

Combatting the Opiate Crisis in Ohio – Ohio Department of Public Safety

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is combating drug abuse through many initiatives on several fronts at the state and local levels.

Since 2011, Ohio troopers have interdicted nearly \$270 million in drugs and contraband with a correlated 100 percent increase in drug arrests. In 2015, drug arrests were up another nine percent from the same time last year. Fundamentally, this was accomplished by elevating criminal patrol to the same mission level as highway safety, fostering broad interagency partnerships and using shared information from our partners and the public.

We know we have disrupted the drug supply line to and through Ohio, but progress is not victory. We will ultimately overcome this epidemic by reducing demand. Through the SHIELD program, Start Talking, 5 Minutes for Life and public participation by using #677, Ohioans have been empowered to contribute to a reduced demand.

Law Enforcement: Cracking Down on Drug Trafficking

Interdiction by law enforcement is a necessary intervention in combating the opiate epidemic. Yet, the opiate issue is one of the more complex drug challenges that law enforcement has ever faced. Coordination across jurisdictions and with regulatory boards is a critical step.

- 2011: The Ohio State Highway Patrol seizes more than 38,000 prescription pills and 16,400 grams of heroin during calendar year 2011.
- 2011: Ohio began using Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) courses to provide enhanced training to police officers. In 2011, 32 officers became certified DREs, including nine Highway Patrol officers.
- 2012: The #677 statewide hotline was introduced to help the public participate in the war on drug trafficking in Ohio, which Governor John R. Kasich announced to the 151st academy class of the Ohio State Highway Patrol on February 24.
- 2012: The Ohio State Highway Patrol seizes more than 39,900 prescription pills and 34,800 grams of heroin during calendar year 2012.
- 2013: The Ohio State Highway Patrol seizes more than 54,200 prescription pills and 46,200 grams of heroin during calendar year 2013.
- 2013: Major improvements were made to the Patrol's crime lab, including new instruments, building projects and larger staff. A renovation project was completed in 2013, adding a new chemistry laboratory, toxicology laboratory, instrument room, offices and storage spaces. A grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covered the purchase of toxicology instruments that expand the palette of detectable drugs.
- 2014: The Ohio State Highway Patrol seizes more than 37,900 prescription pills and 14,100 grams of heroin during calendar year 2014.
- 2015: The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services contributes \$100,000 to the Heroin Partnership Project, a collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies focused on reducing heroin and opiate overdose deaths in Ross County.
- 2015: Criminals in Franklin and Trumbull counties faced swift arrest in May, as two separate Shield Details united local, state and federal resources to fight crime and strengthen communities. The two-

day long efforts “shielded” local communities from crime through a focus on drug use, drunk driving, outstanding warrants, traffic violation and general illegal behavior.

