

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Roderick L. Harris, Secretary



Dr. Gregory L. Hall, President

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING –August 26, 2026

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gregory Hall, President of the Board at 9:03 a.m. in the office of the Board, 5550 Venture Drive, Parma, Ohio, on Wednesday August 26, 2026.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Dr. Gregory L. Hall, Mr. Douglas Wang, Dr. Sherrie Williams. Mr. Daniel Richards arrived to the meeting at 9:05am. The Secretary called the roll. Ayes: Dr. Hall, Mr. Wang, Dr. Williams.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following Motion be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to excuse Ms. Rajki due to a schedule conflicts at the time of the meeting.
Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

The reading of the minutes of the July 22, 2026 regular Board meeting was dispensed with as copies had previously been received by each member. Inasmuch as there were no corrections, it was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the minutes be approved. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following Motion be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend agenda items as highlighted on revised agenda. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Public Comments on Agenda Resolutions Only (three-minute maximum) – N/A.

Review of the Financial Statements.

Michael Pissini, Director of Finance, presented the monthly financial statements. Pissini reported that the agency's financial position remains stable and is tracking favorably against the 2026 budget. Through July, General Fund revenues totaled approximately \$9.48 million, or 60 percent of budget, while expenditures totaled approximately \$8.74 million, or 53 percent of budget,

resulting in a year-to-date surplus of approximately \$737,000 and a General Fund cash balance of approximately \$11.13 million.

Pissini reported that revenue performance remains strong, particularly in Licenses and Permits, which have reached 86.1 percent of the annual budget. Charges for Services and City Contract revenues are generally tracking as expected, although the second City Contract allocation had not yet been received. Staff have followed up with the County regarding the timing of the payment and anticipate receipt of the allocation in the near future.

Expenditures remain below the overall pace of the fiscal year, with total General Fund expenditures at 53 percent of budget. Salaries and fringe benefits are tracking within expectations. Pissini also noted that cash reserves remain strong, with total agency cash, including Special Revenue and Grant Funds, totaling approximately \$14.37 million.

Based on actual activity through July and projected activity for the remainder of the year, Pissini reported that the year-end financial outlook has improved from the adopted budget. General Fund revenues are projected at approximately \$15.57 million and expenditures at approximately \$15.18 million, resulting in a projected year-end surplus of approximately \$385,000. This represents an improvement of approximately \$1.05 million compared to the originally budgeted deficit of approximately \$663,000.

Legislative Updates

John Mills, General Counsel, presented a legislative update regarding Ohio Administrative Code 4729:9-1-01.1. Mr. Mills reported that the rule, promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy, would classify synthetic kratom products and certain forms of natural kratom as controlled substances, making their possession and sale subject to criminal penalties.

Committee Reports

Diversity and Finance Committees will report at the September Board meeting.

Approval of Resolutions/Motions:

REGULAR ACTIONS OF THE BOARD:

Thomas Fink, Deputy Director of Environmental Health, introduced Resolution 2026-069 stating this contract will provide funding to be used in conjunction with CCBH's HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant. East Cleveland will use their Community Development Block Grant dollars to provide up to \$50,000 per year, for 4 years, to be used as landlord match dollars on lead construction projects. When the cost of construction for a property in East Cleveland exceeds the grant's cap, East Cleveland will provide up to \$5,000 per foundation to offset the amount applied to the home owner.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-069 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter intro and execute a contract with the City of East Cleveland under HUD 2026 Community Development Block grant from July 3, 2026 through December 31, 2030 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries

Mr. Fink introduced Resolution 2026-070 and stated that the resolution would provide funding to the City of Cleveland Heights through the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant. Fink noted that the City of Cleveland Heights has been a valuable partner in lead hazard reduction efforts. The funding will support the remediation of up to 80 homes and will also cover administrative costs associated with managing the program.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-070 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with the City of Cleveland Heights under the 2026/2030 HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant from march 2, 2026 through March 4, 2030 in an amount not to exceed \$1,160,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Michele Benko, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-071 and stated that the resolution would authorize acceptance of funding from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) for the Every Baby Sleeps Program, formerly known as the Cribs for Kids Program. Benko noted that the funding amount reflects a decrease of \$15,000 from the previous funding period. Benko explained that the program aims to reduce sleep-related infant deaths by assisting clients in creating safe sleep environments and providing education on safe sleep practices. The program is supported through partnerships with 34 organizations, including six of the seven local hospital systems. In response to a Board member's question regarding the remaining hospital system, Benko stated that Southwest General Hospital is not currently participating in the program.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-071 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Every baby Sleeps Safe (EBSS) grant funding from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth from the date when the contract is signed through June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$212,850.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Erin Lark-Turcoliveri, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-072 and stated that the resolution would authorize acceptance of new funding from Gilead. Lark-Turcoliveri explained that the funding will be used to identify, reengage, and link individuals living with HIV who have fallen out of care or have not recently received HIV-related medical services. The funding will support ongoing efforts to connect clients with appropriate care and improve continuity of treatment.

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-072 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept the 2026/2027 Relink HIV Pathways to Care grant funding from the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Michele Benko, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-073 and stated that the contract with Birthing Beautiful Communities will provide maternal mental health services for pregnant and postpartum individuals. Benko explained that services will address concerns such as stress, depression, panic, and fear, and will be available through pregnancy and for up to one year following childbirth.

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-073 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to enter into and execute a contract with Birthing Beautiful Communities under the 2025/2027 Maternal Behavioral health Support program (Peer) grant from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

Anastassia Idov, Program Supervisor, introduced Resolution 2026-074 and stated that the funding represents carryover funds from unobligated grant funds remaining from the 2025-2026 program year. Idov explained that the program distributes more than \$4 million annually and that the carryover process allows unobligated funds to be redirected when all grant funds cannot be fully expended during the grant period. Idov further stated that the carryover funding will be used to support essential services, including Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services and Food Bank services.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-074 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Authorize the Health Commissioner to accept additional 2026/2027 Ryan White (HIV Emergency Relief) grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$144,200.00 (Resolution 2026-013 & 2026-050). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-076 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Honor Ken Uhlik for 24 years of dedicated public health service to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

BOARD ORDERS, RULES, FEES OR REGULATIONS

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-077 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Grant a variance from Ohio Administrative Code 3701-31-04(B)(6)(S) for the City of Cleveland Heights, Cumberland Pool at 1740 Cumberland Road., Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Ayes: 3, Nays: None, Abstained: Dr. Williams, motion carries.

It was moved by Dr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-078 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to Grant a variance from Administrative Code 3701-31-04(B)(6)(S) for the City of South Euclid, Bexley Park Municipal Pool at 1630 Wrenford Road, South Euclid, Ohio. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

FIRST READING:

It was moved by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wang, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-079 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED to amend the Cuyahoga County Board of Health Provider Fees for clinical services effective October 1, 2026, as an emergency measure (ref. enclosed). Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

SECOND READING:

None

THIRD READING:

None

It was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Hall, that the following RESOLUTION 2026-080 be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that approval be given of the Consent Agenda as set forth in the attached schedules:

- Schedule A Appropriation Measures.
- Schedule B Cash Transfers.
- Schedule C Routine Personnel Actions.
- Schedule D Employee Training and Travel Expenses.
- Schedule E CRC Report and Other Contracts.

Ayes: 3, Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Richards, motion carries.

Reports and Presentations –

Infectious Disease Update - See Full report attached.

Presentation for 2026: Violence Prevention

Vino Panakkal, Daniella, Saul, and Jana Rush gave a presentation on Violence Prevention. Following the presentation, Board members discussed violence prevention, suicide prevention, and related public health interventions.

Board President Dr. Hall commented on the impact of homicide on Black men and expressed concern regarding barriers to accessing emergency care, including extended wait times and hospital closures. Hall inquired about opportunities to better educate health care providers regarding these challenges.

Dr. Williams commended the presentation and asked how violence prevention efforts are being addressed in East Cleveland. Williams emphasized the importance of equitable interventions and inquired about collaboration with jurisdictions outside CCBH's direct service area. Williams also highlighted the elevated risk of suicide among older White males and suggested exploring partnerships with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), noting the VA's resources,

data, and regional reach across Northeast Ohio.

Dr. Harris, Health Commissioner, stated that CCBH is partnering with Myesha Watkins on violence prevention initiatives focused outside the City of Cleveland and reported that current efforts include hospital-based intervention programs and court mentoring initiatives. Suzanne Hrusch, Director of External Affairs, added that CCBH has conducted community outreach events in East Cleveland, including family resource events, gun lock and gun safe giveaways, and firearm safety training. Hrusch noted that six priority areas have been identified for targeted outreach over the next six months.

Jana Rush, Director of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics, discussed the potential development of a regional resource database for use across counties. Vino Panakkal, Epidemiology Supervisor, offered to assist in establishing connections with potential partners identified by Board members.

Dr. Ganesh inquired about the availability of data identifying where violent incidents occurred. Daniella Saul, Epidemiologist, explained that available data are primarily based on patient information and that some geographic information reflects hospital locations rather than incident locations. Panakkal noted that violence data may be more accurately analyzed at the municipal level than by ZIP code.

Mr. Richards expressed concern regarding perceptions of increasing crime and requested additional information regarding the geographic and temporal distribution of violent incidents. Panakkal noted that the City of Cleveland Police Department maintains a public-facing crime dashboard and reported that previous attempts to obtain additional information directly from the department had not received a response.

Health Commissioner's Report – See Full Report Attached.

Public and Staff Comments (three-minute maximum) – N/A.

Miscellaneous Business –

None

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Wang, seconded by Dr. Williams, that the following Motion be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30am. Ayes: All, Nays: None, motion carries.

SCHEDULE A
APPROPRIATION MEASURES

Budget Establishment(s):

- A. Establish a budget for the 2026/2030 Community Development Block (CDBG) grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 (ref. enclosed).
- B. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Every Baby Sleeps Safe (EBSS) grant in the amount of \$212,850.00 (ref. enclosed).
- C. Establish a budget for the 2026/2027 Relink HIV Pathways to Care grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 (ref. enclosed).

2. Budget Revision(s):

- D. Budget revision for the 2025/2026 ODH Bathing Beach Monitoring and Notification Program grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- E. Budget revision for the 2024/2025 Cribs for Kids grant to redistribute funds and decrease the budget by \$675.00 (ref. enclosed).
- F. Budget revision for the 2026 Dental Sealant grant to increase the budget by \$9,051.80 (ref. enclosed).
- G. Budget revision for the 2025/2027 Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- H. Budget revision for 2025/2026 HIV Prevention grant to decrease the budget by \$11,755.09 and redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- I. Budget revision for the 2025/2027 Maternal and Infant Vitality (MIVI) grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- J. Budget revision for the 2025 NACCHO Flexed grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- K. Budget revision for 2024/2025 Newborn Home Visiting grant to decrease the budget by \$69,462.09 (ref. enclosed).
- L. Budget revision for the 2025/2026 Maternal Behavioral Health Support Program (PEER) to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- M. Budget revision for the 2026/2027 Ryan White (HIV Emergency Relief grant) to increase the budget by \$144,200.00 (ref. enclosed).
- N. Budget revision for the 2024/2026 USDA Farm to School grant to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).
- O. Budget revision for the 2026 Youth Health & Wellness General Revenue Fund to redistribute funds (ref. enclosed).

SCHEDULE B
CASH TRANSFERS

1. Operating Transfer(s):

- A. Operating transfer from the General Fund to the 2024/2026 USDA Farm to School grant in the amount of \$29,028.75 (ref. enclosed).

2. Residual Equity Transfer(s):

None

SCHEDULE C
ROUTINE PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Unless otherwise specifically indicated, said appointments shall be effective as of the beginning of the next pay period following completion and satisfaction of any post offer requirements and signature as determined by the Director of Organizational Development.

1. Ratify Appointment(s):

- a. Robert Tennent, IT Systems Administrator, Pay Grade G, \$76,093.00 annually, effective August 10, 2026.
- b. Tara Arrington, EDI Program Manager, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually, effective August 24, 2026.

2. Appointment(s):

- c. TBD, Administrative Services Supervisor, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually.
- d. TBD, Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT), Pay Grade C, \$43,991.00 annually.
- e. TBD, Public Health Nurse, \$51,772.50 annually.
- f. TBD, Grant Program Manager, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually.
- g. TBD, Grant Program Manager, Pay Grade E, \$57,811.00 annually.
- h. TBD, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, \$43,991.00 annually.
- i. TBD, Outreach & Linkage Liaison, Pay Grade C, \$43,991.00 annually.

3. Seasonal Appointment(s):

- j. Correction to April 1, 2026 Schedule C – item 3.e. – from Evan Hartman, Student Environmental Worker, \$15.00/hour, effective May 18, 2026 through August 7, 2026 to Evan Hartman, Student Environmental Worker, \$15.00/hour, effective May 18, 2026 through August 5, 2026.
- k. Correction to April 1, 2026 Schedule C – item 3.h. – from Hayden McGee, Student Environmental Worker, \$15.38/hour, effective May 18, 2026 through August 7, 2026 to Hayden McGee, Student Environmental Worker, \$15.38/hour, effective May 18, 2026 through August 21, 2026.

4. Promotion(s):

- l. Devland Culliver, Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), Pay Grade D, \$50,420.00 annually, effective September 7, 2026.

5. Resignation(s):

m. Oluwaferanmi Akinyemi, Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT), effective August 6, 2026.

n. Arealia Warren, Public Health Nurse, effective August 7, 2026.

6. Position Complement Revision(s):

o. Grant Program Manager – from 13 to 15 FTEs – effective August 26, 2026 (ref. enclosed).

p. Outreach & Linkage Liaison – from 5 to 9 FTEs – effective August 26, 2026 (ref. enclosed).

q. Public Health Nurse Supervisor – from 3 to 4 FTEs – effective August 26, 2026 (ref. enclosed).

SCHEDULE D
EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Administration

None

Environmental Public Health

None

Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics

- a. Sarah Szabo and Samantha Smith to the Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA) Northeast Ohio Fall Conference: October 13-14, 2026. Twinsburg, OH.
- b. Takisha Fuller to Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) fiscal training; October 26-28, 2026, Dublin, OH.
- c. Takisha Fuller to Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) Fall Conference; September 20-23, 2026, Dublin, OH.
- d. Lewis Davis, Cherron Smith, Lithmini Silva, Sara Meckley and Laura Cerrito to Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) New Employee Training; November 3-4, 2026, Delaware, OH.

Nursing & Clinical Services

None

Population Health

- e. Michele Benko, Erin Dodds, Krystal Franklin, Holly Galicki, Kristyn Hajduk to the 2026/2027 Every Baby Sleeps Safe program meetings: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.
- f. Sonji Deal, Erin Janowski, Erin Lark Turcoliveri, Brian Lutz to the 2026/2027 Relink HIV Pathways to Care program meetings: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.
- g. Michele Benko, Erin Dodds, Krystal Franklin, Holly Galicki, Kristyn Hajduk to the 2026/2027 Community and Faith Based Infant and Maternal Health Support (Fyc - Count The Kicks) program meetings: January 28, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Various locations in Ohio.
- h. Brittanie Evans to the 2026 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment: August 3 – 7, 2026. Washington, D.C.
- i. Michele Benko, Krystal Franklin, Kristyn Hajduk to the 2026 National Cribs for Kids Conference: September 29 – October 2, 2026. Pittsburgh, PA.
- j. Martha Halko to the Infant Vitality Advocacy Day: September 29, 2026. Columbus, OH.

*Professional education under ONA contract.

SCHEDULE E
CRC REPORT AND OTHER CONTRACTS

A. CRC Report

1. July 21, 2026 1st CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-075 Administration Services submitting a no cost addendum to the contract with CORE to document that CORE will create three clinic payment items that share a single MID; adding the two additional items requires development beyond the original TSA scope.

CRC 2026-076 Epidemiology Surveillance and Informatics Services submitting a Mutual Aid Agreement with Northeast Ohio Regional Boards of Health and/or City Health Districts to provide additional environmental health, nursing, and other public health services to one another when responding to a public health threat upon execution and indefinitely. No Exchange of Funds.

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

CRC 2026-077: Cleveland Metroparks CanalWay Center- amount to be paid not to exceed \$467.50.

CRC 2026-078: A. J. Boggs & IXN, Inc.- to increase the amount to be paid from \$43,309.00 to \$92,703.00.

CRC 2026-079: Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services- to increase the contract amount from \$15,009.00 to \$54,676.00.

CRC 2026-080: The Centers- to increase the amount to be paid from \$1,500.00 to \$5,000.00.

CRC 2026-081: MetroHealth System Syringe Program- amount to be paid not to exceed \$40,000.00.

CRC 2026-082: Pluralsight- amount to be paid not to exceed \$2,260.00.

