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Greene County Community Health Plan

Sponsored by the Greene County Combined Health District

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INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2004, a group of diverse Greene County residents and professionals, representing myriad organizations and interests, volunteered to serve on the Community Health Steering Committee to update a plan for public health excellence in Greene County. The mission of the Greene County Community Health Planning Steering Committee is to develop and oversee the implementation of a strategic plan to promote the health and well-being of citizens by advocating and planning for affordable, inclusive and accessible health care; increasing awareness and individual responsibility for health care; and collaborating in a tactical manner to accomplish priorities and monitor progress. The vision for Greene County... A community with a healthy, high quality lifestyle in harmony with a sustainable, natural environment.

The Steering Committee reviewed the major accomplishments achieved locally since the development of the last strategic plan in 2000—smoking rates had decreased; programs had been developed to combat youth inactivity and overweight; and the rate of uninsured was kept stable, even at a time when the rolls of uninsured were rising nationally. These achievements should be celebrated. But there is still work to do...the Steering Committee reviewed current health data, and defined three areas of concern: behavioral health, or lifestyle-related issues; access to health care for the un- and underinsured; and environmental health. The Steering Committee divided into task forces based on these three major issues.

Each task force met three to four times over a three month period, analyzing local data on each issue; identifying priorities and gaps in services and resources; and developing goals, objectives and strategies for each priority.

The behavioral health task force identified three priorities:

- ✦ the incidence of overweight and obesity among youth and adults, predicated by inactivity and poor nutritional choices;
- ✦ use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by both youth and adults, as evidenced by high rates of smoking and self-reported drug and alcohol use among youth; and
- ✦ prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, based on health district data and the deficit of education on STDs taught in public and private schools.

The access to health care task force identified three priorities:

- ✦ access to health care for the un- and underinsured, and the significant financial impact of limited health care insurance availability on local health systems;
- ✦ available dental care for both adults and children, including appropriate referrals; and
- ✦ the significant health care labor shortage facing Greene County as the existing labor force ages and/or moves for higher wages.

The environmental health committee identified five priorities:

- ✦ air quality, including radon, mold and other air quality issues, as evidenced by the high rates of radon in this geographic area and illnesses due to mold and other contaminants;
- ✦ water quality, including safe wells and septic systems;
- ✦ home safety, in terms of homeowners learning good and safe methods for taking care of their home and getting rid of pests;
- ✦ food safety, including increasing awareness among the public of food safety in local restaurants; and
- ✦ communicable diseases, or decreasing the spread of colds and flu or food borne illnesses by hand washing.

These 11 priorities represent the most pressing public health issues for Greene County in 2005, and will be the focus of multiple strategic interventions over the next four years. This plan is designed as a roadmap to community health, and is a dynamic document that will change as conditions, resources, and the environment changes. The plan is presented to the Greene County community as a call to action—an opportunity for citizens to become involved in a unified effort to improve the health and quality of life of youth and adults in Greene County.

THANK YOU STEERING COMMITTEE

The Greene County Combined Health District would like to thank the citizens and organizations who donated their time to make the community health planning initiative a success, and one which will benefit the health and well-being of all Greene County residents.

The following individuals participated in the planning:

- ✦ Donald E. Brannen, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Levi Braswell, First Christian Church, Xenia
- ✦ Margaret Burns, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Vicky Costello, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Jean Clements, Ohio State University Extension
- ✦ Margaret Conrad, MRDD
- ✦ Carol Dondero, Four Oaks Early Intervention
- ✦ Tom Gelhausen, Greene County Juvenile Court
- ✦ Dick Genardi, Integrated Youth Services
- ✦ Sue Giga, Greene County Family and Children First
- ✦ Carol Gill, Ohio Department of Health
- ✦ Meg Gillis, United Way
- ✦ David Goldberg, Greene Memorial Hospital.
- ✦ Anne Henry, American Cancer Society
- ✦ Brenda M. Johnson, CareSource
- ✦ Kevin Knoll, Greene Memorial Hospital
- ✦ Tim Leiwig, Greene County Recreation and Parks
- ✦ Debbie Leopold, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Jerry Mahan, Ohio State University Extension
- ✦ Phil Masten, Greene County Department of Job and Family Services
- ✦ Brenda McCarthy, Greene County Educational Service Center
- ✦ Mark McDonnell, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Dottie Meade, Greene County Career Center
- ✦ Kelly Myers, Greene County Soil Water Conservation District
- ✦ Robin Nichols, Greene Memorial Hospital
- ✦ Norma Nikkola, Fairborn City Schools
- ✦ Sara Pappa, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Karen Puterbaugh, Greene County Council on Aging
- ✦ Rhonda Reagh, Greene County Children's Services
- ✦ Beth Rubin, Greene County Department of Job and Family Services
- ✦ Chris Schlorman, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Sharon Smith, Headstart
- ✦ Russell Stine, Greene County Recreation & Parks
- ✦ Elaine Straley, Greene County Board of Health
- ✦ Terry Thomas, Greene County Educational Service Center
- ✦ Deanna Todd, Greene County Family and Children First
- ✦ Irene Warren, Greene County Combined Health District
- ✦ Lynn Wolaver, Greene County Board of Health
- ✦ Richard Young, TCN Behavioral Health Services
- ✦ Kent Youngman, Mental Health and Recovery Board

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

Goal: Reduce the proportion of adults and children who are overweight or obese.

Objective: Increase the proportion of adults and children who engage in leisure time physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week to 30 percent (HP2010 target).

