



THIS ISSUE

CCBH Supports Efforts to Address Gun Violence in Cuyahoga County

Recreational Marijuana is now Legal in Ohio: Issues of Equity and Safety

Upcoming Events

EDI Resources

UPCOMING EVENTS

Political Determinants of Health

September 26, 2024
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Weathering Theory and Cancer Prevention Symposium

October 17, 2024
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment:

"The Results Are In!"

October 19, 2024
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Studio West 117
384 Hird Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107

How Weathering Contributes to Racial Health Disparities

October 29, 2024
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CCBH Supports Efforts to Address Gun Violence in Cuyahoga County

Gun violence continues to plague Cuyahoga County, which has the highest homicide rate (38.1 per 100,000) of Ohio's 88 counties. The majority of local homicides are committed using guns.

Gun-related homicides impact everyone, but locally, the burden is disproportionate:

- Youth and adults under 24 years old - 34% of victims
- Males - 83% of victims
- Blacks - 84% of victims

Overall, young Black men comprise 25% of all victims countywide.

Several grassroots organizations across our county have enacted gun violence interruption programs in order to reduce these rates and disparities. CCBH is now supplementing and supporting the work of such organizations by adding several new initiatives to the local prevention landscape, including:

- A statement declaring gun violence as a local public health crisis
- A homicide data dashboard that will provide the public with transparent access to information
- Partnering with the City of Cleveland to host a Community Summit and other ongoing meetings

The intent of these actions is to bring together violence interrupter groups

and community residents. By coordinating collaboration efforts, funding needs, and self-care strategies, the hope is to improve the overall efficacy and performance of the violence interrupter workforce throughout Cuyahoga County.

Much of the work planned for CCBH will occur via the Community Safety Subcommittee of the Community Health Improvement Plan, the Advocacy Subcommittee of the EDI Committee, and the Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Service Area.

For more information about these efforts, contact EDI Director Andre Brown, at abrown@ccbh.net.

Recreational Marijuana is now Legal in Ohio: Issues of Equity and Safety

As of August 6, 2024 any person over the age of 21 can purchase and use recreational marijuana in the State of Ohio. This comes as a result of the passage of Issue 2, a ballot measure that legalized the recreational use of marijuana. The passage of this ballot measure was a victory for the individuals and organizations fighting to stop the harm caused by the [War on Drugs](#) that has devastated minority communities for decades.

The disproportionate enforcement of drug laws is responsible for the imprisonment of millions of minorities, leaving lasting harm to their communities. For example, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio reports that while the cannabis use rate for Black Ohioans in 2021 was 1.7 times greater than white Ohioans, the cannabis arrest rate for Black Ohioans was 5.3 times greater than for white Ohioans. This is the legacy of anti-cannabis use laws in our state.

The new law permits Ohioans of age to have 2.5 ounces of cannabis flower and 15 grams of extract. Adults can purchase marijuana from authorized sellers statewide. A map of authorized retailers is available [here](#). Ohioans of age can also grow up to six plants in a single adult household and up to 12 plants for a household containing more than one adult.

Regarding personal consumption, marijuana smoking is subject to the same laws as those currently in place for cigarettes; it is prohibited in indoor spaces. Exceptions are permitted for outdoor patios that are physically separate from enclosed areas, smoke shops, hotel rooms designated for smoking indoors, and your own home.

As with any other controlled substance, there are best practices that detail the safe and legal use of such substances.

Legal implications

Just as it is illegal to drive under the influence of alcohol or drive with any open containers of alcohol in your vehicle, the same is true if you are under the influence of cannabis or are smoking/vaping while operating a motor vehicle. Individuals found to be driving under the influence of

EDI RESOURCES

[Advancing Organizational Equity Toolkit \(NASTAD\)](#)

[BIPOC staff feeling unseen and unheard in the workplace is all too common](#)

[Disability-Inclusive Language Guidelines](#)

[Disability Pride Month celebrates 34 years since the passage of the ADA](#)

[Ending Unequal Treatment: Strategies to Achieve Equitable Health Care and Optimal Health for All](#)

[Health Equity Tracker](#)

[Inclusive Hiring Guide](#)

[The invisibility of LGBTQ+ communities in data](#)

[Upstream violence prevention: Exploring the social drivers of violent crime](#)

[What Does It Take to Build a Culture of Belonging?](#)

cannabis can be charged with a misdemeanor offense. Public use of non-medical marijuana outside of approved spaces is illegal and can result in a misdemeanor charge. Wait at least 12 hours after the last time you consumed cannabis to operate any type of motor vehicle.

Proper storage

Keep products in **child resistant packaging** and place them in a safe or lockbox. If a child consumes any of your cannabis products, it is vital that you contact 911 immediately so that the child can obtain medical assistance. If your pet has consumed cannabis, you can call the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' poison control hotline at 888.426.4435.

Physical impact

As with cigarette inhalation, smoke inhalation is harmful to the lungs. Other options like vaping may be less harmful but can still cause damage to the lungs. Avoid inhaling deeply or holding your breath for more than 1 to 2 seconds after inhaling smoke as these practices increase the amount of toxins your lungs absorb.

If you choose to consume edibles bear in mind that edibles take anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours to take effect, so consume the edible product slowly so that you can monitor your reaction.

THC is the psychoactive component of cannabis products. When used in high amounts, THC can impact the likelihood of developing mental health disorders or a dependence. It is recommended that use is limited in order to reduce their risk. If you have never consumed cannabis before, start with a small amount and gauge the effect it has on you.

Limit the amount of cannabis you're using by avoiding daily or near daily usage. The risk of poor outcomes (psychological dependency, compromised health) increases with the frequency of use.

Be honest and open with your primary healthcare provider. They will be your best source of health guidance.

Interaction with other substances

Using cannabis with other drugs, including alcohol, can increase your mental and physical impairment. Avoid taking and using cannabis from individuals you do not know or trust.

Who should avoid cannabis?

- Teenagers - it can impair their cognitive development
- Those who are pregnant or breastfeeding - the effects on developing brains is unknown
- Those with psychiatric conditions such as psychosis and/or a family history of schizophrenia



GET INVOLVED

Join the EDI Steering Committee! Our focus areas include:

- Advocacy
- Coordination & Oversight
- Education & Training
- Outreach & Community Partnerships
- Policies & Procedures

For more information, email Andre Brown at abrown@ccbh.net or visit Andre's office, which is next to the Chan Room