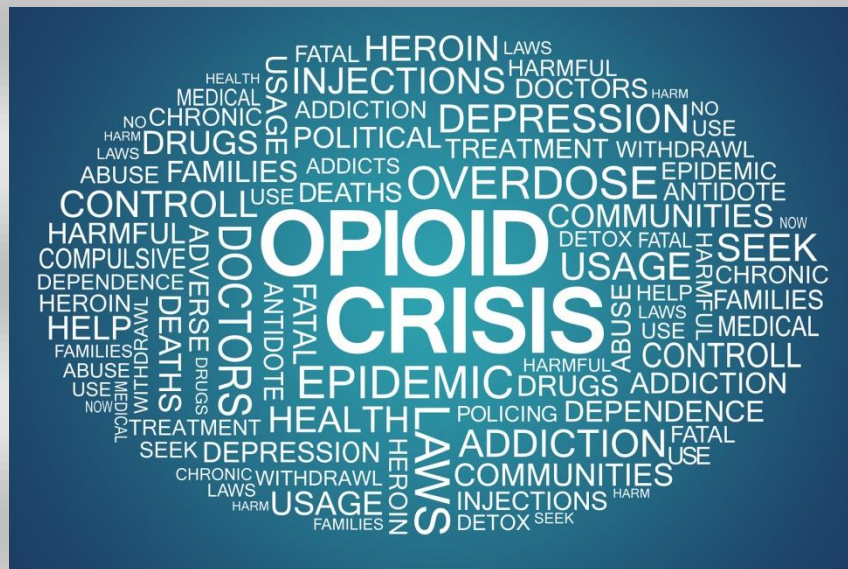


CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Injury Prevention/Drug  
Overdose Prevention Report  
Summary of Activities  
January – September 2019



*Injury Prevention and Safety*

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) serves 863,000 residents and businesses across 58 municipalities. Established in 1919, CCBH delivers a wide variety of programs and services focused on environmental health, epidemiology and surveillance, and prevention and wellness. CCBH remains committed to partnering with a wide range of local, regional and national organizations to improve health outcomes. Over the years, CCBH has been recognized for excellence, outstanding achievement and leadership in traditional environmental health and prevention and wellness services through both state-mandated and

locally adopted programs. As of June 2019, CCBH is a fully accredited health department.

**CCBH has successfully implemented large-scale health promotion and prevention programs** on behalf of the diverse and multicultural population of Northeast Ohio, guided by our Mission “To work in partnership with the community to protect and improve the health and well-being of everyone in Cuyahoga County” and 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.”

**CCBH has a valued history addressing drug overdose prevention.** Historically, CCBH has assumed a lead role in the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP), acting as Chair for the OIPP in 2012 and participating on the Prescription Drug Abuse Action Group (PDAAG). Currently, CCBH key staff serves as chair of the PDAAG policy sub-group. Locally, CCBH has been the lead agency for the Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force (CCOTF) since 2010 and serves as the coordinator of the Overdose Fatality Review team (OFR).

The first quarter of 2019 fatal overdoses are estimated at 168 (76.7 % opioid-related) and the annual data for all drug deaths in 2019 are projected to rise to 680 or 56 per 100,000 population per The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office (CCMEO). Additional changes in the County’s drug supply in recent years involve the introduction of carfentanil and cocaine-opioid admixtures. In 2018 there were 265 deaths resulting from cocaine and cocaine-fentanyl admixtures. In March 2019 alone, there were 29 victims, ranging in age from 22 – 65 (22 Male, 7 Female, 7 Black, 22 White). The rate of African American deaths involving fentanyl is 26.3% of all victims as of February 2019. Twenty four cocaine-related deaths occurred in February 2019 with 18 being mixed with fentanyl, heroin or both.

## *Collaboration, Funding and /or Coalition Support for PDO Activities*



### **Overdose Fatality Review**

The Cuyahoga County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) meets monthly at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office to conduct a closed meeting case review and create recommendations for interventions based on case details. The goal of the OFR is to review cases in order to identify missed intervention opportunities and create written recommendations that agencies will commit to implementing.

Our current partners include: Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO), Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH), Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Cuyahoga County Drug Court and The Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board (ADAMHS).

Alternate monthly meetings focus on any additional case information that was found since the last meeting and creating actionable recommendations in order to: formulate recommendations for intervention and prevention strategies, changes in existing policies and procedures or other systems change work aimed at overdose prevention; and implement recommendations, including communicating recommendations to relevant agencies, institutions or groups and working with them to successfully implement recommendations. There were 3 cases reviewed in 2019.

*Current draft recommendations from OFR are as follows:*

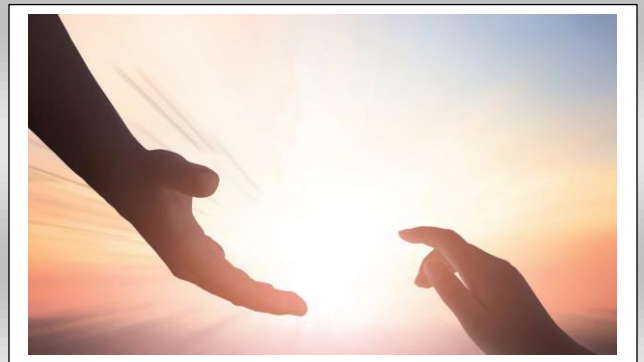
- Promote patient education regarding harm reduction by MAT providers. Provide test strips and Narcan to clients.
- Figure out relationships and practice/policies between local, county and state corrections institutes including public vs. private to better partner with reentry services.

- Promote distribution of Narcan kits and fentanyl test strips to inmates upon re-entry. Currently this practice is not standard. If there is a policy currently being used, we could share that policy with other systems.
- Create a simple pocket guide for inmates to utilize upon reentry (Homeless shelters, substance misuse resources, warm handoff resources).
- Present OFR recommendations and local information to the Quarterly State Re-entry meetings
- Assist DCFS with exploring options for funding Peer Support Teams to work with DCFS families. DCFS is willing to provide kits (would need funding to purchase kits). Especially with kinship care where family members may need Narcan on hand for parents and resources for themselves and children.
- Create public awareness regarding: all drugs may contain fentanyl (especially cocaine); counterfeit internet/dark web purchases may contain fentanyl/carfentanil; use innovative communications (e.g. Naloxbox replication Green, OH); school systems (family education nights, link with Project DAWN).
- Find innovative ways to widely distribute fentanyl test strips (barber shops, festivals, hotels/motels)
- Promote that all hospital EDs should offer peer support programs.

[Family Resource Guide](#)

**Department of Children and Family Services**

In 2019, CCBH partnered with The Department of Children and Family Services to evaluate the needs of families impacted by the opioid crisis. A focus group was held with supervisors to determine the needs.



Based on the focus group feedback, a survey monkey was created and distributed to all their case workers (@350). The survey was sent in the beginning of April and closed May 1st. Survey results were gathered and evaluated. The main take

away was that a comprehensive resource guide was needed. A cross walk of resources (treatment, food, shelter) was performed and resources were identified. The guides have been created and distributed to DCFS. Partnership with DCFS will continue and CCBH will provide the guides as needed.

### **Greater Cleveland Dental Society**

Initially, CCBH reached out to our medical director for guidance in regard to physicians' use of OARRS in their electronic health record (EHR). After a complete evaluation, our medical director verified that all hospital system doctors are using OARRS, in addition to all federally qualified health centers. CCBH staff decided to shift the focus on the dental profession. A call was made to the Greater Cleveland Dental Society. The coordinator agreed that they would advertise that CCBH could assist with implementation of OARRS in their EHR by printing an announcement in the quarterly newsletter. There was no response to the advertisement, so CCBH staff created a survey to gather valuable information from dental society members. The survey was sent to 768 members, with 55 responding. Aspects of the survey that were most valuable was the feedback from members and insight into what may be a barrier to using OARRS. There were some recommendations that resulted from the survey:

→Provide education to providers on the importance of checking OARRS every time an opioid is prescribed no matter what the amount.

→Train dentists who are interested in incorporating OARRS on how to use it effectively

→Work with OARRS to recommend software bridges for independent health care settings to incorporate into their EHR

→Work with dentist to incorporate the use of OARRS into standard practices (regardless of record keeping type- e.g. paper records)

The results from the survey were also shared with The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. They were very interested and receptive to the results.

### **Center for Health Affairs**

In the beginning of 2019, CCBH set out to do an environmental scan of hospitals in Cuyahoga County that give out naloxone in their emergency departments (ED's)

to any suspected over dose patients. After a few phone calls and emails, it was found that only MetroHealth Hospital prescribes naloxone in their ED. Not only do they prescribe it, they actually give a physical kit.

Once this baseline was established, CCBH contacted The Center for Health Affairs/Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium (CFHA). The Opioid Consortium works collaboratively to address the region's opioid epidemic. The principal goal of the Opioid Consortium is to serve as a model hospital system-based and physician-led consortium that significantly reduces the impact of the opioid epidemic in Northeast Ohio by:

- Sharing and implementing evidence-based practices.
- Promoting policy changes.
- Increasing prevention efforts.

The Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium aims to mitigate the opioid crisis through the Opioid Consortium strategic plan, which includes:

- Education of hospital employees across the healthcare continuum.
- Use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- Expanded distribution and use of Naloxone.

They conducted a survey of the hospitals early in 2019, and shared with us that one gap identified was the access to naloxone in the ED's. Through collaboration, CFHA agreed to make a best practices recommendation to all the hospitals in regard to naloxone being prescribed in all ED's. CCBH utilized the leverage of CFHA to make this recommendation.

*CFHA has worked to make several calls to action, including but not limited to:*

- Provide kits to at-risk patients upon discharge from the Inpatient setting
- Ensure patients arriving in the ED with accidental, self-induced overdose or patients being prescribed opioid medication post-discharge receive written and verbal patient education materials
- Co-prescribe naloxone to at-risk and high-risk patients



## **Recovery Courts/Project DAWN**

Recovery courts (known as drug courts) have been a partner of CCBH for years. CCBH has partnered with the courts in the past on various projects, including educating both female and male graduates on the danger of opioids, and sexual health education. This was done in partnership with our family planning clinic staff. This year, CCBH coordinated a very specific training for the graduates.

By linking Project DAWN with the recovery courts, we were able to successfully set up and complete training with all graduates in July of 2019. There are plans to continue this work into fall/winter of 2019.

## ***Activities and Impacts in 2019***

The Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force (CCOTF) is a County coalition, some of whose members also are members of the Attorney General's Heroin and Opiate Task Force. Established in 2010 with CCBH serving as the lead agency, the CCOTF has developed surveillance, prevention and evaluation strategies supporting greater public awareness of the opioid epidemic. CCOTF now is comprised of over 250 concerned citizens and dedicated professionals from partner agencies specializing in drug treatment/recovery, education, health care, law enforcement, medicine, prevention, mental health services, and public health. CCOTF serves as the County's state-mandated Hub Program to Combat Opioid Addiction. CCOTF's highly effective collaboration with the State of Ohio resulted in the following: increased Naloxone training and distribution to all 59 police departments in Cuyahoga County; training for prescribers on the dangers of patient opioid misuse; dissemination of key opioid-related information through schools and town hall meetings to thousands of Northern Ohio students, parents and other community members; and partnerships to increase funding for residential drug treatment.

In 2019, CCOTF met 4 times before the end of September 2019, with sub-committees meeting regularly in between meetings. The sub-committees are comprised of: policy, treatment and recovery, and outreach and education.

Speakers included:

Milen Embaye, student at Case Western Reserve University who presented her research on analyzing 2016 Trends in the Opioid Epidemic in Cuyahoga County

Katie Rothschiller/Community Engagement Manager from The McIntyre Center presenting the Treatment and Recovery Sub-committee goals for 2019

Jimmy Goodwin from the DEA sharing their DEA 360 initiative in the county

Becky Karns sharing results from the task force satisfaction survey

Gregory X. Boehm, MD on Treating Opiate Addiction in Pregnant Moms

Katie Kurtz, speaking on Recovery-centric communications

## ***Policy Development and/or Enforcement***



CCBH's injury prevention coordinator has been the chair of the Prescription Drug Abuse Action Group (PDAAG), now known as Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (Ohio OPN), for the past couple of years. Several priorities were identified aligning with the larger group's strategic plan. One key area of interest to the group is naloxone being housed on school campuses, specifically high schools and middle schools. Throughout the year, members shared the task of doing an environmental scan to find similar initiatives in other states, existing or proposed policy surrounding this initiative and creating a survey to disseminate to school leadership throughout the state of Ohio.

The survey is designed to gather information about school districts' level of awareness, knowledge and interest in keeping naloxone on their school campuses. The survey has been finalized and is in the process of final approval. Once given final approval, the survey will be sent out and results analyzed. Information collected through the survey will assist in the development of a policy brief developed by the Ohio Department of Health, OIPP and Ohio OPN to support

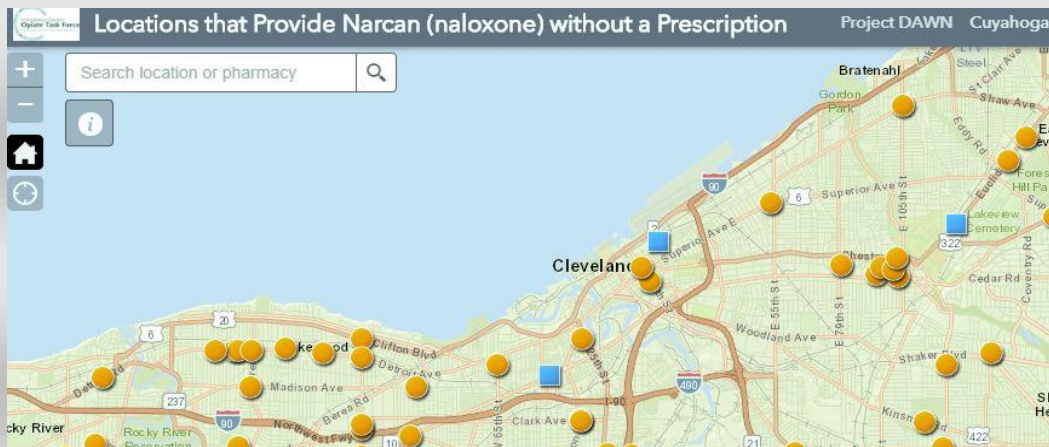


placement of naloxone in middle schools, high schools and colleges. It is the goal of the committee to have the policy brief completed by spring/summer of 2020.

