

Ohio Unveils New Chronic Pain Prescribing Rules

As part of Ohio's continued efforts to prevent opioid addiction and accidental overdoses, Gov. John R. Kasich this month announced new rules for patients suffering pain for more than six weeks.

The new rules for chronic pain do not set limits on what can be dispensed, but call for doctors to re-evaluate patients' opioid use at periodic "safety checkpoints" when patients are prescribed higher doses of painkillers. Physicians will look for signs of opioid misuse when patents are upped to 50, 80 and 120 morphine equivalent doses per day. For patients prescribed 80 morphine equivalent doses per day, physicians will have to obtain a pain management agreement and consider prescribing naloxone, which is used to reverse overdoses.

The proposed rules, which take effect in the fall, won't apply to hospice or terminal cancer patients, nor will they interfere with the doctor-patient relationship.

Click [HERE](#) to view a fact sheet about the proposed new rules.



Gov. John R. Kasich discusses Ohio's new chronic pain prescribing rules during a May 2 press event at the Statehouse.

Pike County Pilot Program Seeks to Turn "Hurt to Hope"

A new program aimed at giving hope to at-risk youth in Pike County is now thriving, thanks in part to a group of Waverly High School students who met with Gov. John R. Kasich in November.

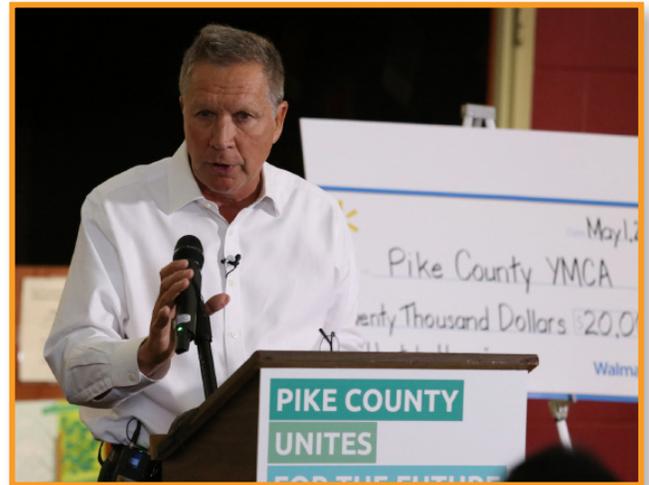
The students shared their struggles living in a home with a drug-addicted family member. In response, the Kasich Administration worked to develop the "Hurt to Hope" pilot program to provide enhanced community support for young people whose families are impacted by poverty and addiction. Students can take a bus from school to the YMCA, where they can get counseling and participate in activities in a safe place.

Gov. Kasich highlighted the program earlier this month during a press conference at the Pike County YMCA.

"We at the state want to be involved and help them," Gov. Kasich said. "But I do not believe that this is a problem that can be solved anywhere in our state with just the state handing out money. We can help. We can put a little bit of money in, but this is about the community. This is about the community rising up to save young lives, to create a different culture in a community about drugs and addiction."

Participants have been positively impacted by the program. Faith Butler, 15, said she appreciates having people to talk with about her situation and knowing she is not alone.

"If you hear some of our stories they are quite the same," Butler said. "Our parents have abandoned us. They are not always there for us. They don't care about us. People don't care what teenagers go through. They think they are not going to be depressed or they are not going to feel down. They think it will just all blow over."



Gov. John R. Kasich talks with media about Pike County's "Hurt to Hope" pilot program.

For 15-year-old Daisy Tolliver, the group has provided a place for her to relax when her family was arguing. She shared her love of dance to the crowd and choked up when she said she'd just received a \$18,000 scholarship to start dance classes at Ohio University.

"That's my dream is to dance," Tolliver said. "Everyone always told me that you can't dance because that's not a real job or we don't have enough money to send you to college," she said, adding that it means a lot to know that people really care that much.

Sixteen-year-old LeAndra Pompa also became emotional as she shared how she'd changed in recent months. She'd once stopped going to school for two months because she was too depressed, she said, but now all of her failing grades are improving and she's grateful.

"They're getting their lives back. There's a growing spirit here that we can lick this, that we can beat this, that we can take care of our own and we don't have to go somewhere else to get it done," Gov. Kasich told the crowd, going on to say the program can spread if Pike County's continues to grow and succeed.



