



1



2

The Reality

- People with cognitive disabilities were four times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population.
- Nearly 1 in 5 violent crime victims with a disability believed that they became a victim because of their disability.
- One in three adults with an intellectual disability suffer sexual abuse in adulthood.
- Children with any kind of disability are more than twice as likely as nondisabled children to be physically abused and almost twice as likely to be sexually abused.



3

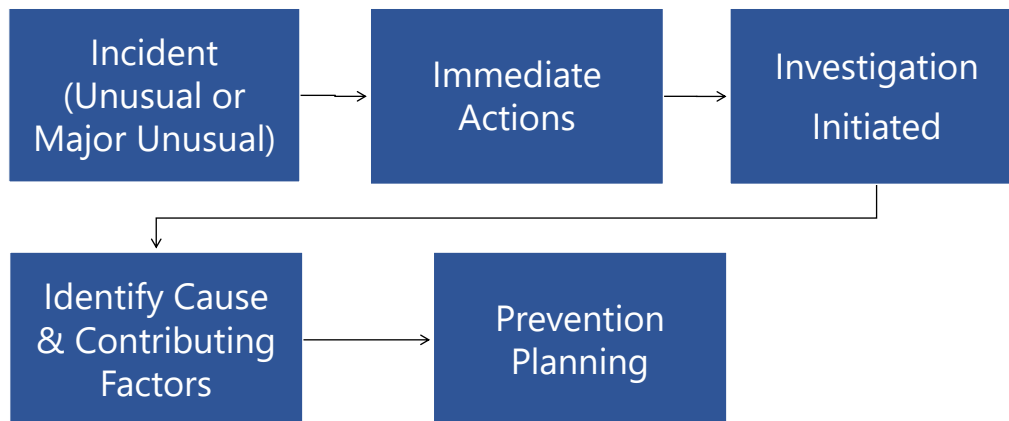


Ohio has one of the best Health and Welfare Systems in the country because of **each of you**. Working collaboratively, we can improve outcomes to help protect those we are entrusted to support. Thank you for all you do every day to ensure health and safety, support access to community participation and increase opportunities for meaningful employment.



4

Quality Improvement Process



Unusual Incidents

"Unusual incident" means an event or occurrence involving an individual that is not consistent with routine operations, policies and procedures, or the individual's care or service plan, but is not a major unusual incident. Unusual Incident includes but is not limited to;

- Dental injuries;
- Falls;
- Injury that is not a significant injury;
- Medication errors without a likely risk to health and welfare;
- Overnight relocation due to fire;

Unusual Incidents

- Rights Code Violations;
- Natural Disaster
- Mechanical Failure
- ER/Urgent Care Treatment
- Overnight relocation
- Incident involving two individuals served that is not a Peer-to-Peer act that is not a major unusual incident;
- Unapproved behavioral support without a likely risk to health and welfare.
- Emergency room or urgent care treatment
- Program implementation incidents



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Programmatic Implementation UI

Examples include, but are not limited to, failing to provide supervision for short periods of time, automobile accidents without harm, and self-reported incidents with minimal risk.

An individual has a provider who helps him with grocery shopping and paying his monthly bills. It was reported by a neighbor that the individual did not have any groceries for the month of January. The neighbor provided the individual with food so he would not be hungry. Due to the neighbor interjecting and providing the individual with food, the neighbor's actions mitigated the individual's risk.



8

Programmatic Implementation UI

An individual was dropped off at home by his/her day program, the transportation driver leaves to resume routes. No staff are present at the home and the weather conditions are good. The individual has alone time (at home) for up to 30 minutes but can safely navigate community without supervision. When staff arrive home, individual is on porch and no harm/injuries had occurred.



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Role of Independent Provider in UI Process

- Immediate Actions.
- Write an incident report.
- Notifications-guardian and send incident report to SSA (designee) the first working day following the day the incident was discovered. Other providers when necessary.
- Identify causes and contributing factors.
- Collaborate on the development of prevention plan and implement.
- Complete UI log monthly and review for patterns and trends-corrective actions for trends.
- Send UI logs to county board upon request (random sampling).
- Work with team to ensure that risks associated with UIs are addressed in the plan.



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Role of Agency Provider in UI Process

- Immediate Actions.
- Write an incident report.
- Notifications-guardian and others per plan. Notify other providers when necessary.
- Identify causes and contributing factors.
- Investigate(send CB upon request).
- Collaborate on the development of prevention plan and implement.
- Complete UI log monthly and review for patterns and trends-corrective actions for trends.
- Send UI logs to county board upon request (random sampling).
- Work with team to ensure that risks associated with UIs are addressed in the plan.



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What is a Major Unusual Incident (MUI)?

- MUI means the alleged, suspected, or actual occurrence of an incident when there is reason to believe the incident has occurred.
- There are 19 categories.
- These are administrative investigations.



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Immediate Actions Come First (UI and MUIs)

Check for Injuries and document	Call 911	Initiate First Aid and CPR	Contact the Doctor, Psychiatrist, Neurologist, Wound Clinic	Secure Money, Meds and Property
Make sure the person has food, meds, etc.	Contact Police and CSB	Fix Adaptive Equipment	Call Poison Control	Request an assessment (Nursing, Swallowing, Med, PT, OT, Speech)
Request emergency approval for protective/restrictive measures through HRC, if warranted	Emergency Removal of person	Retrain staff	Repair locks and alarms	Removal of staff for allegations of physical and sexual abuse



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Reporting Requirements for MUIs

Contact the county board immediately or within 4 Hour for these types of MUIs

Accidental/Suspicious Death	Exploitation	Misappropriation	Neglect	Media Inquires about a MUI
Peer to Peer Act	Physical Abuse	Prohibited Sexual Relations	Sexual Abuse	Verbal Abuse

For these and all other MUI types, you must complete an incident report and submit it to the county board by 3 p.m. on the first working day following the day the provider becomes aware of a potential or determined major unusual incident.



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Incident Reporting

- After the person(s) are safe, notifications are made...complete your incident report.
- This is one of the most important documents in incident prevention.
- Take your time, be detailed and clear about what happened before, during the incident.
- Submit written Incident Report by 3:00 p.m. the Next Working Day
- Notify Law Enforcement of Criminal Act
- Notify Children's Services for abuse and neglect under the age of 21



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Role of DSP and Providers in MUIs

- Listen, observe and advocate. You know the people you support best!
- Always address medical concerns timely.
- Report.
- Immediate Actions, including removal of employee for alleged sexual and physical abuse.
- Cooperating with investigation. Provide needed information for the investigation in a timely manner.
- Work with the Team on prevention plan.
- Address risks in ISP.
- Annual Review of MUIs.



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Purpose of MUI Investigations

1. Focus on outcomes
2. Identify root cause and other contributing factors to aid in the development of a prevention plan.
3. Prevention plan that addresses:
 - How can we decrease the chances of this incident occurring again?
 - How can we prevent injury for all involved?
 - Improve outcomes for individuals served



Physical Abuse

Physical force can reasonably be expected to result in harm. Examples: Hitting, slapping, pushing, dragging or throwing an object when the allegation indicates that it could reasonably result in harm.

