
Healthy Ohio Community Profiles

Ashtabula County

2008



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Acknowledgements

These profiles could not have been completed without the support, analytical and reviewing skills of many persons and programs throughout the Ohio Department of Health. Many thanks are due to the Office of Healthy Ohio for the leadership, vision and funding for these profiles. The following programs contributed data analyses, talking points and thoughtful review: Office of Healthy Ohio, Office of Vital Statistics, Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Ohio Cancer Incidence and Surveillance System, School and Adolescent Health Program, Comprehensive Cancer Program, Primary Care Program, Office of Public Affairs, Injury Prevention Program, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Division of Family and Community Health Services, and the Center for Health Promotion.

Suggested Citation

*Ohio Department of Health. Healthy Ohio Community Profiles.
Office of Healthy Ohio, Columbus, Ohio. December, 2008*

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Introduction

Community health profiles can be important tools, useful in improving the health of a community through the information they provide to practitioners, public health officials, and community members regarding specific information about their community. These profiles can be used to foster partnerships between physicians, and community members and support program development to protect and improve the overall health of the community.

Ohio is made up of 88 counties, each of which share similarities but also have unique characteristics that set them, and the communities within them, apart from each another. In Ohio, the burden of disease and injury is not equally distributed across communities. Factors impacting a community's disease and injury burden include socioeconomic status, access to health care, age distribution, and lifestyle behaviors.

The purpose of this Healthy Ohio Community Profile is to assess the critical health issues among Ashtabula County residents and compare them to the health issues facing Ohio's total population. A special focus is placed on the leading causes of death and illness. Information is presented on the prevalence of chronic disease risk factors, heart disease and stroke, awareness of heart disease and stroke symptoms and the need to call 911 quickly, pre-diabetes, diabetes, and arthritis among residents age 18 years old and older. Information is also presented on cancer incidence and mortality, intentional and unintentional injuries, maternal smoking, low birth weight, overweight children, and infant and childhood deaths. Together, these indices can be used as a resource to set priorities, develop prevention and screening programs, reduce health disparities and improve the health of all Ashtabula County residents.

The Healthy Ohio Community Profiles for Ohio and each of the 88 counties are funded by the Office of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health.

Ashtabula County: At A Glance

- Ashtabula County was home to 102,796 residents in 2000, with 6.5 percent of the residents being black, other or Hispanic/Latino.
- In 2000, 9.2 percent of Ashtabula County residents had incomes below the poverty level and 20.1 percent of the residents over the age of 25 did not graduate from high school or obtain a GED.
- Of the residents living in Ashtabula County in 2004, 14.4 percent of adults 18 years and older and 5.6 percent of children 17 years and younger did not have health insurance.
- Diseases of the heart, cancer, stroke, lower respiratory disease, diabetes mellitus, and unintentional injuries accounted for 69.8 percent of the resident deaths during 2004-2006.
- During 2004-2007 in Ashtabula County, 22.1 percent of adult residents reported being current cigarette smokers, 37.4 percent were overweight and 25 percent were obese. Each of these factors increase the risk of developing a chronic disease.
- 37.5 percent of Ashtabula County adult residents had been told by their doctors that their cholesterol was high during 2004, 2006 and 2007.
- Heart disease was the leading cause of death for Ashtabula County residents in 2004-2006. 4.4 percent of residents reported they previously suffered a heart attack, while 4.9 percent had angina or coronary heart disease during 2004, 2006 and 2007.
- In Ashtabula County, 52 residents died from a stroke annually during 2004-2006. 27.5 percent of the residents reported having high blood pressure and 2.8 percent had previously had a stroke during 2004, 2006 and 2007.

Ashtabula County: At A Glance, Continued

- 90.1 percent of Ashtabula County adult residents knew to call 911 in response to someone having a heart attack or a stroke in 2004, 2006 and 2007.
- During 2004-2006, cancer was the second-leading cause of death for residents of Ashtabula County.
- In Ashtabula County during 2004-2007, 50.3 percent of residents age 50 and older had a colonoscopy/sigmoidoscopy in the past five years, 77.4 percent of females age 40 and older had a mammogram in the past three years and 59.3 percent of males age 50 and older had a prostate-specific antigen test in the past year.
- The estimated prevalence of diabetes among adult Ashtabula County residents was 8.0 percent during 2004-2007. An average of 41 Ashtabula County residents died each year from diabetes.
- 31.7 percent of adult Ashtabula County residents reported having arthritis.
- 44 Ashtabula County residents died annually during 2004-2006 as a result of an unintentional injury.
- In Ashtabula County during 2004-2006, an average of five residents died from homicide and 18 residents died from suicide annually.
- In Ashtabula County during 2004-2006, 27.1 percent of mothers reported smoking during their pregnancy, 10 percent of babies born were considered to be low birth weight babies and 12 infants died before their 1st birthday.
- 23.5 percent of third-grade children were considered to be overweight in Ashtabula County during 2004-2005.
- Annually during 2003-2005, 30 children ages 1 to 19 years died in Ashtabula County. In Ohio, the leading cause of death for Ohio children was unintentional injuries.

Demographics

Table 1. Population Estimates for Ashtabula County by Age Group, Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2000.^{1,2}

Age Group	Gender		Race/Ethnicity				Total Population
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic/Latino	Other	
≤19	14,946	14,457	27,702	1,499	1,054	202	29,403
20-39	12,772	12,992	24,727	825	748	212	25,764
40-59	14,023	14,175	27,161	840	376	197	28,198
60-79	6,995	8,329	14,839	431	106	54	15,324
80+	1,368	2,739	4,036	56	17	15	4,107
All Ages	50,104	52,692	98,465	3,651	2,301	680	102,796

¹Vintage 2006 postcensal estimates for July 1, 2000, U.S. Census Bureau, 2007.

² The Hispanic/Latino population estimates include individuals of white, black and other races.

- Ashtabula County is the forty-eighth most populous county in Ohio. The residents of Ashtabula County account for 0.9 percent of Ohio's total population.
- 95.8 percent of Ashtabula County's residents are white and 4.2 percent of residents are black or other races. 2.2 percent of Ashtabula County residents are Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.
- In Ashtabula County, 18.9 percent of the population is 60 years of age or older.

Socioeconomic Status

Table 2. Socioeconomic Profile of Ashtabula County with Comparison to Ohio and the United States, 2000.¹

Socioeconomic Measure	Ashtabula County	Ohio	U.S.
Median Household Income	\$35,607	\$40,956	\$41,994
Families Below Poverty Level	9.2%	7.8%	9.2%
Female-headed Households with Children <18	6.9%	7.3%	7.2%
Educational Attainment (Ages 25+)			
No High School Diploma	20.1%	17.0%	19.6%
High School Graduate (incl. equivalency)	45.8%	36.1%	28.6%
Some College, No Degree	17.9%	19.9%	21.1%
Associate's Degree	5.2%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	7.4%	13.7%	15.5%
Master's/Professional Degree or Higher	3.6%	7.5%	8.9%

- In 2000, the median household income for residents of Ashtabula County was \$35,607, which was \$5,349 less than the median household income for Ohio and \$6,387 less than that of the United States.

