

# HANCOCK COUNTY OPIATE TASK FORCE

2015 ANNUAL REPORT  
October 21, 2015



**John Stanovich**  
Chairman

Dear Community,

The Hancock County Opiate Task Force was established in 2010 in response to the rise of prescription drug and opiate abuse. The mission of the Task Force is to respond to the needs of our community related to opiate abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment by:

- increasing public awareness;
- engaging the education, legislative, medical, and general communities; and,
- working collaboratively to develop and implement solutions that reduce the number of opiate related deaths, overdoses, and individuals in treatment; and to provide support for opiate addiction prevention and intervention strategies.

This year's annual report is designed to demonstrate:

- the areas of focus in 2015 and 2016 (page 2);
- significant data collected and used to monitor progress (page 3); and,
- the need for continued community engagement in order to fulfill the mission of the Task Force (page 4).

It is an honor to work with dedicated leaders and citizens of this community who tirelessly address opiate abuse. Our community is fortunate to have a strong network of individuals and organizations who are invested in improving the quality of life in Hancock County.

John Stanovich, Hancock County Opiate Task Force Chairman  
Assistant Dean of Pharmacy, The University of Findlay

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



**Craig Kupferberg**

Craig Kupferberg (Principal, Findlay High School) has been involved with the Task Force since its inception by serving as co-chair of the Education Committee from 2010-2015. His work with the committee led to several in-service opportunities for teachers to learn about prescription drug/opiate abuse and local prevention services. The prevention curriculum *Brain Power* was provided to all Findlay City and Hancock County school teachers and included lesson plans that aligned with state curriculum standards. The committee created a brochure that offered information on prescription/over-the-counter drug abuse and was distributed to every household in Hancock County with a child in grades 6-12. Craig assisted with efforts in the establishment of the I Am Enough Project, a county-wide, peer-led prevention organization aimed at promoting pro-social, drug-free activities for all youth. Without his leadership, the Task Force would not have been able to develop a strong, collaborative, and sustained relationship with the education system.



The Task Force is grateful for and fortunate to have a strong partnership with Findlay City and Hancock County Schools. Both organizations understand the importance of prevention and the need to provide appropriate interventions to ensure our youth have a safe, healthy, and prosperous future.

The administration, faculty, and staff are to be commended for their continued involvement in and promotion of the efforts of the Task Force.



# Hancock County Opiate Task Force

## 2015-2016 GOALS

### NALOXONE

Ohio House Bill 4 allows anyone to receive Naloxone (an opiate overdose antidote) who is at risk or knows someone who is at risk of experiencing an opiate overdose, without a prescription. The Findlay Health Department has a limited supply of Naloxone kits available to the community, free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis.

*The Task Force is working to increase the local supply of Naloxone and encourage all law enforcement personnel to carry Naloxone while on duty.*

### ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Hancock County has experienced a lower overdose death rate than other counties but any death is one too many. In order to determine what circumstances, or root causes, led to an overdose death, a team of community leaders, professionals, treatment providers, and health officials review each overdose death to inform local prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

*The Task Force is using information from these reviews to improve prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce the number of overdose deaths.*

### NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS)

NAS may occur when a newborn is exposed to opiate drugs while in the womb. Women who are expecting a child while struggling with an addiction require special care.

*The Task Force is working with Blanchard Valley Hospital to increase access to services that treat both the mother and child to ensure they are able to obtain a successful recovery.*

### SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT)

A trauma injury, such as falling off a ladder and breaking an arm, may actually be related to a more serious underlying cause, such as an alcohol or drug problem. SBIRT is a short question and answer process that surveys an individual's use of alcohol and/or other drugs which may reveal the need to address high-risk behaviors.