A brief recap of some of Dir. Plouck's recent public activities:

- 5.2.18 Attended Gov. Kasich's announcement of new chronic and sub-acute pain prescribing rules at the Ohio Statehouse.
- 5.4.18 Provided remarks at the annual NAMI Ohio Conference and at a retreat for the Ohio Board of Psychiatry.
- 5.8.18 Met with representatives from The Ohio State University's Office of Government Affairs to discuss areas of collaboration around the opioid epidemic.
- 5.10.18 Provided testimony before the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee on behavioral health benefit redesign.
- 5.14.18 Visited Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board's new 40-unit housing facility in Youngstown.
- 5.16.18 Spoke about mental health issues at the Columbus Metropolitan Club.
- 5.21.18 Along with Ohio Medicaid Dir. Barbara Sears, visited Signature Health in Lake County.
- 5.24.18 Participated in Gov. John R. Kasich's signing of Executive Order [2018-06K](#) to establish the Technology First initiative for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 5.31.18 Met with representatives from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center to discuss areas of collaboration.



Commissioner Shannon Jones checks out the Mental Health Month art exhibit at the Warren County Administration Building in Lebanon.

Warren-Clinton Board Marks Mental Health Month with Art Installations

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Warren and Clinton Counties observed Mental Health Month by educating the public and addressing stigma by showcasing consumer artwork with exhibits in Lebanon and Wilmington.

"People with mental health issues are no different from anyone else," said MHRS Board Executive Director Brent Lawyer. "They have hopes and dreams and goals. They also have talents to share, whether that's art or writing or other ways to contribute for the betterment of our communities."

The installations featured artwork from current and past recipients of services through agencies that are part of the Board's provider network. The exhibits featured a variety of pieces, from paintings and drawings to coloring and poetry.

Keep a Promise Campaign Aims to Fight Substance, Child Abuse

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund ([OCTF](#)) has launched [Keep a Promise](#), a new

Keep A Promise

campaign that aims to raise awareness about the connection between substance abuse and child abuse. The campaign covers 16 northwest Ohio counties and has links to mental health, addiction and child-welfare organizations in each county. "We know that addiction changes people and devastates families," said OCTF Coordinator Meliss Klorer, noting that substance abuse is involved in half of all protective custody cases in Ohio.

As July 1 Implementation Date Approaches, Ohio's Child Caring Agencies See BH Redesign, Transition to Managed Care as Historic Opportunity

Mark Mecum, CEO, Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies

Ohio's BH Re-Design is historic. It may be the most transformative initiative that our membership has experienced during our 45-year history. Despite its complexity and challenges, we are optimistic that the BH Re-Design will improve providers' abilities to meet the needs of Ohioans.



Mark Mecum

With continual advocacy and leadership, the transition to managed care in July can be successful too. Over the past three years, we helped the State craft the reforms wisely, and we proactively prepared our members for the changes. We helped craft the Re-Design menu, service definitions and the state's approach to technical assistance. We participate on the State's Re-Design workgroup which enables us to provide advice and input into all of the stages of Re-Design planning and implementation. Together with our association partners, chiefly the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, we also led constructive advocacy efforts with the state departments and Legislature which produced additional funding and a better implementation plan.

To support provider readiness, we first focused on managed care. In 2014, we commissioned two studies to identify what it takes for providers to be successful in a competitive managed care environment. We used those findings to build a training program for our members, which was led by some of the brightest people in the sector: David Lloyd, David Swann, Michael Flora, Gary Humble, and Mary Thornton. We provided opportunities for peer learning that included symposium events, monthly membership meetings and a learning community facilitated by Vorys Health Care Advisors. Managed care representatives were incredibly helpful to our learning process. Recently, OhioMHAS provided us a grant to expand our readiness program. We added middle management leadership development, same-day access and revenue cycle management to our menu of supportive services.

Starting in 2017, we began preparing our members for the Re-Design. Peer learning has been the most successful strategy — simply organizing venues for agency leaders to ask questions to their peers and learn best practices. With financial support from OhioMHAS, we organized trainings on coding and documentation. Leveraging expertise from Diane Zucker, we also developed a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions database to assist our members with coding and billing.

Throughout these past three years, our association came to realize that there is a missing piece in the emerging managed care business environment. There were not platforms for providers to band together, establish efficiencies or leverage economies of scale to advance their missions. Our association decided to fill that void by creating the Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio. During our first year, the Collaborative is quickly producing value for its 37 participating organizations. We developed incentive agreements with health plans that reward improved health outcomes, we are securing group provider contracts with health plans and we created our own practitioner credentialing program. The Collaborative has also taken on management of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Bridges program for youth who age out of foster care. These activities have advanced our members' capabilities and relevance.

