



The G.A.P. Network

A program of Prevention Action Alliance

Remember Thousands of Grieving Parents in Opioid Crisis: Editorial Page Editor

Bill Sternberg, USA TODAY Editorial Page editor, Hopes That Talking About His Son's Death Can Help Others (6 Min. Video)



Mother Who Lost 2 Sons in 1 Day to Opioids: Give Kids a Life-Saving Exit Strategy

Rebecca Savage lost her two honor-student high school graduates on June 14, 2015 after coming home from a graduation party.

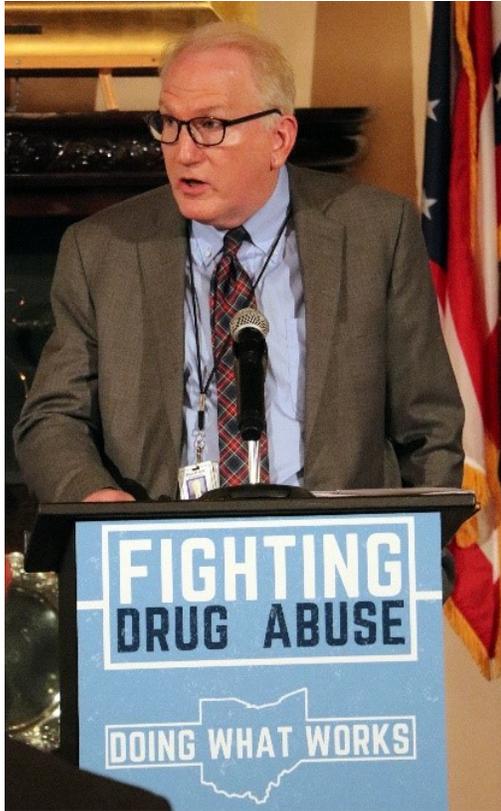
Her sons ages were 18 and 19. They said yes at a party where someone offered them prescription pills.

She wants to help teens find a way to say no when they're offered drugs of any kind. Savage recently raised the profile of her advocacy work by partnering with [Walgreens and their Safe Medication Disposal Program](#).

[Read the USA Today Article Here!](#)

[Website: Walgreens Safe Medication Disposal Program](#)

Ohio Prescription Opioid Deaths Hit Eight-Year Low, Heroin Deaths Four-Year Low



Prescription opioid-related overdose deaths have reached an eight-year low and heroin-related overdose deaths are at a four-year low, according to a [new report](#) released Thursday by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

The ODH report highlighted that the number of overdose deaths decreased during the last 6 months of 2017 by 23 percent.

"The good news is Ohio is seeing significant progress in reducing the number of prescription opioids available for abuse," Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Mark Hurst, M.D. said. "This progress is significant because prescription opioid abuse is frequently a gateway to heroin and fentanyl use."

[Read Full ODH Report Here!](#)

(Left) Dr. Hurst speaking to Ohio community coalitions and prevention specialists at Coalitions Rising hosted by Prevention Action Alliance.



Community Vibrancy Meetings Begin Across the State



What would your community look like if it was thriving for everyone? That's the question **Your Voice Ohio** began asking Ohioans across the state this week.

- What challenges are our communities struggling with?
- What strengths and assets exist in our communities to help grow the economy and make communities more vibrant for all?
- What action, ideas and solutions do we need to start exploring?

Members of local media will host and attend the meetings, listening to your stories and ideas to identify smart, shared, and sustainable solutions to the struggles facing folks across Ohio.

Stow: Tuesday, October 2, 6:00 pm. [RSVP](#)
Cleveland: Wednesday, October 3, 6:00 pm. [RSVP](#)
Euclid: Thursday, October 4, 6:00 pm. [RSVP](#)

[Visit Your Voice Ohio Website](#)

Libraries and Harbor Behavioral Health Team Up for Opioid Education Programs

Harbor



Funded by the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County

Harbor, with funding from the Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, has engaged in an initiative to address the heroin and opiate public health crisis in Lucas County. Read more from the link buttons below!

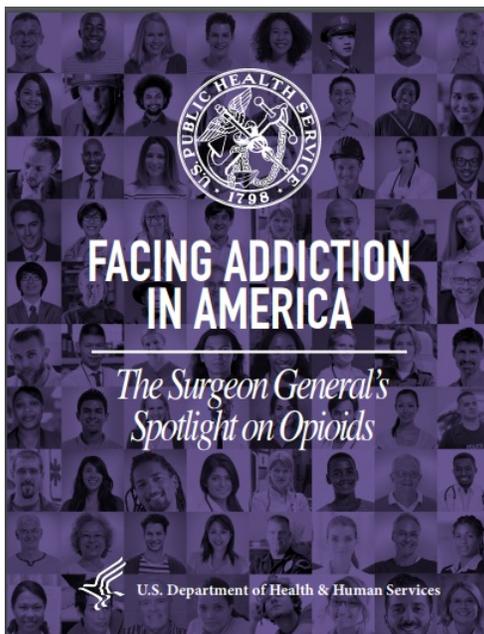
[Learn More at Harbor Website!](#)

[Read Toledo Blade News Article](#)

[Visit the Event's Facebook Page](#)

Surgeon General Releases Spotlight on Opioids: Facing Addiction in America

"Addiction is a brain disease that touches families across America – even my own," said U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams. "We need to work together to put an end to stigma."



On September 20th, 2018, the Surgeon General's report calls for a cultural shift in Americans conversations about the opioid crisis and recommend actions that can begin to eradicate stigma from the topic of substance use disorder. We encourage all Ohioans to read this report. Everyday, we can learn more about how we can play our role in prevention.

