



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

April 30, 2015



>>> Record Crowd Energizes We Are the Majority Rally & Resiliency Ring

A huge crowd of more than 1,500 young people from across Ohio helped to kick off Substance Abuse Awareness and Education and Mental Health Awareness Month at the Statehouse today with the 2015 "We Are the Majority" drug-free youth rally and Resiliency Ring. Ohio's First Lady Karen W. Kasich joined OhioMHAS Director Tracy J. Plouck, Maj. Gen. John C. Harris, Jr. of the Ohio National Guard and a host of youth speakers in providing inspiring remarks. This year's rally, co-hosted by Drug-Free Action Alliance and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio – with support from OhioMHAS and the Ohio National Guard -- marked the largest attendance ever. Pre-rally activities were held at Huntington Park where actor/singer Corbin Bleu of *High School Musical* fame provided remarks, lauding the youth for their decision to lead healthy, drug-free lives, and local alternative pop/rock band Truslow performed. Visit the [OhioMHAS Flickr page](#) in the coming days for more photos from the event.

>>> ODH Releases 2013 Overdose Death Data

Reflecting a continuing national trend, unintentional drug overdoses caused 2,110 deaths of Ohio residents in 2013. Records show there were about 196 more deaths in 2013 compared to 2012, according to a new report released today by the Ohio Department of Health. Opiates, which include heroin and prescription painkillers, were culpable in nearly 70 percent of overdose deaths. Heroin-related deaths increased in 2013, significantly surpassing prescription opiates among unintentional overdose deaths. Heroin overdose deaths rose from 697 in 2012 to 983 in 2013. Prescription opiates remained a significant contributor to drug overdose deaths, increasing from 680 in 2012 to 726 in 2013.

“Ohio is fighting 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,” said ODH Director Richard Hodges. “Many of these initiatives were launched in 2013 or later, and it will take some time for their full impact to be reflected in Ohio’s drug overdose deaths. We know that we’re doing the right things, but the data underscore the need to redouble our efforts.”

[Read the full release](#)

[Unintentional Ohio Drug Overdose Death Rates by County](#)

[General findings](#)

[Fighting the Opiate Crisis Timeline](#)

>>> SFY 2016 Ohio Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Project RFP Released

The Ohio Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Project is seeking partners to implement SBIRT services at medical sites in Ohio. We are seeking up to six smaller sites and up to two larger hospital sites. Funds will be used to implement screening for substance use, depression and tobacco use during the course of primary medical care. Sites will use the AUDIT, DAST-10 and PHQ-9 screening tools alongside a tobacco screening tool to identify patients and conduct brief interventions



using motivational interviewing. Training for staff is included in the grant funding to equip them to identify those at risk, provide evidence-based interventions and referrals when necessary. The third round of funding is available to new and returning sites for SFY 2016. All proposals must meet the guidelines and requirements of the [RFP](#). **Proposals must be submitted by May 29, 2015.**

[Ohio SBIRT Project Overview](#)

[Ohio SBIRT Project RFP Information](#)

[SBIRT Year 3 Provider Application Hospital Grant](#)

[SBIRT Year 3 Provider Application Implementation Grant](#)

In the News

(4.30.15) *WSYX-TV 6/Good Day Columbus* [We Are the Majority Rally](#)

(4.30.15) *Lima News* [Mental Health Month highlights local concerns](#)

(4.30.15) *Columbus Dispatch* [Heroin feeds record number of Ohio drug deaths](#)

(4.30.15) *Associated Press* [Health Department says Ohio heroin overdose deaths are still surging, hit record number](#)

(4.30.15) *WSYX-TV 6* [Students march to Statehouse](#)

(4.29.15) *WYSO 91.3* [Prisons Now Largest Mental Health provider in Ohio](#)

(4.29.15) *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Coalition aims to pool resources to fight heroin](#)

(4.27.15) *Amherst News-Times* [Special Report: Naloxone is working](#)

(4.25.15) *Warren Tribune-Chronicle* [Focus on opiates: Summit looks at drug addiction intervention, help](#)

(4.24.15) *WKBN-TV 27* [Opiate Summit targets Trumbull County epidemic](#)

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First Lady Karen W. Kasich and Drug-Free Action Alliance Executive Director Marcie Seidel join with youth during the Resiliency Ring.