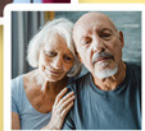
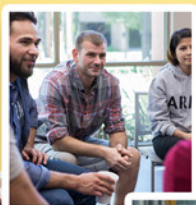


RECOVERY Ohio

2021 Annual
REVIEW



"Ohioans are resilient! I am confident that through our continued collective and holistic efforts, Ohio can lead the nation in recovery and behavioral health services and support."

– Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio

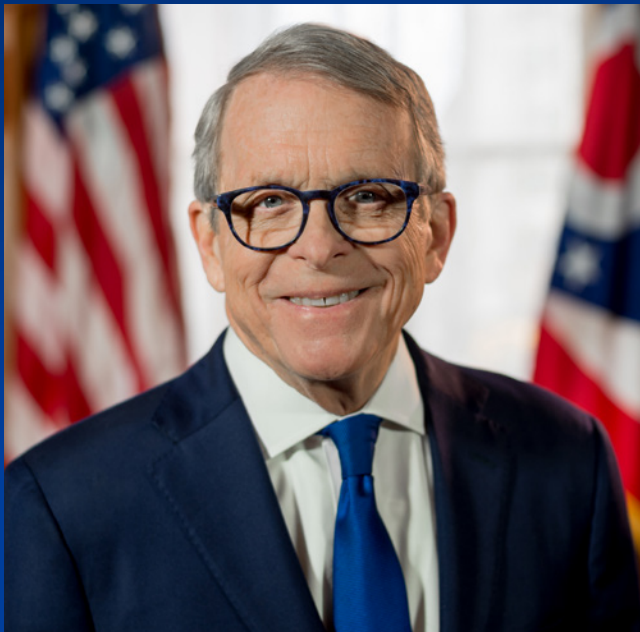


MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

www.RecoveryOhio.gov

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Letter from Governor Mike DeWine

Dear Fellow Ohioans:

In my first action as Governor, I signed an executive order creating RecoveryOhio -- an initiative housed in the Governor's office to address Ohio's drug epidemic and help those struggling with behavioral health issues and substance use disorder. The 2021 RecoveryOhio Annual Review reflects the progress made in the past three years.

Ohio has been hit hard by addiction, with one in 13 Ohioans experiencing a substance use disorder. Additionally, each year, one in five Americans will experience a mental illness. The need for recovery resources and support for these diseases is ongoing. RecoveryOhio's goal is to help ensure that those support services are available so that our citizens can lead healthy, productive, and meaningful lives.

As a state, we are working to help Ohioans across the lifespan. We are building protective factors by teaching prevention and good decision-making in our schools. We are expanding crisis services and treatment capacities, so that treatment can be available when and where it is needed. We are

undertaking efforts to grow the behavioral health workforce. And, we are encouraging recovery-friendly workplaces to support long-term success.

I am proud of the efforts underway to help those who are struggling, but more work remains to be done. My administration, RecoveryOhio, and the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council are committed to addressing the behavioral health needs in this state so that every Ohioan can live up to their God-given potential.

Ohioans are resilient! I am confident that through our continued collective and holistic efforts, Ohio can lead the nation in recovery and behavioral health services and support.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature of Mike DeWine in black ink.

Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor



Executive Summary

Mike DeWine posing with the launch group at the Beat the Stigma press conference.

In its third year, Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio team worked alongside state agencies, boards, and commissions to help Ohioans during the evolving substance use and overdose crisis. Guided by the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council's Initial Report and its recommendations, the team has made progress in addressing the addiction crisis and has helped build an improved system of care and outreach in Ohio. This report showcases RecoveryOhio's key milestones in fulfilling the recommendations of the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council.

Our mission is to create a system to make treatment available to Ohioans in need, provide support services for those in recovery and their families, offer direction for the state's prevention and education efforts, and work with local law enforcement to provide resources to fight illicit drugs at the source. To that end, the RecoveryOhio team has made valued connections in all of Ohio's 88 counties through community meetings, presentations, virtual events, and phone calls. Through these conversations and with support and guidance from the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council, we have been able to make legislative, policy, and agency improvements to support Ohioans and their families.

Many of the accomplishments listed below highlight the ongoing work that will continue for years to come. Some of our top priorities include:

Launch of Beat the Stigma

- Stigma can be devastating to those who are living with addiction and mental illness, often preventing them from seeking the help they need to get well. Of the 75 recommendations in RecoveryOhio Advisory Council's Initial Report released in 2019, the first one was to create a statewide campaign to address stigmas against people with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- On November 10, 2021, RecoveryOhio partnered with Ohio Opioid Education Alliance to launch Beat the Stigma, a campaign designed to reduce stigma surrounding mental illness and substance use disorder and promote wellness in every part of Ohio. Beat the Stigma is a result of a \$9.75 million investment from the Governor's first executive budget to educate Ohioans about mental illness and substance use disorder.
- Beat the Stigma answered the call and attacks stigma directly. The campaign challenges Ohioans to test their knowledge and discover the truth behind addiction and mental health to "beat" these stigmas once and for all.

enCompass Training

- Through our partnership with Addiction Policy Forum and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, we provide comprehensive training and a manual to serve as a resource for family members who are helping loved ones through their addiction into recovery. Through this 8-hour program, you will learn the signs and symptoms of addiction, how to start the conversation, how to set boundaries, how to access recovery supports, and more. It is open to all adults who are interested in learning more about addiction. Like CPR classes, this course is designed to help citizens build skills to better respond to someone in crisis.



- Throughout 2021, there were 20 trainings held in various counties across the state and over 1,500 individuals were trained on how to navigate addiction.

Overdose Strike Team

- This team was established in 2020 by RecoveryOhio to amplify our focus on the rising rate of overdoses and overdose deaths in the state. This group, made up of members of the Governor's RecoveryOhio initiative, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, and the Medical Board of Ohio met to construct a comprehensive and aggressive strategy to fight addiction and prevent future overdoses.
- Since its introduction last year, the team has been working to strengthen the state's relationships with local leaders, including local Alcohol, Drug and Mental Boards; providers; health departments; first responders and law enforcement; the recovery community; and

faith-based and grassroots organizations. After recognizing a need for enhanced engagement in 23 of Ohio's 88 counties where 80% of all overdoses occur, the Overdose Strike Team has been actively communicating with and supporting local communities in achieving positive outcomes.

OneOhio Recovery Foundation

- The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is the next step in enhancing Ohio's prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. The foundation was created to ensure that Ohio sustains long-term efforts that address the ever-evolving drug epidemic.
- In November 2021, Governor DeWine announced five appointments to the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board and two appointments to the Foundation's expert panel. The foundation board will have 29 total members. When fully established, the Foundation will distribute a portion of the settlement funds obtained from the lawsuit against drug manufacturers and distributors of opioids to communities across Ohio.