Collaboration can be a great strategy for providers to use to advance their missions in Ohio's quickly changing behavioral health care environment. It is also a wise strategy for state government to employ as it designs and plans system reforms. We are proud of our history of collaboration with OhioMHAS and look forward to finding more opportunities to collaborate with Ohio's next Governor and Administration. There's a lot of work to be done.

Executive Order Puts New Technologies to Work for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities

Ohioans with developmental disabilities will now have the opportunity to improve their lives with the help of innovative supportive technologies thanks to the new "Technology First" initiative launched May 24 by an executive order signed by Gov. John R. Kasich. **Technology First** is the product of efforts launched in the last budget that called upon the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to explore the use of technology such as apps, cell phones, smart pads and smart speakers to augment the supports delivered by caregivers. Examples include: smart speakers to control lights and other home items, call buttons that can alert remote caregivers or receive reminders or prompts, as well as customized sensors to detect medical emergencies such as seizures or check in on someone who isn't moving around the house in his/her usual routine. Other assistive technologies may provide instructions on how and when to prepare the evening meal, help a person maintain a routine or schedule and how to access public transportation. The **executive order** also creates a new council to make recommendations, set benchmarks and foster partnerships that will expand the use of supportive technology for Ohioans with disabilities.

Preble County Police Department Hopes to Help People Get Treatment by Offering to 'Test Drugs for Zika Virus'

Police in the Preble County village of Gratis are hoping to find and help people who use meth by offering to test their drugs for the Zika virus. Zika, which is spread by infected mosquitoes, cannot be transmitted through drug use.

Nevertheless, the Gratis police department recently posted on Facebook, "WARNING: If you have recently purchased Meth in Preble, Montgomery, Darke or Butler Counties it may be contaminated with the Zika Virus. Please bring it to the Gratis Police Department and we will test it for free. If you're not comfortable coming into our office, please contact us and we'll test your Meth in the privacy of your home. Disclaimer: methamphetamine can be a host for the Zika virus."



Even though the virus is transmitted through the bite of one type of mosquito, the police department hopes people will believe the post and come in for help, according to Assistant Police Chief Dennis Blankenship. "I have no intention on arresting anyone this way," he said. "My goal is not to throw someone in jail over this. I hope to use it to start those in need to seek treatment."

Blankenship told [CNN](#) that so far, no one has come in to have their meth tested, but the post has received more than 5,000 shares and more than 2,000 comments.



5th Annual TIC Summit Held

OhioMHAS hosted its 5th Annual Trauma Informed Care Summit, "Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio" on May 22-23. The Summit attracted more than 400 attendees representing behavioral health, education, veteran's administration, child welfare and first responders. The morning keynotes featured Dr. Ron Dwinnells, CEO of One Health Ohio (pictured above), and Father Jeff Putthoff, president of Trinity Catholic High School. The Summit also featured 28 [workshops](#) that highlighted Ohio's best or promising practices in assessment, treatment, support and collaboration across systems to move our systems beyond trauma informed to trauma competence. [More photos.](#)

Attorney General Releases Interim Report on Pilot Program Helping Families Overcome Substance Abuse Issues and Reducing Childhood Trauma

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine recently released the [Ohio START Interim Report](#), tracking the progress of the Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) Pilot Program. Ohio START is an intervention program that provides specialized victims services, such as intensive trauma counseling to children who have suffered victimization due to parental drug use. The program also connects parents to drug addiction treatment..

The initiative brings together children's services, juvenile courts, and behavioral

health treatment providers to support families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance abuse. In addition, family peer mentorship is a critical part of the program. The mentors are individuals who have personal experience with addiction, who have achieved sustained recovery and who have had prior engagement with the child welfare system as a child or a parent. They provide accountability, support, and serve as role models for parents.

The multi-year pilot program is funded through a \$3.5 million Victims of Crime ACT (VOCA) grant which will be shared among the pilot counties — Athens, Brown, Clinton, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Galia, Hamilton, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Ross, Vinton and

Warren. The initiative is also supported by OhioMHAS through a federal 21st Century Cures grant; Casey Family Programs; United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio and the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio.

