



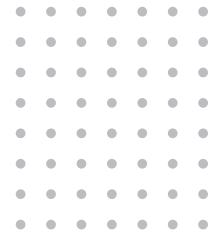
2023 ANNUAL REPORT



CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



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ABOUT US

MISSION, VISION & VALUES



Our Mission

To work in partnership with the community to protect and improve the health and well-being of everyone in Cuyahoga County.



Our Vision

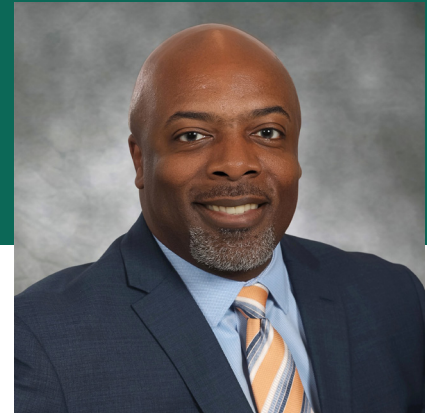
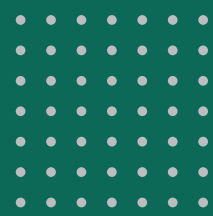
To create the conditions in which all people who live, learn, work and play in Cuyahoga County have the opportunity to be healthy.



Our Core Values

Health equity, integrity, partnership and innovation

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dr. Rod Harris

Looking back at 2023, we had the opportunity to engage our staff, stakeholders and community partners as a collective in agency planning efforts. Based on community input, we have a better understanding of where we fell short, where we succeeded and where we needed to go to meet our goals as a provider of public health services.

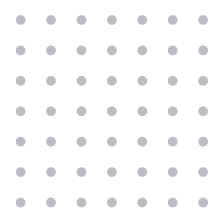
As a complement to the public input, we collected and analyzed a great deal of data to focus our efforts and target areas of need. Local, state and national sources allow us to identify opportunities. We are more capable and efficient when we use available data about past and present performance to inform our future strategies.

We held an all-staff training about equity, diversity and inclusion to create a conversation about where we stand as an agency and how to prioritize equity in all programs. If we intend to improve health outcomes in marginalized populations, we had to come to an understanding about how to engage and enlist support from partners and agencies who regularly work with these groups.

In terms of partners, we have a long list who help us in protecting the health of our residents and businesses, as well as our environment. Many of them are featured in this report for their fine work and continued support. Thanks to these collaborations and relationships, our health improvement efforts are stronger and within reach.

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2023 annual report. Please contact me with any questions or concerns: rharris@ccbh.net.

Best wishes for a healthy 2024.



BOARD MEMBERS



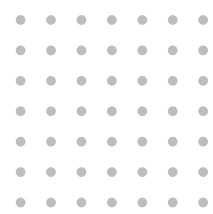
Gregory L. Hall, M.D. • Board President

Gregory L. Hall, MD was appointed as a member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health in 2010 as the first African American board member and has served as Board President since 2020. He has been a practicing internal medicine physician for over 25 years. Hall is the medical director of University Hospital’s Cutler Center for Men and holds the Edgar B. Jackson, Jr., MD Endowed Chair for Diversity and Clinical Excellence. He is an Associate Clinical Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and an Associate Professor at the Northeastern Ohio Medical University. During his time at CCBH, Dr. Hall has guided the agency through critical points in its history, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The leadership demonstrated by Dr. Hall and his colleagues set a tone for the county and enabled CCBH to provide services as never before. While hundreds of thousands of people were impacted countywide, countless lives were saved due to the actions taken by the Board. Dr. Hall was a governor-appointed member of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and was Chairman for many years. His influence, and that of the CCBH Board as a whole, moved the agency to a place where equity is now the foundation of its operations.



Doug Wang • President Pro-Tem

Doug Wang is a retired Senior Vice-President of the Northern Trust Bank, current Board Chair of University Circle, Inc., past Board Chair at Judson Services, Inc., and a board member of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Policy Matters and the Shaker Heights City School District. Mr. Wang received a Master of Science degree in Management with a focus on finance, from the Sloan School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has held top finance positions with Stein Roe & Farnham, American Asset Management, and The First Boston Corporation. Joining the CCBH Board in 2015, Mr. Wang brought a diverse set of skills and experience, which included engagement with public health stakeholders such as schools, financial institutions and policymakers. His financial expertise and leadership has been recognized at many levels, as well as his broad portfolio of volunteer work.



BOARD MEMBERS



Thomas O' Donnell, Esq.

Mr. O'Donnell has served CCBH for nearly 11 years, first as the agency's legal counsel and now as a board member. His broad and extensive background in both legal and municipal matters enables him to offer unique and useful insights about our day-to-day operations.

As in-house counsel, he provided legal advice about contracts, personnel, purchasing and procurement, and regulatory matters. Mr. O'Donnell also worked for many years in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and as the law director for the communities of Highland Hills, North Royalton and Warrensville Township. He served as a trustee and vice-chair of the board of directors for the former Parma Community General Hospital from 2008-2015. He was there during the facility's transition to become what is now known as University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.



Sherrie Dixon-Williams, MD, MHS

Dr. Williams is a Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Chief of the Medicine Service at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She completed her undergraduate and graduate education at Johns Hopkins University and earned her MD from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She completed Internal Medicine residency, chief residency, and fellowship in Pulmonary/ Critical Care at Wayne State University/ Detroit Medical Center (DMC). After spending several years in private practice and 21 years at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland, she joined the VA in June of 2022. She is a respected clinician educator and medical leader with expertise in smoking cessation, sarcoidosis, and critical care. Dr. Williams is a strong advocate for health equity. In her spare time, she enjoys family, cooking and traveling.

FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT

DEBBIE MOSS RETIRES

After 19 years of public health service, which included a firsthand view of issues such as [H1N1](#), [Zika](#), the re-emergence of [measles](#), [Mpox](#) and the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), Debbie Moss decided to make room for the next person to fill her seat. Her retirement in 2023 was a testament to not only her longevity, but also the quality of service she provided.

“The experience she brought was of great value as she already had familiarity with our agency prior to joining the board. Her willingness to get involved and be engaged contributed to the agency’s evolution and expansion over the past several years,” said Dr. Harris.

Ms. Moss was a member of the legal staff of the Dalad Group, an operator and developer of commercial real estate, for many years and served as its Associate General Counsel. She joined the CCBH Board in 2004, becoming Board President in 2010.

She fondly recalled the earlier years of her tenure when board meetings were also places for in-depth discussion and exchanging of ideas, less affected by the pressures of consent agendas and quick contractual turnarounds.

“I enjoyed the interaction with staff members and learning more each month about their work and how it supported the larger structure. As it is now, we were doing great work on behalf of our communities and there were many great stories and health outcomes to share.”

Highlights of her time with CCBH include assisting with emergency preparedness activities, particularly setting up the points of dispensing (POD) locations during the H1N1 outbreak of 2009.



“It was fascinating to see everyone mobilize and know exactly what to do. You could see the value of the training and drilling that had taken place long before this outbreak occurred. There was a tangible sense of gratitude from the public for the services we provided during that time and I took great pride in that. It was evidence of who we were and what we did.”

Having served the county during a worldwide pandemic, she noted that the last few years have been difficult but rewarding.

“All of us having to deal with isolation, quarantine and social distancing as a part of our everyday lives was very problematic. As the board of health, we had to make decisions that were in the best interest of the general public while knowing how tough it was for many people to get by on a daily basis. However, also knowing that behind the scenes, we were saving countless lives and keeping the public informed and protected as best we could, that was truly gratifying. I thought it was great to be able to support our county like that.”

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Health Commissioner
Roderick Harris, DrPH



**Epidemiology,
Surveillance &
Informatics**
Takisha Fuller, MPH



**Communications
Officer**
Kevin Brennan, MPH



**Equity, Diversity
and Inclusion**
Andre Brown, PhD, MPH



**Environmental
Public Health**
Rick Novickis, MPH, REHS



Finance
Judy Wirsching, BBA



**Environmental
Public Health**
John Sobolewski, REHS



Finance
Wedad Alhamwi, BA



**Epidemiology,
Surveillance &
Informatics**
Jana Rush, MPH, MA



**IT Manager/Network
Administrator**
Ken Uhlik

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Legal Counsel
John Mills, JD



Operations
Erik Hamilton, MBA



Medical Director
Prakash Ganesh, M.D., MPH



Organizational Development
Rebecca Burke, BA, PHR



Nursing & Clinical Services
Brandy Eaton, BSN, RN



Organizational Development
La'Keisha James, MPH



Nursing & Clinical Services
Amy Geiss, RN



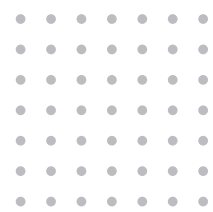
Population Health
Martha Halko, MS, RD, LD



Operations
Joseph McRae, MPA



Population Health
Zachary Levar, MPH



STAFF

BY THE NUMBERS

Workforce

Employees **180**

Education Level

HS Diploma **22**

Associate Degree **15**

Bachelor's Degree **87**

Master's Degree **52**

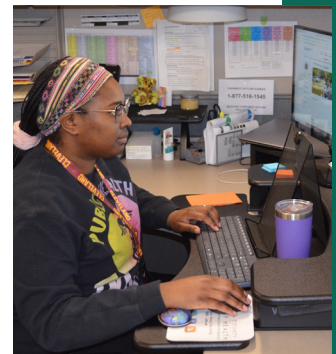
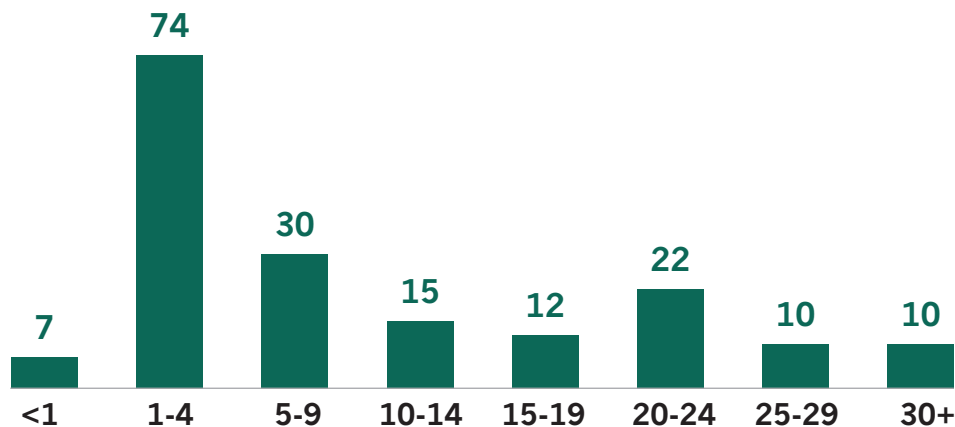
Juris Doctor **1**

