

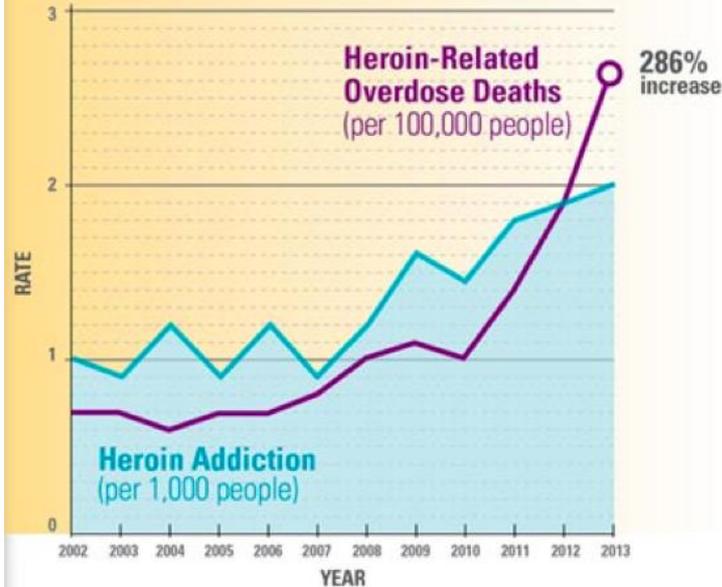
Hocking Co. Connection

Sarah Grim & Hanna Schlaack



Epidemiology at the National Level

Heroin Addiction and Overdose Deaths are Climbing

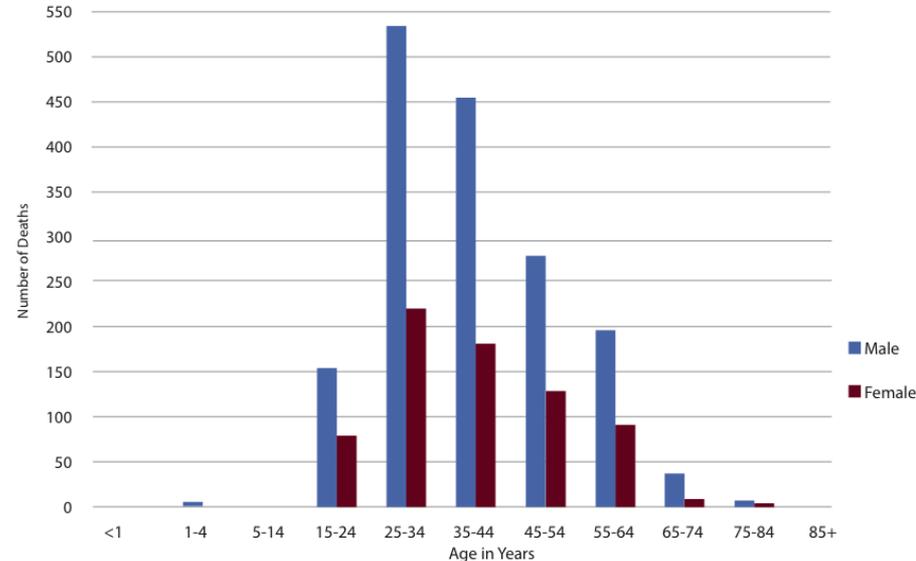


- Accidental overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States^[4]
- 20,101 deaths in 2015^[4]
- 2 million Americans had a substance use disorder in 2015^[4]
- Heroin use more than doubled in the past decade for ages 18-25^[5]
- 9/10 heroin users also use another drug
- 45% of heroin users are addicted to pain medication^[5]
- Women are most likely to be introduced to drug use by a sexual partner^[9]
- Men are most likely to be introduced by a friend^[9]

Epidemiology at the State Level

- 4,050 deaths in Ohio in 2016^[10]
- 32.8% increase from 2015^[10]
- Largest amount of drug users are in the 25-34 age range for males and females^[10]
- Males die at a much higher rate than females^[10]
- Prescription related opioid deaths have declined for the 5th straight year in Ohio^[10]
- 89% of deaths are among the white population^[7]

Figure 3: Fentanyl and Related Unintentional Overdose Deaths, by Age and Sex, Ohio, 2016

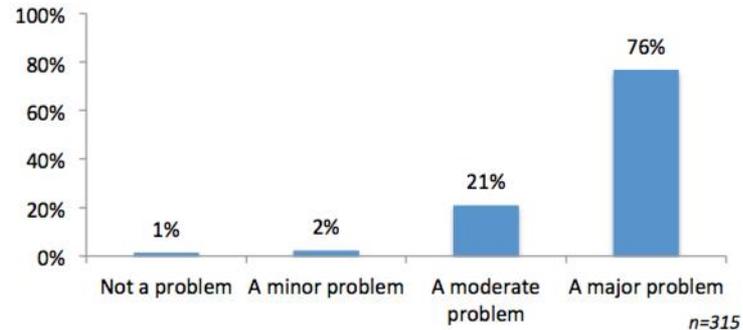


Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; analysis conducted by ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Program. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).

