

# Foreword

The Auglaize County Health Department is pleased to present this publication, the result of the 2008 health assessment of adults and youth in Auglaize County. The data was collected through surveys of health status and health behavior that were conducted by the Healthy Communities Foundation of the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio, Inc. The survey results are reported along with health statistics and information gathered from the Ohio Department of Health and other relevant national, state and local data sources.

This report provides a “snap shot” of where county residents currently stand in terms of their health and health behaviors. Because it provides a clearer, more comprehensive view of our collective health status than we have previously had available, the report can serve as a strategic planning source for organizations and individuals who are striving to make Auglaize County a healthier community. In this era of rising costs and shrinking revenues, it is imperative that we focus our limited resources on those services and activities that will have the greatest positive impact on county residents’ health. In that respect, the report’s information can influence the current course of action and support new areas of interest. Keep in mind that this publication is a summary document; when using it for planning purposes, planners should put the findings in perspective by looking in depth at the results obtained, seeking additional sources of information for comparison, and clearly identifying the target populations for any planned services.

This report would not have been possible without the assistance of a number of community leaders and organizations. We thank them for their support in making this health assessment a reality. We are indebted to the Ohio Department of Health for providing financial assistance through the Child and Family Health Services Grant. We are especially grateful to the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio for providing professional expertise and guidance throughout the process, in developing and conducting surveys, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting information in a format that is useful and easy to comprehend.

We encourage you to be open to new ideas and collaborations as you use this report in considering the health needs of Auglaize County residents. It takes all of us, working together, to achieve the goal of making our county a truly healthy place to live.

Sincerely,

Charlotte T. Parsons, MSEP  
Health Commissioner

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