*The Task Force is working with local medical professionals, schools, and faith-based communities to adopt the use of SBIRT as part of regular practice.*

## HANCOCK COUNTY OPIATE TASK FORCE

### MEDICATION COLLECTION

A recent national study found that 60% of people aged 18 and older who used prescription pain relievers for non-medical use obtained them from family members or friends. To reduce the amount of potentially harmful medications accessible to adults and children for inappropriate use, communities are encouraged to offer medication disposal opportunities.

*The Task Force continues to provide semi-annual community medication collections and encourages the use of permanent medication collection boxes located at the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and Findlay Police Department.*

### OPIATE ADDICTION PREVENTION CURRICULUM

Ohio House Bill 367 requires all Ohio schools to include instruction on prescription opiate addiction prevention as part of health class curriculums.

*The Task Force is working with Findlay City and Hancock County Schools to provide support to ensure these requirements are met.*

### I AM ENOUGH PROJECT & START TALKING!

Youth and young adults have a unique ability to encourage and promote healthy behaviors among their peers. Additionally, research has shown a 50% reduction in the use of illicit substances if adults have conversations with youth about drugs. Together, these programs provide opportunities for peer-led prevention strategies and offer tools to assist adults in communicating with youth about drugs.

*The Task Force promotes and supports the mission and goals of these programs and assists in the implementation of program activities.*

### POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Changing and monitoring prescribing policy of opiate medication is an example of an effective environmental change that helps to reduce or prevent the possibility of addiction.

*The Task Force takes every opportunity to work with officials and legislators to suggest and promote policies and laws related to opiate addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. The Legislative Committee has been instrumental in the passage of several recent opiate-related bills.*

The Task Force has been aggressively working to inform the community of the risks associated with marijuana use, marijuana legalization, and Issue 3.

For more information, please visit [www.yourpathtohealth.org/marijuana-information/](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org/marijuana-information/)

## Hancock County Opiate Task Force COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

### COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Inform, educate, and advance the work of the Task Force and foster community engagement.

CHAIRS: **Mark Miller**, Hancock County Prosecutor; **Carla Benjamin**, The Findlay · Hancock County Alliance

### MEDICAL

Address issues concerning the entire medical system related to opiate abuse intervention, treatment, and recovery.

CHAIRS: **Dr. William Kose**, Blanchard Valley Health System; **Barbara Wilhelm**, Findlay Health Department

### EDUCATION

Provide professional development opportunities for the education system and promote opiate abuse prevention strategies.

CHAIR: **Rick Van Mooy**, Hancock County Educational Service Center

### LEGISLATIVE

Advance issues related to opiate abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery that can be addressed through legislation.

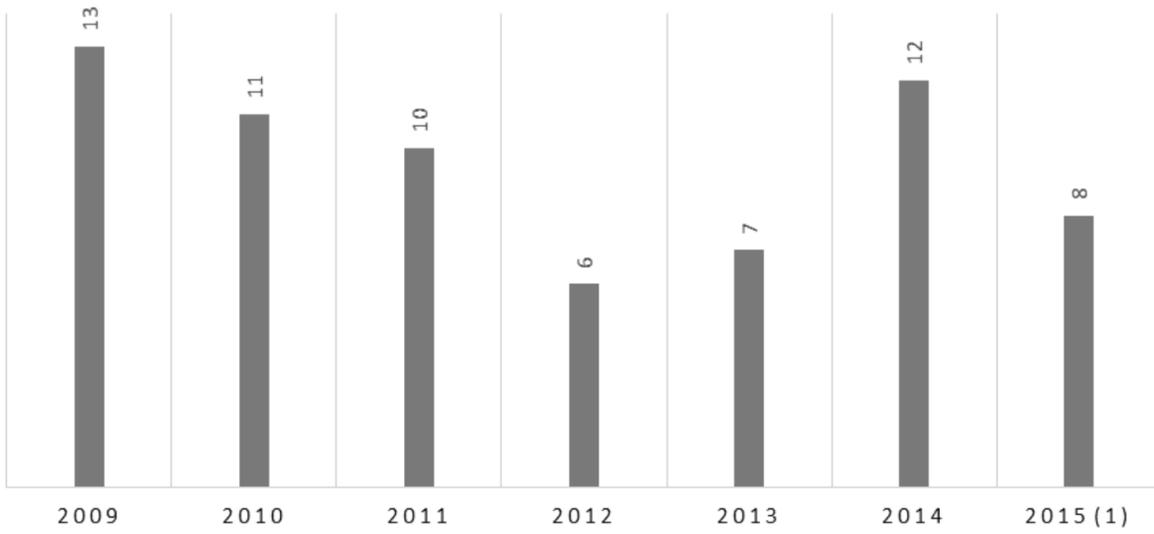
CHAIR: **Phil Riegle**, Hancock County Commissioner



# Hancock County Opiate Task Force DATABASE REPORTS

## HANCOCK COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS

■ OD Deaths



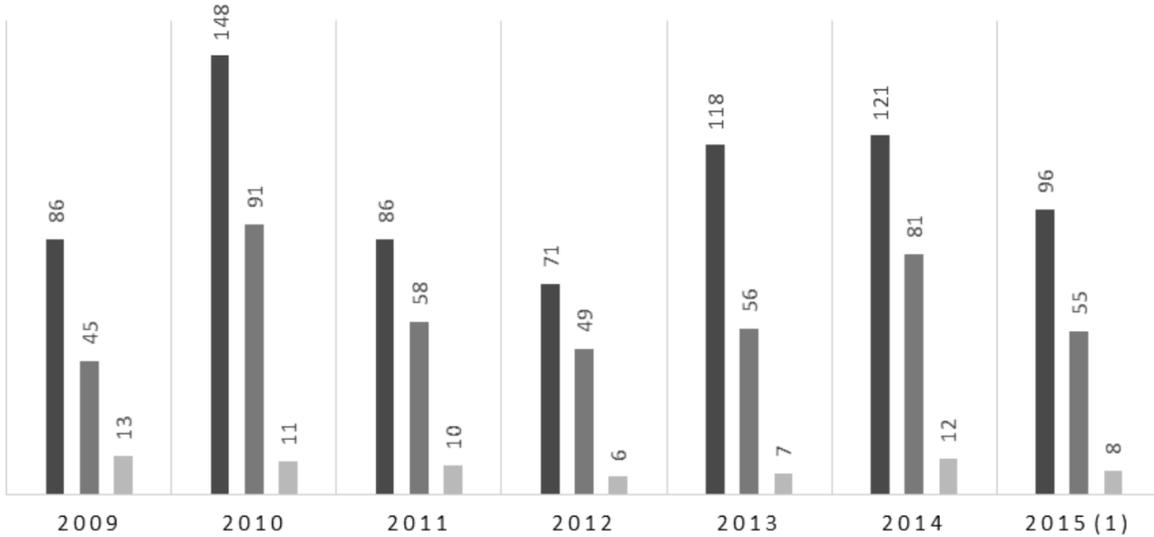
Unintentional drug overdoses resulted in 2,482 deaths in Ohio in 2014. This is the highest number of deaths of this kind on record.

(Ohio Department of Health, 9/24/15)

(1) 2015 Data: January 1-September 22

## HANCOCK COUNTY OVERDOSE DATA

■ OD Visits to ER ■ OD Hospital Admissions ■ OD Deaths



Fentanyl (a synthetic opiate more potent than heroin) has been observed being mixed with other commonly abused drugs, such as heroin.

(Ohio Department of Health 9/24/15)

(1) 2015 Data: January 1-August 31

## HANCOCK COUNTY ADULTS RECEIVING TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

■ All Drugs ■ Opiates



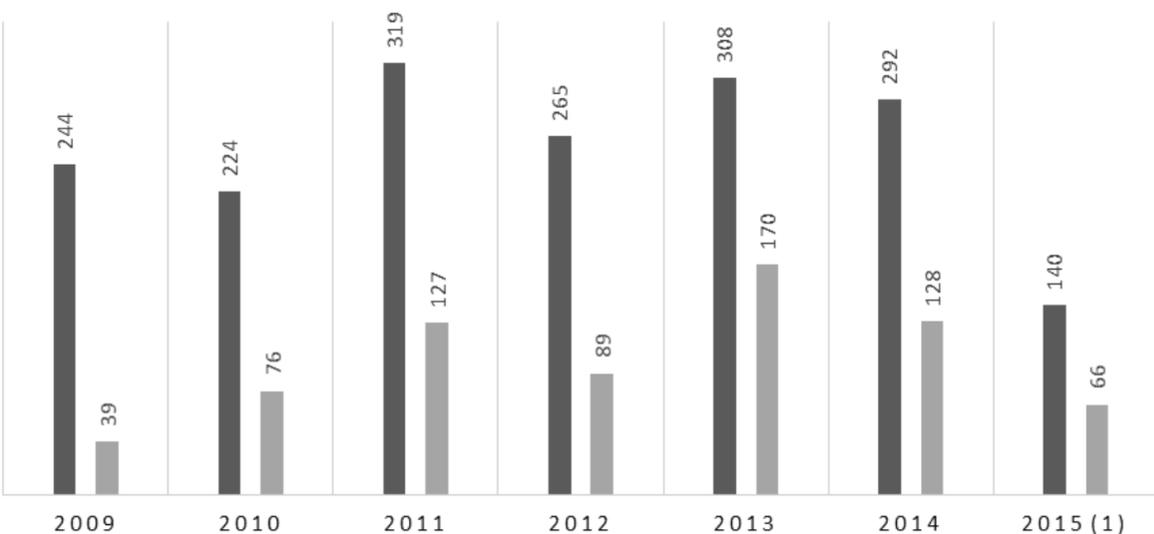
In 2014, 27 million people aged 12 or older used an illicit drug in the past 30 days, which corresponds to about 1 in 10 Americans.

(2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health)

(1) 2015 Data: Data reported on an annual basis.

## HANCOCK COUNTY JAIL ADMISSION DATA

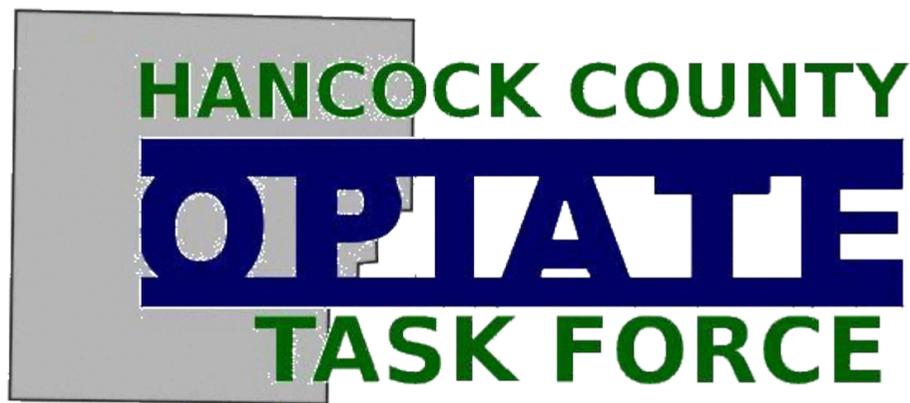
■ Due to All Drugs ■ Due to Opiates



Nationally, fentanyl drug reports based on law enforcement drug seizures increased by 300% from July 2013 to June 2014.

(Ohio Department of Health 9/24/15)

(1) 2015 Data: January 1-June 30



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*All progress moves at the speed of trust.* Dr. Stephen R. Covey

Every facet of our community is represented on the Task Force. Sectors include: Business; Volunteer/Social Service Organizations; Healthcare Professionals; Law Enforcement; Media; Parents; Religious Organizations; Schools; Local Government and Judicial System; Young Adults; Youth-Serving Organizations; Community Advocates; and, Individuals in Recovery.

Members of the Task Force believe opiate abuse must be addressed by all segments of our community to effectively create meaningful and lasting change. The Task Force has implemented an aggressive plan to reduce opiate-related health issues and success can only be achieved with persistent community involvement and mobilization.

The Task Force urges you to actively participate in its efforts:

- Become a member of one or more of the Task Force committees;
- Champion the work of the Task Force and promote its mission at your place of employment;
- Learn more about addiction, recovery, and how simple steps, such as properly removing unneeded medications from your home, can reduce the possibility of misuse; or,
- Have a conversation with your neighbor about the need to work together to help reduce drug overdose.

There are numerous ways to become a Community Advocate and rally behind the work of the Task Force. We encourage you to find what means of engagement is most appropriate for you.

For more information on how to become involved:

Call: Hancock County ADAMHS 419.424.1985

Email: Zach Thomas (Task Force Coordinator) [zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org](mailto:zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org)

Visit: [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org)

## OUR PARTNERS

*In order to own part of the solution, we must all own part of the problem.*

**Officer Doug Akers**, Findlay Police Department  
**Bethany Archer**, Van Buren Local Schools  
**Carla Benjamin**, The Findlay · Hancock County Alliance  
**Deborah Berlekamp**, The University of Findlay  
**Patrick Brzozka**, Hancock County Common Pleas Court  
**Dr. Brad Bundy**, Blanchard Valley Health System  
**Shawn Carpenter**, Hancock County Probate Court  
**Michelle Clinger**, Century Health, Inc.  
**Jim Darrach**, Trenton Chiropractic  
**Bruce Deppen**, Rader Environmental, Inc.  
**Barbara Dysinger**, Findlay City Schools  
**Jodi Garver**, Findlay City Schools  
**Tony Grotrian**, Community Advocate  
**Sheriff Michael Heldman**, Hancock County Sheriff  
**Officer Chris Huber**, Findlay Police Department  
**Chief Greg Horne**, Findlay Police Department  
**Don Iliff**, Rhodes State College  
**Joyce Jackson**, The University of Findlay  
**Judge Kristen Johnson**, Hancock County Probate Court  
**Dr. William Kose**, Blanchard Valley Health System  
**Craig Kupferberg**, Findlay City Schools  
**Patrick Malone**, The University of Findlay  
**Chad McClain**, Hancock County Common Pleas Court  
**Michelle McGraw**, Blanchard Valley Health System  
**Michael Milks**, The University of Findlay

**Mark Miller**, Hancock County Prosecutor  
**Craig Niese**, Findlay Health Department  
**Laura Perry**, The University of Findlay  
**Tina Pine**, Century Health, Inc.  
**Joe Rader**, Rader Environmental, Inc.  
**Jenn Reese**, Blanchard Valley Health System  
**John Richey**, The University of Findlay  
**Phil Riegle**, Hancock County Commissioner  
**Troy Roth**, Findlay City Schools  
**Angy Shaferly**, C.H.O.I.C.E.S.  
**Dr. Patricia Shawberry**, Century Health, Inc.  
**Bradley Shinn**, The University of Findlay  
**John Stanovich**, The University of Findlay  
**Nancy Stephani**, Century Health, Inc.  
**Brittany Strasbaugh**, Blanchard Valley Health System  
**Pat Sudlow**, Community Advocate  
**Kimberly Switzer**, Hancock County Common Pleas Court  
**Rick Van Mooy**, Hancock County Educational Service Center  
**Mark Vehre**, Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio, Inc.  
**Tina Verhoff**, Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio, Inc.  
**Barbara Wilhelm**, Findlay Health Department  
**Ginny Williams**, The University of Findlay  
**Traci Willis**, The University of Findlay  
**Tracy Willoughby**, Community Advocate  
**Chad Yoakam**, State of Ohio Medical Board