

HIV Services NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



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WORLD AIDS DAY *December 1st*

World AIDS Day was first established in 1988 by two public information officers at the World Health Organization (WHO). This international day for global health aims to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Together, we can honor the lives that have been lost, show strength and solidarity against HIV stigma, and push for awareness and advancements in medical research for the virus.

**This year's World AIDS Day theme is
"Remember and Commit."**

We "remember" by recognizing the impact that this epidemic has had on communities worldwide, and how it has affected individuals and families. We not only remember the lives that have been lost, but also those living with HIV/AIDS, and work towards ending the epidemic.

We "commit" by acknowledging our collective responsibility to act. We all have the opportunity to make a difference: by promoting education and awareness in our communities, working to end barriers in care and prevention, and supporting organizations that serve HIV populations.

Nothing about us without us!



RYAN WHITE PART A *Updates*

2023 brought about several wonderful additions to the Cleveland Transitional Grant Area (TGA) Part A Program. As we released a Request for Proposal (RFP) in October 2022, we received 13 adept responses, one of which is a new oral health care provider in Lorain County, Lorain County Health and Dentistry. In addition, we added a new Planning Council Facilitator, Lisa-Jean Sylvia of Upward Spiral Coaching and Consulting, in place of the previous facilitator, who retired in February. We welcomed both organizations to the Cleveland TGA family of providers and look forward to continued success.

Integrated Plan

The 2022-2026 Statewide Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan was finalized and submitted in December 2022. Since then, the plan has been reviewed by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and has been described as well-organized and thoughtful. The Integrated Plan Summary Statement was released in the Spring of 2023. The summarized feedback gave a description of the plan's strengths, areas of non-compliance, and recommendations. Designated workgroups are currently striving to provide additional clarifying details and implement recommendations.



CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT *Program Updates*

The Clinical Quality Management (CQM) Program is in full swing in 2023 and has just completed the 18-month evaluation of the quality goals. Many of the objectives and key actions were met and will be marked as completed, while others are still a work in progress and will be continued throughout the upcoming year. The next full Clinical Quality Management Committee (CQMC) meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 will detail the outcomes of the annual evaluation of the 2022-2023 CQM plan, as well as give a year-to-date update on the Performance Measures that have been monitored this calendar year.





CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT *Quality Improvement Project*

The 2023 Quality Improvement Project (QIP) is now complete as of October 13, 2023. Medical Case Managers in the jurisdiction worked diligently over the duration of the project and put in incredible effort with data collection and reporting. The project aimed to track clients with missed infectious disease appointments, reschedule them, and have them attend the rescheduled appointment on the first attempt. With retention as the target, a collaborated system was developed among Medical Case Manager providers, which involved some very intensive follow-up.

After several months, out of 351 missed appointments, 145 (43%) were rescheduled and attended on the first attempt. Another 73 (21%) of appointments were rescheduled and attended on the second attempt. Overall, 62% of all rescheduled appointments were attended within a two-week timeframe.

**Shout out to all of the Quality Leaders in the Cleveland TGA!
Great work team!**



HIV PREVENTION

Staff Updates

The HIV Prevention Program is happy to announce Melissa Kolenz as the new Grant Supervisor, and Danielle LeGallee as the new Grant Program Manager.

Danielle previously worked as the Ryan White Part A Grant Coordinator at CCBH, and is excited to transition into her new role. Prior to working in HIV care and prevention, Danielle worked in social services as a community-based Mental and Behavioral Health Case Manager. In her spare time, Danielle plays competitive volleyball and enjoys crocheting and cross stitching.

Melissa started working in HIV Prevention 20 years ago as an HIV tester, and has worn many different hats over the years for both prevention and care. In her time away from work, she enjoys kayaking and doing agility training with her rescue pup, Tilly (featured right).



NEW HIV STAFF AT CCBH

April Vince

April has worked at CCBH since 1999, and has recently joined the Ending the HIV Epidemic Team as a Program Manager.



She has held multiple positions with CCBH, including managing the aging programs for senior populations, and managing the Overdose Data to Action cooperative agreement with the CDC. April has served on several boards, including the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services/Senior Advisory council, the OSU extension youth initiative counsel, the Tri-County Breast Cancer coalition, and co-chair for the Cuyahoga County Opiate Taskforce. She is a licensed social worker in the state of Ohio, as well as a certified Mental Health First Aid Responder and certified in Health Literacy by the AMA. In her personal life, April enjoys photography, baking, reading, traveling with my husband and two girls, and writing science fiction.