Since Ohio START [launched](#) in March 2017, pilot counties have:

- received more than \$400,000 in funding from the Ohio Attorney General's Office;
- undergone more than 1,900 combined hours of training;
- demonstrated a high level of readiness for implementation;
- employed 20 individuals in recovery as family peer mentors;
- identified nearly 60 families for Ohio START services; and
- served 47 families and more than 125 individuals.



Annual NAMI Conference Kicks Off Mental Health Awareness Month

Submitted by NAMI Ohio Staff

NAMI Ohio's annual conference attracted nearly 700 people to the Hyatt Regency in Columbus for a two-day event packed with speakers, workshops and networking. Inspiration, music, stigma-busting and a little bit of Hollywood filled the first day of the "Fulfilling the Promise Statewide" conference.

Youth from Springboro High School in Warren County got the crowd moving with a lively song and dance number, the culmination of a project last fall that raised \$350 for NAMI. Then, led by the members of YouthMOVE Ohio, all attendees formed a mental health resiliency ring in recognition of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, around the entire outer wall of the large hotel ballroom. This was the 13th annual Ohio Resiliency Ring.

One of the Friday keynote speakers was actor, author and producer [Wil Wheaton](#) who kept the audience spellbound with his personal story of dealing with crippling anxiety and depression as a youngster while working as an actor on television and in movies. Wheaton starred in the movie, *Stand by Me*, and also appeared on television on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *The Big Bang Theory*, and has done numerous movies as a voice actor.



[Wil Wheaton](#)

What most people didn't know was that during most of his high-profile acting career Wheaton struggled with serious bouts of anxiety and depression, which he described as like being in a "dark, loud room ... I worried about everything," he said. "I was tired all the time." He suffered from panic attacks every day and was "miserable a lot of the time."

When he voiced his concerns to his parents they said he was a "worrywart" and "overly dramatic." The directors on the *Star Trek* set called him troublesome and unprofessional.

"I knew something was wrong with me, but I didn't know what, he said. "I wish I had known I had a mental illness that could be treated."

What Wheaton was running into, he realized later, was the stigma of mental illness. His parents, while well meaning, were ashamed at the possibility of having a son with mental illness, he said. "Stigma and shame are powerful things."

Wheaton, who is now 45, said it wasn't until he was in his early 30's that his wife persuaded him to seek medical help for his anxiety, depression and panic attacks. He underwent treatment, received medication and finally realized what it was like to "live instead of merely existing." Since 2012, Wheaton has spoken out about his mental illness and urged people to get help instead of giving in to the stigma.

Miami-Dade County Judge Steven Leifman of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, a long-time advocate for improving treatment of the mentally ill in the criminal justice system, provided luncheon remarks. Leifman said U.S. courts and jails are flooded with people with mental illness who should be receiving treatment instead of being incarcerated.



[The Hon. Steven Leifman](#)

"This is a shameful and expensive American tragedy and one we must reverse," he said. "What we've done in this country is make mental illness a crime. It's all bad and it's all wrong and it's all failed."

But Leifman said the system is "fixable."

One response is critical incident training, teaching law enforcement about how to better deal with people with mental illness, he said. Leifman's court is also working on what he said is the nation's first free-standing facility for mental health offenders to get help once they leave jail.



[Cecilia McGough](#)

Attendees also heard from Cecilia McGough, a student studying astronomy and astrophysics at Penn State University. McGough, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 2014, led a session titled, "I Am Not a Monster: Schizophrenia."

She started a blog about schizophrenia in 2015 to help others deal with many of the same problems she faced. She more recently formed a non-profit group, Students with Schizophrenia, to help raise awareness about the illness and provide support for people of college age, a time when schizophrenia frequently strikes.



[Emily Robinson](#)

Emily Robinson, a caregiver, blogger and journalist who has documented her family's experience with mental illness through her blog, [You Are in This World](#), closed out the conference.

Robinson used photographs and videos to create a picture of what caregiving looks like for family members whose loved ones may be struggling. She reminded attendees to always treat people with the love and respect they deserve.



(l-r) 2018 ADAPAO Prevention Award Honorees Jill Jackson, John Dawson, Jody Demo-Hodgins, Kim Lytle and Evi Roberts pose with ADAPAO President Aimee Wade and Vice President Tommy Koopman.

Prevention Advocates Honored at Annual ADAPAO Conference

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio (**ADAPAO**) recognized five Ohioans for their commitment to preventing behavioral health disorders affecting individuals, families and communities in our state. The awards were presented at the 2018 ADAPAO Conference, *Catalysts: Prevention Professionals Are Change Agents*, held May 3 at The Boat House at Confluence Park in Columbus.

The ADAPAO Awards have been presented since 1988 and are the oldest prevention awards in Ohio. ADAPAO members nominate award candidates, and the association's board of directors makes the final decisions.

2018 honorees include:

ADAPAO Visionary Award — *Jill Jackson, education specialist and consultant, Ohio Department of Education*

Jackson was honored for her visionary leadership in ensuring Ohio schools and communities work collaboratively to provide the safety and social supports for successful learning and student development.

ADAPAO Community Champion Award — *Kim Lytle, director of school and and juvenile court programs, Envision Partnerships*

Lytle was recognized for developing research-based, innovative prevention programs focused on youth at higher risk for behavioral health problems in Butler County.

ADAPAO Community Champion Award — *John Dawson, vice president, Community for New Direction*

Dawson was recognized for his leadership of prevention programs and dedication to the youth and families of Columbus.

ADAPAO Advocate Award — *Jody Demo-Hodgins, director of the children's division, NAMI Ohio*

Demo-Hodgins has a long history of advocating for prevention, especially in her nearly 20 years as executive director of the Crawford-Marion Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board. In that role, she ensured prevention was as much of a priority as treatment and recovery services on the local level, while also using her position to be a pioneer among ADAMHS Board directors in Ohio in strongly advocating for prevention at the state level. In her current role, she is a proponent for integrating prevention principles into initiatives engaging youth with lived experience with mental health disorders.

ADAPAO Member of the Year — *Evi Roberts, youth development coordinator, Prevention Action Alliance*

Roberts was recognized for representing ADAPAO on the OhioMHAS Planning Council and providing leadership to ADAPAO's new Young Prevention Professionals Project initiative.

News & Research Roundup, cont.

SAMHSA Announces \$196M for Opioid Treatment Grants to Hardest-Hit States

SAMHSA is accepting applications for \$196 million to treat opioid use disorder through its Targeted Capacity Expansion: [*Medication Assisted Treatment — Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction \(MAT-PDOA\) grant program*](#) (TI-18-009). This funding will expand access to medication-assisted treatment and recovery support services for people with opioid use disorder. This grant program aims to increase the number of people receiving medication-assisted treatment for their opioid use disorder, leading to a decrease in heroin use and prescription opioid misuse. By funding treatment in states with the greatest need for additional treatment resources, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA aim to reduce the number of deaths related to opioid use. The deadline to apply is July 9.

Study: Suicide Rates Increasing Across the U.S., Particularly in Rural Counties

The *Washington Post* recently reported that suicide rates are on the rise throughout the nation, but nowhere more so than in rural counties, according to a [*new study*](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Investigators mapped county-level changes in suicide rates between 2005-2015. The study was published online May 14 in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.



States See Rise in “Deaths of Despair” and Gaps in Mental Health Care

Deaths from suicide, alcohol and other drugs — known as “deaths of despair” — rose in all states from 2005 to 2016, according to a [*new report*](#) by the Commonwealth Fund. Average life at birth in the U.S. declined for a second year in a row, driven in large part by a spike in deaths from opioid and other substance abuse as well as suicide, the report found. Rates of these deaths rose all states, doubling or more in Delaware, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio and West Virginia. The report also found gaps in mental health care are pervasive, according to [*U.S. News & World Report*](#). Up to one-quarter of adults with a mental illness reported a need for care that wasn’t met between 2013 and 2015. Up to one-third of children needing mental health treatment in 2016 did not receive it, according to their parents. Across states, 41 percent to 66 percent of adults with symptoms of a mental illness (some of whom may not have been diagnosed) received no treatment during that period.

Second Edition of *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools*

The [*Suicide Prevention Resource Center*](#) has released the second edition of [*After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools*](#), which assists schools in implementing a coordinated response to the suicide death of a student. Developed in collaboration with the [*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention*](#) and in consultation with other national experts, this toolkit includes new information and tools that middle and high schools can use to help the school community cope and reduce suicide risk.

New Processing Technique Helps Researchers Use Electronic Health Records to Study Biological Contributors to Mental Illnesses

Researchers have found a way to scan electronic health records (EHRs) that helps identify associations between broad dimensions of behavioral function and genes relevant to mental disorders. Use of the technique opens an enormous source of data to researchers who are interested in taking a dimensional approach to the study of mental illnesses instead of using traditional diagnostic categories. The [*study*](#), funded in part by the [*National Institute of Mental Health*](#) (NIMH), was published online Feb. 26, 2018, in the journal *Biological Psychiatry*.

