



How can I take action today?

OPIATE EPIDEMIC COMMUNITY & FAMILY RESOURCES

Everyone can take action

Be a responsible consumer Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about why you might need the pain medication prescribed. Use the prescription exactly as directed. Don't share your pills with others and above all, get rid of your medication properly. Do not throw them out in the trash or flush them. Take advantage of free, anonymous drug drop off locations throughout Stark County.

Drug drop box locations Don't risk your unwanted prescriptions getting into an illicit supply pipeline. Drug Free Stark County has collaborated with law enforcement and community partners throughout Stark County to establish 17 permanent drug drop off locations. No questions asked. Find a drop box near you at StarkMHAR.org/DrugCollection.

Opiate Prevention Toolkit Designed for students, educators and for parents, Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery partners with Drug Free Stark County and the Stark County Educational Service Center to make this online resource tool accessible. Access prevention tools at StarkMHAR.org/OpiateToolkit.

Get a Naloxone overdose kit Naloxone (also known as Narcan®) is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (heroin or prescription pain medications). When administered during an overdose, Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing. Naloxone kits are distributed free of charge at area providers. If you know a loved one struggling with opiate addiction, please get an overdose kit. Find out where at StarkMHAR.org/OverdoseKit.

Teach prevention early

Be On the Look Out (BOLO) is a prevention

program developed by Drug Free Stark County aimed at parents and caregivers of middle grade and high school students. More at StarkMHAR.org/BOLO.

Ohio Governor John Kasich's **Stark Talking** prevention program helps parents and caregivers begin conversations about drugs and consequences. Learn more at StartTalking.Ohio.gov.

Family resources

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Addiction is a brain disease If your loved one has an opiate addiction, learn what to do. This website was prepared by family members for family members, StarkHeroinEpidemic.org.

SOLACE of Stark County Surviving Our Loss And Continuing Everyday is a support group for those who have lost someone to drug abuse, suicide, violence or incarceration. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at Stark County Park's Exploration Gateway at 5712 12th Street NW in Canton from 6:30-8 p.m. Contact Dale Batdorff at 330-323-7605 and on Facebook at SOLACE of Stark County.

OhioCAN With leadership across the state and in Stark County, OhioCAN's mission is to bring the family voice to addiction and recovery and empower families to create an atmosphere of open exchange without shame or stigma. Reach OhioCAN online at ChangeAddictionNow.org.

F.A.T.H.E.R.S. Motorcycle Poker Run An annual event, the motorcycle run is led by Families Against The Heroin Epidemic Rally in Stark. Find out more online at FathersRunStark.com.

Warriors Project A faith-based support system for those on the road to recovery and their families, Warriors Project can be reached online at WarriorsProjectOnline.com.

Get involved

Drug Free Stark County A partnership of law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, health care and treatment providers, business, parents and youth, Drug Free Stark County aims to increase public awareness of the harmful effects of substance abuse. StarkMHAR.org/DrugFreeStarkCounty.

Opiate Task Force of Stark County is designed to bring people and resources together from all sectors of the community to develop and pursue goals and strategies to address the public health concern of opiate use in Stark County. Join law enforcement, medical professionals, treatment providers, criminal justice, community leaders, parents and recoverees. StarkMHAR.org/OpiateTaskForce.

Stark County Suicide Prevention Coalition is a partnership of representatives from more than 20 local community organizations working together to save lives. Active members include representatives from community advocacy, behavioral health organizations, survivors of suicide loss, social service organizations, human service agencies, government organizations, medical facilities and educational institutions. Individuals or organizations are welcome to join. StarkMHAR.org/SuicidePrevention.



STARK COUNTY'S Opiate Epidemic

COMMUNITY UPDATE | 2016

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT OUR OPIATE EPIDEMIC: BEGIN AT HOME



John R. Aller, PCC, LICDC, Executive Director

It's heartbreaking. Almost everyone who has been affected by Stark County's Opiate Epidemic. Each of us probably knows a neighbor, coworker, friend or family member who is struggling with addiction or may have died from this insidious disease. In fact, one in seven Americans experience an addiction in their lifetime according to the brand new report from the Surgeon General on *Addiction in America*.

As we make our way through this public health crisis, I am hopeful we are dispelling the myth that addiction is a social or moral problem, instead of the health problem it actually is. Every one of us can do something about our opiate epidemic. Start changing the conversation at home. In 1956, the American Medical Association declared addiction is a brain disease, not a character flaw or moral failure.

Did you know prescription painkillers, like Oxycontin®, Vicodin® and Percocet®, are opioids just like heroin? They are prescribed for everything from sports injuries, to dental work, to managing pain. While they are prescribed by most physicians for all the right reasons, at times they get into the hands of others who intend to use them for the wrong reasons. Be a responsible consumer.

