



Better Health Partnership
Annual Report to the
Community
2020



TO THE COMMUNITY



Better Health Partnership (BHP) has been a hallmark collaborative leader in Northeast Ohio since 2007. We bring health and social service providers together with other sectors, to share data and best practices that help accelerate improvements and reduce disparities in health. These activities are the secret sauce of our nationally recognized success with reducing racial disparities in adult diabetes care and improving blood pressure control in minority populations. Despite global pandemic disruptions, our partners uphold an unwavering commitment to collaborating for a healthier northeast Ohio- including eliminating structural racism, along with other barriers, that prevent individuals from achieving optimal health and well-being.

Our common goal is successful collaboration that results in zero infant deaths, zero children and adult suicides, substance use, uncontrolled chronic conditions, and reduced food and economic insecurity across all populations. Working together, we create equitable opportunities for all individuals to be healthy and thrive.

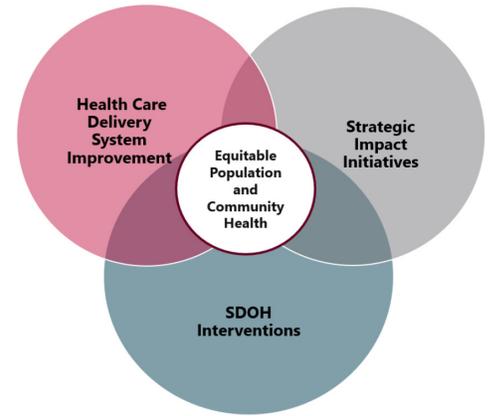
With sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and support,

President and CEO
Better Health Partnership

Key Approaches to Mission Achievement

Better Health Partnership's growing health improvement collaborative now includes more than 500,000 adults and children served by approximately 2,000 providers from 18 health systems across Northeast Ohio, several social service agencies, managed care organizations, employers, public health, and community-based organizations.

Informed by data collected from our partners, we provide neutral convening to spawn collaboration and best practice sharing to accomplish our mission using three key approaches: 1) Facilitation of continuous health care delivery system improvement; 2) Leading or partnering in cross-sector, strategic, health equity impact initiatives, and 3) Implementation of social determinant of health (SDOH) interventions to connect at-risk populations to care and resources to help meet their health, social, educational and economic needs. In this report, we highlight some of the collaborative's 2020 strategic priorities designed to achieve greater health equity and return value to our partners and the community.



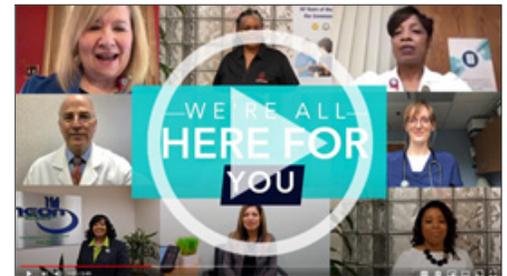
First Year Cleveland:

Every baby deserves to celebrate a first birthday

For the past two decades, the leading contributing factor to infant deaths in our region has been prematurity.

By working together, Action Team #4, led by BHP and Dr. Brian Mercer, Chair Ob-gyn of The MetroHealth System, and including Clinical Experts from University Hospitals, Southwest General, and the Cleveland Clinic, discovered actionable areas for improvement that could potentially help prevent or delay premature births. One of the team's most dramatic findings were the delays noted in pregnant women accessing prenatal care following an emergency room visit, representing lost opportunities to provide care, coordinate care, and identify risks early in pregnancy. Improvement interventions are underway, including integrating findings from Action Team #1's patient experience journey mapping, to provide insights related to implicit bias, structural racism, and other obstacles that may be affecting premature birth.

Additionally, Action Team #4 Providers work tirelessly to ensure new and expectant parents during COVID-19 isolation days, have everything they need for a healthy pregnancy and baby, including providing videos with reassuring and informative messages to their patients and the community.



Community Information Exchange Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

Working together with health systems, community agencies, and UW 2-1-1 of Cuyahoga and Summit counties, Better Health Partnership is working to bridge the communication and information exchange divide between health and human service providers in Northeast Ohio to improve health outcomes and promote equity. Working across sectors to create a community information exchange (CIE), to achieve better care coordination for vulnerable populations, begins with shared goals for data sharing that inform meaningful improvement strategies and guide future stakeholder investments.

Better Health Pathways HUB

Community Health Workers “hub up” for greater impact on health equity

In 2020, Better Health Partnership launched the new Pathways Community HUB (PCH) for Cuyahoga County – becoming one of ten Pathways HUBs in the state of Ohio, supported by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. The PCH is an evidence-based, care coordination model that improves health, reduces costs and promotes equity. It leverages Community Health Workers to help connect at-risk, primarily minority populations, to care and resources to meet health, economic and social needs.



