



# Project Determination

## Investigation of an increase in suicide in Ohio, 2022

**Project ID:** 0900f3eb81fdf996  
**Accession #:** NCIPC-ST-9/21/22-df996  
**Project Contact:** Asha Ivey  
**Organization:** NCIPC  
**Status:** Pending Clearance  
**Intended Use:** Project Determination  
**Estimated Start Date:** 10/31/22  
**Estimated Completion Date:** 11/11/22  
**CDC/ATSDR HRPO/IRB Protocol#:**  
**OMB Control#:**

### Description

#### Priority

Urgent

#### Date Needed

09/23/22

#### Priority Justification

Processing for Epi-Aid investigation

#### Determination Start Date

09/27/22

#### Description

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services contacted the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in April of 2022, regarding possible increases in suicide deaths in several Ohio counties for the first quarter of 2022. ODH conducted preliminary data analysis of mortality data and syndromic surveillance data, and found that compared to quarter 1 of 2021, suicide deaths in Q1 of 2022 had increased by 550% in one county, 67% in another county, and 8% in Ohio overall. Several additional counties of interest were identified using syndromic surveillance as well. ODH requested assistance from

CDC/NCIPC/DIP to conduct an Epidemiologic Assistance Investigation (Epi-Aid) to investigate this increase in suicide in Ohio. In this investigation we will provide technical assistance to ODH to help identify additional counties and populations experiencing an increase in suicide, investigate potential contributors to the increase in suicide, describe the epidemiologic characteristics of those who have died by suicide in Ohio in 2022 compared to previous years, and identify prevention strategies to reduce future suicide deaths.

**IMS/CIO/Epi-Aid/Lab-Aid/Chemical Exposure Submission**

Yes

**IMS Activation Name**

Not selected

**Select the primary priority of the project**

Not selected

**Select the secondary priority(s) of the project**

Not selected

**Select the task force associated with the response**

Not selected

**CIO Emergency Response Name**

Not selected

**Epi-Aid Name**

Investigation of an increase in suicide in Ohio, 2022

**Lab-Aid Name**

Not selected

**Assessment of Chemical Exposure Name**

Not selected

**Goals/Purpose**

This is an Epi-Aid (non-research) response project with the following purpose: to understand the epidemiologic characteristics of those who have died by suicide or experienced self-harm injuries in Ohio, since 2020

**Objective**

1. Identify increases in suicide and self-harm injuries by geography and demographic characteristics. 2. Describe the epidemiologic characteristics of those who had died by suicide in recent months compared to recent years and identify risk and protective factors. 3. Examine current suicide prevention initiatives and recommend strategies to prevent future suicides.

**Does this project include interventions, services, or policy change work aimed at improving the health of groups who have been excluded or marginalized and/or decreasing disparities?**

Yes

**Project does not incorporate elements of health equity science**

Not selected

### **Measuring Disparities**

Yes

### **Studying Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)**

Not selected

### **Assessing Impact**

Not selected

### **Methods to Improve Health Equity Research and Practice**

Not selected

### **Other**

Not selected

### **Activities or Tasks**

New Collection of Information, Data, or Biospecimens; Secondary Data or Specimen Analysis

### **Target Population to be Included/Represented**

Other-Ohio Counties

### **Tags/Keywords**

Suicide; Epidemiologic Methods; Ohio

### **CDC's Role**

CDC employees or agents will obtain data by intervening or interacting with participants; CDC employees or agents will obtain or use anonymous or unlinked data or biological specimens; CDC employees will provide substantial technical assistance or oversight

### **Method Categories**

Individual Interview (Quantitative); Secondary Data Analysis

### **Methods**

For objective 1, CDC will provide technical assistance to ODH as they conduct analyses to identify geographies and populations experiencing an increase in suicide. These analyses will include examining mortality data (from death certificates) and non-fatal self-harm acute care visits (syndromic surveillance data) for long- and short-term trends overtime to the present (from 2011 and 2020 respectively) to trends overtime from 2020 to the present. Statistical testing will be used to identify potential counties and populations of interest in which current counts of suicide and nonfatal self-harm injuries are higher than expected, compared to previous years. In objective 2, we will use data from the Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS), death certificate records, and other sources as needed, to further characterize the suicides and self-harm injuries in 2022 that led to the Epi-Aid request. Statistical tests and analysis will determine if there have been changes in the association of suicide with a variety of independent variables, including, but not limited to, mechanism of suicide, socio-demographic characteristics, medical history, and precipitating factors known to be associated with suicide. For objectives 2 and 3, key informant interviews and possibly small group discussions will be conducted to better understand possible factors associated with observed increases in suicide deaths, current self-harm prevention strategies in Ohio, and

intervention gaps and opportunities. The interview guide will be developed by the Ohio Department of Health, with CDC providing technical assistance. The Ohio Department of Health will have final say over the interview guide. Key informants will be identified by the Ohio Department of Health, and will likely include Ohio Department of Health, and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, who initially contacted ODH about the increase in suicide in certain counties. Additional key informants may be identified during the deployment of the Epi-Aid and CDC will be participating in the interviews/group discussions. All activities, including data collection, will be conducted under the direction and supervision of the Ohio Department of Health, and the state of Ohio will retain ownership of all data involved in this Epi-Aid.

### **Collection of Info, Data, or Bio specimens**

Key informant interviews and data abstraction from free-text narratives OH-VDRS data; all other data have already been collected by the respective entities. While in Ohio, EIS officers will use their CDC laptops to temporarily house and analyze data; however, no data will be housed in the CDC environment after the two weeks in the field (i.e., two weeks in Ohio).

### **Expected Use of Findings/Results and their impact**

The findings of this investigation will be used to inform the Ohio Department of Health and other entities involved in suicide prevention efforts of the epidemiology of suicide across counties in Ohio. These findings can be used to inform future public health interventions to prevent suicide across the state. The analysis will lead to a report for the state, and possibly wider dissemination in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, such as a peer-reviewed manuscript.

### **Could Individuals potentially be identified based on Information Collected?**

No

## **Funding**

<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Funding Title</b>	<b>Funding #</b>	<b>Original Fiscal Year</b>	<b># of Years of Award</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>
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## **HSC Review**

### **HSC Attributes**

#### **Epi-Aids**

Yes

## **Regulation and Policy**

### **Do you anticipate this project will be submitted to the IRB office**

No

## Institutions

Institution	FWA #	FWA Exp. Date	IRB Title	IRB Exp. Date	Funding #
Ohio Dept of Hlth	FWA00001963	01/29/25	Ohio Dept of Hlth IRB #1	01/15/24	

## Staff

Staff Member	SIQT Exp. Date	Citi Biomedical Exp. Date	Citi Social and Behavioral Exp. Date	Citi Good Clinical Exp. Date	Staff Role	Email	Phone #	Organization/Institution
Asha Ivey	12/20/2022		11/28/2021		Co-Investigator	iy9@cdc.gov	770-488-0940	SUICIDE TEAM
Eva Trinh	09/20/2025		09/21/2024		Co-Investigator	nyv8@cdc.gov	770-488-4010	SUICIDE TEAM
Jing Wang	07/07/2023	05/31/2022			Statistician	zrr4@cdc.gov	770-488-1193	SUICIDE TEAM
Keisha Lindsay	09/22/2025		09/21/2025		Co-Investigator	qph8@cdc.gov	770-488-1234	OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH & HEALTH EQUITY
Michael Ballesteros	11/09/2023		10/13/2024		Co-Investigator	zzb0@cdc.gov	770-488-1481	DIVISION OF INJURY PREVENTION
Zerleen Quader	07/26/2025	07/18/2025	07/18/2025		Program Lead	xdq2@cdc.gov	- -	EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE BRANCH

## DMP

<b>Proposed Data Collection Start Date</b>	10/31/22
<b>Proposed Data Collection End Date</b>	11/11/22
<b>Proposed Public Access Level</b>	Non-Public

<b>Reason for not Releasing the Data</b>	Country/Jurisdiction owns the data with protections under their laws and regulations
<b>Public Access justification</b>	CDC has been asked by the state to support an Epi-Aid investigation. Data are owned by the Ohio Department of Health, not CDC.
<b>How Access Will Be Provided for Data</b>	Access to data will not be provided to the public
<b>Plans for archival and long-term preservation of the data</b>	Decisions regarding data archival and long-term preservation to be decided by the Ohio Department of Health, not CDC.

## Spatiality (Geographic Location)

Country	State/Province	County/Region
United States	Ohio	

## Determinations

Determination	Justification	Completed	Entered By & Role
HSC: <b>Does NOT Require HRPO Review</b>	Not Research / Other  <i>45 CFR 46.102(l)</i>  Epi-Aids	10/07/22	Shaw_Kate M. (atk6) CIO HSC
PRA: <b>PRA Applies</b>		10/07/22	Shaw_Kate M. (atk6) OMB / PRA