

e-Update

December 2011-January 2012



John R. Kasich, Governor
Orman Hall, Director

Ohio's Accomplishments to Reduce Opiate Addiction and Overdose — 2011 Year in Review

Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

- An ODADAS projection based on State Board of Pharmacy data for the first six months of 2011 suggests a 10 percent decrease in opiates dispensed in Scioto County for the full year. This reduction converts to nearly one million fewer available doses.
- ODADAS has developed expansion plans for the support and family engagement model SOLACE (Surviving Our Loss and Continuing Everyday), which originated in Portsmouth. The creation of 25 new family engagement groups in Ohio is underway.
- ODADAS funded new Opiate Task Forces, resulting in 24 community coalitions focusing on prevention, treatment and law enforcement efforts.
- More than 2,200 clients enrolled in the ODADAS/Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Recovery to Work program that provides treatment services and employment training for Ohioans with opiate addiction.

Ohio Department of Public Safety

- Patrol Officers seized \$32 million in illegal narcotics through August 2011.
- Overall drug seizures are up 500 percent from 2010 levels.
- Crime Lab cases for oxycodone have tripled from 2008 to 2010.

Ohio Department of Health

- Funded 10 new Prescription Drug Task Forces and a prevention campaign called "Prescription for Prevention."

Medicaid

- Establishing a pharmacy lock-in rule to prevent pharmacy shopping, effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

- Establishing a pharmacy lock-in rule to prevent pharmacy shopping, effective spring 2012.
- BWC investigative staff has observed approximately eight other pain clinics/pill mills that have closed since attention was focused on Scioto County.
- Implemented a new drug formulary and taken changes to Board to restrict the use of narcotics. Changes will become effective in early 2012 (pending JCARR proceedings).

Ohio Office of Attorney General

- Joint efforts have resulted in the closure of 13 illicit pain clinics throughout Ohio.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) established in southern Ohio with U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

State Medical Board of Ohio

- Inappropriate prescribing/pill mill issues account for 20 percent of the 136 actions taken against physicians in 2011; 12 followed HB 93.
- 40 percent of the inappropriate prescribing/pill mill sanctions suspended the physician's license to practice.
- Revoked the medical license of Dr. James Lundeen for inappropriate prescribing.

State Pharmacy Board of Ohio

- 45 licenses for pain management clinics have been delivered.

Ohio University Receives \$500,000 “Promise Neighborhoods” Planning Grant

Ohio University, in partnership with the Athens County Village of Glouster, has been tapped to receive a one-year \$500,000 “Promise Neighborhoods” planning grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement.



The “Promise Neighborhoods” program aims to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in distressed/disadvantaged communities. The vision of the program is that all children and youth growing up in “Promise Neighborhoods” have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career. The program was recently highlighted in the [Creating Pathways to Opportunity report](#), that describes steps taken to reverse the growing income gap and create opportunity for all Americans. The program is also at the center of the White House

Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI), which seeks to align federal housing, education, justice, and health programs with the overarching goal of transforming neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into neighborhoods of opportunity. For more information about “Promise Neighborhoods,” visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html>

Ohio Troopers Seize Largest Amount of Heroin in Patrol History

A New York man is facing federal drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized more than 17 pounds of heroin, valued at more than \$3 million following a Dec. 7 traffic stop on the Ohio Turnpike in Wood County. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the average heroin abuser uses an estimated 400 milligrams daily. This seizure has taken nearly 20,000 daily doses off the streets. This seizure has made its way into the Patrol’s record books by outpacing a November 2004 seizure of 12 pounds of heroin.

