



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

Aug. 25, 2016

>>> **New ODH Report: Fentanyl Fuels Increase in Drug Overdose Deaths in 2015**

The number of unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio increased again in 2015, driven by a sharp rise in fentanyl-related deaths, according to a new report released this morning by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Although heroin was involved in 47 percent of accidental overdose deaths, fentanyl – an opioid that is 30 to 50 times more potent than heroin – was cited as the primary drug driving fatal overdoses upward. Fentanyl was involved in 1,155 fatal overdoses – more than twice the number from 2014 and 14 times more than in 2013. Overall, drug overdose deaths in Ohio increased from 2,531 in 2014 to 3,050 in 2015. There is some good news: data shows Ohio is making progress on the prescription opioids front as the percentage of deaths related to pain medications declined for the fourth straight year. As a state enterprise, Ohio is committed to an aggressive and comprehensive approach to combatting the epidemic, which combines both ongoing and new strategies to: crack down on drug trafficking; prevent youth drug use before it starts; encourage the appropriate use and availability of pain medications; save lives by expanding availability of naloxone and create pathways to treatment and recovery.

[Read the media release](#)

[View the full report](#)

[2015 Overdose data At a Glance](#)

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

[Combatting the Opiate Crisis in Ohio](#)

[Fentanyl Backgrounder](#)

[Health Resource Toolkit for Addressing Opioid Abuse \(Updated\)](#)

>>> **Keep Up to Date with GFMS Updates**

The OhioMHAS Office of Information Services is pleased to announce the launch of a new online repository for [External Release Notes](#) related to the Grants Funding Management System (GFMS). Since [GFMS](#) went into production on July 1, 2016, a number of updates have been completed and released into production. These updates, which feature release notes of fixes and enhancements, will continue to be directly communicated to county boards and providers via email, and will now be housed on the External Release Notes page as well for

quick reference. For GFMS questions, please contact your Project Lead. Board questions can be addressed by contacting Fiscal at MHAS_FiscalReview@mha.ohio.gov. Items related to iPortal or logging into the system can be addressed by contacting the OhioMHAS Helpdesk at 614.466.1483 or via email MHAHelpDesk@mha.ohio.gov.

>>> Join the Ohio Afterschool Network #lightupOhio Thunderclap

The Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) is seeking individuals to support the [Lights On Afterschool](#) a national day of celebration for quality afterschool programs and the work they do to help youth succeed. OAN is encouraging supporters to help promote the #lightupOhio campaign via Thunderclap. Thunderclap is a social media tool that lets a message be heard when you and your friends say it together. Think of it as an "online flash mob." Join the Thunderclap and you and others will share the same message at the same time, spreading an idea through Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr that cannot be ignored. To join the effort, visit the [#lightupOhio Thunderclap website](#), click the red box to support with Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr, add a custom message (if desired), and then click the red "Add My Support" box. On Thursday, Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. a message showing your support for Afterschool in Ohio will automatically appear in your social media feed.

In the News

8.25.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Drug overdose deaths pushed to another record high for Ohio](#)

8.25.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [What is fentanyl and why is it killing so many people?](#)

8.25.16 | *Chillicothe Gazette* [Ohio's fatal drug overdoses topped 3,000 in 2015](#)

8.25.16 | *Associated Press* [Accidental overdoses killed 8 people a day in Ohio last year](#)

8.25.16 | *WCPO-TV* [Kasich visits Cincinnati to address Ohio's drug abuse epidemic](#)

8.25.16 | *CNN* [Heroin laced with elephant tranquilizer hits the streets](#)

8.23.16 | *WSYX-TV* [Stand Project aims to unite Upper Arlington's battle against heroin](#)

8.23.16 | *CBS News* [OSU Researchers: Job satisfaction in your 20s and 30s may impact your health later](#)

8.22.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [The Good Life: For half a century, central Ohioan has done his best to elevate others](#)

Please share widely and encourage your colleagues to subscribe to *OhioMHAS eNews* on our [website](#). Also, be sure to join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#)!