¹Census 2000 Demographic Profiles. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF1) and Summary File 3 (SF3).

- On average 9.2 percent of families had incomes below the poverty level and 6.9 percent were headed by females with children less than 18 years of age.
- In Ashtabula County, 20.1 percent of the residents over the age of 25 did not graduate from high school or obtain a GED.

Access to Health Care

Table 3. Physicians, Registered Hospitals and Beds, 2006, and Percent Uninsured, 2004, in Ashtabula County with Comparison to Ohio.^{1,2}

Health Care	Ashtabula County	Ohio
Physicians (M.D.s and D.O.s)	71	28,853
Per 10,000 Population	6.9	25.4
Registered Hospitals	3	207
Number of Beds	307	45,505
Per 10,000 Population	29.9	40.0
Percent Uninsured		
Uninsured Adults (Ages 18+)	14.4%	12.5%
Uninsured Children (≤17)	5.6%	5.4%

- In 2000, there were 71 physicians total and 6.9 physicians per 10,000 people living in Ashtabula County.
- There were three registered hospitals with 307 beds and 29.9 hospital beds per 10,000 Ashtabula County residents.
- In 2004 in Ashtabula County 14.4 percent of adults age 18 and older and 5.6 percent of children 17 years and younger, did not have health insurance.

- A good indicator of access indicator is the Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (PC HPSA) designation. The designation indicates that an area or population is underserved for primary medical care, i.e., there are not a sufficient number of providers serving the area or population.
- As of June 30, 2008, fifteen townships in Ashtabula County (Andover, Cherry Valley, Colebrook, Dorset, Hartsgrove, Lenox, Morgan, New Lyme, Orwell, Richmond, Rome, Trumbull, Wayne, Williamsfield, and Windsor) were designated as PC HPSAs.

¹Ohio County Profiles: Office of Strategic Research. Ohio Department of Development, 2007.

²Health Insurance Coverage in Ohio 2004: The Role of Public and Private Programs in Assuring Access to Health Care: Results from the Ohio Family Health Survey. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, March 2005.

For description of Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas see Technical Note (1).

Leading Causes of Death

Leading causes of death may differ in a population depending on the age, sex, race and socioeconomic status of individuals within a population. As indicated in Table 4, chronic diseases, particularly heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer, along with unintentional injuries such as poisonings, motor vehicle traffic crashes and falls, accounted for the majority of all the deaths in Ashtabula County during 2004-2006. These leading causes of death may also result in extended pain and suffering for the individuals and a decreased quality of life. The diseases on this list are the primary causes of disability and contribute heavily to the burden of health care costs not only for residents of Ashtabula County but for all Ohioans.

Table 4. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Average Annual Age-adjusted Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006, and to the United States, 2005.^{1, 2, 3}

Causes-of-Death	Ashtabula County			Ohio		U.S.	
	Rank	Number of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate	Number of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate	Number of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate
All Deaths	-	1,091	898.7	107,217	855.0	2,447,910	798.8
Diseases of the Heart	1	321	257.9	28,617	225.3	649,399	210.3
Cancer	2	253	211.3	24,825	198.8	559,300	183.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	3	67	54.6	6,170	49.2	130,957	43.2
Stroke	4	52	41.5	6,183	48.6	143,497	46.6
Unintentional Injury	5	44	41	4,473	37.6	114,876	38.1
Diabetes Mellitus	6	41	33.8	3,717	29.7	74,817	24.5
Septicemia	7	24	19.6	1,399	11.2	34,142	11.2
Alzheimer's Disease	8	22	16.6	3,321	25.6	71,696	22.9
Influenza and Pneumonia	9	20	15.7	2,191	17.2	62,804	20.3
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis	10	17	13.2	1,834	14.5	43,679	14.3

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

²U.S. Data from National Vital Statistics Reports 2005. CDC, 2008.

³Rank based on number of deaths.

For age-adjustment and causes of death definitions, see Technical Note (2).

- In Ashtabula County, an average of 1,091 residents died each year during 2004-2006.
- The leading cause of death for Ashtabula County residents was heart disease during 2004-2006, causing an average of 321 deaths annually.
- Cancer was the second-leading cause of death for Ashtabula County residents resulting in average of 253 deaths each year, while chronic lower respiratory diseases was the third-leading causes of death for Ashtabula County residents during 2004-2006.

Individuals who have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, low fruit and vegetable intake, low levels of physical activity, use tobacco products or drink heavily are at a higher risk of developing at least one of the leading-causes-of-death diseases including diseases of the heart, cancer, stroke and diabetes. There is evidence that people can reduce their risk of developing these diseases by increasing their fruit and vegetable consumption, eliminating the use of tobacco products and heavy drinking and increasing their amount of physical activity. Regular doctor visits and screening procedures can also increase a person's chance of survival by aiding in proper management of a chronic disease.

Together, prevention and early detection may reduce the overall incidence and mortality of certain causes of death by increasing the prevalence of symptom awareness and screening procedures and reducing risk factor behaviors within a population.

Risk Factor Behaviors

Table 5. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Selected Risk Factors among Adult Residents in Ashtabula County with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2007.¹⁻⁷

Chronic Disease Risk Factors	Ashtabula County			Ohio		
	Male	Female	All Residents	Male	Female	All Residents
Heavy Drinking	5.6%	4.1%	4.8%	6.9%	4.0%	5.4%
Current Cigarette Smoking	22.4%	21.8%	22.1%	24.7%	22.6%	23.6%
Current Use of Smokeless Tobacco	5.4%	0.2%	2.7%	5.5%	0.2%	2.7%
Consuming <5 Fruits/Vegetables Per Day	84.6%	71.6%	77.8%	83.4%	73.9%	78.4%
Lack of Physical Activity	21.0%	24.5%	22.8%	21.4%	26.8%	24.2%
Overweight	44.9%	30.4%	37.4%	43.0%	29.4%	35.9%
Obese	25.3%	24.6%	25.0%	27.1%	25.6%	26.3%

¹2004-2007 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, April 2008.

²Heavy Drinking = Men having more than 2 drinks/day, women having more than 1 drink/day.

³Current Cigarette Smoking = Persons who reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every day or some days.

⁴Current Use of Smokeless Tobacco = Persons who reported using smokeless tobacco at least 100 times in their lifetime and currently use smokeless tobacco every day or some days.

⁵Lack of Physical Activity = Persons who failed to participate in moderate physical activity for 30 or more minutes per day on five or more days per week; or vigorous physical activity for 20 or more minutes per day on three or more days per week.

⁶Overweight = Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25-29.9.

⁷Obese = BMI of 30.0 or greater.

For description of Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data and analyses, see Technical Note (3).

- 4.8 percent of Ashtabula County adults reported heavy drinking of alcoholic beverages. Heavy drinking is associated with cancers of the oral cavity and gastrointestinal system; heart disease and stroke; unintentional injuries, e.g. and: motor vehicle crashes and falls; and intentional injuries, e.g. homicide and suicide (Rehm J, Room R, Monteiro M, *et al*, 2004).
- In Ashtabula County, 22.1 percent of adults currently smoke cigarettes. Smoking is the leading preventable cause of disease and premature death in Ohio (Ohio Department of Health, 2006). Cigarette smoking is not only causally associated with lung cancer, but also nine other sites/types of cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease and numerous adverse reproductive outcomes including low birth weight and infant death.
- Similar to Ohio as a whole, adult males are more likely to use smokeless tobacco than adult females in Ashtabula County. Smokeless tobacco use has been causally associated with cancers of the oral pharynx (Ezzati M and Lopez AD, 2004).
- Of the adults in Ashtabula County, 77.8 percent reported consuming fewer than the minimum recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. Increasing individual fruit and vegetable consumption to five or more servings a day could reduce the burden of heart disease, stroke and cancers of the esophagus, lung, colon and rectum (Lock K, Pomperlean J, Causer L, and McKee M, 2004).
- Physical inactivity is an important risk factor for overweight, obesity and multiple chronic diseases including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancers of the colon and breast (Bull FC, Armstrong TP, Dixon T, *et al*, 2004). In Ashtabula County, 22.8 percent of adult residents are physically inactive.
- A high body mass index (BMI) is an indicator of being overweight or obese. In Ashtabula County, 37.4 percent of adults are overweight, while 25.0 percent of adults are obese. Being overweight or obese is associated with amplified risk for several chronic diseases, particularly if the excess body fat is deposited within the abdomen (James WPT, Jackson-Leach R, Mhurcha CN, *et al*, 2004). Disease outcomes associated with excess body weight include type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, osteoarthritis and cancers of the breast, colon, endometrium and kidney.

Heart Disease and Stroke

In both the United States and Ohio, heart disease and stroke are the first- and third-leading causes of death respectively (CDC, 2007). The American Heart Association and National Stroke Association have identified several risk factors for heart disease and stroke (American Heart Association, 2008 and National Stroke Association, 2008). Among these are modifiable risk factors that can be managed with lifestyle changes and/or medications. The modifiable risk factors include diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, smoking, physical inactivity and low fruit and vegetable consumption. Non-modifiable risk factors for heart disease and stroke include increasing age, male gender and a family history of cardiovascular disease.

Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Awareness

Table 6. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Having Cholesterol Checked, Elevated Cholesterol and High Blood Pressure, among Adult Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004, 2006, 2007.^{1, 2, 3}

Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Awareness	Ashtabula County/ Northeast Region	Ohio
Had Cholesterol Checked w/in the Past 5 Years		
Males	71.8%	71.0%
Females	76.6%	75.3%
All Residents	74.3%	73.2%
Ever Told Cholesterol was High		
Males	39.6%	39.9%
Females	35.7%	36.2%
All Residents	37.5%	37.9%
Ever Told had High Blood Pressure		
Males	27.2%	27.9%
Females	27.4%	27.4%
All Residents	27.3%	27.6%

¹2004, 2006, 2007 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, April, 2008.

²Respondents that reported having been told by a health care professional that their cholesterol level was high.

³Respondents that reported having been told by a health care professional that their blood pressure was high.

For description of Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data and analyses see Technical Note (3).

- 74.3 percent of adult Ashtabula County residents reported having their cholesterol checked in the past five years.
- 37.5 percent of adult Ashtabula County residents reported having ever been told their cholesterol was high.
- In general, black Americans have a higher prevalence of high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke, compared to white Americans (American Heart Association, 2008).
- In Ashtabula County, 27.5 percent of the adult residents reported having high blood pressure.

Heart Disease and Stroke, Continued

Prevalence of Heart Disease and Stroke

Table 7. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Heart Attacks, Angina or Coronary Heart Disease or Stroke among Ashtabula County Adults with Comparison to Ohio, 2004, 2006, 2007.^{1, 2, 3, 4}

Heart Attack, Coronary Heart Disease or Stroke	Ashtabula County/ Northeast Region	Ohio
Ever Told had a Heart Attack		
White	5.2%	6.0%
Black	3.6%	3.6%
All Residents	4.4%	4.7%
Ever Told had Angina or Coronary Heart Disease		
White	5.4%	5.5%
Black	4.4%	4.2%
All Residents	4.9%	4.8%
Ever Told had a Stroke		
White	2.7%	2.6%
Black	2.9%	3.0%
All Residents	2.8%	2.8%

¹2004, 2006, 2007 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, April 2008.

²Respondents who reported being told by a health care professional they have had a heart attack.

³Respondents who reported being told by a health care professional they have angina or coronary heart disease.

⁴Respondents who reported being told by a health care professional they have had a stroke.

For description of Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data and analyses see Technical Note (3).

- High cholesterol contributes to the buildup of plaque in a person's arteries known as atherosclerosis. Over time, atherosclerosis reduces the blood flow in the arteries and increases an individual's blood pressure, leading to an increased risk of a heart attack or stroke (American Heart Association, 2007).
- In Ashtabula County during 2004, 2006 and 2007, 4.4 percent of the adult residents reported ever having a heart attack.
- Males have a higher risk of having a heart attack than females and these heart attacks typically occur earlier in life (American Heart Association, 2008).
- Angina is the most common symptom of coronary heart disease, which is the primary type of heart disease (CDC, 2007).
- 4.9 percent of adult Ashtabula County residents have previously been told they have angina or coronary heart disease.
- In Ashtabula County, 2.8 percent of adult residents have been told they have had a stroke.
- Stroke is more common in males; however, at all ages, more women die as a result of a stroke than men (American Heart Association, 2007).

Heart Disease and Stroke, Continued

Heart Attack and Stroke Symptom Awareness and Response

Recognition of the warning signs of a heart attack or stroke and the need to call 911 are critical to improving outcomes of heart attacks and strokes. A person's chance of surviving a heart attack is increased if emergency treatment is administered as soon as possible. Similarly, the sooner a person is taken to a hospital for emergency care after the onset of stroke symptoms, the better the outcome.

Table 8. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Heart Attack and Stroke Symptom Awareness and the Response to a Heart Attack or a Stroke among Adult Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004, 2006, 2007.^{1, 2}

Heart Attack and Stroke Symptom Recognition and Response	Ashtabula County/ Northeast Region	Ohio
Recognized All Five Symptoms of a Heart Attack		
Males	29.9%	31.0%
Females	41.9%	42.6%
All Residents	36.2%	37.0%
Recognized All Five Symptoms of a Stroke		
Males	38.8%	41.1%
Females	50.3%	48.2%
All Residents	44.8%	44.6%
Know to Call 911 in Response to Someone Having a Heart Attack or Stroke		
Males	88.6%	88.4%
Females	91.5%	91.2%
All Residents	90.1%	89.9%

¹2004, 2006, 2007 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, April 2008.

For description of Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data and analyses, see Technical Note (3).

- 36.2 percent of adult Ashtabula County residents recognized all five symptoms of a heart attack, 44.8 percent recognized all five symptoms of a stroke and 90.1 percent knew to call 911 in response to someone having a heart attack or stroke.

Heart Attack Warning Signs:

Some heart attacks may be sudden and intense, while others may start slowly with mild discomfort.

- Pain or discomfort in areas of the upper body such as the shoulder, back, neck, jaw, stomach or in one or both arms.
- Chest discomfort that may or may not be accompanied by lightheadedness, shortness of breath, cold sweats or nausea.
- Pressure or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes.

