



CWTP

Substance Abuse Training Partnership



TOPIC

Relating Current Ohio Opiate Epidemic Trends to Child Welfare Practice

Collaborative practice among child welfare, substance use disorder treatment agencies, and the courts starts with understanding the data. This webinar presents a broad epidemiological view of opioid addiction in Ohio with a special emphasis on women of child bearing age. The scope of opioid addiction and its impact on the Ohio Child Welfare system will be examined along with practice reforms such as new SACWIS changes to capture screening information. Facilitated learning applications will look at how child welfare professionals can improve available data on opioid addiction and potential steps toward improving outcomes for opioid dependent parents.



KEY POINTS

1. It is important to understand key features of opiate addiction that make individuals vulnerable to overdose and death.
2. Fentanyl has played a major role in the increased number of overdose deaths.
3. Poor families living at or below the federal poverty level experience elevated rates of opioid addiction.
4. Younger (age 15-25) women of child bearing age are misusing opiates at higher rates than older (26-34) groups.
5. Drug overdoses and distribution rates of prescription opioids have followed a parallel path of increase.



CHILD WELFARE APPLICATION

Systems change is needed in response to the opiate epidemic. A permanent shift in focus, relying on **relationships** across systems and within the community is necessary for securing needed **resources** that achieve better **results** and outcomes for all children and families (National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare).

- Universal Screening: Screening for substance use with each child welfare referral and for the life of the case is a best practice strategy for improving outcomes. Implementing screening takes commitment and planning to integrate the process into daily practice.
- Data: Child Welfare agencies must improve their data reporting capabilities to demonstrate the impact of opiate addiction. Changes in the SACWIS system can support improved documentation of parental substance use.
- Communication: In order to improve services across systems, common goals need to be identified that support sharing of systems data and cooperative working relationships.
- Collaboration: Accurate data is important for understanding the needs of families and to know what to ask for to address those needs. Partners that secure buy-in for tracking families involved with multiple systems will enhance outcomes.



LEARN MORE

Webinar Learning Tools

1. [Learning Assessment](#) – Assess your learning and identify areas for improvement. This tool can be used individually or as a team activity.
2. [Individual Learning Guide](#) – Spend some time on self-reflection and application of webinar content.
3. [Team Discussion Guide](#) – Use this guide for conversation with your team applying webinar content to collaborative practice.

Handouts

[Ohio Overdose Data at a Glance](#)

[Action Guide to Address Opiate Abuse](#)

[Fentanyl](#)

[A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders](#)

Resources

Ohio Substance Abuse Training Gateway. www.osatg.org

Ohio Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT). <http://fightingopiateabuse.ohio.gov/>

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network (OSAM). [Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio: Jan-Jun 2016](#)

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) (2017). [Research on the Use and Misuse of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids](#)

Public Children Services Association of Ohio(PCSAO) (2017). [The Opiate Epidemic's Impact on Children Services in Ohio](#)

National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) (2016). [Data and Information Systems: The Fuel that Drives Family Drug Courts](#)

Training

National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare webinars (NCSACW) (2015). [Identifying Substance Abuse as a Risk Factor in Child Welfare Cases and Understanding How to Respond](#)

[Ohio Child Welfare Training Program](#). Opiates: The Current Situation, How We Got Here, and What to Do Now #309-61



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