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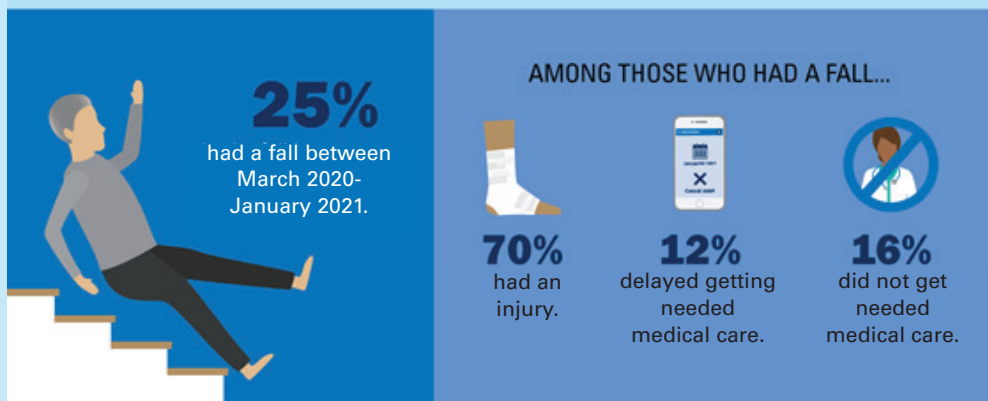
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Falls and the pandemic: Are older adults at increased risk?

Falls during the pandemic AMONG ADULTS AGES 50-80



The pandemic has undoubtedly changed life for older Americans in a multitude of ways. Many older adults are more socially isolated from family and friends. Activities they used to enjoy have been canceled or moved to virtual platforms, which can be difficult or impossible for many to access. Long wait times to see providers or anxiety about increased exposure risk when entering a healthcare setting have caused seniors to delay much-needed medical treatment. Data collected in 2021 demonstrates yet another challenge that can be added to this list: a decline in physical activity and worsening physical conditioning among older adults.

According to national online survey data collected in January 2021 through the University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging, 37% of adults ages 50 to 80 years self-reported a decline in their physical activity levels in the first 10 months of the pandemic. Even more concerning, 27% of those surveyed reported that their physical conditioning defined as — flexibility, muscle strength, and endurance — had worsened

as a result. Additionally, 21% reported declines in their mobility, including with an assistive device. The survey data also showed that 36% reported an

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The Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP) is a comprehensive, state-level injury prevention program to help every Ohioan live life to the fullest potential by reducing death and disability associated with intentional and unintentional injuries.

Continued from page 1.

increased fear of falling since the pandemic began. This rate increased to 46% when looking at surveyed adults ages 65 years or older.

Women were more likely to report being less physically active since the start of the pandemic. Black respondents reported less physical activity than white and Hispanic respondents. Individuals who reported that they felt isolated some of the time or often during the pandemic reported decreased physical activity levels.

The survey also inquired about the occurrence of falls during the period of March 2020 through January 2021. Twenty-five percent of respondents reported at least one fall. Of those who had fallen, 40% reported multiple falls within this time period. Women and those lacking companionship were more likely to suffer a fall. Of those who reported a fall, 70% experienced an injury with bruising and a cut/laceration requiring bandaging as the most common injuries. Additionally, 40% of those individuals who fell reported that they needed some type of care as a result of the incident. Twelve percent of those who fell delayed care, and 16% never received care that they felt was needed, with the pandemic cited as a common contributing factor.

The findings from this data set demonstrate yet another concerning health risk to older Americans: increased fall risk. Reductions in physical activity, declining mobility, and increased fear of falling have all been demonstrated to increase fall risk. Delaying or refusing to seek medical care for a fall was already a common occurrence, which appears to have been exacerbated by the pandemic. These sobering statistics demonstrate the importance of evidence-based fall prevention interventions, including balance and mobility exercises and home safety modifications. These strategies were needed prior to March 2020, but the pandemic continues to demonstrate how critical they are for protecting older Americans. To learn more about evidence-based fall prevention strategies, please visit the [National Council on Aging](https://www.nationalcouncilonaging.org/) website.

