



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

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>>> Governor Sends Letter to Ohio Media: Urges Public's Help in Fighting Drug Abuse, Highlights Resources

On the eve of [International Overdose Awareness Day](#), Ohio Gov. John R. Kasich sent a detailed letter to the media asking for the public's help and highlighting some tools available to combat drug abuse and addiction. The Governor said leaders on both sides of the aisle in Columbus "have worked together to strengthen the tools" available to schools and local governments engaged in the fight against drug abuse, but noted, "We know it's a fight that can never be fought and won solely by actions taken on Capitol Square." Gov. Kasich pointed readers toward a variety of resources, including the latest overdose report from the Ohio Department of Health, the OhioMHAS toll-free consumer and family bridge line (1.877.275.6364) and [online provider directory](#), and prevention-focused resources such as [Start Talking](#) and [GenerationRx](#). "This is a battle Ohio cannot afford to lose and only with your help can we have any hope of success," the Governor said.

In related news, OhioMHAS in partnership with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, today released a new resource that can be used to help inform the public on how to recognize opiate addiction or an opiate overdose. The [Drug Addiction Affects All Ohioans poster](#) lists the warning signs of opioid abuse or addiction and the signs of an overdose. It also includes the OhioMHAS consumer and family toll-free bridge line (1.877.275.6364), links to OACBHA resources and a reminder to contact 9-1-1 for emergency assistance.

Last week, the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team released an updated [Health Resource Toolkit for Addressing Opioid Abuse](#), while ODH published the [Rapid Increase in Drug Overdoses Community Response Plan Template](#) to help communities respond to a sudden spike in overdose activity.

In May, OhioMHAS partnered with the Ohio Department of Health to launch a [multi-media awareness campaign](#) promoting the use of naloxone in overdose situations. Free billboard artwork ([Carry Naloxone](#), [Know the Signs](#)) and a [radio PSA](#), as well as an interactive map showing Project DAWN/pharmacy locations that offer naloxone are available on the [campaign website](#). OhioMHAS is also partnering with ODH to make an additional 8,000 [Project DAWN](#) kits available to local communities.

>>> Ohio Receives \$2 Million in Federal Funding to Help Address Opioid Epidemic

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today [announced \\$53 million in funding to 44 states](#) – including Ohio – as part of the federal government's [Opioid Initiative](#) launched in March 2015. Ohio was awarded \$2 million to support three programs:

- **The Prescription Drug Overdose Data Driven Prevention Initiative** - \$1 million to advance and evaluate state-level prevention activities to address opioid misuse and overdose. This will help improve data collection and analysis around opioid misuse and overdose, develop strategies that impact behaviors driving prescription opioid

misuse and dependence, and work with communities to develop more comprehensive opioid overdose prevention programs. (Lead agency: Ohio Department of Health)

- **The Enhanced State Surveillance of Opioid-Involved Morbidity and Mortality Program** - \$626,000 to better track fatal and nonfatal opioid-involved overdoses, increase the timeliness of reporting nonfatal and fatal opioid overdose and associated risk factors, disseminate surveillance findings to key stakeholders working to prevent opioid-involved overdoses, and share data with CDC to support improved multi-state surveillance of and response to opioid-involved overdoses. (Lead agency: Ohio Department of Health)
- **Ohio's Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs** - \$371,616 to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications, highlight the risks of overprescribing, raise community awareness and bring prescription drug abuse prevention activities and education to schools, communities, parents, prescribers and their patients. (Lead agency: OhioMHAS)

>>> Ohio Leads Nation in Institution-to-Community Transitions

In 2015, Ohio transitioned 1,658 individuals from institutional settings to homes in the community, more than any other state. This was accomplished through Ohio's HOME Choice program, which enables citizens to receive services in the home and community based setting of their choice. HOME Choice ranks first nationally in transitioning individuals with mental illness into home-based settings and second in overall transitions completed. As of 2016, more than 8,500 people achieved newfound independence through HOME Choice.

[Read the report](#)

[Learn more about HOME Choice](#)

>>> No Cost Buprenorphine Waiver Trainings

The Providers' Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment ([PCSS-MAT](#)) holds two online buprenorphine waiver trainings per month. The next scheduled East Coast training is Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

In the News

8.31.16 | *BBC Magazine* [Smack in the suburbs](#)

8.30.16 | *WCMH-TV* [Kasich pleads with the public to address heroin, drug problems](#)

8.30.16 | *Ashtabula Star-Beacon* [Heroin a 'community problem'](#)

8.30.16 | *Defiance Crescent-News* [Collaboration, donation to allow substance abuse programs to continue at Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio](#)

8.29.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Amid push to reduce suicides, local hotline needs volunteers](#)

8.29.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Public access to life-saving overdose drug expands to 79 Ohio counties](#)

8.29.16 | *Toledo Blade* [Addicts work for sober futures](#)

8.28.16 | *Columbus Dispatch (Column)* [Dad finds way through darkness of suicide](#)

8.28.16 | *Ironton Tribune* [Promoting recovery](#)

8.28.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Gamblers have lost \\$9.7 billion over four years](#)

8.26.16 | *Hillsboro Times-Gazette* [Take Back Our County fighting drug abuse](#)

8.25.16 | *Logan Daily News* [Creative photography program helps lift area residents living with mental illness](#)

8.24.16 | *ThisWeek News* [Grant leads to program on suicide prevention](#)

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