

# Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS)

## January Newsletter

### **KHA to Host Leading into Quality: What Executive Teams Need to Know**

On December 20, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the CYE 2022 Hospital Rate Improvement Program (HRIP) for Kentucky!

On January 27, 2022, KHA will host the Leading into Quality: What Executive Teams NEED to KNOW conference in Lexington. You are encouraged to attend with your entire executive team to hear from national experts and help KHA kick off the Hospital Rate Improvement Program (HRIP) Quality Program. Part of the HRIP quality initiatives will include KY SOS metric 2b.

[Please click here for brochure and registration.](#)

### **Harm Reduction Grant Program**

Application Due Date: February 7, 2022

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting applications for the first-ever **SAMHSA Harm Reduction grant program** and expects to issue \$30 million in grant awards. This funding, authorized by the American Rescue Plan, will help increase access to a range of community harm reduction services and support harm reduction service providers as they work to help prevent overdose deaths and reduce health risks often associated with drug use. SAMHSA will accept applications from State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, Tribal organizations, non-profit community-based organizations, and primary and behavioral health organizations.

This funding opportunity will provide support to those working in their communities to reduce the harms of drug use. Providing funding and support for innovative harm reduction services is a key pillar for the first time in the multi-faceted Health and Human Services' [overdose prevention strategy](#) announced in October. This funding allows organizations to expand their community-based overdose prevention programs in a variety of ways, including distributing overdose-reversal medications and fentanyl test strips, providing overdose education and counseling, and managing or expanding syringe services programs, which help control the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C.

For more information, [click here](#).

### **Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center's (KIPRC) Report on Kentucky Resident Inpatient Hospitalizations for Nonfatal Drug Overdoses, 2016-2020**

This report presents the burden of inpatient hospitalizations due to nonfatal drug overdoses among Kentucky residents from 2016 -2020.

Significant findings include:

- The number of statewide inpatient hospitalizations for all nonfatal drug overdoses in Kentucky in 2020 was approximately equal to the number in 2019. The number of hospitalizations for a stimulant overdose decreased slightly from 2019 to 2020, while the number of hospitalizations for an opioid overdose increased over that same period.
- The number of nonfatal drug overdose ED visits involving synthetic opioids increased in 2020 by 26.4%. Admissions for nonfatal drug overdoses involving heroin also increased from 2019 to 2020, though the percent increase (19.5%) was not as high as that for synthetic opioids. Annual admissions for nonfatal drug overdoses involving other drug types either decreased or remained approximately equal from 2019 to 2020.
- In 2020, the five Kentucky counties with the highest age-adjusted rates for nonfatal drug overdoses were Anderson, Kenton, Mercer, Carter, and McCreary.

The report can be found [here](#).

### **KIPRC's December Newsletter**

KIPRC's December newsletter has tons of resources relating to overdose prevention, fentanyl test strips how-to, data articles and information on Kentucky's next Overdose Data 2 Action Community Summit coming up on **January 27, 2022, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST**.

To access the full newsletter, click [here](#).

### **Join KORE's Anti-Stigma Campaign**

KORE is launching a statewide initiative with Shatterproof and the Public Good Projects to reduce stigma associated with opioid use disorder (OUD). Community-based organizations will play a key role in forming an information campaign designed to educate the public on the impact of addiction. If you or your organization is interested in being a part of this effort, a link to the assessment form can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact Beth Fisher, [beth.fisher@ky.gov](mailto:beth.fisher@ky.gov)

## Kentucky Statewide Addiction Stigma Reduction Campaign

The Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE), in partnership with Shatterproof—a national nonprofit dedicated to ending the addiction crisis in the United States—is implementing a 15-month evidence-based addiction stigma reduction campaign throughout the state of Kentucky. The National Stigma Initiative at Shatterproof uses research-based practices to work alongside state government and community organizations to eliminate the stigma and discrimination faced by those with opioid use disorders (OUD). Despite decades of action from nonprofits, healthcare providers, those with lived experience, and government agencies, **stigma remains one of the largest and most persistent drivers of negative outcomes for those struggling with addiction.**