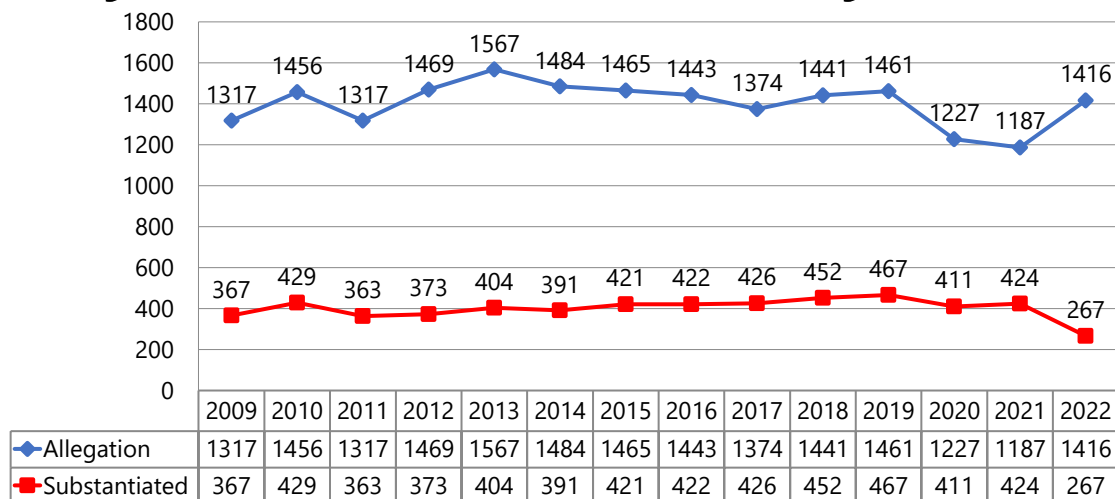
Cause/Contributing Factors:

- Control and Power
- Unrealistic expectations and retaliation
- Care giver burn out and exhaustion
- Scheduled excessive hours
- Lack of coping skills
- Ineffective training to deal with aggression



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	1,416	
Total Substantiated	267	
Percent Substantiated	19%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	58	22%
Guardian	7	3%
Other	82	31%
Payee	0	0%
Paid Supports	78	29%
Unknown	42	16%

Physical Abuse Data Analytics



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Sexual Abuse

- Unlawful sexual contact
- Unlawful sexual conduct
- Public indecency, voyeurism, importuning, etc.

Contact involves touching of an erogenous zone of another, including without limitation the thigh, genitals, buttock, pubic region, or, if the person is a female, a breast, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying either person. Conduct includes oral sex or penetration including digital or with objects.

Causes and Contributing Factors:

- Power
- PPI was a victim of sexual abuse



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	320	
Total Substantiated	53	
Percent Substantiated	17%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	12	23%
Guardian	0	0%
Other	26	49%
Payee	0	0%
Paid Supports	2	4%
Unknown	13	25%

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Verbal Abuse

The use of words, gestures, or other communicative means to threaten, coerce, intimidate, harass or humiliate an individual.

Examples: Using social media to post humiliating pictures of someone you serve, threatening to harm a person if they tell on you for sleeping, telling the individual that you will have their roommate beat them up if they don't stop screaming.

Cause/Contributing Factors:

- Control; unrealistic expectations
- Staff are in challenging situation with little support
- Staff don't recognize their own trauma history



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	954	
Total Substantiated	254	
Percent Substantiated	27%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	36	14%
Guardian	4	3%
Other	78	31%
Payee	0	0%
Paid Supports	106	42%
Unknown	30	12%

Know the Signs of Abuse

- Ongoing unexplained health problems like stomach aches and headaches
- Withdrawal from previously enjoyable activities, places, or persons, suddenly avoiding places or people
- Changes in sleep patterns such as nightmares, trouble sleeping, sudden bedwetting, and other sleep problems
- Dressing in layers of clothing
- Changes in appetite, loss of appetite, weight gain or loss
- Bruising
- Bleeding, soreness, redness, irritation, itching, and unusual discharges
- Torn or stained underwear or linens
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- New sexual knowledge or sexual behavior
- Sudden difficulty walking or sitting
- Suddenly frightened or certain people or situations



What can you do?

- Get the individual help right away (medical, emotional, financial).
- Help the person feel safe, set judgements aside.
- Remember to not imply blame on the victim.
- Ask questions like “were you able to?” Instead of “why didn’t you?”.
- Emotionally support the victim.
- Remember to refer the individual for counseling and victim’s assistance as appropriate.



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Check your self-care battery

Feeling great!

I am empty!



Where do you think most abuse, neglect and power struggles generally occur?



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Neglect

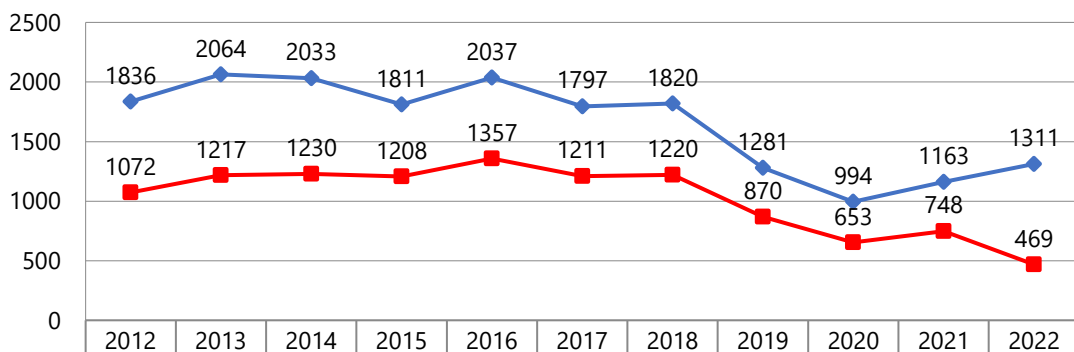
- A duty
- Failing to provide an individual with medical care, personal care, or other support that consequently results in serious injury or places an individual or another person at risk of serious injury.
- Serious injury means an injury that results in treatment by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	1,311	
Total Substantiated	469	
Percent Substantiated	36%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	51	%
Guardian	12	%
Other	63	%
Payee	0	%
Paid Supports	326	%
Unknown	2	%

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Neglect Data Analytics



◆ Allegation	1836	2064	2033	1811	2037	1797	1820	1281	994	1163	1311
■ Substantiated	1072	1217	1230	1208	1357	1211	1220	870	653	748	469



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Some examples of Neglect



Not taking actions to address medical concerns timely



Transportation



Supervision



Burns



Oral Health



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Things to Consider

- You don't have to be a medical professional to notice a change in condition and get help.
- Use your 5 senses to support and monitor someone's mental and physical wellbeing.



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Misappropriation

- With intent
- Deprive, defraud, or otherwise obtain real or personal property
- As prohibited in Ohio Revised Code 2911 and 2913

Examples: Using someone’s credit card, taking a person’s iPad, “borrowing” someone’s money and paying it back on Friday, withdrawing cash from their personal funds without their knowledge/permission, stealing medication(s), food stamps, and/or gift cards.

Cause and Contributing Factors:

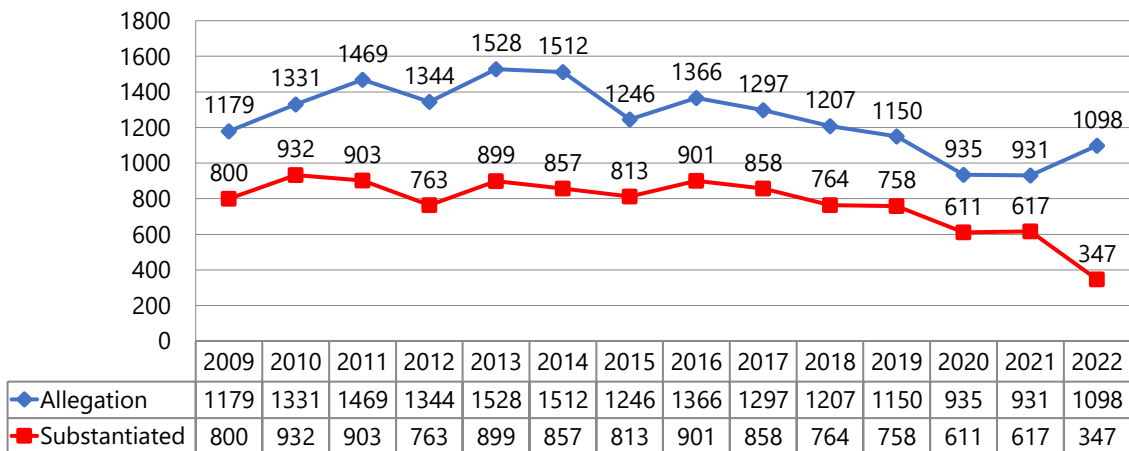
- PPI has a gambling or drug problem
- Multiple people have access to property or funds
- Easy access to individual’s financial information



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	1,098	
Total Substantiated	347	
Percent Substantiated	32%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	33	10%
Guardian	6	2%
Other	55	16%
Payee	5	1%
Paid Supports	53	15%
Unknown	194	56%

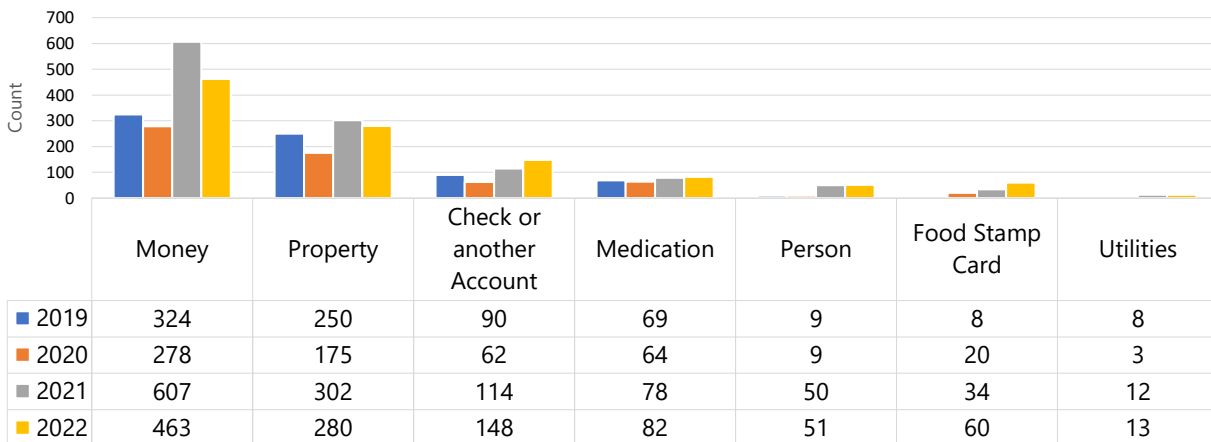
29

Misappropriation Data Analytics



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Items Misappropriated 2020-2022



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Exploitation

- Unlawful or improper or
- Using Individual’s resources for personal benefit, profit, or gain
- Examples: Human trafficking, selling raffle tickets to individuals for your daughter’s sports team, having the individual buy home party items so you can get free stuff, having an individual clean your house, having the individual buy a fax machine for you to use at their home for your business.



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	219	
Total Substantiated	80	
Percent Substantiated	37%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	11	14%
Guardian	0	0%
Other	23	29%
Payee	0	0%
Paid Supports	12	15%
Unknown	34	43%

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Prohibited Sexual Relations

- Developmental Disabilities employee
- Consensual sexual conduct or contact
- With an individual who is not their spouse
- Employed or under contract to provide care to the individual at the time of the incident
- Anyone in the Developmental Disabilities employee’s supervisory chain of command



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	21	
Total Substantiated	7	
Percent Substantiated	33%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	NA	NA
Guardian	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA
Payee	NA	NA
Paid Supports	7	100%
Unknown	NA	NA

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Failure to Report

- DD employee unreasonably failed to report Abuse or Neglect
- Knew or should have known
- Failure would result in a substantial risk of harm

Cause and Contributing Factors:

- Fear of Retaliation
- Not trained properly

Difference between late report and failing to report



2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	136	
Total Substantiated	65	
Percent Substantiated	48%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	NA	NA
Guardian	NA	NA
Other	4	6%
Payee	NA	NA
Paid Supports	61	94%
Unknown	NA	NA

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Rights Code Violation

Rights code violation" means any violation of the rights enumerated in section 5123.62 of the Revised Code that creates a likely risk of harm to the health or welfare of an individual.

There was a 21% increase in Rights Code filings from 2021 to 2022.

Cause and contributing factor:

- Power and control



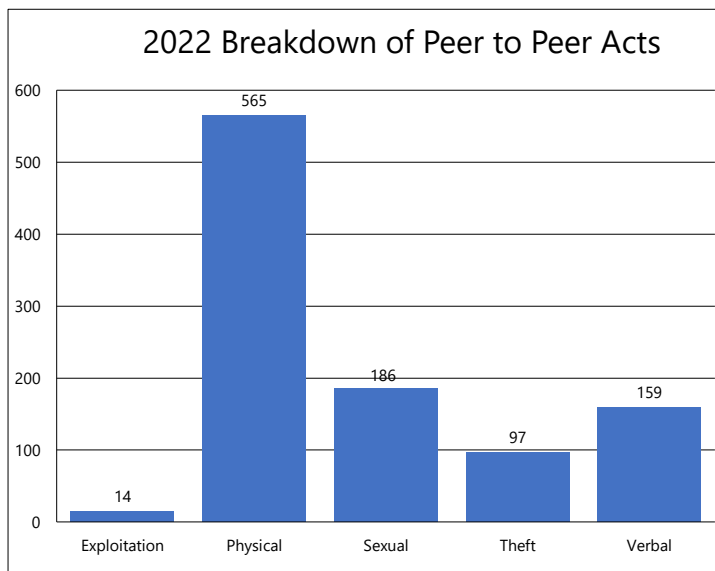
2022 MUI Data		
PPI Breakdown		
Total Allegations	77	
Total Substantiated	18	
Percent Substantiated	23%	
Description	Sub #	Sub %
Family	2	11%
Guardian	0	0%
Other	1	6%
Payee	0	0%
Paid Supports	15	83%
Unknown	0	0%

Peer to Peer

"Peer-to-peer act" means one of the following incidents involving two individuals served:

- Exploitation
- Theft
- Physical Act
- Sexual Act
- Verbal Act

A total Peer to Peer Acts 1,021 for 2022.



Unapproved Behavioral Support

Often referred to as UBS, Unapproved Behavioral Support means the use of a prohibited measure as defined in rule 5123:2-06 of the Administrative Code or the use of a restrictive measure implemented without approval of the human rights committee or without informed consent of the individual or the individual's guardian in accordance with rule 5123:2-06 of the Administrative Code, when use of the prohibited measure or restrictive measure results in risk to the individual's health or welfare.

