

Ross County Health District

2017-2018 Annual PDO Report



According to the Ohio Public Health data warehouse in 2017 Ohio's unintentional drug overdose deaths increased to 4,854. However, Ross County's unintentional overdose deaths decreased by 25% in 2017. Overdose deaths are trending down due to the increased availability of Narcan and community prevention education.

Collaborating with local community partners we are making a difference!



The Heroin Partnership Project was organized in fall of 2015 to address the opioid crisis in Ross County. The coalition organized and provided Trauma Informed Care training in March of 2018 for 140 participants. In the summer of 2018 the partnership initiated the development of a strategic plan.

2017-2018 Activities and Impacts

- In the first half of 2018, the Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) has received 185 overdose referrals and successfully provided visits to 61% of those victims, friends, and family. The Ross County PORT team was recognized for two special awards this year: the Ohio Crime Prevention Association's 2018 Special Project Award and the 2018 Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award for the Midwest Region presented by the National Criminal Justice Association.
- In 2017 all six Ross County high school participated in the Drug Free Clubs of America. On October 27th 2,300 students celebrated their drug free choice in a march through downtown Chillicothe. The rally received widespread media coverage of these students declaring their positive, "We Are Drug Free!" messaging.
- *Start Talking!*, Ohio's youth drug prevention initiative, was shared at; the regional school counselor's meeting, two high school basketball games, school nurses and annual 4-H advisor's meetings, elementary school parent-teacher conferences and literacy night.

Environmental, Systems and/or Healthcare Changes

- The percentage of Ross County prescribers integrated with OARRS increased 84% from 2017 to 2018.

- Entered into partnership with the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to initiate the use of ODMAP. First responders and the RCHD will receive real-time overdose surveillance data enabling prompt awareness of increased drug activity in our county.

Policy Development

- Ohio University-Chillicothe developed a policy providing access to on-site Narcan kits in each campus building.
- Adena Emergency Department developed a policy for dispensing Narcan to overdose victims presenting in their department.

Media/Public Outreach Efforts

- Digital bulletin boards were developed with Narcan messaging in three high traffic volume areas of Ross County.
- “Save a Life-Carry Naloxone” yard signs were provided for outreach in local businesses frequented by at-risk population in Ross County.
- An Overdose Prevention link was added to the health district’s website.

Notable Outcome

- Unintentional overdose deaths in Ross County decreased by 25% in 2017.

Ross County First Responder Effectiveness