Talk with your doctor and pharmacist, and monitor your medication. And don't forget to get rid of unwanted and expired meds at one of 17 permanent drug drop off locations in Stark County.

What is frightening is the speed at which someone can become physically addicted to opiates. It is actually possible for someone to become dependent the first time they use. In a terrifying pivot, prescription drug abuse can turn to illicit sources like heroin.

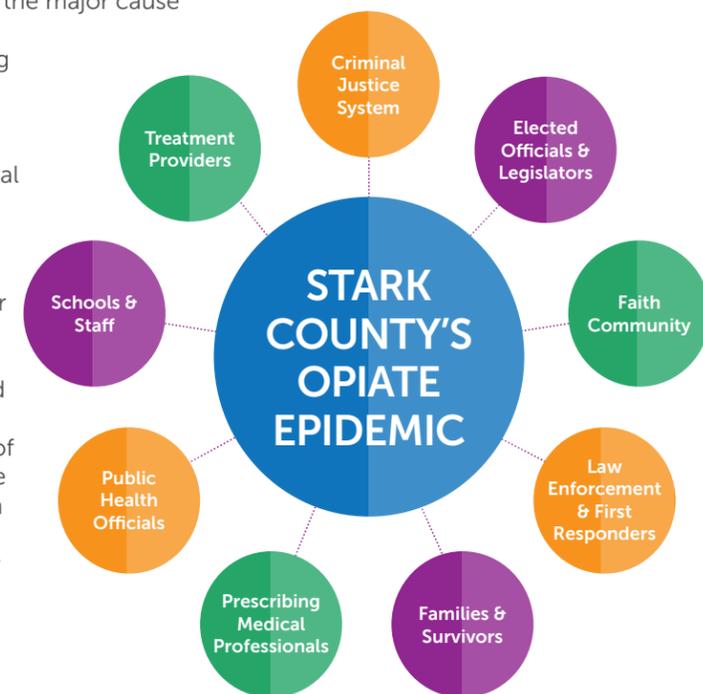
Laced with untold fillers that may include powerful opioids such as fentanyl and supercharged carfentanil (an elephant sedative), heroin is an easy-to-get and a cheap opioid. Heroin is the major cause of overdose fatalities in Stark County. According to the Stark County Coroner's office, in 2015 there were 68 opiate-related accidental overdose deaths including 46 involving heroin and/or fentanyl.

Last year, the Center for Disease Control came to Ohio, studied Stark County and determined we are a high burden county. At highest risk of fatal overdose are white males, ages 25-34, with some college (or less) education and a history of substance abuse. They may be currently

diagnosed with a mental health condition such as depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder. At most risk are those recently released from institutional care such as a jail, hospital or treatment facility.

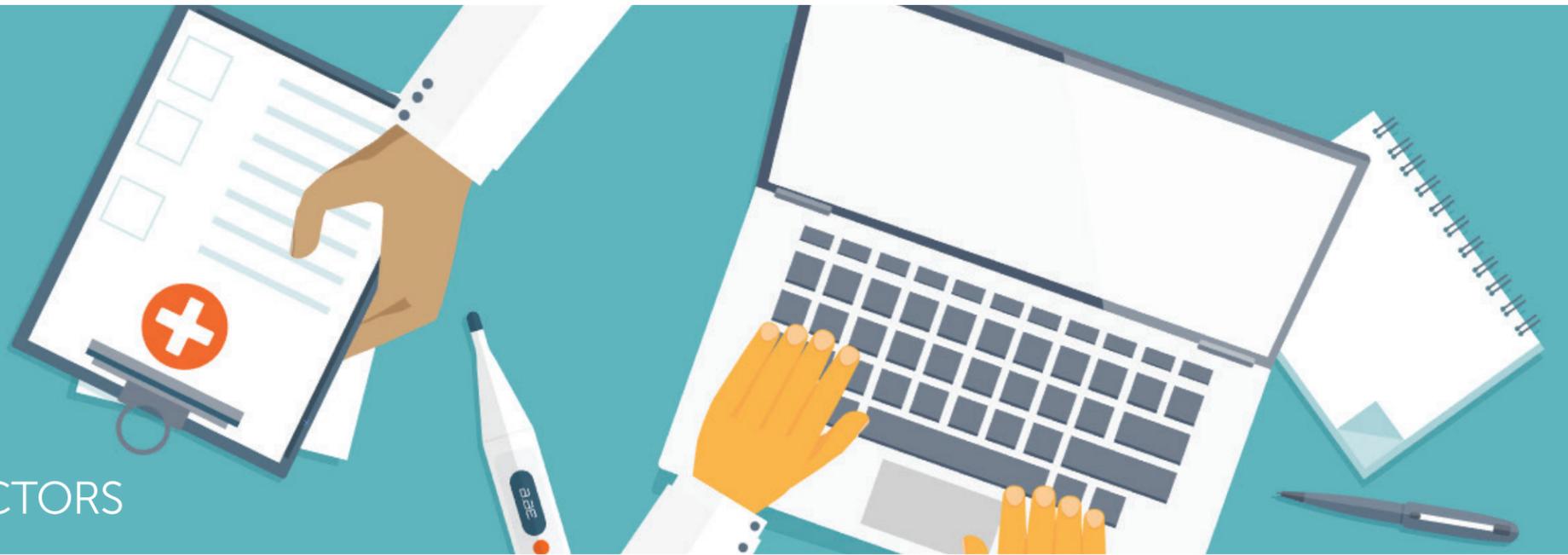
There is help for your loved one. Stark County has an amazing network of caring officials, organizations and community members who pull together with solutions and strategies to heal our opiate epidemic. The solution isn't a single answer. It takes all sectors to be involved to ensure Stark County remains a great place to work, live and raise a family.

