

September 2026 BOH Update

STI & HIV Prevention Grants, Ohio Dept. of Health Region 2

Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Knox, Marion, Richland, Seneca, & Wyandot Counties

Clinical

- Galion Clinic Visits: September = 72, Marion Public Health (held once weekly, every Tuesday): September = 26 (STI positivity rate for September clinic visits 9.18%)
- There are currently 54 active in-person PrEP clients (Galion and Marion) and 641 active on Q Care + platform. These clients receive every 3-6 month follow up visits for comprehensive STI and HIV testing and HIV prevention (PrEP).

Region 2 Disease Investigation & Grant Activities

- Abby Volk, DIS investigated 24 cases (combined HIV and syphilis) in September 2026.
- I omitted an important announcement in the August report: Abby Volk, DIS completed the Certified in Disease Intervention (CDI) Program by passing the certification exam. This program, supported by the CDC and Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, was designed to standardize the workflow of a DIS as they work to prevent the spread of infectious diseases—beyond HIV and STIs. Abby is the first DIS in our program to complete this certification.
- September was Sexual Health Awareness Month. Social media posts to promote testing were designed.
- Staff attended the 2026 STI Prevention Conference in Atlanta Aug. 31- Sept. 2. This conference featured interactive sessions focused on community engagement to increase STI/HIV testing and prevention, research updates, and support for funding challenges.
- The Galion Community Planning Group (CPG/HIV Prevention) will meet Thursday November 12, 2026 from 10 am - noon. This meeting will be held at Avita Hospital in Galion in the Lobby Conference Room. We continue to look at ways to improve testing and prevention services to our nine-county region. If anyone would like to be a part of this group, please email me, Sarah Miley, sarah.miley@galionhealth.org
- We participated in the 2026 National Save a Life Day on Sept. 24 at the New Day Ministry Outreach Center in Bucyrus, OH. This event focused on harm reduction. See attached outreach report.
- **Outreach and Outreach Testing:**
 - Scheduled monthly testing was held at Richland County Jail, Knox Recovery (Utica and Mt. Vernon sites), Ashland County Jail, Wayfinders, and Kenyon College. Thirty-two individuals were tested for HIV, syphilis and bacterial STIs. We worked with a partner agency, Kno Ho Co Ashland CAC, to test at Knox Recovery, and Kenyon College.

Grant Management

- The 2026 STI Prevention grant cycle started March 1, 2026. The total amount awarded for this grant is \$259,179. We are on target with spending and grant activities including outreach, educational campaigns, and other required prevention services.
- The HIV 2026/2027 NOA (Notice of Award) was received 6/25/2026. The award amount is \$189,737.00. This grant cycle started June 1, 2026 with spending and grant activities on target.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Miley APRN-CNP, STI/HIV Grants Project Director