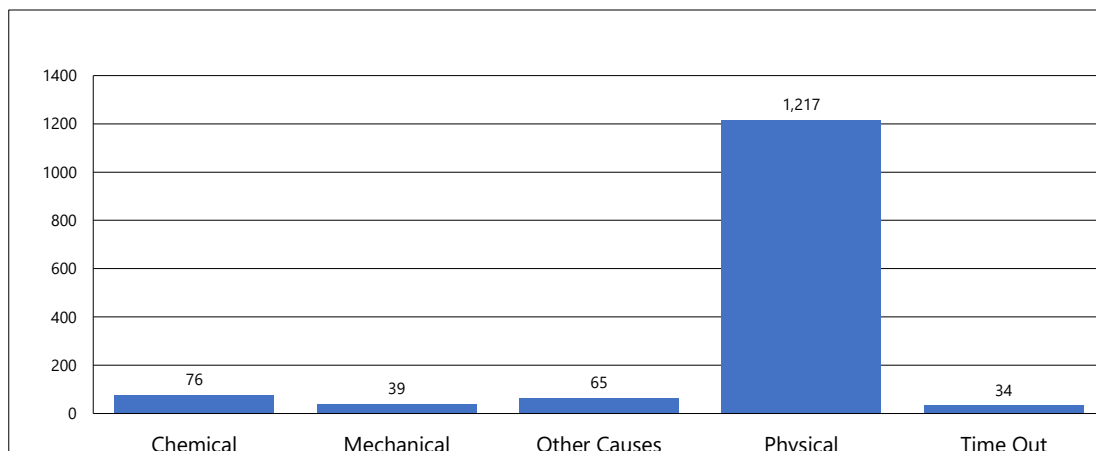
When use of the prohibited measure or restrictive measure does not result in risk to the individual's health or welfare, the incident shall be investigated as an unusual incident.



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Unapproved Behavioral Support

A total of 1,431 UBS MUIs in 2022



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Prone Restraint

Prone restraint is a method of intervention where a person's face and frontal part of his or her body is placed in a downward position touching any surface for any amount of time. The use of prone restraints in Ohio is prohibited.

Never an Option;

- Prone restraints are not to be used at any time,
- including as a behavioral intervention in any crisis
- Situation Prone restraints are not to be written into any support or service plan.
- Should any person place themselves in a prone position while in a restraint, those applying the restraint shall immediately release their hold or any pressure that was being applied to prevent application of a prone restraint.
- There were 15 UBS MUI's for prone restraint in 2022.



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Missing Person

An incident that is not considered neglect and an individual's whereabouts, after immediate measures taken, are unknown and the individual is believed to be at or pose an imminent risk of harm to self or others. An incident, when an individual's whereabouts are unknown for longer than the period of time specified in the individual's service plan, that does not result in imminent risk of harm to self or others shall be investigated as an unusual incident.

There were 583 Missing Individual reports in 2022 from 504 in 2021.



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Law Enforcement

Individual is:

- Charged
- Incarcerated
- Arrested
- Tased even if individual is not arrested

Examples of Law Enforcement MUI's include arrests for disorderly conduct, charges with assault, or parole violations.

There were 756 law enforcement MUIs in 2022.



41

Deaths

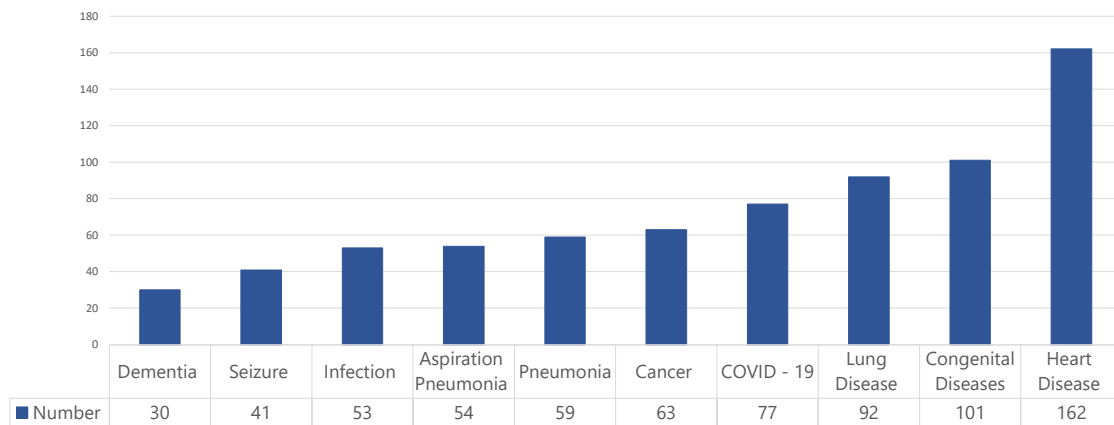
Two categories of deaths:

- Accidental or suspicious death means the death of an individual resulting from an accident or suspicious circumstances (Category A).
- Death other than accidental or suspicious death means the death of an individual by natural cause without suspicious circumstances (Category B).
- There were 72 Accidental Deaths and 860 Non-Accidental Deaths in 2022 of the 102,912 people served.
- Accidental Deaths had a significant decrease resulting from decreases in choking, drug overdoses, fires, homicides, motor vehicle accidents, suffocations, and suicides.



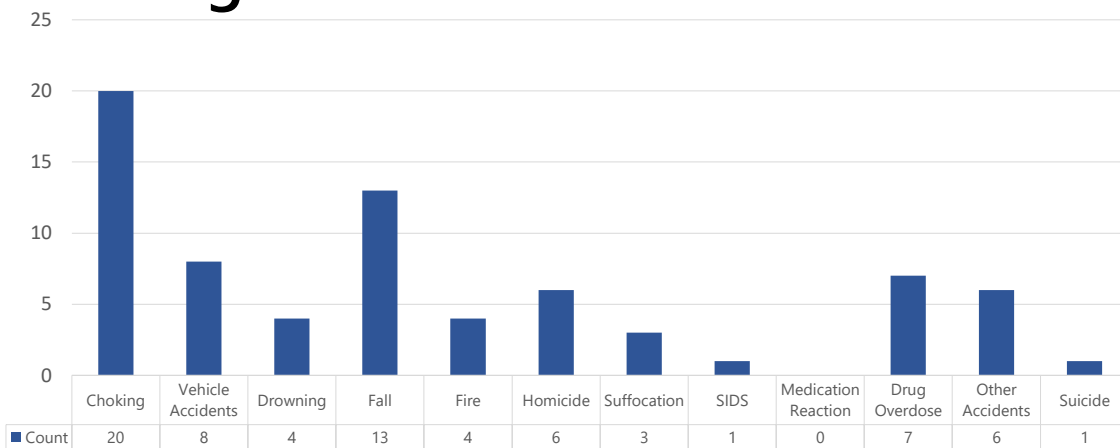
42

Leading causes Non-Accidental Deaths



43

Leading Causes Accidental Deaths



44

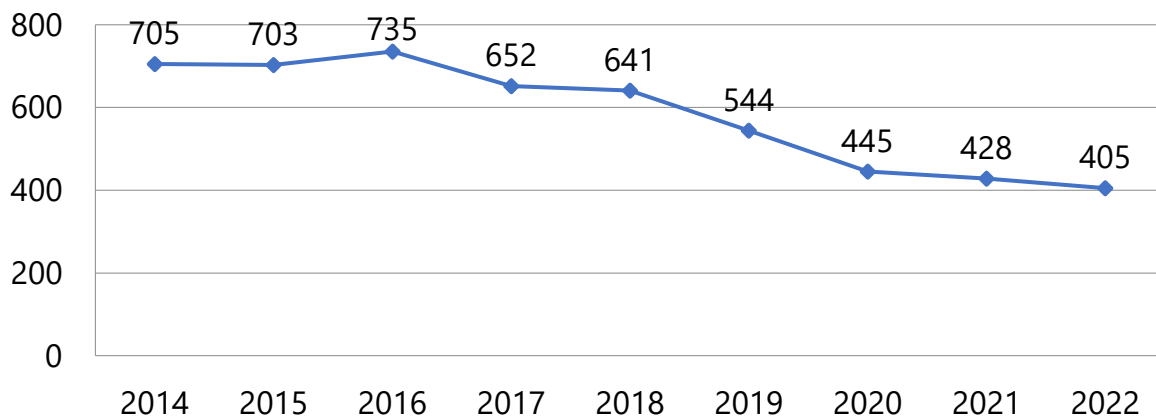
Medical Emergency MUIs

- Medical emergency means an incident where emergency medical intervention is required to save an individual's life. Techniques include; Automated External Defibrillator (AED), chest compressions/CPR, choking relief, Epinephrine Auto Injector.
- Choking relief was the highest life saving measure performed of the medical emergencies at eighty-seven percent.