Birthright Beautiful Communities, Care Alliance Health Center, Carmella Rose Health Foundation, Circle Health/Centers for Families and Children, Neighborhood Family Practice, Neighborhood Leadership Institute, The MetroHealth System, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON, including Moms and Babies First)

The HUB brings scalability and sustainability of social services in the region by creating a large, centralized network of care coordination agencies who work “pathways” to meet client needs and are reimbursed from Medicaid Managed Care Organizations for achieved outcomes.

Children’s Health Initiative

Strengthening collaboration to improve health and social-emotional outcomes for children

Concern for children’s health and well-being has never been greater than during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The disease has completely disrupted children’s primary health care, education, social and family life. And for some- leaving them feeling anxious, depressed, hungry and alone.

Better Health Partnership’s Children’s Health Leadership Team, co-chaired by Steve Spalding MD, VP Population Health, Akron Children’s Hospital and Andrew Hertz MD, Vice President, Rainbow Primary Care Institute; Medical Director, Rainbow Care Connection stepped up to face these growing challenges to ensure our youth’s health and social needs are adequately met. Together, enabled with passion and data, they work collectively to improve outcomes with obesity, asthma, lead exposure, and mental/behavioral health.

Recent analysis, derived from our Partners’ data shows significant racial disparities in asthma diagnosis rates, not only between neighborhoods, but within neighborhoods. This highlights an opportunity to inform cross-sector targeted interventions, such as improved housing conditions, air quality, and flu vaccination programs that may help prevent unnecessary, costly asthma exacerbations.

Disparities in Asthma by Neighborhood

			% Asthmatic-White	% Asthmatic-Black	Relative Ratio
Cuyahoga County Suburbs	East Cleveland Suburb	Beachwood	7%	29%	3.9
		University Heights	8%	24%	3.1
		South Euclid - Lyndhurst	10%	24%	2.3
		Cleveland Heights	11%	23%	2.1
	West Cleveland Suburb	Berea	10%	32%	3.1
Fairview Park		11%	29%	2.6	
Brook Park		13%	28%	2.1	
Akron Suburbs	Northern Summit County Suburb	Lakewood	11%	22%	1.9
		Bath - Copley	20%	30%	1.5
		Cuyahoga Falls - Silver Lake	22%	32%	1.5
		Stow - Munroe Falls	21%	31%	1.4
	Southern Summit County Suburb	Twinsburg	19%	27%	1.4
		Green	22%	35%	1.6
		Lakemore - Springfield	28%	38%	1.4
Barberton - Norton	25%	34%	1.4		



Signs of Support for Health Workers

To those working on the front lines protecting us from COVID-19, those of us from Better Health Partnership say “thank you!”

BETTER HEALTH PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

FOUNDERS

The MetroHealth System
Health Action Council
The Center for Community Solutions
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Akron Children's Hospital
Asian Services in Action
AxessPointe Community Health Centers
Care Alliance Health Center
Circle Health Services/The Centers
Cleveland Clinic Health System
Lake Health System
Medina County Health Department
The MetroHealth System
Neighborhood Family Practice
Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON)
Northeast Ohio VA Healthcare System
Senders Pediatrics
Southwest General
St. Vincent Charity Medical Center
Summa Health Care System
UHCMC Douglas Moore Health Center
UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

FOUNDATIONS

The Bruening Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation
The George Gund Foundation
HealthComp Foundation
Huntington-Akron Foundation
Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
UnitedHealthcare

EMPLOYERS AND HEALTH PLANS

Buckeye Health Plan
CareSource
Health Action Council
Medical Mutual of Ohio
UnitedHealth Group

COMMUNITY

Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
American Heart Association
Birthing Beautiful Communities
Bright Beginnings
Carmella Rose Health Foundation
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood
Cleveland Department of Public Health
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cuyahoga Community College
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Environmental Health Watch
Fairhill Partners
First Year Cleveland
Health Improvement Partnership- Cuyahoga
Hospice of the Western Reserve
Illinois Public Health Initiative
Institute for H.O.P.E.
May Dugan Center
National Leadership Institute
Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Ohio Department of Medicaid
Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative
Old Brooklyn Community Development
Say Yes to Education
Summit County Public Health
United Way 2-1-1
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

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Our Vision

Northeast Ohio is one of the healthiest places to live and best places to do business.

Our Mission

We bring health care, social services, and other sectors together to share best practices and accelerate data-informed improvements in equitable population and community health.

Our Values

Making a difference in the communities we serve is a core value. We prize trusted collaboration, transparency, data, shared learning, and a culture of continuous improvement to advance health and health equity.

Connect with us!



www.betterhealthpartnership.org
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