Cardinal Health, Ohio State University Partner to Launch New Prescription Drug Toolkit

The Cardinal Health Foundation and The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy recently released a new, interactive toolkit that pharmacists, health care providers, community organizations and others can use to educate their communities about how to avoid the misuse of prescription drugs. The groups also announced their new partnership with the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) to promote the toolkit among older adults and their caregivers. The new [Generation Rx Senior/ Best Use of Medications toolkit](#) is intended to help individuals avoid medication-related problems or “adverse drug events,” so they can get the best results from their medications. The toolkit provides all the resources needed to conduct an educational session at a senior center, library, independent living home or other location where a group of older adults or caregivers gather. The toolkit features a variety of discussion-based and interactive materials that can be used to customize a 30-to-60 minute presentation to educate older adults and their caregivers about the safe use of medications. It also offers simple steps and suggestions for avoiding adverse drug events.

Monitoring the Future Survey: Teen Marijuana Use on the Rise

Marijuana use is gaining in popularity among teens, according to [Monitoring the Future](#), an annual survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th-graders. The survey found one of every 15 high school seniors smokes marijuana on an almost daily basis. About 25 percent of teens who took part in the study said they used marijuana in the past year, an increase from 21 percent in 2007. Daily marijuana use is at a 30-year peak among high school seniors. The findings indicate a decline in the perceived risk of harm associated with marijuana use, according to a [news release](#) by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which funds the survey. Cigarette and alcohol use are at their lowest point since the survey began in 1975. Alcohol use in general and binge drinking in particular continued to gradually decline among teenagers. Energy drinks continue to be popular among teens—about one-third said they drink them. The survey also found 11.4 percent of high school seniors said they used synthetic marijuana during the past year.



SAMHSA: Treatment Admissions for Prescription Drug Abuse Jumped 430 Percent in 10 Years

Treatment admissions for prescription drug abuse rose 430 percent from 1999 to 2009, according to a new government report. In the same period, the overall rate of admissions related to substance abuse stayed constant, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) report [Treatment Episode Data Set \(TEDS\) 1999 to 2009, State Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services](#) said. SAMHSA found admissions related to marijuana rose 33 percent over the 10-year period, while those for treatment to heroin, cocaine, and alcohol abuse declined. Admissions for methamphetamine/ amphetamine treatment increased between 1999 and 2005, and then decreased every year through 2009.

Pharmaceutical Companies Developing More Powerful Version of Hydrocodone

Drug companies are working to develop a pure, more powerful version of a highly abused medicine, which has addiction experts worried that it could spur a new wave of abuse. The new drug is pure hydrocodone, and contains up to 10 times the amount found in Vicodin, according to an [Associated Press](#) report. Drugs currently on the market combine hydrocodone with nonaddictive painkillers such as acetaminophen, the article notes. One company, Zogenix, plans to apply to the Food and Drug Administration early this year to market its new drug, *Zohydro*. It is a timed-release drug designed to manage moderate to severe pain. Opponents of the drug say they are concerned the drug could be crushed to release an immediate, intense high.



Feds Taking Steps to Reduce Medicare-Related Prescription Drug Abuse

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it will tell Medicare prescription drug plans to withhold payment to pharmacies when they detect signs of suspicious activity related to narcotics and painkillers. The move is aimed at reducing Medicare fraud. If an insurance plan suspects fraud, it should withhold payment until it verifies the claim is valid, HHS urges. The Department also is calling on doctors to write prescriptions for potentially addictive painkillers in supplies of less than 30 days. According to an [HHS news release](#), the Government Accountability Office found that in 2008 an estimated 170,000 people enrolled in Medicare received prescriptions from five or more doctors for drugs that are often abused, such as OxyContin and Percocet. Nearly three in 10 people between ages 57 to 85 use at least five prescriptions, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). From 1997 to 2008, the rate of hospital admissions for conditions related to prescription medications and illicit drug use rose by 96 percent for people between the ages of 65 and 84; for people 85 and older, admissions grew 87 percent. SAMHSA notes medication misuse and abuse can cause a range of harmful side effects, including drug-induced delirium and dementia.



Facebook Launches New Crisis Counselor Chat

The social media giant Facebook has announced a new service that harnesses the power of social networking and crisis support to help prevent suicides across the nation and Canada, according to a Dec. 13 [Associated Press report](#). The new service enables Facebook users to report a suicidal comment they see posted by a friend to Facebook using either the [Report Suicidal Content link](#) or the report links found throughout the site. The person who posted the suicidal comment will then immediately receive an email from Facebook encouraging them to call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at [1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)](#) or to click on a link to begin a confidential chat session with a crisis worker.

Drug-Free Action Alliance Invites Students to Participate in “Big Bowl Vote 2012”

Middle- and high-school students are invited to participate in an informal national survey to The Drug-Free Action Alliance (DFAA) is calling for young people from across the country to participate in the [“Big Bowl Vote 2012”](#) on Monday, February 6, the day after the Super Bowl. The informal survey helps to measure the impact of alcohol advertising that runs during the Super Bowl. Last year, more than 35,000 middle and high school students in 42 states participated in the Big Bowl Vote, which once again revealed the youth appeal of alcohol advertising. The group says the more youth are exposed to alcohol in advertising, the more likely they are to consume alcohol underage. DFAA's Big Bowl Vote consists of a two-question student questionnaire about what advertisements they remember seeing and which commercial was their favorite. DFAA will collect and summarize the data. Findings can be used to educate parents, students, lawmakers and the media about the effects of alcohol advertising on youth.

NIAAA Releases New Screening Guide for Pediatricians

A new alcohol screening tool that focuses on two key questions is designed to help pediatricians spot children and adolescents at risk for alcohol-related problems. The doctor asks about the patient's own drinking, as well as his or her friends' alcohol use. [Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth: A Practitioner's Guide](#), available from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), walks the doctor through the steps to take when patients say they or their friends drink, and helps them assess the level of risk for current and future alcohol problems. The chart helps the doctor determine how at risk for unhealthy consequences the patient may be, based on age and how often the patient drinks. The tool also provides recommendations for next steps, ranging from a discussion about the risks of alcohol use to referrals for treatment for those who need it.



CDC Program Aims to Protect Children From Accidental Drug Overdoses

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched the [“Up and Away and Out of Sight” program](#), to teach parents how to keep medications out of the hands of young children. Each year in the United States, one of every 150 two-year-olds ends up in the emergency room because of an accidental medication overdose. Most of these cases occur when unsupervised children consume medications they find at home, the CDC says. The campaign advises parents to put medicines in a place children cannot reach or see. Parents should put medicines away every time they use them, and should make sure the safety cap is locked. Never tell children that medicine is candy to get them to take it, and ask visitors and guests to put away their medicines out of sight. Finally, the CDC tells parents to program the poison control number ([1-800-222-1222](#)) into home and cell phones.



Study: Program for Pregnant Women at Risk of Substance Abuse Could Lead to Big Cost Savings

A prenatal intervention program, for stopping substance use in pregnancy, could save almost \$2 billion annually if it were implemented nationwide, a new study suggests. The Kaiser Permanente *Early Start* program helps women at risk of substance abuse to achieve health outcomes for mothers and babies that are similar to women who do not use cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. The study of almost 50,000 women found the program decreases illness in mothers and their babies, as well as stillbirths. The program screens pregnant women with urine tests and substance abuse screening questionnaires. It is located in the same clinic where women receive their prenatal care, and a licensed substance abuse expert sees patients at the same time as their prenatal care appointments. All health care providers and patients in the program are educated about the effects of alcohol, drug and cigarette use during pregnancy. The findings are published in the journal [Obstetrics & Gynecology](#).

Targeting Multiple Areas of Young People’s Lives Can Help Prevent Drug Use

Programs that target multiple areas of young people’s lives, including family, peers, community and school, may help prevent drug use and risky sexual behavior, according to a new study. Successful programs often last for several years, according to a *Reuters* news report. The study found programs that addressed just one area were generally less effective in preventing risky behaviors. Meanwhile, those programs that produced improvements included one that involved a school curriculum that included parent support, an HIV-reduction program that involved parent monitoring, and an elementary school program that taught family bonding skills. Youth who participated in these programs reported less drug use, heavy drinking and smoking in young adulthood compared with peers who were not involved in the programs. The researchers said starting school and community interventions in the preteen years may be most effective in preventing drug and alcohol use. The findings appear in the journal [Addiction](#).



Feds: One-Third of Driving Deaths Linked to Alcohol

An estimated 31 percent of driving deaths were linked to alcohol in 2010, compared with nine percent of deaths caused by distracted driving, according to a [new government report](#). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s report found that overall, highway deaths fell last year to the lowest level in six decades. A total of 32,885 people died in vehicle crashes in the United States last year. Of those deaths, 10,228 were related to alcohol. Deaths linked to alcohol fell 4.9 percent from 2009 to 2010, the report noted.

Training Opportunities

PRIDE 2012 World Drug Prevention Conference Workshop Proposals Sought

PRIDE Youth Programs is seeking workshop proposals for the 35th Anniversary PRIDE World Drug Prevention Conference slated for April 4-6, 2012, in Toledo. Speakers will not receive monetary compensation for presenting at PRIDE 2012 and will be responsible for providing their own transportation, lodging and meals. Each accepted workshop proposal receives one free conference registration that includes a T-shirt, tote bag, prevention materials and entrance to all conference events. Each workshop must give the audience something to take back to their group, agency, school or community, (i.e. an idea, a new concept, up-to-date material or a life skill.) Proposals are **due no later than Jan. 27, 2012**. Click [HERE](#) for the proposal form. Questions? Please contact Patti Wheeler, Lead Conference Coordinator, at [1-800-668-9277](#) or patti@prideyouthprograms.org.



Webinar: Overcoming Community Resistance to Reentry Housing — Jan.17

For the 725,000 men and women being released from prison each year, accessing safe, affordable housing can present a challenge. The National Reentry Resource Center will explore the findings from "[In Our Backyard: Overcoming Community Resistance to Reentry Housing: A NIMBY Toolkit](#)," a resource developed by the Fortune Society and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, in a free webinar Jan. 17 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Presenters will offer strategies for organizations facing community opposition to the establishment of services for populations that are considered "threatening." For complete details, and to register, click [HERE](#).

CADCA National Leadership Forum — Feb. 6-9

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) National Leadership Forum will be held February 6-9 at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. This four-day conference will focus on the latest strategies to fight substance abuse, and will feature nationally known experts and policymakers. The meeting will bring together more than 2,500 participants representing community anti-drug coalitions, government leaders, youth, addiction treatment professionals, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals and faith-based leaders. For more information, visit the [CADCA website](#).

Save the Date! ODADAS Spring Conference — March 6-7

ODADAS will host its Annual Spring Conference "Expanding Our Field of Vision" March 6-7, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus. Day One focuses on problem gambling and will feature Roger Svendsen's "Problem Gambling Prevention Messages & Programs" and Natasha Dow Schull's "Problem Gambling, Problem Machines: Addiction by Design?" Day Two will focus on AoD-specific topics TBA. Be sure to watch the [ODADAS website](#) for registration materials.

National Rx Drug Abuse Summit — April 10-12

The inaugural National Rx Drug Abuse Summit will take place April 10-12 in Orlando, FL. The national Summit brings all impacted parties together to address the prescription drug abuse epidemic. Conference programming is designed to convey a synergistic approach to include: prevention, education, treatment, law enforcement, health care providers, advocates, and human resources – among other impacted parties. For more information, visit the [Summit website](#).

3rd Annual Ohio Opiate Summit — May 7-8, 2012

Save the Date! The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) in partnership with ODADAS and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, have announced plans for a 3rd annual Opiate Summit to be held in Columbus May 7-8, 2012. More details will follow in the coming months.

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