



Community Health Improvement Plan

2025-2027



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Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) committee members for their valuable contributions in developing the CHIP. We also appreciate the support of our community partners, the senior leadership at Wayne HealthCare, and the community members who participated in the assessment surveys.

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Executive Summary

The Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) is made up of 29 member hospitals and health organizations across 11 counties in the greater Dayton area. Their focus is to ensure quality health care in our area. With the guidance of Ascend and GDAHA, the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was completed. An adult survey was created using questions from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). This decision was made so that responses could be compared with state and national data. 2,175 responses were considered valid for analysis, of those, 146 responses were from Darke County.

This Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) has been derived from the 2024 CHNA, which serves as a strategic roadmap for improving health within the Wayne HealthCare service market area. Through shared priorities, local focus, and collaboration, we aim to enhance existing services to create meaningful change in the lives of the people we serve.

Darke County is located in Western Ohio, along the Indiana border. The county has a population of 51,571 people with the county seat being Greenville.¹ It is agriculturally rich, has a reliable manufacturing backbone with small towns, but is within a 90-minute drive of major metropolitan areas such as Columbus and Cincinnati in Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana.

Regional Priorities

The CHNA workgroup identified three key areas for the regional CHIP that span the full spectrum of care:

- 1. Barriers to Accessing Care**
Tackling the systemic and logistical challenges that keep people from getting timely, appropriate care.
- 2. Healthcare Services**
Improving care delivery—enhancing coordination, quality, and efficiency across providers.
- 3. Wellbeing & Quality of Life**
Addressing physical, mental, and social factors that impact long-term health.

Crosscutting Focus Areas

Two themes emerged as essential across all three priorities:

- **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)**
Issues like income, education, housing, and access to food strongly affect health outcomes. Hospitals are key connectors to community resources that help meet these needs.
- **Advocacy**
Supporting policies that promote healthcare access, public health funding, and strong local partnerships will help shape a healthier future for the Dayton region.

Wayne HealthCare Priorities

In addition to the regional priorities, Wayne HealthCare identified three focus areas to sustain services based on the unique needs of the Darke County community:

1. **Cardiovascular Care & Heart Disease**

Heart disease remains one of the most significant health concerns in Darke County.¹ Major risk factors for cardiovascular disease include high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, and tobacco use. As part of a broader national initiative to address these risks, Healthy People 2030 emphasizes the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke by promoting overall cardiovascular health.²

2. **Women's Health**

Women's health in rural Ohio faces significant challenges due to limited access to maternity and preventive care. Many counties are classified as maternity care deserts- without local obstetric services, birthing centers or OB/GYN providers.⁹ Data also shows that women who reside in rural communities experience higher rates of chronic disease risk factors such as smoking and obesity, alongside lower screening rates for breast and cervical cancer.¹⁰ Darke County is fortunate to have a birthing center and OB/GYN providers to serve the community. Wayne HealthCare is putting emphasis on creating partnerships, expanding resources and using targeted interventions to improve outcomes for women within Darke County and surrounding communities.

3. **Strategic Partnerships**

Wayne HealthCare is expanding and strengthening local partnerships to enhance services and resources not currently available within the community. These efforts include collaborations in cardiovascular and women's health, collaborating with local employers, as well as new initiatives focused on prevention, education, and improving access to care. Current partners include Beauty Systems Group, Greenville Transit System, Darke County Seniors, Darke County ESC/Darke County Schools, and the Matt Light Foundation.

Areas of Focus and Strategies

Wayne HealthCare identified three specific areas of focus based on our community's needs. Below are the strategies we prioritize to improve care and access in Darke County.

Cardiovascular Care and Heart Disease

Goal: Improve prevention, education, and access to heart health services in our community.

STRATEGY	ACTION
STRENGTHEN SPECIALTY SERVICES	Expand cardiology services in partnership with regional organizations to improve local access to quality heart care.
ENGAGE YOUTH IN PREVENTION	Develop heart health education and prevention programming targeting youth, focusing on lifestyle and early awareness.

