



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

March 23, 2016

>>> CDC Issues Report on Ohio Visit Examining Increase in Fentanyl-Related Drug Overdose Deaths

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [report](#) Tuesday examining the increase in unintentional fentanyl-related drug overdose deaths in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) requested CDC's assistance last September after releasing 2014 drug overdose data showing that fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased from 84 in 2013 to 502 in 2014. CDC staff arrived in Ohio in late October for a three-week stay that included working with ODH on an in-depth analysis of data ranging from death certificates and emergency department records to coroner and medical examiner reports. CDC and ODH staff also visited four regional hotspots (Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Montgomery and Scioto counties) and met with local officials representing public health, addiction services, coroners and medical examiners, law enforcement and emergency medical services among others. The report offers recommendations addressing public health surveillance, response in high-burden counties and high-risk groups, enhancing EMS response, enhancing layperson response, improving prescribing practices and referring patients to treatment, reducing stigma around substance abuse and treatment, integrating prevention services, and public health messaging. The report notes that the state "has launched a comprehensive response to the increase in fentanyl-related deaths," and that the joint CDC/ODH investigation "represented one of a wide range of activities across Ohio state government in response to the opiate crisis in Ohio." [Read more.](#)

>>> Reminder: Final Certification Rules Q & A Webinar This Friday – March 25

Registration is now available to participate in the Certification Rules Q & A Webinar scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday, March 25. Participants are asked to submit questions in advance as a part of the registration process. The OhioMHAS Bureau of Licensure and Certification has conducted a series of webinars this month to review updated OAC Chapters 5122-25, 5122-26, 5122-27, 5122-28 and 5122-29. All webinars have been recorded, and are available on the [OhioMHAS website](#). Chapter 5122-25 went into effect Feb. 1, 2016, and the other revised rules go into effect April 1, 2016. Click [HERE](#) to register.

>>> Register Today to Attend the 2016 "We Are The Majority" Youth Rally and Resiliency Ring on April 28

The [Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network](#), in partnership with [YouthMOVE Ohio](#), has announced that registration is now live for groups wanting to be a part of the 2016 "We Are The Majority" Youth Rally and Resiliency Ring slated for April 28 in downtown Columbus. The event is free and includes lunch. Register by **April 8** to guarantee a spot and receive a T-shirt. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

In the News

3.22.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Targeted interventions might cut Ohio fentanyl deaths, CDC suggests](#)

3.22.16 | *Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum* [Report: Ohio overdose victims rarely die alone](#)

3.22.16 | *Toledo Blade (Editorial)* [Big pain change](#)

3.22.16 | *WCPO-TV* [Survey shows alcohol and drug abuse rates among Cincy teens trending downward](#)

3.22.16 | *Psychiatric Times* [The Role of Psychiatrists in HIV Prevention](#)

3.21.16 | *WHIZ-TV* [Director Tracy Plouck Visits Perry Behavioral Health Choices in New Lexington](#)

3.21.16 | *Stars and Stripes* [Access can improve mental health for GIs, vets](#)

3.18.16 | *Live Science* [Study: Exercise may help young people with severe mental health disorders](#)

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](#)!