

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH PRESENTS

HIV Services Newsletter



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- FREE pre-recorded trainings

DECEMBER 2021

[HTTPS://WWW.CCBH.NET/RYAN-WHITE/](https://www.ccbh.net/ryan-white/)

[HTTPS://WWW.CCBH.NET/HIV-STI-PREVENTION/](https://www.ccbh.net/hiv-sti-prevention/)

[HTTPS://WWW.LOVELEADSHERE.ORG/](https://www.loveleadshere.org/)

World AIDS Day

December 1st



What is World AIDS Day?

First observed in 1988, World AIDS Day seeks to provide knowledge and increase awareness about the HIV epidemic. It is a day to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses, support people living with HIV, and address the HIV stigma. World AIDS Day was the first international day for global health.



Upcoming HIV/AIDS Awareness Dates

- February 7th - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 10 - National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 20 - National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- April 10 - National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day
- April 18 - National Transgender HIV Testing Day
- May 18 - HIV Vaccine Awareness Day
- May 19 - National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



Ryan White Part A Updates

The Part A program is nearing the end of Fiscal Year 2021 (February 2022) and is continuing to support 14 service categories aimed at delivering care to those living with HIV/AIDS in the Cleveland TGA.

Part A Funding

The Part A office recently submitted a grant application for continued Part A funding for the three-year time period of 2022-2024. Agencies interested in becoming Ryan White providers for our next funding cycle should reach out to Zach Levar at zlevar@ccbh.net with any questions, as we will next bid out direct services in the Fall of 2022.



2020 Epidemiology Update

Incidence

- 223 new cases in the TGA in 2020; 21% increase from 2019
- Males made up 87% of new cases; 57% of new cases were African American males.
- Highest number of new cases was in the 20-24 age group; 49% of new cases were below age 30.
- 39% of new cases were in the Men that have Sex with Men (MSM) exposure category.

Prevalence

- 6,045 PLWH in the TGA in as of end of 2020.
- Males made up 80% of PLWH in the grant area; 39% of PLWH were African American males.
- Highest number of PLWH was the 55-64 age group.
- 51% of PLWH were in the MSM exposure category.



Clinical Quality Management (CQM)

As a requirement of the Ryan White Part A grant, funded agencies are to participate in a Clinical Quality Management Program and implement Quality Improvement projects at their agencies year-round. Providers develop projects aimed at delivering a higher quality of care to Part A clients and addressing barriers to care that clients may have.

Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs)

The 14 funded providers within the Part A program developed quality improvement projects for 2021 this past January. All agencies determine a target population to focus efforts on for the year and accompanying SMART goals that they will look to achieve throughout the year. Below is a list of projects that our agencies are working on to promote positive health outcomes within their client populations:

- Creating a multi-disciplinary workgroup for outreach efforts
- Enhancing focus on clients with housing issues at internal meetings
- Delivering barrier questionnaire to non-VLS clients and offering home visits
- Ensuring clients receive labs during appointments

- Making clients more aware of community resources through messaging services
- Creating pamphlet of county resources
- Assessing COVID trauma in patients
- Developing structured process for relationship building/ follow up processes with erratic clients
- Creating a non-VLS workgroup to assess and address barriers
- Identifying concerned clients to address through existing outreach workgroup
- Creating client information list to ensure up to date information
- Creating barrier list for non-VLS and addressing at internal meetings
- Standing up an intensive MCM program and referral process
- Implementing a Rapid Start ART program





Viral Load Suppression (VLS) Improvement

The Ryan White Part A office is pleased to say that as a result of the hard work and efforts of our sub recipients in the above QIPs, at that end of Q3 there has been an overall improvement in VLS across the Cleveland TGA of over 22%! We still have yet another quarter to go, and already have seen a significant change!

New Approach

With recommendations stemming from our HRSA site visit in September 2021, we will be adjusting our approach in the CQMC to focus more on collaborative service category driven projects, rather than focusing on target populations in years past. For example, the CQMC will bring together OAHS providers to develop a TGA-wide OAHS project to increase performance indicators. This same approach can be said for other categories as well. Look for more information in the 1st quarter of 2022 on how this new approach will be implemented.



Clinical Quality Management Committee (CQMC) Meetings

The CQMC will now meet more frequently throughout the year beginning in 2022 to offer QI trainings, technical assistance, and follow up meetings to its members. Again, look for more information to come on that in the 1st quarter of 2022.



Planning Council Corner

Did You Know? Facts

The Cuyahoga County Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council

wants to raise awareness of HIV-related health care service available to people living with HIV in the Cleveland Transitional Grant Area (TGA): Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties.



Did You Know?

Ryan White Health Care Services is the only health care program specifically designed to provide services for people living with HIV (PLWH).

HIV-specific health care services have been around for over 30 years, established with the passage of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act on August 18, 1990. The law was named after a young boy: Ryan White, a hemophiliac diagnosed with AIDS at age 13 following a blood transfusion. He died in April 1990, one month before his high school graduation.



Did You Know?

There are 14 HIV-related services that are FREE to PLWH who qualify in the Cleveland TGA, including:

- Primary medical care
- Legal assistance
- Housing assistance & benefits coordination
- Dental care
- Medical transportation
- Mental health care
- Food bank/Home delivered meals
- Psychosocial/Support group meetings

Did You Know?

You can learn more about HIV services by participating in Ryan White Planning Council meetings.

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) is the voice on behalf of PLWH within the Planning Council, and PLWH living in the six county region are invited to participate in its monthly meetings to discuss the need of the PLWHs. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00-1:00 PM. Visit the [Planning Council's website](#) for the schedule, past meeting minutes, and more information.



THANK
YOU

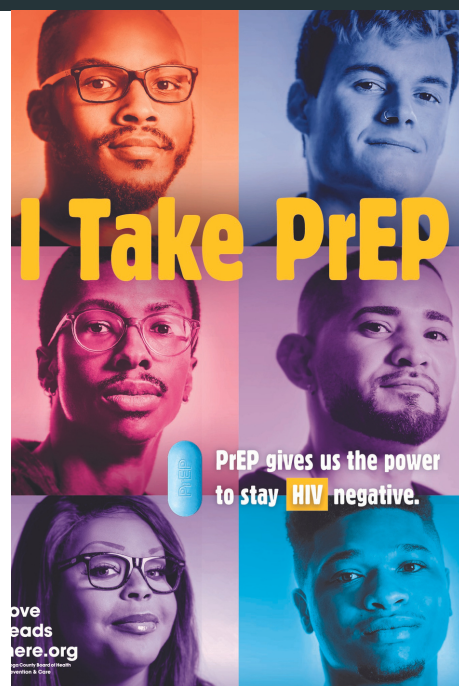


Ending the HIV Epidemic Care

Our sincerest thank you to all who participated in the Ryan White & Ending the HIV Epidemic site visits! Your contributions and continued commitment to excellence is inspiring!



PrEP & U=U Posters

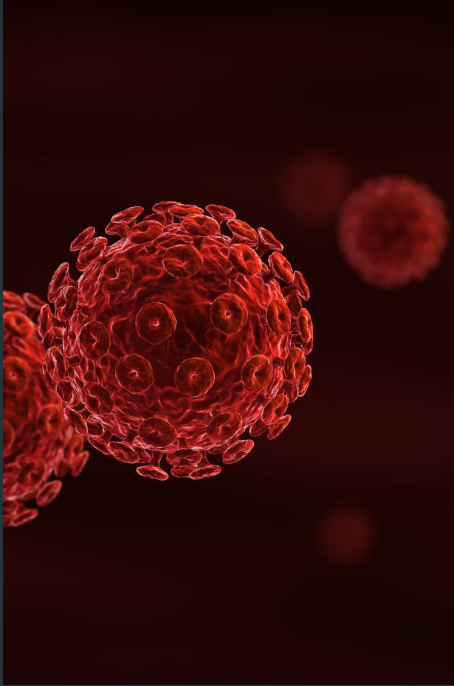


Available for your agency and clinics (English & Spanish) - poster options seen to the right and above. Please contact Gloria Agosto Davis at gagosto@ccbh.net to request your posters!



HIV/PrEP Anti-Stigma Campaign

In honor of World AIDS Day, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health is in partnership with Better World Advertising, and will be launching an HIV/PrEP Anti-Stigma awareness campaign. The main objective will be to help reduce stigma directed towards PLWHA and obtaining HIV prevention services. The campaign will also aim to change negative attitudes towards people taking or seeking PrEP to prevent HIV transmission. The population of focus for this initiative is healthcare providers and the general population.



Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)

Prevention

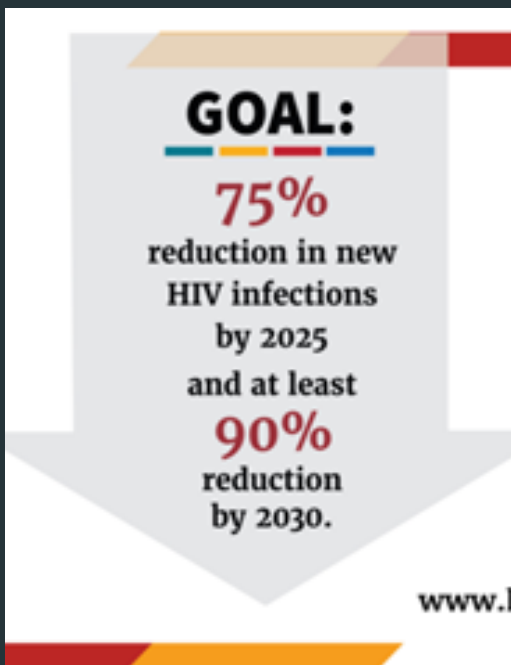
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched the [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. \(EHE\) initiative](#) in 2019. The initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections in the U.S. by 90% by 2030 by scaling up key HIV prevention and treatment strategies.

EHE Initiative Goals

CCBH was awarded Implementing Enhanced HIV Prevention and Surveillance for Health Departments to End the HIV Epidemic in Ohio (EHE) funding from the Ohio Department of Health on June 1, 2021 to be implemented in Cuyahoga County. Funding from this award will enhance coordination and support implementation of [Cuyahoga County's Jurisdictional Plan to End the HIV Epidemic](#).

The overarching goals of this funding initiative are to:

- diagnose all persons with an HIV infection as early as possible
- rapidly treat persons with HIV infection to reach viral suppression
- prevent new HIV transmission by using evidence-based, proven interventions
- quickly respond to potential local HIV clusters and outbreaks to interrupt disease transmission and ensure prevention & treatment services are provided to persons who need them.



CCBH's Local EHE Plan

CCBH will develop and refine the local EHE plan by:

- leveraging resources across CCBH's existing HIV service programs and developing/enhancing partnerships with HIV and non-HIV service providers to develop activities aimed at diagnosing individuals with HIV as early as possible
- rapidly treating persons with HIV infection to reach viral suppression
- prevent new HIV transmission and quickly respond to potential HIV clusters and outbreaks to interrupt transmission.

EHE

Prevention Team

Brandy Eaton,
Supervisor

Erin Lark,
Program Manager

Somer Walker,
Grant Coordinator



Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible.

Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.



Prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs).

Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.



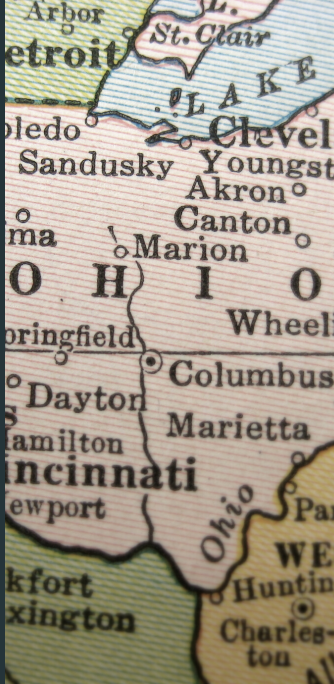
HIV Prevention Updates

The number of syphilis cases have been increasing drastically across Ohio, as well as nationally. Getting individuals diagnosed and adequately treated as quickly as possible is imperative in order to get ahead of potential clusters and outbreaks. Below is a list of resources that include the updated treatment guidelines from the CDC as well as current reporting forms for providers.



Syphilis Resources

- Management of syphilis and congenital syphilis cases should be guided by the [CDC STD Treatment Guidelines](#).
- Report all laboratory confirmed and clinically suspected cases of syphilis, including congenital syphilis, to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) using the [Ohio Confidential Reportable Disease Form](#). Fax completed forms to CCBH via secure fax at 216-676-1321, *Attention: STD Surveillance Program*.
- [The Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of Syphilis](#)
- Guidance for obtaining a sexual history is available on the [CDC Division of STD Prevention resource page](#).
- National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers [STD Clinical Consultation Network](#).
- [STD Prevention Resources](#)

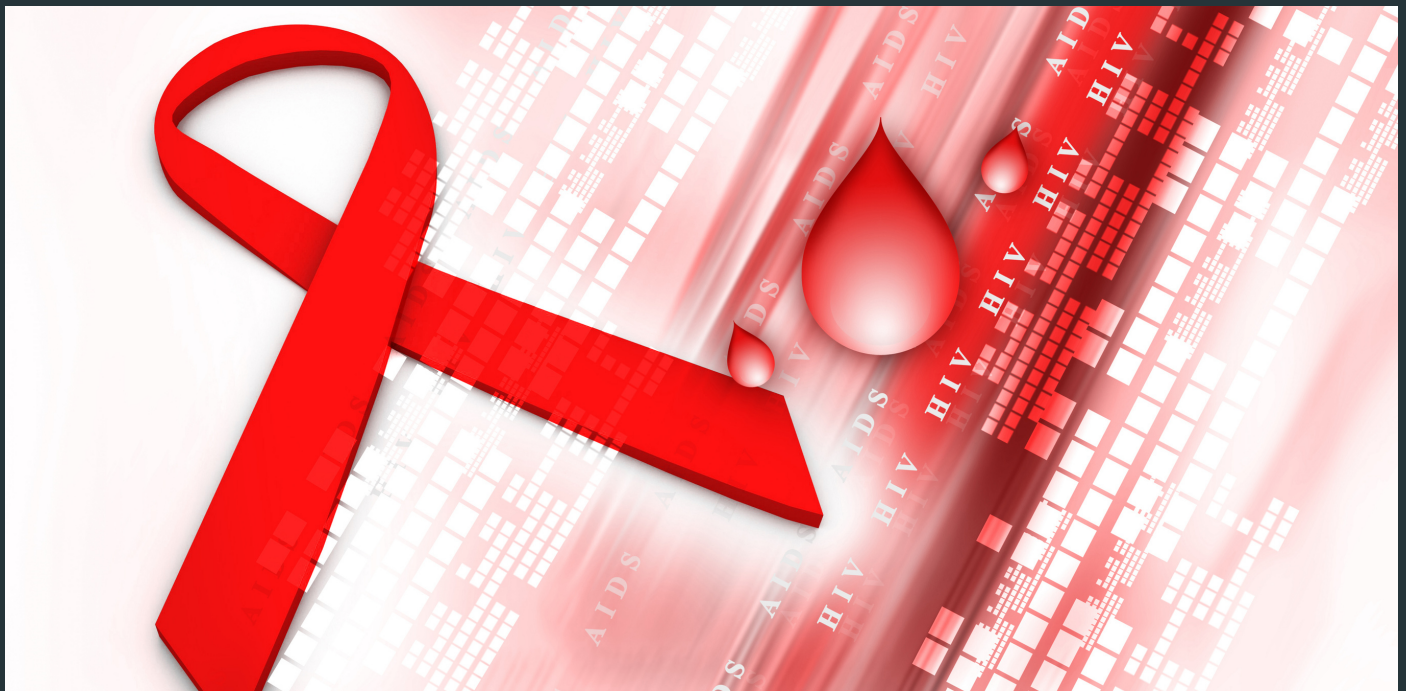


Statewide Integrated Plan

Ohio Department of Health has started its process for the statewide integrated plan. ODH began their bi-weekly meetings with regional partners to discuss plan activities. They have started creating potential workgroups for the plan that can help to serve specific regions or represent the state as a whole. ODH has also been discussing how to fold the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Jurisdictional plan for Cuyahoga into the overall statewide plan (the jurisdictional plan is a Cuyahoga-specific integrated plan).

Integrated Plan Meetings

At CCBH, Part A, EHE, and Prevention staff are all participating in the integrated plan meetings. CCBH will be presenting on the Cuyahoga EHE jurisdictional plan on the January 20th Integrated Plan. If you are interested in participating in a workgroup or learning more about the plan, please contact Kate Shumate at ODH, who is lead on this project katherine.shumate@odh.ohio.gov.





Free Recorded Trainings:

- [Rapid ART: An Essential Strategy to End the HIV Epidemic](#)
- [Public Health and Primary Care Partnerships](#)
- [Responding to an HIV Cluster or Outbreak: Who do you call? What do you do?](#)
- [Performance Measurement: Using Data to Achieve EHE Goals](#)
- [Telehealth & HIV: After COVID-19](#)
- [Helping to End the HIV Epidemic by Addressing Substance Use Disorders \(SUDs\) in People with HIV](#)
- [Use of Social Media and Mobile Technology as Essential Tools for EHE](#)



- [Housing is Healthcare: Best Practices and Common Challenges in HIV Housing](#)
- [Finding and Using the Best Data Sources to Support EHE Strategies](#)
- [Ending the HIV Epidemic through Innovations in Rapid ART](#)
- [Innovations in the ER: Collaborations Among Emergency Departments, TA Providers, & Health Jurisdictions to Identify and Treat HIV, HCV, and Syphilis](#)
- [At the Intersection of SUD, HIV, and Covid-19: Why Trauma Informed Care Matters](#)
- [Meth as a Driver of the HIV Epidemic](#)

**Free registration
for an upcoming
webinar:**

[Beyond the Walls:
Building Bridges for
Post-Release
Linkages to Care &
Community](#)
(February 2022)



**Advanced
Management Issues
in HIV Care
Conference (Sept.
2021) presentations
available:**

<https://case.edu/nursing/research/centers-excellence/sarah-cole-hirsh-institute/advanced-management-issues-hiv-care-conference/2021-conference-presentations>



Feedback

Next Newsletter: June 2022

Feel free to reach out to Danielle LeGallee at dlegallee@ccbh.net with any feedback from this newsletter, as well as any content suggestions that you would like to see in the next HIV Services newsletter.

Resources

<https://hab.hrsa.gov/about-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program/who-was-ryan-white>

https://www.unaids.org/en/World_AIDS_Day

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/history/hiv-and-aids-timeline>



Ryan White Part A
Cleveland TGA

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BOARD OF HEALTH
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION