

Combating the Opiate Crisis in Ohio

In 2011, Gov. John R. Kasich announced the establishment of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team to fight opiate abuse in Ohio. Ohio is combating drug abuse through many initiatives on several fronts at the state and local levels involving law enforcement, public health, addiction and treatment professionals, healthcare providers, educators, parents and many others. New initiatives were developed, then launched in 2013 or later, and it will take some time for their full impact to be reflected in reducing the number of drug overdose deaths. For more information about GCOAT, visit <http://www.mha.ohio.gov/gcoat>.



Law Enforcement: Cracking Down on Drug Trafficking

Interdiction by law enforcement is a necessary intervention in combating the opioid epidemic. Yet, the opiate issue is one of the more complex drug challenges that law enforcement has ever faced. Coordination across jurisdictions and with regulatory boards is a critical step.

- **2011:** Gov. Kasich signs HB 93 into law to shut down “pill mill” pain clinics that fuel Ohio’s opiate crisis.
- **2011:** The Ohio Highway Patrol reports that it seized more than 38,000 prescription pills and 16,400 grams of heroin in calendar year 2011.
- **2012:** Ohio hosts first statewide Opiate Summit, drawing more than 1,000 addiction, law enforcement, policy and medical professionals.
- **2012:** The Ohio Highway Patrol reports that it seized more than 39,900 prescription pills and 34,800 grams of heroin in calendar year 2012.
- **2013:** A partnership with local law enforcement is strengthened by investing \$3 million in behavioral health programs through local jails to reduce recidivism.
- **2013:** Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine establishes the Attorney General’s Heroin Unit, which assists local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting upper-level drug traffickers in Ohio.
- **2013:** The Ohio Highway Patrol reports that it seized more than 54,200 prescription pills and 46,200 grams of heroin in calendar year 2013.
- **2014:** Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine awards more than \$500,000 to law enforcement in Allen County to combat the flow of heroin along I-75.
- **2014:** The Ohio Attorney General’s Office launches Heroin Recognition and Investigation Training for law enforcement through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.
- **2014:** The Ohio Highway Patrol reports that it seized more than 37,900 prescription pills and 14,100 grams of heroin in calendar year 2014.
- **2011-2014:** The State Medical Board of Ohio and the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, working in conjunction with the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, revokes the licenses of 61 doctors and 15 pharmacists for violations involving improper prescribing or dispensing of prescription drugs.

- **2015:** The Office of Criminal Justice Services contributes \$100,000 to the Heroin Partnership Project, a collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies focused on reducing heroin and opiate overdose deaths in Ross County.
- **2015:** The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy trains local law enforcement agencies on how to conduct drug overdose investigations, including the use of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System.
- **2015:** The Ohio Highway Patrol reports that it seized more than 34,000 opioid pills and 18,300 grams of heroin.
- **2015:** The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy links data from OARRS to overdose death data provided by the Ohio Department of Health to identify prescribers linked to drug overdose decedents. The Board is working closely with prescriber regulatory boards to conduct joint investigations of prescribers for violations of criminal and administrative law.
- **2016:** In the first six months of 2016, the Ohio Highway Patrol has seized 53,000 grams of heroin.
- **2016:** The Ohio Highway Patrol crime lab encountered a significant increase in fentanyl submissions: 175 submissions in 2016 compared to 103 in 2015.
- **2016:** During State Fiscal Year 2017, the Ohio Department of Public Safety Office of Criminal Justice Services is providing more than \$5.5 million in funding to support 40 local drug task forces throughout Ohio.

Preventing Youth Drug Use Before it Starts

To help prevent youth drug use before it starts, Gov. Kasich launched *Start Talking!* in January 2014. *Start Talking!* is Ohio's statewide youth drug prevention initiative that brings together proven prevention strategies to promote the importance of having drug-free conversations with our youth. Research shows that children whose parents or other trusted adults talk with them about the risks of drugs are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs. *Start Talking!* features three components designed to provide parents, teachers, guardians and community leaders with simple tools to get the conversation started: *Know!*, *Parents360-Rx*, and *5 Minutes for Life*. Visit the *Start Talking!* website at <http://starttalking.ohio.gov> for details.