Thank you for doing your part!



Facing our opiate epidemic

NEWS FROM COUNTY SECTORS



ARE YOU IN CRISIS?

Help is available...

If your loved one is in crisis...

- Call **330-452-6000**, the Stark County Crisis Hotline anytime
- Call **9-1-1** if emergency services are needed. If requesting law enforcement, you can ask for a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officer.
- Text **4hope** to **741 741**, the Crisis Text Line anytime
- Military & Veterans Crisis Line **1-800-273-8255**, press **1** anytime
- Military & Veterans Crisis Text Line **838255** to get help now

Coming Dec. 12, 2016

- **Opiate Hotline 330-454-HELP (4357)** Community information, education, support and connection to services anytime, day or night

If your loved one needs detoxification services...

If someone is ready to engage in alcohol and/or drug (AoD) treatment services, they must first be detoxed from the substance(s) of use. Some substances, like alcohol and benzodiazepines, can be deadly to detox from and require medical monitoring for the individual's safety. After detoxification, the individual can then be linked with treatment services. Detox services are available from StarkMHAR's Care Network:

- Contact **Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center** by dialing the Crisis Hotline at 330-452-6000.
- Contact **CommQuest Services - Regional Center for Opiate Recovery** by dialing 330-837-9411.

If your loved one does not have insurance...

Stark County residents can access behavioral health services regardless of their ability to pay through the Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR) Care Network. StarkMHAR funded service providers accept various insurance programs, Medicare and Medicaid. Stark residents that are not covered by one of those options can receive services. Their ability to pay for those services will be determined by their income and could be fully subsidized by StarkMHAR. View online at StarkMHAR.org/CareNetwork.

| F.A.T.H.E.R.S.

Families Against The Heroin Epidemic Rally in Stark

- Installed permanent signs countywide to promote epidemic awareness and access to help.
- Created the website starkheroinepidemic.org which contains information about opiate addiction as well as links to every available resource in Stark County for treatment, recovery and family support.
- In partnership with CommQuest services, is working to reduce stigma and promote more compassionate treatment of families with area hospitals and to provide overdose discharge instructions and more complete referral information for treatment.

| STARK CO. HEALTH DEPT.

- Applied for the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Grant and was awarded full funding for this three-year grant which began in July 2016.
- Hired a fulltime Prescription Drug Overdose Coordinator. This employee will assist with the local Opiate Task Force; educate area physicians and prescribers on the new opiate prescribing guidelines; encourage the use of Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS); work with local healthcare facilities to ensure implementation of policies and protocols regarding treatment of opiate abuse and the distribution of Naloxone; as well as the initiation and implementation of a local Poison Death Review Team.
- Received funding from the ODH which allowed us to provide Naloxone training and kits to law enforcement agencies and first responders, further supplementing Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery

initial trainings and contributions.