Thank you to our RecoveryOhio Advisory Council for your ideas, continued outreach, and partnerships. We value your diligent work and support in bringing new ideas and ways to help individuals and families across the state who may be struggling with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Thank you to the local doctors, health departments, mental health and treatment centers, counselors, providers, and many others who help support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts across the state. Your help on the front lines is invaluable and truly makes a difference for Ohio families.

To all our state agencies and state partners who have contributed to RecoveryOhio -- we **thank you** for your ongoing support. Our initiative continues to grow and positively impact many across Ohio who need recovery and support.



Stigma and Education

Negative attitudes and beliefs toward people who live with a mental health issue or are in recovery from a substance use disorder are common and harmful. These negative attitudes extend to and affect family members, places of work, health care providers, policies, the allocation of public resources, and they often prevent those living with these conditions from seeking help.

Mental illness and substance use disorder are important public health issues that must be talked about, understood, and treated in order to end suffering for Ohioans of all ages, their families, and communities. The need to normalize behavioral health issues and address the stigma that surrounds them became especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic because of the increased stressors affecting so many Ohioans.

The following are some examples of education and stigma-reduction efforts happening collaboratively across the state to reduce stigma.

Partnership with Cincinnati Reds



As a part of an ongoing partnership with RecoveryOhio and the Cincinnati Reds, on September 21, the Reds held the Overdose Awareness Game Day, in recognition of the inaugural Ohio Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery

Month. During the game, the Reds played a video of Governor DeWine encouraging all Ohioans to carry life-saving naloxone. The Reds also honored several attendees who are champions for recovery, both in the treatment space as well as first responders and recovery support providers.



Community Education - enCompass Family Training

In early 2021, RecoveryOhio, in partnership with the national Addiction Policy Forum, launched enCompass: A Comprehensive Training on Navigating Addiction. Ohio was the first state to pilot this training opportunity for all community members. enCompass is an interactive, multidisciplinary training program that teaches participants about the science of addiction and equips them with the knowledge and tools to understand and address substance use disorders.

This free, comprehensive, day-long training is for individuals who are trying to navigate the complex world of addiction. Anyone is welcome to participate, from families and caregivers, to law enforcement and first responders, to peer navigators and healthcare providers – in short, anyone who is interested in learning more about addiction. The training covers a variety of topics including the signs and symptoms of addiction, how to start a conversation, treatment and medication options, setting healthy boundaries, and how to access recovery support.

The training was developed with an expert review panel composed of prominent researchers and physicians in the addiction field. The guide was also crafted with support from the Family Support Advisory Committee made up of family members with lived experience.

Throughout 2021, there were 20 trainings held in various counties across the state and over 1,500 individuals were trained on how to navigate addiction. Governor DeWine and RecoveryOhio began the training by reminding Ohioans of the importance of understanding and knowing how to navigate the complexities of addiction.

What's being said about enCompass training?

"The content in this training was phenomenal and very helpful."

"It was very informative, and I wish I could have taken it 10-12 years ago. I think everyone should take it. I liked the way you addressed the stigma's associated with addiction and how you kept reinforcing that it is a disease and not a choice."

"I think this training program is a wonderful resource for friends, families, and the community."



Jessica Hulsey, the Executive Director and Founder of Addiction Policy Forum, and Dr. James Berry prepare to begin the first statewide enCompass training. This training was streamed statewide to hundreds of Ohioans and attendees were able to participate and get their questions answered live throughout the training.

BEAT THE STIGMA

Beat the Stigma Campaign

- Stigma reduction and education have always been top priorities for RecoveryOhio. The first recommendation in the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council Initial Report was to create a statewide public education campaign to end stigma. Stigma and misinformation reinforce the deadly consequences of Ohio's public health crisis and prevent families from seeking help, and professionals from providing the most current and correct information.

50% of your
risk for addiction
is genetic.



Stigma noun

– /'stigmə/

A set of negative and often unfair beliefs and attitudes that a society has about a specific group of people.



- This interactive campaign website features a game show style challenge to “beat the stigma” by correctly answering questions based on common misconceptions around addiction and mental health. It encourages players to learn more about addiction and mental health based on the unanswered or incorrect answers they give.
- Watch the launch of Ohio's Beat the Stigma campaign. ([program begins at 25:54](#)). View the first [public service announcement](#) and [watch a short video](#) examining the impact of stigma across Ohio. Learn more at <https://beatthestigma.org/>.



- Governor DeWine and RecoveryOhio invested \$9.75 million into a public, private partnership to create an educational and anti-stigma campaign. The Ohio Opioid Education Alliance launched this new campaign in early November 2021 with three main goals:

GOAL 1

Challenge how you think about addiction.

When you see someone who lives with addiction, there's always more to the story than you know. Practice empathy, not judgment.

GOAL 2

Know your risk.

If there's a history of addiction in your family, know that this increases your risk for addiction. Know your risk and talk to your loved ones about what this means so they can make informed choices.

GOAL 3

Take care of your mental health.

Mental health challenges can put you at risk for substance misuse.

Ohio's Inaugural Overdose Awareness Day

With a goal of raising awareness, supporting communities in the fight against drug addiction, and remembering loved ones lost to the epidemic, the state observed its inaugural "Ohio Overdose Awareness Day" on Tuesday, Aug. 31. The observance was officially sanctioned on June 8, 2021 when Ohio Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 30, sponsored by Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), into law. Flags across the state were lowered to half-staff in honor of the lives lost to addiction and to continue to raise awareness around addiction.



In support of Ohio "Overdose Awareness Day" and Recovery Month in September – RecoveryOhio, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and OhioMHAS partnered to distribute more than 120,000 additional doses of the lifesaving overdose reversal drug naloxone to communities across the state. The agencies also created a partner toolkit and awarded stipends to local communities to facilitate overdose awareness and naloxone distribution events.



Project DAWN programs across Ohio hosted several events in 2021 to commemorate Ohio's inaugural "Overdose Awareness Day" and National Recovery Month (September).

Additionally, Governor DeWine, RecoveryOhio, ODH, and OhioMHAS encouraged all Ohioans to consider carrying naloxone. Governor DeWine released a [video message](#) stressing the importance of this life saving drug and the impact it could have if you carried it with you.

Thrive Outside

In recognition of May being mental health month, OhioMHAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and RecoveryOhio joined forces to launch an initiative aimed at helping Ohioan's recharge, refresh, and "Thrive Outside." The healing benefits of time spent in nature are well-documented. Not only beneficial for physical health, evidence shows that spending just 15 minutes outdoors also lowers stress, boosts mood, and improves a person's sense of well-being. Therefore, the departments joined together to encourage Ohioans to get outside during the month of May to improve their mental health. Supported by a robust social media campaign, English- and Spanish-language commercials, and a free app called DETOUR that shows the locations of nearby parks and hiking trails, the Thrive Outside initiative encourages Ohioans to take in Ohio's natural beauty and wonders as a means of achieving balance and wellness.

#THRIVEOUTSIDE

THE OUTDOORS IS A
NATURAL PATH TO
GOOD MENTAL HEALTH!

Need more mental health help?
Call the Ohio CareLine at 1-800-720-9616
for free, emotional support.



Parity

Over the last few years, Ohio has made great strides ensuring parity and compliance in behavioral health. Continued education for providers, patients, and the general public is critical in overcoming barriers to treatment and support. This remains a top priority as individuals across the state and the country continue to face mental health struggles brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio continues to prioritize parity efforts to make Ohio a healthier place for all of our citizens.

The following are some examples of successful parity collaborations across the state.

■ Patient Education

In 2021, the RecoveryOhio parity workgroup, alongside the Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI), worked on a number of initiatives to increase education and awareness around mental health parity. In conjunction with members of the Parity at 10 Coalition, the work group created marketing material for behavioral health providers and consumers.

The first item is a poster to be displayed in emergency departments and facility waiting rooms providing information to patients and families about how to access their insurance benefits. [MentalHealthBenefitsERPoster \(ohio.gov\)](https://www.ohio.gov/MentalHealthBenefitsERPoster) The second item is an informational brochure on the appeals processes for both private insurance plans and Medicaid plans. [MentalHealthInsAppealProcess \(ohio.gov\)](https://www.ohio.gov/MentalHealthInsAppealProcess).

■ Public Education and Outreach

With continued support from the Ohio Legislature, ODI was allocated \$1 million for each fiscal years 22 and 23. In 2021, ODI took a major step forward in its education and outreach efforts. ODI continued regular communication with stakeholder groups with which it had previously partnered, while identifying and reaching out to statewide organizations that could benefit from the ODI mental health resources and toolkit. These new groups provided access and training opportunities to more Ohioans.

In addition, ODI continued offering virtual training sessions that were launched collaboratively with various stakeholders in 2020 – one track that is

consumer oriented and another that is provider oriented. In 2021, ODI launched a new virtual training, facilitated through the department and open to all consumers and providers across the state.



The consumer training focuses on reaching families, individuals in recovery, and patient and consumer advocates. It provides an in-depth look at how to identify and access one's mental health and substance use disorder insurance benefits and provides a step-by-step overview of the consumer complaint and appeals processes along with live demonstrations on filing a complaint or appeal. In 2021, these virtual trainings reached an estimated 400 Ohioans.

State Employee Education and Resources

The parity workgroup identified the need to streamline ODI, OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Medicaid's (ODM) consumer-facing resources. In December, the workgroup launched a training on the State of Ohio's internal employer education platform, Ohio Learns, aimed at helping employees working in each agency's consumer services divisions identify which agency is best equipped to assist in handling and processing Ohioans' mental health and substance use disorder benefits inquiries. The training covers private insurance, some of which are regulated by the ODI, and public insurance, regulated by ODM.

Continued Partnership with the Legislature

In May, as a part of Mental Health Awareness Month, ODI created a digital educational packet of materials for all new Ohio legislative offices and the Ohio Congressional delegation (see appendix). These packets included resources to help legislative staff answer constituents' questions about mental health and substance use benefits. The legislative packets also included the following materials:

A constituent inquiry checklist of information needed by ODI to investigate an issue or complaint;

A summary of ODI's consumer complaint process; and

Background on the state and federal mental health laws and ODI's role in regulating those laws.

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Online Toolkit

ODI continues to update its mental health and substance use disorder online toolkit as input from consumers, providers, and stakeholders continues, to ensure that the information provided is useful and relevant in the mental health and insurance space.

In 2021, ODI added an "Example Questions to Ask your Health Insurance Provider" section, specific to mental health and substance use disorder insurance benefits.





Workforce Development

The mental health and behavioral health treatment workforce is a complex and growing system comprised of many professionals of varying levels of training and education. The increased visibility of behavioral health issues and an improved understanding of mental illness and substance use disorders as chronic diseases have led to a growth in treatment facilities, driving the need for a larger workforce to meet the demand for clinical services.

Not only are our behavioral health employers and employers across all sectors experiencing a need for more professionals, they are also starting to recognize the importance of additional employer benefits. Accessible information and education are critical to building and maintaining a healthy workforce.



Whether it is helping someone who is in recovery find a job to enhance their recovery journey or building up the behavioral health workforce, RecoveryOhio is dedicated to supporting a workforce that is accommodating to all individual's needs.

The following are some examples of workforce-related efforts happening collaboratively across the state.

Employer Training and Retention opportunities

Recovery-Friendly Employer Training Modules

Employers may experience apprehension at the thought of hiring or retaining a person in recovery. A critical part of recovery for many individuals is a sense of purpose and belonging in their workplace and community. Navigating the ins and outs of recovery can be a long, trying journey; creating a recovery friendly workplace can seem like a daunting task. But with a contemporary and scientific understanding of substance use disorder, it does not need to be an overwhelming or complicated experience.



The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), RecoveryOhio, and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, have partnered together to create the Recovery-Friendly Employer Training Modules. They expand upon a suite of training modules in an “Opioid Toolkit” first launched by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce in 2017 created in response to employers requesting resources to address the opioid problem in their workplaces.



Employer Education and Resources

ODI collaborated with OhioMHAS to create an employer toolkit that launched in November 2021. The purpose of the toolkit is to provide information and resources about mental health in the workplace, reduce stigma surrounding mental health conditions, and aid in navigating mental health insurance for employers and employees.

The information is broken into two sections. The first section highlights what mental health and substance use disorders are and how to identify them, information on stigma reduction and helpful tips on promoting mental health in the workplace. The second section is helpful information for employers and human resource professionals, including an overview of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and the requirements of the law. This section also provides helpful tips on how employers can better educate employees about their mental health insurance benefits. The department added the toolkit to our online mental health and substance use disorder benefits toolkit.



■ Jobs for Recovery

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities' (OOD) Jobs for Recovery program has continued assisting Ohioans with disabilities who are court-involved find and keep a job. OOD Jobs for Recovery increased by eight additional counties in 2021 to offer vocational services to individuals in 15 counties statewide. Consistent employment helps Ohioans in recovery stay on a positive path, increase their independence and income, and engage meaningfully in the community. In 2021, over 270 individuals applied for the program, over 250 of those were made eligible, and a total of 79 Ohioans successfully completed the OOD Jobs for Recovery Program, working through their recovery and finding employment. OOD staff are active members of drug court teams; they attend court proceedings and ensure rapid engagement of each participant in career counseling, job placement, and retention services. They also can help address employment barriers, such as transportation.

Behavioral Health Workforce Development

■ OhioMHAS Workforce Study

In 2020 and 2021, OhioMHAS, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, and the Innovate Ohio Platform (IOP) worked with Deloitte to assess the current and projected behavioral health landscape in Ohio across multiple factors including geography, practitioner types, and patient demographics. This study then identified where variance in workforce supply and demand exist. The teams did a full [workforce study report](#) out in October 2021.

■ The Ohio Substance Use Disorder Professional Loan Repayment Program

The Ohio Department of Health hosts several health care professional workforce loan repayment programs. The Ohio Substance Use Disorder Professional Loan Repayment Program (OPLRP) is in place to increase access to SUD treatment for underserved communities and populations. In exchange for loan repayment assistance, clinicians commit to practice for two years at an eligible site that is in either a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), and/or in a high-burdened SUD area of the state, accepts Medicaid, and sees clients regardless of their ability to pay.

FY21

awarded 17 clinicians and one Ohio Physician Loan Repayment Program (OPLRP) physician with a one-time \$5,000 medication assisted treatment (MAT) Enhancement award for treating opiate patients with MAT

FY22

offered 31 clinicians a SUDLRP award and no physicians (none were eligible at the time of funding and application reviews)



Prevention

Effective strategies to reduce the prevalence of mental illness and addiction conditions and decrease adverse outcomes require a full continuum of care, including health promotion, evidence-based prevention and treatment, and recovery resources to support healthy living.

The adage “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is an appropriate expression, as effective prevention services help individuals become more resilient, cope with life stresses, and decrease the likelihood of developing substance use disorders, mental illness, or both.

Prevention in Ohio is grounded in the public health model which focuses on improving the well-being of populations. Public health draws on a science base that is multi-disciplinary and engages the entire community through the social-ecological model. Prevention aims to reduce underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood of mental health and substance

use disorders while simultaneously promoting protective factors to decrease the likelihood of mental health and substance use disorders.



The following are some examples of prevention and early intervention efforts happening collaboratively across the state.

Ohio Overdose Strike Team

Using multiple data indicators, the Overdose Strike Team recognized a need to enhance engagement with 23 of Ohio's 88 counties where 80% of all overdose deaths occur. The team committed to focusing on these communities to better understand their unique challenges and the tools and resources that are the most effective and most needed. The strike team works to strengthen the state's relationships with local leaders including: local Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Boards; providers; health departments; first responders and law enforcement; the recovery community; and faith-based and grassroots organizations. While the work initially focuses on the people living in the identified 23 counties, the strike team will continue partnerships with all Ohio counties with the goal of supporting local communities in achieving optimal outcomes for all Ohioans.

Throughout 2021, the Ohio Overdose Strike Team educated communities in all 88 counties on the opportunities to connect and provide feedback to the state teams.



The Strike Team was also able to have the initial community conversation with seven of the 23 initial counties. These community conversations were attended by local ADAMH

board directors, local drug coalition members, members of local law enforcement and first responders, treatment providers, and recovery support providers. These conversations allow an opportunity for community members to ask questions about current state initiatives across all sectors involved in these calls as well as get connected to new resources of which they may not have been previously aware. The Overdose Strike Team's initial county conversations will continue into 2022 as the team works through the first 23 counties and they will ultimately meet with all Ohio counties.



Ohio's CareLine is available 24/7 and is staffed with licensed behavioral health professionals.

1-800-720-9616



Ohio CareLine

OhioMHAS launched the Ohio CareLine in April 2020 as the state ramped up efforts to help Ohioans struggling with pandemic-related anxiety, depression, and stress. It provided an immediate service by connecting callers with trained support professionals. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and thousands of Ohioans have used the service to seek help, information, and referrals to local mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. OhioMHAS Prevention staff led the coordination efforts for launching and monitoring the CareLine. Initially, the CareLine was staffed using licensed clinical OhioMHAS Recovery Services staff who were temporarily unable to perform their duties in Ohio's prisons. In July, nine of Ohio's Lifeline agency providers took over operation of the CareLine.

More than 6,000 Ohioans have been helped by the CareLine which can be reached at 1-800-720-9616.



CARES Funding/ College Campus Prevention Efforts

CARES funding was provided to 26 four-year colleges, two regional campuses, two community colleges and one technical college to provide students and staff with mental health phone apps, online behavioral health screenings, virtual trainings, peer support programs, relaxing wellness spaces, and food support for nonresidential and quarantined students among other health and wellness initiatives.

Crisis Services

To provide more appropriate crisis care, OhioMHAS invested in Crisis Stabilization Centers, Crisis Flex Funds, and the development of Mobile Crisis Infrastructure. A total of 68 Crisis Stabilization Centers (28 SUD Centers and 40 Mental Health Centers) were created in the Northwest (12), Heartland/Northcentral (15), Northeast (14), Southeast (6), Central (15), and Southwest (6) regions, serving a total of 8,176 individuals. Forty-six of these centers were in inpatient units, nine in outpatient units, and four were mobile units. The average length-of-stay in these centers was 9.84 days.

K-12 Programs and Resources

In the FY 20-21 budget, the state invested \$20 million in prevention education and professional development for educators, as well as \$675 million in wrap around supports for students through the Student Wellness and Success Fund to help districts implement student wellness and success initiatives, including mental health supports. ADAMH Boards, school district administrators, educators, and prevention providers from every county to develop plans to provide children with evidence-based prevention education and programming to meet the needs identified in each school district's self-assessment.

TO DATE:

- Nearly 400,000 Ohio school children have benefitted from the programming and partnerships formed to sustain and support mental health and wellness in the schools.
- 90% of Ohio's school districts completed the self-assessment process to assess their needs and expand prevention services for students.
- 86% developed and submitted Plans of Action to enhance prevention services in their schools. A variety of additional programs were enacted, including the School Wellness Initiative, the School Safety and Wellness Initiative, PAX tools to support families facilitating school at home, and Comprehensive School Suicide Prevention efforts.





Take Charge Ohio

In 2021, several state agencies and licensing boards continued to support the Take Charge Ohio initiative, a campaign for safe pain management. The campaign provides education, support, and resources to health care providers, patients, and the public. Campaign activities include the management of the Take Charge Ohio website and a presence on social media. Take Charge Ohio also promotes its cause through radio, TV, print, and digital media.

In 2021, ODH and the OhioMHAS worked in partnership to upgrade the Take Charge Ohio website, making it more accessible and easier to navigate.

Since the launch of the Take Charge Ohio website in November of 2017, it has received over 250,000 visitors to the site. The most frequently visited pages on the site include the Healthcare Professionals Toolkit, which has resources for Ohio prescribers, and the Get Help page, which has treatment and recovery resources.

Crisis Text Line



During fiscal year 21, there were more than 8,500 Crisis Text Line conversations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Crisis Text Line resources were sent to the Ohio Grocer Association, Ohio National Guard, and Ohio Emergency Operations Center to help frontline workers cope. Crisis Text Line resources were also distributed to local chambers of commerce and congregate living facilities to help individuals, employers, and housing operators feel connected while navigating the changes brought about by COVID-19. Those in crisis are encouraged to text 4HOPE to 741741 to connect to a trained crisis counselor.



Ohio Seniors Medication Safety and Disposal

In April 2021, senior housing centers throughout Ohio distributed kits and information to promote safe disposal of unused prescription drugs. Through a partnership with RecoveryOhio, the Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), and the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative of Ohio (RALI Ohio), disposal bags will be provided to older adults with guidance on the safe disposal of drugs, especially opioid medicines, that are no longer used or are outdated. RALI Ohio is providing supplies of disposal bags to each AAA region at no cost. The disposal bags provide a safe way to throw away unused prescription medications. The bags can hold pills, liquids, or patches and after adding water, the pouch is sealed and can be disposed of safely in a household trash can. The medicine is deactivated and unable to be misused.

*More than **22,000 disposal bags** were sent to 11 regional locations for distribution across the state.*

Drug Take Back Day



In 2021, Ohio residents participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) 21st National Take Back Day events. Ohio had 280 collection sites for the April Take Back Day and 278 collection sites for the October.

*Take Back Day resulting in the collection of **90,221 pounds** of unused medications, dramatically reducing the chances of misuse.*

Suicide Prevention Efforts

The Ohio Department of Health drafted the Ohio Youth Suicide Prevention Plan, that includes Adverse Childhood Experiences/Resiliency; Prevention; and Mental Health components while aligning to The Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio. Representatives from ODH, OhioMHAS, Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, and other partners from the Child Injury Action Group, Youth Suicide subcommittee were engaged in this process. The Youth Suicide subcommittee also developed an ad hoc committee to create a resource guide that was shared with partners during Suicide Awareness month in September. This resource guide included guidance on reporting, toolkits for messaging, and social media templates for both Facebook and Twitter. Information was geared toward all populations with specific messaging targeted toward youth, veterans, and the LGBTQ community.



OhioRISE

As part of the Ohio Department of Medicaid's managed care overhaul, Governor DeWine announced the Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence (OhioRISE) program. The program features new, intensive, community-based services that will serve youth in their homes and communities, rather than in congregate settings that can be far away from a child's home and support system. Aetna Better Health of Ohio worked with the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Family and Children First Cabinet Council to launch OhioRISE to serve all of Ohio's eligible children. To enroll in OhioRISE, children must be Medicaid-eligible, have significant behavioral health needs, and require enhanced services. OhioRISE is a specialized managed care program for youth with complex behavioral health and multi-system needs. The Advisory Council was created to guide the OhioRISE program's development and implementation with real-world expertise from across the state.

Behavioral Health Center of Excellence

In November 2021, OhioMHAS announced the selection of Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service to coordinate a new statewide center of excellence focused on building infrastructure and capacity to address Ohioans' mental, emotional, and behavioral health. Efforts will focus on mental health promotion and early intervention to prevent substance abuse or dependency while emphasizing cultural competency and accessibility. The Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion, made possible by \$4.5 million in federal COVID-19 Relief Block Grant funds, comes at a time when the need for quality behavioral health care services has reached historic levels.



Harm Reduction

Harm reduction is a public health strategy to reduce the harm associated with certain behaviors. Harm reduction programs have been used to decrease adverse consequences of illicit drug use, alcohol use, mental illness, and other illnesses.



Harm reduction and evidence-based strategies are increasingly and appropriately being recognized as important to the continuum of care to engage with individuals, offer broad assistance to those who

are struggling, help them survive their current circumstances, decrease the likelihood that their behaviors will harm others, and provide opportunities for entry into other parts of care continuum as they strive to improve their lives.

Ohio's state agencies have continued to provide and expand harm reduction strategies across the state in every level of the work we do. With continued funding to harm reduction programs that provide access to naloxone, syringe exchange services, bloodborne pathogen prevention for HIV and Hep C, we are sustaining these efforts in communities that need these services most. ODH and OhioMHAS, along with RecoveryOhio, are dedicated to ensuring we minimize the negative health outcomes during this epidemic.

The following are some examples of harm reduction efforts happening across the state.

Naloxone Access

RecoveryOhio, OhioMHAS, ODH, and the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy have worked to removed barriers to make it easier for Ohioans to access the life-saving drug naloxone that reverses overdoses, providing individuals with an opportunity for treatment.



In May 2021, RecoveryOhio and OhioMHAS prioritized \$2.5 million to rapidly deployed 60,000 doses of naloxone to specific ZIP codes in 23 counties that represent communities experiencing the highest morbidity and mortality rates from overdose deaths. Working closely with the Ohio Department of Health and the local ADAMH boards, OhioMHAS determined an equitable distribution plan that ensures this life-saving drug reaches minority populations who are dying from overdose death at a higher rate than white Ohioans. This targeted effort was designed to infuse additional supplies to the 23 counties that contribute to 80% of the overdose deaths in Ohio. 9,000 doses were allocated to Harm Reduction Ohio to be distributed statewide according to the needs experienced by their local grassroots partners.

In support of Ohio Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month in September 2021 – RecoveryOhio, ODH, and OhioMHAS partnered to distribute more than 120,000 additional doses of the lifesaving overdose reversal drug naloxone to communities across the state. Twenty-two Project DAWN programs received a stipend of \$2,475 host Overdose Awareness Day/ Recovery Month events. A photo gallery showcasing some of these events can be found at www.odh.ohio.gov/projectdawn.

Project DAWN Naloxone Distribution

ODH has continued to expand naloxone access through its Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) network and Integrated Naloxone Access and Infrastructure Grant Program. The Ohio Department of Health funded 42 agencies for the second cycle of its subrecipient program designed to reach Ohio's highest risk populations. Funded partners implemented 127 distribution strategies where naloxone is provided in key settings and in tandem with other harm reduction and direct services.

In 2021, the Project DAWN network collectively distributed **145,525** naloxone kits and received over **19,700** reports of overdose reversals.

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy implemented new rules to permit licensees to acquire a supply of naloxone, and to maintain the supply at an alternative location, to use in emergency situations or to distribute through an automated mechanism. For more information on this rule, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/naloxoneaccess.

Support for Local Health Departments



ODH's HIV, STI (sexually transmitted diseases), and Viral Hepatitis Section receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration

(HRSA) to administer grants to local health departments (LHDs) and organizations located in designated counties. LHDs provide clients with needs-based access to harm reduction supplies and activities including naloxone distribution and linkage to care.

Comprehensive Local Drug Overdose Prevention Community Grants

ODH supports local communities in building their capacity to address drug overdose prevention. As a part of ODH's Community Drug Overdose Prevention Grant Program, local health departments in 21 Ohio counties were funded to implement multi-sector coalitions, to monitor and respond to spikes in overdoses, to convene an overdose fatality review committee, to implement public awareness campaigns, and to develop clinical and community linkage projects.

In 2021, local drug overdose prevention grant partners developed 26 comprehensive and sustainable systems linking people at risk of overdose with clinical and community supports within a variety of settings. Components of the systems developed included: screening; naloxone education and distribution; and warm handoffs to treatment, harm reduction, and other wrap around services. Many of the programs also incorporated case management and peer recovery support services.

- **Eight** of the systems were developed in a healthcare setting, including emergency departments, federally qualified healthcare health centers (FQHC), and treatment settings.
- **Thirteen** of the systems were in a public service/public safety setting and implemented in coordination with first responders, jails, and specialized dockets.
- **Five** of the systems were developed in a harm reduction setting, including naloxone distribution programs and syringe access programs.
- **Three** communities worked on adopting a real-time treatment finder. To better align state efforts, ODH partnered with OhioMHAS to support the uptake of the Open Beds platform.
- **Twenty-one** counties updated their community response plans in coordination with multi-sector partners to better track suspected overdoses from multiple data sources in near real-time and rapidly respond when there is a spike in overdoses.

Ohio Overdose Prevention Network

The Ohio Overdose Prevention Network (Ohio OPN), an action group of The Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP), facilitates statewide partnerships for drug overdose prevention. Ohio OPN utilizes data-informed strategies to implement policy, education, and harm reduction interventions. With data, harm reduction, policy, and safe pain management subcommittees, Ohio OPN is able to cover a variety of areas and make an impact across the state. OPN is member-run and centered on state and local alignment, ensuring that everyone has a place at the table and a valued voice. Ohio OPN helps strengthen multi-sector partnerships needed to address the opioid epidemic. Below are a few of OPN's accomplishments in 2021:



OHIO INJURY PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

Ohio Overdose Prevention Network

- Stakeholder engagement sessions were held for new Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) legislation, and the data subcommittee drafted a manual to support new and existing OFR committees.
- The harm reduction subcommittee cataloged harm reduction sites across Ohio to create a statewide resource guide that includes best practices and technical assistance for new or existing programs.
- A Naloxone in Schools policy brief, produced by the policy subcommittee, was disseminated to school nurses throughout Ohio.
- Ohio OPN presented a training series Communities of Care: Developing Person-Centered Systems in August of 2021. This three-part series was developed with state and local partners to focus strategies on the people they serve and support local programs in their efforts to create linkages across the continuum of care. More than 120 Ohioans participated in these virtual training sessions.

Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Committees

In September of 2021, Ohio legislation supporting the establishment of overdose fatality review committees and suicide review committees and protection of the data shared became effective. The primary purpose of fatality review committees is to prevent future deaths by identifying current trends, recommending programmatic and policy changes, and strengthening coordinated community response efforts. Committees are comprised of a multidisciplinary team that conduct confidential reviews of overdose deaths. Multiple data sources are reviewed to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the circumstances surrounding a death.



Ohio OPN convenes a statewide Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) workgroup supporting and connecting local OFRs. The workgroup, consisting of state and local partners, serves as a community of practice and helps

facilitate sharing of resources and lessons learned. In 2021, the workgroup began planning an OFR training for Ohio communities, to be conducted in 2022. The workgroup also helped draft guidance for Ohio communities in the process of establishing an OFR.

Monitoring Overdoses

Syndromic Surveillance

ODH uses a statewide electronic surveillance system to alert local health departments to spikes in suspected drug overdoses in their jurisdictions. The system analyzes information from hospital emergency departments to identify the number of drug-related visits. It then uses statistical algorithms to determine whether the number of visits in a 24-hour period is significantly higher than the predicted number based on historical data. ODH monitors the system for sudden increases in drug-related emergency department visits and alerts state and local partners. Local health departments can investigate the anomalies and mobilize community partners to address spikes in drug overdoses using a community response plan template provided by ODH.



Health Alert Network Activation

In December 2021, ODH partnered with the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) to release a statewide health alert in response to an increase in potentially lethal counterfeit prescription tablets containing fentanyl and other potentially lethal contents. ODH provided recommendations to first responders, healthcare providers, substance abuse treatment professionals, community-based Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) programs, and others who interact with people who use illicit drugs.

Overdose Mapping Application Program

The Overdose Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) is a nationwide application that provides near real-time surveillance of suspected overdoses. The Ohio Department of Health supports local communities in adopting and utilizing ODMAP as a part of their local community response plan. In 2021, ODH facilitated a statewide ODMAP workgroup through the Ohio Overdose Prevention Network to help foster a community of practice and to assist in developing Ohio-specific resources and tools, and technical assistance. ODH also funds five local ODMAP demonstration projects in Trumbull, Licking, Union, Lorain, and Montgomery counties.

Over 318 first responder and public health agencies are registered for ODMAP in 80 counties.

More than 50 members have joined the statewide ODMAP workgroup to share lessons learned, receive technical assistance, and aid in the development of additional resources.



Treatment and Recovery Supports

Each year, nearly 2.3 million Ohioans (20% of the population) experience a mental health condition, with 575,000 experiencing severe symptoms. Ten to 15% of Ohioans, or 1.15 million to 1.75 million individuals have a life history of a substance use disorder (alcoholism or another drug addiction).

As with other diseases and disorders, mental illness and substance use disorders impact everyone. Ohio must continue to work hard to ensure that all strategies addressing mental illness and substance use disorders include effective approaches to address the needs of all Ohioans and that services and supports in institutions and community programs provide equitable access and clinical approaches that effectively meet the needs of Ohio's minority populations.

The following are some examples of treatment and recovery support efforts happening collaboratively across the state.

■ Ohio START

Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) is a children services-led intervention model for families experiencing both substance use disorder and child maltreatment. Ohio START is an affiliate of the national START model and it emphasizes a wraparound approach for at-risk parents. It is led by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and was established in 2017 by then Attorney General DeWine. The Ohio START Program is currently being implemented in 52 counties throughout the state. Each county program employs at least 1 START caseworker and 1 START Family Peer Mentor who partner to serve a caseload of 10-12 families. To date, the program has served:

632
FAMILIES

1870
INDIVIDUALS

1044
CHILDREN



Supporting Child Advocacy Centers and Trauma Recovery Centers

In December 2021, Governor DeWine announced that grant funding had been awarded to support child advocacy centers and trauma recovery centers whose finances have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Payments totaling more than \$800,000 were awarded to 17 centers to help with revenue losses and other pandemic-related costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2021. The services these centers provide are essential for helping young victims of crime process trauma and navigate the complexities of the criminal justice system. This opportunity was funded through the CARES Act, and funds were administered by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in partnership with the Ohio Office of Budget and Management.

Supporting workers in recovery – BWC SURWSP

Initially launched as a pilot in late 2018 and covering three counties, by the end of 2021, BWC Substance Use Recovery and Workplace Safety Program (SURWSP) grew to cover more than 30 counties. The program helps employers hire, retain, and support employees in recovery from substance use disorder. Employers also gain free access to the employee wellness incentive “Better You, Better Ohio!” program.



Faces of Resiliency Award

In September 2021, Governor DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine received the 2021 STAR (Stress, Trauma, and Resiliency) Award at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center’s stress, trauma, and resiliency program. The work they are doing in Ohio through programs such as RecoveryOhio, Ohio START, BOLD Beginnings, and Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library, has set the path for a more resilient Ohio.

Multi-System Adult Work



Ohio’s Multi-System Adults Project is a strategic approach to strengthening local systems collaboration to support long-term wellness for adults with frequent psychiatric hospitalizations touching multiple human services and/or criminal justice systems. During the fiscal years 22-23 biennium, \$11M in funding is being provided to Ohio’s ADAMH boards to work together with local support systems to help these Ohioans with housing and utilities, transportation, medication and medical appointment co-pays, psychiatric home health needs, mental health peer support, and guardianship fees.

Emergency Department Comprehensive Care

Emergency Department Comprehensive Care Expanded

Emergency departments are a key point of intervention for people at risk of overdose. ODH supports health systems in implementing a comprehensive system of care in the emergency department for patients who present with opioid use disorder. In March 2021, ODH initiated grant programs funding six health systems to develop sustainable policies and systems in 27 emergency departments in Ohio. As a part of the program, emergency departments are better able to screen, initiate treatment, and transition patients with substance use disorder to clinical and community services. Since the launch of the Emergency Department Comprehensive Care (EDCC) Program:

- Over **270,000** patients have been screened.
- Over **9,000** patients have been transitioned to care, improving pathways to treatment.
- Over **3,400** prescribers and staff members have been trained.
- Over **1,900** patients have received a naloxone kit.
- Over **1,200** physicians are able to prescribe medication assisted treatment.



In December of 2021, EDCC program expanded to further address specialized populations: Appalachia, rural and OB patients. State funding supported expansion efforts within and beyond the six health systems funded.

As a result of the expansion:

- **40 sites** are implementing strategies as a part of the EDCC expansion initiative.
- **30 new sites** are being established: 4 new emergency department sites, 1 OB-specific site, and 25 outpatient clinics.
- **10 current emergency department sites** are expanding current services to better address specialized populations.





Criminal Justice and Public Safety

The connection between the behavioral health and criminal justice systems is significant. The increased involvement of people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders in the criminal justice system is a serious issue. Individuals involved in the criminal justice system have unique, complicating factors that could create barriers to long-term health and recovery.



The ability to get a job, build life skills, or have a safe place to stay can be challenging for anyone leaving criminal justice settings. When these challenges are coupled with a mental illness, a substance use disorder, and/or other physical issues it may seem that recovery and wellness are impossible. Decades of addressing

mental illness and addiction as a criminal justice crisis rather than a public health crisis resulted in escalated

incarceration rates, which has been particularly devastating to racial and ethnic minorities who, as individuals, families, and communities, continue to live with the consequences.

Additionally, many state agencies are working hard to disrupt drug supply efforts. These efforts are critical in slowing the amount of illicit substances that enter the state and our communities. Ohio's state system is committed to helping these individuals find treatment and recovery support options once they enter the criminal justice system. Governor Mike DeWine and RecoveryOhio know that the future of the criminal justice and public safety systems is intelligence-based policing, and Ohio is on the right track to achieve this.

The following are some examples of criminal justice and public safety efforts happening collaboratively across the state.



Governor DeWine and state, local, and federal law enforcement officials discuss the opening of ONIC-Toledo on April 5, 2022.

The Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center

The Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) was established in 2019 when Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-20D. ONIC, comprised of criminal intelligence analysts and forensic computer specialists, assist law enforcement agencies and drug task forces by providing computer forensics, tactical, strategical, and operational intelligence support, trend analysis, dark web and other investigations, and criminal case support through the analysis of cell phones and other electronic devices.

In 2021, with the passing of the state budget for FY 2022/ FY 2023, the ONIC operating budget was doubled, adding two new offices located in Toledo and Cincinnati to the existing offices in Columbus and Cleveland.

Since its inception in 2019 ONIC has:

- Received **881** requests for services, with a 124% increase over the last year
- Provided **972** workups
- Handled **4,387** devices
- Completed **4,753** forensic examinations

Notable cases include:

- ONIC analysts assisted a task force and federal investigators with social media analysis of a suspected street gang/drug trafficking organization, for consideration for Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges.

- ONIC analysts assisted the Ohio Board of Pharmacy on 21 criminal cases by helping locate “doctor shoppers” to divert into treatment in the Early Intervention program, and on 11 questionable prescribing/ dispensing by doctor cases.

- An ONIC analyst provided detailed analytical reports on a months-long, 30-device case for the Hilliard Police Department, leading to a 51-count indictment against nine subjects of the investigation, in addition to federal indictments. The indictments included multiple felonies and were the culmination of months of intelligence analysis and cooperation between ONIC Intel, Forensics, and detectives at Hilliard PD.

Counterfeit Pill Bulletin

In December 2021, ONIC released a public safety bulletin alerting Ohioans to counterfeit/ fake prescription tablets that are almost identical to alprazolam (Xanax®) and oxycodone (Oxycontin®) in terms of color, marking and scoring lines. These dangerous counterfeits contain fentanyl, other potentially lethal ingredients. It is nearly impossible to tell the difference with the naked eye. Information derived from the bulletin and its sources was released to the public and nearly 26,000 media contacts and has reached many more health and addiction treatment professionals and citizens via secondary distribution.

Prison Recovery Services



Since Prison Recovery Services staff were not able to work in the prisons at the height of the pandemic, staff helped to start and operate the Ohio CareLine before it was passed

along to partner agencies. Staff then resumed substance use disorder treatment in the prisons after having been unable to enter the prisons due to COVID-19. Three Therapeutic Communities were reestablished in the prisons and three more are in the process of reestablishment. The team documented 34,347 participant engagements. In addition, OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction are working to expand medication assisted treatment within the prisons. Select offenders are being trained and deployed as peer supporters, aiding others in their journey to recovery.