- **2013-14:** More than 16,500 high school student-athletes participate in *5 Minutes for Life* sessions held before or after practice, during which Ohio state troopers, local law enforcement officers and National Guard members talk about responsible decision-making, leadership and encouraging their peers to live a drug-free lifestyle.
- **2014:** An additional 6,400 parents, teachers and employers sign up for *Know!* tips and *TEACHable Moments* with a total reach of more than 40,000 as a result of organizations sharing the information. They join a subscriber base of more than 60,000.
- **2014-15:** More than 17,700 student-athletes participated in *5 Minutes for Life* sessions held before or after practices.
- **2014-2015:** *Start Talking!* awards 22 grants totaling \$1.5 million to communities to help strengthen school-based prevention and resiliency programming for at-risk youth.
- **2014:** An overview of *Start Talking!* was presented to approximately 500 nurses at three ODH Regional School Nurse Conferences.

- **2014:** Gov. Kasich signs HB 367 into law, requiring school districts to provide education about prescription medication and opiate abuse.
- **2015:** ODH releases results of the Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey which indicates a 50 percent decrease in the number of Ohio teens who used a prescription painkiller without a doctor's prescription.
- **2015:** The "5 Minutes for Life" program is expanded and now available year round.
- **2015:** *Start Talking!* is displayed at ODH's annual New School Nurse Orientation.
- **2016:** During the 2015-16 school year, more than 53,000 students participated in "5 Minutes for Life" presentations.

Encouraging Appropriate Use and Availability of Pain Medication

Ohio officials have worked diligently with the medical community to find the right balance between making sure pain interventions are available to patients who need it while taking important steps to limit the number of opioid prescription medications that diverted and sold on the street for illicit use.

- **2011:** The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team develops low dose protocol for buprenorphine and Suboxone.
- **2012:** The Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Drug Free Action Alliance launch the Ohio Prescription Drug Drop Box Program by providing secure disposal bins to more than 60 law enforcement agencies.
- **2012:** The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team rolls out opioid prescribing guidelines for emergency room and acute care facilities.
- **2013:** The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team introduces prescribing guidelines for Ohio's opioid prescribers for safe management of chronic, non-terminal pain.
- **2014:** ODH provides seed funding for local prescription drug overdose prevention projects in Cuyahoga County, Clermont County and the City of Portsmouth with a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The projects include coalition development, healthcare prescriber education and healthcare system changes for safer prescribing practices.
- **2014:** The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy adopts rules authorizing pharmacies to accept unused or expired prescription controlled substances from the public.
- **2014:** The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy receives a \$386,000 federal grant to make enhancements to improve the use of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System.
- **2014:** To improve care to our veterans and reduce prescription drug abuse, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy completed a project that allows the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to report all prescription controlled substances dispensed from their Ohio facilities to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).
- **2014:** An analysis of OARRS data shows a 10.8 percent reduction in the number of Ohio patients receiving prescription opiates (excluding Suboxone) at doses greater than the 80 mg Morphine Equivalent Daily Dose since the establishment of Ohio's opiate prescribing guidelines in October 2013.
- **2015:** Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team releases a Health Resource Toolkit for healthcare providers to address opioid abuse.

- **2015:** Use of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System by opioid prescribers continued to increase. Ohio prescribers and pharmacists made more than 13 million requests for patient information in OARRS.
- **2015:** The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy provides healthcare regulatory boards with the names of more than 15,500 clinicians who violated Ohio laws by prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines and not checking the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System.
- **2015:** Prescription Drug take-back targeted at state employees nets more than 100 pounds of unused, expired, unwanted prescription medications (roughly 95,000 pills).
- **2015:** CDC selects Ohio among 16 states to receive between \$750,000-\$1 million a year over four years to combat prescription drug overdoses. The funding is to be used to enhance prescription drug monitoring programs; educate providers and patients about the risks of prescription drug overdose; work with healthcare systems, insurers and healthcare professionals to help them make informed decisions when prescribing pain medication; and respond to new and emerging drug overdose issues.
- **2015:** U.S. Department of Justice selects the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to receive a \$200,000 grant to develop new OARRS educational and training resources for healthcare schools, colleges and residency programs.
- **2015:** Governor Kasich announces an investment of up to \$1.5 million a year to integrate the Ohio Automated Rx reporting System (OARRS) directly into electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems across the state, allowing instant access for prescribers and pharmacists.
- **2015:** The number of opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients decreased by almost 92 million from 2012 to 2015.
- **2015:** The number of individuals “doctor shopping” for opiates decreased from 2,493 in 2010 to 720 in 2015, according to data from the State Board of Pharmacy’s Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).
- **2016:** The Governor’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team launches guidelines for the management of acute pain outside the hospital emergency department setting. The guidelines address treatment without drugs, non-opioid drug treatment and safe opioid drug treatment.
- **2016:** Ohio Board of Pharmacy issues updated rules requiring increased use of OARRS by pharmacists prior to dispensing controlled substance medications.
- **2016:** The Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) announces that since the creation of BWC’s first-ever formulary and other pharmacy-management efforts, opiate prescriptions have steadily fallen, dropping by 23.8 million doses, or 41 percent, since 2010.
- **2016:** ODH funding through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports prescription drug overdose projects in eight high-risk counties. The projects include coalition development, healthcare prescriber education and healthcare system changes for safer prescribing practices.

Saving Lives by Expanding Access to Overdose Antidote

Ohio has taken steps to prevent drug overdose deaths through the expanded availability and use of the overdose reversal drug naloxone. Ohio's naloxone efforts also serve to educate persons who are addicted on available treatment options.

- **2012:** ODH provides seed funding for a pilot naloxone education and distribution program called Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) in Scioto County.
- **2013:** ODH funds additional Project DAWN sites in Ross, Stark and Hamilton Counties. These sites joined existing sites in Cuyahoga, Scioto and Montgomery counties.
- **2013:** OhioMHAS begins offering Project DAWN kits to patients leaving state psychiatric hospitals who are at-risk of overdose.
- **2013:** Gov. Kasich signs SB 57 into law establishing a one-year naloxone pilot project in Lorain County that permits first responders to administer naloxone.
- **2014:** Gov. Kasich signs HB 170 into law, expanding the use of naloxone so that first responders can administer the drug, and allowing family and friends to get prescriptions for loved ones at risk of overdosing on opioids.
- **2014:** The Ohio Attorney General's Office develops an online training course for law enforcement and an educational video for the public regarding the administration of naloxone.
- **2014:** Ohio EMS personnel administer naloxone 16,121 times.
- **2014:** 14 Project DAWN programs provided 2,894 naloxone kits with 190 overdose reversals/lives saved.
- **2015:** Thirty-four Project DAWN community sites operate in 27 counties, and 16 sites operate in drug addiction treatments centers and hospital emergency departments.
- **2015:** Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine negotiates an agreement with naloxone manufacturer Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc. regarding rebates for public entities that purchase Amphastar naloxone.
- **2015:** Gov. Kasich signs HB 4 into law, further expanding access to naloxone by permitting pharmacists to dispense without a prescription this life-saving drug that has the potential to reverse drug overdoses.
- **2015:** To assist pharmacies in the implementation of HB 4, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has developed a dedicated web page, www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/naloxone, which features a number of helpful resources, including a guidance document, sample protocol and a listing of all participating pharmacies. The Board is also offering printed, no-cost patient educational materials to any participating pharmacy.
- **2015:** Ohio EMS personnel administered naloxone more than 19,400 times.
- **2015:** SFY 16-17 budget includes an investment of \$500,000 per year to purchase naloxone for distribution to law enforcement by local health departments. County health departments utilize this funding to purchase more than 7,800 naloxone kits in SFY 2016, resulting in more than 2,300 lives saved.
- **2016:** More than 900 Ohio pharmacies in 79 counties offer naloxone without a prescription.