Resistance Exercise Training Is Associated With Reduction In Depressive Symptoms

TIME [*reported*](#) this month that a review of more than 30 previously published studies indicates resistance exercise training, such as weightlifting and strength training, is associated with a significant reduction in depressive symptoms. The [*findings*](#) were published in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

ECT Efficacious, Cost-Effective For Individuals With Treatment-Resistant Major Depression

MedPage Today reported that an analysis suggests electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is efficacious and also cost-effective for patients with treatment-resistant major depression, and it should be considered after failure of two prior trials of pharmacotherapy and/or psychotherapy. When investigators constructed a decision analytic model to simulate the clinical and economic impact of ECT in patients who had not responded to drugs or psychotherapy, they found the treatment to be associated with improved clinical outcomes and a reduction in time having uncontrolled depression. Their analysis suggests that offering ECT after failure of two lines of pharmacotherapy and/or psychotherapy would most reliably maximize ECT’s health-economic value. The [*findings*](#) were published online in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

News & Research Roundup, cont.

Drug Use by U.S. Workforce Remains at Highest Rate in More than a Decade

Drug use by the U.S. workforce remains at its highest rate in more than a decade, driven by increases in cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana, according to a [new study](#) from Quest Diagnostics. Quest found the share of U.S. workers and job applicants who tested positive for illicit drugs in 2017 was 4.2 percent, the same as the prior year. The company found positive tests for prescription opioids dropped 17 percent in 2017 from the previous year, according to [The Wall Street Journal](#). This drop likely reflects the continuing crackdown on illegal or excessive opioid prescriptions, according to Barry Sample, Ph.D., senior director of Science and Technology at Quest Diagnostics.

Poison Control Centers Getting More Calls About ADHD Medications

Calls to poison control centers about children's and teens' exposure to medications used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) grew more than 60 percent from 2000 to 2014, according to a [new study](#). Of the 156,000 calls received by poison control centers, 82 percent were considered unintentional exposures, and 18 percent were considered intentional. About three-quarters of the calls were about children 12 and younger. Among children younger than 6, most calls involved "exploratory behavior" — children who found the medication around the house. Among children ages 6 to 12, exposures were most often associated with taking too much of a prescribed medication or taking a dose too soon after the previous dose. Among teens, about half of exposures were intentional misuse or suspected suicide attempts.



More Colleges Create Addiction Recovery Programs for Students

An increasing number of colleges are creating addiction recovery programs for students, [NBC News reported](#) this month. There are currently 186 recovery programs on campuses nationwide, up from 29 in 2013, according to the [Association of Recovery in Higher Education](#). The programs offer counseling, substance-free housing and sober social events.

Training Opportunities

CWRU Center for Evidence-Based Practices Trainings

The Case Western Reserve University Center for Evidence-Based Practices has released its schedule of upcoming trainings. Click the links below for more information:

June 28-29 — [Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment: Program Leaders Training \(Columbus\)](#)

Podcasts Offer Journalists Guidance for Reporting on Suicide

Nationwide Children's Hospital has produced a series of podcasts highlighting suicide reporting recommendations, why they matter and interviews with journalists who share their perspectives on suicide reporting. Listen to these podcasts at your computer or subscribe to them on iTunes by clicking [HERE](#). Additional resources for journalists including the full-length and brief version guidelines, important links, and videos featuring suicide loss and attempt survivor perspectives can be found [HERE](#).

SZconsult Learning Community for Professional Consultation

SZconsult offers no-cost continuing medical education credit to physicians, physician assistants or nurse practitioners who care for people affected by schizophrenia-spectrum disorders. SZconsult is based on the Project ECHO model for distance learning and consultation, and is a public service offered by the Best Practices in Schizophrenia Treatment Center at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

15th Annual Cincy Fringe Festival to Feature "Fadeaway Girl" Autobiographical — June 5-9

This June at [Gabriel's Corner](#), the 15th Annual Cincy Fringe Festival presents *Fadeaway Girl*, an autobiographical story of one woman's experience with mental illness, written and performed by Rachel Petrie and directed by Keely Wolter. *Fadeaway Girl* is the true story of playwright/performer Rachel Petrie's experience coming to terms with a bipolar diagnosis. From her very first manic episode in 2004 to present day, Rachel shares her personal stories of derailment, discovery, reinvention and joy. Click [HERE](#) to see a performance schedule and purchase tickets.

