

STEPPING UP

2025

PORTAGE COUNTY

Mental Health & Addiction Criminal Justice & Diversion Activities

The Stepping Up Initiative is a national effort to support counties in developing and implementing various strategies to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. Ohio's Stepping Up Initiative helps people with mental illness in jails get connected with clinical treatment and other services so that they can get the help that they need to improve their lives and stay out of jail.

Sequential Intercept Mapping exercises help counties identify and prioritize area for improvement within the system. Portage County completed this process in 2014 and 2023 and in 2024 for youth.

The following report summarizes some of the work that is being done and provides baseline data in the criminal justice system and behavioral health areas to address these issues. However, other work is being accomplished and is ongoing that isn't captured in this report.

Portage County Justice Center

Bookings	
3870	Total booked
20.91 days	Average length of stay
47.99 days	Sentenced
15.82 days	Pretrial

Medical Services in the Jail

All inmates receive Columbia Suicide Risk Assessment and COWS & CIWA for opioid and alcohol assessments.

156	Dr Welsh calls (psych evaluations, medication adjustments)
745	Mental health referrals (Coleman counselor evaluates)
249	Suicide watch (assessed by Coleman or in person every 24 hrs)
1	Suicide attempt
446	Behavioral watch (assessed by Coleman or in person every 24 hrs)
381	Methamphetamine protocol (24 hr monitoring with an EKG)
7345	Daily MAT treatment (not individuals, this is daily MAT passed)

Sheriff's Office QRT Services in the the Jail

759	Individuals with substance use disorder met with while incarcerated
270	Narcan kits distributed to individuals on their release

44	Veterans met with and offered services to
65	Referred to treatment

Coleman, Townhall II, Axess Family Services Jail Assessments on Criminal Justice State Grant

173	Individuals assessed for treatment and linked to services
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Rides from Jail to Bus Stop at UH Portage by Emerald Transport with Peer Support (AFS)

424	Individuals received rides and peer support during the ride
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Re-entry Outside of the Jail

26	Attended Portage County Citizen's Circle
34	Attended Re-entry Resource Fair
191	Served at Ohio Means Jobs: walked, phoned, emailed
28	Prison in-reach
9	Individuals involved with Community Transition Program

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Outreach

Coleman Follow Up from Police Referrals (Mental Health)

91	Clients referred (5 were referred more than once)
30	Outreach with no contact
20	Provided resources
7	Connected to services (2 became new Coleman clients)
5	Pink slipped

Sheriff's Office QRT (SUD) after non-fatal overdose

2	Contacts with people who had non-fatal overdoses
2	2 of the 2 contacts continued service support

Townhall II Response Team follow up referrals	
2	Contacts with people with substance use disorders
1	1 contact continued service support

Kent City Health/Fire Follow Up after mental health & overdose call	
20	Mental Health outreaches (9 with no contact)
9	Substance use disorder outreaches (3 with no contact)
11	Quick reponse team reponse after overdose (9 with no contact)

Portage County Court Programs

Specialty Dockets	
25	Individuals engaged in HOPE Court (Drug Court, Common Pleas)
14	Individuals engaged in STAR Court (Mental Health Court)
17	Individuals engaged in RISE Court (Drug Court, Muni)

Guardianship Service Board	
38	Guardianship Referrals
19	Referrals with a mental health diagnosis
4	Referrals with a development disability diagnosis
21	Referrals with dementia
1	Referrals with brain injury
26	Total guardianship appointments

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Harmony Court)	
18	Individuals participating in AOT, 2024 is the first year for the program

Crisis Intervention Team – Portage Police

These are the statistics for the Portage police departments that enter their mental health related calls into the CIT dashboard.

Portage CIT Calls & Disposition	
646	Total CIT (mental health) calls
220	of these: pink slipped
158	of these: referral info given
122	of these: voluntary transfer to hospital
100	of these: no action
22	of these: other
19	of these: arrest
5	of these: summons
0	of these: death

For more information, contact The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, 330.673.1756.