

MEDICAID EXPANSION:

Its Critical Role in Ohio's Response to the Addiction Crisis

INNOVATION OHIO

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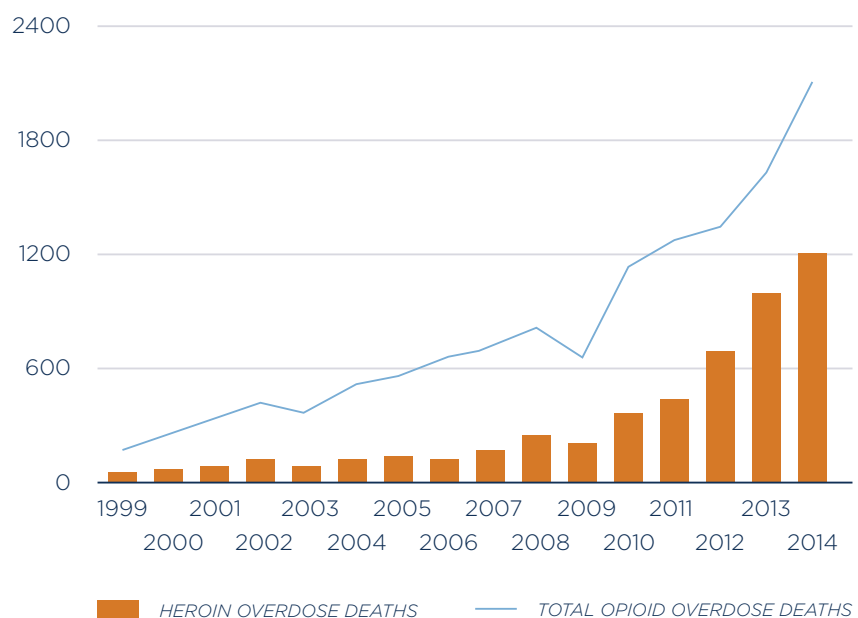
Its Critical Role in Ohio's Response to the Addiction Crisis

Ohio expanded Medicaid in 2014 to provide healthcare coverage to low-income individuals (earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level). In a short period of time, Medicaid expansion has played an enormously important role in the treatment of the growing problem of opiate addiction in Ohio.

- Approximately 226,000 Ohioans in the Medicaid expansion population have been diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder.
- The Kasich administration estimates that Medicaid provides \$650 million in substance abuse treatment in Ohio each year.
- Nearly half (49.5%) of the prescriptions for addiction treatment medication in Ohio are paid for by Medicaid (IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics).

The opioid epidemic has been ongoing in Ohio for many years, but overdose rates have accelerated recently with a 600% increase since 2008. A recent survey of county coroners by the Columbus Dispatch showed the state had experienced over 4,149 overdose deaths in 2016 - an increase of 36% from the previous year. Most of these deaths were opioid related. The state led the United States in opioid related deaths in 2015 with 3,3681.

OHIO HEROIN AND TOTAL OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS



Source: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

A new source of financial support for addiction prevention and treatment could not come at a better time, as far as the frontline agencies dealing with the addiction crisis are concerned. In their annual filings with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio's 51 local addiction services boards made expressly clear the importance of this policy change:

COUNTY BOARDS ON MEDICAID EXPANSION

“Only with the addition of Medicaid Expansion, have services been available to many of the families high on the poverty scales.”

Adams, Lawrence, Scioto Counties Alcohol, Drug Addiction Mental Health Services Board

“The importance of Medicaid expansion for addressing the behavioral health needs of vulnerable people cannot be overstated.”

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board Serving Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties

“Medicaid expansion has been very helpful in allowing clients, who may not have received services or received very limited services, to seek treatment.”

Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

“It should be noted that the strengthening of the system could not have been accomplished without the expansion of Medicaid. Should this policy be reversed, the Board would be unable to maintain the system of care as it is currently being developed.”

Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services

“Medicaid expansion was a significant help for the citizens of Mahoning County, the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board, as well as Mahoning County provider agencies. With Medicaid expansion, agencies have been able to serve a larger number of consumers of treatment services.”

Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board

“Medicaid Expansion had a positive impact on service coverage for individuals suffering from mental illness and/or addictions.”

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties

Further, most boards indicate that the expansion has allowed them to redirect funds they would otherwise use to care for the indigent toward a full range of services to address the crisis:

MANY NEW ADDICTION SERVICES ADDED THANKS TO EXPANDED MEDICAID

“Medicaid expansion has allowed us to utilize dollars that would have been spent on indigent care in other areas of importance such as recovery housing, recovery coaching, crisis stabilization, and access.”

Mental Health & Recovery Services Board—Allen, Auglaize, Hardin

“Medicaid expansion has also enabled the Board to increase access to Medication Assisted Treatment and to pilot a program entitled the Forensic Partnership Recovery Program (FPRP). The FPRP is a Medication Assisted Treatment using naltrexone for individuals with an opiate addiction who are involved with Ashtabula County Adult Probation, have not completed successfully other episodes of treatment and are not eligible for the Adult Drug Court.”

Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

“[Medicaid expansion] has allowed us to utilize the proceeds to develop new services in our catchment area such as Recovery Housing, expand our Prevention Services, and institute some additional ancillary services such as Therapeutic Mentoring. We have also been able to contract for needed SUD services such as detoxification and residential services, especially for men (since we routinely only had Women’s Recovery Center available for the past several years).”

Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties

“Medicaid expansion has enabled the MHRS Board to redirect some of its resources to recovery coaching, employment services, residential treatment for adults with substance use disorders, supporting and promoting evidence-based practices, and housing.”

Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

“Medicaid expansion has allowed us to redesign and open new services arrays in our system. We are opening 24/7 recovery homes, introducing peer specialists into our system, expanding MAT services and redesigning our delivery system in a major way.”

Tri-County Board of Recovery & Mental Health

“As more Franklin County residents obtain insurance coverage for mental health and addiction treatment services through Medicaid expansion or the ACA marketplace, the demand for ADAMH-paid treatment services is beginning to decline. This transition is allowing ADAMH to increase investments in much needed prevention, evidence-based programs, crisis care and recovery supports (residential, vocational, intervention, etc.) that are not covered by Medicaid.”

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County

“Medicaid expansion has allowed the MCMHRB to focus on Non-Medicaid eligible services such as recovery support services and prevention. This has allowed the MCMHRB to provide rental assistance for persons entering recovery (or sober) housing, services in the Mahoning County Justice Center and Community Corrections Associations, Inc. (local community based correctional facility), services for the Mahoning County courts and peer support at the Community Center (a local drop in center). It has allowed the Board to provide greater assistance to our agencies for capital needs.”

Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board

“The dollars saved through Medicaid expansion are being re-invested to meet the new statutory requirements in ORC CH. 340 including the creation of ambulatory withdrawal management, a 24/7 crisis response for those experiencing a Narcan Rescue, targeted treatment and supportive services for opiate addicted pregnant women, a Narcan Repository for law enforcement departments to ensure they can access if their department chooses to carry Narcan, and expansion of recovery housing services.”

ADAMHS Board for Montgomery County

“We are also shifting funds that are saved from Medicaid expansion into our continuum of care to pay for other services, such as increased residential costs for children and adolescents.”

Preble County Mental Health & Recovery Board

“Our Board was able to redirect some funding towards recovery support services such as recovery housing, transportation, peer recovery coaches, peer recovery group, and reentry services.”

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties

“Medicaid expansion has led to additional local funding to support non-Medicaid aspects of treatment services, recovery services and supports, and prevention services.”

Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR)