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Child Fatality Review Board Findings Highlight Persisting Racial Disparities Despite a Decrease in Deaths

The Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Review Board reviews the causes and risk factors of deaths for all children less than 18 years old in order to make recommendations to decrease the number of preventable child deaths. According to the recently released 2022 Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Report, there were 152 child deaths in Cuyahoga County in 2022, tying for the lowest number in county history. The infant mortality rate (IMR) for 2022, at 7.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, also represented the lowest rate in the county's history. However, stark racial disparities were evident.

The report showed that the Black non-Hispanic IMR was three times higher than the White non-Hispanic IMR at 12.9 and 4.2 respectively; the Hispanic IMR was 4.8. The leading cause of infant deaths was prematurity, followed by sleep-related deaths. Overall, 58% of infant deaths caused by prematurity and 75% of sleep-related deaths were Black non-Hispanic. As for deaths among children 1 to 17 years of age, gunshot wounds were the leading cause, the majority of which were homicides among Black non-Hispanics. For the full report, which was jointly prepared by Nurse Program Manager Holly Galicki of Population Health, former Data Analyst Richard Stacklin from ESI, and John Ladd of Invest In Children, click this [LINK](#).

GENDER AFFIRMING CARE FOR TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY YOUTH IMPROVES HEALTH OUTCOMES, SAVES LIVES

Gender-affirming care is a supportive form of healthcare. It consists of an array of services that may include medical, surgical, mental health, and non-medical services for transgender and nonbinary people.

For transgender and nonbinary children and adolescents, early gender-affirming care is crucial to overall health and well-being as it allows the child or adolescent to focus on social transitions and can increase their confidence while navigating the healthcare system.

Research demonstrates that gender-affirming care improves the mental health and overall well-being of gender diverse children and adolescents. Because gender-affirming care encompasses many facets of healthcare needs and support, it has been shown to increase positive outcomes for transgender and nonbinary children and adolescents. Gender-affirming care is patient-centered and treats individuals holistically, aligning their outward, physical traits with their gender identity.

Gender diverse adolescents face significant health disparities compared to their cisgender peers. Transgender and gender nonbinary adolescents are at increased risk for mental health issues, substance use, and suicide. The Trevor Project's 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that 52 percent of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

A safe and affirming healthcare environment is critical in fostering better outcomes for transgender, nonbinary, and other gender expansive children and adolescents. Medical and psychosocial gender affirming healthcare practices have been demonstrated to yield lower rates of adverse mental health outcomes, build self-esteem, and improve overall quality of life for transgender and gender diverse youth. Familial and peer support is also crucial in fostering similarly positive outcomes for these populations. The presence of affirming support networks is critical for facilitating and arranging gender affirming care for children and adolescents. Lack of such support can result in rejection, depression and suicide, homelessness, and other negative outcomes.

Reproduced from the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. For more information and resources, see: [Gender-Affirming Care and Young People](#)



EDI RESOURCES LINKS CONTINUED

[National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Among Transgender Women](#)

[Online Trust and Public Health](#)

[Policy Approaches to Well-being for Diverse Communities](#)

[Poverty Speaks: Making Tough Choices](#)

[Racial Equity Tools](#)

[Status of Women](#)

[Was that racist? Dealing with racial and bias communication](#)

[Why Demographic Disability Data is Good for Everyone](#)

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For more information, email abrown@ccbh.net or stop into the EDI Director's Office.