Stroke Warning Signs:

- Sudden weakness or numbness in the face, arm, leg or on one side of the body.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, loss of speech.
- Sudden, severe headache with no apparent cause.
- Sudden dizziness, trouble walking, loss of balance or coordination or sudden falls, especially with any of the previous symptoms.

Heart Disease and Stroke, Continued

Heart Disease Mortality

Table 9. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Age-adjusted and Age-specific Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) for Heart Disease among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Heart Disease Mortality	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	161	322.0	14,029	282.4
Females	161	210.0	14,588	182.6
All Residents	321	257.9	28,617	225.3
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	1	3.0	72	1.9
25-49	14	39.3	1,399	34.9
50-64	45	239.1	3,829	188.8
65+	261	1,752.0	23,317	1526.4

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008. Populations used were from U.S. Census/National Center for Health Statistics bridged population estimates, 2006 vintage. For description of age-adjusted rates and cause of death definitions see Technical Note (2).

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and Ohio. During 2004-2006, there was an average of 321 heart disease deaths each year in Ashtabula County.
- During 2004-2006, more females died of heart disease than males annually in Ashtabula County.
- At older ages, females are more likely to die from a heart attack within a few weeks of having the attack, compared to males (American Heart Association, 2008b).
- The risk of dying from heart disease increases with increasing age (American Heart Association, 2008b). During 2004-2006, an average of 261 Ashtabula County residents age 65 and older, died each year from heart disease.

Stroke Mortality

Table 10. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Age-adjusted and Age-specific Mortality Rates (per 100,000 population) for Stroke among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Stroke Mortality	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	21	43.3	2,350	48.8
Females	31	40.8	3,833	47.8
All Residents	52	41.5	6,183	48.6
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	0	0.0	21	0.5
25-49	2	6.5	208	5.2
50-64	5	26.4	552	27.2
65+	44	297.6	5,403	353.7

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008. Populations used were from U.S. Census/National Center for Health Statistics bridged population estimates, 2006 vintage. For description of age-adjusted rates and cause of death definitions see Technical Note (2).

- Stroke is the third-leading cause of death in Ohio. During 2004-2006, an average of 52 Ashtabula County residents died each year from stroke.
- Even though a stroke can occur at any age, an individual's risk of dying from a stroke increases as the individual ages, with the risk of having a stroke doubling every decade after the age of 55 (National stroke Association, 2008).

Cancer

Cancer is a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. Cancer can spread throughout various parts of the body and result in death if not controlled. The use of tobacco products, physical inactivity, obesity, poor nutrition and heavy drinking of alcohol are a few behaviors that increase an individual's risk for developing cancer and are lifestyle factors that can be prevented (American Cancer Society, 2008).

During 2001-2005, cancer was a major cause of illness and death in Ohio and all of the 88 counties. There was an average of 532 new invasive cancers and 251 cancer deaths per year among Ashtabula County residents during 2001-2005.

Screening Behaviors

Cancer treatment is often most effective if the cancer is detected at an early stage; thus, early detection is associated with an increased probability of survival (American Cancer Society, 2008). The estimated prevalence of selected cancer screening behaviors: PAP tests for cervical cancer, mammography for breast cancer, colonoscopy/sigmoidoscopy for colorectal cancer and prostate-specific antigen test and digital rectal exam (DRE) for prostate cancer, for the years 2004-2007, are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Selected Cancer Screening Behaviors among Adult Residents in Ashtabula County with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2007.¹

Cancer Screening Behaviors	Ashtabula County			Ohio		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
PAP Test in Past Three Years (Age 18+, Intact Cervix)	*N/A	74.1%	*N/A	*N/A	88.8%	*N/A
Mammography in Past Two Years (Age 40+)	*N/A	77.4%	*N/A	*N/A	79.1%	*N/A
Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy in Past Five Years (Age 50+)	52.0%	48.9%	50.3%	59.2%	52.6%	55.7%
Prostate-specific Antigen (PSA) Test in Past Year (Age 50+)	59.3%	*N/A	*N/A	57.5%	*N/A	*N/A
DRE in Past Year (Age 50+)	56.4%	*N/A	*N/A	57.5%	*N/A	*N/A

¹Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

For a description of the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, sampling, and data analyses see Technical Note (3).

Incidence and Mortality

- Everyone is at risk of developing cancer. This risk increases with age, with the majority of cancers diagnosed at age 55 and older (National Cancer Institute, 2005). In the United States, men and women have about a one-in-three lifetime risk of developing invasive cancer.
- Cancer of the prostate is the most common site among Ohio males, followed by lung and bronchus and colon and rectum (American Cancer Society, Ohio Division, Ohio Department of Health and The Ohio State University, 2007).
- Of the reportable cancers in Ohio, breast cancer is the most common site among females, followed by lung and bronchus and colorectal cancer (American Cancer Society, Ohio Division, Ohio Department of Health and The Ohio State University, 2007). If detected early, cervical cancer may be one of the most successfully treated cancers with a five-year survival probability of nearly 100 percent (American Cancer Society, 2008).
- Nearly all skin cancers are preventable by avoiding excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight or tanning lamps (American Cancer Society, Ohio Division, Ohio Department of Health and The Ohio State University, 2007). Sunburns especially should be avoided. Most skin cancers, even melanoma, can be treated successfully, if found and treated early.

Cancer, continued

Incidence and Mortality, Continued

Table 12. Average Annual Number and Age-adjusted Rates (per 100,000 Population) of Invasive Cancer Cases and Cancer Deaths, by Selected Sites/Types, among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2001-2005.^{1,2}

Cancer Site/Type	Incidence			Mortality		
	Ashtabula County		Ohio	Ashtabula County		Ohio
	Cases	Rate	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Rate
All Sites	532	455.1	465.1	251	211.3	203.3
Breast (Female)	63	101.0	121.9	18	27.8	27.5
Cervix	4	7.1	7.9	<1	N.R.	2.4
Colon and Rectum	61	51.7	52.9	29	24.1	20.6
Lung and Bronchus	92	78.4	75.0	76	64.5	60.3
Melanoma of the Skin	26	23.0	17.0	3	2.5	2.6
Prostate	84	160.9	145.7	13	27.5	27.8

¹Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention/Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

²Rates are per 100,000 and are gender-specific for cancers of the breast, cervix and prostate. Definitions of the cancer sites/types by ICD coding and description of the calculation of rates are provided in Technical Note (4).
N.R. = No Rate

Table 13. Average Annual Number and Age-adjusted Rates (per 100,000 Population) of Invasive Cancer Cases and Cancer Deaths, by Selected Sites/Types, among Ashtabula County Residents, 2001-2005.^{1,2}

Cancer Incidence	Ashtabula County					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
All Sites	278	534.6	254	400.1	532	455.1
Breast	<1	N.R.	63	101.0	64	*N/A
Cervix	*N/A	*N/A	4	7.1	4	*N/A
Colon and Rectum	31	59.0	31	46.0	61	51.7
Lung and Bronchus	51	97.2	41	64.2	92	78.4
Melanoma of the Skin	14	27.9	11	19.4	26	23.0
Prostate	84	160.9	*N/A	*N/A	84	*N/A

Cancer Mortality	Ashtabula County					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
All Sites	127	251.5	124	185.3	251	211.3
Breast	0	*	18	27.8	18	*N/A
Cervix	*N/A	*N/A	<1	N.R.	<1	*N/A
Colon and Rectum	14	26.9	15	21.8	29	24.1
Lung and Bronchus	43	82.1	34	51.4	76	64.5
Melanoma of the Skin	2	3.7	1	1.9	3	2.5
Prostate	13	27.5	*N/A	*N/A	13	*N/A

¹Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance-Prevention/Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

N/A = Not applicable

N.R. = No Rate

*Definitions of the cancer sites/types by ICD coding and description of the calculation of rates are provided in Technical Note (4).