Sarah Kurtz-Campbell

Sarah is a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS), joining the team on 7/3/23. Her professional background includes over 20 years in the healthcare field. She received her B.A. from Baldwin-Wallace College, completed a Medical Assisting program, and completed a Master of Education in Community Health Promotion at Cleveland State University. Sarah holds the credential of Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). She has worked for a private practice physician as well as 2 other hospital systems during her career. In her spare time, she enjoys Zumba and crafting.

ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Care & Prevention

UPDATED EHE STAFF DIRECTORY

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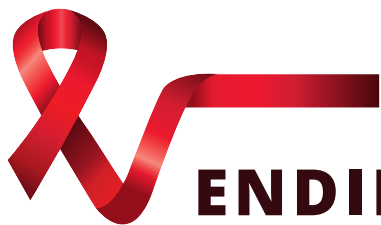
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ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Testing & Education

INTERESTED IN HIV TESTING AND EDUCATION FOR YOUR AGENCY?

The EHE Team has expanded and is
looking for new and diverse opportunities
for regular/recurring HIV testing sites!

Please reach out to EHE DIS
sdeal@ccbh.net if interested.



ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Love Leads Here



The primary goal of the I Take PrEP Social Media Campaign is to raise awareness about PrEP and encourage more people to utilize it for HIV prevention. The relaunch of the campaign from May 1st to July 31st, 2023 featured the inclusion of a local cisgender woman model, Heidi. The campaign focused on engaging individuals within their active online spaces, as well as at community events and social gatherings in the real world.

Together with the media strategy, a very high number of contacts and impressions were achieved. 13,279,466 impressions of the campaign ads were delivered to the various audiences. Over 20,000 people clicked on an ad which brought them to the campaign website. The Love Leads Here website provides the community with great resources, such as PrEP FAQs, a PrEP locator tool, financial assistance information, and a social media toolkit available to download and share. The social media toolkit and images are available to download on the I Take PrEP page.

Digital programmatic- MSM & TGF	.10% CTR	10,115 Clicks	10,566,020 Impressions
Digital programmatic- Women	.10% CTR	1,487 Clicks	1,473,845 Impressions
Social - Women	.69% CTR	8,524 Clicks	1,239,601 Impressions
Total	.15% CTR	20,126 Clicks	13,279,466 Impressions



EPIDEMIOLOGY *Northeast Ohio*

CCBH Epidemiologist, Alisha Cassady, MPH, presented data around Congenital Syphilis (CS) cases in Northeast (NE) Ohio at this year's American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the past 5 years, the NE Ohio region has experienced a surge in CS cases; in 2022 alone, there were 14 cases of CS throughout the region. Unfortunately, there have also been two stillbirths due to complications from CS, with both occurring in the last two years.

Some highlights of the CS data for NE Ohio include:

- 58% of the babies born were Black/African American
- 71% of the mothers received prenatal care, with 48% receiving prenatal care within the first trimester.
- 58% of mothers did not receive syphilis testing at 28-32 weeks' gestation, when syphilis can be caught before birth and treated.
- 42% of mothers were diagnosed with syphilis at the time of birth.



EPIDEMIOLOGY *DIS Response*

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) have implemented several strategies in an attempt to reduce the burden of CS in the region. Interventions include:

