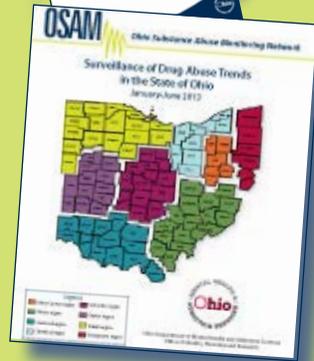


OSAM collects current qualitative and quantitative data to identify drug trends throughout Ohio.

OSAM obtains information from active and recovering drug users, treatment providers, law enforcement officers, probation officers and school counselors.

OSAM regularly monitors media outlets for the latest news about drug trends in Ohio and integrates those findings with current statistical data gathered from Departments of Health, Drug Courts, Coroners and Crime Labs.

OSAM publishes reports using first-hand data to update local service providers, Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards and the Ohio Legislature on emerging drug trends.



OSAM publications can be found at mha.ohio.gov

Current Statistics on Substance Abuse

- ✓ In 2007, unintentional drug overdose became the leading cause of injury death in Ohio, surpassing motor vehicle crashes for the first time on record. This trend continued through 2012.
- ✓ In 2010, Ohio had the 12th highest drug overdose mortality rate in the United States, with 16.1 per 100,000 people suffering drug overdose fatalities.
- ✓ In June 2013, the OSAM Network reported on the increasing number of heroin overdoses statewide.
- ✓ In April 2014, the Ohio Department of Health released the *2012 Ohio Drug Overdose Deaths* report showing an 8.4 percent rise in unintentional drug overdose deaths. This meant that in 2012, Ohio overdose deaths reached an all-time high of 1,914. Almost two-thirds of these overdose deaths were associated with opiates (66.5%).
- ✓ The Ohio State Highway Patrol reported 4,972 drug violations for 2013, and reported more than 6,000 drug violations before mid-July 2014.

For more information, contact OSAM staff

R. Thomas Sherba, PhD, MPH, LPCC, OSAM Principal Investigator
Tom.Sherba@mha.ohio.gov

Beth E. Gersper, MPA, OSAM Coordinator
Beth.Gersper@mha.ohio.gov



Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Office of Quality, Planning & Research
30 E. Broad St., 8th Floor • Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8651

OSAM

The Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

As part of Ohio's drug abuse surveillance system, **OSAM**, the **Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network**, is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to collect and analyze new and emerging drug trend data to support policy efforts to reduce substance abuse throughout Ohio.

The OSAM Regions





How OSAM works for Ohio

Since 1999, epidemiologists with the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network have studied the patterns, causes and effects of drug abuse throughout Ohio.

Epidemiological specialists from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) oversee the research activities of eight (8) regional epidemiologists who routinely collect data in each of the following areas: Akron-Canton, Athens, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown (see the regional map on the cover).

Every six months, the OSAM research team compiles up-to-date qualitative and statistical data collected through regional focus groups and face-to-face interviews with active and recovering drug users and community professionals including treatment providers, law enforcement officials, peer support specialists and university scholars. Crime lab reports and coroner findings are also integrated into the epidemiologic descriptions that policy makers need to plan appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.

OSAM publishes [Drug Trend Reports](#), [OSAM-O-Grams](#) and [Targeted Response Initiatives](#).



OSAM publications can be found at mha.ohio.gov

To receive OSAM publications via email, contact Beth Gersper 614-644-2182 beth.gersper@mha.ohio.gov

Drug overdoses result in high direct and indirect costs to taxpayers. Overdose deaths cost Ohioans \$1.9 billion in medical & work-loss costs. Non-fatal, hospital-admitted drug overdoses cost an additional \$40 million. OSAM research informs policies intended to curtail these costs.



Emerging initiatives address substance abuse in Ohio

► **Ohio law, HB 170**, allows for the provision of naloxone to opiate addict's friends and/or family members as a safeguard against the surge of heroin and prescription opioid medication overdose deaths in Ohio. (www.legislature.state.oh.us)



► The **Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT)** was established in 2011, to address the misuse, abuse and overdose from opiates. One outcome is the Ohio Opioid Prescribing Guidelines. (www.med.ohio.gov/webhost/OOAT_RX_Guidelines.html)

► **Start Talking!** is a statewide initiative to promote family conversations about the importance of living healthy, drug-free lives. (www.starttalking.ohio.gov)



► Ohio's **State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)** participates in a national effort funded by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to regularly share state- and community-level substance abuse data that informs prevention policies. (<https://prod.ada.ohio.gov/SEOWPublic/>)

► Ohio's statewide **Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT)** is an effort to reduce morbidity and mortality from alcohol and other drug use through early intervention and the integration of medical and behavioral health approaches (<http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=665>).



Working together to combat substance abuse in Ohio

Ohio Resources

Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

www.mha.ohio.gov

Office of Quality, Planning & Research

www.mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=151

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM)

www.mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=662

Ohio Department of Health

www.odh.ohio.gov/

Ohio Narcotics Association Regional Coordinating Officers

www.ohionarco.org

Ohio State Highway Patrol

www.statepatrol.ohio.gov

National Resources

Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)

www.bit.ly/projectdawn

Get Smart About Drugs

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com

Office of Diversion Control

www.dea.diversion.usdoj.gov

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

www.drugfree.org

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

www.samhsa.gov

Used appropriately, prescription drugs offer great medical benefits, but misuse has dire consequences.