Diabetes

Diabetes is a group of diseases in which blood glucose levels are high as a result of defects in insulin production, insulin inaction or both (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005). In 2004-2006, diabetes was the sixth-leading cause of death in Ohio and in the United States. Diabetes can cause a number of serious health issues including blindness, kidney failure and heart disease.

There are different types of diabetes with different risk factors for the disease (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005). Type 1 diabetes typically strikes children and young adults. Type 1 diabetes accounts for 5 percent to 10 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. Risk factors for type 1 diabetes include autoimmune, environmental and genetic factors. Type 2 diabetes usually strikes adults and accounts for 90 percent to 95 percent of all diagnosed diabetes cases. Risk factors for type 2 diabetes include older age, obesity, family history of diabetes, impaired glucose metabolism or pre-diabetes, history of gestational diabetes and physical inactivity. Gestational diabetes is a form of glucose intolerance diagnosed during pregnancy in some women. Other types of diabetes account for 1 percent to 5 percent of all diagnosed cases. Risk factors for these other types include infections and other illnesses, malnutrition, specific genetic diseases (such as maturity-onset diabetes of youth), drugs and surgery.

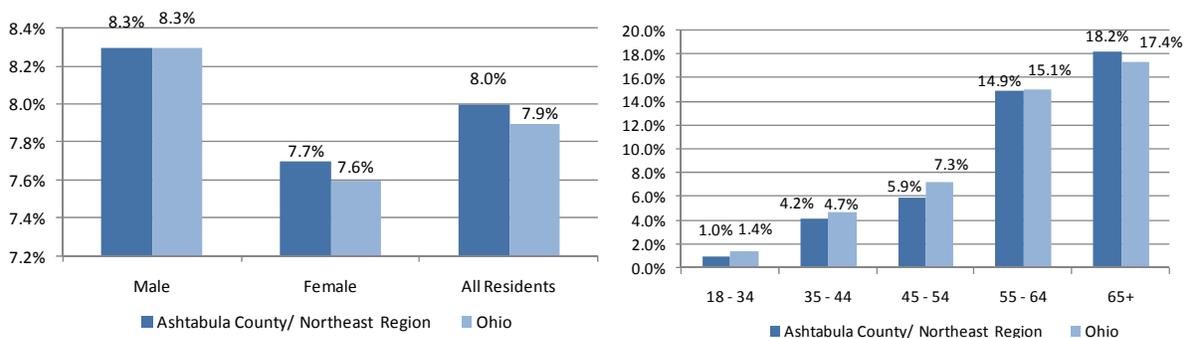
Pre-diabetes Prevalence

Prediabetes is a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be classified as diabetes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005). People with pre-diabetes have increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

There have been no population-based studies of the prevalence of pre-diabetes in Ohio. However, data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys for 1999-2000 indicate a pre-diabetes prevalence of 6.2 percent for persons aged 20 years and older (Cowie CC, Rust KF, Byrd-Holf D, *et al*, 2003). Among overweight adults age 45-74 years, the prevalence of pre-diabetes increased from 6.2 percent to 22.6 percent (Benjamin SM, Valdez R, Geiss LS, *et al*, 2003).

Diabetes Prevalence

Figure 1 and Figure 2. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Diabetes among Ashtabula County Adult Residents, by Gender (Figure 1) and by Age (Figure 2), with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2007.^{1,2}



¹Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

²Respondents who were told by a health care professional they have diabetes.

For a description of the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, sampling, and data analyses see Technical Note (3).

- In general, females have a greater risk of developing diabetes compared to males. In Ashtabula County during 2004-2007, 7.7 percent of adult females had diabetes, compared to 8.3 percent of adult males.

Diabetes, Continued

Diabetes Management Practices

Table 14. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Diabetes Management Practices among Ashtabula County Adult Residents with Comparison to Ohio and the United States, 2004-2007.¹

Diabetes Management Behaviors	Ashtabula County/ Northeast Region	Ohio	U.S.
Annual Dilated-eye Exam	75.4%	70.3%	69.4%
Daily Self-monitoring of Blood Glucose	59.7%	63.0%	63.0%
Annual Foot Exam	74.0%	67.4%	68.7%
Annual Doctor Visit	92.1%	89.4%	88.9%
Daily Self-exam of Feet	64.2%	66.0%	67.9%
2+ A1c Tests Past Year	75.1%	72.9%	68.7%
Attended Diabetes Self-management Class	53.1%	55.0%	53.1%
Annual Influenza Vaccine	60.9%	57.5%	49.8%
Ever Had Pneumococcal Vaccine	55.8%	52.0%	49.0%

¹Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

For a description of the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, sampling and data analyses see Technical Note (3).

- It is essential for individuals with diabetes to be aware of the health issues associated with diabetes and to properly manage the disease to help avoid complications.
- Of the Ashtabula County adult residents with diabetes, 59.7 percent monitor their blood glucose levels daily, 92.1 percent visit a doctor yearly and 64.2 percent check their feet daily.

Diabetes Mortality

Table 15. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Diabetes Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

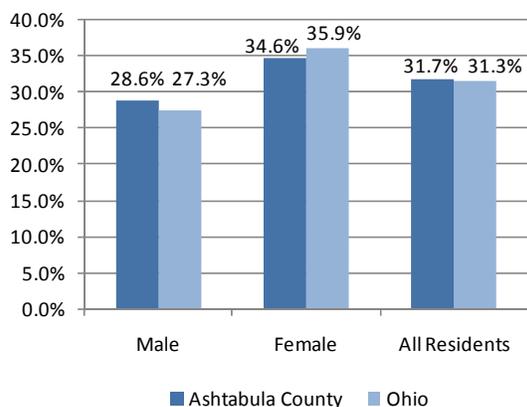
Diabetes Mortality	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	18	34.5	1,812	35.3
Females	23	32.9	1,905	25.6
All Residents	41	33.8	3,717	29.7
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	0	0.0	9	0.2
25-49	3	7.5	222	5.5
50-64	5	24.6	687	33.9
65+	34	226.0	2,799	183.2

- During 2004-2006, an average of 41 people died from diabetes each year in Ashtabula County.
- The risk of developing type 2 diabetes increases with age. In Ashtabula County, during 2004-2006, individuals age 65 and older had the highest diabetes mortality rate, compared to all other age groups, with a rate of 226.0 per 100,000.