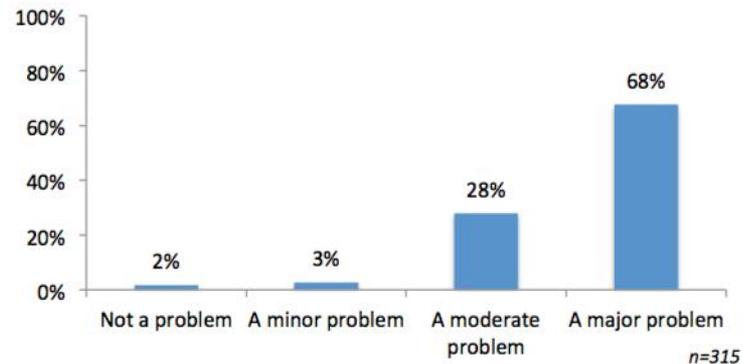
Epidemiology at the County Level

- 13.9 per 100,000 unintentional deaths^[1]
- 215 drug convictions per 100,000^[1]
- 76% of residents think heroin use is a major problem^[1]
- 68% of residents think prescription medication is a major problem^[1]
- 32% of residents feel sometimes, rarely, or never emotionally/socially supported^[1]

In your opinion, how much of a problem is heroin use in Hocking County?*



How much of a problem is the misuse of prescription pain medicine in Hocking County?*



What is Currently Being Done?

- 21st Century Cures Act:
 - Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction was awarded \$26 million and is focusing on 6 major areas including primary prevention and immediate access
 - They are currently funding 2 evidence-based public health solutions and a drug takeback program^[3]
- 317 Board:
 - Was awarded money through 21st Century Cures and is using it towards MAT
 - Connects people to mental health addiction services and assists in payment
 - Created Task Force that has created educational videos and held the largest town hall in Ohio
- Hocking County:
 - Identified addiction as one the most pressing health issues through CHIP
 - Objectives include: implement community wide education for adults about substance abuse and increase support groups for users, friends, and families
 - Distributes Project DAWN kits^[2]

Socio-Ecological Model

- Focusing on the personal and environmental factors that determine behaviors
- Based on the idea that interventions can be leveraged at the different hierarchal levels
- Most effective approach to public health prevention and control uses a combination of interventions at all levels



Our Intervention:

Hocking Co. Connector Corps

- Facilitate individual and small group outreach
 - Train community members to be certified community health workers
 - Partner with community stakeholders to fund practicum positions
 - Build relationships
-

The Connectors

- Trained advocates connected to the community they serve through culture, language, and residence
- Diverse corps will be recruited using social media, word of mouth, and posting to job boards
- Connectors will be representative of the community, particularly populations vulnerable to opioid use and misuse
 - Especially young men
- Goal: enroll 5 connectors per year
- Work in the community for 1 year after completing training

Their Responsibilities

- Complete 12 week CHWC program, Connector Corps Orientation, and monthly continuing education workshops during practicum
- Reach out to community members to make a network of contacts
 - Expected to make 20 unique connections a week
- Empower individuals to gain access to health and community resources through education, outreach, home visits, mentoring, and referrals
 - Identifying at-risk community members and providing support for them
 - Disseminating information related to drug misuse and recovery
- Facilitate small group meetings that will support the development of relationships between community members
- Speak to groups that request information, such as schools

Summary of Training

- Partner with Ohio University to enroll 5 connectors in their Community Health Worker Training Program
 - 14 week training program (estimated)
 - One of 14 CHW training programs approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing
 - Graduates eligible for certification once they have completed a practicum (130 hours)
- Overview of Curriculum
 - Health and wellness promotion
 - Cultural competency
- Place connectors in practicum positions at Hocking County Public Health
- Connectors will be paid \$10/hr during training and practicum
 - 1070 limited contract
 - Stipend during training program and practicum salary will be paid for through state/federal grants and partnerships with community stakeholders

Strengths of Hocking Co. Connector Corps

- Decrease new drug use through individual level outreach and fostering relationships
 - Increase access to existing pathways for opioid users to decrease/stop usage
 - Connector corps can be designed to specifically target at risk populations
 - Certified Connectors are a sustainable public health resource
-

SEM Connection

- **Outreaching to individuals**
 - Currently missing this component in current interventions
- **Working at the relationship level**
 - Most people are introduced to drug use through a sexual partner or close friend
 - Connectors will stimulate a network of positive relationships
- **Working at the community level**
 - Connectors will work to engage all members of the community and establish an environment where people will be better able to support one another
- **Recruiting Connectors from the community**
 - Community members will be more receptive to people familiar to them, who know and have lived their situation

Evaluation Plan- Outcome Measures

Micro

- Number of contacts made by Connectors
- Number of events hosted by Connectors with attendance of 5+ people
- Number of referrals made by Connectors

Macro

- Connector retention rate/successful completion of the program
- Stakeholder engagement/willingness to sponsor Connectors
- Community's attitude towards opioid usage in the community
- Rate of new drug usage

Resource Allocation

Connector Corps Program Director	\$22,500
Connector Salaries (5)	\$53,500
Equipment/Supplies	\$1,350
Other	\$1,500
Total Cost	\$78,850

- Training program is completely grant funded and will cover stipend/travel/supplies for students^[6]
- Plan to fund Connector salaries through community stakeholders
- Other costs funded through state/federal grants

Partnerships

Hocking County

317 Board Partners

Ohio University

Limitations and Mitigations

- There are barriers to individual outreach
 - Connectors know their community
- Attracting people to small group events is challenging
 - Encourage attendance with creative programming and food/other incentives
- Connectors must be committed
 - Receive training that they will benefit from after they finish the program
- A high level of investment is needed
 - Can serve as a model for addressing the opioid epidemic in other counties
 - Trained connectors based in Hocking County can serve in neighboring counties
 - The connector corps can adapt to meet community needs over time

Works Cited

Appendix ^[1]A, ^[2]B, and ^[3]C

^[4][ASAM, “Opioid Addiction 2016 Facts and Figures”](#)

^[5][CDC, “Today’s Heroin Epidemic”](#)

^[6][CHW Education Programs Grid](#)

^[7][Kaiser Family Foundation, “Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity”](#)

^[8][NCBI, “Outcomes of Community Health Worker Interventions”](#)

^[9][NCBI, “Substance Abuse in Women”](#)

^[10][Ohio Department of Health, “2016 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings”](#)