Doctorate Degree **3**



Years of Experience

■ Number of employees





CCBH CLINIC

Providing low to no-cost services

Parma location

5550 Venture Drive

Warrensville Heights location

4200 Warrensville Center Road,
#344

Contact us:

216.201.2041

ccbhnurse@ccbh.net

2023 Overview

2,584

clients seen

519

flu shots administered

764

clients seen in our
Reproductive/Preconception
clinic

AGENCY SERVICES



Administration

- Communications
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Finance
- Health Commissioner
- Legal
- Operations
- Organizational Development
- Performance and Quality Administration



Environmental Public Health

- Animal Bites/Rabies Prevention
- Beach Water Quality
- Body Art/Tattoos & Piercings
- Drinking Water Quality
- Food Protection
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Mosquito Control
- Plumbing
- Private Water/Wells
- Smoke-free Workplace
- Stormwater Management
- Swimming Pools & Spas
- Tobacco 21
- Vector/Pest Control



Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

- Data analysis, design and management
- Disease and outbreak investigation
- Emergency preparedness and planning activities
- Monitor community-level illness and disease
- Provide emergency assistance and resources
- Real-time response to health threats

AGENCY SERVICES



Nursing and Clinical Services

- Birth control
- Dental sealant program
- Disease investigation services
- Family planning
- Naloxone kits
- Newborn home visits
- PrEP: pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV
- School health services
- Testing – HIV/STI/lead tuberculosis
- Treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Vaccines – adults and children



Population Health

- Child Fatality Review
- Children with Medical Handicaps
- Community health assessment and improvement
- Creating Healthy Communities
- Ending the HIV Epidemic
- Farm to School/Feed Our Future
- Health Equity Strategies
- Maternal and Child Health
- REACH
- Ryan White HIV Services
- Youth Health and Wellness

EQUITY

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

As an agency, we continued to apply and promote the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in a variety of ways. Throughout the year, we modified our internal operations to better reflect its ever-growing impact on our daily work.

Developed analytical tool to ensure the integration of equity into agency policies and procedures

This tool helps to identify differential burdens/benefits for staff in terms of race, ethnicity, income, household status and workplace seniority. We are also emphasizing health literacy and gender-inclusive or gender-neutral language and referring more commonly to job positions rather than individuals.



Enhanced the agency hiring and orientation processes by incorporating equity-based strategies

The intent here is to assemble a diverse and representative workforce that will respond to the development of an inclusive and respectful culture. We are presenting questions during the hiring process related to biases, equity and the ability to navigate and appreciate a variety of perspectives. The concept of Powersharing is also important as it permits and encourages input from all members of the team.

Hosted all-staff seminar about “equity grounding”

Our staff must have the knowledge and resources to integrate equity into all phases of programming and service delivery. Their participation in learning activities help us to build a culture of understanding and improvement. By challenging staff to think differently about the work they do every day, we promote progress and development. We use all-staff meetings as opportunities to build capacity through education and engagement.

Offered regular schedule of learning opportunities for staff and stakeholders

We presented one-hour lunch-and-learn programs for staff and virtual visitors. Topics have included an overview of the social determinants of health, recognizing and eliminating biases, and understanding micro-aggressions.

EQUITY

THE EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Community Advisory Board (EDI-CAB) is a group of community members from different backgrounds whose experiences and knowledge help to strengthen our agency. With the goal of advancing health equity in Cuyahoga County, the EDI-CAB reviews our roster of programs and our levels of service delivery, making suggestions for improvements to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes.

CCBH created the EDI-CAB based on the organization's commitment to using its services and programs to create the conditions in which all people who live, learn, work, and play in Cuyahoga County have the opportunity to be healthy.

To accomplish this goal, we must work in partnership with community members to protect and improve everyone's health and well-being. Our neighbors, fellow residents and those from the business community all have unique perspectives that we hope to amplify and integrate via our EDI-CAB. Through this collaboration, we believe we can make great strides towards eliminating health inequities countywide.

The current members of the EDI-CAB meet quarterly. Their backgrounds include the following:

Personal experiences

- Atheist/agnostic/non-believer
- Faith-based
- Gender diverse (e.g., Transgender, non-binary)
- Impacted by trauma and/or gun violence
- Living with HIV
- Of Asian descent
- Representing a neighborhood-based organization
- Senior/elderly

Professional experiences

- Addiction/substance use
- Community health worker organization
- EDI Director from a managed-care organization
- Emergency preparedness
- Food-related social services
- HIV/STI
- Housing/homelessness
- Human trafficking/sex work
- Juveniles
- LGBTQ population
- Poverty/job skills/employment
- Refugees/undocumented
- Violence prevention
- Water/air quality

The EDI-CAB is actively seeking additional members to increase its diversity of representation. Call 216.201.2000 or email abrown@ccbh.net for more information.

EQUITY

DEMONSTRATING LOCAL LEADERSHIP

ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

June 22, 2023 was a historic day in local public health. County and City of Cleveland leaders met to sign an agreement to end the HIV/AIDS crisis by 2030, signifying another important step in the ongoing collaboration between county and city health agencies.

CCBH was represented by Dr. Rod Harris, Health Commissioner and Dr. Andre Brown, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Others present were Chris Ronayne, County Executive, Justin Bibb, City of Cleveland Mayor, Dr. David Margolius, Director of the Cleveland Department of Public Health, and Dr. José M. Zuniga, President/CEO, IAPAC and Fast-Track Cities Institute.



The agreement is part of a larger effort involving more than 500 cities and counties that have become known as [Fast Track Cities](#). This commitment calls for the sharing of best practices and data while working in partnership with local municipalities and healthcare providers to bring an end to this longtime health crisis.

Fast Track Cities use a “95-95-95” model to represent its goal:

- 95% of people living with HIV (PWLH) are aware of their health status
- 95% of PLWH are receiving antiretroviral therapy
- 95% of those receiving antiretroviral therapy are effectively suppressing the virus

Dr. Harris supported this by saying, “Regardless of where they live or who they are, they should have every opportunity to get tested, know their status, and get medications if they are positive.”

Dr. Brown spoke to those gathered and shared an empowering statement. “We know that Black and brown folks and trans folks are the ones who are most impacted by HIV. We should see them in leadership, they should be the ones making the decisions, they should be the ones telling us what needs to be done. We need to make sure that the leadership reflects the epidemic.”

EQUITY

VACCINE HESITANCY IN ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATIONS

Continuing our work related to vaccine hesitancy, we have partnered with local leaders from the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, including former CCBH Board Member Dr. Ye Fan Wang Glavin, to identify barriers to vaccination within those populations. Our goal was to better understand the reasons and propose strategies to improve vaccination uptake and overall health outcomes.

A major component of the engagement plan was the formation of an AAPI Community Assessment Advisory Group, which represented a cross-section of Asian community leaders and marginalized groups. This assured the effective engagement of at-risk Asian populations and the community-based organizations presently serving them.

Along with the Advisory Group, a Community Health Needs Assessment and focus groups were included in the plan. The Center for Disease Control's Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index and other culturally relevant information were used to determine the best locations for survey collection and interaction.

We collaborated with eight AAPI community leaders (Afghan, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal/Bhutan, Vietnamese) to complete eight focus group discussions and 200 surveys.

We will continue to address AAPI health disparity and access issues in a strategic and systematic manner in 2024. Plans include exploring support for the development of a local Asian Health Coalition and becoming engaged in a pilot program to conduct clinical trials.



Findings

- 48 % of participants had a history of COVID-19 infections
- Nearly 40% of all ethnic subgroups experienced COVID-19 infections
- Higher proportions reported (60%) among Asian Indians and Vietnamese Americans
- All ethnic groups agree that they have experienced some form of racial discrimination

Factors for vaccine hesitancy

- Fear of injections (Filipino, Vietnamese)
- Religious reasons (Filipino)
- Side effects of the vaccine
- Trust in natural immunity (Filipino)

Barriers to healthcare access

- Language barriers
- Lack of knowledge among health care providers about the range of diversity that makes up the Asian population
- Navigating the healthcare system

COMMUNITY

ADDICTION IN OUR COMMUNITY: CREATING A CULTURE OF COMPASSION AND ACTION

As part of the Addiction in Our Community educational series presented by [Stella Maris](#), Dr. Harris was invited to participate in a discussion about addiction and mental health. Federated Church in Chagrin Falls was the site for this informative and engaging session.

Other panelists included:

Kristin Hess, Clinical Education Specialist, Office of Opioid Safety at MetroHealth

Carole Negus, RN, Director of Nursing, Stella Maris

Rose DeRoia, Pharmacist

Attendees learned about the science of addiction, the current state of the opioid crisis, and the effects of stigma upon those affected. Countywide data were presented along with resources for harm reduction and treatment.

“The idea that addiction can happen anywhere and to anyone is very real, as we discussed here tonight,” said Dr. Harris. “It is the same with mental health issues. Removing the stigma around these two subjects is a starting point for healing and recovery. I am encouraged by the fact that the community is open to talking honestly about these problems and is also reaching out to find solutions.”

Under the Overdose 2 Action grant, CCBH staff and community partners distributed 6,124 Naloxone kits to community members, law enforcement and at overdose awareness day events. Learn more about Naloxone and Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) [on our website](#).

COMMUNITY

CCBH CAREER FAIR

During the pandemic, our inspectors found our operators to be struggling, incurring an increased number of violations due to a lack of staffing. In response, we partnered with Ohio Means Jobs and local vendors to organize a one-day career fair at the Independence Civic Center.

This free event offered attendees the opportunity to meet with representatives from several local retail establishments and healthcare organizations. We also provided access to a three-hour food safety education class at no cost, and experts were on hand to assist with resume writing, professional dress and interview skills.

22 vendors were present to interact with jobseekers
17 people were hired as a result of coming to the fair



COMMUNITY

GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

VOLUNTEER PROJECT



Ensuring that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day



COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY WITH SENIORS

Our food protection unit made outreach a focus last year, including providing education to the senior population. Two of our frequently visited locations were the Maple Heights Senior Center and the North Randall Civic Center. Both audiences were very welcoming and eager to learn more about protecting their own health and that of their family and friends.

At Maple Heights, we were joined by Mike Simens, owner of Mr. Chicken, who offered great tips about healthier seasonings and how to safely prepare delicious chicken dishes. Our sanitarians and health commissioner covered the essentials of home food safety and took questions.

The North Randall gathering also featured several food tastings and a discussion about the dangers of opioid abuse. We made naloxone kits and other resources available along with all of our food safety information.



PARTNERSHIPS

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

Each year, our environmental health staff works with several partner organizations and funders to help us maintain a broad schedule of essential programs and services. In 2023, we continued to build our foundation and secure a healthier future for Cuyahoga County by engaging in these opportunities:

Lead Poisoning Prevention

\$4 million from Lead Safe Ohio Program

- Make improvements to 125 residential units, two congregate sites and two daycare facilities
- Focus area is the county's first-ring suburbs

\$125,000 from Ohio Department of Health

- Respond to elevated blood levels (EBL) in children
- Conduct investigations and environmental sampling
- Provide education and resources to manage lead hazards

Lead Safe Cuyahoga

Many homes built before 1978 used paint that contained lead.
Your home may be eligible for **FREE** repairs.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- Open to owners and renters of homes in the targeted cities
- Children five years old or younger living in the home
- Proof of household income

WHAT CAN BE FIXED?