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008. For definitions of cause of death by ICD Codes and description of calculation of rates see Technical Note (2).

Arthritis

Figure 3. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Arthritis among Ashtabula County and Ohio Adult Residents, 2004-2007.^{1, 2}

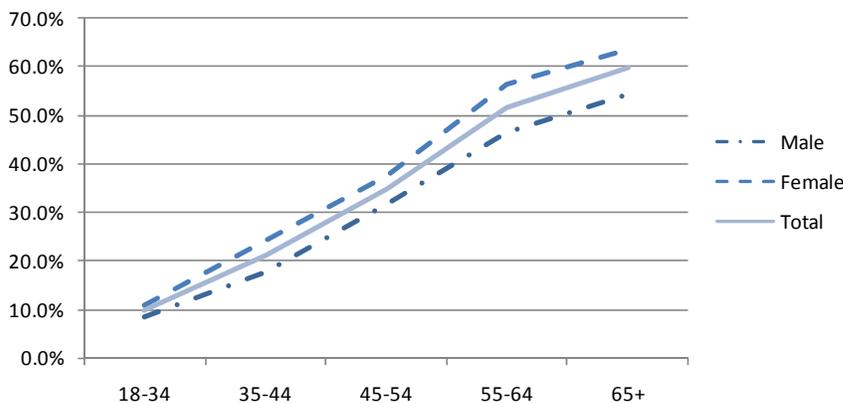


¹2004-2007 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

²Respondents who were told by a health care professional they have arthritis. For a description of the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, sampling, and data analyses see Technical Note (3).

- About 31.7 percent of Ashtabula County adults have arthritis.
- The estimated prevalence of arthritis among Ohio adult residents ranges from a low of 25.6 percent in Athens County to a high of 35.2 percent in Ottawa County.
- Arthritis is not just one disease but more than 100 different diseases and conditions (CDC, 2008). The most frequently occurring is osteoarthritis. Other common forms include rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, fibromyalgia and gout.

Figure 4. Estimated Prevalence (Percent) of Arthritis among Ohio Residents by Age, 2004-2007.^{1, 2}



¹2004-2007 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Surveillance – Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

²Respondents who were told by a health care professional they have arthritis. For a description of the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, sampling, and data analyses see Technical Note (3).

- Arthritis is the nation's most common cause of disability (CDC, 2008).
- The most frequent symptoms of arthritis include aching, pain, stiffness or swelling in or around the joints (CDC, 1999). Some types of arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, can affect multiple organs and cause widespread symptoms.
- The prevalence of arthritis increases sharply with increasing age.

- Weight control and injury prevention can reduce the risk of developing osteoarthritis (CDC, 2008).
- The disability and pain that accompany arthritis can be avoided or reduced through early diagnosis and appropriate management, including self-management activities such as weight control and physical activity (CDC, 2008).

Unintentional and Intentional Injuries

On average, 17 Ohioans lose their lives each day as a result of an unintentional or intentional injury. Males are at greater risk than females for intentional and unintentional injury-related death at nearly all ages. For Ohioans of all ages, the leading causes of injury-related death include unintentional motor vehicle traffic crashes, suicide, unintentional poisonings, unintentional falls and homicides.

All Fatal Unintentional Injuries

Table 16. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) for All Unintentional Fatal Injuries among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Unintentional Fatal Injury: All	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	26	53.8	2,775	51.3
Females	18	29.0	1,698	25.2
All Residents	44	41.0	4,473	37.6
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	9	26.0	714	18.3
25-49	13	37.4	1,524	38.0
50-64	5	26.4	711	35.0
65+	17	114.0	1,524	99.8

¹Deaths and rates from Injury Prevention Program/Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008. Populations used were from U.S. Census/National Center for Health Statistics bridged population estimates, 2006 vintage. For description of age-adjusted rates and causes of death injury definitions see Technical Note (5).

- Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for Ohioans aged 1-34, and the fifth-leading cause of death for all age groups in Ohio.
- During 2004-2006, an average of 44 Ashtabula County residents died each year as a result of an unintentional injury.
- Generally in Ohio, black males have slightly higher fatal unintentional injury rates, compared to white males, while white females' fatal unintentional injury rate is greater than that of black females.

Unintentional Fatal Falls

Table 17. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) for Unintentional Fatal Falls among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Unintentional Injury Mortality: Falls	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	3	5.6	421	8.6
Females	4	5.4	400	5.0
All Residents	6	5.3	821	6.5
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	<1	1.0	11	0.3
25-49	1	1.9	51	1.3
50-64	<1	1.8	99	4.9
65+	5	33.6	661	43.3

¹Deaths and rates from Injury Prevention Program/Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008. Populations used were from U.S. Census/National Center for Health Statistics bridged population estimates, 2006 vintage. For description of age-adjusted rates and causes of death injury definitions see Technical Note (5).

- Fatal fall rates increase directly with age and are greatest for Ohioans aged 65 and older. During 2004-2006, an average of five Ashtabula County residents, age 65 and older died each year as a result of a fall.
- Fatal falls among older adults are expected to rise as Ohio's population continues to age.
- Overall in Ohio, white males are at the greatest risk of dying from a fall, while black females are at the lowest risk.

Unintentional and Intentional Injuries, Continued

Unintentional Fatal Poisonings

Table 18. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) for Unintentional Fatal Poisonings among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Unintentional Injury Mortality: Poisonings	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	5	10.0	733	13.0
Females	2	3.0	379	6.5
All Residents	7	6.6	1,112	9.7
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	1	3.0	115	3.0
25-49	4	11.2	735	18.3
50-64	1	7.0	221	10.9
65+	<1	2.2	41	2.7

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics/Injury Prevention Program, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Office of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, May 2008. For description of calculation of rates and causes of injury death definition see Technical Note (5).

- Rates of unintentional fatal poisonings have been increasing at alarming rates in Ohio due largely to unintentional drug overdoses and medication errors. Unintentional fatal poisoning rates have increased approximately **200 percent** from 1999–2006.
- During 2004–2006, an average of seven Ashtabula County residents died annually from an unintentional poisoning each year.
- In Ohio, black males and individuals aged 25–49 have the highest unintentional fatal poisoning rates.
- Unintentional poisoning death rates for males are at least twice as high as the rates for females in Ohio and in Ashtabula County males had a higher unintentional poisoning death rate than females during 2004–2006.

Unintentional Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes

Table 19. Average Annual Number of Deaths and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Population) for Unintentional Motor Vehicle Crashes among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Unintentional Injury Mortality: Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	11	21.8	904	16.2
Females	7	13.4	416	6.8
All Residents	18	17.5	1,321	11.4
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	5	14.0	370	9.5
25-49	8	21.5	506	12.6
50-64	2	12.3	217	10.7
65+	3	20.1	228	14.9

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics/Injury Prevention Program, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Office of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, May 2008. For description of calculation of rates and causes of injury death definitions see Technical Note (5).

- In Ohio, males are at greater risk for a fatal motor vehicle traffic crash than females in all age groups.
- During 2004–2006 an average of 18 Ashtabula County residents died as a result of a motor vehicle traffic crash.
- Motor vehicle traffic crashes among older adults will continue to be a growing concern as Ohio's population ages. During 2004–2006, Ohio residents 65 years of age and older had a motor vehicle traffic crash rate of 14.9 per 100,000, the highest crash rate of all the age groups.

Unintentional and Intentional Injuries, Continued

Homicide

Table 20. Average Annual Number of Homicides and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Rates (per 100,000 Population) among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Intentional Fatal Injury: Homicide	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	3	6.1	1	5.5
Females	2	4.7	1	8.4
All Residents	5	5.3	150	2.6
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	1	4	211	5.4
25-49	2	6.5	315	7.8
50-64	1	5.3	63	3.1
65+	1	4.5	31	2.0

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics/Injury Prevention Program, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Office of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, May 2008. For description of calculation of rates and causes of injury death definitions see Technical Note (5).

- Homicide is the **leading cause of death** for young, black Ohioans.
- During 2004-2006 in Ashtabula County, an average of five individuals died each year due to homicide and males had a higher homicide death rate than females.
- In Ohio, black males are at the greatest risk for homicide, with rates almost **12 times** higher than white males. Young black males are at the greatest risk of being victims of homicide.

- Firearm-related violence plays a large role in homicides in Ohio. Nearly eight out of 10 homicides among black males in Ohio involve firearms.

Suicide

Table 21. Average Annual Number of Suicide and Average Annual Age-adjusted and Age-specific Rates (per 100,000 Population) among Ashtabula County Residents with Comparison to Ohio, 2004-2006.¹

Intentional Fatal Injury: Suicide	Ashtabula County		Ohio	
	Number of Deaths	Rates	Number of Deaths	Rates
Age-adjusted				
Males	16	31.5	1,053	18.8
Females	2	2.9	266	4.4
All Residents	18	16.8	1,319	11.3
Age-specific (Years)				
≤ 24	1	4	192	4.9
25-49	8	23.4	616	15.3
50-64	5	26.4	312	15.4
65+	3	22.4	200	13.1

¹Deaths and rates from Statistical Analyses Unit, Office of Vital Statistics/Injury Prevention Program, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Office of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, May 2008. For description of calculation of rates and causes of injury death definitions see Technical Note (5).

- In 2005, more than 32,000 suicides occurred in the United States (CDC, 2007). During 2004-2006, an average of 18 Ashtabula County residents died each year from suicide.
- Although females attempt suicide at higher rates, males take their lives four times more often than females (CDC, 2007) and white adult males are at the greatest risk of committing suicide in Ohio.
- In Ohio, firearms are used in approximately half of the completed suicides and males (54 percent firearm related) are much more likely than females (29 percent firearm related) to commit suicide using a firearm.

Child Health

Maternal Smoking

- An analysis of Ohio birth certificates for the years 2004-2006, indicated 27.1 percent of mothers living in Ashtabula County smoked cigarettes during their pregnancy. Throughout Ohio during 2004-2006 18.1 percent of mothers reported smoking cigarettes during their pregnancy. Maternal smoking in the individual counties during 2004-2006, ranged from a low of 6.9 percent in Delaware County to a high of 35.9 percent in Paulding County.
- Ohio birth data for the years 1999-2001 indicated 73.0 percent of deaths from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and 55.4 percent of infants who were small for their gestational age were attributable to maternal smoking during pregnancy (Ohio Department of Health, 2006). Maternal smoking was also a risk factor for 38.8 percent of low birth weight babies (babies weighing less than 2,500 grams), 25.4 percent of preterm low birth weight babies and 22.4 percent of very low birth weight (babies weighing less than 1,500 grams) babies.
- A recent study suggested mothers who smoked any time during the month before pregnancy to the end of the first trimester were more likely to have a baby with a birth defect, particularly congenital heart defects, than mothers who did not smoke during this time frame (March of Dimes, 2008).

Low Birth Weight

- Babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) are considered low birth weight (March of Dimes, 2008). Low birth weight babies are at increased risk of serious health problems including chronic disabilities and even death.
- An analysis of Ohio birth certificates for the years 2004-2006 indicated 10.0 percent of babies born in Ashtabula County were considered low birth weight babies. The statewide Ohio percentage for low birth weight was 8.6 percent and the average annual percents for the counties in Ohio ranged from a low of 4.9 percent in Mercer County to a high of 11.9 percent in Lawrence County.
- Factors that increase the risk for low birth weight babies include: fetal birth defects, maternal chronic health problems, maternal diabetes, maternal cigarette smoking, maternal infections, fetal infections, maternal use of alcohol and illicit drugs, placental problems, and inadequate weight gain (March of Dimes, 2005).

Infant Deaths

- During 2004-2006, 35 Ashtabula County infants died before their 1st birthday for an annual average of 12 deaths. The Ashtabula County average annual infant death rate for 2004-2006 was 11.7 per 1,000 live births. The infant death rate for the 88 counties ranged from a low of 1.3 per 1,000 live births in Paulding County to a high of 12.6 per 1,000 live births in Gallia County.
- The leading causes of infant death include birth defects, disorders relating to preterm birth and low birth weight, SIDS and respiratory distress syndrome (March of Dimes, 2007).

Childhood Overweight

- A random sample of Ohio public school's third-grade children during the 2004-2005 school year indicated 23.5 percent of Ashtabula County third-graders were overweight (Ohio Department of Health, 2007; see Technical Note 6). The statewide assessment during the 2004-2005 school year found 18.9 percent of Ohio's public school third-grade students were overweight. Percentage of students who were overweight ranged from 9.5 percent in Butler County to 32.5 percent in Highland County.
- Overweight children are at higher risk of a number of physical and psychological health consequences when compared to children who are not overweight (Ohio Department of Health, 2007): (a) asthma; (b) damage to bones and joints from carrying extra weight on developing skeletons; (c) sleep apnea; (d) high blood pressure that can damage the heart, kidneys and blood vessels, and can lead to heart disease and stroke; (e) type 2 diabetes; (f) high cholesterol levels that can increase risk of heart attacks or strokes; (g) premature onset of puberty; (h) stigmatization and bullying by peers; and (i) becoming an obese adult.

*For description of the Ohio Department of health's body mass Index assessment of Ohio's Third Grade Students, see Technical Note (6).

Child Health, Continued

Childhood Death, Ages 1-19

Table 22. Leading Causes of Death for Ohio Residents Aged 1-19, 2003-2005. ¹

Cause of Death	Total Number of Deaths	Average Annual Number of Deaths	Percent
1. Unintentional Injury	1,154	385	41.5%
* Motor Vehicle Traffic	678	226	58.8%
* Drowning	108	36	9.4%
* Poisoning	89	30	7.7%
* Fire/Burn	78	26	6.8%
* Suffocation	42	14	3.6%
2. Homicide	267	89	9.59%
3. Suicide	228	76	8.19%
4. Cancer	226	75	8.12%
5. Congenital Anomalies	139	46	4.99%
6. Heart Disease	103	34	3.70%
7. Influenza & Pneumonia	36	12	1.29%
8. Septicemia	28	9	1.01%
9. Cerebrovascular	19	6	0.68%
10. Benign Neoplasms	18	6	0.65%
All Others	566	189	20.33%
All Deaths	2,784	928	

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2008-06-02]. Available from URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars

- The deaths of children after infancy present a public health concern and an opportunity for prevention. During 2003-2005, an average of 928 Ohio children ages 1 to 19 years died each year. The leading cause of death for Ohio children was unintentional injuries that accounted for 41.5 percent of the deaths. In Ohio, 58.8 percent of these unintentional injury deaths were due to motor vehicle traffic accidents.
- During 2003-2005, homicide and suicide were the second- and third-leading causes of death for Ohio children ages 1 to 19 years.
- For the years 2003-2005, the State of Ohio had an average annual death rate of 31.1 per 100,000 children. The 88 counties had an average annual death rate ranging from a low of 14.2 deaths per 100,000 children in Ottawa County to a high of 77.5 per 100,000 children in Monroe County.
- In Ashtabula County, during 2003-2005, there were 30 deaths among children ages 1 to 19 years, representing an average annual death rate of 38.0 per 100,000 children.