According to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths in 2017 increased by almost 10 percent—claiming the lives of more than 70,000 American. [\(Source\)](#)

The science shows us that no area of the United States is exempt from the opioid crisis. However, only 53 percent of the public consider opioid addiction a major concern. As a result, the Surgeon General is calling on all individuals to do the following:

- Talk about opioid misuse. Have a conversation about preventing drug misuse and overdose.
- Be safe. Only take opioid medications as prescribed, make sure to store medication in a secure place, and dispose of unused medication properly.
- Understand pain and talk with your healthcare provider. Treatments other than

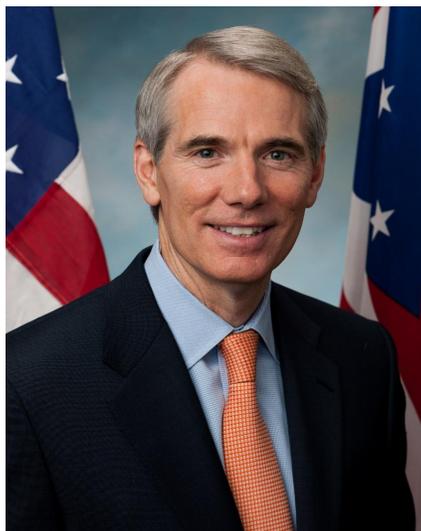
opioids can be effective in managing pain.

- Understand that addiction is a chronic disease. With the right treatment and supports, people do recover.
- Be prepared. Get and learn how to use naloxone, an opioid overdose reversing drug.

Report: Facing Addiction in America

Website: Surgeon General: Facing Addiction in America

Senate passes opioid, prescription drug bills pushed by Ohio senators



On September 17th, 2018, the Senate passed a bipartisan opioid bill. Read the article below for more information.

The Columbus
Dispatch
dispatch.com

[Read the Full Article Here!](#)

Ohio Kids Flood Foster Care System as Opioid Addiction Rates Rise—Concerns of Trauma and Neglect Rise

Ohio's Public Children's Services Association is reporting a continuing "alarming" rise in children removed from their parents.

According to Scene, in Ohio, "more than 15,500 children are living in foster care. That's a substantial increase from 12,600 or so in 2013." By 2020, authorities estimate that there will be 20,000 children in care if this trend continues.

Some parts of Ohio are impacted more than others. In Hamilton County, the statistics reveal that the number of children entering foster care system: 2,515 in 2015 to 3,556 in 2017 alone, nearly a 42-percent jump, according to statistics from the county. [\(Source\)](#)

According to CBS, federal government statistics the number of children entering foster care has increased by 13% in recent years. More than 430,000 children are in foster care.

That number would be higher if it weren't for grandparents stepping in.

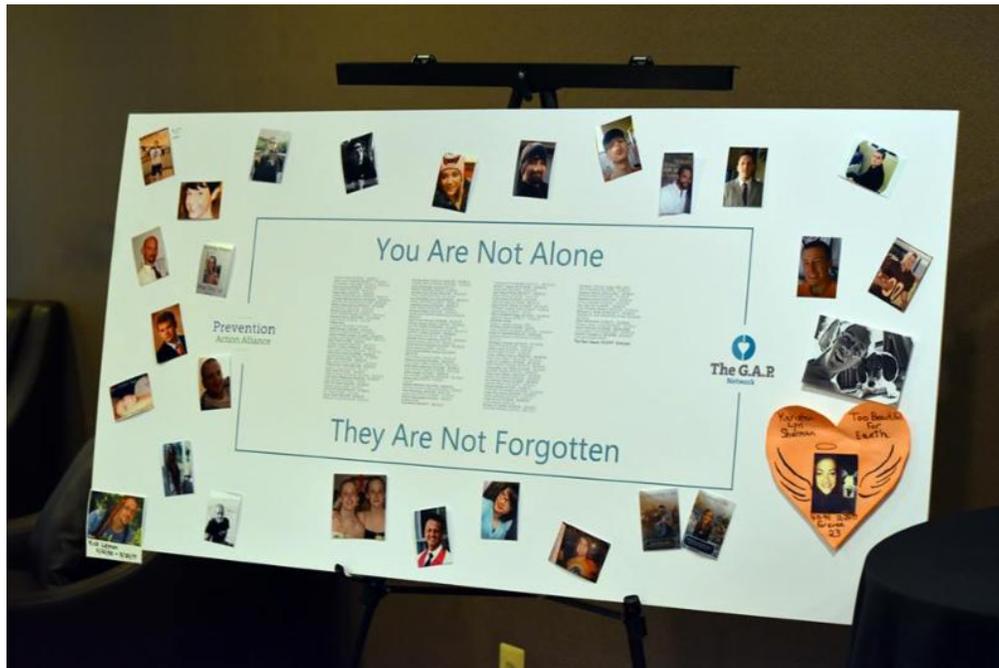
[Read Cincinnati Enquirer Article Here!](#)

[Read Scene Article Here!](#)

[Read CBS Article Here!](#)

Memorial Banner

The opioid epidemic has devastated Ohio. Currently, 14 Ohioans each day are passing away due to substance misuse, and each one of them is loved by someone. You are not alone in your grief. Here we remember those people as the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters that they were. They are not forgotten. If you would like to make a submission to the Memorial Banner, please contact Tyler Begley at tbegley@preventionactionalliance.org.



[Memorial Banner Web Page](#)



Questions? Comments Suggestions?

[Click here to email Prevention Action Alliance](#)

Prevention Action Alliance