Women’s Health

Goal: Expand women’s health resources, increase community education, and preventive screenings.

STRATEGY	ACTION
PROMOTE PREVENTIVE HEALTH SUPPORT THROUGH FUNDRAISING	By fostering local partnerships and promoting education and awareness, women’s health can be strengthened across all stages of life, from preteens to older adults. Launch a new local product (e.g., wine) in partnership with Versailles Winery with dedicated messaging, proceeds will benefit the Wayne HealthCare Foundation women’s health initiatives.
ADDRESS BARRIERS TO CARE	

Strategic Partnerships

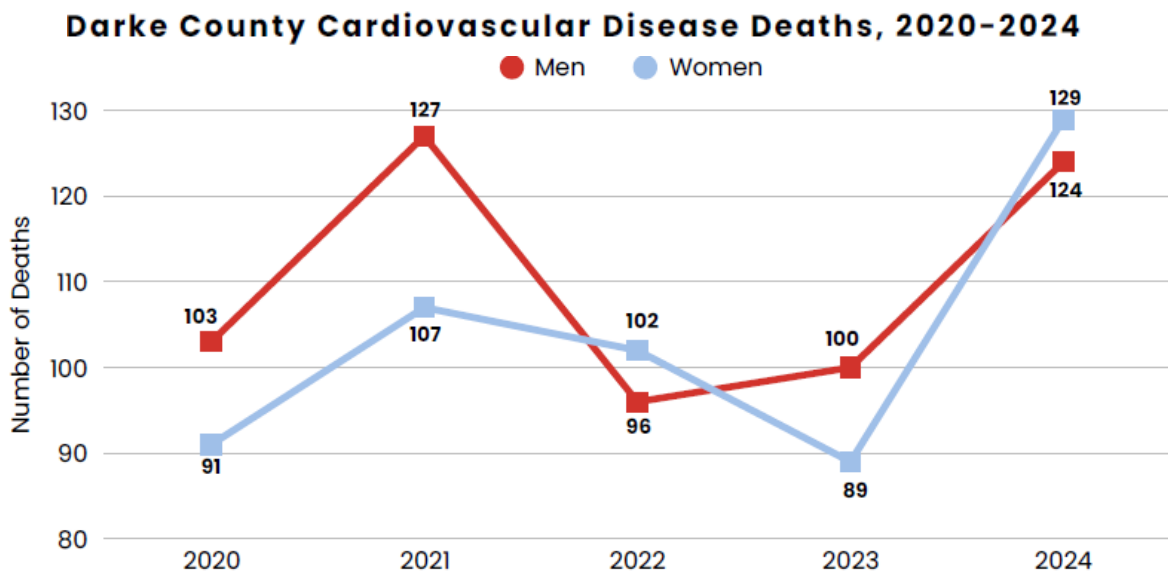
Goal: Build and strengthen partnerships that support prevention, health education, and access to care.

STRATEGY	ACTION
COLLABORATE WITH EMPLOYERS	Work with local employers to create or enhance workplace wellness programs.
PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS	Engage with existing community organizations such as Darke County Schools, Matt Light Foundation and the Darke County Senior Group to broaden outreach and services.
LEVERAGE FOUNDATION CONNECTIONS	Use new partnerships built through the Wayne HealthCare Foundation to promote other initiatives.

Cardiovascular Care and Heart Health

Strategy 1: Strengthen Specialty Services

Rationale	Heart disease remains one of the most significant health concerns in Darke County. ¹ Major risk factors for cardiovascular disease include high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, and tobacco use. As part of a broader national initiative to address these risks, Healthy People 2030 emphasizes the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke by promoting overall cardiovascular health. ²
Action Items	Expand cardiology services in partnership with regional organizations.
Partnerships & Resources	Regional healthcare facilities
Key Performance Measure	Vascular screenings include YoY numbers. # of cardiovascular patient visits
Time Frame	2025-2027; using 2025 data a baseline and increase visits respectfully

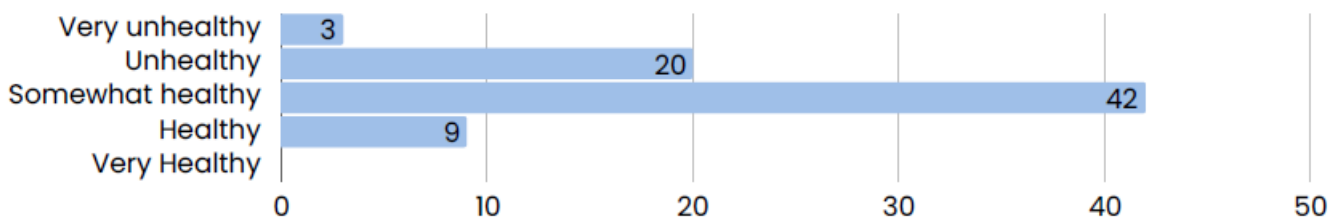


Source: Darke County General Health District Annual Reports, 2020-2024

Strategy 2: Engage Youth in Prevention

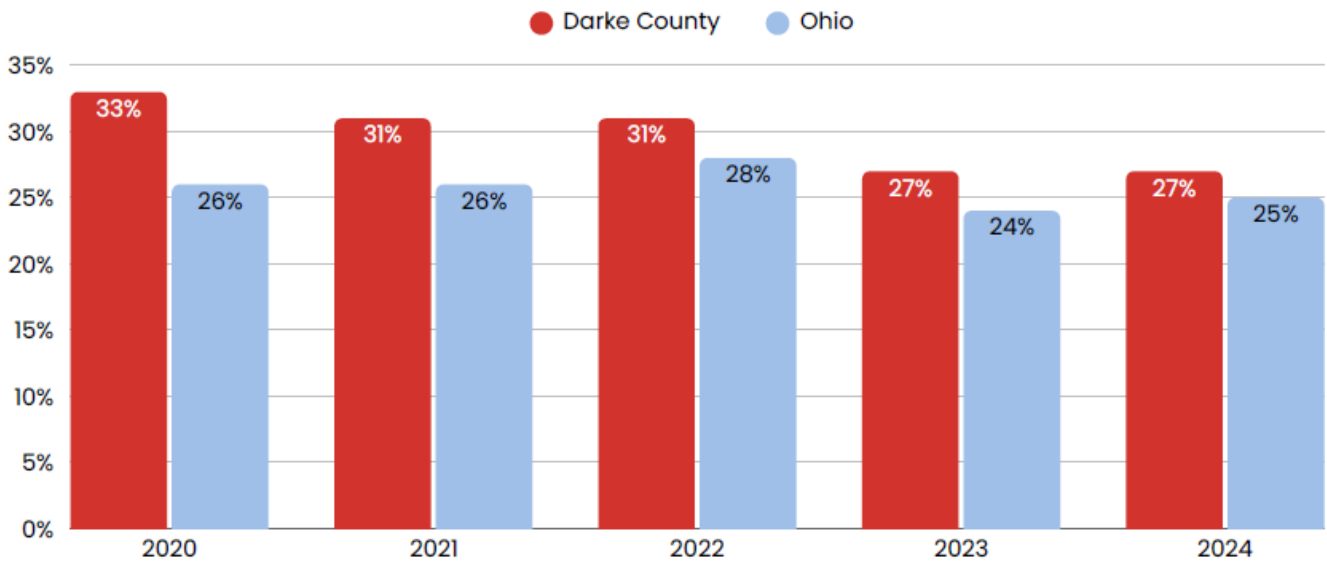
Rationale	Wayne HealthCare sees many patients with cardiovascular conditions; most often, the disease is already present. Our goal is to educate youth on how to make healthy lifestyle choices and what steps they can take to prevent heart disease later in life. Healthy People 2030 also lists objectives for healthy meals, education, physical activity and expanded health care services among youth. ²
Action Items	Develop heart health education and prevention programming targeting youth, focusing on lifestyle and early awareness.
Partnerships & Resources	Darke County Elementary Schools, Darke County ESC, Matt Light Foundation
Key Performance Measure	Use 2026 pre/post participation surveys in comparison to 2026.
Time Frame	Planning and partnership meetings in Q4 of 2025, 2026-2027 for programming implementation.

How would you rate our community as a "Healthy Community?"



Source: Darke County Health District, 2024 *There were approximately 72 responses to this survey.

Physical Inactivity Over the Past 5 Years



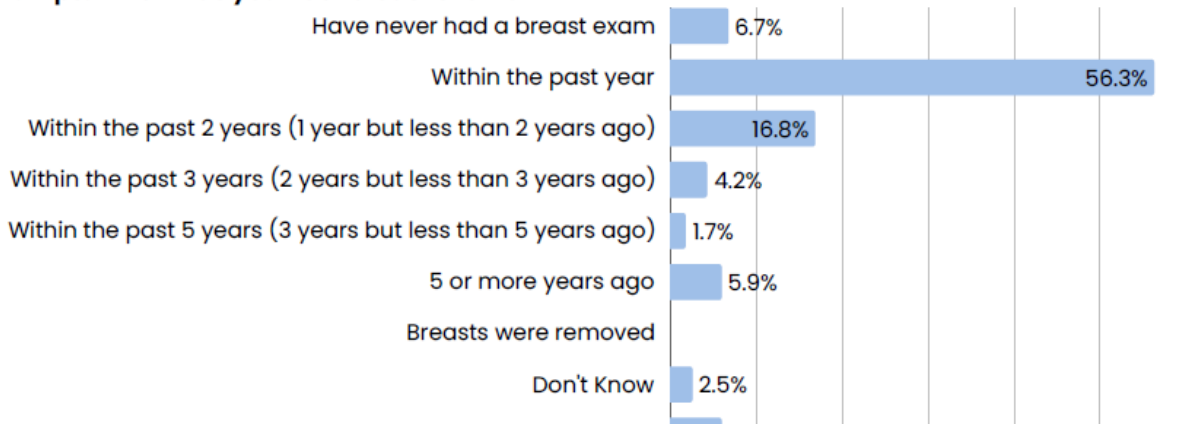
Source: University of Wisconsin, Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2020-2024

Women's Health

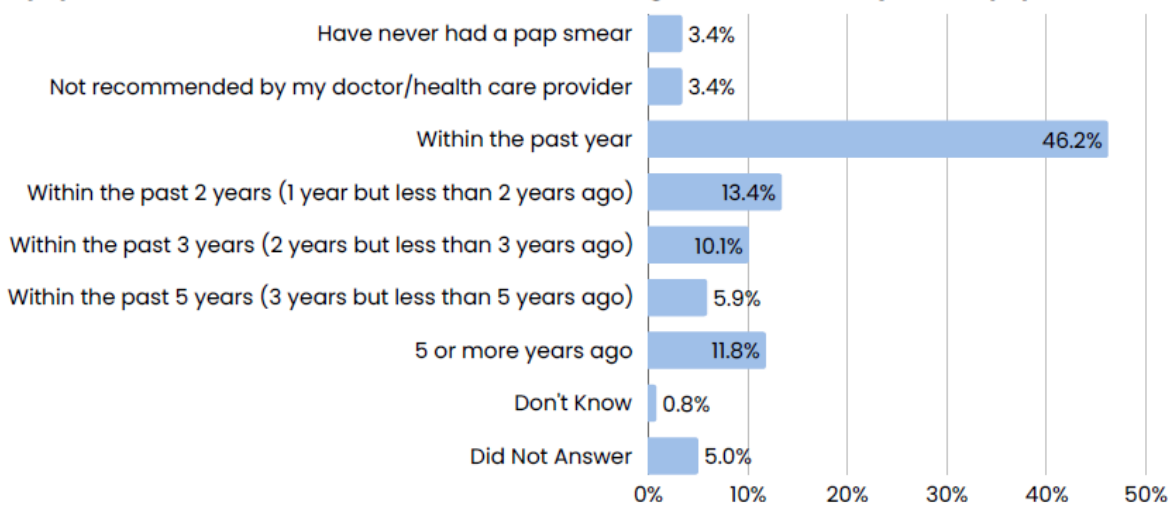
Strategy 1: Promote Preventative Health

Rationale	Healthy People 2030 aims to improve women's health by increasing access to preventive care, enhancing maternal and postpartum health, promoting reproductive health, addressing disparities, and managing chronic and mental health conditions across the lifespan. These initiatives align with our vision to improve women's health in our community ² .
Action Items	Through local partnerships, education and awareness, women's health can be increased across the lifespan. Recruit and hiring of an OBGYN physician will support this strategy.
Partnerships & Resources	Darke County General Health District, Western Ohio OB/GYN, Darke County Schools, Darke County Seniors, Nonprofit Organizations
Key Performance Measure	Patient referrals and visits to establish and measure performance.
Time Frame	Program planning to occur in 2025 with implementation in 2026-2027

A clinical breast exam is when a doctor, nurse, or other health professional feels the breast for lumps. When was your last breast exam?

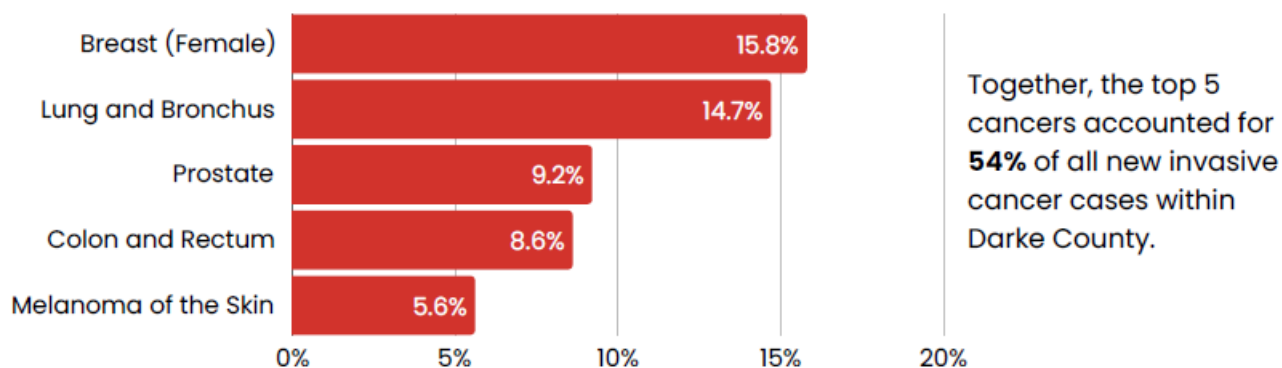


A pap smear is a test for cancer of the cervix. How long has it been since your last pap smear?



Source: Darke County Health District, 2024 *There were approximately 72 responses to this survey.

Percentage of New Invasive Cancer Cases by Site/Type for the Top 5 Cancers in Darke County, 2018-2022



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System, 2025

Strategy 2: Support through Fundraising

Rationale	The Wayne HealthCare Foundation has been a strong advocate for community health efforts. Through collaboration with Versailles Winery and the Foundation, our goal is to establish sustainable funding for ongoing programs and to expand future opportunities in women’s health initiatives.
Action Items	Launch a new local product and initiatives in partnership with Versailles Winery with dedicated messaging, proceeds will benefit Wayne HealthCare women’s health initiatives.
Partnerships & Resources	Versailles Winery, Graphic Communications, Wayne HealthCare Foundation, Western Ohio OB/GYN
Key Performance Measure	
Time Frame	Launch wine in Q3 of 2025, continue to promote partnership and sell wine through 2026.

Strategy 3: Address Barriers to Care

Rationale	We are prioritizing women’s health from birth through geriatrics by promoting services, providing screenings and educating the community on the services they can have done locally.
Action Items	Establish relationships with underutilized to increase access and education
Partnerships & Resources	
Key Performance Measure	Modern Mothers, WIC, Business Professional Women, Churches and other established women groups
Time Frame	April 2026 – December 2027

Strategic Partnerships

Strategy 1: Collaborate with Employers

Rationale	The ultimate goal for Wayne HealthCare is to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. By collaborating with our local employers, we can help facilitate efforts to improve the health of their workforce, which in turn improves the health of our community.
Action Items	Work with local employers to create or enhance workplace wellness programs.
Partnerships & Resources	Beauty Systems Group, Arnold Technologies, Darke County Commissioners/Employees
Key Performance Measure	Sign contract agreement to allow continuation of partnership in promoting preventive services, providing health education and enhancing the current wellness offerings of Beauty Systems Group.
Time Frame	End of Q1 2026

Occupation for Civilian Employed Population

	Darke County	Ohio
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	3.6%	0.9%
Construction	7.1%	5.8%
Manufacturing	26.9%	15.0%
Wholesale trade	3.1%	2.4%
Retail trade	11.5%	11.2%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	6.0%	5.7%
Information	0.9%	1.4%
Finance and insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	3.2%	6.5%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	5.6%	9.9%
Education services, health care and social assistance	19.3%	24.1%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, and accommodation and food services	5.6%	8.7%
Other services, except public administration	4.1%	4.3%
Public administration	3.1%	3.9%

**Denominator is civilian employed population 16 years and over
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022*

Strategy 2: Partner with Community Groups

Rationale	In recent years, we have found it difficult to get the community engaged in events and programming due to many factors. Instead of trying to create unique programs, we are looking to collaborate with already well-established groups within the community to promote services, screenings and provide education. It is our hope that we can make a greater impact than we could have otherwise.
Action Items	Engage with existing community organizations to broaden outreach and services. Annual CHNA/CHIP update with community leaders and community partners.
Partnerships & Resources	Matt Light Foundation, Darke County Seniors, Healthcare Leaders, Government officials and nonprofit organizations
Key Performance Measure	Identify established social groups within the community (Darke County Seniors, Matt Light Foundation) and foster partnerships to provide health education and preventive services in collaboration with the efforts of these established groups.
Time Frame	Partnership meetings 2025-2026 with new programs in 2026

Projected Senior Population Trends, 2020-2050

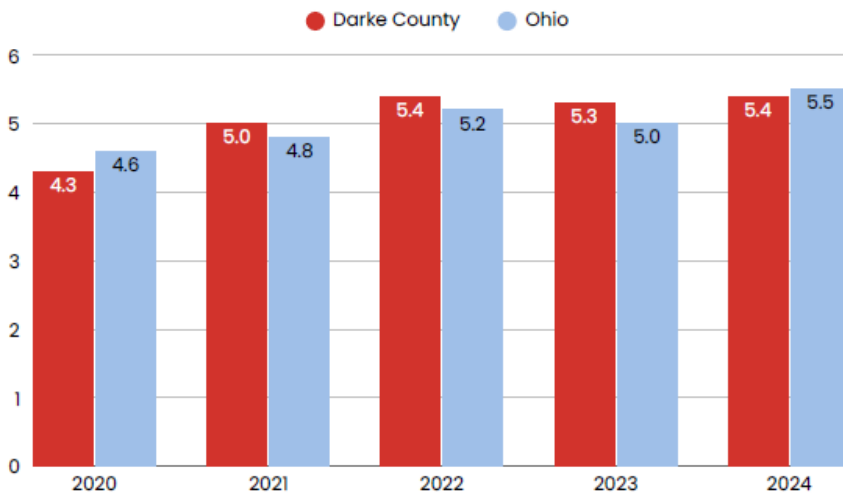
		Darke County		Ohio	
		65+	% Population	65+	% Population
Senior Population Trends	2020	10,195	19.7%	2,047,720	17.4%
	2025	10,522	20.7%	2,205,277	18.7%
	2030	10,602	21.4%	2,275,493	19.5%
	2035	10,170	21.0%	2,223,923	19.2%
	2040	9,411	20.0%	2,120,160	18.6%
	2045	8,688	19.0%	2,009,596	17.8%
	2050	8,025	18.1%	1,959,822	17.6%

Source: Ohio Department of Development, Population Characteristics and Projections, 2020-2050

Strategy 3: Leverage Foundation Connections

Rationale	As stated previously, the Foundation has been and continues to be a strong advocate for community health initiatives. Through collaborations with existing partnerships and cultivating new relationships, we are hopeful to receive grants and other support to address barriers to care and other social determinants of health in our community.
Action Items	Utilize new partnerships built through the Wayne HealthCare Foundation to promote initiatives like health literacy and mental health awareness.
Partnerships & Resources	Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP), Greenville Transit System, Darke County Schools
Key Performance Measure	Survey experience of participants
Time Frame	Planning in Q4 2025, programs to start in 2026

Poor Mental Health Days Over the Past 5 Years



Over the past 5 years, there has been a **slight increase** in individuals living within Darke County experiencing more **poor mental health** days. This is comparable to individuals living throughout the State of Ohio.

Responses to Crisis Situations by the Sheriff's Office

	Darke County Total	
Crisis Response Situations	Suicidal Thoughts '23	29
	Suicidal Thoughts '24	36
	Overdoses '23	45
	Overdoses '24	35
	Domestic Violence '23	101
	Domestic Violence '24	67
	Mental/Behavior Health '23	53
	Mental/Behavior Health '24	52

*Statistics represent responses by the Darke County Sheriff's Office
Source: Darke County Sheriff's Office, Annual Reports, 2023-2024

"Individuals need faster and better access to inpatient facilities when dealing with a mental health issue" said a Community Member when asked what additional resources or support do you feel are needed to effectively address the top priorities (mental health, substance use, and social determinants of health) in Darke County.

Greenville Transit System

	2018	2019	2020
Annual Passenger Trips	51,069	50,879	35,045
Annual Elderly and Disabled Trips	33,872	34,553	26,173
Trips per Hour	4.07	3.9	3.1
Cost per Mile	\$5.15	\$5.03	\$6.54
Cost per Trip	\$13.22	\$14.29	\$21.88
Annual Vehicle Miles	131,181	144,646	117,198
System Square Miles	7	7	7
System Population Served	13,187	13,187	12,786

**Data reported in 2023 is from 2020, data reported in 2021 is from 2019, and data reported in 2020 is from 2018
Source: Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Transit, Status of Public Transit in Ohio, 2018-2020*

Available Transportation

	Darke County	Ohio	
Access to a Vehicle*	No Vehicle Available	2.0%	3.1%
	1 Vehicle Available	12.9%	19.5%
	2 Vehicles Available	38.9%	42.6%
	3 Vehicles Available	25.4%	21.4%
	4 Vehicles Available	13.5%	8.9%
	5 or More Vehicles Available	7.3%	4.5%
Means of Transportation to Work	Car, Truck, or Van*	91.0%	85.7%
	Drove Alone**	88.7%	91.1%
	Carpooled**	11.3%	8.9%
	In 2-Person Carpool***	80.8%	76.9%
	In 3-Person Carpool***	13.9%	13.3%
	In 4-Person Carpool***	3.5%	5.1%
	In 5- or 6-Person Carpool***	1.8%	3.0%
	In 7-or-More-Person Carpool***	0.0%	1.7%
	Public Transportation*	0.2%	1.2%
	Bus****	100.0%	94.7%
	Subway or Elevated Rail****	0.0%	2.6%
	Long-Distance Train or Commuter Rail****	0.0%	0.5%
	Light Rail, Streetcar, or Trolley****	0.0%	1.4%
Ferryboat****	0.0%	0.8%	
Taxicab*	0.0%	0.2%	
Motorcycle*	0.2%	0.1%	
Bicycle*	0.1%	0.3%	
Walked*	1.9%	2.0%	
Other Means*	1.3%	0.8%	
Worked From Home*	5.3%	9.8%	

Denominator is Workers 16 Years and Over **Denominator is Workers 16 Years and Over Using a Car, Truck, or Van *Denominator is Workers 16 Years and Over Carpooling ****Denominator is Workers 16 Years and Over Using Public Transportation*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022

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