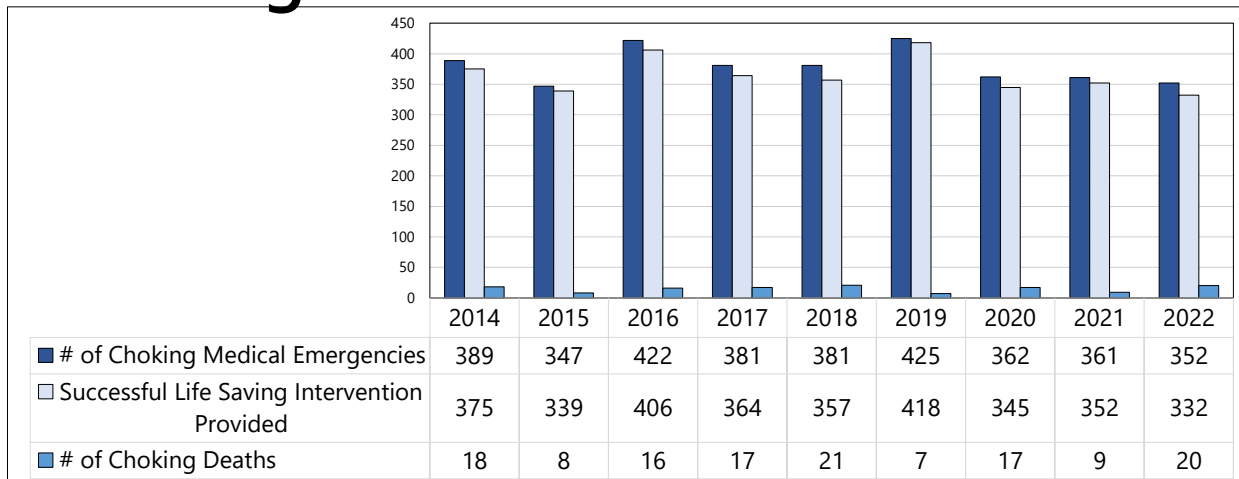
45

Medical Emergency Data



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Choking Incidents 2014-2022



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Remembering Garry



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JrG-ouDQOI>

Health and Welfare Alert
Preventing Choking #18-08-23

Learn about the most common choked on foods, risk for people with IDD and how you can prevent choking.



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Significant Injury MUIs

Significant injury means an injury of known or unknown cause that is not considered abuse or neglect and that results in concussion, broken bone, dislocation, second or third degree burns or that requires immobilization, casting, or five or more sutures. Significant injuries shall be designated in the incident tracking system as either known or unknown cause.

- There was a 3% increase in Significant injury MUIs from 2021-2022.
- Examples: falls, broken finger of unknown origin, scalding burn to hands from faucet.



49

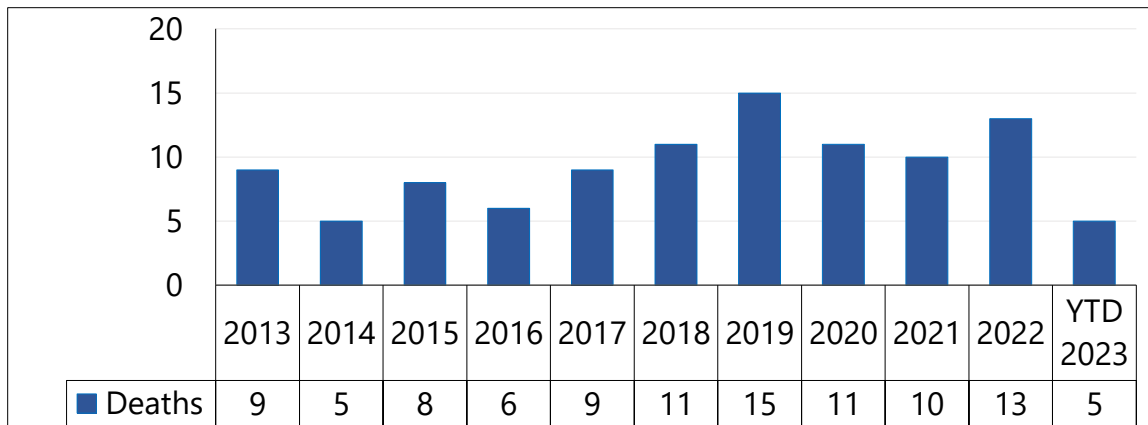
Fall Related Significant Injuries

Year	Falls Reported as Significant Injuries	Total Significant Injuries Reported	% Fall Related Injuries
2016	730	1553	47%
2017	691	1505	46%
2018	721	1474	49%
2019	887	1803	49%
2020	737	1418	50%
2021	774	1556	50%
2022	544	1510	36%



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Fall Related Deaths 2013-YTD 2023



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Fall Prevention

- Adaptive Equipment Checks
- OT/PT Assessments
- Strength Training
- Footwear/clothing checks
- Home Modifications
- Environmental Checks
- Check for Adequate Lighting
- Training on Individual Specific fall risks and needs



REVIEW YOUR MEDICATIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR



STAY ACTIVE AND EXERCISE



MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER








GET YOUR VISION AND HEARING CHECKED



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Prevention is the key

	Assessment and Evaluations	What were results and recommendations
	Team Discussion	What does the team recommend based on recommendation (diet, supervision, tracking)
	Person Centered Plan	Are current discussions and risk clearly addressed Dietary guidelines should be included if needed
	Training	Who provides training? Who is responsible for actions and reasonable time frames. It needs to be specific with pictures and demonstrations
	Communication	How are changes communicated across all setting and documented



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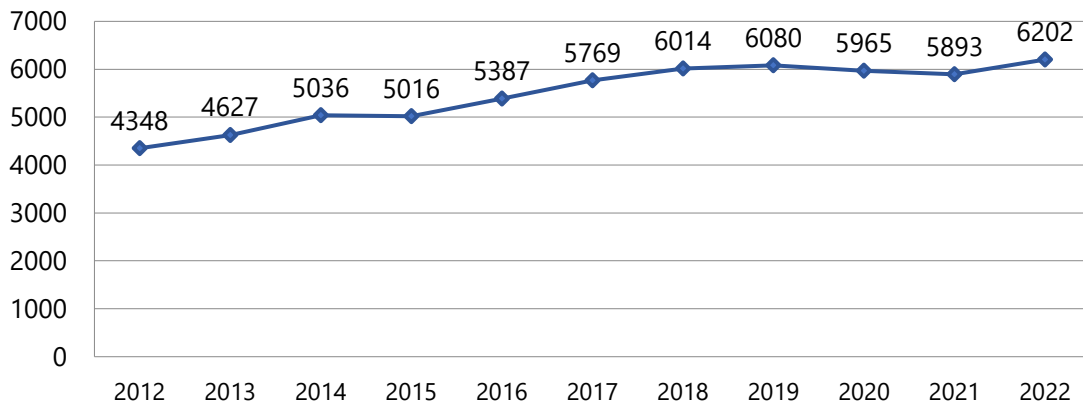
Unanticipated Hospitalizations

- "Unanticipated hospitalization" means any hospital admission or hospital stay exceeding 24 hours that is not pre-scheduled or planned.
- A hospital admission associated with a planned treatment or pre-existing condition that is specified in the Individual Service Plan indicating the specific symptoms and criteria which requires hospitalization is not an MUI.
- Unanticipated Hospitalizations remain the most filed MUI category with 33% of all MUIs filed which is a 5% decrease from the previous year.



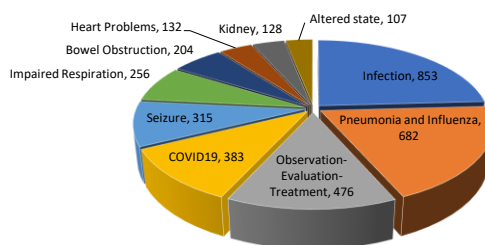
54

Hospitalizations over time



55

Top Ten Reasons for Medical Hospitalizations



- Infection
- Observation-Evaluation-Treatment
- Seizure
- Bowel Obstruction
- Kidney
- Pneumonia and Influenza
- COVID19
- Impaired Respiration
- Heart Problems
- Altered state



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Attempted Suicide

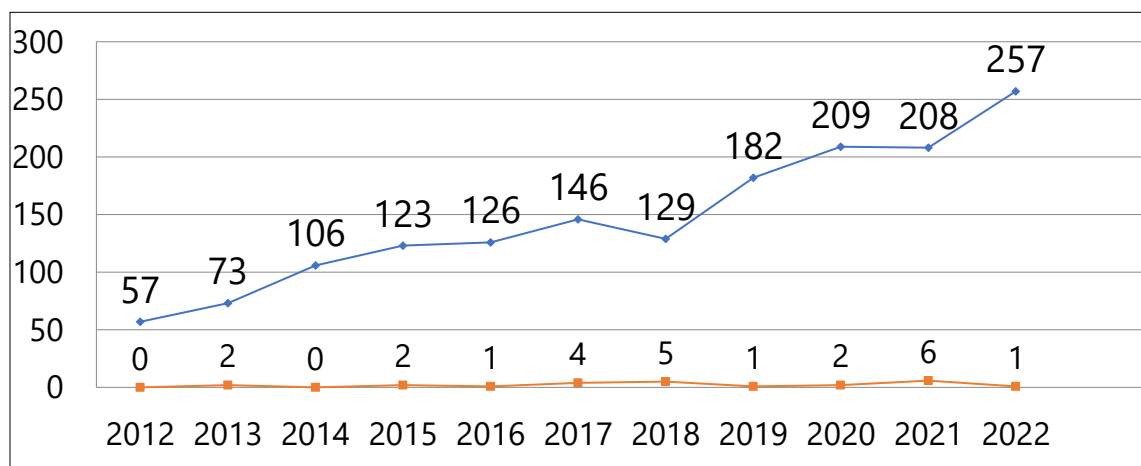
- Physical attempt that:
- Result in ER treatment *or*
- Inpatient observation *or*
- Hospital admission

Prevention plans address depression/mental wellness and attempts through counseling, psychiatry, group activities, using social media to connect to family and friends, telepsychiatry, medication, safety plans, exercise, meditation, expressive outlets and environmental changes.



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Suicide Rates 2012-2022



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Suicide Trends

- In the United States, suicide is a leading cause of death with 45,979 deaths in 2020.
- In 2020, suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34 years (United States Data).
- Males die by suicide at more than four times the rate of females (22 per 100,000 and 5.5 per 100,000 respectively) (United States Data).
- In 2020, 1,644 Ohioans died by suicide (13.8 per 100,000 residents).



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Mental Health and Wellness

- The mental wellness of the people that you support is so important and so is yours!
- Always take every threat and attempt seriously.
- Get help for yourself or others.



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5 Action Steps for Helping Someone in Emotional Pain

 <p>ASK</p> <p>“Are you thinking about killing yourself?”</p>	 <p>KEEP THEM SAFE</p> <p>Reduce access to lethal items or places.</p>	 <p>BE THERE</p> <p>Listen carefully and acknowledge their feelings.</p>	 <p>HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <p>Call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline number (988).</p>	 <p>STAY CONNECTED</p> <p>Follow up and stay in touch after a crisis.</p>
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 National Institute of Mental Health

nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention

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Other Noted Trends

- The leading cause of medical hospitalization was Infection (16%) and COVID-related hospitalizations made up 7% of all medical Unanticipated Hospitalizations MUIs.
- Neglect allegations increased by 12% (148) during the calendar year 2022.
- The number of Sexual and Physical Abuse allegations reported increased by 19% (57) and 17% (229) respectively in 2022. Increases in people served as well as increased reporting have contributed to these increases.



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Other Noted Trends

- The number of Prohibited Sexual Relation allegations rose to 21 in 2022 from 13 in 2021.
- Money continues to be the most misappropriated item accounting for 42% of all Misappropriation MUIs in 2022. There was a noted trend in the theft of food assistance benefits during the past year.
- Law Enforcement MUIs were up 17% (122) and accounted for 759 MUI categories.
- Choking related deaths increased from 9 in 2021 to 20 in 2022.
- The number of Missing Persons MUI increased from 504 to 553 in 2022, which was a 15% increase.



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2022 Health and Welfare Alerts

- Human Trafficking #71-4-22 (March 2022)
- Fall Prevention #20-3-52 (April 2022)
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention #65-5-22 (May 2022)
- Shunt Care #71-8-22 (August 2022)
- Prevention Pneumonia and the Flu, (December 2022)
- To review Alerts, visit <https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/health-and-welfare/health-and-welfare-alerts>



March 2022

Health and Welfare Alert

Fall Prevention #20-3-22

Direct support professionals (DSPs) play a vital role in the health and welfare of people with developmental disabilities.

Common Fall Risk Factors:
Home hazards; weather and outdoor conditions; lower body weakness; chronic health conditions such as seizures, depression, diabetes, obesity, and COPD; use of multiple medications; reduced vision; disability; poorly fitting shoes and clothes; adaptive equipment that is not functioning properly; nutrition; lack of physical activity and a fear of falling.

Impact of Seizures on Falling:
Many of the people we serve have a seizure disorder, which may place them at a higher risk of falling. Seizures can happen with little warning causing the person to fall directly to the floor, from a seated position to the floor, or fall into a fixed structure. It is important to make sure the person's environment is as safe as possible for them.

Medical Considerations:
Medications can also contribute to falling because medications like sedatives and anti-depressants can reduce a person's alertness. Some medications can affect balance or cause a drop in blood pressure while a person is standing. People on medications with "blood thinner" effects (like aspirin, Plavix, Motrin, Advil, Coumadin, Eliquis, etc.) are at increased risk for bleeding when they fall. Unseen bleeding inside the head can be fatal.