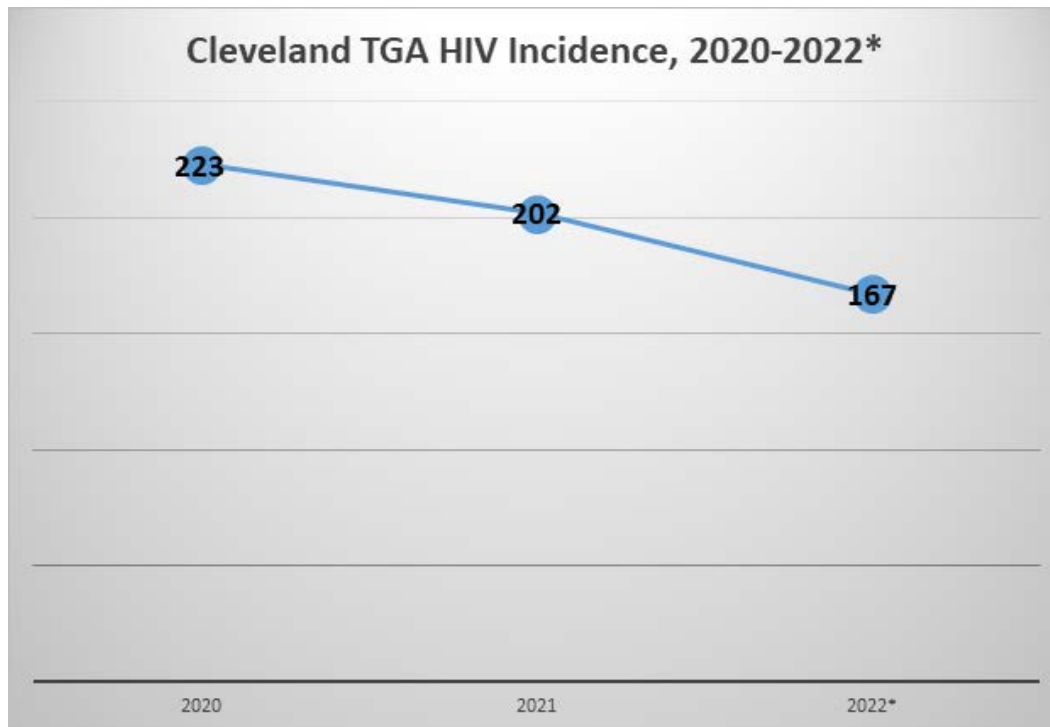
- In-person field interviews with syphilis positive mothers to obtain partner information and assist in getting the mothers to treatment.
- Providing gas cards to pregnant mothers to aid in getting to prenatal and infectious disease appointments.
- Educating care providers about CS and providing up-to-date treatment guidelines for syphilis.
- Advocating for increased testing throughout the course of pregnancy.
- CS Review Board comprised of DIS and NE Ohio area prenatal and infectious disease care providers to discuss CS cases, examine any missed opportunities with previous cases, and deliver any updates to treatment guidelines.

The Epidemiology team would like to give a special thank you to the DIS team for all of their efforts to reduce the burden of CS and for providing details on details on the current interventions being implemented.

EPIDEMIOLOGY *Updates*

As of December 31, 2022, there were 6,037 people living with HIV (PLWH) in the Cleveland TGA. Of those, 80% were males, 27% were 55-64 years old, and 52% were Black/African American. A majority of PLWH were also in the men who have sex with men (MSM) transmission and exposure categories.

In 2022*, there were 167 new cases of HIV in the Cleveland TGA, which was a 17% decrease in the number of new HIV cases from 2021. The rate of new infections in the Cleveland TGA is 7.7 per 100,000; this means for every 100,000 people in a population, there were almost 8 new cases of HIV.

