

# SFY 2014-15 Budget

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## Ending the Opiate Epidemic in Ohio

**Problem:** Abuse of prescription painkillers and use of heroin are damaging the lives of thousands of Ohioans, destroying families, and tearing apart communities. Both state and local entities are taking substantive steps to end the mass availability of narcotic painkillers and to ensure effective treatment options for people with addiction to opiates; however, to have a real impact on the problem, there is still much work to be done.

**Solution:** Throughout SFY 2014-15, the MHAS will continue a targeted effort to enhance physician education related to prescribing of narcotics; improve the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) to reduce doctor shopping; and create access and opportunity for medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction to provide the most effective care for a lifetime in recovery.

**Background:** The cross-systems efforts to attack the opiate epidemic in Ohio, led by Governor John Kasich, have resulted in a number of notable results. A few of the most significant are listed below:

- Worked with Medicaid during the Mid-Biennium Review to provide Medicaid coverage of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Ohioans receiving services from ODADAS provider agencies. This change will prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and other high-cost services.
- Opened up access to an injectable drug, Vivitrol, as another option of Medication-Assisted Treatment by adding the drug to the pharmacy benefit effective October 1, 2012.
- Formalized Medication-Assisted Treatment practice for the publicly-funded addiction treatment system.
- Created Ohio's first Family Engagement Network based on the Portsmouth SOLACE model of support and community education for families who lost someone to opiate addiction and overdose; 33 community groups are now part of the SOLACE Network.
- Launched the "Don't Get Me Started" social media and grassroots campaign to help prevent addiction and overdose from opiate use. <http://dontgetmestartedohio.org/>
- The overall numbers of opiate narcotic doses prescribed to Ohioans has dropped by an average of one dose per person from 2011 to 2012. That reduction is a step in the right direction.

**Executive Budget Proposal and Impact:** The Executive Budget clarifies that Ohio Medicaid "shall" (not "may") have access to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) and specifies that Medicaid is able to see information about prescriptions that were not paid for through Medicaid. This access will allow Medicaid to confirm that if a consumer is assigned to a specific provider through the coordinated services program to curtail prescription drug abuse, the provider is not allowing the recipient to receive controlled substances outside the Medicaid program.