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends adults and youth engage in physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day, at least five days per week. Locally, only 15 percent of adults meet this recommendation, and while we have no true estimate for local youth, we can assume our youth are not so different from other youth across the nation. Nationally, less than one-third of young people meet the CDC's physical activity recommendation.</p> <p>One of the criticisms of suburban and rural environments is the lack of physical spaces available for physical activity. Barriers include lack of physical spaces, lack of transportation, no sidewalks in and between neighborhoods, poor lighting, and concerns for safety. More information on the relationship between the built environment and health can be found through the Robert Wood Johnson program, <i>Active Living by Design</i>, available on the web at www.activelivingbydesign.org.</p> <p>A possible solution would be to partner with local organizations to open their spaces for physical activity, so that there would be opportunities for safe active play in every Greene County community.</p>	<p>Advocate for public and private schools, churches, colleges and universities, and other organizations to provide public access to physical activity spaces and facilities, like gymnasiums. Include access for special populations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify the spaces that are currently available for physical activity. 2) Identify geographic areas lacking spaces for physical activity. 3) Target strategic efforts to those geographic areas lacking physical activity resources. 4) Create & disseminate a directory of the spaces available for physical activity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Track outputs from advocacy strategy (e.g., number of contacts made). 2) At least 5 of the 7 communities will have physical activity space available at least 5 days per week. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Partner with a local college or university to complete the assessment and create the resource directory. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Partnerships for Success Fitness Task Force (GCCHD) ✦ Action for Healthy Kids ✦ American Cancer Society ✦ Greene County Parks & Recreation

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

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Objective: Increase the proportion of adults and children who engage in leisure time physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week to 30 percent (HP2010 target).

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The battle against chronic diseases and lifestyle-related risk factors must be fought strategically, striking where there is opportunity. Most adults spend at least 35 to 40 hours of their week at their place of employment, and worksite health promotion programs offer an effective venue to increase adult fitness.</p> <p>A review article published in the American Journal of Health Promotion (Aldana, S G. "Financial impact of health promotion programs: a comprehensive review of the literature." <i>American journal of health promotion : AJHP</i>, v. 15 issue 5, 2001, p. 296-320) suggests worksite wellness programs not only benefit employees, but provide a return on investment to employers by reducing associated costs.</p> <p>The study finds that high stress, overweight and obesity, and other risk factors increase health care costs and absenteeism. Employers with health promotion programs, and particularly fitness programs, have lower levels of absenteeism and lower health care costs.</p>	<p>Advocate for worksites to offer employer-sponsored physical activity and fitness programs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify employers in Greene County with 50 or more employees. 2) Survey those employers to establish baseline data on local employers who offer worksite wellness programs. 3) Target strategy to those employers not offering wellness programs. Partner with local Chambers of Commerce. 4) Investigate opportunities for "Fitness Coalitions" of small employers. 5) Develop method to measure participation and objective outcome. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from advocacy strategy. 2) The number of employers with 50 or more employees offering worksite wellness programs will increase by 10%. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Partner with a local college or university to complete the survey of employers and establish baseline data. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ American Cancer Society

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

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Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics both have published numerous papers asserting the unique position of public and private schools in positively impacting physical activity in young people. Despite this recommendation, the CDC reports daily enrollment in high school physical education classes dropped from 42 percent to 25 percent between 1991 and 1995. While there is not an exact estimate of enrollment in physical education classes locally, focus groups conducted in 2002 suggest physical education classes, and even time for recess and play, are declining in Greene County schools.</p> <p>There is a grassroots movement in Ohio to require mandatory time for physical activity in schools. It will be important to monitor and advocate for the passage of this legislation, when it is introduced. In the meantime, there are many innovative strategies teachers can use themselves to incorporate physical activity into lessons about math, science and language.</p>	<p>Advocate for school policies to require mandatory time for adequate physical activity in schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitor actions of Ohio legislature regarding the re-submission of House Bill 81. 2) Present to the Family and Children First Steering Committee to get a Council endorsement of the Bill. 3) Meet with local legislators to support Bill. 4) Other actions as determined by committee. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from advocacy strategy. 2) Adoption of legislation requiring school policies for mandatory physical activity. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of advocacy efforts and monitoring of legislative support. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ American Cancer Society ✦ Action for Healthy Kids

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

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Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Walking is an easy, inexpensive way to incorporate physical activity into a busy day. Experts recommend walking 10,000 steps per day, or about 5 miles, for the greatest health benefits. However, this distance can be broken into small segments completed throughout the day. One of the best ways to complete the recommended distance is to wear a pedometer. A pedometer keeps track of the number of steps walked throughout the day, including those taken while cleaning house, walking up the stairs at work, or while grocery shopping.</p> <p>Walking programs using pedometers are very popular and have been shown to help persons to stick to a physical activity regime. Participating in walking programs is also a great way for families to spend time together. The walking and biking trails and the resources available through Greene County Parks and Recreation are valuable local resources for physical activity.</p>	<p>Promote walking and/or running programs to youth, adults and senior adults.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encourage youth to walk with their grandparents. 2) Institute a pedometer program to encourage walking. Include a local competition for walking a certain distance (e.g., during the Christmas season, churches can promote a “walk to Bethlehem.”) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from promotion activities. 2) Increased number of youth, adults and senior adults who walk for physical activity. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of promotion activities. 2) Counts of those who participate in walking programs. 3) BRFSS. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Greene County Parks and Recreation ✦ Council on Aging

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

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Objective: Increase the proportion of adults and children who engage in leisure time physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week to 30 percent (HP2010 target).