### *Environmental, Systems and/or Healthcare Changes*

Project DAWN has proven to be one of the most successful initiatives in Cuyahoga County in combatting the opioid crisis. Since its inception in 2013: 13,640 kits have been distributed, with a known rescue count at 2,245. Project DAWN is an opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) program. Eligible program participants are individuals who are at-risk of opioid overdose including those who are in recovery for opioid addiction and those who are actively using opioids, in addition to individuals who know someone who is at risk for opioid overdose.

CCBH’s data analyst also created an interactive map so residents can find where they can obtain naloxone from a pharmacy or Project DAWN site.



### *Media Outreach Efforts*



- CCBH maintains a strong presence on social media
  - 803 followers on Twitter
  - 36 original tweets
  - 33,335 impressions

## *Education, Training and Professional Development*

- CCBH staff along with Project DAWN educated 187 food service workers at their annual conference on August 8, 2019 on opioid use disorder. Many of which (@30) stayed to receive a naloxone kit.
- CCBH educated probation officers at the Juvenile Justice Center on Opioid Use Disorder.
- CCBH staff in partnership with the local Alcohol and Drug Addiction Mental Health Service Board (ADAMHS) educated Cleveland Tooling and Machining Union on Opioid Use Disorder.
- CCBH staff attended webinars and in person trainings throughout the year for professional growth related to substance use disorder, including “Operation Street Drug”.
- CCBH attended Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership quarterly meetings.
- CCBH staff attended The National Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit.
- CCBH staff serves as mentor for Case Western Reserve University student, opioid research.

## *Notable Outcomes/Activities*

- In February 2018, six counties in Northeast Ohio (Cuyahoga, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit & Wayne Counties) came together to create a regional collaborative which develops & shares resources in order to promote safe medicine usage, storage & disposal in Northeast Ohio. In September 2018, Geauga County joined the collaborative. Collectively, these counties share more than 25% of Ohio residents and dispense more than 100 million opioid doses annually. CCBH has been a partner of the Safer Rx Collaborative since 2018.

As a collaborative, there were 6,800 pouches distributed in 2018 and 11,000 in 2019; totally 17,800. Through CCBH alone, a total of 2,350 have been distributed since 2018.

Each pouch can safely deactivate up to 45 pills, so if the pouches CCBH distributed are used to capacity, 105,750 pills have been eliminated. The value of these pouches is \$18,800, which means CCBH has added that much

monetary benefit to our community. 2009 research from Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) indicates that each dollar invested in SAMHSA can reduce costs related to substance abuse by an average of \$18. This would mean that these pouches have brought \$338,400 in societal benefit to Cuyahoga County.

- On August 27, 2019 CCBH ran a mock alert to our partners identified in our Community Response Action Plan (CRAP). An email was sent out from CCBH staff to all key partners asking that they respond as if it were a real alert.

The alert read as such:

### ***MOCK ALERT***

*We recognize that there has been an increase in activity level in the BEREA Zip Code for “drugs” related emergency department visits. After evaluating the data, THERE HAS BEEN a spike in the threshold of overdoses. ALL FIRST RESPONDERS, TREATMENT CENTERS, MAYORS, EMS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT make sure naloxone is readily available. If you are in need of naloxone, please contact Project DAWN at 216-778-5677 or The Board of Health at 216-201-2000. For treatment provider availability <http://drughelp.care/>*

*For Project DAWN and pharmacy locations that provide naloxone without a prescription.*

*<https://cuyahogacountyhd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7094bad5d74e42bf8bd7502fd09fcae>*

*Had this been a true alert and not a mock run, CCBH would provide direct outreach to the following positions in those geographies: police chief, fire chief, mayor or city leadership; undercover narcotics agent; quick response team; others as applicable.*

*Please recognize that you received this alert detailing the appropriate action your agency would take if this were a true alert.*

*\*All partners responded in a timely fashion with their appropriate response*



**“Recovery is real. We do recover”**

**-Monty Burks, National Prescription  
Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit**

*Thank you to all of our partners who serve on The Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force, The Overdose Fatality Review Board and the countless community members who dedicate their time to combat this public health emergency.*