



# News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*  
Lori Criss, *Director*

April 17, 2019

## >>> Governor DeWine, Cabinet Directors and Hospital Officials Warn of Youth Vaping and e-Cigarette Use

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today joined Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., M.H.P., and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Lori Criss, to warn parents that vaping is not a safer alternative to smoking for their teens and called to increase the age to purchase tobacco and vaping products in Ohio to 21. “E-cigarette marketers are convincing some people that their product is a safer alternative than smoking, and that’s simply not the case,” said Governor DeWine. “With sleek, fun packaging and flavors like ‘candy crush’ and ‘watermelon wave,’ these products are clearly being marketed to kids. We should work to ensure kids don’t start using e-cigarettes in the first place. It is our duty to warn parents of the risks of e-cigarettes and help families realize the long-term consequences of vaping may be no safer than smoking.”



Each day, 350 kids in the United States under the age of 18 become regular, daily smokers, while the rate of e-cigarette use among high school age use is increasing. From 2017 to 2018, the rate increased from 11.7 percent to 20.8 percent, an increase of 78 percent. This means that more than 3 million U.S. high school students have used e-cigarettes in the past month. About 95 percent of adult smokers began smoking before they turn 21, and about 80 percent first tried it before age 18. “The impact of nicotine on a developing brain, causes young people to become addicted much more swiftly than an adult,” said Director Criss (pictured at right with Gov. DeWine). “Increasing the minimum age to purchase cigarettes and e-cigarettes will increase the age that people have their first cigarette and reduce the likelihood they will become long-term smokers.”

The governor’s 2020-2021 [budget proposal](#) proposes increasing the legal age to purchase tobacco and alternative nicotine products like e-cigarettes from 18 to 21. This proposal has the support of the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association and the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## >>> Vista Member Opportunity at OhioMHAS

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is seeking applicants to pursue a one year VISTA membership opportunity. The selected VISTA member will work to help implement the State Opioid Response Grant. The Ohio State Opioid Response project will focus on building a community system of care (prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery support) that emphasizes service integration between physical health, emergency health care, behavioral health care, criminal justice and child welfare. During this year of service, the VISTA member will become familiar with how a state agency administers a large-scale grant project to address a public health crisis. The VISTA member will be a vital member of the team working to ensure the success of this project. **Program Benefits include** : health coverage, training, choice of education award or end of service stipend, living allowance, relocation allowance, childcare assistance (if eligible). For more information or to apply, click [HERE](#).

**>>> RFA: FY19 SOR Provide or Expand Peer Supports Initiative for Persons in Recovery from OUD**

As part of the Ohio State Opioid Response (SOR) initiative, the Department is seeking applications from county ADAMH boards who will contract with partners to provide peer supporters for persons in recovery (and their families) from opioid use disorder. This funding opportunity prioritizes peer supporters placed in non-traditional settings including emergency departments, courts, child welfare settings and others. Questions must be submitted to [SORTreatment@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:SORTreatment@mha.ohio.gov) by **5:30 p.m. on May 3**. Responses to frequently asked questions will be posted to the [OhioMHAS Funding Opportunities webpage](#). Applications must be submitted to [SORTreatment@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:SORTreatment@mha.ohio.gov) by **5:30 p.m. on May 10**.

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**In the News**

- 4.17.19 | Columbus Dispatch [DeWine, cabinet directors, hospital officials warn of dangers of youth vaping](#)
- 4.17.19 | Warren Tribune-Chronicle [Children Services honors five with 'Rising Up and Moving On' awards](#)
- 4.16.19 | Pomeroy Daily Sentinel [New R.I.S.E. program geared toward teens](#)
- 4.15.19 | Cincinnati Enquirer [How to connect people in recovery to addiction services? There's an app for that](#)
- 4.15.19 | The Plain Dealer [MetroHealth WRAP program decreases recidivism among people with mental health diagnoses](#)
- 4.15.19 | WFMJ-TV [Proposal to re-establish drug court in Youngstown](#)
- 4.15.19 | Clermont Sun [Danei Edelen: What are the warning signs of mental illness?](#)
- 4.15.19 | The Daily Advocate [Events to honor, support first responders](#)
- 4.14.19 | Youngstown Vindicator [Peer Support Team helps struggling firefighters throughout Ohio](#)
- 4.14.19 | Canton Repository [Methamphetamine on the rise in Stark County](#)
- 4.14.19 | Akron Beacon Journal [Could spike in Summit County drug overdoses signal a trend?](#)
- 4.13.19 | Logan Daily News [Project HOPE making a big difference](#)
- 4.12.19 | Hillsboro Times-Gazette [Drug court may be here soon](#)
- 4.12.19 | WKRC-TV [Local team now offers mental health care as part of everyday care at doctor's office](#)
- 4.11.19 | USA Today (Opinion) [Drug czar James Carroll: Stop illicit drug abuse before it's too late](#)
- 4.10.19 | WKRC-TV [Walnut Hills organization expanding mental health treatment for homeless youth](#)

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