Source:

Hoffman G, Singer D, Solway E, Kirch M, Kullgren J, Malani P. Physical Functioning and Falls During the COVID-19 Pandemic. University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging. August 2021. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7302/1703>.

Ohio Department of Health Updates

2021 OIPP Promising Practice and Champion Awards

2021 Champion Award

Stephanie Shorts, MetroHealth Medical Center, Project Dawn

Stephanie has and continues to champion change in drug misuse, abuse, and overdose prevention. She has a history of expanding programs and services offered by Project DAWN, an opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution program. Stephanie has coordinated five walk-in sites in Cuyahoga County and offered multiple community naloxone distribution events each month. She has participated in the medical examiner's

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Contributed photo.

Ohio Department of Health Updates

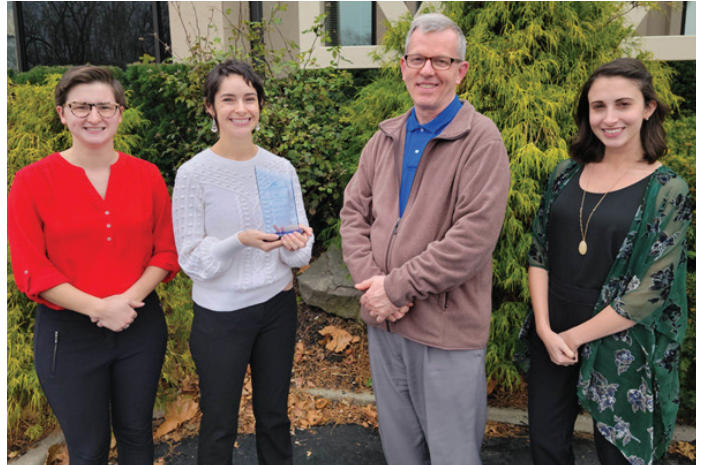
Continued from page 2.

opioid fatality review committee to identify “hotspots” in the region to target for community education and naloxone distribution events. During the pandemic, Stephanie volunteered to continue to hand out Narcan when all of the community naloxone distribution sites were closed. She also implemented a syringe exchange program due to the high risk of HIV outbreak, hepatitis C, and other bloodborne infections in the community.

2021 Promising Practice Award Winners

Mental Health America of Ohio, Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition

The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition (FCSPC) was revitalized by a group of organizations that collaboratively developed a vision, mission, and logic model for the coalition. The three overarching strategies were to decrease stigma and increase awareness of support services, coordinate evidence-based suicide prevention education, and increase suicide prevention and postvention collaborations. This agency partnered with the Franklin County Coroner’s Office and the Ohio Department of Health to develop its first Data Report for selecting its target populations, including youth, the LGBTQ+ community, refugees and immigrants, veterans, and firearms owners. From September 2020-2021, FCSPC volunteers donated 230 hours, equaling more than



\$5,000 of in-kind services and resulting in the coordination of suicide prevention education for 642 community members.



Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga County Overdose Fatality Review

Cuyahoga County Board of Health created the Cuyahoga County Overdose Fatality Review (CCOFR), which is a coordinated effort between the local health department and the medical examiner’s office. The purpose of the CCOFR is to conduct case review meetings and create recommendations for interventions based on decedent case information. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health has recommended evidence-based strategies as tools to decrease the burden of overdose, including intervention focused on prevention, treatment, and harm reduction strategies. The Cuyahoga County and Department of Children and Family Services collaborated with Project DAWN to provide information to families on how to access naloxone kits and conduct outreach to hotels/motels experiencing high numbers of fatal overdoses.

Statewide Training Updates

Older Adult Falls Prevention: ODH will be providing a free "Stepping On" facilitator training for new instructors in the Athens area during April 2022. Please look for registration for training through OIPP in the near future.



2022 Statewide Child Passenger Safety Conference September 19-20.

CELEBRATE CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK WITH US

**SAVE
---THE---
DATE**

**2022 Ohio Child Passenger
Safety Conference**

**Car Seat Check - September 19, 2022
3:00pm-6:00pm Location TBD
Conference - September 20, 2022**

**University Hospitals
Rainbow
Babies & Children's**

**Crowne Plaza Columbus North-Worthington
6500 DoubleTree Avenue
Columbus, OH 43229**

Ohio | Department of Health
Funded by U.S. DOT/NHTSA and ODPS

Save the Date for the 2022 Child Passenger Safety Conference!