- **2016:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issues a report based on a CDC team's visit to Ohio at the Ohio Department of Health's request to help examine the state's increase in fentanyl-related drug overdose deaths. The report recognizes Ohio's comprehensive response to combatting the opiate crisis and makes recommendations, including further expanding access to and use of naloxone.
- **2016:** Ohio EMS posted a training video on the Ohio Department of Public Safety's EMS website to assist EMS providers with the intranasal and auto-injector administration of naloxone. EMS also developed a training video for non-EMS providers, which will be posted to the website soon.
- **2016:** ODH develops a Project DAWN start-up toolkit for local communities with an interest in starting the program. ODH also provides start-up funding for new Project DAWN sites in five high-risk counties.
- **2016:** ODH and OhioMHAS partner to launch a multi-media naloxone/fentanyl awareness campaign targeting the 15 counties that accounted for 80 percent of Ohio's fentanyl-related overdose deaths in 2014.
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/news/News-Release---State-Public-Awareness-Campaign-Naloxone.pdf?la=en>

Creating Pathways to Treatment and Recovery

Making sure that Ohioans have access to treatment – including Medication-Assisted Treatment in combination with traditional counseling – along with key recovery supports such as stable housing, employment services, relapse prevention and more has been a critical focus in Ohio.

- **2011:** Gov. Kasich signs Executive Order authorizing the expanded use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (buprenorphine, vivitrol, methadone) in responding to the state's opiate crisis.
- **2012:** Ohio Medicaid introduces coverage of Medication-Assisted Treatment services.
- **2012:** The Mid-Biennium Budget Review includes \$3 million for opiate addiction treatment.
- **2012:** The Office of the Governor awards \$2.1 million to Ohio's children's hospitals to fund several research projects. Of that total, \$1 million was set aside for the development of a standardized treatment protocol for addressing neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in newborns.
- **2013:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services receives a \$10 million federal grant to support implementation of a screening and wellness tool for physicians called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment). SBIRT also becomes a billable service under Ohio Medicaid.
- **2013:** New Southern Ohio Addiction Treatment Center is established in Jackson County, addressing a gap in local services for individuals who are opioid-dependent.
- **2014:** Extension of Medicaid coverage in Ohio begins, making addiction treatment services available to more individuals.
- **2014:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services partners with Ohio Medicaid to launch the Maternal Opiate Medical Support (MOMS) pilot project to develop best practices for treating addicted mothers and for addressing neonatal abstinence syndrome among newborns.
- **2014:** The Mid-Biennium Budget Review includes funding for drug prevention, recovery housing, and drug courts.

- **2014:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services launches an Addiction Treatment Pilot Project to provide Medication-Assisted Treatment to drug court participants in six counties.
- **2014:** Gov. Kasich speaks to teams from across Ohio at a Judicial Symposium to encourage collaborative efforts to fight drug abuse and promote the drug court model.
- **2014-15:** Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine awards a total of \$800,000 to Lucas County to develop a pilot program aimed at helping those suffering from heroin addiction get the assistance they need to move towards recovery. The University of Toledo will study and evaluate the effectiveness of the program for its potential use as a model for recovery in other communities across the state.
- **2015:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services participated with the Ohio Highway Patrol in successful SHIELD details by helping connect drug users intercepted by law enforcement to treatment.
- **2016-17:** The state budget for the biennium calls for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and OhioMHAS to expand the availability of treatment within state prisons and upon release; to continue to invest in recovery housing; and provides additional funding to expand the Addiction Treatment Pilot Project to a total of 15 counties.
- **2016:** The Ohio Department of Public Safety Office of Criminal Justice Services is providing \$244,000 to help fund five drug treatment projects. The funds are provided by the Federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, which funds addiction treatment in prisons, jails and after-care facilities.
- **2016:** During State Fiscal Year 2017, OCJS is providing more than \$5.5 million in funding to support 40 local drug task forces in communities throughout Ohio.
- **2016:** The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) created a rule requiring physicians to employ current best medical practices when treating injured workers with opioids, including the development of an individualized treatment plan, risk assessment and monitoring of the progress and improvement in the function of the worker.
- **2016:** A new rule allows BWC to provide injured workers with treatment for opioid dependence, including psychological counseling and medication-assisted treatment for recovery.
- **2016:** Gov. Kasich's 2016 Mid-Biennium Review proposes additional reforms to strengthen oversight by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, encourage responsible treatment and prevention overdoses. In an effort to allow new methadone clinics to open in the midst of an epidemic where additional treatment capacity is needed, the administration proposes a waiver to the current statutory requirement that a provider be certified in Ohio for two years prior to becoming a methadone clinic. This will allow new operations with experience in other states to open for business here, increasing the availability of treatment options while ensuring these new clinics are under state regulatory control.