Technical Notes

(1) A Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (PC HPSA) is a defined service area or population that demonstrates a shortage of primary care physicians (i.e., family practitioners, general practitioners, general internists, obstetrician/gynecologists, and pediatricians). Service areas with a population-to-physician ratio of 3,500:1 or greater are considered to be PC HPSAs. The PC HPSA is a federal designation that enables certain practice sites and health professionals to apply for recruitment and retention assistance from state and federal programs. In Ohio, the Primary Care and Rural Health Section in the Bureau of Community Health Services and Systems Development (BCHSSD), Division of Family and Community Health Services provides technical assistance to communities in the HPSA process, and develops and submits HPSA applications to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Authorization and detailed information regarding designation criteria may be found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 1; Part 5 (October 1, 1993, pp. 34-48) titled *Designation of Health Professional(s) Shortage Areas*. For further information regarding PC HPSAs, please contact the BCHSSD bchssd@odh.ohio.gov.

(2) The 10 leading underlying causes of resident deaths, based on the average annual number of deaths for Ohio and the 88 counties, were obtained from the Statistical Analysis Unit, Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, for the years 2004-2006. The 10 leading causes with the relevant International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes are: Diseases of the Heart (I00-I09), Cancer (C00-C97), Stroke (I60-I69), Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (J40-J47), Diabetes Mellitus (E10-E14), Unintentional Injuries (V01-V59, Y85-Y86), Influenza and Pneumonia (J10-J18), Alzheimer's Disease (G30), Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis (N00-N07, N17-N19, N25-N27), and Septicemia (A40-A41). The rates are age adjusted using 11 age groups: <1, 1-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85+, and are age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

(3) The Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System self-reported data are collected from telephone surveys of randomly selected, non-institutional residents age 18 years and older. Direct prevalence estimates were made for Ohio and for the eight counties where a sample of 400 or more residents was available: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark and Summit. For Ohio and these eight counties the weighted percentages were adjusted to: 1) probability of selection, i.e. number of phone numbers per household, adults per household and completed interviews; and 2) demographic distribution, i.e. age and gender. "Don't know" and "Refused" responses were excluded from the analyses. The prevalence estimates for overweight and obesity were made using the self-reported height and weight to calculate a BMI for each respondent using the formula: BMI = weight (pounds) divided by height² (inches) x 703, Overweight = BMI of 25.0 to 29.9; Obese = BMI of 30.0 or greater. Synthetic estimates were made for the 88 counties using age- and gender-specific estimates for five regions, i.e. Central (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties); Northeast (Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit and Trumbull counties); Southeast (Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Tuscarawas, Vinton and Washington counties); Southwest (Adams, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Pike, Preble, Ross, Scioto, Shelby and Warren counties) and Northwest (Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties). Because the sample has been drawn from the non-institutionalized population and includes only those persons well enough to engage in a telephone conversation, the prevalence of diabetes, history of high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, heart attack and coronary heart disease are most likely underestimated.

(4) Cancer Incidence = newly diagnosed cases of invasive cancer among Ohio and county residents for diagnosis years 2001-2005 for all cancer sites and types combined, breast, cervix, colon and rectum, lung and bronchus, melanoma of the skin and prostate. Cases identified through the Ohio

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Cancer Incidence Surveillance System were classified using the following International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Third Edition (World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2000) codes: all cancer sites and types (C000-C809), breast (C500-C509), cervix (C530-C539), colon and rectum (C180-189; C199; C209; C260), lung and bronchus (C340-C349), melanoma of the skin (C440-C449, histology types 8720-8790), and prostate (C619), excluding histology types 9590-9989 for breast, cervix, colon and rectum, lung and bronchus, melanoma of the skin, and prostate.

*Cancer Mortality = Ohio and county resident deaths for the years 2001-2005 when the underlying cause of death was determined to be cancer. Cancer deaths were categorized using the following International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10) codes: all cancer sites and types (ICD C000-C979), breast (C500-C509), cervix (C530-C539), colon and rectum (C180-C209;C260), lung and bronchus (C340-C349), melanoma of the skin (C430-C439), and prostate (C610-C619). Deaths were identified through the Office of Vital Statistics, Ohio Department of Health, 2008.

*The 2001-2005 rates per 100,000 were calculated using vintage 2006 postcensal estimates for July 1, 2001-2005, (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007). Rates are direct age adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

(5) Injury deaths were identified from Ohio certificates of death collected by the Statistical Analysis Unit, Office of Vital Statistics at the Ohio Department of Health when the underlying cause of death was any unintentional injury, International Classification of Disease Codes (ICD), [10th Revision, World Health Organization, 2000] Vol. – Y59, Y85-Y86; unintentional falls, ICD W00-W19; unintentional poisonings, ICD X40-X49; unintentional motor vehicle crashes, V02-V04 (.9, .9), V09.2, V12-V14 (.3-.9), (V19 (.4-.6), V20-V28 (.3-.9), V29 (.4-.9), V30-V39, (.4-.9), V40-V49 (.4-.9), V50-V59 (.4-.9), V60-V69 (.4-.9), V70-V79 (.4-.9), V80 (.3-.5), V81.1, V82.1, V83-V86 (.0-.3), V87 (.0-.8), V89.2; suicide X60-X84, Y87.0, U03; and homicide, X85-Y09, Y87.1, U01, U02 with death occurring in the years 2004-2006. The age adjusted rates used 18 age groups: <5, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84 and 85+. Rates are age adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population. The 2004-2006 rates used the population from the U.S. Census/National Center for Health Statistics bridged population estimates, 2006 vintage. Rate calculations from Injury Prevention Program, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Office of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, May 2008.

(6) The Ohio Department of Health invited a random sample of public elementary schools, within each Ohio county (Union County choose not to participate), to participate in a BMI and oral health assessment in the 2004-2005 school year. From 387 participating schools, 14,543 children, whose parents provided written permission, were weighed and measured by volunteer trained local health professionals, resulting in valid BMI estimates for 14,451 students. BMI is a measure that compares weight to height and is interpreted differently for children than adults. For children, BMI is compared to other children of the same age and sex to give a “BMI-for-age” percentile. In this assessment the third-grade children were classified as overweight that had a BMI-for-age \geq 95th percentile.

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