Windows, doors, porches and outside of home based on condition

HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

- Up to \$8,000 of total work per home
- Landlords required to pay a minimum of \$500

CALL 216.201.2000 TO LEARN MORE

TARGET CITIES

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Bratenahl | • Lakewood |
| • Brooklyn | • Linndale |
| • Brooklyn Heights | • Maple Heights |
| • Brook Park | • Newburgh Heights |
| • Cleveland Heights | • Parma |
| • Cuyahoga Heights | • Rocky River |
| • East Cleveland | • Shaker Heights |
| • Euclid | • South Euclid |
| • Fairview Park | • Warrensville Heights |
| • Garfield Heights | |

Cleveland residents - call 216.664.2045 for assistance



CALL 216.201.2000

Talk with a staff member to see if you qualify or scan the QR code to be contacted



PROTECT YOUNG CHILDREN

Lead is toxic to children and can cause learning and behavioral problems.

Call CCBH at 216.201.2041 to have your child tested for exposure.

PARTNERSHIPS

AMERICORPS

A welcomed addition to our agency was our new partnership with ServeOhio and Americorps. This collaboration has proven to be a great resource for us as we look to build capacity within our watershed program.



ServeOhio, which is Ohio’s commission for service and volunteerism, empowers communities to utilize Americorps members and volunteers to address frontline in education, health, economic opportunity and environmental stewardship. ServeOhio is funded by the Ohio General Assembly and the federal AmeriCorps agency, leveraging federal, state and private dollars to operate and fund AmeriCorps state programs.



AmeriCorps service provides countless benefits to the communities where members serve. It strengthens the impact of Ohio’s non-profits and faith-based organizations by building capacity and creating innovative, sustainable programs. AmeriCorps expands educational and economic opportunity for its members while improving civic participation and encouraging community involvement to develop long-term solutions.

NOWCORPS: NORTHERN OHIO WATERSHED CORPS



The two AmeriCorps members serving with us for 2023-24 were connected through the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps). **NOWCorps**, which is managed locally by Tinker’s Creek



Joshua Durr, Americorps; Dr. Robert Brand, CCBH; Taliesin Haugh, Americorps

Watershed Partners, is a program of ServeOhio, Ohio’s Commission on Service and Volunteerism, and AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteering, service, and civic engagement. Joshua Durr and Taliesin Haugh will work directly with Dr. Robert Brand, who is our Watershed Program Manager and in-house climate change expert.

NOWCorps works with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation non-profits to facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management. Specifically, while at CCBH, the NOWCorps members will provide education about climate change and resilience to Cuyahoga County residents who live within communities that are vulnerable to stormwater flooding, involving residents in water pollution clean-up projects.



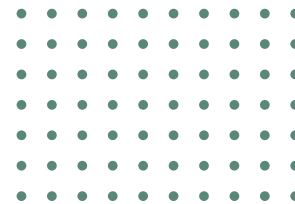
PARTNERSHIPS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

MODEL TREE ORDINANCE

Building upon the [2019 Urban Tree Canopy Survey](#) from the [Cuyahoga County Planning Commission](#), the CCBH Sustainability Committee searched for initiatives that would advance public health and address the county’s loss of tree canopy. With collaborative research from [Case Western University School of Law](#), the committee set out to draft a model tree ordinance that could be used as a template for local governments to adopt and implement. In many cases, cities in our jurisdiction either have no protections in their city laws, or existing laws were drafted decades ago and stop short of the protections needed to truly reverse the trend towards tree loss.

The model ordinance is both modular and scalable, meaning that communities can adopt and use as much of it as they desire. The ordinance strikes a balance between the public interest in protecting the tree canopy and respect for the rights of private property owners. The committee’s goal for 2024 is to increase stakeholder participation with input from local developers and businesses to ensure that the ordinance is as productive as possible.



PARTNERSHIPS

MOTHERS' MILK BANK



As an official drop site, we house a freezer to store donated human milk from approved donors, which is then transferred to the milk bank in Columbus at no cost to the donor.

The OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank, under the guidelines of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA), provides pasteurized human milk to those infants whose parents are unable to provide milk to nourish their babies. It is one of just 30 milk banks in North America – 27 in the United States and three in Canada. The CCBH site marks the 22nd OhioHealth milk drop location in Ohio.

“We are proud to open a milk drop site at our agency,” said Dr. Rod Harris, CCBH Health Commissioner. “Nursing parents will now have a convenient place to drop off their vital gift of donated breast milk to share with infants and children who are the most in need. Across the nation as well as here in Cuyahoga County, babies of color are disproportionately affected by preterm births and infant mortality. The essential nutrition provided by breast milk can support these infants and help them thrive. By becoming a milk drop site, we are able to provide support for families at a critical time. This is an important step in achieving equitable outcomes for all children in our county.”

The milk bank, which is located in the OhioHealth Eastside Health Center in Columbus, relies on donations from healthy, lactating people who generously provide milk to help other babies. Interested donors are encouraged to email milkbank@ohiohealth.com or call 614.566.0630 to arrange a screening phone interview.

Benefits of Breast Milk

Research shows that human milk helps preterm infants:

- Reach full feeds sooner and need fewer IVs
- Mature their intestines faster
- Spend fewer days in the hospital
- Reduce risk of necrotizing enterocolitis (a potentially fatal bowel infection)
- Reduce risk of sepsis (blood infection) and fewer infections
- Experience long-term IQ advantages over formula-fed infants
- Be healthier as older children and adults



Erin Elszasz, CCBH clinic supervisor, Jennifer Foster, Ohio Mother's Milk Bank, Donor husband

PARTNERSHIPS

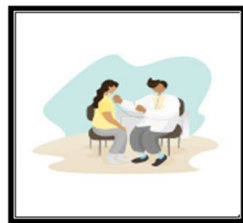
BABY ON BOARD

We are proud to continue our partnership with the [Greater Cleveland Transit Authority \(GCRTA\)](#) and the Cuyahoga [Ohio Equity Institute \(OEI\)](#) Team in presenting the Baby on Board program. This project is designed to address transportation barriers for families in Cuyahoga County who are pregnant and/or caring for children up to 12 months old.

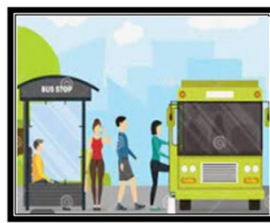
GCRTA was awarded \$500,000 by the [Ohio Department of Transportation](#) to address the social determinants of health in collaboration with OEI, the overall goal being to improve birth

outcomes and reduce infant mortality. After three years of working in the program, we know that Baby on Board is improving access to public transportation and providing more opportunities for families to get to work, medical appointments and other obligations.

Transit passes are made available to eligible families and bus stop locations are renovated for size, comfort and safety. The number of passes distributed began at 112 in 2021, grew to 652 in 2022, and increased to 1,466 in 2023.



28%
used passes
for medical
appointments



43%
take bus daily



24%
walk over 11
minutes to
bus/train stop

To find out if you are eligible for the Baby on Board program, please contact [Neighborhood Leadership Institute](#) Navigation Services at 216.658.1355.



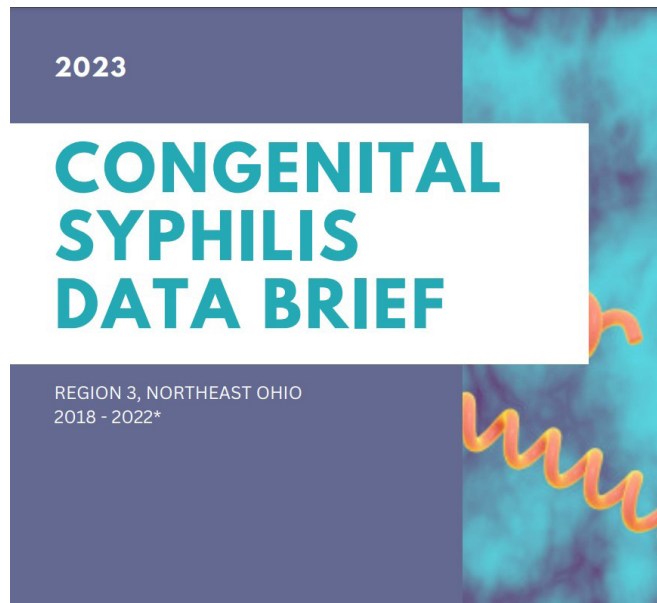
CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

The nationwide increase in [syphilis](#) cases has also led to more babies being born with the disease, which is known as Congenital Syphilis. Mothers pass the infection to their baby during pregnancy when left untreated. If treated before or during pregnancy, transmission of the illness to the baby can be prevented. If not, it can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, and bone/brain/neurological disorders in infants.

Since 2018, we have seen cases in the Northeast Ohio region rise in number at three times the previous rates. In response to this, CCBH founded the Congenital Syphilis Review Board (CSRB). This group is comprised of local infectious disease and obstetrics physicians, disease intervention specialists, epidemiologists and medical services providers. The CSRB meets quarterly to review case history, epidemiological trends, treatment options and other issues that can affect the delivery of care.

Members of the CSRB also act as advocates for education and effective treatment within their respective organizations and professional communities. Points of emphasis include early screening/identification, testing, and treatment during pregnancy.

To support the CSRB and raise awareness, we launched an advertising campaign promoting syphilis screening for pregnant women. Resources and links to healthcare providers are listed on the [Syphilis is Here website](#).



Visit these sources for more information about syphilis in Cuyahoga County:

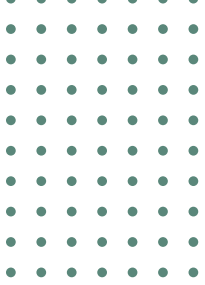
[2023 Congenital Syphilis Data Brief](#)

[Abstract Presentation*](#)

[CCBH HIV/STI dashboard](#)

*abstract written by Alisha Cassady, MPH for presentation at the 2023 American Public Health Association conference