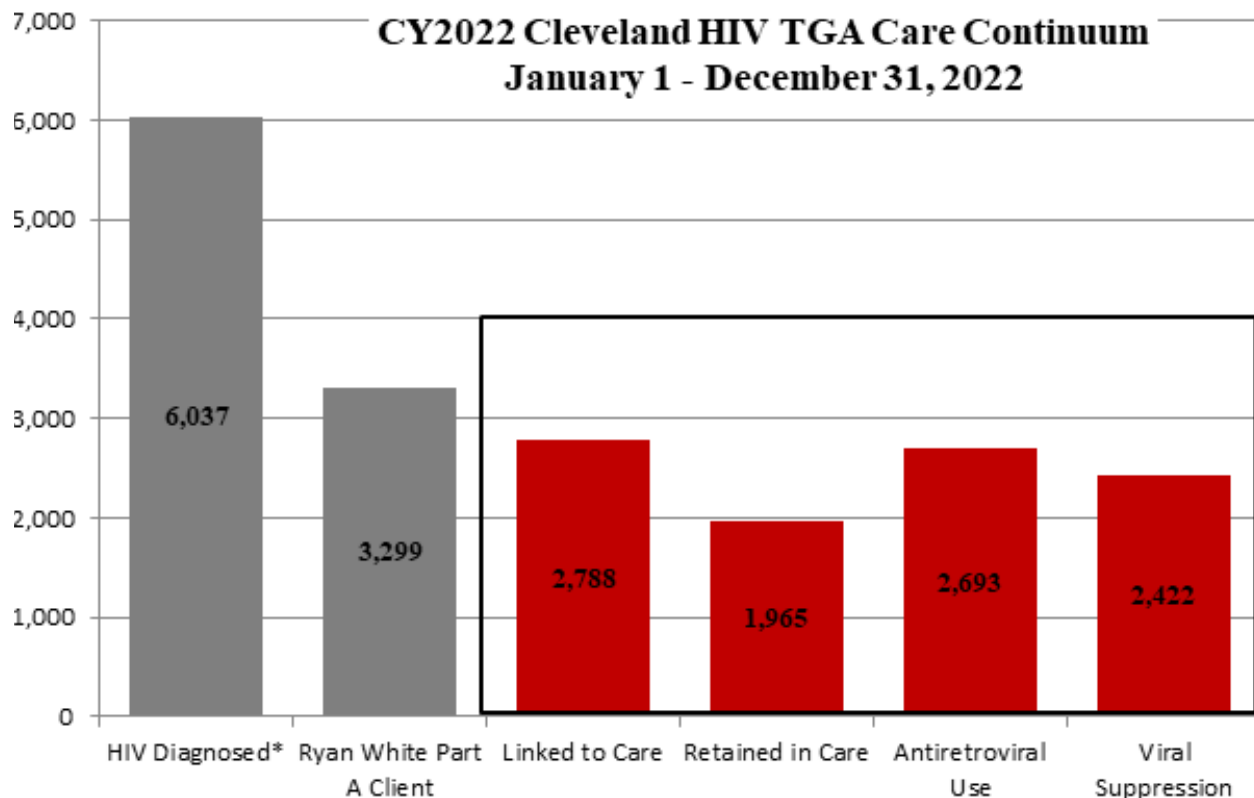


Some important demographics of new cases include:

- 50% of cases were Black/African American.
- 83% of cases were male, 17% were female.
- 44% of cases were under 30 y/o at the time of diagnosis.
- 13% of new cases were among those who are Hispanic/Latinx. Cases have increased 26% in this population since 2021.
- 40% were in the MSM exposure category.
- There were no cases of perinatal HIV in 2022.

*2022 data as of June 30, 2022. Data is subject to change as more info becomes available.

EPIDEMIOLOGY *Care Continuum*



HIV-Diagnosed: Diagnosed HIV prevalence in the jurisdiction as reported by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).*

Ryan White Part A (RWPA) Clients: Number of diagnosed individuals who received a RWPA-funded service in the measurement year.

Linked to Care: Number of RWPA-eligible clients that had at least one medical visit, viral load test, or CD4 test in the measurement year.

Retained in Care: Number of RWPA-eligible clients who had 2 or more medical visits, viral load test, or CD4 test performed at least 3 months apart during the measurement year.

Antiretroviral Use: Number of RWPA-eligible clients receiving medical care who have a documented antiretroviral therapy (ART) prescription on record in the measurement year.

Viral Suppression: Number of RWPA-eligible clients receiving medical care whose most recent HIV viral load within the measurement year was less than 200 copies/mL.

*Please note: The most recent available prevalence data from ODH is as of Dec. 31, 2022.



PLANNING COUNCIL CORNER

Community Liaison Committee

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) serves as a bridge between the Planning Council and the community. The monthly meeting is open to all people living with HIV in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties. Join us on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00-1:00 PM for this virtual meeting.

All Full Planning Council and subcommittee meetings are open to the public. To participate, contact Lisa-Jean (LJ) Sylvia, Planning Council Facilitator. Her contact information is provided on the following page.

Community Listening Sessions

Thank you to everyone who attended a community listening session. If you were not able to participate, but would like to share your experience living with HIV, contact Lisa-Jean to arrange an individual conversation with members of the Community Liaison Committee. Additional listening sessions will be scheduled in 2024.

Look out for the Consumer Survey beginning in January!



PLANNING COUNCIL CORNER

Membership, Retention, & Marketing

The Membership, Retention, and Marketing (MRM) Committee seeks new members for all subcommittees of the Cleveland TGA Ryan White Part A Planning Council, especially people living with HIV in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties. If you are interested in learning more, consider joining a meeting of the Full Planning Council or one of the subcommittees.

For meeting schedules and to participate, visit:
<https://ccbh.net/ryan-white-hiv-aids-planning-co/>

For more information or for an application, contact Lisa-Jean Sylvia or Toni Mallory.

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FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you!

- What did you enjoy reading about in this issue of the HIV Services Newsletter?
- What would you like to continue to see in future newsletters?
- What content do you think could be added to the newsletter?

Please email all feedback to Danielle LeGallee at dlegallee@ccbh.net.