

OPIATE BRIEF

Updated September 2020

CURRENT WORK

RESEARCH

- A \$3 million research grant was awarded to several College of Social Work faculty members in 2017 to support regional partnership intervention activities in Fairfield and Pickaway counties in Ohio through 2022. In these areas, the percentage of families involved with Children's Services who have identified substance use problems are higher than the state-wide average. The three selected intervention strategies are intended to holistically provide supports to families involved in the child welfare system due to substance abuse, getting parents into treatment and increasing permanency and well-being for children.
- The College of Social Work has partnered with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to evaluate the Ohio Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) program in 46 Ohio counties affected by the opioid crisis. This initiative focuses on the reunification of children removed from the home due to parental addiction, and drug treatment for parents of children referred to the program.
- From the college's work with Ohio START, additional projects have been funded. One such project examines cross-system collaboration strategies and the conditions under which they are most effective for implementing the START model. The team will develop and pilot a collaboration decision-support guide for executive leaders. Another project examines strategies that align regional behavioral health boards (which serve an essential public health function), child welfare (social services), and addiction treatment systems (medical). These systems serve families affected by the opiate crisis in rural communities, where there is a need for timely and coordinated family supports to ensure parents recover and reunify with their children within federally mandated child welfare timelines.
- The Ohio State University is leading a consortium of academic, state and community partners that aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 40% over three years through a \$65.9 million federal research grant through the HEALing Communities Study. The study will focus efforts in 19 Ohio counties—including 9 rural counties, 6 of which are in Appalachia—and uses real-time research to focus prevention, treatment and recovery programs in the state, which has been hit especially hard by opioid deaths. Faculty from the colleges of Social Work and Public Health are leading the initiative's Community Engagement core and work with communities to identify and implement evidence-based interventions that will be most likely to reduce opioid overdose deaths given their local context, determine ways to strengthen connections of agencies involved in local coalitions, and work with communities to try and reduce stigma related to addiction and treatment.
- In collaboration with Ohio State's College of Pharmacy and Office of Student Life, the College of Social Work houses the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery (HECAOD). The HECAOD supports campuses nationwide to address collegiate substance misuse and supports students in recovery. Nationally, the HECAOD has trained over 1,500 campus professionals on prescription drug misuse, opiates and the use of Naloxone on campus.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

- Nationwide Children’s Hospital Injury Control Research Center (ICRC) funded a \$500,000 study to develop a greater understanding of the environmental and social mechanisms that support or hinder maltreating behaviors by parents, particularly as they relate to opioid overdoses, in Appalachian, rural, suburban, and urban areas. The study aims to understand the neighborhood structural mechanisms by which opioid overdoses are related to changes in substantiated rates of child abuse and neglect; identify ‘high’ and ‘low’ risk areas for child abuse and neglect; and investigate differences in resources, social cohesion, collective efficacy, and other neighborhood social processes that may contribute to neighborhoods doing better (or worse) than expected.
- A \$1.05 million research grant was awarded to faculty from the College of Social Work for intervention activities that take place in seven rural Appalachian counties in southern Ohio who have been disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis. The overall goal of the Empowering Communities to Reduce Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Rural Ohio (ECI) program is to reduce the number of fatal opioid overdoses in the intervention counties by increasing the number of take-home naloxone kits and increasing the number of certified peer recovery supporters.

TEACHING

- The College of Social Work offers nine courses on the assessment, prevention and treatment of addiction, including content related to opiates.
- An interdisciplinary minor in Substance Misuse and Addiction, developed by the College of Social Work, is largely available online to our Columbus and regional Ohio State campuses. This minor is a collaboration of the colleges of Social Work, Pharmacy, and Public Health, and the departments of Sociology, Human Development and Family Science, Food Science and Technology, Kinesiology, and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies. More than 240 students from across campus enrolled in this minor last year. Completion of the minor prepares students to test for state certification as substance abuse treatment providers.
- The Office of Continuing Education launched an asynchronous professional certificate course, Building Knowledge for Frontline Workers. Individual modules were also made available from the course and can be credited to the requirements for the certificate. To date, 710 people have completed individual modules and 14 people have completed the entire certificate course.
- Other trainings developed and offered as a result of a grant through Ohio MHAS:
 - MAT for Pregnant & Post-Partum Women
 - MAT: Opioid User Disorder- Overview & Pharmacological Treatment
 - Reducing harm with addiction clients using motivational interviewing and strengths based talk
 - ASAM Continuum of Care and Withdrawal Management
 - Stages of Recovery
 - Addiction 101- Fundamentals of Addiction
 - The Brain Science of Addiction
 - Recovery of Capital: Helping clients capitalize on their assets to sustain recovery.



- HECAOD and the Office of Continuing Education have coordinated the annual Ohio Prevention Conference (OPC) by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (Ohio MHAS) since 2019. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, programming transitioned to a virtual format with 23 trainings offered between June and the end of September, 2020. Over 5,000 professionals participated in at least one of 23 trainings on opioid and substance misuse prevention topics.
- Ohio MHAS also awarded HECAOD and the Office of Continuing Education funds to coordinate large-scale behavioral health workforce development trainings as part of the State Opioid Response efforts. Over 250 hours of training will be provided at no cost to behavioral health practitioners working to address opioid use disorders and support recovery during the month of September.
- In 2019, The Ohio State University College of Social Work received a \$1.35 million grant from Human Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to prepare the next generation of social workers interested in working with individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The Opioid Workforce Expansion Program (OWEP) will allow social workers the opportunity to gain additional skills through training, supervision and a targeted field practicum experience to prepare them to serve clients impacted by OUD. As part of this program, students will complete supplemental training and learning competencies during their field practicum. We have enrolled 48 students in the OWEP program and plan to train a total of 82 students by the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, the field education team and OWEP Manager have collaborated with at least 20 community agencies throughout Ohio and across the country to provide this group of students with an interdisciplinary setting to practice their knowledge and skills.

PREVIOUS WORK

RESEARCH

- The opioid epidemic has had an enormous impact on domestic violence (DV) agencies and survivors. Ohio's agencies serving DV survivors in a residential setting currently lack statewide guidance on better addressing the needs of survivors who struggle with opioid addiction, while also providing a safe and healing environment. A grant from the Opioid Innovation Fund allowed an interdisciplinary research team, in collaboration with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), to conduct a needs assessment-planning project to address opioid issues in service provision. Results indicate that shelters need universal guidelines to drive training and services to support DV survivors that accounts for the heightened threat presented by opioid addiction while taking into account that each shelter has unique experiences with DV survivors with opioid addiction and different community perspectives.
- The College of Social Work collaborated with the City of Columbus on the New American Initiative, which assessed the needs and availability of resources for immigrants and refugees in our community. In addition to providing city leaders information about the many different immigrant populations in Columbus and their need and access to services, our researchers evaluated the use of opiates and related problems within that community. Over 40% of responding providers reported substance use among the foreign-born communities they serve with 19% noting some form of opiate use. Given that only 28% of these mainly community-based providers listed substance use as part of their core services or expertise, organizational collaborations with a focus on culturally responsive evidence-based services is needed in the region.



- College of Social Work faculty received funding from the Franklin County ADAMH Board to conduct a pilot study to evaluate a smart-phone app focused on recovery for the Franklin County ADAMH Board. The study found that risk scores are the best predictor of substance use scores and participants at higher risk for substance use are good candidates for a recovery support application to assist in achieving and maintaining sobriety.
- College of Social Work faculty researched the relationship between the local availability of marijuana and the rates of opioid overdose deaths in California from 2012-16. This work found that densities of medical marijuana dispensaries were positively related to opioid use disorder and opioid poisonings in local areas, but negatively related to opioid misuse in spatially adjacent areas. Although state-level studies suggest that more liberal marijuana policies may result in fewer opioid overdose deaths, our results within one state suggest that local availability of medical marijuana may not reduce those deaths. The relationship appears to be more complex, possibly based on socioeconomic conditions within and adjacent to areas with higher densities of medical marijuana dispensaries.
- The Community Youth Collaborative Institute (CAYCI) in the College of Social Work collaborated with Cardinal Health to support local efforts to increase community prevention education about prescription drug misuse in youth. The team worked to develop tools and support the creation of the Cardinal Generation Rx evaluation system to document the progress and outcomes associated with grantee prevention education strategies in Tennessee, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

TEACHING

- The Integrated and Culturally Relevant Care Field Education Program was directed by the College of Social Work. This placement provided Master's in Social Work (MSW) students advanced field training in working with addiction at a Federally Qualified Health Center, including collaboration with providers who prescribe Vivitrol and Suboxone.
- The College of Social Work's Office of Continuing Education was awarded a grant funded by OhioMHAS to provide 25 Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) trainings to an estimated 1,875 health care professionals.

OUTREACH

- The College of Social Work partnered with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to bring "Operation Street Smart" to a variety of audiences. Our first session drew more than 150 participants, ranging from teachers and principals, to social workers and therapists, to nurses and guidance counselors from around the city. The goal of Street Smart is to teach trends in narcotic use in the community.
- In September 2017, the College of Social Work hosted a community engagement and action conference themed "Opiates, Addiction and Action: Building Recovery for Ohio." Three hundred people attended and an additional 300 people were on the waiting list. This conference provided best practices from across the state for addressing the opioid epidemic. The college will provide additional training to community practitioners on this topic in the upcoming months and will create a comprehensive post-graduate certificate program on the topic of opioids and addiction.



- In collaboration with the Ohio State's College of Pharmacy, two College of Social Work students developed an Opioid Overdose Family Support Toolkit to help families recognize the signs of trauma in children and how to help them. This toolkit was developed to address a gap from many practitioners about the lack of resources for families, especially children, who have witnessed or were aware of an overdose by a family member. In support of the toolkit, the students conducted a needs assessment, analyzed the results, and used that information to provide tools to help families who have experienced an opioid overdose.
- Two College of Social Work staff members were awarded a \$10,000 grant from Ohio State's Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The grant supported their proposal "Building Addiction Knowledge for Frontline Workers: Mobilizing for the Opioid Crisis," which included initial course development and preliminary data evaluation. The project created intensive online training modules on addiction (and in particular, opioids) that are delivered in small modules, easily accessed and evidence-based.
- Several College of Social Work staff members participated on the Franklin County Opioid Task Force to assist in implementing the Opioid Action Plan. Specifically, staff participated on the treatment subcommittee, working with other stakeholders to discuss innovative approaches to help ease the crisis.