- 2015: The Ohio State Highway Patrol seizes more than 34,000 prescription pills and 18,300 grams of heroin.
- 2015: The Ohio Department of Public Safety releases the 2016 – 2018 Drug Interdiction, Disruption and Reduction Plan, which builds on the successes achieved since 2011 with the development of a new phase in coordination involving Ohio’s 41 drug task forces, in association with the Ohio National Guard (ONG), Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) and in cooperation with international, national, state and local agencies.
- 2015: The 21st Annual DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) Conference, hosted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office, was Aug. 10-12. The conference focused on drugs, alcohol and impaired driving and was attended by over 700 people.
- 2016: During the first six months of 2016, the Ohio State Highway Patrol seizes 53,000 grams of heroin.
- 2016: The Ohio State Highway Patrol crime lab encounters a significant increase in fentanyl submissions: 175 submissions in 2016 compared to 103 in 2015.
- 2016: The Ohio Highway Patrol seizes 167 pounds of heroin and 64,708 prescription pills. Arrests for illegal drugs increase 136 percent from 2010 (5,643) to 2016 (13,334).
- 2016: Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers made tremendous strides in removing illegal drugs from Ohio roads in 2016. Troopers increased their total drug-related arrests for the eighth consecutive year in a row. Troopers coordinated with local law enforcement across the state to run PROTECT details, which are designed to address the needs of specific communities. Troopers also broke their own records for the largest heroin (59.5 pounds) and prescription pill (33,230 dosage units) seizures this year.
- In 2016, troopers with the Ohio State Highway Patrol began carrying Naloxone to treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations. Since 2016, troopers have administered Naloxone 88 times to people experiencing overdoses.
- 2016: Ohio Drug Recognition Experts received digital tablets connected to a statewide database of impaired driving statistics, which revolutionized their efforts to combat Ohio’s illegal drug epidemic. Every DRE in Ohio can easily enter searchable points of data into a statewide system and view data from every agency using the DRE program. Ohio is the fourth state to obtain tablets for DREs but the first to use them for critical data collection. By giving DREs and law enforcement agencies the tools for thorough reporting and statistical analysis, they can determine trends specific to their location and focus enforcement to make the biggest difference.
- 2016-2017: During State Fiscal Year 2017, the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services provides more than \$5.5 million in funding to support 40 local drug task forces throughout Ohio.
- 2017: The Drug Incident Summary Collection Overview system, a national model for a data collection partnership between Ohio’s 41 drug task forces and the El Paso Intelligence Center, was announced and provides Ohio task force commanders and federal law enforcement leaders with more accurate and real-time statistics so decision-makers can prioritize interdiction operations, more readily develop patterns and identify trends to effectively deploy resources as needed.

- 2017: More than 200 public safety advocates from across the state joined the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Ohio National Guard, and the Ohio Task Force Commanders' Association for the first-ever Drug Interdiction, Disruption & Reduction Symposium aimed at collaborating with fellow law enforcement, public safety advocates, prevention and treatment providers to enhance Ohio's frontline response to the drug epidemic in Ohio.
- 2017: For the first-time ever, drug task forces can exist in all 88 counties, thanks to additional funding administered by the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services.
- 2017: Through November 2017, Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers have seized more than 31,000 opiate pills.
- 2017: The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services continues to collect Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) data on drug trafficking and possession arrests.

Preventing Youth Drug Use Before it Starts

- 2013-14: More than 16,500 high school student-athletes participate in *5 Minutes for Life* sessions held before or after practice, during which Ohio state troopers, local law enforcement officers and Ohio National Guard members talk about responsible decision-making, leadership and encouraging their peers to live a drug-free lifestyle.
- 2014-2015: More than 17,700 student-athletes participate in *5 Minutes for Life* sessions held during practices.
- 2015-2016: The *5 Minutes for Life* program is expanded in 2015 to be available year round. During the 2015-16 school year, more than 53,000 students participate in program presentations.
- 2017: Total student attendance across 1,098 *5 Minutes for Life* presentations since the program was created tops 182,000. In addition, a total of 2,833 students became ambassadors promoting healthy lifestyles among their peers.

Encouraging Appropriate Use and Availability of Pain Medication

- 2016: The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services received nearly \$20,000 in grant funding through the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to work with the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to evaluate the impact of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System integration in pharmacies.

Saving Lives by Expanding Access to Overdose Antidote

- 2016: Training videos are posted on the Ohio Department of Public Safety's EMS website to assist providers with the intranasal and auto-injector administration of naloxone.

Creating Pathways to Treatment and Recovery

- 2016: The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services directs \$244,000 to help fund five drug treatment projects through the Federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, which funds addiction treatment in prisons, jails and after-care facilities.

- 2016: During State Fiscal Year 2017, the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services provides more than \$5.5 million in funding to support 40 local drug task forces in communities throughout Ohio.
- 2016-2017: The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services continues to support the Heroin Partnership Project, which focuses on opiate overdose prevention and addiction treatment in Ross County.
- 2017: The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services partnered with Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services to apply for the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program competitive grant. The funding provides training and technical assistance to improve treatment engagement and client outcomes.