September 19-20

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration will open in mid-January and will cost \$100 per person.

A car seat check will be held on Monday, September 19 from 3-6 p.m.

If you need seat sign-offs for recertification, please consider adding this event to your calendar. Stay tuned for more details or join our

[Facebook page](#) for timely updates.



New Injury Surveillance and Epidemiology Section.

A new Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section (VIESS) has been created in the Bureau of Health Improvement and Wellness at the Ohio Department of Health. The VIESS was formed to provide capacity for the enhanced focus and ever-expanding use of injury data. This section includes the coordination, implementation, and management of several data surveillance systems including: the Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS) and the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS); use of syndromic surveillance system to identify and respond to sudden increases in overdoses and intentional self-harm; and other injury-related data. For data inquiries, please contact VIESS Chief Kara Manchester at Kara.Manchester@odh.ohio.gov.

Data Action Group (DAG) Next Webinar

Save the Date: TBD

- The Vital Statistics Mortality data available on the Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse website allows the public to explore mortality data through detailed reports and charts. This enables users to

answer questions about what causes Ohioans to die and to compare rates of death between different geographic areas or population groups within the state. The VIESS will provide an overview of this publicly available data source, focusing on injury-related mortality. The VIESS will also conduct a live demonstration on how to query injury-specific topics, including suicide and unintentional drug overdose mortality data.

Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section Data Publications

- [2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Report](#)
- [2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: Demographic Summary](#)

Data Links

ODH VIESS Injury Data and Publications:

www.odh.ohio.gov/injurydata

Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse:

<http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/EDW/DataCatalog>

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program



CENTER FOR MEN & BOYS
We Know Men & Boys

**Proudly Sponsored by
Male Behavioral Health**

WHAT: First Time Ever! Morning & Evening Event To Address Escalating Neighborhood Violence By World's Leading Violence Expert.

WHO: Jackson Katz & Male Behavioral Health's Center For Men & Boys: "Violent Masculinities In Black & White"

WHY: To address growing violence among men and boys in our country, join Jackson Katz- one of the world leading violence experts on violence, media and masculinities whose Ted Talk has been watched by more than 2.5 million people and Male Behavioral Health's Center For Men & Boys discuss male violence and strategies to solve this growing problem in our neighborhoods and schools.

WHEN: March 1, 2022.

12:00pm- 1:00pm: - For Professionals
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jackson-katz-violent-masculinities-in-black-white-tickets-245658129077?keep_tld=1

7:00pm- 8:00pm: - For Men
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jackson-katz-violent-masculinities-in-black-white-tickets-245669653547?keep_tld=1

FREE BUT SPACES LIMITED **REGISTER TODAY**

Male Behavioral Health & School Violence Initiative

The Center for Men and Boys is hosting an event on March 1, 2022, to address escalating neighborhood violence. Join violence expert Jackson Katz, and Male Behavioral Health's Center for Men & Boys to discuss male violence and strategies to solve this growing problem in our neighborhoods and schools.

Registration links:

Professionals:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jackson-katz-violent-masculinities-in-black-white-for-professionals-tickets-245658129077>

Others: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jackson-katz-violent-masculinities-in-black-white-for-men-tickets-245669653547>

Mission: To prevent injuries in Ohio using data and collaborative partnerships

Vision: Working together to create a safe and injury-free Ohio

Action Group Updates

Child Injury Action Group (CIAG)

CIAG Pilot Projects

Congratulations on the 2022 CIAG Pilot Projects. We look forward to hearing more about your projects later in the year!

