health Benefits	779,693	991,830	1,771,523
Travel	74,409	24,349	98,758
Supplies	444,841	884,498	1,329,339
Contracts-Services/Repairs	1,353,875	4,352,412	5,706,287
Building Rental	29,495	141,431	170,926
Advertising and Printing	18,611	358,710	377,321
Other Expenses	129,255	402,352	531,607
Equipment	260,346	149,624	409,970
Remittance to State	950,671	0	950,671
Nuisance Abatement Expense	1,540	0	1,540
Client Services	0	27,321	27,321
<b>TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>8,702,806</b>	<b>13,962,688</b>	<b>22,665,494</b>
<b>RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>4,551,833</b>	<b>1,230,347</b>	<b>5,782,180</b>
Transfers/Advances-In	(2,421,282)	(3,380,283)	(5,801,565)
Transfers/Advances-Out	2,421,260	4,529,823	6,951,083
Reserve for Encumbrances	9,765,322	5,099,746	14,865,068
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>14,317,177</b>	<b>5,180,553</b>	<b>19,497,730</b>

## Non-Discrimination

Summit County Public Health (SCPH) complies with applicable Federal Civil Rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. SCPH does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

We provide free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as qualified sign language interpreters and written information. We provide free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages.

If you believe that SCPH has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance by contacting the ADA/EEO Officer at: 1867 W. Market St., Akron OH 44313. More information on filing a grievance is located on our website at [www.scph.org](http://www.scph.org).





## OUR MISSION

Protect and promote the health of the entire community through programs and activities designed to address the safety, health and well-being of the people who live in Summit County. The Health Department seeks to create a healthful environment and ensure the accessibility of health services to all.



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