



News Now

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

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>>> Governor DeWine Announces Plans for 30 Additional Specialty Docket Courts

Governor Mike DeWine announced funding this week for an additional 30 specialty courts to be included in his budget recommendation for the upcoming 2020-21 biennial budget. The recommendation, announced during a visit to the Mahoning County Common Pleas Drug Court, overseen by Judge John Durkin, includes \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2020 to add 15 specialty dockets and \$5.0 million in fiscal year 2021 to support the newly created specialty dockets and fund an additional 15. Increasing the number of specialty court dockets in the state is part of the governor's RecoveryOhio plan to improve prevention, treatment, and recovery supports for those with a mental health condition and/or substance use disorder.

>>> Governor DeWine Announces Increased Crisis Stabilization Funding for Mental Health and Recovery Boards

During a visit to St. Clairsville today, Governor DeWine announced \$22 million in new funding to county mental health and recovery boards for crisis stabilization. The recommendation, announced during a meeting with the [Mental Health and Recovery Board of Belmont, Harrison, and Monroe Counties](#), includes a total of \$37 million in crisis stabilization investments. In order to expand and strengthen crisis access points, the governor recommends a new \$12 million investment in mobile response teams, infrastructure developments, and other gaps in Ohio's crisis service network. In addition, Governor DeWine recommends \$10 million over the biennium to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for a new crisis stabilization fund to meet the needs of local communities. This fund will be a tool for local communities to provide supports and services not covered by Medicaid. Among other things, this stabilization fund could be used for respite care, transportation, and transitional housing. Finally, Governor DeWine recommends continuing to fund crisis stabilization projects that mental health and recovery boards are already collaborating on with an investment of \$15 million over the two-year budget cycle.

>>> 2018 OARRS Report: Opioid Prescribing in Ohio Down 325 Million Doses in 2018

The number of prescription opioids dispensed to Ohioans declined for the sixth consecutive year in 2018, according to a [newly released report](#) from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). From 2012 to 2018, the total number of opioids dispensed to Ohio patients decreased by 325 million doses or 41 percent. During the same period, the total number of opioid prescriptions issued to Ohioans decreased by 4.6 million. The report also finds prescribers and pharmacists utilizing OARRS at record levels. In 2018, more than 142 million patient reports were requested by healthcare providers. With such expanded use of the system, the number of Ohioans engaging in doctor shopping behavior decreased by 89 percent last year.



In the News

3.12.19 | *Dayton Daily News* [Fentanyl disguised as prescription meds prompts local overdose warning](#)

3.12.19 | *Fremont News Messenger* [Deaths from alcohol rise; suicide and drug overdoses decline in Sandusky County](#)

3.12.19 | *U.S. News & World Report* [Breaking back to meth?](#)

3.12.19 | *WFMJ-TV* [Governor DeWine touts Mahoning County Drug Court](#)

3.11.19 | *Columbus Dispatch* [The number of opioids dispensed to Ohioans dropped by 325 million from 2012 to 2018](#)

3.11.19 | *WOSU 89.7* [Ohio Saw Opioid Prescriptions Decrease in 2018](#)

3.11.19 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Teens who care: Combating suicide, mental health issues in Cincinnati area schools](#)

3.5.19 | *WKRC-TV* [Ohio's SafeRx Collaborative to provide medication disposal bags](#)

3.4.19 | *USA Today (Opinion)* [Leftover pills help fuel opioid epidemic: What can we do to reduce misused painkillers](#)

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