Training Opportunities, cont.

19th Annual Summer Program in Population Health — June 18-22

The Ohio State University will host its 2018 Annual Summer Program in Population Health June 18-22. This year, OSU will offer the [*Epidemiology of Suicide and Suicidal Behavior*](#), taught by Jeff Bridge, Ph.D., director of the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital. This 20-hour course is designed for public health, health care and community health stakeholders. Participants will learn about the epidemiology of suicide and suicidal behavior across the lifespan, including topics of surveillance, use of national databases to inform policy and practice, psychological risk factors, neurocognitive vulnerability and state-of-the-art community approaches to reduce suicide. The course is offered from 8:30 a.m.-12:15p.m., June 18-22.

Save the Date: 2018 Ohio Promoting Wellness & Recovery Conference — June 25-27

The OhioMHAS Bureau of Prevention and Wellness is pleased to announce that the 2018 Ohio Promoting Wellness and Recovery Conference (OPEC) will take place June 25-27 at Miami University in Oxford. This annual conference focuses on creating access, improving quality and making connections with Ohio's prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery support workforce for children, families and communities. Cost is \$120. Follow conference-related news at www.OPECconference.com or on Twitter @OPECconference.

National Conference on Problem Gambling in Ohio — July 18-21

Watch for registration to go live for the [*2018 National Conference on Problem Gambling*](#), which will be held July 18-21 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. The conference brings in the best speakers worldwide to feature the latest developments in problem gambling prevention, treatment and recovery and responsible gambling best practices. Ohio professionals and advocates will have an opportunity to receive discounted registration fees and travel stipends. For a \$100 discount on conference registration, plus a scholarship, [join](#) the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO).

Stand Up Together Comedy Show — July 21

Comedy Connected, the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) and the Cuyahoga County ADAMH Board are teaming up to host a fundraiser benefiting Ohio suicide prevention programming. *Stand Up Together: An Evening Honoring Nick Ramsey* will take place July 21 at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. The event, which starts at 7:30 p.m., will feature 50 of Ohio's funniest standup comedians. Tickets are \$35. Click [HERE](#) for more information or email jeffdaviscomedy@gmail.com.

2018 Addiction Studies Institute — July 25-27

Save the date! The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Talbot Hall will host the 2018 Addiction Studies Institute July 25-27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Click [HERE](#) for conference updates and registration information.

24th Mental Health Services Research Conference — Aug. 1-2

The National Institute of Mental Health will host the 24th Mental Health Services Research Conference Aug. 1-2. The conference brings together leading mental health services researchers, clinicians, mental health advocates, and federal and non-federal partners. This year's theme is "What's the Next Big Thing?" Registration and call for abstracts are open now. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

National Conference on Alcohol & Addiction Disorders — Aug. 19-22

While opioid abuse remains a serious health crisis, alcohol is the most commonly abused substance, and the third most common cause of death in the nation. An estimated 2.6 million people with addictions have a dependence on both alcohol and illicit drugs, while 6.8 million people with an addiction have a mental illness. Learn how to build sustainable and successful treatment organizations at the [*2018 National Conference on Alcohol & Addiction Disorders*](#) Aug. 19-22 at Disneyland in California. Participants will hear from leading national experts and authors and be eligible for up to 23 Continuing Education Hours (including 6 Ethics hours).

Systems of Care Summit — Sept. 14-15

OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will partner to host the Systems of Care Summit Sept. 14-15 at the Hilton Columbus—Polaris. For more information, contact Erin Paternite Eakin at paternem@miamiohio.edu.



Training Opportunities, cont.

Save the Date: 2018 Pediatric Mental Health Symposium — Sept. 24

Cincinnati Children's Hospital will host the 2018 Pediatric Mental Health Symposium Sept. 24 at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason. Click [HERE](#) for information and to register online.

National Cocaine, Meth & Stimulant Summit — Nov. 12-14

The Institute for the Advancement of Behavioral Healthcare will host the [National Cocaine, Meth & Stimulant Summit](#) Nov. 12-14 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Click the link for conference agenda and registration information.



**Have a news story or training opportunity you'd like to share with colleagues?
Please forward submissions to Eric.Wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov for consideration.**