2. August 4, 2026 2nd CRC Meeting (ref. enclosed):

No Exchange of Funds

CRC 2026-083 Population Health submitting Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with the following agencies under the 2026/2027 Ending the HIV Epidemic/CDC (EHE Prevention) grant from August 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027 to distribute HIV self-test kits. No exchange of funds.

AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland

Haus of Transcendent

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

Save Our Families

University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Special Immunology Unit

We Think 4 A Change, Inc.

CRC 2026-084 Environmental Public Health Services submitting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following community to provide Phase II Stormwater services as part of the NEORSD Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP) from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030. No Exchange of Funds.

Village of Cuyahoga Heights

Contract Approvals and Authorizations

None

B. Other Contracts



ESI August 2026 Board Highlights

Infectious Disease (Communicable Disease including Respiratory)

Cyclosporiasis Outbreak-

National Overview

- Since May 2026, the United States has experienced a large, ongoing outbreak of cyclosporiasis.
- Since May 1, 2026, CDC has received reports of 17,180 laboratory-confirmed, domestically acquired cases of cyclosporiasis. For comparison, 1,180 cases were reported in the United States between May 1 and August 31, 2025.
- A total of 922 hospitalizations and 2 deaths have been reported.
- Cases have been reported in 48 states and the District of Columbia, with Midwestern states, particularly Ohio and Michigan, experiencing a substantial proportion of confirmed cases.
- The outbreak has been linked to iceberg lettuce distributed by Taylor Farms.
- On July 17, 2026, Taylor Farms initiated a voluntary recall of affected lettuce distributed across 27 states.

Local Overview

- CCBH activated a partial Incident Command System (ICS) on July 14, 2026, to support the coordinated investigation and response to locally reported cases associated with the national outbreak.
- As of August 25, 2026, Cuyahoga County has reported 1,495 cases of cyclosporiasis since June 1, 2026, including 1,176 cases reported by CCBH and 319 cases reported by CDPH. By comparison, only 12 cases were reported countywide between 2020 and 2025, most of which were associated with travel, highlighting the unprecedented scale of the current outbreak.
- CCBH has attempted to contact 98% (n=1,140) of reported cases.
- To date, 58% (n=679) of reported cases have completed the illness questionnaire through either a staff-conducted interview or the electronic self-completion survey.

- Among individuals who completed the illness questionnaire, 65% (n=442) were interviewed by staff, while 35% (n=237) completed the electronic self-completion survey.
- To support an effective and coordinated outbreak response, the Operations Section activated multiple response branches. These branches provided focused oversight of key response functions, strengthened coordination across internal and external partners, and supported achievement of operational objectives throughout the incident.
- As of 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026, ICS was deactivated, and Tactics, Call Center, Planning, and Unified Command functions were demobilized.
- The decision to demobilize the ICS response was based on the sustained decline in newly reported cases, with case volume decreasing to an average of approximately 7 new cases per day during the prior week. This level of activity was determined to be manageable within ESI's routine surveillance operations, while maintaining the ability to reactivate response functions if case volume increases.
- An ICS hotwash, which is an immediate, informal debrief held right after an Incident Command System (ICS) operation, training exercise, or emergency response, was conducted on Monday, August 24, 2026, from 9:00–10:30 a.m. Unified Command and all activated branches participated to identify response strengths, areas for improvement, and actionable recommendations to inform follow-up activities and response documentation.
- The Epidemiology Response Report is expected to be completed within 60 days of August 24, 2026.
- Preparedness activities will conclude within 90 days of August 24, 2026, including completion of the After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP).
- A final draft of the AAR/IP will be submitted to Command for review and approval no later than November 14, 2026.
- CCBH will continue to monitor case activity. If a significant increase or surge in cases occurs, response activities will be reassessed and reactivated as operationally appropriate.

Cyclosporiasis Response- Epi data branch

Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith served as Epidemiology Data unit lead for the Cyclosporiasis outbreak, coordinating surveillance data analyses with Epidemiology Supervisor Vino Panakkal. This assignment included developing and implementing a data strategy in July, overseeing and reporting out weekly Epi briefings in August, and enhancing the public data dashboard: <https://ccbh.net/cyclosporiasis-outbreak-situation-report/>. Data analyses for the outbreak were collaboratively conducted by Epidemiologists Jackie Napolitano, Alisha Cassady, and Daniella Saul, and Data Analyst Svetlana Zelenskiy and involved ongoing case counts, demographic summary, epidemic curves, geographic mapping, clinical characteristics, food exposure assessment, environmental health investigation findings, and syndromic surveillance.

Ebola Disease Outbreak-

Outbreak Overview

- On May 17th, 2026, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern due to an outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, and South Sudan
- This outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus (BDBV), a less common cause of Ebola Outbreaks, historically
- As of August 12, 2025, there have been 4,401 confirmed cases and 2,013 confirmed deaths linked to this outbreak in DRC and Uganda combined

National and Local Situation Report

- The CDC has instituted a 30-day travel restriction for non-US passport holders who have been in affected countries (in addition to South Sudan), and monitoring for any returning traveler
- Individuals permitted to enter are being funneled to 1 of 4 screening Airports:
 - Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), starting Wednesday, May 20, 2026, after 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 - Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) starting Friday, May 22, 2026, after 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 - George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) starting Tuesday, May 26, 2026, after 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 - John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), starting Thursday, May 28, 2026, after 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time [CDC.gov/ebola/National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) 2026].
- Currently, ESI is monitoring 8 low-risk travelers (individuals with travel to an affected country, but without any potential for high-risk exposure)
 - Monitoring periods are 21 days from their presence in an affected location
 - CDC guidelines require 1 check-in at the start of the period, 1 at the midpoint, and 1 check-in at the end
 - The CDI Team has been conducting initial follow-up calls and check in calls based on CDC requirements
- Additionally, 6 low-risk travelers escalated to CCBH by CDC/ODH staff have been cleared from monitoring, to date, without further incident, with the most recent being released from monitoring on 7/22/2026

Regional Measles Outbreak-

Outbreak Overview

- Since Mid-July, there has been an ongoing outbreak of measles affecting several Northeast Ohio jurisdictions
- The initial cases linked to this outbreak were exposed to cases of an out-of-state origin at the Bloomfield Horse Sale in Geauga County

- To date, 10 counties in Ohio have reported a total of 83 confirmed cases: Ashtabula, Franklin, Geauga, Holmes, Knox, Ottawa, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Wayne, and Meigs

Local Response

- To date, 2 local exposure events have occurred in Cuyahoga County
 - 1) On 7/18/2026 an out-of-jurisdiction case was treated at Hillcrest Emergency Department (ED).
 - A total of 18 CCBH contacts were identified related to this exposure
 - 16 of the 18 contacts have provided evidence of immunity
 - The remaining 2 quarantined individuals were released from restriction on 8/8/2026 without developing illness
 - 2) On 8/2/2026 an out-of-state resident who is positive for Measles was visiting a patient admitted to the UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
 - A total of 5 CCBH contacts were identified related to this exposure
 - To date, 3 of the 5 contacts have produced evidence of immunity
 - The remaining 2 individuals without documentation of immunity are under quarantine, and have been released on 8/24/2026

Emergency Preparedness

Executive Summary

Emergency Preparedness and Epidemiology staff continued managing the Cyclosporiasis outbreak response, while advancing preparedness initiatives, training, exercises, and regional partnerships. Outbreak indicators show signs of stabilization, and preparedness efforts remain focused on strengthening operational readiness, communications, and interagency coordination.

- Cyclosporiasis outbreak activity is showing signs of stabilization.
- Investigation performance continues to improve, with interview completion rates increasing and environmental investigations nearing completion.
- Environmental findings continue to point toward a regional or national distribution source.
- Ohio is enhancing tuberculosis response capabilities through implementation of Whole Genome Sequencing technology.
- Emergency Preparedness continues to strengthen readiness through workforce development, regional exercises, cybersecurity planning, and mutual aid partnerships.
- Planning is underway for the October 2026 regional Capstone Drill Exercise to evaluate communications and multi-agency coordination during emergency events.

Cyclosporiasis Outbreak Response

CCBH activated a partial Department Operations Center (DOC) and implemented the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework to manage the cyclosporiasis outbreak. The Emergency Preparedness Team coordinated planning activities, developed and maintained the Incident Action Plan (IAP), facilitated planning and operational meetings, prepared situational reports, and ensured continuity of operations. Team members also supported case investigations, communications, and incident documentation. A Cyclo Hotwash is scheduled to capture lessons learned, with an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) to follow.

