

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Injury Prevention and Safety

Importance of Injury Prevention

Injury is the leading cause of death for Ohioans ages 1-44 and the 5th leading cause of death overall. Prescription drug overdose is a growing epidemic. From 2000-2013 Ohio's death rate due to unintentional drug poisonings increased 413 percent. The increase has been driven in large part by prescription drug overdose.



In 2010 enough medication was prescribed to medicate every American adult around the clock for one month.

In 2011 an average of one person per hour died due to drug overdose.

In 2013 Cuyahoga County lost 340 residents due to opioids with an increase to 352 deaths in 2014.

Fentanyl emerged as a significant drug threat in 2015.

Prescription pain relievers are responsible for more overdose fatalities than heroin and cocaine combined.

Collaborations and Funding to Support Injury Prevention Activities

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health developed the Opiate Task Force in 2010 to address this public health concern.

Making an impact will take time.

However, the coalition is making significant strides in increasing awareness and developing the capacity to make policy changes.

In 2015, the Task Force leveraged nearly **\$130,000** to support drug overdose prevention activities and engaged over **52** organizations in Task Force activities.



2015 Activities and Impacts

The Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force held 6 meetings in 2015 with nearly 200 individuals in attendance.

The two main goals of the task force include reducing the stigma associated with addiction and implementing harm reduction strategies that will have a positive impact on reducing overdose fatalities in Cuyahoga County.



MISSION

To serve the residents of Cuyahoga County by actively working to raise public awareness, promote community action, and provide education related to the dangers and devastating effects of drug abuse.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

The Task Force has engaged in the review or development of at least **15** policies pertaining to opiate drug overdose related education, awareness or prevention.

Members also raised awareness, educated the public and worked to support the requirements of HB 4 (*physician standing orders to dispense naloxone*).

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH CARE CHANGES

Worked with health partners (The MetroHealth System and St. Vincent Charity Medical Center) to develop and adopt a physician education curriculum inclusive of proper prescribing guidelines, impacting over **3000** individuals. Expanded access to Naloxone by establishing **8** education and distribution sites. To date, nearly **300** lives have been saved from the use of naloxone in Cuyahoga County.



MEDIA AND OUTREACH EFFORTS

The Task Force promoted prescription drug overdose awareness through the use of their website and social media pages. They also developed **7** articles (released in **8** different publications), **2** public service announcements (broadcast over **130** times), press conferences and website updates.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Task Force and its members have supported a variety of education and training events including hosting two conferences targeting medical providers and the collegiate population, educated over **2,000** youth through the pHARMING Effects, Generation RX, and NIDA's Brain Power programs, and raised awareness of Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone), reaching approximately **3,000** individuals!

Moreover, nearly **130** training and professional development activities occurred in 2015 related to the current opioid epidemic, impacting over **3,000** Cuyahoga residents.



**For more information or to become a member,
please visit our newly redesigned website:**

www.opiatecollaborative.cuyahogacounty.us



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Questions?

Please Contact:

Allisyn Leppla, Injury Prevention Coordinator

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

216-201-2001 ext. 1252

aleppla@ccbh.net

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