

**For Immediate Release**

Date: December 14, 2016

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**2016 FULTON COUNTY HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT RELEASED**

The Fulton County Partners for Health released the 2016 Fulton County Health Status Assessment. The Public Release of the 2016 Fulton County Health Status Assessment took place on December 14, 2016 with youth professionals, schools, law enforcement, religious leaders, parents, health care professionals, substance treatment professionals, area businesses and county officials in attendance.

Fulton County Partners for Health is comprised of a wide range of public and private entities with a common goal of improving the health status of all individuals. One entity is Healthy Choices Caring Communities who work to decrease youth substance abuse through the use of environmental strategies such as community attitudes toward youth substance use, access to substances, media messages and policies enhancements regarding alcohol, tobacco and other substances.

As we all work to improve health and increase healthy choices among our youth and families in Fulton County, it is important to measure how we are doing. The 2016 Fulton County Health Status Assessment provides us this opportunity. Through funding provided by Fulton County Job and Family Services, Fulton County Health Center, Fulton County Health Department, Fulton County Family & Children First Council, Healthy Choices Caring Communities, Four County ADAMh's Board, Fulton County Board of Developmental Disabilities and United Way of Fulton County, we were able to obtain health-related data for Fulton County Adults, Youth (ages 12-18 years of age) and Children (ages 0-11 years of age).

2016 Fulton County Health Status Assessment highlights:

Adult

- **Coverage:** The rate of Fulton County adults reporting they were without health insurance fell from 9% in 2012 to 5% in 2016.
- **Cardiovascular Health:** In 2016, 81% of the adults reported having their blood cholesterol checked within the past 5 years. This is a 4 % increase from 77% in 2012.
- **Weight:** 43% of Fulton County adults are obese based on Body Mass Index (BMI). This is a 7% increase compared to 36% in 2012.
- **Mental Health:** 21% of Fulton County adults rated their mental health as not good on four or more days in the previous month. This rate was 17% in 2012.

### Youth

- **Alcohol:** Fulton County youth (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) reported a 6% decrease in the number of youth having consumed an alcoholic beverage in the past 30 days. In 2016, 9% of Fulton County youth were described as a “current user” compared to 15 % in 2014. Older youth, grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> also demonstrated a 10% decrease in current use rates from 22% in 2014 to 12% in 2016.
- **Sexual Behavior:** In 2016, 52% of all Fulton County youth, (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) reported planning to remain abstinent until marriage which is an increase of 12% from 2014.
- **Obesity:** Fulton County youth (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) reported a 5% increase in obesity rates since 2014. In 2014, Fulton County youth obesity rate was 13% and in 2016 it was reported at 18%.
- **Mental Health:** In 2016, over one fifth (22%) of Fulton County youth (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) reported they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. This increased to 32% for Fulton County female youth.
- **Underage Substance Use:** Only 29% of Fulton County youth (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) report their parents have talked with them about the dangers of underage drinking and drug use in the past 30 days.

### **Children**

- **Dental:** In 2016, 58% of parents (children age 0 – 5 yrs.) reported their child had a dental care visit in the past year. This is an increase of 16% from 2012 and higher than the Ohio rate of 50%.
- **Asthma:** The percent of Fulton County children diagnosed with asthma is higher than the statewide rate measured in 2012. In 2016, 8% of Fulton County children age 0 – 5yrs were reported as having an asthma diagnosis compared to 6% statewide (2011/2012). 17% of Fulton County children age 6 – 11 yrs. were reported compared to 10% statewide (2011/2012).
- **Reading:** In 2016, 29% of Fulton County parents (children age 0-5) reported reading to their child every day compared to the 2011/2012 Ohio rate of 53%.

The full 2016 Fulton County Health Status Assessment is available electronically at [www.hc3partnership.org](http://www.hc3partnership.org), [www.fultoncountyhealthdept.com](http://www.fultoncountyhealthdept.com) or [www.fultoncountyhealthcenter.org](http://www.fultoncountyhealthcenter.org). In addition, interested community members can obtain a copy of the assessment during regular business hours at the Fulton County Health Department. Now that the data is collected, we will begin a strategic planning process to select priorities and evidence based programs on which to focus our resources during the next three years. Your comments concerning the Health Status Assessment and selection of priorities can be submitted to [fchd@fultoncountyoh.com](mailto:fchd@fultoncountyoh.com).