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Families who participate in physical activities together gain numerous benefits, and not just physical health. Research clearly shows that having a family support system to support healthy habits increases success for weight loss and maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. However, research also shows that children who spend time in healthy activities with their parents or caregivers are more likely to make healthy choices in all areas of their lives.</p> <p>There are numerous local opportunities for families to engage in physical activities together. Barriers to participation, such as lack of knowledge about activities and lack of transportation, must be overcome.</p>	<p>Develop and/or promote activities for families to engage in physical activities together.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue “Let’s Run” program, and extend to schools in other school districts. 2) Promote free activities to parents through the schools, newspaper articles, radio coverage, etc. 3) Utilize resources through the Sound Partners grant. 4) Target physicians to urge them to give parents “prescriptions” for physical activity. Coordinate through the Greene County Medical Society. 5) Promote Greene County Parks & Recreation walks. 6) Partner with sporting goods stores for discounts on shoes, equipment, etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from promotional activities. 2) Increase in the number of families who engage in activities together. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of promotional activities. 2) Conduct survey through school health classes. 3) Additional questions added to BRFSS to measure families engaged in physical activities together. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Partnerships for Success Fitness Task Force (Greene County Combined Health District).</p>

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

- Goal:** Reduce the proportion of adults and children who are overweight or obese.
- Objectives:** Increase to 50% the proportion of adults and children over age 2 who consume at least 2 fruits and 3 vegetables per day.
 Increase the proportion of adults and children over age 6 who read food labels.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The Partnerships for Success Fitness Task Force, chaired by the Greene County Combined Health District, is currently developing a social marketing campaign to increase fitness among youth and adults in Greene County. The campaign name and logo will be completed in March 2005. As part of this campaign, the Task Force will launch a “Know Your Numbers” initiative, to encourage youth and adults to keep track of the numbers of fruits and vegetables they consume each day, eating at least two fruits and 3 vegetables.</p> <p>This nutrition target is based on the national 5-A-Day campaign, and the science which shows fruits and vegetables provide the vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytochemicals the body needs to maintain good health and energy levels, protect against the effects of aging, and reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease. For more information about the benefits of fruits and vegetables, see the website for the national 5-A-Day Partnership at www.5aday.org.</p>	<p>Implement a “Know Your Numbers” campaign to encourage youth and adults to count the number of fruits and vegetables consumed per day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implement as part of the overall fitness campaign. 2) Set up booths at grocery stores to give information, quizzes and incentives. 3) Provide easy to implement tips and specific information. 4) Promote program through schools with bracelets to “count off” number of fruits and veggies consumed. 5) Include information in local media. 6) Partner with the Medical Society to provide information in physician offices, e.g., posters and family interventions. 7) Include in WIC programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Number who participate in programs and activities. 2) At least 50% of youth and adults will consume at least 2 fruits and 3 vegetables per day. 3) Youth and adults will read food labels (measure TBD). <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of participation at programs and activities. 2) Pre- and post test surveys given at activities and programs. 3) BRFSS. 4) Youth surveys. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ OSU Extension ✦ American Cancer Society

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & NUTRITION

- Goal:** Reduce the proportion of adults and children who are overweight or obese.
- Objectives:** Increase to 50% the proportion of adults and children over age 2 who consume at least 2 fruits and 3 vegetables per day.
 Increase the proportion of adults and children over age 6 who read food labels.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Just as with physical activity, schools play a key role in helping youth to make healthy food choices. However, the food and drinks available at school often fall short of healthy eating guidelines, including snack and drink machines that offer “foods” with little nutritional value.</p> <p>Team Nutrition is an initiative of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to provide training and technical assistance for foodservice workers, provide nutrition education for children and their caregivers, and support schools and communities in choosing healthy eating and physical activity. Research from Team Nutrition programs shows that schools can have a real impact on the health of students in their families, by implementing changes in food policies. Data show, given the choice, students will buy and consume healthful foods and beverages—and schools can make money from selling healthful options.</p> <p>For more information on the Team Nutrition program, visit the website at www.fns.usda.gov/tn/.</p>	<p>Advocate for schools to participate in Team Nutrition programs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Survey local schools to determine which schools do not already participate in Team Nutrition. 2) Target advocacy efforts to those schools not participating in Team Nutrition. 3) If Team Nutrition is not feasible, provide information and/or support for implementing alternative programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from advocacy efforts. 2) Increased number of schools participating in Team Nutrition or alternative programs. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of schools and number of youth participating in Team Nutrition or alternative programs. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Ohio State University Extension ✦ American Cancer Society

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

Goal: Decrease the proportion of adults abusing alcohol, adolescents using alcohol, and both adults and adolescents using any illicit drugs during the past 30 days.

Objective: Increase abstinence from alcohol, cigarettes, and illicit drugs among youth.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Currently, Greene County does not have a comprehensive substance abuse prevention and treatment plan for youth. A plan must be developed to address the risk factors and behaviors exhibited in local youth.</p> <p>A 2004 survey conducted by Wright State University’s Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research (CITAR) shows many Greene County youth are at risk, and professionals have opportunities to intervene. For example, between 7th and 12th grade, the percentage of Greene County youth who drink alcohol rises from 30 percent to 77 percent. Almost half (42 percent) of high school seniors have tried marijuana, 13 percent have tried drugs like LSD, 5 percent have tried cocaine, and 4 percent have tried heroin. Students are abusing prescription and over-the-counter drugs as well, with the most abused being non-prescription diet pills (36 percent) and opiates like Oxycontin (19 percent).</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive substance abuse prevention and treatment plan for youth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Form a committee on youth substance abuse. 2) Analyze data and resources on youth substance abuse and identify gaps. 3) Develop a comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and treat substance abuse. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development and implementation of substance abuse prevention plan by December 2005. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitor and adhere to timelines. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Mental Health & Recovery Board ✦ Integrated Youth Services ✦ Juvenile Court ✦ Partnerships for Success

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

Goal: Decrease the proportion of adults abusing alcohol, adolescents using alcohol, and both adults and adolescents using any illicit drugs during the past 30 days.

Objective: Increase abstinence from alcohol, cigarettes, and illicit drugs among youth.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Strengthening Families is a best practice program offered through Greene County Juvenile Court for youth ages 12—14. In this program, youth who are at risk for problem behaviors attend a seven-session program with their parents or caregivers. The program not only addresses substance abuse, but relationship building, listening, and other family skills. Other professionals in the County are being trained on how to implement the Strengthening Families program so that it can be offered more widely, such as through Family and Children First or Ohio State University Extension.</p> <p>This and other programs must be offered in every community throughout the County to make substance abuse prevention and early intervention widely available to youth and their families.</p>	<p>Expand substance abuse prevention and intervention programs, such as the Strengthening Families program.</p>	<p>1) Increased number of prevention and intervention programs offered throughout the County. 2) At least five of the seven communities will have substance abuse prevention programs available.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Count of additional programs, with baseline data based on Youth Resource Directory and school data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District Safe Communities Program ✦ Juvenile Court

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

Goal: Decrease the proportion of adults abusing alcohol, adolescents using alcohol, and both adults and adolescents using any illicit drugs during the past 30 days.