Fall Related Significant Injury/Deaths

Year	Falls Reported as Significant Injuries	Total Significant Injuries Reported	% Fall Related Injuries	Fall Related Deaths
2017	691	1505	46%	9
2018	721	1474	49%	11
2019	887	1803	49%	15
2020	737	1418	50%	11
2021	774	1556	50%	10

5 Things You Can Do to Prevent Falling

Fast Facts:

- In the last five years, 56 Ohioans with developmental disabilities have died of falls.
- Half of all Significant Injuries MUs are due to falls.
- According to the CDC:
 - » 1 out of 5 falls causes a serious injury such as broken bones or a head injury.
 - » More than 95 percent of hip fractures are caused by falling, usually by falling sideways.
 - » Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

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Health and Welfare Alert - Fall Prevention #20-3-22

Smart Habits to Prevent Falls

Stay Focused and Informed

- Don't carry large loads that can obstruct vision and affect balance.
- Know multi-focal glasses can affect how someone judges distance.
- Make sure clothing and shoes fit.
- Have a pharmacist review medications for side effects.
- Encourage increased exercise to build strength.

Keep Stairways Safe

- Every staircase should have a sturdy handrail on at least one side.
- Be sure stairways are well lit.
- Don't store items in stairwells or hang things on handrails.

Remove Sources of Tripping

- Secure cords away from walking areas and use non-skid rugs.

Be Aware of Various Environmental Risks

- Keep one hand free to the hold handrail when carrying items.
- Clean up any spills immediately.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ohio Administrative Code 5123-17-02 requires all developmental disabilities employees to review Health and Welfare Alerts released by the department as part of annual training. View previous alerts on the DODD website.

April 2022

Health and Welfare Alert

Human Trafficking #71-4-22

As an advocate for people with developmental disabilities, it is important that you know what human trafficking is to prevent, identify, and report it. Since people with disabilities are especially vulnerable, you can help provide needed support.

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a crime in which people profit from the control and exploitation of others.

Here are some risk factors that make people with disabilities more vulnerable to human trafficking:

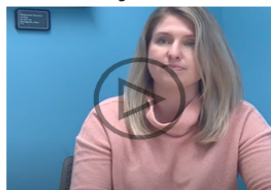
- Traffickers may seek out victims with disabilities to gain access to their public benefits such as supplemental security income (SSI) or social security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits.
- People with disabilities may require a caregiver to meet their basic needs. This caregiver can take advantage of this dependency and force them into prostitution or labor. Even if the caregiver themselves is not the trafficker, people with disabilities may have a learned response to comply with a caregiver's wishes because they rely on them for care, shelter, transportation, etc.
- Some people with disabilities may have difficulties with communication and/or speech. This may affect their ability to get help and report the abuse.
- People with disabilities may be isolated and therefore crave friendships and relationships.
- People with disabilities are often not provided sex education and may be unaware that they have the right to say "no".
- They may not realize that they have been a victim of a crime.

Other risk factors include:

- Prior abuse in the home, including sex abuse.
- Involvement with county children services.
- One or both parents abusing drugs at home.
- History of running away from home.
- Involvement in illegal activities, such as drug use.
- A mental illness.

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Cuyahoga County Board Discusses Human Trafficking of Individuals with DD



Fast Facts:

- In 2021, Ohio reported the sixth highest number of human trafficking cases to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- Recent data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that the rate of violent victimization of people with disabilities was nearly four times the rate of people without disabilities. Those with cognitive disabilities experienced the highest rate of victimization among disability types.
- Since 2018, 16 cases of human trafficking of Ohioans with developmental disabilities have been investigated as exploitation MUIs.
 - Ninety-four percent of the victims in these MUIs were females and six percent were males.
 - The ages of people in the human trafficking cases ranged from 15-49 years. The average age was 27 years.
 - About 30 percent of the exploitation MUIs were substantiated. Often time, it is difficult to investigate these cases and even more challenging to prove.
 - Twenty-three percent of those MUIs resulted in criminal convictions.

Health and Welfare Alert

Human Trafficking #71-4-22

Prevention

- Make sure people know who to report to if they have questions or concerns.
- Identify safe people and places.
- Provide education and support so that people know about sexuality, body awareness, and their rights.
- Provide supports to people who may be vulnerable.
- Look for ways to connect people with healthy support systems.
- Provide ongoing training to employees on human trafficking and exploitation.

Identification

Some indicators that a person with a developmental disability may be trafficked:

- The person may show signs of sexual, physical abuse, malnourishment, or confinement.
- The person is receiving something of value in exchange for sex or sexual activity.
- Injuries go untreated.
- They may be very isolated and not allowed to have contact with their friends or family.
- There is interference when someone wants to speak to the person alone.
- The person has very little control over their money or belongings.
- The person exhibits signs of fear or trauma.
- Adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction.
- Facility procedures fail to protect residents.
- Theft of benefits.
- Lacks official identification documents.
- Offered a job that seems too good to be true and their recruiter/prospective employer avoids giving detailed information about the job.
- Works long hours for very little pay.

Report

- If you believe you or someone you know is being trafficked, call the county board. If they are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
- Call 1-888-373-7888 or text "INFO" or "HELP" to 237333 (BeFree) for the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Support & Referrals

- Seek professional help. There are many organizations that work with people who are victims of human trafficking.
- Connect with your [local human trafficking coalition](#).
- Use a forensic interviewer to conduct law enforcement interviews. Forensic interviewers conduct non-leading victim-sensitive, neutral and developmentally appropriate investigative interviews that help law enforcement determine whether a crime occurred and what happened. They can be particularly critical when interviewing victims with cognitive or developmental disabilities, which might require extended interviews.
- Never interpret monotone or lack of emotion as a lack of ability to feel.

Resources

- [Resource Guidebook for Human Trafficking, Victims and Survivors with Disabilities](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Hotline Website](#)
- [The Human Trafficking Easy-Read Guides](#)
- [Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force website](#)

Ohio Administrative Code 5123-17-02 requires all developmental disabilities employees to review Health and Welfare Alerts released by the department as part of annual training. View previous alerts on the DODD website.

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May 2022

Health and Welfare Alert

Suicide Awareness & Prevention #65-5-22

People with developmental disabilities can be at a higher risk for suicide because of different risk factors, including co-occurring mental health diagnoses. Knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can save lives.

Signs and Symptoms

These behaviors may be signs that someone is thinking about suicide:

- Talking about wanting to die or kill themselves.
- Talking about feeling empty, hopeless, or having no reason to live.
- Making a plan or looking for a way to kill themselves, such as searching for lethal methods online, stockpiling pills, or buying a gun.
- Talking about a feeling of great guilt or shame.
- Feeling trapped or a feeling that there are no solutions.
- Feeling unbearable pain (emotional pain or physical pain).
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Using alcohol or drugs more often.
- Acting anxious or agitated.
- Withdrawing from family and friends.
- Changing eating or sleeping habits.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Taking great risks that could lead to death, such as driving extremely fast.
- Thinking or talking about death often.

Mental Wellness with Dr. Gentile

Learn more from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) with the Suicide Prevention Toolkit that includes videos, data, training, and more.

You can also:

- Visit mha.ohio.gov/families-children-and-adults/suicide-prevention-or-crisistextline.org
- Text "4HOPE" to 741-741
- Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Fast Facts

Since 2012, there has been an increase of Ohioans with developmental disabilities served by DODD who have attempted suicide.

An astounding 208 people attempted suicide in 2021.

Year	Attempted Suicides	Deaths
2012	57	2
2013	73	2
2014	106	2
2015	123	2
2016	126	2
2017	148	2
2018	129	2
2019	182	3
2020	182	3
2021	208	3

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Health and Welfare Alert

Suicide Awareness #65-5-22

Metro Health's Dr. Brittany Myers Talks Disability Suicide Prevention

Check-in, Make a Difference

People with disabilities, families, direct support professionals, supervisors, co-workers, and everyone else in Ohio's support system can benefit from some additional connections right now. During this difficult time, everyone needs a little extra support. Checking in with someone and making a difference is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

- Contact**
 - A single contact can make all the difference. If you suspect someone you care for is going through a rough time, reaching out is the first step to providing the help they may need. You can be the one who initiates the connection that could potentially save a life.
- Questions**
 - All it takes is asking two simple questions to make someone feel connected and cared for: Question 1 - "How are you? You don't seem like yourself, and I want to know how you're really feeling because I care about you." Question 2 - "Do you need to talk? Sometimes talking can help make things feel a little bit better."
- Resources to Share**
 - Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

COVID-19 Mental Health Resources

DODD compiled resources with links to information about coping, talking with children about the pandemic, self-care, and more.

Risk Factors

A person with disabilities may also have other factors that make them more likely to commit suicide, including their disability status, mental health diagnosis, a history of trauma, recent stressful life events, chronic pain, or impulsive actions and agitation.

Get Help

Connect to [Get Help](#) immediately when needed. Resources include the Crisis Text Line, Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and other services that can help someone struggling to cope with their current situation.


DODD encourages all system partners to check in with each other, with the families in their networks, and with the people they are supporting. Stay updated with new information and useful tools using the [Mental Wellness](#) resource featuring Dr. Julie Gentile.

Ohio Administrative Code 5123-17-02 requires all developmental disabilities employees to review Health and Welfare Alerts released by the department as part of annual training. View previous alerts on the DODD website.

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December 2022

Health and Welfare Alert



Preventing Pneumonia and the Flu #31-11-22

Direct support professionals make the difference in early identification and treatment of pneumonia and the flu. Based on your observations, you may recognize a change in the status of an individual you support that would require further evaluation. If you notice any of the signs and symptoms listed throughout this alert, please seek support from a medical professional.

It's important to know that Ohioans with developmental disabilities may be at higher risk for pneumonia and flu due to chronic lung conditions like asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. Swallowing difficulties, gastroesophageal reflux disease, seizure disorder, tube feeding, cerebral palsy, and being suppressed can all increase the risk of aspiration.


Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that can cause mild to severe illness. Older adults and people with other respiratory illnesses are at higher risk for pneumonia. Common signs of pneumonia include cough, fever, trouble breathing, fast heartbeat, shaking, or chills.

Aspiration occurs when a person accidentally inhales particles into their airway, report and document it quickly.

Seasonal influenza, also known as the flu, is a viral illness that causes fever, tiredness, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, body aches, and headaches. It is usually spread from person to person by coughing and sneezing.

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FOLLOW THESE 3 STEPS TO FIGHT THE FLU




YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SHOULD GET VACCINATED!

AVOID

TAKE ANTIVIRAL DRUGS IF PRESCRIBED BY YOUR DOCTOR!

Ohio Administrative Code 5123:17-02 requires all developmental disabilities employees to review Health and Welfare Alerts released by the department as part of annual training. View previous alerts on the DODD website.

Health and Welfare Alert Pneumonia & Flu #31-11-22



Know the Signs and Symptoms

Pneumonia	Aspiration Pneumonia	Flu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweating Fever Shortness of breath Wheezing Fatigue Cough, especially involving sputum (mucus) Difficulty swallowing Chest pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular coughing or sneezing while eating Gurgling sounds after eating Sudden coughing, wheezing or hoarseness Drooling Changes in breathing patterns Excessive throat clearing Avoids eating, especially favorite foods because they are uncomfortable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever above 100 degrees Sore throat Fatigue and weakness that can last up to two to three weeks Cough General aches and pains Intense headache Runny or stuffy nose

Take Action

- Use your training, equipment, and skills to take someone's vitals.
 - A pulse oximeter can measure a person's oxygen. To learn more, watch this [quick video](#).
- Call a nurse, doctor, or get assistance immediately if a person is experiencing signs of pneumonia.
- Document a person's condition (including vitals) and any changes so you can monitor and report.


Prevention Tips to Protect You and Others

- Stay home when sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash hands often
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Get enough sleep
- Exercise and avoid stress
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Avoid close contact with sick people

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Raising Awareness

This alert was developed based on a recommendation from the Mortality Review Committee's February 2022 meeting. The MRC asked that we raise awareness about hydrocephalus, shunts and signs of shunt malfunction, following a death. Alert #71-8-22 was issued on August 30, 2022, and is required training for all DD employees.



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August 2022 Health and Welfare Alert



Shunt Care #71-8-22

Hydrocephalus (pronounced hi-dro-sef-eh-les) occurs when there is extra cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the brain. Normally, CSF surrounds the brain and spinal cord helping cushion them from injury, while also delivering nutrients and removing waste. Too much CSF increases the pressure on the brain and may cause damage to brain tissue and changes to brain function.

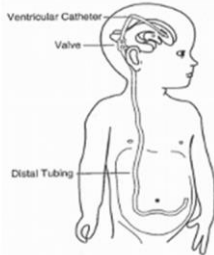
Hydrocephalus is usually treated by surgically placing a shunt near the brain or spinal cord. A shunt allows the extra CSF to flow from the brain to another part of the body.

If the shunt is not working properly, changes in CSF fluid levels take place inside the brain, causing a variety of symptoms. Watching for these symptoms in any individual with a brain shunt, regardless of how long the shunt has been in place, is very important. These symptoms may indicate a malfunctioning shunt, which if not treated promptly, can result in permanent neurological (brain) damage or death. Immediate help from the parents/nurses/physician/EMS should be sought for all suspected cases of acute shunt malfunction.

Signs of shunt problems or shunt malfunction

- Headaches
- Seizures – new onset, change in type, or increased frequency/duration of seizure activity
- Irritability
- Excessive sleepiness
- Incontinence
- Poor appetite
- Memory loss
- Poor coordination
- Impaired vision

Although shunting is successful in reducing pressure in the brain for most people, shunts do not work forever. It is difficult to predict how long shunts will last, but shunts are likely to require replacement after several years. The average lifespan of an infant's shunt is typically two years. Adults and children over the age of two may not need a shunt replacement for eight or more years.



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5-Year MUI Rule Review

- Rule Committee
- Stakeholder Make Up
- Process
- What we hope to accomplish

Coming Soon-early 2024:

- Provider/SSA In person training around the state on CCF and Prevention Planning



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Abuser Registry

- Established under Ohio law, the Abuser Registry lists the names of people who have committed acts of abuse, neglect, misappropriation, failure to report, and/or prohibited sexual relations.
- People who have committed a registry offense are prohibited from working with people with developmental disabilities for a minimum of one year.
- The Abuser Registry prevents persons who were DD employees from working in this field.
- The Abuser Registry is one way Ohio protects its most vulnerable citizens.
- As of November 28, 2023, there have been 1,294 people placed on the Abuser Registry.



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Presenters

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Resources

Health and Welfare Alerts

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/health-and-welfare>

Transportation Safety

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/health-and-welfare/toolkit/Transportation+Safety>

MUI Interpretive Guidelines

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/health-and-welfare/toolkit/mui+interpretive+guidelines>

MUI FAQ Guidance

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/health-and-welfare/toolkit/mui+faq+guidance>

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Contacts



DODD MUI Office
614-995-3810

County Board 24 Hour
Emergency Contacts
[https://its.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/
ABR_Default.aspx](https://its.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/ABR_Default.aspx)

www.dodd.ohio.gov

Abuse and Neglect
Hotline 800-617-6733 option 1



QUESTIONS?

DODD.OHIO.GOV

