

# CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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## Injury Prevention and Safety

### Importance of Injury Prevention

The leading cause of injury-related death in Ohio continues to be accidental drug overdose. Based on law enforcement drug seizures, Ohio has seen a major increase in drug reports involving fentanyl analogs, a more lethal opiate that is 30 to 50 times more potent than heroin. Key to reversing this trend is reducing the abuse of opiate prescriptions.



Most recent trends we are seeing in Cuyahoga county include an increase in deaths from Carfentanil. In 2016, there were 56 CONFIRMED FATAL CASES. In 2017, 151 confirmed, almost triple.

Another trend to be noted is the rate of African American deaths involving fentanyl : 20.7% of all victims, a higher rate than 2016 (14.5%).

"Very preliminary" estimate from medical examiner: 822 people died of drug overdoses in Cuyahoga County in 2017, a 23% increase over 2016. It is projected to exceed 1,000 in 2018.

### Collaborations and Funding to Support Injury Prevention Activities

The Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force, under the leadership of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, has played a significant role in bringing people together to fight this growing public health epidemic and reduce the number of deaths.

The coalition is making significant strides by developing comprehensive, multi-faceted, population-based programs and policies.

In 2017, the Task Force leveraged nearly **\$207,500** to support drug overdose prevention activities and engaged over **68** organizations in Task Force activities.



## 2017 Activities and Impacts

The Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force held **6** meetings in 2017 with over **353** individuals in attendance, adding **39** new members.

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

Through a partnership between Drug Enforcement Agency Department of Justice (Field Operations to address Opioid Epidemic) and Dr. Joan Papp at the Office of Opioid Safety they held **13** trainings, with **297 individuals** being trained. Training was targeted at increased prescribing practices and increased access to MAT (Medical Assisted Treatment) among this high-risk group of opioid users in Cuyahoga County by providing a resource for MAT services.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH CARE CHANGES

In 2017, there have been numerous trainings conducted by Cuyahoga County Project DAWN program impacting over **2744** individuals. Naloxone access has been greatly expanded in 2017. There are **11** permanent sites for education and distribution and **55** police departments are now carrying naloxone, resulting in nearly **762** lives saved.



### 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 **17** news articles, **4** published publications, participated in **5** radio or TV interviews, and **40** billboards and bus signs. The social media outreach has been very successful with **12890** hits in 2017.

## EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Task Force and its members have supported numerous education and training events including targeted education to faculty and students at various universities throughout Northeast Ohio, hosted several town hall forums, educating over **2,000** youth. One program that has implemented in 2017 is National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Brain Power program. NIDA created the science-based prevention program “Brain Power” to educate students on how the brain works, the effects of drugs on the brain, and the process of addiction. In 2017, the schools that implemented this curriculum were **Richmond Heights, Euclid, Bay Village, Independence, a small pilot in Lakewood, Westlake, and North Olmsted.**

Moreover, nearly **100** training and professional development activities occurred in 2017 related to the current opioid epidemic, impacting nearly **3,506** Cuyahoga residents.



### New Partnership: Edna House

*In 2017, the Edna House for Women received a variety of services from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) including free hepatitis, HIV, and STD testing at our facility as well as birth control and gynecological services at the Board’s Title X clinic. Our residents also learned about the ways in which women’s health is affected by alcohol and drugs, especially those with opiate addictions. Overall, our partnership has been well-received by both our staff and residents. Together, we have taught our women to care for themselves physically, starting with a focus on long-term sobriety. We are truly grateful for the services offered and look forward to working again with CCBH throughout 2018.*

-Nicole Reed, Program Administrator, The Edna House for Women



A meeting took place to discuss this important topic with the goal of sharing knowledge, resources, and continuing the discussion of how to best empower the women in recovery with reproductive health information, prevention, and services.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) has provided education at a local women's recovery home about topics including: the association between addiction and unintended pregnancy, breast and cervical cancer prevention, sexually transmitted diseases, non-coercive, tier-based contraceptive counseling, in particular information about IUDs and implants.

With the help of the women at the centers, CCBH identified additional educational outreach topics: HIV testing, prevention, and pre-exposure prophylaxis, Hepatitis C, and Pregnancy.



CCBH has provided sexually transmitted disease (urine chlamydia and gonorrhea) and HIV screenings in the recovery housing setting. CCBH has referred and assisted with follow-up and appointment scheduling for both problem visits and well-women exams, including breast and cervical cancer screenings and birth control at our Parma location.

### Future Steps of the Partnership

Continue to provide education, testing, and appointment referrals for the women at the home, grow and adapt to the individual needs and interests of the women at the center, gather data about reproductive health, stigma, health care barriers, and empowerment of women experiencing addiction and in recovery and expand to other women's recovery centers around the Greater Cleveland area.

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

[www.opiatecollaborative.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.opiatecollaborative.cuyahogacounty.us)



[Twitter.com/OpiateTaskForce](https://twitter.com/OpiateTaskForce)



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### Questions?

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