



# NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN

The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio

Summer 2025 | Volume 127 | No. 3 - [www.amcno.org](http://www.amcno.org)

## Gun Violence is a Public Health Issue

As part of our bicentennial year in 2024, the AMCNO Board of Directors decided to choose a public health issue to highlight in recognition of the organization's long history of public health work in Northeast Ohio. They decided on gun violence, which is now the number one cause of death for children in Cleveland, and nationwide.



Left to right: Val Yanoska, Kristin Englund, MD, Clare Black, Jen Johns, Myesha Watkins



# Gun Violence is a Public Health Issue

(Continued from page 1)

AMCNO established a Northeast Ohio Gun Safety Coalition (NEOGSC) to carry out this work. This June, in recognition of Gun Violence Awareness Month, we organized and participated in various community events highlighting the importance of addressing the morbidity and mortality in our communities from gun violence.

The first event was the second annual Gun Violence Awareness Day at MetroHealth. AMCNO staff attended to hand out gun safes as part of the day, which included remarks from community members and MetroHealth employees.

The second event was a joint event run by AMCNO, the Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance, and the new Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention. As part of the Safe at Home project, AMCNO donated gun safes. The event on June 9<sup>th</sup>, which took place at the Shaw Recreation Center in East Cleveland was responsible for distributing 150 gun safes to community members in one of our region's hardest hit areas by gun violence.

Former AMCNO President and current Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) board member Kristin Englund, MD advertised the event, along with our Store it Safe campaign being run in conjunction with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), live on WKYC, in an interview with Monica Robbins. View the interview here: [www.tinyurl.com/amcnowkyc](http://www.tinyurl.com/amcnowkyc).

AMCNO member Ann Bacevice, MD, 2024's AMCNO Clinician of the Year, and an emergency room physician at University Hospitals and co-director of the Rainbow Babies & Children's Trauma Center, spoke on behalf of the AMCNO, and addressed the importance of physicians working with patient families to encourage safe storage of firearms (see separate story pg. 5).

A third community event took place on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> in Cranwood Park in Garfield Hts., in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention, the Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance, and Moms Demand Action.



L to R: Val Yanoska, Tom Collins, MD, Jen Johns, Kristin Englund, MD



Kristin Englund, MD distributes gun safes to staff at MetroHealth



Kristin Englund, MD discusses gun safety with Monica Robbins



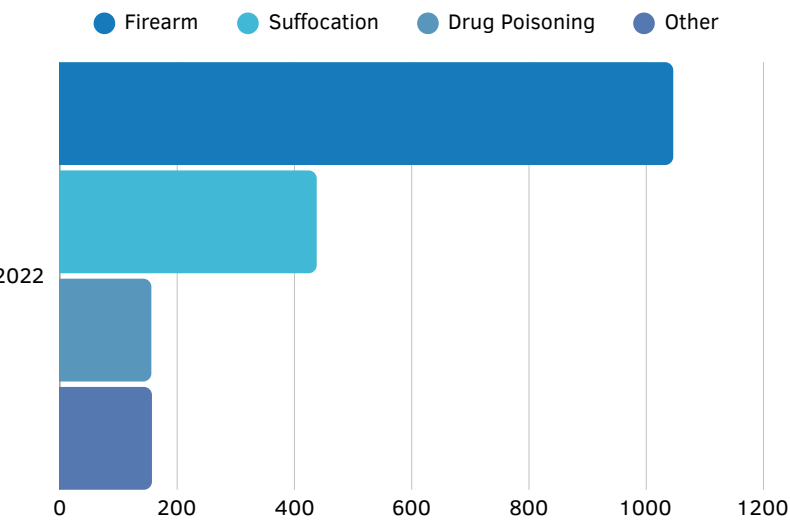
L to R: Kristin Englund, MD and Councilman Michael J. Houser, Sr.



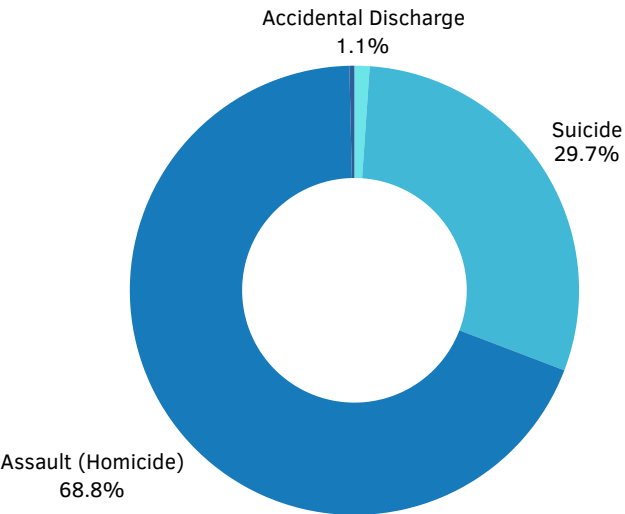
L to R: Jen Johns, Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, Ann Bacevice, MD

# By the Numbers: Defining the Problem in Northeast Ohio

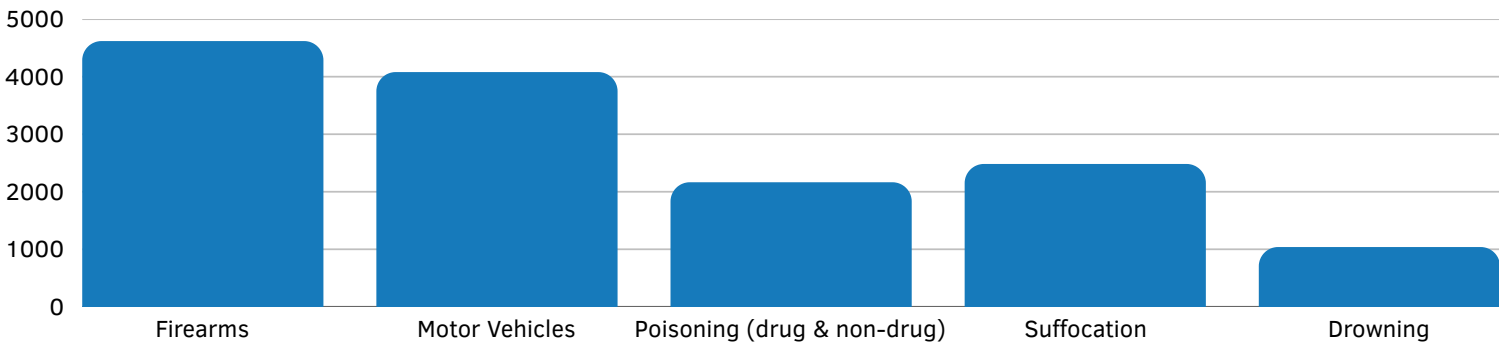
Ohio Suicide Deaths by Mechanism, 2022<sup>1</sup>



Cuyahoga County Firearm Deaths, 2022<sup>2</sup>



Firearms Leading Cause of Death Among Children in the United States, 2022<sup>3</sup>



1 - [2022 Ohio Suicide Report](#)  
2,3 - [CDC Injury Statistics](#)







Representatives from AMCNO, Moms Demand Action, local law enforcement, and community organizations came together to promote safe firearm storage and distribute free lock boxes to families in need.

## Northeast Ohio Lockbox Distribution

Number of Lock Boxes	City Distributed	Zip Code
10	Akron	44311
10	Massillon	44646
10	Wooster	44691
20	Cleveland	44110
20	Euclid	44119
25	Cleveland	44108
25	Garfield Heights	44125
70	Cleveland	44109
155	East Cleveland	44112

The AMCNO has distributed 350 gun safes so far as part of our Store it Safe partnership. The table over details where we have distributed the safes so far. We are working primarily with pediatricians and family medicine physicians to distribute the safes to patients, and also provide education for the physicians on how to have fire arm safety conversations with patients.

Any physicians interested in participating in the program should email AMCNO Executive Director Jen Johns at [JJohns@amcno.org](mailto:JJohns@amcno.org).



# Member Spotlight: Ann Bacevice, MD

Emergency room physician Ann Bacevice is not just AMCNO's 2024 Clinician of the Year, she's also a member of our Northeast Ohio Gun Safety Coalition (NEOGSC). Dr. Bacevice was named 2024's Clinician of the Year for her advocacy work in gun safety. After seeing an increase of patients in her emergency department impacted by gun violence, and after the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, she single-handedly took on the mission of making guns in our community safer, by handing out gun locks to her patients, and discussing gun safety with patient families and colleagues at University Hospitals' (UH) Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.



She also initiated a program at UH, where employees can get access to firearm safety devices, the result of another grant she received when realizing there was also a need amongst the hospitals' employees for safe storage.

Dr. Bacevice also recently represented the AMCNO at a press conference with the Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention, where she spoke about the importance of safe storage and preventing children from accessing firearms.

Dr. Bacevice, a northeast Ohio native, is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. In her current role at University Hospitals, she is co-director of Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital's trauma center. While some of the individual cases are heartbreaking, what keeps her serving in that position is that it drives her to work hard to ensure that every injured child that comes to Rainbow gets the most optimal care. Dr. Bacevice also speaks highly of being involved with some fantastic local and national organizations: Northern Ohio Trauma System (NOTS), Pediatric Trauma Society (PTS) and American Trauma Society (ATS).

When asked what advice she'd give medical students wanting to pursue a career like hers, Dr. Bacevice said, "Be open to different opportunities. Connect with many mentors - someone maybe for research, someone for career, someone for lifestyle. Don't be defeated if you reach a roadblock. Consider it just a speed bump, regroup and try again."



*Ann Bacevice, MD celebrated her Clinician of the Year Award with family and friends at the AMCNO Physician Appreciation Night.*

# CDC Measles Webinar

On May 15, 2025, the American Medical Association, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hosted a webinar addressing the recent rise in measles cases across the United States. The timely discussion came amid a surge in outbreaks nationwide, including in Ohio. Shortly after the webinar, on June 5, 2025, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) officially declared the state's measles outbreak under control. This announcement marks a significant public health milestone for the state, though the Department stressed that vigilance remains critical.

The webinar featured three physicians who work for the CDC: Dr. Manisha Patel, Dr. David Sugerman, and Dr. Chris Prestel. The webinar emphasized that measles, which is extremely contagious, has become an increasing threat in the U.S., especially in under-vaccinated communities and among individuals who have traveled internationally. Over 1,000 cases have been reported nationwide so far in 2025, with 93% of cases linked to areas with measles outbreaks (defined as three or more cases). Within the first five months of 2025, measles cases quadrupled nationally.

Clinically, measles typically presents with a high fever, malaise, a maculopapular rash (typically appearing about 14 days after exposure, and beginning at the hairline and spreading downward), and the “three Cs”: cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis. Koplik spots, which are small white spots with a red halo on the buccal mucosa, may also appear early, usually one day before onset of the rash. Doctors should remain alert for atypical presentations, particularly in vaccinated individuals. It is also important to note that individuals are typically considered contagious from four days before to four days after rash onset.



At-risk populations for more serious complications from measles infection include infants and children under five years of age, pregnant women, adults over 20 years of age, and immunocompromised individuals. Complications include croup, secondary bacterial infections, encephalitis. There have been three deaths from measles so far this year. Management for active cases focuses on supportive therapy, such as vitamin A supplementation for children, IV fluids, and breathing treatments as needed. There is currently no FDA-approved antiviral treatment for an active measles case.

Because there is no curative treatment for active measles cases, the MMR vaccine remains the cornerstone of measles prevention. The typical immunization course of doses in childhood (the first at 12-15 months of age and the second at four to six years of age) offers about 97% efficacy for measles prevention. There is a post-exposure prophylaxis protocol for measles: an individual can receive an MMR vaccine if exposed within the past 72 hours or immunoglobulin if exposed within the past six days. Doctors are encouraged to assess patients' immunity status, especially before international travel or in outbreak settings. Adults with only one documented dose of the vaccine, or those in an at-risk population, should be considered for a second dose.

For more resources, doctors can consult the [CDC's Measles Toolkit](#).

To see AMCNO's May 5, 2025, public statement on the Ohio measles outbreak, please see [here](#).





# SWING FOR STUDENTS TOPGOLF FUNDRAISER

August 21, 2025 - 6-9 pm

## GOLD BAY SPONSOR - \$5,000

- Logo on slideshow, event page, monitors, e-blasts, social media, and mention during event announcements.
- 2 golf bays (12 golfers and 4 spectators).
- Drink tickets and food for 16.

## SILVER BAY SPONSOR - \$2,500

- Logo on event page, monitors, e-blasts, social media, and mention during event announcements.
- 1 golf bay (6 golfers and 2 spectators).
- Drink tickets and food for 8.

## BRONZE BAY SPONSOR - \$1,000

- Logo on monitors in each bay.
- 1 golf bay (6 golfers and 2 spectators).
- Drink tickets and food for 8.

## LEADERBOARD SPONSOR - \$250

- Name/Logo on monitors in each bay.
- Admission for 2 golfers which includes 3 hours of play.
- Drink tickets and food for 2.



Individual \$100

Couples \$150

Medical Student \$50

\*food and 2 drink tickets included

## REGISTER NOW

Checks can also be mailed to:

AMEF

6111 Oak Tree Blvd. S., #150  
Independence, OH 44131

All proceeds of the event will benefit the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation, a 501c3 tax-deductible organization which provides scholarships to area medical students.

Questions? Call (216) 520-1000

# Amy Acton, MD, MPH at City Club

On June 25, 2025, Dr. Amy Acton addressed a captivated audience at the City Club of Cleveland, as part of the Club's ongoing series featuring candidates for Ohio's 2026 gubernatorial race. Dr. Acton is a physician, nonprofit leader, and former Director of the Ohio Department of Health. She is the first Democrat to officially launch a campaign for the 2026 Ohio Governor race. Academy members, including several from the Future Leaders Council, were in attendance and had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Acton following her remarks.

Dr. Acton was nominated by Governor Mike DeWine in February 2019 to head the Ohio Department of Health, and held the position through the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, she became well-known to many Ohioans, as she joined Governor DeWine for his daily COVID-19 press conferences. She spoke candidly about that period and its lingering effects. "I acknowledge that hearing my voice for some people can be a little traumatizing," she said. "It takes us back, doesn't it?" However, she reflected on the good she saw shine through the darkness of the pandemic, emphasizing the strength and resilience of Ohioans coming together to protect their communities during COVID. "I saw the power of us when we all row together," she said.

She also discussed her early life and her own journey into medicine, sharing how her difficult childhood in Youngstown shaped her passion for public health and advocating for children. "I want to say that this is not an unusual story," she said of her early experiences with abuse, neglect, and homelessness. Removed from her home at age 12, she found stability for the first time and was able to attend the same school for seven years, a factor she credits with allowing her to succeed academically and ultimately earn a medical degree from Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine. She later completed residency training in both pediatrics and preventive medicine in New York City and Columbus.

Her professional path was deeply influenced by her experiences as a pediatric resident during the crack cocaine epidemic in the Bronx, where she recalled having toddler patients who died from complications from AIDS after having been infected with HIV in utero. "I had become a doctor to stop suffering. And then I recognized that there was this whole other field called preventive medicine, where the whole community is your patient," she said. This realization has informed her lifelong focus on addressing the root causes of health disparities.

Dr. Acton's speech also emphasized the importance of unity in a time of political polarization. "We are dying of loneliness and isolation," she said. "The only way out of this is rebuilding relationships." Emphasizing bipartisan collaboration, she added, "Everywhere I go people are telling me that they want public servants. They don't care what party they are in... they want us to [lead] with common sense and to find the common good again."



*Amy Acton, MD, MPH speaks to the Cleveland City Club.*



*Left to right: , Ingrid Owusu Val Yanoska, Colin Wilson, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, and Murathan Kahyaoglu.*



# Lower Hour Talk on Immigration Law

On the evening of May 22, 2025, Academy members and members of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) gathered at the CMBA offices in the One Cleveland Center downtown for an informative Medicine and Law Lower Hour, "Navigating Immigration Law: Essential Updates for Healthcare and Legal Professionals." The event was hosted by Dr. Kristin A. Englund, a past president of the Academy, who set the tone by acknowledging the increasingly complex challenges faced by those serving immigrant patients in healthcare settings.



Left to right: Kathleen Laskey Donovan, Michelle Block, Kristin Englund, MD, and Stacy E. Cozart Martin

The session featured three expert attorneys: Stacy E. Cozart Martin, Managing Member and Partner at Martin Jolic and Associates, LLC, and Executive Council member of the International Law Section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association; Michelle Block, Associate General Counsel and Director of Litigation & Clinical Risk at The MetroHealth System; and Kathleen Laskey Donovan, Senior Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Ms. Block opened with practical guidance for doctors working in clinical settings, particularly hospitals, emphasizing that healthcare facilities are not legally required to collect a patient's immigration status and must always remain in full compliance with HIPAA. She advised that there has not been a change in clinicians' professional and ethical duty to provide care to patients, and that, as always, clinicians should only document clinically relevant information and avoid speculative or subjective language in a patient's chart.

She stressed the importance of healthcare institutions developing clear internal protocols for handling the presence of immigration law enforcement officers on hospital grounds. If officers arrive, staff should notify hospital legal counsel, who will coordinate directly with law enforcement. Ms. Block reminded attendees that without a signed judicial warrant, officers cannot access restricted areas closed to the public, which includes patient care areas.

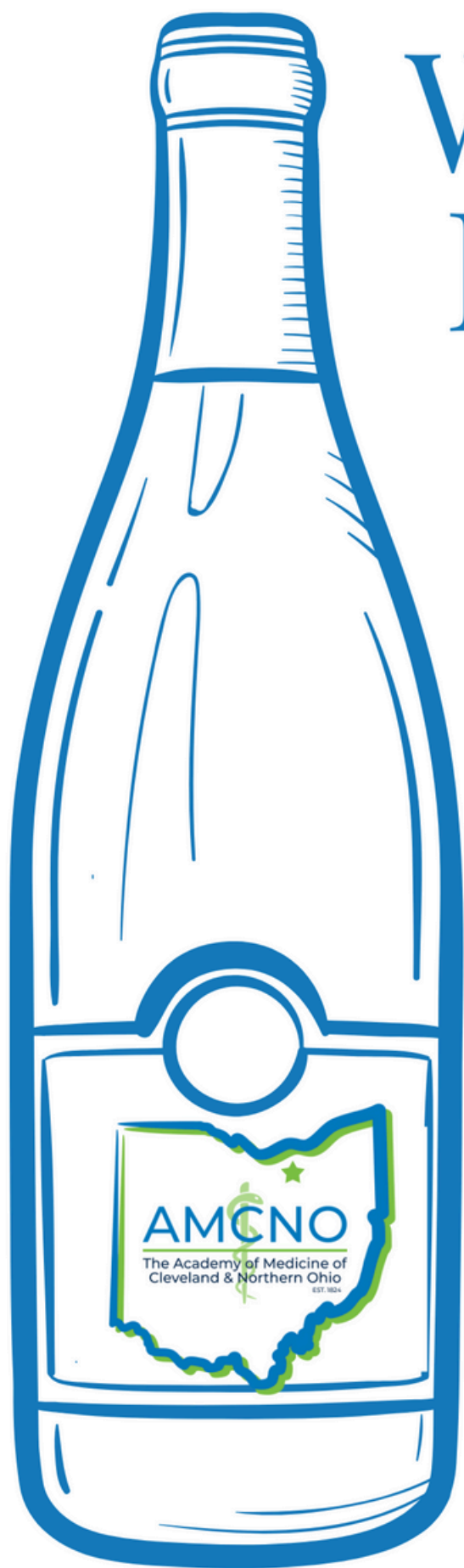
Ms. Martin discussed how immigration concerns, particularly around travel, are affecting physicians and patients. While there are currently no executive orders directly limiting travel for J-1 visa holders, Ms. Martin cautioned against international travel for J-1 visa holders currently in the U.S. unless absolutely necessary, due to heightened risk and uncertainty at U.S. ports of entry. She encouraged professionals to stay informed, consult legal counsel when in doubt, and maintain focus on institutional support structures. "Everyone's got to watch out for one another," she said, echoing the evening's

broader theme of community vigilance and calm responsiveness.

Ms. Donovan contributed her perspective from the legal aid sector, where she represents individuals in immigration court proceedings. She described the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's work in conducting "Know Your Rights" trainings and assisting families in preparing powers of attorney for U.S. citizen children in the event of a parent's deportation. Ms. Donovan also encouraged physicians to consider becoming civil surgeons to help offset high costs and long wait times for applicants in the midst of the U.S. citizenship process. A civil surgeon is a physician who performs a medical inspection on potential U.S. citizens. Interested doctors can go to [the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website](#) to access the application to become a civil surgeon.

For those who missed the talk, a recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).

Resources discussed by speakers at the event can be found [here](#).



# Women in Medicine

## WINE NIGHT!

**September 4, 2025 - 6-9 PM**

### **CLE Urban Winery**

2180 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

\$15 members; \$35 non members

Free for medical students & residents

**REGISTER NOW**





## Member Spotlight: Justin Dvorak, MD

AMCNO member and Chicago native Dr. Justin Dvorak graduated from Florida State University College of Medicine in 2013. Upon graduation, he returned home to train in General Surgery Residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago where he also served as the chief resident for education.

After residency, he went on to Cook County Hospital of Chicago where he completed a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care in 2019, followed by a fellowship in Trauma and Burn Surgery in 2020. During his fellowship at Cook County Hospital, which sees a high number of victims of gun violence, Dr. Dvorak became interested in gun violence preventions and advocacy, specifically in the importance of hospital violence intervention programs.

While in Chicago he saw firsthand what a great job the city was doing with hospital violence intervention programs that included mediators who would go to the neighborhood where a shooting occurred and work to prevent retaliation.

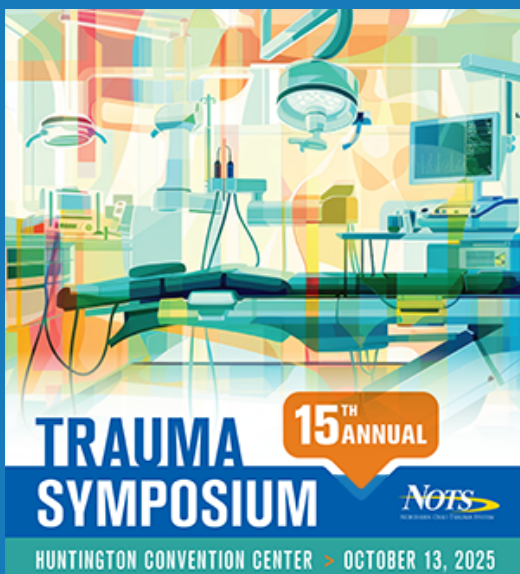
After fellowship, Dr. Dvorak was in search of a surgical position at a Level 1 academic trauma center in the Midwest and was hired by MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland.



Dr. Dvorak started as an Attending Trauma and Burn Surgeon at MetroHealth in 2020, as well as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Case Western University School of Medicine. He would eventually become Medical Director of the Burn Intensive Care Unit at MetroHealth in 2021, and Medical Director of the Northern Ohio Trauma System (NOTS) in 2024. It was this role that brought him to join the AMCNO-led Northeast Ohio Gun Safety Coalition (NEOGSC) in 2024.

Being the medical director for NOTS has allowed Dr. Dvorak to work with the other hospital systems in the area as well as our area EMS programs, which has been a very rewarding experience, especially witnessing how the 3 separate health care systems work well together to achieve common goals.

Dr. Dvorak encourages physicians in the area to visit the [NOTS website](#), as it is a great resource for trauma care. NOTS also hosts a yearly symposium, an event that offers education on a wide variety of trauma-related topics.



# SAVE *the* DATE

This year's speakers will cover a variety of topics relating to our hospital and pre-hospital attendees. In addition, this year we will have our first breakout session focused on the Trauma Registry, to provide education for the region's trauma registrars. Continue visiting the NOTS page for further updates.

# Tanisha's Law Strategy Round Table

On June 10, 2025 Cleveland city leaders and stakeholders gathered for a strategy meeting focused on developing a plan to establish a new city department that would oversee all aspects of Cleveland's community crisis response. This effort is a key component of Tanisha's Law (Ordinance No. 1 198-2024), legislation currently under consideration by the Cleveland City Council. The Academy was invited to this meeting to represent the perspective of Cleveland's physician community in the proposed overhaul of Cleveland's crisis response systems. The meeting, hosted by Policy Matters Ohio, brought together city officials, nonprofit organizations, healthcare systems, and community advocates. The proposed legislation, named in memory of Tanisha Anderson, who was a Cleveland resident who died in police custody during a mental health emergency in 2014, aims to reform how the city handles behavioral health crises by prioritizing non-police interventions in those instances.

Policy Matters Ohio emphasized the importance of using this legislation as an opportunity for the city to build a fully coordinated crisis response system. A key feature of the proposal is the establishment of a new Department of Community Crisis Response.

POLICY MATTERS OHIO



Policy Matters Ohio emphasized the importance of using this legislation as an opportunity for the city to build a fully coordinated crisis response system. A key feature of the proposal is the establishment of a new Department of Community Crisis Response, which would oversee all aspects of Cleveland's emergency mental health services. Participants noted that the current system, which relies on fragmented coordination between the city, county, and private entities such as the ADAMHS Board's mobile crisis team and the city-run 911 dispatch system, lacks cohesion and effectiveness.

In attendance were representatives from Recovery Resources, Catholic Charities, Cleveland Clinic, and city council members Stephanie Howse-Jones, Rebecca Maurer, and Charles Slife, who are the three sponsors of the ordinance. This strategy session is part of a broader series designed to build consensus, encourage open dialogue, and advocate for sustainable funding. Attendees reviewed successful community crisis response models from cities like Durham, North Carolina, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Columbus, where dedicated departments or divisions have transformed local mental health response by improving coordination and reducing reliance on law enforcement. A consistent theme in these models was the use of general city funds, which not only ensure program permanence but also demonstrate a strong public commitment.

The ultimate goal of the bill's sponsors is to pass Tanesha's Law within the next year and to secure an adequate city-funded budget to support the new department's launch. In the meantime, there will be more strategy table meetings to bring together the various stakeholders. The Academy looks forward to continuing to contribute the medical community perspective to this evolving conversation and to support a system that better serves Cleveland residents in crisis.

## NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN

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THE NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN (ISSN# 1935-6293) is published quarterly by the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), 6111 Oak Tree Blvd., Suite 150, Cleveland, Ohio 44131. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN, 6111 Oak Tree Blvd., Suite 150, Cleveland, Ohio 44131. Editorial Offices: AMCNO, 6111 Oak Tree Blvd., Suite 150, Cleveland, Ohio 44131, phone (216) 520-1000. Annual subscription rates: \$12 for members (included in dues), \$36 for nonmembers. Single copies: \$12. Circulation in electronic format: 7,500.

Opinions expressed by authors are their own, and not necessarily those of the Northern Ohio Physician or The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio. Northern Ohio Physician reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity and length, as well as to reject any material submitted.

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## Member Spotlight: Colin Wilson

Fourth year medical student and AMCNO Future Leader Council member Colin Wilson's path to medicine was not traditional. The Youngstown, Ohio native was always interested in medicine, but first chose Biomedical Engineering as his path, earning his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Akron. But as he began working in the field an experience he had volunteering at Akron Children's Hospital stuck with him.

He worked with a mentor at Akron Children's Hospital on the Managing Asthma Triggers at Home (MATH) program. The program aims to help children with severe asthma manage their care at home. During his time with the program, Colin called the families of these patients and witnessed firsthand some of the socioeconomic factors that impact health, including housing insecurity. Seeing the larger issues in the health system, and wanting to improve them, is what inspired him to apply for medical school and eventually enroll at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Warrensville Hts.

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Colin is a member of the AMCNO-led Northeast Ohio Gun Safety Coalition (NEOGSC). He has always held an interest in the issue of gun violence, and has completed and submitted research for publication on the topic. His research centers on a decade of data (2012-2023) from Akron Children's Hospital of patients 0-17 years old, presenting with firearm-related trauma to an ACH facility. In that decade, there were 325 cases, with a rising frequency trend from 2012 to 2023. 2020 saw the highest annual frequency. His work helps to take a deeper dive on this preventable public health issue.

He is hoping his research will help in advocacy efforts around the topic of gun violence. Beyond his advocacy work with the AMCNO as a member of the Future Leaders Council, Colin also serves as co-chair of the Doctors for America Gun Violence Coalition.

When asked what the most surprising element of this issue was, he found while doing his research, he indicated it was the fact that many physicians do not feel comfortable discussing firearm safety with patients, as they are fearful of the politics of the issue. He points out, however, that research indicates that patients trust physicians on this issue—which is even more reason for physicians to become educated on this topic, and how to best have these conversations. Physicians interested in doing so should check out the [Store it Safe provider resources](#) from the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Beyond his interest in gun safety advocacy, Colin is also a passionate advocate for reproductive rights and patient autonomy and volunteered with the Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights (OPRR) during the issue one campaign. He also has volunteered at voter registration drives, and believes physicians have an important role in public policy and government.



Colin engages with Amy Acton, MD, MPH at the Cleveland City Club.



Colin attends Cleveland City Club Forum with Author, Brian Williams, MD.

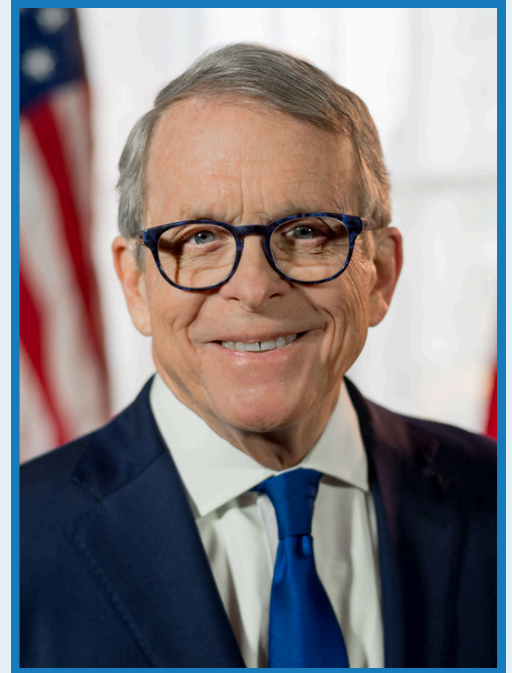


Colin and former AMCNO President, Thomas Collins, MD discuss Cleveland's Gun Safety Issues.

## Governor DeWine signs Biennium Budget into Law

On June 30, Governor DeWine (R-Ohio) signed his final two-year budget into law as governor. Before signing the bill, he made a historic number of 67 line-item vetoes. Among them was controversial library language which would have restricted libraries from having books mentioning gender available to minors. He also allowed language to remain which gives \$600 million in unclaimed funds to the Cleveland Browns organization for a new stadium—another controversial insertion from the legislature.