Objective: Increase abstinence from alcohol, cigarettes, and illicit drugs among adults.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>In Greene County, 19 percent of adults currently smoke, 32 percent drink alcohol excessively, and six percent admit to driving after drinking too much (2004 Community Health Needs Assessment). While there is no local measure of illicit drug use among adults, focus groups conducted in 2002 show concern for problem behaviors among adults, and specifically parents. Many youth across the County report living in a household with parents or caregivers who exhibit problem behaviors, including substance abuse.</p> <p>There are limited resources within the County for adults who abuse alcohol or illicit drugs. Local professionals need to develop a comprehensive plan for how to address this special population, focusing on prevention, early intervention and treatment.</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive substance abuse prevention and treatment plan for adults..</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Form a committee on adult substance abuse. 2) Analyze data and resources on youth substance abuse and identify gaps. 3) Develop a comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and treat substance abuse. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development and implementation of substance abuse plan by December 2005. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitor and adhere to timelines. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Mental Health & Recovery Board ✦ TCN ✦ Integrated Youth Services ✦ Greene Memorial Hospital

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

Goal: Reduce tobacco use by adolescents and adults.

Objective: Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among children and adolescents.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>In a 2004 survey conducted by the Center for Interventions, Treatments, and Addictions Research (CITAR) at Wright State University, half of Greene County high school seniors have ever smoked cigarettes and 25 percent currently smoke. The highest risk for starting smoking is in middle school—half of youth who smoke first try cigarettes in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade.</p> <p>The best intervention for smoking cessation is to reduce initiation of tobacco use at all. There is currently a large coalition of organizations in the Miami Valley working on youth and tobacco use, including the Greene County Combined Health District Tobacco Coalition, the Miami Valley Health Improvement Council, and the American Cancer Society’s Stamp Program. The work of these coalitions should be supported, to help lower the rate of tobacco use among Greene County youth.</p>	<p>Support the work of the Tobacco Coalition, the Miami Valley Health Improvement Council, and the Stamp Program (American Cancer Society).</p>	<p>1) Decreased percentage of youth who say they have ever used tobacco.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Ohio Youth Tobacco Survey. 2) DADS Survey.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District</p>

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS

Goal: Reduce tobacco use by adolescents and adults.

Objective: Reduce the proportion of nonsmokers exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.
Advocate for smoke-free legislation in local districts.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The CDC cites that secondhand smoke contains a mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals, more than 50 of which are known carcinogens. Each year in the United States, the detrimental effects from second smoke cause approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths and 35,000 heart disease deaths in adult nonsmokers.</p> <p>Non-smokers become “accidental smokers” when they breathe secondhand smoke. However, most non-smokers do not realize the amount of harmful chemicals they breathe in. For example, sitting in the non-smoking section of a restaurant for two hours is comparable to smoking one-and-a-half cigarettes. Campaigns to support clean indoor air are growing in Ohio. Residents and coalitions in over 20 cities have organized to bring clean indoor air to their communities. Cities in or near Greene County with coalitions supporting this legislation include Beavercreek, Centerville, Dayton and Kettering.</p>	<p>Advocate for local jurisdictions to pass smoke-free ordinances.</p>	<p>1) Increased public support for smoke-free legislation. 2) Increased number of local jurisdictions to pass smoke-free ordinances.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Amount of public support measured by petitions, attendance at events. 2) Number of jurisdictions that pass legislation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Smoke Free Dayton ✦ Cancer, Lung, Heart

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Goal: Reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents and adults.

Objective: Increase the percentage of youth who abstain from sexual activity or who use condoms if sexually active.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Ohio House Bill 189 requires that sex education emphasize abstinence from sexual activity as the only 100% effective protection against unwanted pregnancy and transmission of the AIDS virus and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). It also mandates that instruction in sex education covers certain topics pertaining to abstinence and sexual activity outside of marriage, such as students should abstain from sexual activity until after marriage and there are potential physical, psychological, emotional, and social side effects of participating in sexual activity outside of marriage.</p> <p>Because of the emphasis on abstinence-only education, it has been difficult for the Health District to gain access to local schools to provide STD and HIV/AIDS education. Lack of education on STDs and HIV/AIDS is of particular concern since in Ohio only 53% of female high school students and 68% of male high school students who are sexually active reported using condoms (2003 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, available online at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs).</p>	<p>Advocate for comprehensive HIV/AIDS and STD education in schools.</p>	<p>1) Increase in the number of schools that provide HIV/AIDS and STD education, in addition to abstinence-only education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Counts of number of schools that provide HIV and STD education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Greene County local schools

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Goal: Reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents and adults.

