Ohio is facing an alarming public health crisis related to opioid overdose deaths.

- In 2016, 4,149 Ohioans died of an unintentional drug overdose, fueled in large part by an increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths.
- The 2016 overdose death toll is 36% greater than 2015, when Ohio led the nation. 2017 is on target to outpace 2016.
- Past misuse of prescription opioids is the strongest risk factor for starting heroin use, with 3 out of 4 new heroin users reporting past misuse of prescription opioids before using heroin.

Overdose Deaths: The Tip of the Iceberg

People addicted

People misusing prescriptions & illicit drugs

 ODs

Hospital stays

Emergency Department visits

OHIO 4-H HEALTH HEROES

Medicine Cabinet Project

Armed with the facts about opioid use, and a desire to make a difference, a group of Ohio 4-H teens sat around a table during the action planning portion of the 2017 National Youth Summit on Healthy Living. From those discussions emerged what is now dubbed the "medicine cabinet display."

Held on December 2, 2017, teens and adults who work with them attended the Hope for Ohio: Teen Forum on Ohio’s Opioid Crisis.

ENGAGING YOUTH

Positive Youth Development in Action

Perhaps more important than the display and the forum themselves is the process of engaging teens in their creation and implementation. Research shows that youth programs offering the "Big Three" elements are those that promoted positive youth development (PYD). When these elements are in place, program outcomes are more likely to be achieved.

• Generation Rx
• phARming Effects, Youth to Youth International
• Practical Toolkit for Faith and Community Leaders, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Positive youth development is operationalized as the Five C’s: Confidence Competence Character Connection

When the Five C’s are in place, they lead to the sixth C – contribution. Youth who achieve these outcomes also have a reduced incidence of risk behavior.

Resources


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