

In Appreciation

We appreciate everyone's efforts, contributions and collaboration in the drive to eradicate opiate abuse in Fairfield County. The more citizens that are engaged to help stop this epidemic, the better chance we have to overcome.

How Can You Help

- Volunteer to serve on a sub-committee
- Organize a meeting and ask the OTF for a speaker and a showing of the Hooked dvd.
- Monitor, Secure and Dispose of expired or unused prescription medications is critical.
- Take an inventory. Monitor refills. If pills are disappearing, you may have a problem.
- Discard any unused or expired medications by mixing with an undesirable substance such as coffee grounds or kitty litter.
- Watch for drug disposal days and sites.
- Do not flush medication down the drain or toilet.
- Remove any personal information from pill bottles or pill packages before discarding.
- Keep all in use medications in a secure place.
- Tell everyone you know to do the same things with their medications.

What Are We Doing About It

The Opiate Task Force has established five committees to work on different aspects of this problem. They are:

- i. Community Awareness and Education - to educate the citizens of Fairfield County about the scope and nature of opiate addiction in our community.
- ii. Medical Professionals - to develop protocol for the local use of opiate analgesics in Fairfield County.
- iii. Corrections & Treatment - To develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to the interdiction, judicial and treatment components of the heroin and other opiates problem in Fairfield County.
- iv. Measurement- To develop and execute a needs assessment and evaluation process that will allow the Opiate Task Force to determine the scope of opiate addiction in Fairfield County and the impact of interventions in reducing the problem.
- v. Fundraising - To raise money to help fund prevention and treatment services.

Other Resources

Facebook: The OTF has a facebook page, Fairfield County Opiate Task Force, with all the latest happenings and updates as well as news on the opiate situation.

YouTube:

The *Hooked* DVD is available in four parts - search for "Fairfield ADAMH Hooked"

Website: Currently under construction but information can be accessed on the www.fair-mh.org website, click on the OTF link on the main page.

Also:

www.therecoverycenter.org

www.fair-mh.org - Hooked video available

www.lancastereagle.com/addiction

www.justice.gov/dea

Steering Committee Members

Rhonda Myers, Fairfield County ADAMH Board
Sheriff Phalen, Fairfield County Sheriff
Chief Bailey, Lancaster Police Department
Becky Edwards, Family Adult Children Council
Lou Varga, Varga Communications
Toni Ashton, Prevention Works
Trisha Saunders, The Recovery Center
Rick Szabrak, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette
Bob Lovell, Lancaster-Fairfield Chmbr of Comm.
David Smith, Mayor of Lancaster
Mina Ubbing, Fairfield Medical Center
Ron Burris, Tour de Cause
Gregg Marx, Fairfield Co. Prosecutor
Lancaster Municipal Court
Lancaster City Schools
Sherry Orlando, United Way of Fairfield County



Fairfield County Opiate Task Force

108 W. Main, Suite A
Lancaster, OH 43130
(740) 654-0829
www.fair-mh.org

What is an Opiate?

An opiate is a drug derived from the opium plant. Opiates may come in the form of a prescribed pain killer or an illegal substance, such as heroin. Examples of prescription opiates include Tylenol 3 (codeine), Percocet (oxycodone), Vicodin (hydrocodone), Dilaudid (hydromorphone), Oxycontin (oxycodone), Roxanol (morphine), and MS Contin (morphine).

Why It Is a Problem

- Addiction is a chronic, often relapsing brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and drug use, despite harmful consequences to the individual who is addicted and to those around them.
- Drug addiction is a brain disease because the abuse of drugs leads to changes in the structure and function of the brain.

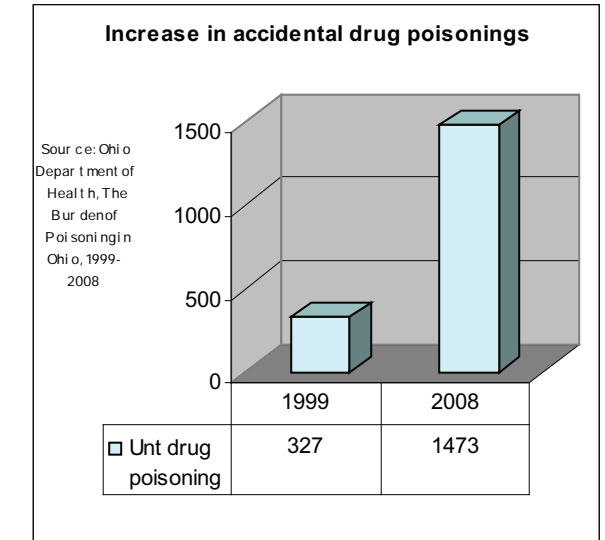
- Although the initial decision to take drugs is usually voluntary, changes in the brain caused by repeated drug abuse can affect a person's self-control and ability to make sound decisions, and at the same time send intense impulses to take drugs.

Why It Is Important to our Community

- Opiate addiction does not respect gender, socio-economic levels, age, or race—it can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime.
- Approximately 25% of patients treated for drug addiction in Fairfield Medical Center's Emergency Department started very innocently because of legitimate injury or surgery. This medication is taken, and even prescribed, well past the acute days in which the medication is needed.
- Once the highly addictive prescription opiates become too expensive to support addiction or too difficult to obtain, people are often introduced to heroin, which replicates the desired effects. But heroin is cheaper, much easier to get, and much faster to achieve the effects.
- An opiate addiction affects more than just the addicted individual. The impact reaches far into the community, and even to you. It destroys families. It involves significant emotional, physiological, and financial cost to the family and society. A drug addict's desire to get the next high leads to a lack of critical thinking and consideration of consequences, which gives way to crime in our community.

Scary Trend

In 2007, unintentional (unt) drug poisoning became the leading cause of injury death in Ohio, surpassing motor vehicle crashes and suicide for the first time on record. This trend continued in 2008.



Background

To address this concern, the ADAMH Board formed an Opiate Task Force comprised of key community stakeholders from a wide variety of vocations and interests. The ADAMH Board obtained funding from Reckitt-Benckiser to create a 30 minute dvd to help educate people about the opiate epidemic that was threatening our community. The DVD, *Hooked*, was put together by Varga Communications, Inc.

November 5th, 2009, - the 1st Annual Opiate Summit was held. Over 100 people attended. Community leaders came together, watched the video, listened to first hand experiences from people on the front lines and started doing something about the opiate problem.

2010 Prescription Opiate Consumption Per Capita*