Objective: Increase the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among high risk groups.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>In 2003, there were 305 cases of chlamydia and 92 cases of gonorrhea in Greene County (Ohio Department of Health), and the Greene County Health Department reports two positive HIV cases in 2004. HIV/AIDS and STD education is important to preventing future spread of these illnesses, especially among high risk groups.</p> <p>According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the highest risk groups are men who have sex with men, and men and women infected through heterosexual sex and intravenous drug use. African-Americans and Hispanics are infected at higher rates, and are therefore listed as at risk. Women are also now more at risk. In 2001, HIV infection was the leading cause of death for African American women aged 25–34 years and was among the four leading causes of death for African American women aged 20–24 and 35–44 years, as well as Hispanic women aged 35–44 years.</p>	<p>Target HIV/AIDS and STD education to high risk groups, as listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p>	<p>Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No new cases of HIV/AIDS reported in Greene County. 2) Decreased percentage of youth and adults diagnosed with other STDs. 3) Increased number of youth and adults who receive HIV/AIDS and STD education. <p>Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Health District data. 2) Counts of attendees at educational events. <p>Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Local colleges and universities

ACCESS TO CARE: UN- AND UNDERINSURED

Goal: Improve access to appropriate, high quality health services

Objective: Increase the proportion of persons with health insurance by 2 percent.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>There are currently about 16,000 Greene County residents currently receiving Medicaid. It is hard to estimate the gap between the number eligible for Medicaid and the number enrolled, because each month residents become eligible or ineligible as income and other eligibility criteria change. However, anecdotal evidence from health, human and social service providers indicate a proportion of residents are not enrolled because it is not convenient, or they are uncomfortable with the stigma associated with public assistance. Making enrollments easier and more anonymous would help reach those who can be enrolled, thereby increasing the percentage of residents with health insurance and reducing the burden of uncompensated care.</p> <p>Applications for Healthy Start and Medicaid are currently available for download on the internet, but cannot be submitted electronically. Making this capability available would increase access since Internet access, while not necessarily available in homes, is widely available through the public libraries. This service could then be marketed through all available consumer entry points, e.g., Greene Memorial Hospital, Department of Job and Family Services, Children’s Services, Libraries, etc.</p>	<p>Advocate for policy changes with the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, to make Medicaid enrollment more streamlined and accessible for enrollees.</p>	<p>1) Outputs from advocacy efforts. 2) Applications will be available online and will be more accessible. 3) An increased number of Medicaid-eligible residents will be enrolled.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Counts of advocacy efforts. 2) BRFS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Department of Job and Family Services</p>

ACCESS TO CARE: UN- AND UNDERINSURED

Goal: Improve access to appropriate, high quality health services

Objective: Increase the proportion of persons with health insurance by 2 percent.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>An important public health issue is the number of adults and children who are eligible for public assistance programs like Medicaid or the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP), but who are not enrolled. Not enrolling may be related to many issues, such as lack of knowledge about the program and its eligibility criteria, difficulty enrolling (e.g., lack of transportation, hours of operation), the stigma associated with being a recipient of public assistance, and no incentives to enroll.</p> <p>HCAP compensates hospitals who provide a disproportionate share of care to indigent patients (Medicaid consumers, people below poverty, and people without health insurance). Greene Memorial Hospital has developed a strategy to increase enrollment in public assistance programs, to help reduce uncompensated care for the hospital. GMH is employing one counselor to work in the emergency room and outpatient clinic to enroll eligible persons in Medicaid, and is hiring two financial counselors for HCAP applications and direct referrals. Greene County Department of Job and Family Services will partner with the hospital to make Medicaid eligibility projections, and assist in training on Medicaid eligibility.</p>	<p>Form a partnership between Greene Memorial Hospital (GMH) and Greene County Department of Job and Family Services (GCDJFS) to increase enrollment in the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP) and Medicaid through the use of dedicated counselors employed at GMH.</p>	<p>1) Increased reviews and screens of customers for eligibility for medical assistance, to connect to appropriate health insurance.</p> <p>2) Reduced uncompensated care through increased use of Medicaid and HCAP.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Establish baseline number for those enrolled in Medicaid and HCAP. Track increase in number enrolled.</p> <p>2) Quantify reduction in uncompensated care using hospital data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene Memorial Hospital</p> <p>✦ Department of Job and Family Services</p>

ACCESS TO CARE: UN- AND UNDERINSURED

Goal: Improve access to appropriate, high quality health services.

Objective: Reduce the proportion of families that experience difficulties or delays in obtaining health care or do not receive needed care for one or more family members.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Implementation of community-based multi-disciplinary health teams to manage the top 10% of costliest hospital patients has been shown to improve coordination and quality of care, improve linkages among providers, reduce utilization of services, and provide cost savings for patients and providers. The rationale behind the team concept is that clinicians can only meet the needs of complex patients when approaches include balanced attention to medical, behavioral, social and family issues. Using a team approach, including nurses, mental health professionals, social workers, health educators, school nurses, primary care physicians, or others, the whole family is considered in the treatment plan. Patients to target for the team approach include those with combined medical, mental health and family issues; non-compliant patients; or patients involved with many community providers.</p> <p>The Greene County Combined Health District, Wright State University’s Alliance for Research in Community Health (ARCH) and Greene Memorial Hospital are currently planning a pilot implementation of the health team approach, to increase health outcomes and reduce the excess burden on the health care system.</p>	<p>Implement Health Improvement Teams.</p> <p>—Year 1: Pilot project with employees of Greene Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>—Year 2: Expand program to cover the un- and underinsured who consume the highest 10% of health resources, especially single adults between ages 21—50 who no dependents or disabilities, for whom there is no government assistance for health insurance.</p>	<p>1) Increased cost savings. 2) Improved health outcomes. 3) Decreased inappropriate use of the hospital emergency room as primary care.</p> <p>Measures</p> <p>1) For the pilot, GMH will keep data on cost savings and health outcomes. 2) In Year 2, the health improvement team will develop a method to track and report outcomes.</p> <p>Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Greene Memorial Hospital ✦ Wright State University Alliance for Research in Community Health

ACCESS TO CARE: UN- AND UNDERINSURED

Goal: Improve access to appropriate, high quality health services.