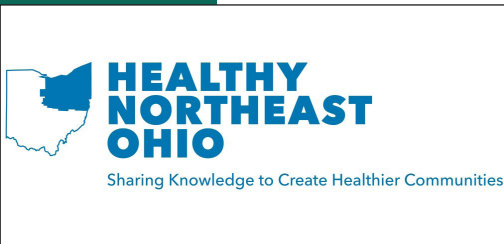


DATA AND PLANNING

THE IMPACT OF DATA

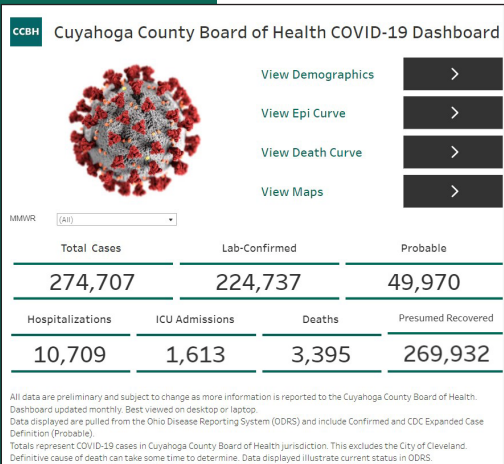
Much like equity, data affect every facet of our work. We collect it and use it to tell stories and demonstrate measurable impact on people and public health. Our data teams provide us with critical information about a range of illnesses and diseases that directly impact our communities.

This past year, we featured several data collections on our website, including a new dashboard:



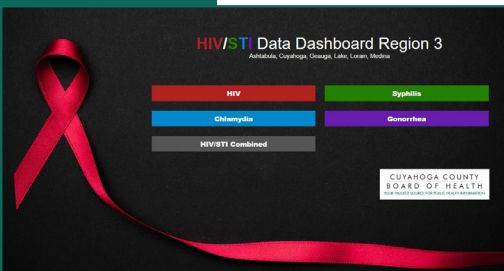
Healthy NEO

The Healthy Northeast Ohio platform can be used to access more than 250 health indicators, evidence-based practices, and information about community health improvement strategies. This innovative platform brings non-biased data and local resources to a single, user-friendly location.



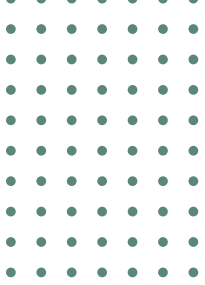
Covid-19

Since 2021, we have monitored covid cases, hospitalizations and fatalities as well as local vaccination rates. To date, nearly 275,000 cases have been documented within our jurisdiction.



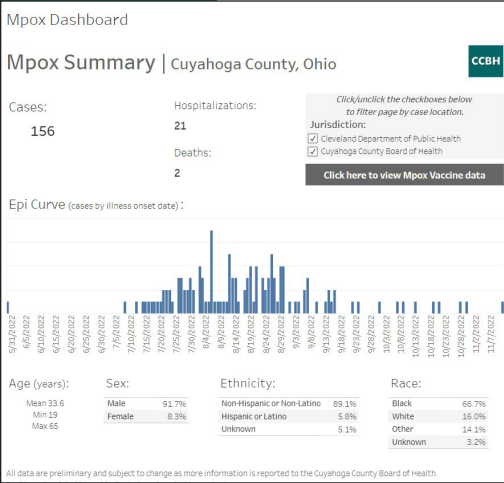
HIV/STI

In 2023, we expanded the range of our spotlighted data by debuting an HIV/STI dashboard. Local information about HIV/AIDS, syphilis and other sexually-transmitted infections is now available.



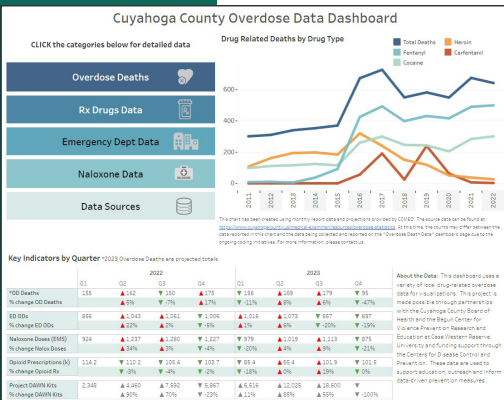
DATA AND PLANNING

THE IMPACT OF DATA



Mpx

The 2022-23 Mpx outbreak brought light to the issues faced by marginalized populations including stigma, access to care and medical mistrust. As a provider of service to all and a resource for reliable information, we felt it was incumbent upon us to share related data in a transparent and user-friendly manner.



Overdose Data

In collaboration with the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University and other community partners, we developed this dashboard to share timely, high-quality, comprehensive local data about drug overdoses. Information about opioid and other drug overdoses includes those resulting in administrations, emergency department visits, and deaths, as well as drug-prescribing and drug lab-testing data.

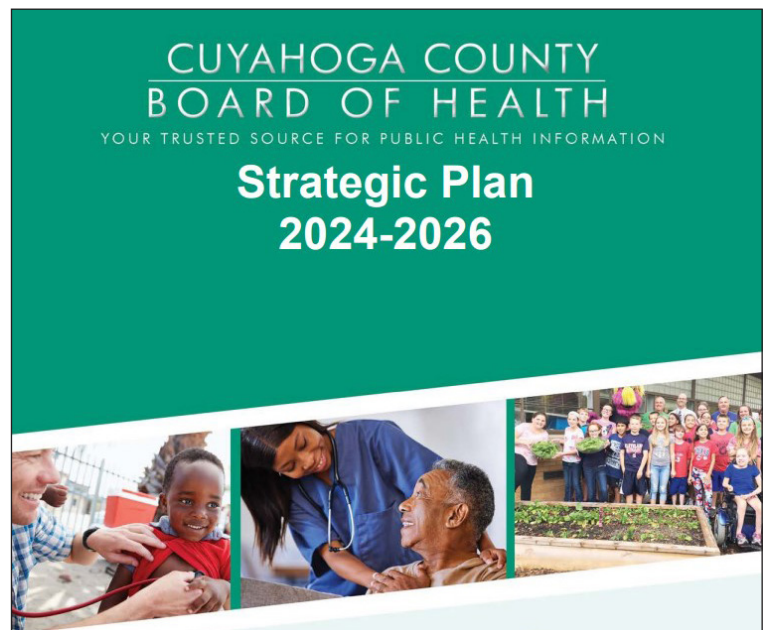
Our leadership team is committed to using data to frame future planning efforts, to engage stakeholders and to illustrate the value of our work to our communities. Data were at the center of many discussions held during our strategic planning sessions. What follows is a summary of our new strategic plan, providing a glimpse into the future of public health in Cuyahoga County.

DATA AND PLANNING

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The year 2023 was an opportune time for us to begin work on our next agency-wide strategic plan. We were coming out of the pandemic, public health had evolved, and the composition of our staff had changed significantly over a three-year period. Taking all of this into account, we moved forward and held the most wide-ranging and participatory planning sessions in our history.

We examined numerous data sources to develop ideas that became the foundations for our respective strategic approaches. This quantitative methodology was complemented by the diverse perspectives and descriptions brought forward by staff and community partners.



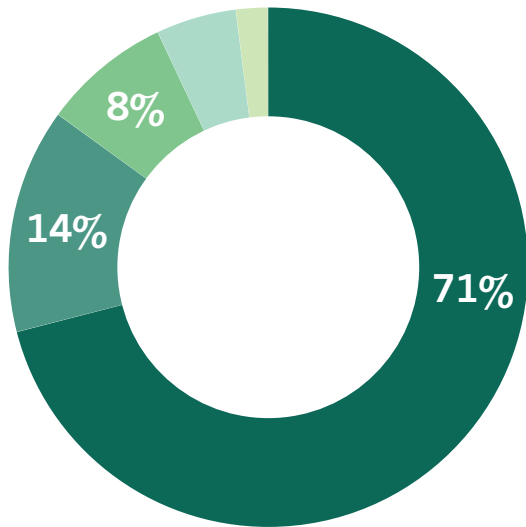
Partial list of objectives from planning sessions:

- Improve community engagement
- Increase interaction with traditionally underserved populations
- Reduce barriers to access and utilization of CCBH resources and services
- Expand staff development opportunities
- Make our data more available to the public

These takeaways and many others were identified as priorities following six months of analysis, discussion, review and revision. After our final session in 2023, we felt as if we had set a direction that better aligned with the needs of our communities, as well as those of our organization.

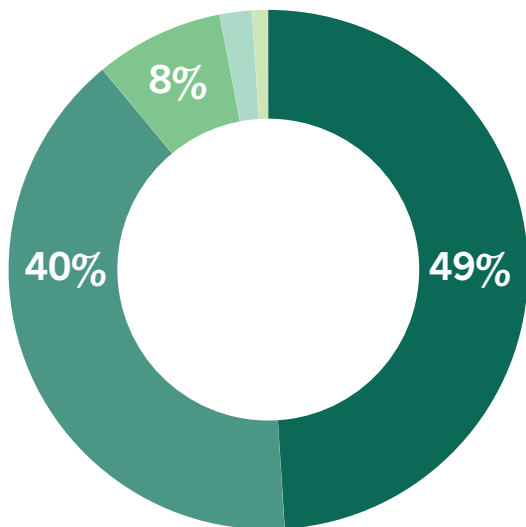
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE



City, Village, & Township	\$5,888,473	14%
Federal, State & Local Funds	\$30,234,363	71%
Licenses, Permits & Fees	\$3,390,658	8%
Charges for Services	\$2,307,941	5%
Other Receipts	\$1,040,131	2%
Total Revenue	\$42,861,566	100%

EXPENDITURES

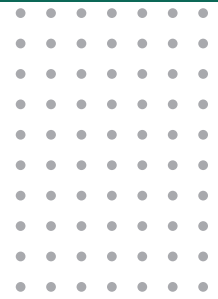


Personal Services	\$15,320,815	40%
Services & Charges	\$2,988,588	8%
Grants & Subcontracts for Services	\$18,935,524	49%
Supplies & Materials	\$957,236	2%
Debt Services	\$469,511	1%
Capital Outlays	\$38,640	0%
Total Expenditures	\$38,710,314	100%

*The surplus in revenue is due to additional grant funds received as well grant expense reimbursements from previous years.



COMMUNITIES SERVED



- Bay Village
- Beachwood
- Bedford
- Bedford Heights
- Bentleyville
- Berea
- Bratenahl
- Brecksville
- Broadview Heights
- Brooklyn
- Brooklyn Heights
- Brook Park
- Chagrin Falls Township
- Chagrin Falls Village
- Cleveland Heights
- Cuyahoga Heights
- East Cleveland
- Euclid
- Fairview Park
- Garfield Heights
- Gates Mills
- Glenwillow
- Highland Heights
- Highland Hills
- Hunting Valley
- Independence
- Lakewood
- Linndale
- Lyndhurst
- Maple Heights
- Mayfield Heights
- Mayfield Village
- Middleburg Heights
- Moreland Hills
- Newburgh Heights
- North Olmsted
- North Randall
- North Royalton
- Oakwood Village
- Olmsted Falls
- Olmsted Township
- Orange Village
- Parma
- Parma Heights
- Pepper Pike
- Richmond Heights
- Rocky River
- Seven Hills
- Shaker Heights
- Solon
- South Euclid
- Strongsville
- University Heights
- Valley View
- Walton Hills
- Warrensville Heights
- Westlake
- Woodmere

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