

# New Strategies to Fight the Opiate and Fentanyl Crisis in Ohio (2016-17)

Ohio's comprehensive approach to fighting drug abuse and overdose deaths continues to evolve to address the ever-changing nature of this epidemic. New strategies to fight this crisis include:

- Stepping up law enforcement drug interdiction efforts.
- Increasing the penalties for trafficking fentanyl.
- Improving access to addiction treatment.
- Expanding prescribers' use of Ohio's opioid prescribing guidelines and the prescription drug monitoring program, the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).
- Expanding and recognizing the number of schools that have implemented the Start Talking! youth drug prevention initiative, or a similar initiative.
- Increasing the awareness and availability of naloxone to reverse opiate overdoses and save lives.
- Continued work with communities to enhance local efforts through the *Health Resources Toolkit for Addressing Opioid Abuse*.



## Addressing Rise in Fentanyl-Related Overdoses

Work with the Ohio General Assembly to establish tougher sentences for individuals selling fentanyl.

Expand the public awareness campaign using paid media to promote the availability and use of naloxone to reverse fentanyl and other opioid overdoses.

Dedicate additional resources through the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to make more than 8,000 additional doses of naloxone available to Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) programs and the behavioral health system compared to FY 16.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) will continue to promote participation in its new medical protocol that allows Community Based Correctional Facilities, Correction Community Residential Centers and Halfway Houses to access naloxone.

## Creating Pathways to Treatment and Recovery

Make it easier under Ohio regulations to establish opiate treatment programs through the Governor's Opiate Mid-Biennium Review legislation (Senate Bill 319).

Expand the Addiction Treatment Program through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The program is made available through certified drug courts, and will expand in FY 17 to an additional seven counties that have experienced high numbers of overdose deaths.

The Ohio Department of Health will develop and distribute a toolkit that hospital emergency departments can use to assist drug overdose patients with treatment options and other community resources.

Support communities in developing Opioid Regional Alliances and implementing local strategies to address overdose deaths and addiction — such as those contained in the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team toolkit — and enhance access to state-level rapid response assistance to spikes in local overdoses.

Encourage Federally Qualified Health Centers to participate in ambulatory detox and to connect clients to addiction treatment through a partnership with the Ohio Departments of Medicaid and Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Opioid treatment programs will be able to bill Medicaid for buprenorphine administration beginning in January of 2017, enhancing their ability to provide medication assisted treatment.

## Cracking Down on Drug Trafficking

Interdict, disrupt and reduce the supply line of illicit drugs, and enhance treatment and prevention efforts, through the continued implementation of a statewide strategic plan to integrate local law enforcement, state and federal partners, and the Ohio National Guard.

Step up drug interdiction efforts. Year-to-date in 2016, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has seized nearly triple the amount of heroin seized in all of 2015.

Provide ongoing support to local drug task forces, which target offenders and criminal enterprises that cross jurisdictions.

Conduct targeted joint investigations by provider/prescriber regulatory boards to rapidly identify and address clinicians who prescribed opioids to individuals who died of a drug overdose.

## Preventing Drug Use Before It Starts

Increase the number of parents, grandparents, teachers and community leaders signed up for Start Talking! email tips to help encourage frequent on-going conversations with Ohio's youth about the dangers associated with substance abuse.

Publicly highlight high-quality drug abuse prevention initiatives in school settings around the state.

Promote drug takeback opportunities to encourage the safe disposal of unused or expired prescription medications.

The Ohio Department of Health will lead the development and implementation of a public awareness campaign to educate consumers about appropriate opioid prescribing by their healthcare provider to help ensure their safety. The campaign will include resource materials, a website and a paid media strategy.

## Encouraging Appropriate Use and Availability of Pain Medication

Expand integration of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System into the electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems.

Expand the Ohio Department of Health Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention grants to additional high-risk counties.

Create a toolkit to help prescribers implement Ohio's opioid prescribing guidelines.

Continue to provide referrals from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to regulatory boards regarding clinicians who may be in violation of Ohio law for prescribing opioids and/or benzodiazepines without an Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System check.

Review of pain management clinic statutes and State of Ohio Medical Board rule related to the designation of a practice as a Pain Management Clinic to ensure all such clinics are appropriately certified.

Embed educational information for physicians about opioid prescribing as part of the new/renewal licensure process.

Develop an Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) training website for higher education and residency programs to simulate use of the system for future prescribers and pharmacists.

Work with stakeholders to develop and test standard algorithms to identify patients exhibiting at-risk behavior for an overdose. Use algorithms to develop proactive alerts for prescribers in the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System.

Develop a report in the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System to allow prescribers to view their prescribing habits compared with their peers.

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy will explore providing access to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System for certified drug courts in Ohio.

## Saving lives by Expanding Access to Overdose Antidote Naloxone

Continue efforts to promote naloxone access at the pharmacy level through development of education materials about a recent Ohio law (House Bill 4) that permits the dispensing of naloxone without a prescription by a pharmacist. Today, Ohio has more than 900 participating pharmacies in 79 counties across Ohio.

Improve naloxone reimbursement policies for Medicaid managed-care plans to promote use of the life-saving drug.