Objective: Reduce the proportion of families that experience difficulties or delays in obtaining health care or do not receive needed care for one or more family members.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Greene County does not have a centralized communication system, as the County does not have one newspaper or television station that serves the entire geography. Therefore, communication about available physical and mental health services remains a challenge. One way to combat this challenge is to develop centralized information sharing among all health, human and social service providers, including schools. This type of information sharing could include conferences, video tapes, sharing of resource assessments, and the development of a Greene County health portal. It has been suggested that information should specifically target information and tips about those health conditions for which Greene County has unfavorable outcomes, such as breast cancer or lung cancer.</p>	<p>Develop a coordinated mechanism among health, human and social service providers for ensuring information sharing and knowledge of access/referral to mental and physical health services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Form a committee through the Family & Children First Council to coordinate effort. ✦ Develop and support an ongoing network approach for education and training among agencies on eligibility for and access to physical and mental health services. ✦ Identify potential synergies among referral sources for increasing access to mental and physical health services. ✦ Develop a CERT-type certification program for those line staff who are knowledgeable about services and can be the “go to” person. ✦ Conduct and promote twice-yearly trainings for all new employees on mental and physical health services and resources. Videotape trainings and distributed as needed. ✦ Develop a website or webpage on the County site that is a clearinghouse for physical and mental health information. In the short term, house all resource directories on one site, and in the long term develop a dynamic database that is easy to maintain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from activities. 2) Increased knowledge among line staff/directors for physical and mental health services. 3) Increased access to physical and mental health services for the un- and underinsured. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of activities conducted. 2) Survey of line staff/directors about knowledge. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Greene County Department of Job and Family Services ✦ Greene County Family and Children First

ACCESS TO CARE: UN- AND UNDERINSURED

Goal: Improve access to appropriate, high quality health services.

Objective: Reduce the proportion of families that experience difficulties or delays in obtaining health care or do not receive needed care for one or more family members.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>One in ten Greene County adults have not received needed health care services because they could not afford to visit the doctor. Providing appropriate health care to the working poor continues to be a growing concern within the County, and local health leaders should consider the feasibility of implementing a model similar to Reach Out Montgomery County. Reach Out of Montgomery County is a collaboration between the Montgomery County Medical Society, the Combined Health District of Montgomery County, Wright State University School of Medicine, area hospitals and other community groups and organizations. Reach Out's mission is to provide the underserved communities of Montgomery County access to healthcare services without restraints. The Reach Out program was launched in 1994 with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses, social workers and other health care professionals, Reach Out today provides health care to uninsured patients in evening clinics at the East Dayton, Charles R. Drew West Dayton Health Centers and 614 Xenia Avenue clinic. The program also uses professional volunteers such as physicians, pharmacists, nurses and front desk clerks to share information and locate potential patients.</p>	<p>Explore the possibility of creating a partnership between the Greene County Combined Health District, Wright State University and Greene Memorial Hospital to develop a clinic based on the Reach Out Montgomery County model.</p>	<p>Outcomes and measures for this strategy will be developed based upon the results of the exploration. Potentially, the development of a clinic would increase access to care for the underserved population.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Wright State University ✦ Greene Memorial Hospital

ACCESS TO CARE: UN- AND UNDERINSURED

Goal: Improve access to appropriate, high quality health services.

Objective: Reduce the proportion of families that experience difficulties or delays in obtaining health care or do not receive needed care for one or more family members.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Greene Memorial Hospital has recently instituted a charity care policy for patients up to 300% of poverty without insurance. The patients can enter into a payment plan and pay as little as 15% of the cost of the bill, and the hospital will write off the remainder. However, if the patient defaults on the payment plan, he or she is responsible for 100% of the bill.</p> <p>The Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) will partner with the hospital on the charity care policy. For patients up to 200% of poverty with dependents, DJFS could open the TANF Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC) program. This program is created for hardship payments (bills for electric, gas, etc.). If these basic needs are covered under the PRC program, the patient would be better able to pay the hospital bill under the charity care plan.</p>	<p>Create a partnership with Greene Memorial Hospital (GMH) and the Department of Job & Family Services (DJFS) to implement the GMH Charity Care policy.</p>	<p>1) Reduction in the amount of uncompensated care in Greene County.</p> <p>2) Reduction in the number of adults who say they cannot access health care services because of cost.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Hospital data: bed debt expense.</p> <p>2) BRFSS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene Memorial Hospital</p> <p>✦ Greene County Department of Job and Family Services</p>

ACCESS TO CARE: DENTAL CARE

Goal: Prevent oral diseases and improve access to oral care services.

Objective: Increase the proportion of children and adults who use the oral health care system each year.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>While most Greene County adults visit the dentist regularly (72.5 percent have visited the dentist in the past year), oral health care is a major concern for those without dental insurance.</p> <p>The Greene County Combined Health District has partially addressed this problem through its safety net dental clinic. This clinic is available to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. However, demand for the clinic is exceeding capacity and the Health District is currently applying for a grant to expand the clinic.</p> <p>Other issues related to dental health include education of other organizations (including schools and Greene Memorial Hospital) about the availability of the dental clinic and about other regional resources for dental surgery.</p>	<p>Utilize the Greene County Combined Health District dental clinic to increase access to dental care for people who are in need; e.g., children on Medicaid, Greene Works, Christopher House, youth emancipating from Children’s Services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Apply for a grant to expand the dental clinic to 3 chairs and 2 dentists. 2) Share information about the dental clinic and other dental health resources with other organizations. For example, when patients enter the hospital ER with dental issues, they are not referred to other resources (e.g., OSU, Miami Valley or Kettering). 3) Investigate the possibility of a satellite clinic. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased number of adults and children gaining access to dental care. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from activities. 2) BRFSS. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Greene Memorial Hospital

ACCESS TO CARE: LABOR SHORTAGE

Goal: Reduce the supply and demand gap for health care workers in Greene County.