CCESAB EMS Committe

The committee withdrew its request for \$1.5 million in funding due to adequate stock replacement. Revised EMS bylaws, including the separation of CDPH and CCBH representation, will be presented at the next full meeting. Additional discussions focused on mass casualty triage tags, prolonged power outage planning, and available county air resources.

Conferences

NACCHO Preparedness Summit 2026:

CCBH Emergency Preparedness staff attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Baltimore, Maryland, April 12-17, 2026. Participation provided access to national best practices, emerging preparedness strategies, and opportunities to strengthen partnerships and inter-jurisdictional collaboration.

Trainings

CCBH Preparedness resumed FEMA training activities to strengthen emergency response readiness. Staff completed the following courses:

- IS-26: Guide to Points of Distribution (PODs)
- IS-120.c: An Introduction to Exercises
- IS-130: Introduction to Continuity
- OH 138 Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) Workshop
- OH 139 Exercise Design and Evaluation

MRC Recruitment Activities

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) continues monthly recruitment, onboarding, POD, and ICS training activities. September Preparedness Month initiatives will include community engagement, preparedness education, website outreach, ODH Virtual Reality POD activities, and a MARCS Radio Workshop to increase awareness and recruit new volunteers.

Drills/Exercise

NDMS / Forward Movement of Patients Full-Scale Exercise:

Preparedness staff and MRC volunteers participated in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. The exercise tested large-scale patient movement operations, interagency coordination, communications, and response capabilities, strengthening regional readiness for disaster response.

BPY2 Capstone Drill

Planning is underway for the October 14, 2026 Capstone Drill, supported by agency-wide Incident Command System (ICS) refresher training. The October 2026 regional Capstone Drill will evaluate redundant communications, risk communication messaging, and coordination among local health departments during a severe weather scenario.

Recent exercise and communications activities included:

- ODH statewide MARCS Radio Check (August 5, 2026)
- CDC "This Is a Test" POD Game (August 5, 2026)
- NDMS EMS and Hospital Alert Calls (August 7, 2026)

Deliverable Activities

The Preparedness Team attended the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) in Columbus, Ohio, supporting key grant deliverables:

- IPPW attendance and statewide preparedness planning
- Completion of the first component of the MARCS Tactical Communications deliverable
- Initiation of FY26 Capstone Exercise planning

CCBH Plans (ANNEXES, ATTACHMENTS - MOU's)

Cybersecurity Planning

CCBH continues to advance development of its Cybersecurity Plan to strengthen organizational resilience, protect critical public health operations, and support continuity of operations during cyber incidents

MAA

CCBH renewed the fifth year of its regional Mutual Aid Agreement with partner health departments, reinforcing collaborative response capabilities across the region.

New Releases (New Reports, Dashboards, Updates, etc.)

Release of Violence Data Dashboard

The Violence Data Dashboard was released on July 14th.

The dashboard includes data from the following:

- Crime and property data from the Ohio Incident Based Reporting System
- Emergency Room data due to gunshot wound/violence, from EpiCenter System.
- Homicide and suicide data from the Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics
- Years of potential life lost (YPLL) due to suicide/homicide
- Community Health Index data from the Conduent Healthy Communities Institute

The dashboard provides stakeholders and community partners with an opportunity to view visualizations showing the connections between violence-related outcomes and social determinants of health, which is key in addressing violence as a public health issue. Visualizations include tooltips providing additional context and data, and visualizations can be exported for use.

The dashboard can be found here: [Violence Data Dashboard | CCBH](#)

Key Findings Include:

- In 2024, emergency departments serving Cuyahoga County residents saw approximately 7,700 violence-related visits, which is a 15% increase from visits in 2022.
- In 2024, in Cuyahoga County, aggravated assaults made up the highest number of violent crime, while larceny theft accounted for the largest share of property crime.
- In 2023, there were 12,625 years of potential life lost (YPLL) due to homicide/suicide. This is a 2% increase from YPLL in 2022.

Infant mortality and pregnancy health report

Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled generated the Cuyahoga County Infant Mortality & Birth Outcomes Data Reports for July & August 2026. The most current includes rolling data for the 12-month period of August 2025 to July 2026. The analyses show that the current provisional infant mortality rate (IMR) for Cuyahoga County is 5.79 per 1,000 live births, a decrease from June's report (6.40). The Black-to-White disparity is at 5.36 however, representing a notable increase (from 3.29 in June). Prematurity rates remain largely stable with 12.1% of births *preterm*, 2.1% *very preterm*, and 0.9% *extremely preterm* overall. Neo-natal vs post-neonatal calculations were also updated, showing 62% of deaths occurred in the neo-natal period.

Pregnancy health measures remained stable with 81% of births in the rolling 12-month period starting prenatal care in the 1st trimester as desired, and only 1% of mothers reporting smoking any time during pregnancy, while 32% experienced a hypertensive disorder (pre-pregnancy, gestational hypertension, and/or eclampsia) and 18% had birth spacing less than 18 months, risk factors for poor birth outcomes. The IMR in the Partner for Change project priority service area (PSA) improved to 15.15 per 1,000 live births and the PSA preterm birth rate stayed at 19.6%. Note all these statistics are preliminary, subject to change, and will continue to be monitored.

Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro presented the July report findings to lead agencies of the Partner for Change initiative at the 7/23 Core team meeting and Samantha Smith will present the August data on 8/27.

FIMR Report

Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro completed the 2024 Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Annual Report in June and it was released in July. The report examines fetal deaths occurring at 20 weeks gestation or later, identifies contributing medical and social risk factors, explores persistent racial and geographic disparities, and presents recommendations aimed at preventing future losses and improving maternal and infant health outcomes throughout the community. In 2024 there were 76 fetal deaths in Cuyahoga County, for a fetal mortality rate of 6.1 per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths. The full report is available here: <https://ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2024-FIMR-Report-final.pdf>

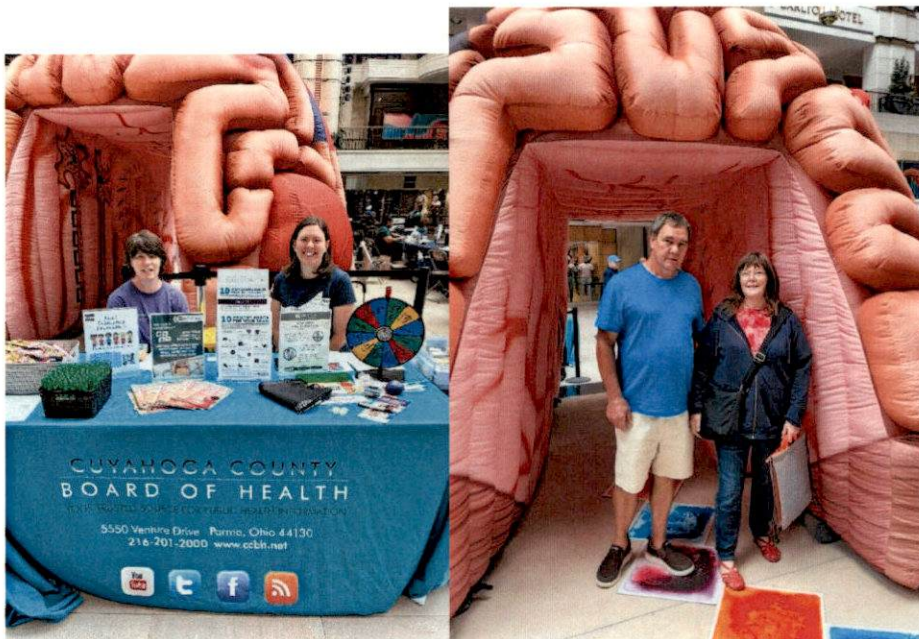
External Engagement (Community events, Presentations/Conferences/Abstracts)

Newsletter content for cities

At the request of CCBH Communications & External Affairs office, Data Analyst Sarah Szabo created content for jurisdiction cities to use in their newsletters. She wrote monthly tips for brain health related to healthy habits promotion such as eating right, challenging your mind, and protecting your head. Each piece of content also linked to CCBH website for further information.