- Lake County General Health District – Teen Driving
- Henry County Health Department – Teen Driving

Akron Children's Hospital – Child Passenger Safety

Like many other agencies, the injury prevention team at Akron Children's Hospital (ACH) used innovative settings and creativity to distribute car seats and educate families on child passenger safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety has been the main concern for families and staff. Prior to the pandemic, when families were scheduled for an appointment, staff met with clients one-on-one, provided education and resources, and practiced child passenger seat installation. The ACH lobby does not allow for safe social distancing; therefore, the injury prevention team shifted to curbside service. Staff provided resources through text messages prior to appointments and provided curbside education and car seat installation. ACH hosted several outdoor drive-thru distribution events in the community, where they were able to provide a similar style of distribution/education. Families remained in their vehicles and were masked while the injury prevention team maintained a safe social distance. ACH is continuing this process with a two-hour window for scheduling due to its success. With this drive-thru service, families can show up when they are able versus having a set appointment time. This change has reduced no-shows from 35% to less than 10%.



Action Group Updates

Child Injury Action Group (CIAG)

Teen Driving

The Child Injury Action Group's teen driving subcommittee is dedicated to increasing awareness for teens about the graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws as well as making smart choices behind the wheel to make them safer drivers.

To achieve this goal, ODH engaged in a partnership with Impact Teen Drivers (ITD) for the creation and promotion of the Ohio GDL Parent/Teen Engagement Module. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ODH and CIAG expanded their partnership with ITD to develop an Ohio-specific version of two additional teen driving education and awareness modules for students – *What Do You Consider Lethal (WDYCL)* and *Are You Living in a Dream World?* The modules include evidence-based strategies related to proper seat belt use, reducing distractions, and maintaining a safe speed, and the WDYCL module includes Ohio GDL law information. Committee outreach through the three modules across the state included the Ohio Parent Teacher Association, Ohio State University Extension offices, Ohio Safe Communities coalitions, and the Ohio School Resource Officer Association. Outreach has included a letter created by the subcommittee and ITD fact sheets specific to each module. Throughout 2021, subcommittee partners continued to promote use of the modules in their local schools and communities during remote learning, as several modules included teacher lesson plans and homework assignments. As of December 2021, the modules had reached more than 1,000 students. The Ohio GDL Parent/Teen Engagement module has been completed by 978 students; 234 students have completed the WDYCL module, and 57 students have completed *Are We Living in a Dream World?* module.



The co-chairs of the teen driving subcommittee are also working on outreach efforts in their own counties.

Julie Novario in Cuyahoga County said, "Through the excellent work of our Safe Kids Safe Communities Coalition, we are able to introduce the Impact Teen Drivers modules far and wide in Cuyahoga County. Our coalition is comprised of school resources officers and community liaisons who help relay the importance of the ITD modules and safe driving practices to their districts. Their assistance with outreach efforts has helped contribute to the success of the modules in Northeast Ohio."

Taylor Meehan in Lucas County explained, "Through our extensive efforts utilizing the Impact Teen Drivers modules, we have been able to bring safe driving education to many teens in Lucas County. With the help of our Lucas County Distracted Driving Coalition, we have been able to share information about the modules with local high schools and driving schools to increase awareness. Through our continued efforts we hope to see all high schools in Lucas County utilizing an ITD module to improve the safety of their young drivers."

The Teen Driving Subcommittee is dedicated to improving the safety of our youth on the road and is grateful for all the hard work subcommittee members have invested to support youth in their communities on a daily basis. If you would like information about how to access these free online modules for your school, please contact Ashton.Grigley@odh.ohio.gov at the Ohio Department of Health.

Child Injury Action Group (CIAG)

Upcoming Subcommittee Calls:

- Tuesday, March 1 – Child Passenger Safety, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 2 – Traumatic Brain Injury, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, March 10 – Teen Driving, 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16 – Child Maltreatment, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 13 – Youth Suicide, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 20 – Child Maltreatment, 10 a.m.

Did you know?

- March – Brain Injury Awareness Month
- March 21-27 – National Poison Prevention Week
- March 28-April 3– National Youth Sports Safety Month
- April – Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- April – Child Abuse Prevention Month
- April 26-30 – National Playground Safety Week

Partners' Corner

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund is promoting a statewide #EverydayOhioHeroes campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month in April. The campaign aims to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and is prompting a call to action to encourage all adults to, "Be a Hero in the Eyes of a Child – one simple act of encouragement at a time." This [Social Media Toolkit](#) provides an overview of the #EverydayOhioHeroes social media campaign.



[Public Children Services Association of Ohio](#) would like partners to wear blue as part of a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue that day – to work, to school, to a community event – to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. The next Wear Blue Day will be April 13, 2022.



Getting Involved

If you are interested in getting involved, please email Coalition Chair Amanda Kelly at kellya@starkhealth.org. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioCIAG/>

Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (OOPN)

OOPN Pilot Projects Awarded

The Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (Ohio OPN) congratulates the following recipients of 2022 Pilot Project funding:

- **Adena Health System** – The project will work with the Adena Rural Communities Opioid Response Program and will focus on systems changes by providing education and resources to medical providers and community agencies to improve knowledge of opioid prevention and decrease opioid overdoses.
- **Harm Reduction Ohio** – The “Fighting Stigma in Immigrant Communities” project aims to begin the process of reducing stigmas that limit access to harm reduction and treatment resources among Guatemalan and Honduran immigrants in Hamilton, Clermont, and Butler counties.
- **Toledo Fire and Rescue Department** – Telemedicine can be used to reach out to Emergency Room Online Medical Control (OLMC) to assist in patient care and allow for a more appropriate flow of the Against Medical Advice procedure.

Subcommittee Updates

OOPN members are invested in reducing overdoses in Ohio. Here is the latest progress from our subcommittees and workgroups.

Data:

The group continues to brainstorm ideas for guest speakers for future meetings. Topics include evaluation, Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARSS) demonstration, creating a dashboard successfully.

1. Community Response Plan – Data sharing agreement documents have been gathered, and examples are on SharePoint. This workgroup is now ad hoc.

2. Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) – The group is working on a statewide overdose detection (OD) map training for first responders, law enforcement, and EMS. The focus of the training will be on an OD map overview. Initial topics include what an OD map is, benefits of using it, and why it is important. The group will be reaching out to find “ODMAP champions” to represent law enforcement, EMS/fire for the training. They will continue to streamline TA with HIDTA and monitor progress with RMS vendors in Ohio.

3. Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) – A newly developed OFR manual was submitted to ODH in June and continues to be reviewed. The next focus group meeting will include discussion surrounding the draft OFR guidance/rules on new legislation. The group is also developing a training for local OFR committees with the focus on an OFR 101 overview, with the second session being a panel discussion and possibly a mock OFR.

Harm Reduction:

General HRSC updates:

- The October meeting included a special presentation on “Harm Reduction Best Practices: Addressing Drug User Stigma” from guest speaker Jess Tilley of the New England Users Union (NEUU). Presentation slides are available if anyone is interested.

Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (OOPN)

Focus Area 1 – SSP and other Harm Reduction Support

- Drafts of the SSP portion of survey results (executive summary, data brief) are complete. Items are currently under review and will be combined with a sustainability component.
- The group is collaborating with the Sustainability Workgroup to develop a list of free/low-cost resources.
- The group is actively collecting and sharing resource guides/materials to determine next steps (including what we have vs. what is needed).

Focus Area 2 – Expansion of Harm Reduction Programs

Address gaps of services and support service entities (2.1)

- Discussed barriers regarding onboarding companies/agencies to establish protocol.
- Will seek input/assistance from data subcommittee to examine underserved populations and geographic gaps in services. Previously analyzed data on this subject raised concern about accuracy.

Naloxone in Criminal Justice Settings (2.2)

- Workgroup chairperson is currently coordinating a document of best practices based on information received from Erie, Hamilton, Union, and Ross counties.
- The group continues discussions about buy-in, strengthening relationships, and minimizing burdens of facility staff.

Naloxone in Treatment Settings (2.3)

- A draft survey has been finalized and will be shared with greater expansion workgroup for review. Goals of the survey include: understanding which facilities provide naloxone to patients; current Project DAWN partnerships; training and distribution methods, and willingness to share policy/protocols and feedback on effectiveness for their respective agencies. Information received will help the group move forward with the work on its best practices list.

EMS Leave-Behind & QRT (2.4)

- The group is working on verifying contact information for QRTs around the state. Once a contact list is complete, we plan to send a survey to them about harm reduction within their QRTs. A draft of survey questions was completed by the group.

Innovative Models for Harm Reduction Services – Lay Distribution Networks (2.5)

- Materials about lay distribution practices are being compiled to create an implementation guide. The group has been asked to provide potential examples or ideas about how it can be structured (introduction, standard operating procedure/protocol, lay-person recruitment/retention, etc.).

Focus Area 3 – Sustainability of Harm Reduction Efforts

- The sustainability portion of survey results reports are being finalized with the goal of having final products in conjunction with the SSP survey by the end of November.
- The group is working on the free/reduced cost harm reduction resources document.

Focus Area 4 - Education of High-Risk Individuals and Community Members

- The group reviewed and chose some OH Against OD ads to be added to the campaign website first, and potentially also available for print. Members also had feedback on campaign content.
- The law enforcement/first responder champion testimonial product was shared with ODH leadership for review.
- ODH is meeting with the BOL group to discuss its demystifying substance use disorder training for law enforcement, which has a harm reduction component.

Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (OOPN)

Pain Management:

The subcommittee changed its name to “Linages to Care” in December 2021.

1. The CSS workgroup is working on a CSS Best Practice Guide.
2. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is exploring ways to break the stigma about MOUD, steps to take if someone loses a provider of MOUD, and promotion of MOUD in emergency department settings.

Policy:

Goal 5, Focus Area #1 -

Narcan in Schools Policy Brief

- Completed and available on Take Charge Ohio website.
- Disseminated to school nurses across the state and OPN members.

MOUD in Jail Settings Educational Brief

- Final draft completed. Draft has been shared with representatives from Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS), Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) and the Department of Youth Services for review and feedback.
- **COVID-19 Quick Hit Resources** – We are creating one-page resource documents on the below topics. We are striving to promote best practices that came about during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that many services were modified to ensure the needs of the population were still being met. The following documents are nearing completion:

Increasing Access to Narcan -

- Highlights how mail-order naloxone programs work.
- Shared with Harm Reduction Subcommittee for review.

MOUD via Telehealth -

- Highlights how MOUD is successfully being delivered via telehealth.
- Recently learned that Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and OMHAS telehealth rules are permanent, so proceeding with final review of this document.

Public Health Workforce Self-Care -

- Highlights the importance of self-care for our workforce.
- Surveyed OPN members at a recent meeting to collect statistics and success stories to feature in the document.

Goal 5, Focus Area #2 -

Public Health Advocacy Training

- Newly formed workgroup that will be putting together a training on advocacy vs. lobbying for the public health workforce.

Upcoming Subcommittee Calls:

Data (first Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.), bi-monthly

- March 1
- May 3

Harm Reduction (third Wednesdays at 10 a.m.), bi-monthly

- April 20

Linkages to Care (first Wednesdays at 2 p.m.), bi-monthly

- April 6
- June 1

Policy (first Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.)

- March 3
- May 5

Ohio Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition (OOAFPC)

2022 Meeting Schedule

The Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership and OOAFPC will continue with the traditional meeting schedule in 2022. Meetings will be held on Fridays May 6, Aug. 5, and Nov. 4. Meetings will be held virtually. A calendar invitation with meeting materials was shared in mid-January.

Pilot Projects

2021 Projects, Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021

The 2021 projects were completed in September and successfully met their project objectives. Recipients will present on their projects at the February Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership meeting.

2022 Projects, Oct. 1, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2022

The 2022 projects kicked off in October. Mid-year reports will be submitted to provide progress updates during April.

2023 Projects

The 2023 Pilot Project RFP will be released in March. More details to come.

Strategic Planning

The Ohio Falls Coalition's state plan runs through Dec. 31, 2021; however, the activities included in the plan will continue into the beginning of 2022. The Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership is working with The Ohio State University to update the overarching injury state plan and guidance documents. Once this process is completed, the Ohio Falls Coalition will also work with facilitators to update state plan objectives and strategies. This review and update is slated to begin at the February Ohio Falls Coalition meeting.

Coalition Committees and Updates

The OOAFPC would like to send a tremendous thank you to the committee co-chairs for their leadership and passion for serving older Ohioans over the past five years. Coalition leadership would also like to thank the dedicated members of the Ohio Falls Coalition. It is through their expertise and partnership that many successes have been achieved in 2021. Thank you all for your hard work, friendship, commitment, and desire to make a difference.

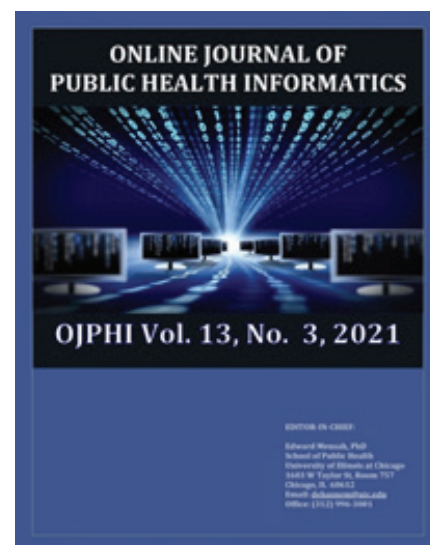
Partner's Corner

Dr. Don Brannen, PhD, MHSA, MS, Community Epidemiologist, from Greene County Public Health, co-authored a paper on [Syndromic Surveillance Data for Accidental Fall Injury](https://doi.org/10.5210/ojphi.v13i3.10264) through the Online Journal of Public Health Informatics on Dec. 24, 2021. Brannen, D. E., Howell, M., Stevely, A., Webb, J., & Owsley, D. (2021). Syndromic Surveillance Data for Accidental Fall Injury. *Online Journal of Public Health Informatics*, 13(3). <https://doi.org/10.5210/ojphi.v13i3.10264>.

Getting Involved

If you are interested in getting involved, please email Coalition Chair, Elizabeth Fries at Elizabeth.fries@uchd.net.

Follow us on Facebook at [Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition](https://www.facebook.com/OlderAdultFallsPreventionCoalition) and Twitter [@stopfallsOhio](https://twitter.com/stopfallsOhio).



What's Happening Around Ohio

The Ohio Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Section would like to thank the partners who submitted information for the "What's Happening Around Ohio" portion of the newsletter.



The Licking County Health Department's (LCHD) Drug Overdose Prevention program strives to prevent drug overdose events and reduce drug overdose fatalities among residents. The Licking County 2020 Overdose Fatality Review reported 47 unintentional overdose fatalities for 2020, the highest number of overdose fatalities in Licking County since recording overdose deaths began in 2001.

With support from the Ohio Department of Health, LCHD and Family Health Services of East Central Ohio (FHS), a reproductive health and wellness facility, worked together to implement a comprehensive, sustainable client care system inclusive of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention interventions. Through this partnership, FHS now offers SUD screenings; follows protocols that enable FHS to identify at-risk clients; provides warm hand-off referrals to treatment; educates patients on pain management and safe medication use; and distributes naloxone (NARCAN®). These initiatives reduce barriers to care, promote overdose prevention, and enhance client care.

As a result of the implemented initiatives from April 2021 through August 2021, FHS:

- Screened 439 clients for substance use disorder.
- Identified 3% of screened clients as at-risk.
- Referred 43% of clients identified as at-risk to care.
- Distributed 59 NARCAN® kits to the public.

"Working with the LCHD to make sure our staff has the best resources to effectively help our clients has been wonderful. I now feel like we are more prepared to identify and refer clients dealing with substance use disorder without any stigma."

– Ashley Washburn, Family Health Services, Executive Director.



Photo credit: Brianna Bretzfelder, LCHD

For more information, please contact:

bbretzfelder@lickingcohealth.org

New VIPS Employees and Meeting Date Section



Rachel Blayney,
MPH, Epidemiologist
Investigator 3



Eric Greene,
Violence Prevention/
Social Marketing Program
Consultant,
Sexual Assault and
Domestic Violence
Prevention Program



Nicole Emery, MPH,
Epidemiologist
Investigator 2

Ohio Injury Prevention Meeting Dates

- May 6, 2022 - Time TBD
- Aug. 5, 2022 - Time TBD
- Nov. 4, 2022 - Time TBD

OIPP Membership

Please complete the online membership form to ensure that you will receive updates about OIPP. Please email Meleesha Hodge at Meleesha.Hodge@odh.ohio.gov with any questions regarding membership in OIPP.

Membership signup

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XZ98MF>.