



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

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>>> Ohio Leads Nation in Prescription Drug Monitoring

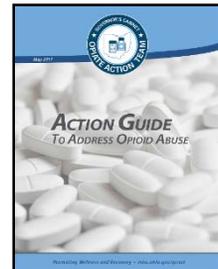
A recent fact sheet from the American Medical Association shows that Ohio now leads the nation in prescription drug monitoring. In 2016, Ohio processed more than 24 million queries from physicians and other health professionals through the State Board of Pharmacy's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), far more than any other state. The significant advantage Ohio has over other states is a direct result of Governor Kasich's decision in 2015 to integrate OARRS directly into electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems across the state, allowing instant access for prescribers and pharmacists. These improvements make it easier to track the number of opioids dispensed to Ohio patients, which the AMA reports have decreased 20 percent in Ohio since 2013.

[Read the fact sheet](#)

[About OARRS](#)

>>> Updated Action Guide to Address Opioid Abuse Available

The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT) this week published an updated *Action Guide to Address Opioid Abuse*. The 20-page resource serves as a blueprint to help communities address opioid addiction at the local level. The guide includes a series of goals and checklists of actionable items, and highlights best practices and successful efforts from communities throughout Ohio. Click [HERE](#) to view/download a free PDF.



>>> Nominations Sought for Federal Committee Focused on Serious Mental Illness

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has issued a [call for nominations](#) for nonfederal participants for the [Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee](#) (ISMICC). The ISMICC, established in accordance with section 6031 of the 21st Century Cures Act, reports to Congress and federal agencies on issues related to serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbance (SED).. Nominations are due June 2, 2017. For more information, contact Pamela Foote at pamela.foote@samhsa.hhs.gov or call 240.276.1279

In the News

5.25.17 | *Youngstown Vindicator* [Kasich Administration touts Ohio's 'comprehensive and aggressive' response to opioid crisis](#)

5.25.17 | *Columbus Dispatch* [1 million Ohioans to lose health coverage under Obamacare replacement](#)

5.25.17 | *Putnam County Sentinel* [Drug recovery unit to open in Ottawa](#)

5.24.17 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [AHCA could stifle Ohio's healthcare industry, cutting jobs and services](#)

5.24.17 | *WKBN-TV* [State mental health agency talks about opiate crisis in Trumbull County](#)

5.24.17 | *Associated Press* [Ohio grants, tech challenge cleared to fight opioid crisis](#)

5.24.17 | *Newark Advocate* [Officers, attorneys learn to deal with trauma after Kirkersville](#)

5.24.17 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Recent shootings reinforce need for Licking County trauma conference](#)

5.24.17 | *WCMH-TV* [Trauma summit in Licking Co. a poignant reminder of Kirkersville shootings](#)

5.22.17 | *WTOV-TV* [Students paddling over 900 miles for suicide awareness](#)

5.22.17 | *NBC News* [Instagram ranked worst for young people's mental health](#)

5.22.17 | *Morrow County Sentinel* [Morrow County drug courts aim to break the cycle of addiction](#)

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