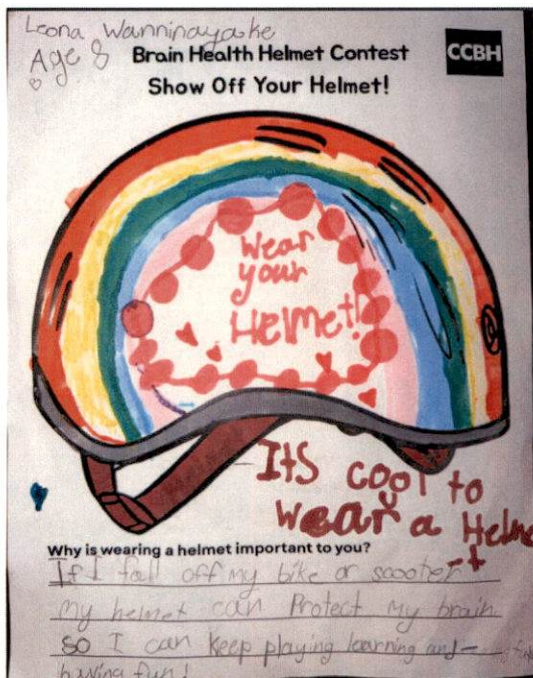
Men's health event

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo and EPH team member Libby Ludtke attended the 2026 Men's Health Summit on 6/27 and promoted CCBH, lead poisoning prevention, and brain health, debuting our inflatable brain exhibit. The large brain was well received, drawing interest and opening dialogue for dissemination of healthy habits and resource information.



Contest to promote helmet safety

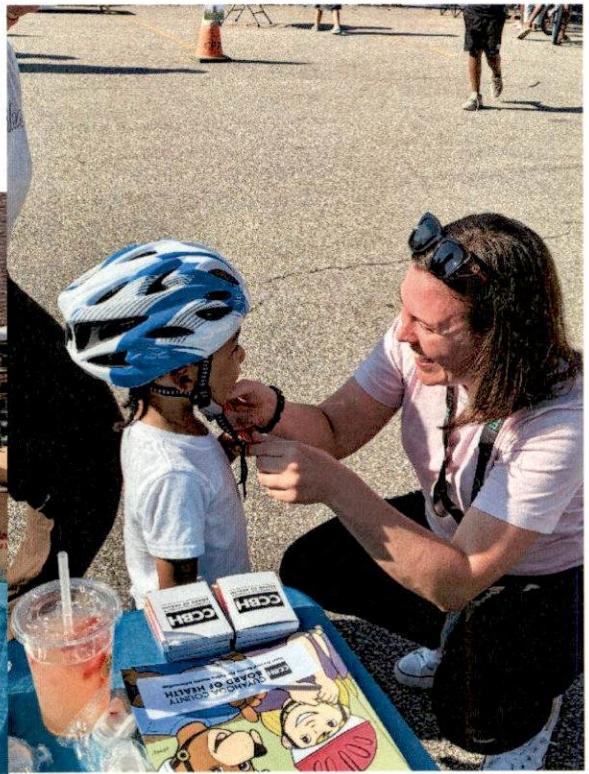
Data Analyst Sarah Szabo worked with a DrPH student, Quintina Sweet, completing her practicum this summer. Among other activities, Sarah supported Quintina in implementing a brain health helmet contest for youth to promote helmet safety. Children in grades K-12 residing in Cuyahoga County were eligible to participate for a chance to win a gift card for bike gear. Participation involved coloring a helmet or submitting a picture of themselves wearing a helmet, and answering the question “Why it is wearing a helmet important to you?”. The contest ran for approximately one month, was promoted at outreach events, libraries, and online, and received 15 entries. Four winners were awarded, one is shown below as an example.



Girls Club partnership

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo and practicum student Quintina Sweet also partnered with the Girl's Club of Ohio to further engage youth around health promotion and injury prevention. They attended the Girl's Club Bike Rodeo on 6/30 and delivered an interactive brain health overview to the families. They also tabled at the event with brain health trivia questions that were a big hit with the young bikers.

After observing that no attendees were wearing helmets at the bike rodeo they followed up by tabling at the Girl's Club of Ohio Resource Fair on 8/4 sharing further information about CCBH and brain health and providing bike helmets to youth at the event.



Senior summer walks

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo, practicum student Quintina Sweet, and Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith tabled at two of Cleveland's Summer Senior Walks in July – at Kerruish Park on 7/22 and Impett Park on 7/29. These events were very well attended by older adults, promoted physical activity, and provided great opportunities to disseminate brain health information to promote healthy aging. The team also distributed pedometers to encourage participants to continue walking regularly for daily exercise.



Senior food box partnership

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo and Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith, along with Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled and Communications team member Maurice Cole, also continued tabling at Cuyahoga County Public Library senior food box distributions in July and August. Specific sites included Bedford, South Euclid – Lyndhurst, and Brooklyn Branches. Brain health information and supportive small branded giveaways were offered to the participating older adults at box pick-up. Approximately 40+ individuals were served at each event.



General CCBH community outreach tabling

Data Analyst Svetlana Zelenskiy (not pictured) participated in tabling for the agency at the Temple Baptist Church Back to School Community Day event on 7/26. She promoted CCBH services with health trivia and small branded giveaways, distributed brain health tip sheets and helmet safety contest flyers, and provided overdose prevention information and resources.



Partner for Change stakeholder meeting presentation

Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith presented an infant and maternal health data update to partners and community stakeholders at the Partner for Change Stakeholder Meeting on 7/6 hosted by First Year Cleveland. Data disseminated included 3-year rate trend analyses of infant mortality and prematurity in Cuyahoga County, including racial disparities and maps, as well as data on the prevalence of hypertension disorders of pregnancy (HDP) and gaps in prenatal care in Cuyahoga County. Preliminary 2025 statistics were also provided. Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled and Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro analyzed and visualized the data included. Key takeaways included 2025 data showing improvement in infant mortality (with an IMR of 7.3 per 1,000 provisionally) but persisting disparities by race with Black non-Hispanic babies still over 3x more likely to die during infancy compared to White non-Hispanic. A need for more focus on preconception care and access to prenatal care was also suggested given around 1 in 3 birth mothers experience HDP and 1 in 5 lack first trimester care.

NACCHO presentations

Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith attended NACCHO's 2026 Public Health Informatics, Surveillance, and IT Conference (PHI*con) at NACCHO360 in July in Louisville, KY. In addition to attending sessions around advancing public health data modernization, including data governance, AI use, CDC updates, and more for professional development, she presented a live-streamed in-person session entitled *Data Modernization in Practice at a Local Health Department: Approached and Lessons*.

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo also attended the NACCHO360 conference virtually and presented an on-demand session entitled *Beyond the Road Map: Integrating sustainable brain health and healthy aging efforts into a local health department when resources are limited* to the national audience.



Drug overdose prevention materials dissemination

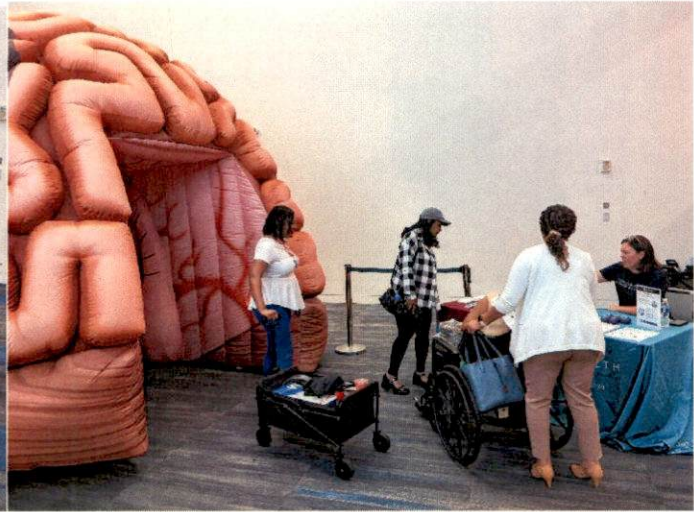
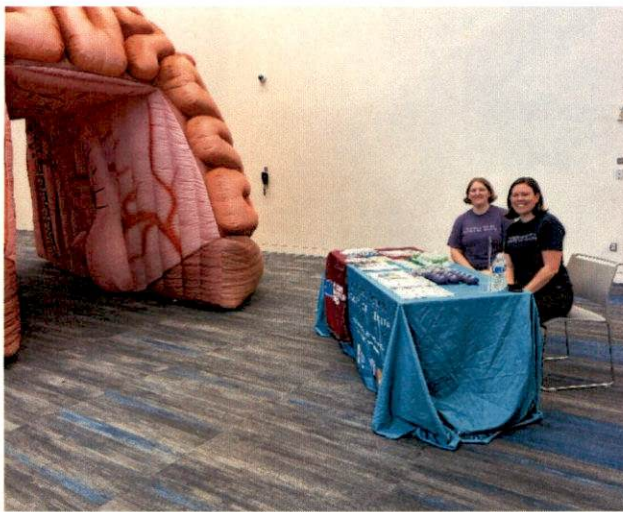
Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith collaborated with CCBH nurses by providing overdose surveillance bulletins and overdose alert sign up cards for the CCBH table at the Project Noelle Back to School Fair on 8/8. Project Noelle is an organization that supports families impacted by an overdose death. NCS team members Carol Bostic and Tammy Redinger worked the event featuring information on CCBH clinic services, maturation insight for caregivers, the CMH program, the lead program, Safe Kids Coalition, as well as distributed Project DAWN kits and information through partnership with OD2A.

Cuyahoga County Fair

ESI tabled for CCBH at the Cuyahoga County Fair on 8/12. Epidemiologist Alexis Ipsaro represented the Data Analytics team and promoted many of the programs and services they support including maternal and child health, brain health, overdose prevention, and the Healthy Northeast Ohio data platform, distributing materials and resources related to these topics and more.

Cuyahoga County Success Fair

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo and Data Analytics Supervisor Samantha Smith tabled at the Cuyahoga County Success Fair at the Cleveland Convention Center on 8/14. Our inflatable brain exhibit was on display at the entrance engaging hundreds of individuals in learning about healthy habits for brain health. Our Healthy Northeast Ohio initiative/data platform was also featured at the CCBH table as well as information and materials related to maternal wellness, infant development and safe sleep, overdose, and community health improvement planning input survey cards.



First Year Cleveland Healthcare Committee presentation

Data Analyst Tatyana Khaled presented an infant and maternal health data update to First Year Cleveland's Healthcare Committee on 8/21. This committee is coordinated by Better Health Partnership and includes physicians from Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and MetroHealth. Newest (preliminary) infant mortality rates, preterm birth rates, as well as data on hypertension disorders of pregnancy and 1st trimester primary care for Cuyahoga County were disseminated to inform intervention planning across systems related to Parter for Change efforts.

Online Engagement (Social Media/ESI Webpage)

New webpage launched

Data Analyst, Sarah Szabo collaborated with Informatician, Gu Ouyang to launch a brain health webpage on the CCBH website. The page describes ESI efforts to date around addressing brain health and healthy aging in our community, shares healthy habits for brain health as well as warning signs for early detection of dementia, and provides links to other data and community resources. View the new page here: <https://ccbh.net/brain-health/>

Social media posts

Q3 Data Days event promotion:

CCBH Cuyahoga County Board of Health
June 29 · 🌐

Please join us for a hybrid CCBH Data Days event on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 focused on exploring the air we breathe and its impact on community health.

This session features insights from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's Environmental Public Health team and the Cleveland Department of Public Health's Air Quality Division. Discover the latest data, trends, and policies shaping air quality in Cuyahoga County. Learn how these efforts aim to protect public health and improve our environment.

View additional details in the event flyer here:
<https://ccbh.net/.../2026/06/Data-Days-Flyer-7.28.26.pdf>

Reserve your spot by registering here
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/.../9134ccb9-d169-4f7c...>

We look forward to having you attend this event! See less

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT CCBH DATA DAYS EVENT

Session Title: Air Quality and Health Impacts in Cuyahoga County

EVENT DETAILS

- Tuesday, July 28, 2026
- 2:30 - 4:00 PM
- Maple Heights Public Library
5225 Library Lane
Maple Heights, OH 44137
- Virtual option also available!

REGISTER HERE

www.ccbh.net/data-days/

QUESTIONS? Contact Us DataDays@ccbh.net Visit Our Website ccbh.net/data-days

CCBH Cuyahoga County Board of Health
July 16 · 🌐

Join us for a hybrid event to learn more about the impact of poor air quality on health, and efforts to address air pollution in Cuyahoga County.

Where/When: Maple Heights Library, 230pm - 400pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2026

To register: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/.../9134ccb9-d169-4f7c...>
#AirQuality #CDPH #CCBH_net #CuyahogaCounty See less

JOIN US for DATA DAYS

Learn from local experts, discover new resources, develop new ideas and gain public health knowledge at this free series.

This quarter's topic
AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACTS IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Join us for a hybrid event to learn more about the impact of poor air quality on health, and efforts to address air pollution in Cuyahoga County. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health will present on our efforts to collect and analyze real-time data on air quality from Purple Air monitors. The Cleveland Department of Public Health, Division of Air Quality will provide an overview of Cleveland's anti-idling ordinance and how they moved it from policy to practice.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 | 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.

Maple Heights Library
5225 Library Lane
Maple Hts., OH 44137
(or join virtually on Microsoft Teams)

Click [here](#) or scan QR code to register

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

Contact Us DataDays@ccbh.net
Visit Our Website ccbh.net/data-days

Helmet safety contest promotion and winners:


Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 July 8 · 🌐

Cuyahoga County Board of Health's

BRAIN HEALTH HELMET CONTEST

ENTER BY AUGUST 1, 2026 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT CARD FOR BIKE GEAR!



CONTEST DETAILS

- Color a helmet or take a picture wearing your helmet and tell us why wearing one is important to you!
- Children in grades K-12 who live in Cuyahoga County are eligible to enter.



4

Like

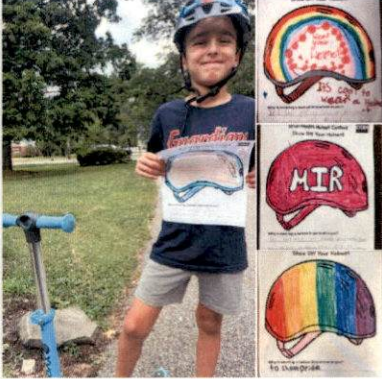
Comment


Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 August 10 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

Congratulations to our Brain Health Helmet Contest winners! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped promote brain health awareness through their creativity. We are proud to recognize this year's winners for their originality, creativity, and commitment to brain health and safety.

Here are this year's winning submissions and the talented individuals behind them!

#CCBHBrainHealth #ProtectYourHead See less



9

Like

Comment

Brain health campaign (student-assisted, sharing 10 healthy habits with data facts, 1 per week mid July – mid Sept):


Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 July 17 · 🌐

🛑 **Protect Your Head — Wear a Helmet, Every Ride, Every Time**

A helmet reduces your risk of brain injury by 85%. Whether you're commuting, cruising the trail, or riding around the block with your kids, buckle up before you roll out.

🔗 Learn more: ccbh.net/brain-health

#ProtectYourHead #BikeSafety #HelmetOn #HealthyBrain See less



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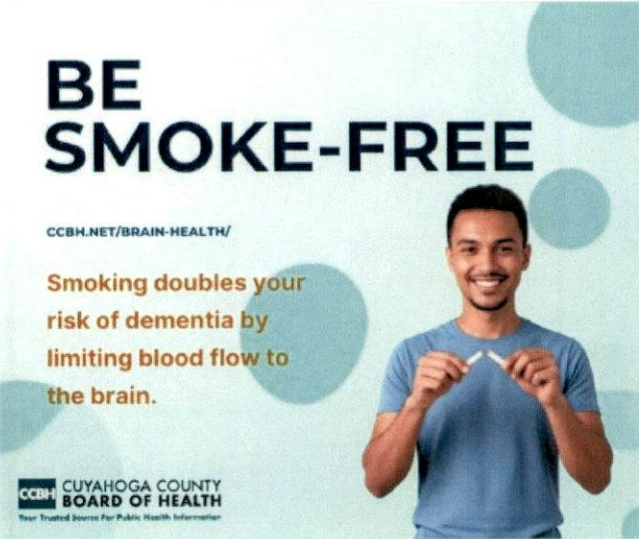

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 July 27 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Your brain will thank you. 🧠💡

Smoking doesn't just affect your lungs — it doubles your risk of dementia by restricting blood flow to the brain. It's never too late to quit.

Learn more about protecting your brain health: ccbh.net/brain-health/

#HealthyBrain #BeSmokeFree #BreakTheHabit #CCBHBrainHealth See less



Like

Comment



Cuyahoga County Board of Health

July 29 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Did you know staying active can protect your brain as you age? ❤️🌱

Just 150 minutes of physical activity a week can reduce your risk of dementia. How are you getting your steps

Learn more about protecting your brain: ccbh.net/brain-health/

#StayActive #GetMoving #HealthyBrain #CCBHBraInHealth See less

GET MOVING

CCBH.NET/BRAIN-HEALTH/

150 minutes of physical activity per week reduces the risk of dementia.