- Year to date, distributed 101 Project DAWN kits, 53 replacement Naloxone doses and trained 78 law enforcement officers and other first responders.
- Year to date, received 28 reports of overdose reversal due to Naloxone use.

| STARK CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Developed Stark County's Drug Take Back Day, a successful countywide drug take back program. Average monthly collection is nearly 600 pounds from 17 locations. This effort has led the state in the total amount of drugs collected annually.
- Developed an investigative and arrest protocol related to overdose cases. All overdose cases that we are made aware of are investigated to determine the source of the opiate or heroin. Our mission is to track down those who traffic in heroin and assist those who have an addiction. Rarely do we arrest someone who suffers from addiction. This protocol has assisted us in the arrest and conviction of a heroin dealer who was responsible for supplying heroin to victims who overdosed and subsequently died.
- Worked with a host of service agencies to assist those who have been incarcerated and are suffering from addiction. Our intensive addiction and recovery program, provided by CommQuest Services, deals directly with these inmates in need of recovery assistance and continues their program after release to ensure ongoing care.
- Faced with the issue of drugs and contraband coming into the jail, the Sheriff changed the process by which inmates are screened when entering the facility. A SecurPas full body scanner was made part of the screening process when someone is booked into the Stark County Jail. This one

change has assisted in eliminating illegal drugs and contraband from the jail housing areas.

- Trained and issued Naloxone (Narcan®) in cooperation with the Stark County Police Chiefs' Association, resulting in lives being saved throughout our community.
- Participates on the "Stop Heroin From Killing Committee." The committee's efforts have included, but have not been limited to, community education and awareness through countywide symposiums, billboard campaigns and movie theater advertisements.
- Continues to work with community support groups throughout the county to further the message of heroin and opiate addiction.
- Raised over \$21,000 in 2016 through the raffle of a motorcycle that was seized from a local convicted drug dealer. (All proceeds of the raffle were used to raise awareness and provide information about treatment.)

| UNITED WAY of Greater Stark County

- Supports and advocates access to programs that work to combat this epidemic in order to make sustainable progress towards reducing opiate abuse.
- Recognized that the need for substance abuse treatment in Stark County has increased significantly but access to care is limited due to the Medicaid IMD Exclusion.
- As a result, convened community partners, social service agencies and legislators in Sept. 2016 to discuss how to improve and expand efforts to treat those struggling with addiction.

| CIVIC/COMMUNITY SECTORS

- The **Stark County Criminal Justice System** continues to see advancement via the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, Drug Courts, "Stop Heroin From Killing Committee" and the implementation of the Good Samaritan Law. Also, **StarkMHAR** is currently preparing the 2017 toolkit and resource reference card for judges, courts and law enforcement officers.
- In the area of Public Health, the **Canton City Health Department** is pursuing a syringe exchange program modeled after similar programs in Cleveland and Columbus.
- To address treatment needs, access has been expanded to treatment beds and medication assisted treatment (MAT) options across Stark County. Other improvements include better coordination of treatment services with county hospital emergency departments and treatment providers and the implementation of the **Mobile Crisis** unit at Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center.
- Additional **Law Enforcement** activities include utilizing Mobile Crisis, MAT jail program, countywide officer training and usage of Naloxone (in collaboration with the Stark County Health Department and StarkMHAR) and the ARIDE (advanced roadside impairment driving enforcement) training partnership with Drug Free Stark County. Law enforcement officers are also taking CIT training and Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety.
- **Medical Professionals** are seeing expanded collaborations with county hospitals, medical and dental associations as well as increased training opportunities and the development of a medical professionals toolkit through StarkMHAR and the Stark County Health Department.
- **Elected Officials** are collaborating with StarkMHAR, Drug Free Stark County and

other community groups to host community and town hall meetings, support the drug collection box network and annual Stark County Drug Take Back Day and honor the annual Day of Remembrance and Renewal by the Tolling of the Bell.

- The **Stark County Faith Community** furthers its Mental Health First Aid training as well as participation in the statewide conference "The Role of the Church in the Opiate Crisis." Crossroads UMC in Canton and SOLACE of Stark County are co-sponsoring a "Blue Christmas Service," a non-traditional holiday service for those who are lonely and hurting as a result of the opiate epidemic.
- **Stark County Schools and Staff** are furthering their Youth Mental Health First Aid training through a collaborative grant with the Austin Bailey Foundation, Stark County Educational Service Center and StarkMHAR to bring youth specific Mental Health First Aid training to school communities. SAFE HOME, an opiate prevention curriculum, is currently being piloted by three county schools through a partnership between StarkMHAR, Drug Free Stark County and participating pilot schools; the aim is to make it available to all Stark County schools by Fall 2017.
- **Families and Survivors** are connecting through SOLACE of Stark County monthly meetings for support and information. In addition, the annual Dustin Batdorff Invitational wrestling tournament supports opiate prevention, education and recovery.
- **Community Coalitions** address specific community opiate needs, providing community education, advocacy and engagement. Groups include Lake Community Cares, the Sandy Valley Drug Awareness Initiative, Minerva's Hope and Alliance/Marlington Anti-Drug Committee.