Specialty Dockets

- As a result of additional investments in FY20, 48 specialized dockets began receiving funding from OhioMHAS. In FY21, 24 additional specialized dockets were added to this project. There are now 204 court programs receiving funds from the Specialized Docket Subsidy Project. These programs serve adults and juveniles with addiction and/or mental health disorders; veterans; victims of human trafficking; and parents charged with abuse, neglect, or dependency of their minor children.
- In FY21 a total of **\$7,655,000** was sent to Ohio courts through this initiative, which produced the following results during the first six-month period:
 - A total of **5,975** high-risk, high-need offenders participated.
 - **5,208** adult offenders and **233** juvenile offenders were effectively managed in the community. Only 2% of the adults were committed to the adult prison system and only 1% were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.
 - The family drug courts served **534** parents. These programs reduce the number of children who are permanently removed from their homes and, instead, increase the number of children who can remain in their homes with protective supervision provided by child protective services agencies.
 - A total of **302** children were reunified with parents.



Local Drug Task Forces

Governor DeWine announced in July 2021, that more than two dozen local drug task forces in Ohio will receive RecoveryOhio grant funding to support efforts that disrupt the drug trade and promote substance use awareness, prevention, and recovery. A total of \$2 million in grants from Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be awarded among 27 existing drug task forces to intensify their efforts to identify high-level drug traffickers, dismantle large drug trafficking organizations, interrupt the flow of money and drugs from international cartels, and prevent the sale of illegal narcotics to those suffering from substance use disorder. Grant funding will also be used to support the mission of Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative which aims to increase substance use and mental health awareness, implement age-appropriate prevention education in schools, connect those who need help with treatment, and promote recovery.



Meeting with Locals

In August 2021, Governor DeWine and local legislators met with Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck and the commanders of the RANGE Task Force and Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force for a private briefing on the status of enforcement efforts and drug trafficking trends in Montgomery County. In August 2021, Governor DeWine and local legislators met with Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck and the commanders of the RANGE Task Force and Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force for a private briefing on the status of enforcement efforts and drug trafficking trends in Montgomery County.



Launch of Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness

In late November 2021, Governor DeWine announced the creation of a new division within the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services that will focus exclusively on the well-being of Ohio's first responders. The new Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness works to encourage self-care and mental wellness for Ohio's first responder community including law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, dispatch, corrections, and Ohio-based military. The office provides specialized support and training to help emergency-response agencies proactively address post-traumatic stress and other traumas caused by factors that are unique to first-responder careers.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, more officers die by suicide than in the line of duty, and compared to the general population, law enforcement officers report much higher rates of depression, PTSD, burnout, and other anxiety-related mental health conditions. Research also shows that stress from a career in law enforcement causes higher rates of secondary trauma such as heart diseases, divorce, alcoholism, and other psychological illnesses.

First responder wellness is a priority of Governor DeWine as part of a broader statewide initiative that comprehensively considers the impact of critical incident trauma, chronic exposure to traumatic events, and chronic exposure to organizational stress. In May 2021, the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board established a new statewide minimum standard for officer wellness, focusing on the physical and mental wellness of law enforcement agency personnel. The Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness will also work to offer wellness training for law enforcement next year to meet the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission's requirement that all peace officers in the state receive officer personal wellness training in 2022.



Ohio's Narcotics Anonymous

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections partnered with Ohio's Narcotics Anonymous (NA) in 2021 to host NA literature and videos on incarcerated individual's tablets to promote treatment access and engagement for individuals living with a substance use disorder. This electronic content compliments substance use disorder treatment and in-person NA/AA meetings facilitated by OhioMHAS Recovery Services Staff.



Data and Technology



In 2020 and 2021, Ohio relied on data and technology more than ever before. From tracking the number of COVID-19 transmissions to refining online office communication, we have relied on data and

sharing technology in more ways than we would have imagined.

RecoveryOhio and our many partners recognize the need to have a strong understanding of the data we have and learn how to utilize them in the best way possible. Sharing data and understanding what it means for our communities is key in much of the work done at the state level.

The following are some examples of data and technology efforts happening collaboratively across the state.

■ Board of Pharmacy Ohio Automated RX Reporting System (OARRS)

- To complement existing efforts at eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, the State of Board of Pharmacy received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to allow for the reporting of race/ethnicity data to OARRS for every prescription reported to the system. Such information will be used to identify disparities in the prescribing of controlled substances, including those used in the treatment of opioid use disorder, and guide the design and application of culturally specific approaches to medicine and public health.
- The number of opioid doses and prescriptions dispensed to Ohio patients continued to decrease according to data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).

Total doses of opioids decreased from a high of **793 million** in 2012 to **319 million** in 2021, a **60% decrease**.

The total number of opioid prescriptions decreased by **7.1 million** between 2012 and 2021, a **56% decrease**.

■ This past year saw recognition of Ohio's leadership in expanding prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) use from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In collaboration with ODM, OARRS became the first PDMP in the country to receive CMS certification. This certification provides much needed resources to support OARRS integration efforts and promote data-sharing between the Board and the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

■ In 2021, OARRS began collecting data on individuals receiving treatment from state-licensed opioid treatment programs (OTP). Through a collaboration with OhioMHAS, patients who are actively treated as part of an OTP are now flagged for healthcare providers in OARRS, to support clinical decision-making prior to prescribing controlled substance medications.



Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Reporting

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM)

Network consists of eight regional epidemiologists located in the following regions of the state: Akron-Canton, Athens, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown. The OSAM Network conducts focus groups and individual interviews with active and recovering drug users and community professionals (treatment providers, law enforcement officers, etc.) to produce epidemiological descriptions of local substance abuse trends. Qualitative findings are supplemented with available statistical data such as coroner's reports and crime laboratory data. Mass media sources, such as local newspapers, are also monitored for information related to substance abuse. Once integrated, these valuable sources provide OhioMHAS with a real-time method of providing accurate epidemiological descriptions that policymakers need to plan appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.

ODH Reports

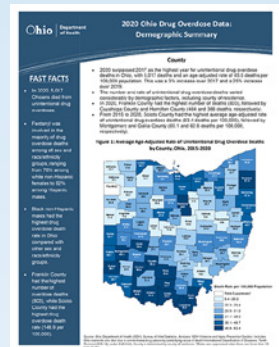
ODH produced two annual reports to increase understanding of overdose fatalities in Ohio



2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings

■ Overall drug overdose trends for Ohio and by county, demographic trends (race/sex/ethnicity/age), drug involvement trends.

■ Annual report made available to the public via the ODH website.



2020 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: Demographic Summary

■ A deeper look at overdose deaths and drug involvement by demographics.

■ Annual report made available to the public via the ODH website.

Ohio Behavioral Health Information System Launch

The Ohio Behavioral Health Information System (OBHIS) collects admission and discharge information for all publicly-funded behavioral health consumers as required by SAMHSA. The system is now fully functional, and OhioMHAS is currently implementing a Data Improvement Plan as part of ongoing training and technical assistance efforts to assist boards, providers and their associations with data collection and analysis.



2021 Annual
REVIEW

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GOVERNOR OF OHIO

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