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information



3

Like

Comment



Cuyahoga County Board of Health

August 5 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

What's your favorite way to challenge your mind? 🧠👤

Puzzles and strategy games aren't just fun — they can delay memory loss by up to five years. Small daily habits add up to a healthier brain long-term.

Learn more about protecting your brain: ccbh.net/brain-health/

Tell us your go-to brain game in the comments! 🌟

#ChallengeYourMind #HealthyBrain #MentalFitness #CCBHBraInHealth See less

CHALLENGE YOUR MIND

CCBH.NET/BRAIN-HEALTH/

Puzzles and strategy games can delay memory loss by up to five years.

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information



1

Like

Comment



Cuyahoga County Board of Health

August 12 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Your heart health and your brain health are more connected than you think. ❤️❤️

Keeping blood pressure in check during midlife can lower dementia risk by up to 30% — Book that check-up, take your meds, move your body.

Future-you will thank you. 💙

Learn more about protecting your brain: ccbh.net/brain-health/

#KnowYourNumbers #HealthyBrain #DementiaPrevention #CCBHBraInHealth See less

CONTROL YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE

CCBH.NET/BRAIN-HEALTH/

Managing blood pressure in midlife can cut your dementia risk by up to 30%.

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information



3

Like

Comment



Cuyahoga County Board of Health

4d · 🌐

Managing your diabetes today protects your brain tomorrow. 🧠

Uncontrolled type 2 diabetes can raise your risk of Alzheimer's disease by up to 60%. The good news? Small, consistent steps — monitoring your blood sugar, staying active, eating well — can make a real difference for both your body and your brain.

Learn more about protecting your brain: ccbh.net/brain-health/

#HealthyBrain #DiabetesManagement #AlzheimersAwareness #CCBHBraInHealth See less

MANAGE DIABETES

CCBH.NET/BRAIN-HEALTH/

Uncontrolled type 2 diabetes raises your risk of Alzheimer's disease by 60%.

CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

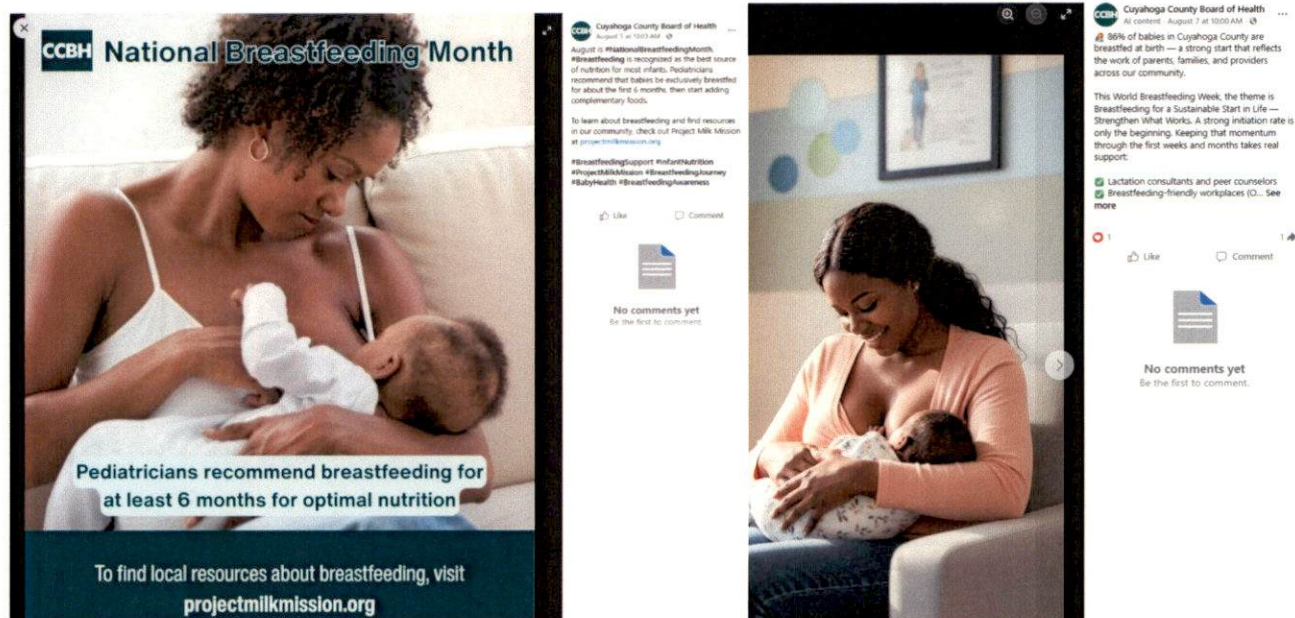


2

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National breastfeeding month observance posts (in collaboration with Population Health):



FIMR report release:

CCBH Cuyahoga County Board of Health
July 17 · 🌐

Every 4-5 days, a Cuyahoga County family experiences the tragedy of a stillbirth.

Cuyahoga County saw 76 stillbirths in 2024—and the risk isn't shared equally across our community. Our 2024 FIMR Annual Report breaks down the data, the disparities, and what we're doing to change it.

📖 Read it, share it, help us change the story:
<https://ccbh.net/.../2026/07/2024-FIMR-Report-final.pdf>

#StillbirthAwareness #MaternalHealth #FIMR See less



Signs of OD campaign (in collaboration with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office):

CCBH Cuyahoga County Board of Health
July 31 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Overdose Doesn't Always Look the Way You'd Expect

Cocaine is now the leading cause of overdose deaths in Cuyahoga County—and it doesn't always take a bad batch or a large amount to cause harm. Stress, illness, lack of sleep, or mixing substances can all play a role.

Knowing the warning signs—racing heart, trouble breathing, confusion, chest pain, seizure, unresponsiveness—can help save a life. The Signs of OD campaign was developed by Cuyahoga County's Medical Examiner's Office in partnership with local [harm reduction and public health organizations] to make sure that information reaches the people who need it.

If you or someone you know uses cocaine, or if you simply want to be prepared to help a friend or family member, signsofOD.org has free resources on recognizing overdose and responding fast.

📍 Learn the signs: signsofOD.org
#CuyahogaCounty #OverdosePrevention #KnowTheSigns See less



2 🍌

👍 Like 💬 Comment

CCBH Cuyahoga County Board of Health
August 14 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Fentanyl Is Showing Up Where People Don't Expect It

Cocaine is increasingly being cut with fentanyl across Cuyahoga County, and 23% of recent overdose deaths involved both substances together. This makes overdose harder to predict—and more dangerous.

That's why Cuyahoga County's Medical Examiner's Office and community partners built this awareness campaign—to connect residents with real, local tools before an overdose happens. Cuyahoga County's Drug Checking Program monitors what's actually in the local supply, searchable by zip code, and free fentanyl test strips and Narcan® are available to anyone in the community who wants them.

Help spread the word—these tools are free, confidential, and could save someone's life.

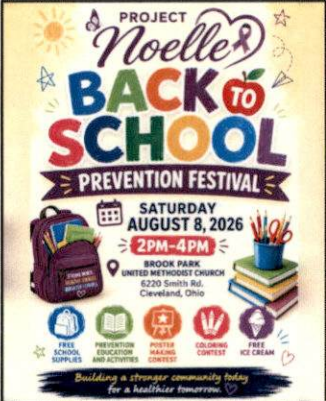
📍 signsofOD.org
#FentanylAwareness #CuyahogaCounty #HarmReduction See less



2 🍌

👍 Like 💬 Comment

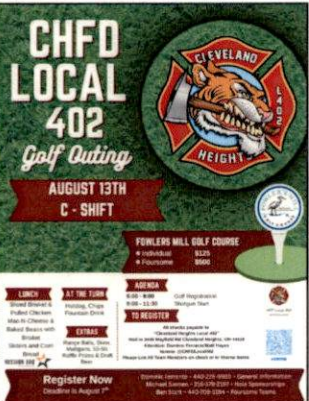
Also promoted the Project Noelle Back to School Drug Prevention Fair as part of OD2A support and preparedness partner Cleveland Heights Fire Department Local 402 Golf Outing at the request of Emergency Preparedness:



PROJECT Noelle
BACK TO SCHOOL
PREVENTION FESTIVAL
SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2026
2PM-4PM
BROOK PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6220 Smith Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FREE EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES
FREE ICE CREAM

Building a stronger community today for a healthier tomorrow.



CHFD LOCAL 402
Golf Outing
AUGUST 13TH
C - SHIFT

PEWLEERS HILL GOLF COURSE
• Individual \$225
• Team \$800

LUNCH
Served 12:00-1:00 PM
Served 1:00-2:00 PM
Served 2:00-3:00 PM
Served 3:00-4:00 PM
Served 4:00-5:00 PM
Served 5:00-6:00 PM

AT THE TIME
12:00-1:00 PM
1:00-2:00 PM
2:00-3:00 PM
3:00-4:00 PM
4:00-5:00 PM
5:00-6:00 PM

ADDITIONAL
• Golf Equipment
• Golf Balls
• Golf Tees
• Golf Clubs
• Golf Bags
• Golf Shoes
• Golf Accessories

TO REGISTER
• Register online at www.chfd402.org/golf-outing
• Call 216-291-2200 ext. 2200
• Email info@chfd402.org

Register Now
Deadline is August 1st

Agency-Wide Initiatives

Q3 Data Days

The Data Days planning team, led by Data Analyst Sarah Szabo, hosted ESI's quarter 3 CCBH Data Days event on 7/28. The topic was Air Quality and Health Impacts and Dr. Robert Brand of EPH and Christina Yoka of CDPH were the speakers. A total of 60 people registered and 34 attended the session, which was converted to virtual due to competing outbreak response needs at the time, nevertheless evaluation feedback was positive, and the topic was seen as very timely given the Canadian wildfires. The session slides and video recording are publicly posted here:

<https://ccbh.net/data-days/>

Chronic disease-related Community Health Improvement Planning

Data Analyst Sarah Szabo was selected to co-chair a strategy of the in-development 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Cuyahoga County. Brain health is being included as a focus of the chronic disease key priority area. Sarah will lead activities of the brain health improvement efforts with Mary Schwartz from the Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter. Their proposed Action Plan will involve community convenings, training, and design and evaluation of a community awareness campaign on dementia risk reduction.

CDC words of concern

In August, OD2A team members received guidance from the CDC to avoid using the following words in any of their products (work plans, reports, etc.) to align with current federal government orders: diversity, equity, gender, hotlines, people who use drugs, and stigma, in addition to harm reduction that was restricted earlier this year.

August 2026 Health Commissioner's (HC) Report

Boards/External Committees:

Attended:

- Two Bi-weekly meetings of the Village of Healing Black Men's Health Advisory Council, and two executive committee meetings
- Two Cleveland Peacemakers, Inc. (CPI) Board meetings

Select Meetings:

Attended:

- Three CCBH Violence Prevention strategy sessions—with CPI & County Office of Violence Prev.
- Two CCBH strategic plan meetings with contracted consultant
- Standing meetings with: Sabrina Roberts, County Executive's Office; Martina Pace, University Hospitals; Dr. David Margolius; and Dr. Karen Hacker, Karen Hacker Health Strategies, LLC
- Ohio Black Child Development Institute's Power-building Fellowship's monthly meeting
- Civil Treatment Workplace for Leaders Training (for CCBH's senior leadership team)

Partnerships:

- HC and Dr. Robert Brand participated in a bi-weekly call with partners from The Ohio State University and the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition regarding the ongoing air quality monitoring project and grant-seeking.

Emergency Response (Cyclosporiasis outbreak):

- HC served as Incident Commander. Attended numerous Planning Section and Operations Section meetings per week. Participated in the "Hotwash" session to officially de-activate the Incident Command Structure for the emergency response.

Population Health (PH)

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Cleveland Guardians Partnership

CCBH, through EHE and LoveLeadsHere.org, continues its partnership with the Cleveland Guardians through the remainder of the regular season. The partnership includes TV-visible signage, five community nights, radio advertisements, and a Concourse TV commercial promoting LoveLeadsHere.org.

National Ryan White Conference

In August, the CCBH HIV Services team attended the National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment. Zach Levar, Deputy Director of Population Health, joined an HRSA panel with Ohio Department of Health and Columbus Public Health colleagues to discuss cross-jurisdictional collaboration to identify and re-engage people with HIV who are undiagnosed or out of care, highlighting Ohio's progress in these efforts.

Child Fatality Review (CFR/FIMR)

The 2025 CFR/FIMR data are being analyzed, with publication on the CCBH dashboard targeted for October 15, 2026. CFR Coordinator Holly Galicki co-authored a cleveland.com article highlighting how CFR data can identify risk factors and inform prevention strategies. The MCH team also participated in a Cleveland.com interview on infant mortality and CFR/FIMR data; publication is pending.

Launch of Count the Kicks Initiative

The MCH team is preparing to launch the local Count the Kicks initiative, an evidence-based program focused on fetal movement monitoring and stillbirth prevention. The initiative will promote the Count the Kicks app among expectant families and train MCH professionals and community partners as Champions to support education and implementation. The goal is to increase awareness of fetal movement changes and promote healthier pregnancy and birth outcomes.

Safe Sleep Cuyahoga

Safe Sleep Cuyahoga, formerly Cribs for Kids, received state funding through the **Every Baby Sleeps Safe (EBSS)** program. The MCH team trained 34 partner organizations on updated requirements and transitioned to an electronic system to improve real-time data access, reporting, and efficiency. The program aims to distribute **1,419 safe sleep kits by June 30, 2027**. Team members will also present the local model at the upcoming Cribs 4 Kids conference in September.

EDI

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

CCBH recently held the first and second meetings of its Employee Resource Groups (ERGs):

- Gender & Sexuality
- New Public Health Professionals
- Race & Ethnicity
- Workplace Accessibility

Key areas of focus identified by the ERGs include:

- Education, awareness, and advocacy
- Professional development and training
- Expanded mentoring opportunities
- Book clubs and media discussions

Workplace Accessibility Capstone Project

Chloe Nace-Rolland (Population Health) recently completed their master's capstone project, with Dr. Brown serving as preceptor. The project included interviews with CCBH staff and leadership to assess:

- Current efforts to improve disability access at CCBH
- Organizational readiness to further advance accessibility and inclusion

Project outcomes included:

- A report outlining opportunities and recommendations to improve disability access across CCBH
- *A Guide to CCBH for New Employees with Disabilities* to help employees navigate resources, access support, and thrive within the organization

ADMIN

- Staff continue to work with IT vendor Letternine on the IT System Upgrade and Data Migration Project, which includes upgrading staff laptops to Microsoft 365, installing remote access and VPN services, and migrating CCBH data to the cloud. The project will also transition the CCBH website and staff email addresses to a .gov domain to enhance security.
- Staff have been working with credit card processing vendor CORE to enable CCBH to accept credit card payments online, in person, and by phone. The project is expected to launch in early fall, with staff training on the new software this month. Currently, customers can only pay by cash or check, which can create payment barriers and delays.
- Staff continue to develop the 2027 budget, which is anticipated to be presented to the Finance Committee in September 2026 for review and feedback.
- Staff continue to work with consultant, PHSCO, on the CCBH Strategic Plan. Feedback from leadership, staff, and community members has been gathered and compiled. Draft priorities, objectives, and key performance measures are now being developed, with the plan expected to be completed in early fall.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/COMMUNICATIONS

Violence Prevention Collaboration

CCBH has continued its successful violence prevention collaboration with the Parma Armory, Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention (CCOVP), and the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO). To date, four gun safety classes have been held, including the most recent event in partnership with the Girls Club of Ohio, Maple Heights Library, and City of Maple Heights.

At the event, two Armory educators provided interactive, hands-on gun safety education that engaged both children and parents. Participants also received gun safes, gun locks, refreshments, and CCBH promotional items, contributing to a positive and engaging experience.

Cuyahoga County Fair Outreach

Despite rain on five of the six days, nearly **57,000 people attended** the Great Cuyahoga County Fair and engaged at the newly redesigned CCBH booth. Each day highlighted a different CCBH service area, with a "Wheel of Health" and Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) survey offering participants the chance to enter a raffle. More than 250 people participated, with one college student winning a \$100 Amazon gift card. CCBH also distributed **60 gun locks, 25 gun safes, and thousands of seed packets**, while providing education on cyclosporiasis and safe produce handling, including veggie brushes and educational materials.

For the first time CCBH utilized community partners to help us table and share their public health messaging—including the National Council of Negro Women, the Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention and United Way 211.

CCBH Seed Distribution

Seed distribution continues across Cuyahoga County and beyond, engaging Ohio health departments, childcare centers, watershed groups, community gardens, faith organizations, and municipalities. Over the past three years, participants have been encouraged to plant extra rows to support underserved communities.

To date, farmers and community gardeners have donated more than **1,700 pounds** of fresh produce, which has been distributed to childcare centers, recovery and hospice programs, schools, and CCBH staff. The initiative promotes healthy eating, active lifestyles, and increased access to fresh produce.