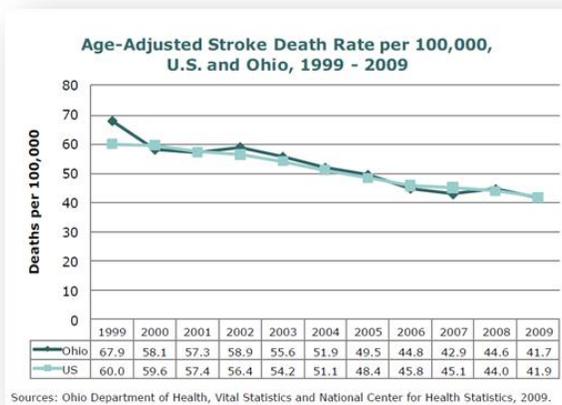


Abolish Council on Stroke Prevention & Education

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is proposing new language to amend Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3701.90 to 3701.907 and abolish the Council on Stroke Prevention and Education. This old language in the ORC requires ODH to provide office space and staff assistance for the council. The council has been inactive since 2003. ODH has not received any correspondence or requests to call meetings from the Chair or any of the original Council members.



Despite the inactivity, the rate of stroke deaths in Ohio has continued to decline over the years.

Stroke prevention and education efforts in Ohio are currently conducted by the ODH Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Program and other entities. In addition, almost all the members of the original Stroke Council member agencies are represented on the current Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Council.

The current Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Council is a new and active council and is a program requirement for a CDC-funded grant to ODH. Most of the agencies that belong to it are also actively participating in the Ohio Coverdell Stroke Program Transitions of Care initiative. This initiative greatly expands the scope of improving stroke care in Ohio by actively engaging entities across the state in a collaborative process to develop common standards for post-hospital stroke rehabilitation and care. In 2005, the American Stroke Association Task Force issued "Recommendations for the Establishment of Stroke Systems of Care" which are considered today's standards of care for the treatment of stroke patients throughout the United States. This white paper fulfilled the purpose of Ohio's old Council on Stroke Prevention and Education.

The 2005 recommendations address all critical aspects of stroke prevention from pre-hospital care, to public education, to clinical guidance, to stroke rehabilitation. In addition to stroke prevention and education efforts conducted by the ODH Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Program, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, the National Stroke Association, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also have extensive public education campaigns to reduce risk factors for stroke and increase the recognition of stroke signs and symptoms.