He additionally vetoed language that would have eliminated the “Zero to Three,” Medicaid program in the state, which keeps children continuously enrolled in Medicaid to age 4. Despite strong lobbying from the Ohio Medicaid Mattes Coalition, of which AMCNO is a member, the Governor did not veto a provision that would eliminate the Medicaid Expansion Group 8 population if cuts to Medicaid are put through at the federal level. This leaves the coverage for over 700,000 Ohioans in the balance.



## The Potential Impact of Federal Medicaid Work Requirements on Ohio

About 5 million American adults who gained access to health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansion could lose their coverage in 2026 if the U.S. government implements a federal Medicaid work requirement. Medicaid expansion, a key provision of the ACA, allowed states to provide health coverage to low-income adults under age 65 who were previously ineligible. This expansion has been important in reducing the uninsured rate across the country, particularly among working-age adults and vulnerable populations.

A recent analysis conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Urban Institute modeled the potential nationwide effects of a federal work requirement, using data from Arkansas and New Hampshire, two states that have already implemented work requirements for their state Medicaid programs. The findings suggest that under a federal policy, coverage losses would occur not because individuals are unwilling to work, but because work reporting systems are often confusing, burdensome, and difficult to navigate. In both Arkansas and New Hampshire, many people lost their health coverage simply because they failed to meet new documentation requirements, not because they were ineligible for Medicaid coverage in those states.

The report estimates that if a similar federal work requirement went into effect, 4.6 to 5.2 million adults across the country could lose coverage, even though over 90% of those affected are already working, attending school, caring for dependents, or experiencing health limitations that would qualify them for an exemption. Despite these individuals' eligibility, the report states, administrative hurdles would likely prevent many from maintaining their insurance.

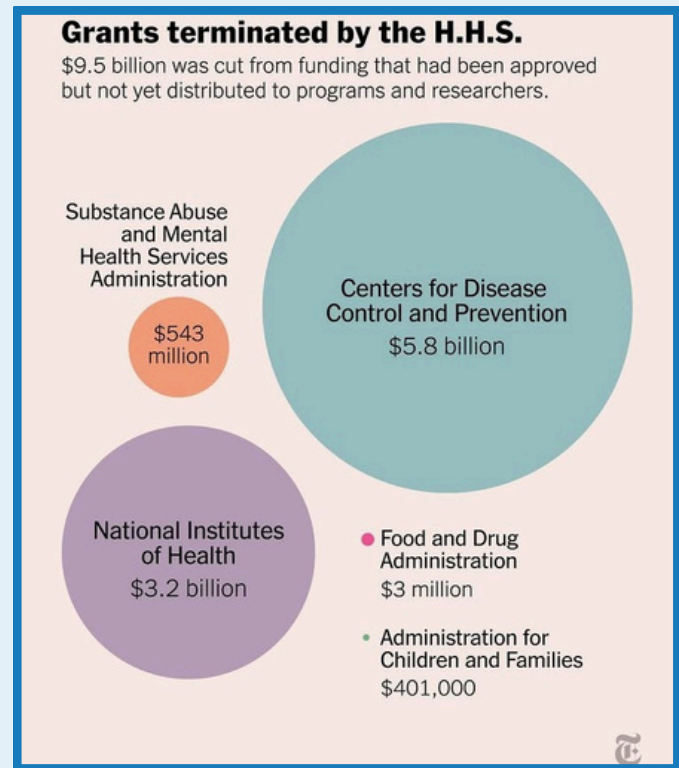
The full report is available [online](#).



# Trump Administration Cuts \$9.5 billion in HHS Research

The Department of Health and Human Services has terminated thousands of grants, including funding for pandemic prevention, and research grants related to cancer, vaccines and chronic diseases, according to a database created by Harvard researchers. The following graphic breaks down the losses of research funding by agency. These losses are historic, and will have long-term consequences for medical science and the medical profession.

The Department of Health and Human Services has terminated thousands of grants, including funding for pandemic prevention, and research grants related to cancer, vaccines and chronic diseases, according to a database created by Harvard researchers. The following graphic breaks down the losses of research funding by agency. These losses are historic, and will have long-term consequences for medical science and the medical profession.



## “Big Beautiful Bill” Passes Congress; Includes Historic Cut to Medicaid Program

Congress has officially passed the Trump administration’s spending bill, called by President Trump, the “One Big Beautiful Bill.” Despite an overall increase in spending, the bill includes historically large cuts to social service programs, including a \$880 billion cut to Medicaid.

Included in the cuts is a new 80-hour-a-month work requirements for many adults receiving Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, including older people up to age 65. More than 71 million people in the United States are covered by Medicaid, and most already work. Additionally, studies show that in states where there are already worker requirements, that the requirements did not result in higher employment by this population.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that because of the legislation, 11.8 million more Americans will become uninsured by 2034 and 3 million more will not qualify for food stamps.

Another part of the bill concerning to the medical profession, is new caps on student loans from the federal government at \$150,000. The average medical student now incurs \$300,000 in loans to finish medical school, which would force students to take on high-interest private loans for medical education, a disincentive at a time when we are already facing physician shortages.

The legislation also includes other controversial pieces including a claw back of tax breaks for clean energy, a tax-cut for the wealthiest Americans, and \$350 billion for Trump’s border and national security agenda, including “migrant detention centers.”

Trump celebrated the bill’s passage at a rally in Iowa on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, saying it was “a declaration of independence from a national decline.”

# Welcome to the New Class of the Future Leaders Council

On May 12, AMCNO welcomed the fourth cohort of twenty six new members into the Future Leaders Council (FLC).

The FLC is a group of medical students and residents committed to leadership, service, and advocacy. They lead public health initiatives, organize events, and help shape health policy. In addition to representing the future of medicine in Northern Ohio and around the United States, these members represent the future of our leadership at the AMCNO. Read full biographies, [here](#).



**Sofia Arruda**  
Fourth-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Wes Brooks**  
Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Shivane Chawla**  
Second-year Medical M  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Ben Fesko**  
Second-year Medical Student  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Medicine



**Louis Gentile**  
Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Marcie Hegarty**  
Fourth-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Moriah Henry-Wickstrom**  
Second -year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Pratham Ingale**  
Third-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University





**Murathan Kahyaoglu**  
Third-year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Swetha Kareti**  
Fourth-year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Joseph Kessler**  
Fourth-year Medical Student  
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**Elsa Khan**  
Third-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Evan Kuczynski**  
Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Margaret Miller**  
Fourth-year Medical Student  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Medicine



**Peter Moore**  
Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Ingrid Owusu**  
Third-year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Isaac Pratt**  
Third-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University

## Welcome Future Leaders

(Continued from page 17)



**Celine Rajoulh**

Fourth-year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Mehraeel Saleh**

Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Mitali Sharma**

Third-year Medical Student Case  
Western Reserve University  
School of Medicine



**Elana Sitnik, MD**

Internal Medicine and  
Pediatrics Resident  
Case Western - MetroHealth



**Elaina Smith**

Second-year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Cathy Tang**

Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Natalie Thornton**

Second-year Medical Student  
Northeast Ohio Medical  
University



**Katelyn Vlastaris**

Fourth-year Medical Student  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Medicine



**Colin Wilson**

Fourth-year Medical Student  
Ohio University Heritage  
College of Osteopathic Medicine



# AI in Healthcare: A Panel Discussion

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a futuristic concept in healthcare; it is now a daily reality reshaping how clinicians, health systems, and patients interact with information and make health decisions. At **Leading with Trust in AI to Transform Healthcare**, a public forum hosted by the City Club of Cleveland on Thursday, July 10, 2025, regional healthcare leaders and AI experts explored how innovation must be matched with transparency, equity, and governance. “Healthcare must remain rooted in trust,” noted moderator John Paganini, President of Paguar Informatics, Inc., and Co-Chair of the AI Center of Excellence. “And that means progressing with integrity.”



*The panel featured four local experts: Dr. David Kaelber, Chief Medical Informatics Officer at MetroHealth; Karen Komondor, President of Health Literacy 360 and the U.S. Health Literacy Association; Brian Lane, President and CEO of WellLink Health Alliance; and Jennifer Owens, Senior AI Program Administrator at Cleveland Clinic and Co-Chair of the AI Center of Excellence.*

The panelists agreed that AI in healthcare is not a fad but is a tool that, when used wisely, can help clinicians and patients alike. “As a physician, I am super excited about the potential of AI,” said Dr. Kaelber. He described MetroHealth’s decades-long adoption of AI tools: from simple medication allergy alerts in electronic records, to predictive models that forecast patient no-shows, to today’s generative AI technologies. An example of generative AI is seen in ambient listening tools, currently being piloted at all major Cleveland health systems. These tools capture patient encounters through a physician’s phone or computer and automatically generate structured documentation, including SOAP notes and patient-friendly summaries.

Jennifer Owens reported that the Cleveland Clinic’s ambient listening pilot has been successful with both clinicians and patients. One patient even contacted the hospital ombudsman to praise the experience. “The patient reported feeling that her doctor was actually able to listen to her and engage with her,” Owens shared. Owens reported also hearing positive feedback from clinicians about the ambient scribe tool. “We hear a lot about the stress that documentation puts on our healthcare providers. Tools like this can help restore that connection.”

With AI’s expanding role in care delivery comes a need for oversight, especially through responsible governance. Governance in the context of AI in healthcare refers to the policies and standards that ensure AI tools are safe, effective, and ethical in their clinical use. Governance includes everything from data validation and risk assessment to legal compliance, bias monitoring, and defining who is accountable when AI is used in clinical decision-making. “Behind every skeptical question is a real governance question,” Owens said. She explained that effective governance requires interdisciplinary collaboration, drawing in voices from clinical care, cybersecurity, and patient advocacy.

In addition to technical governance, panelists stressed the importance of educating and involving patients in the AI conversation. “Patients have the right to know how AI is being used in their care,” said Karen Komondor, “That transparency, and the choice, helps to build trust.” She urged providers to use “universal precautions” when discussing AI and its use in healthcare with patients, speaking in plain language and using teach-back methods to confirm understanding. Ultimately, the forum reinforced that while AI in healthcare has tremendous potential, its success depends on the trust of those it aims to serve. That trust can only be built through thoughtful design, responsible governance, and inclusive communication.



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## Thank you to AMCNO members for volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank and MedWish!



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