Objective: Increase the number of nurses and other health care professionals who chose to work in Greene County.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>According to the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professions, the national estimated shortfall of FTE registered nurses (RNs) was 110,000 or 6% in 2000. The shortfall is expected to reach 12 % by 2010, and 20% by 2015. The projected shortage results from an estimated 40 percent increase in demand, including an 18% increase in population, a larger proportion of elderly persons, and medical advances that heighten the need for nurses. Supply is estimated to increase by only 6%, due to retirement of RNs and other job and career exit issues.</p> <p>The Nursing Institute, headquartered at Wright State University, is designed to increase the number of nurses via creative recruitment strategies and a fortification of education programs and program delivery (Nursing Education Center). The Institute also focuses efforts on recommended improvements to work place conditions to improve quality of patient care through improved recruitment and retention, as well as a focus on faculty retention initiatives in the academic environment (Professional Practice Center).</p>	<p>The School of Nursing at Wright State University has begun a project to develop a nursing institute to focus on developing the healthcare workforce for the Miami Valley. The GCCHD will monitor the progress of this project and partner as necessary.</p>	<p>Outcomes and measures for this strategy will be developed based on the progress of the nursing institute.</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: AIR QUALITY

Goal: Improve indoor air quality.

Objective: Increase the number of homes tested for radon by an additional 1,500—2,000 homes.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Radon is a naturally occurring gas which is a by-product of the break down of Uranium in the earth, and is colorless and odorless. Radon enters your home through cracks in your basement floor and walls, and through footer drains, sump pump pits, wall cavities, gaps around sewer, water and gas lines, and other openings. Radon gas is hazardous, and has been associated with lung cancer.</p> <p>Greene County has been designated by the EPA as a Zone 1 for radon, which means it has the highest potential for exposure. All Greene County residents should test their homes for radon exposure</p> <p>The way to find out whether or not a home is exposed to radon is to order a home test. Home tests are available from the Greene County Combined Health District.</p>	<p>Expand the Greene County Combined Health District’s radon program to target neighborhoods that are not being tested or are at risk.</p>	<p>1) An additional 1,500—2,000 homes will be tested for radon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Data available on the University of Toledo website.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: AIR QUALITY

Goal: Improve indoor air quality.

Objective: Increase the number of new homes built with radon-resistant construction.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center estimates only 5.8% of single-family detached homes built in 2001 incorporated radon-reducing features. Only 11.7% of single-family detached homes built in Zone 1 (homes with high radon potential) during 2001 incorporated radon-reducing features. Greene County is in an EPA-designated Zone 1.</p> <p>Radon-resistant construction techniques help block radon from entering the home. It is more cost-effective to include radon-resistant techniques while building a home, rather than installing a radon reduction system in an existing home. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, materials and labor costs for implementing radon-resistant techniques versus retrofitting an existing home is about \$350 - \$500 vs. \$800 - \$2,500— a 128% to 400% savings.</p>	<p>Advocate for radon resistant new home construction with the County, builders, realtors and buyers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop a home buyers and builders education campaign regarding radon, working with lenders, builders, and realtors. 2) Request the State to develop building codes that require builders to build radon resistant buildings. 3) Make presentations to Real Estate professionals at their classes or staff meetings. 4) Hand out the “Before You Buy or Build” brochure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Within one year, the GCCHD will meet with State officials to discuss possible addition of radon mitigation into building codes. 2) Increased number of new homes that are radon-resistant. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from campaign activities. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: AIR QUALITY

Goal: Improve indoor air quality.

Objective: Increase the number of schools with policies to protect against environmental hazards.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>According to the Environmental Protection Agency, over half of schools in the United States have problems which affect indoor air quality, and an EPA investigation of schools found inadequate ventilation. In addition, one in five schools has at least one room with radon above the EPA recommended action level for mitigation.</p> <p>Schools should be aware of these indoor air quality issues, as failure to prevent or resolve problems can cause numerous consequences for students and staff. Poor indoor air quality can increase the potential for health problems such as asthma, increase absenteeism of students and staff; reduce productivity for teachers and staff; and degrade the efficiency of heating/cooling equipment; (US EPA).</p> <p>The “Tools for Schools” program is designed to be inexpensive and easy to implement for schools.</p>	<p>Advocate for schools to implement the US EPA “Tools for Schools” program in Greene County public and private schools.</p>	<p>1) Increase in the number of schools that use the “Tools for Schools” program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Establish baseline data for schools already implementing this program and monitor the number of additional schools that use the program.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: AIR QUALITY

Goal: Improve indoor air quality.

Objective: Increase the number of schools with policies to protect against environmental hazards.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>According to a Cornell research group, a child can spend 14,000 hours in school by the time of high school graduation, and are very vulnerable to air pollution, including radon. The Environmental Protection Agency reports one in five schools have classrooms with levels above the critical threshold for radon. Schools in high risk zones, including Greene County in Ohio, have two-thirds of schools with at least one contaminated classroom.</p> <p>The Greene County Combined Health District is equipped and prepared to test all of the Greene County schools for radon, and to help with mitigation plans, as necessary.</p>	<p>Advocate to test all Greene County public and private schools for radon and follow up with mitigation as necessary.</p>	<p>1) Increased number of schools tested for radon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <p>1) Establish baseline data for schools already tested for radon and monitor the number of additional schools that are tested and follow through with mitigation as necessary.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agency</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: AIR QUALITY

Goal: Improve indoor air quality.

Objective: Increase the number of businesses tested for radon.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Indoor air quality in commercial properties refers to the quality of the air inside buildings. According to the EPA, several conditions have fostered the increase in chemical pollutants, including tighter building envelopes, reduced ventilation to save energy, and pressures to defer maintenance and other building services to reduce costs.</p> <p>Indoor air quality must be managed on a daily basis. It is important for businesses to understand the causes and consequences of indoor air quality and to manage the indoor air quality of the commercial property and to avoid these problems.</p>	<p>Target office building air quality through radon testing.</p> <p>Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use this testing as an opportunity to educate employers and employees about radon. 2) Partner with Chambers of Commerce. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased number of businesses tested for radon. <p>Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Track the number of radon tests performed. <p>Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: WATER QUALITY

Goal: Improve water quality and the safety of the water supply.

Objective: Decrease the number of wells that could potentially leach contaminants into aquifers and groundwater.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Groundwater originates from above-ground water and seeps underground to collect between soil and rocks. Aquifers are underground deposits of water, and can be either close to the ground surface or covered by deposits of material like clay or shale. Both groundwater and aquifers can be contaminated by wells that are abandoned or improperly closed.</p> <p>It is less costly to protect groundwater and aquifers than it is to clean it up. The Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Ohio State University Extension office have the capability to assess and help mitigate groundwater and aquifer pollution.</p>	<p>Ensure proper closure and abandonment of wells.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work with OSU Extension, City planners, and Sanitary Engineering to determine: where public water is available, who had a well, and who still has a well that needs to be abandoned. 2) Conduct a targeted education campaign to residents with wells. The auditor's database has information on wells. 3) Use groundwater potential maps to prioritize locations. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decreased number of wells that are improperly closed or abandoned. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish baseline on the number of abandoned/closed wells; monitor number of proper closures. 2) Establish baseline on water quality; monitor changes. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Soil and Water Conservation District ✦ OSU Extension ✦ Office of Groundwater Management at WSU

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: WATER QUALITY

Goal: Improve water quality and the safety of the water supply.

Objective: Reduce the number of septic systems that are failing or malfunctioning.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>A septic system is a system designed to treat and dispose of domestic sewage where a public sewer is not available. A typical septic system consists of a tank that receives waste from a residence or business, a system of pipes that delivers the waste underground to a drain field—or leach field—where the waste is dispersed. The wastewater filters through the soil and is cleaned before reaching well water or surface water. The solids (sludge) that remain in the septic system after decomposition by bacteria in the tank must be pumped out periodically.</p> <p>Septic systems should be pumped every 3 to 5 years to prevent the sludge in the tank from blocking the pipes and contaminating the leach field. Septic systems must also be upgraded every 20 to 30 years, and it is important to monitor the age and functioning of the system to protect groundwater from contamination.</p> <p>To learn more about onsite wastewater management consult the OSU Extension series on Onsite Wastewater Management AEX-750 through 754. Wastewater treatment publications can be found at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~setll.</p>	<p>Approach the County’s Auditor’s Office to modify Greene County’s GIS system to be used for monitoring septic systems.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note houses with septic systems, the size of the tank, and the location of the leach field. 2) Add alerts to the system to identify when septic systems should be inspected (by age). 3) Add well location and depth of well. (This is a long-term activity). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improved County Auditor GIS information. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Counts of sewage system information records forwarded to Greene County Auditor’s GIS system. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Greene County Combined Health District ✦ Greene County Auditor’s Office, GIS Section

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: HOME SAFETY

Goal: Decrease overuse and improper use of pesticides and herbicides.

Objective: Increase public awareness about good and safe methods of controlling insects, molds, etc.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Americans live in a society where bigger and more is generally always considered better. This philosophy is dangerous when it comes to caring for the home and garden. Insects, mold, dust and dirt can be controlled and/or removed using many safe and environmentally friendly methods. Many of the products sold on the market contain chemicals and ingredients that are more harsh than needed, and can cause harm if used improperly.</p> <p>Ohio State University Extension provides resources to residents to help them make better choices on how to care for their home. More information can be found at www.ohioline.osu.edu.</p>	<p>Conduct a general education campaign about good and safe methods of controlling insects, molds, etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Step</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide links on the GCCHD website to the Greene County OSU Extension website regarding the proper use of pesticides and herbicides. 2) Distribute information to other partners. 3) Partner with the Greene County Dailies to run a series of articles regarding the proper use of pesticides and herbicides. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased knowledge about good and safe methods for controlling pests. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Outputs from activities 2) Add question to 2008 BRFSS. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Ohio State University Extension ✦ Greene County Combined Health District

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: FOOD SAFETY

Goal: Ensure safety of food in restaurants.

Objective: Increase public awareness about the safety of food in restaurants.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 76 million people get sick, more than 300,000 are hospitalized, and 5,000 Americans die each year from foodborne illness. While not all of these illnesses and death are attributed to restaurants, half of every food dollar is spent on food prepared outside the home. Therefore, consumers should be knowledgeable about food safety and restaurants, and since take-out and carrying home leftovers is popular, consumers should also now how to safely transport and store food.</p>	<p>Conduct an education and awareness campaign about the safety of restaurant foods.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Scan public inspections and post them on the GCCHD web site for public viewing. Include information on how to interpret. 2) Provide information about symptoms of foodborne outbreaks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased public awareness about food safety. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Track the number of people who visit the website for restaurant inspections. 2) Count outputs from campaign activities. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District.</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Goal: Decrease the spread of communicable diseases from bacteria and viruses.

Objective: Increase the percentage of adults and children who wash their hands regularly and appropriately.
 Increase the percentage of employees in eating establishments who wash their hands regularly before and after handling food.

Current Situation	Strategy	Outcomes
<p>Frequent handwashing is the best way to prevent the spread of disease. In addition to prevention of the spread of colds, serious diseases like hepatitis A, meningitis, and infectious diarrhea can easily be prevented if people make a habit of washing their hands. Handwashing is important before, during, and after preparing food; before eating, and after using the bathroom; after handling animals or animal waste; when hands are dirty, and more frequently when someone in the home is sick.</p> <p>Simple handwashing can prevent sick days at home from work or school. A study of school children found that kids who washed their hands 4 times a day had 24% fewer sick days due to respiratory illness and 51% fewer days due to upset stomach. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates one in three people do not wash their hands after using the restroom, and poor personal hygiene cause over one-third of all foodborne disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Handwashing remains one of the simplest, yet most effective, public health campaigns.</p>	<p>Launch a three-pronged handwashing campaign targeting public restrooms, local schools, and food workers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide packets of information to target audience on safe food handling and/or handwashing. 2) Hang handwashing reminders on mirrors in public restrooms. 3) Sanitarians will observe employee handwashing during inspections. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decreased incidence of foodborne illness. <p style="text-align: center;">Measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use inspection reports to track compliance. 2) Track reports of foodborne illness. <p style="text-align: center;">Lead Agencies</p> <p>✦ Greene County Combined Health District</p>