



## **NEOBHC DEMANDS COVID-19 RACE/ETHNICITY STATISTICS FROM CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

CLEVELAND, OH -- The ***Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition (NEOBHC)*** is the first nonprofit organization of its kind in Ohio, focusing exclusively on African American disparities in EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, and HEALTH by working to educate, advocate, and empower the diverse communities it serves. Current initiatives include an emergency food distribution program, to feed Cleveland's youngest and most vulnerable community members during the COVID-19 crisis, and lobbying against injustices in the Cuyahoga County Jail and Juvenile Detention Centers, as well as ICE holding facilities – populations at especially grave risk and ripe for this coronavirus[or any] outbreak.

NEOBHC's review of recent lab confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cuyahoga County showed that, even without race/ethnicity data included in the findings, the impact on the African American community is at a comparatively high rate. It is well documented that African Americans are disproportionately impacted by chronic illnesses like hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, COPD, asthma, kidney failure (among others) that make them even more susceptible to this particular virus. **Simply put, social disparities impact black lives more**; African Americans are exhibiting exponentially higher rates of disease, disability, and death than non-blacks.

“COVID is just unmasking the deep disinvestment in our communities, the historical injustices and the impact of residential segregation,” said Dr. Camara Jones, a family physician, epidemiologist and visiting fellow at Harvard University.

Jones, who spent 13 years at the CDC, focused on identifying, measuring and addressing racial bias within the medical system. “This is the time to name racism as the cause of all of those things. The overrepresentation of people of color in poverty and white people in wealth is not just a happenstance. It's because we're not valued.” (**ProPublica**, “*Early Data Shows African Americans Have Contracted and Died of Coronavirus at an Alarming Rate,*” **April 3, 2020**)

Contrary to popular social media fiction and rumor, African Americans are NOT immune to this latest outbreak. To compound the already bleak actual “facts”/stat's, recent ‘fake news’ stories, like that of the “black immunity,’ has garnered so much traction, even the black

community, itself, believed it and put personal protective measures/precautions aside, putting themselves and their loved ones at even greater risk of exposure.

Failing to recognize and document the racialized social factors that contribute to these rates of illness are another example of the quiet, systematic, and deleterious processes that continue to disproportionately affect minority populations. Nothing "just" happens, including the patterns of illness and death that we are currently witnessing.

On Friday, April 3, 2020 the Cuyahoga County Board of Health released its latest COVID-19 statistics, including only zip code and gender demographics. Yet, even excluding race from its findings entirely, the data shows that neighborhoods hardest hit are those predominantly populated by African Americans. This is unacceptable, and the black community can no longer pretend this outbreak isn't a very serious matter of life and death.

Below is a breakdown of Cuyahoga County zip codes disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to date:

### **22-47 CASES**

#### **44118 POPULATION 36% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland Heights  
East Cleveland  
Shaker Heights  
University Heights  
South Euclid

#### **44120 POPULATION 70% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland  
Shaker Heights

#### **44121 POPULATION 50% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

South Euclid  
Cleveland Heights

#### **44122 POPULATION 32% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Beachwood  
Highland Hills  
Shaker Heights  
University Heights  
Warrensville Heights  
Woodmere

#### **44124 POPULATION 11% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Lyndhurst  
Mayfield Heights  
Pepper Pike

#### **44128 POPULATION 92% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland  
Warrensville Heights  
Bedford Heights  
Garfield Heights  
Highland Hills  
North Randall

#### **44133 POPULATION 2% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

North Royalton

### **14-21 CASES**

#### **44105 POPULATION 73% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland  
Garfield Heights  
Newburgh Heights

#### **44106. POPULATION 43% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland  
Cleveland Heights

#### **44107 POPULATION 6% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Lakewood

#### **44125 POPULATION 39% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Garfield Heights  
Valley View

**44130 POPULATION 5% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Middleburg Heights  
Parma  
Parma Heights

**44137 POPULATION 71% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Maple Heights

**44145 POPULATION 3% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Westlake

**44146 POPULATION 58% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Bedford  
Bedford Heights  
Oakwood Village  
Walton Hills

**44022 POPULATION 2% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Chagrin Falls  
Moreland Hills  
Bentleyville

**Cases range from 10-13**

**44070 POPULATION 3% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

North Olmsted

**44102 POPULATION 24% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland

**44108 POPULATION 90% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Bratenahl  
Cleveland

**44111 POPULATION 17% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Cleveland

**44112 POPULATION 91% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

East Cleveland  
**Cleveland Heights**

**44129 POPULATION 3% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Parma

**44136 POPULATION 3% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Strongsville

**44139 POPULATION 12% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

Solon

**44143 POPULATION 27% AFRICAN AMERICAN**

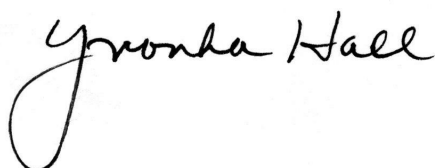
Euclid  
Highland Heights  
Mayfield  
Mayfield Heights  
Mayfield Village  
Richmond Heights

Without violating patient privacy, NEOBHC demands the Cuyahoga County Board of Health immediately provide ***as specific data on race/ethnicity and location, as possible***, which is critical to its mission of putting information and resources directly into the hands of those targeted neighborhoods most in need of more culturally proficient outreach.

Further, NEOBHC asks that all information be released to the public as soon as it becomes available -- not to cause alarm, but to help the at-risk populations mitigate virus exposure. Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition is a 501(c)(3) working to ensure the African American community has access to information and resources of education and empowerment.

Call (216) 295-0283 or email [neobhc@gmail.com](mailto:neobhc@gmail.com) to learn more.

Sincerely,



**Yvonka M. Hall**, MPA, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition