



# News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*  
Lori Criss, *Director*

March 2, 2020



## >>> Governor, State Leaders Announce First-Ever, Collaborative Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio

In response to an uptick in the number of deaths by suicide, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today joined with Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director Lori Criss and leadership from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to introduce the first-ever, collaborative [Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio](#) that will direct the state's suicide prevention efforts over the next three years. The plan directs energy, focus, and resources to implement specific goals and objectives. These objectives were informed by data, evidence-based approaches, and lessons learned from current practice.

Among the plan's priorities, the state will:

- Raise awareness of the warning signs and risk factors of suicide.
- Concentrate efforts on integrating suicide prevention practices into health care, public safety, and education services on the local and state levels.
- Build suicide prevention capacity and infrastructure at the organizational, local, and state levels.
- Focus prevention efforts on groups identified as having higher rates of suicide, including youths ages 10-24, males ages 25-59, and veterans and military members.

- Standardize, gather, and utilize data to continuously inform and evaluate the state’s approach.

**More information:**

Read the [full media release](#)

View the [Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio](#)

**Related news coverage:**

*Dayton Daily News* [DeWine: Ohio has ‘mental health crisis that’s a real threat to our families’](#)

*WKEF/WRGT-TV* [In Dayton, Gov. DeWine announces plan to reduce suicides](#)

**>>> Governor DeWine Announces Early Childhood Mental Health Credential**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced the launch of Ohio’s new [Infant Mental Health Credential](#) for early childhood professionals, the first of its kind in the state. This credential provides professional development to support the social-emotional needs of Ohio’s youngest children. Early childhood professionals who hold this credential will have met the state’s minimum core standards. Applications are being accepted through the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

Early childhood system professionals working in the following categories may apply:

- Child Care
- Early Learning
- Home Visiting
- Community Health
- Early Intervention
- Maternal Health
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Primary Health
- Occupational Therapy
- Any Additional Allied Health Professionals

For more information on Ohio’s Infant Mental Health Credential, please visit <https://occrra.org/our-resources-page/>.

**>>> New Resource: Managing Fears and Anxiety Around Coronavirus**

As information about Coronavirus unfolds, there can be a wide range of thoughts, feelings and reactions. The Ohio Department of Health has made available a [new resource](#) from the University Health Services Tang Center at U.C. Berkeley to help individuals manage fears and anxieties.

**In the News**

3.2.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Rural Ohio struggles with access to mental health services](#)

3.2.20 | *The New York Times* [The benefits of exercise for children’s mental health](#)

3.1.20 | *WSYX-TV* [State helping families marred by opioid epidemic](#)

3.1.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Psychiatrist shortage limits Nationwide Children’s behavioral health](#)

3.1.20 | *Newark Advocate (Column)* [Managing depression and anxiety in children](#)

2.29.20 | *Dayton Daily News* [DeWine: Ohio has ‘mental health crisis that’s a real threat to our families’](#)

2.29.20 | *WKEF/WRGT-TV* [In Dayton, Gov. DeWine announces plan to reduce suicides](#)

2.29.20 | *Canton Repository* [Vape school takes aim at e-cigarettes](#)

2.29.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Franklin County still struggles with fentanyl-laced drugs](#)

2.28.20 | *WSYX-TV* [New behavioral health center opening at Nationwide Children’s Hospital](#)

2.28.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Ohio and hospital leaders celebrate Nationwide Children’s new facility](#)

2.28.20 | *Pike County News Watchman* [March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month](#)

2.28.20 | *The Plain Dealer* [Greater Cleveland Congregations, others, urge leaders to open ‘crisis centers’ for people with mental health, drug problems](#)

2.26.20 | *WTAP-TV* [Ohio governor highlights ‘Signs of Suicide’ program at Fort Frye](#)

Governor Mike DeWine's [Week in Review Video](#)

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