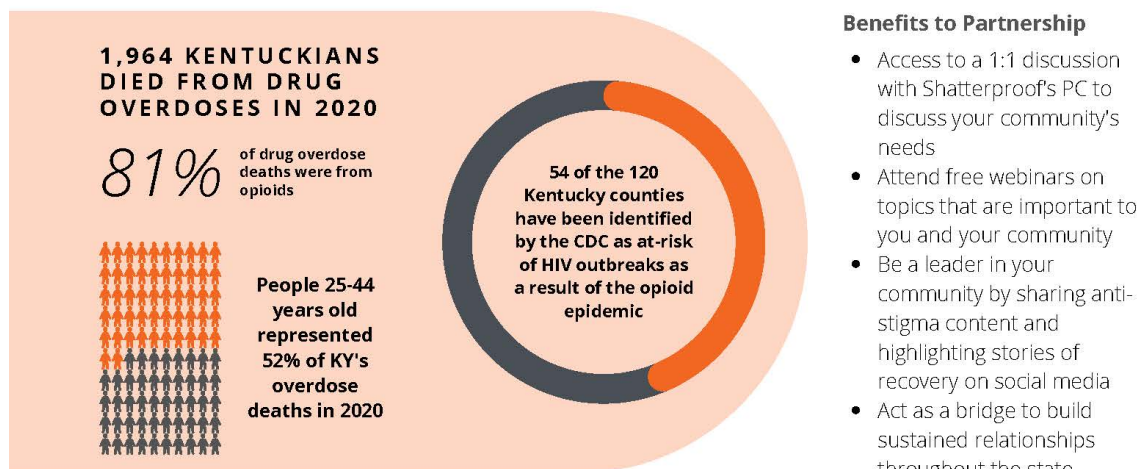
This evidence-based approach to statewide stigma reduction is unique in that it:

1. Strengthens the capacity of community-based organization (CBOs) via monthly webinars;
2. Leverages CBOs as a trusted channel to disseminate evidence-based campaign collateral;
3. Educates the public using stories of recovery from individuals in their community; and
4. Evaluates the public health campaign at the beginning and end of the intervention.

### Community-Based Organizations' Role in Kentucky's Stigma Reduction Campaign

Recruiting and actively engaging community-based organizations (CBOs) to disseminate campaign messaging around OUD is essential to changing knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of the general public at scale.

Shatterproof relies on CBOs to foster relationships within the community and provide insight into the current state of addiction stigma in Kentucky. CBOs have invaluable ties to community members, and Shatterproof recognizes that CBOs are critical to the success of the campaign and ultimately, reducing stigma. Thus, Shatterproof's Program Coordinator (PC) will depend on CBOs' existing networks to endorse the campaign within the community and catalyze the impact.



[Additional Resources on KY SOS Website](#)

- Find Help Now KY is a website used to assist individuals in the community find an addiction treatment facility. For more information, visit the website at [www.findhelpnowky.org](http://www.findhelpnowky.org)
- Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) has funded access to treatment and recovery for individuals who have a functional hearing loss and need effective communication. The guidelines can be found on the KY SOS website or click the link to be directed: <http://www.kentuckysos.com/Portals/2/Documents/KOREGuidelinesDeafHardofHearingAccessdoc.pdf>
- All other KY SOS resources can be found at <http://www.kentuckysos.com/Resources>

## Data Update

KY SOS continues to encourage all facilities to submit their monthly data into KY Quality Counts (KQC). Please continue to report **monthly** data on both the process and outcomes measures. Education and the future of the program are based in part on the data reported. Areas of improvement and areas of success will be highlighted and emphasized as KY SOS continues. If you need assistance with data input or navigation of the KQC data collection system, please contact **Emily Henderson** ([ehenderson@kyha.com](mailto:ehenderson@kyha.com)) or **Melanie Moch** ([mmoch@kyha.com](mailto:mmoch@kyha.com)).

## The Happenings

### *Upcoming Events/Webinars*

- **KY SOS January Webinar** - Dr. Alex Elswick will present a webinar on **Tuesday January 18, 2022, from 11:00 am – 12:00 PM EST**. The webinar is entitled, This is Your Brain on Recovery. Calendar invites have been sent out. Below is the zoom information for the webinar.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87196175844?pwd=NXNwVnNgrS09IRVk1R01GYkVQVknWdz09>  
Meeting ID: 871 9617 5844  
Passcode: 2501

**For more information, please visit [www.kentuckysos.com](http://www.kentuckysos.com) or contact a KHA staff member to assist.**

Emily Henderson for program and pharmacy-related questions– [ehenderson@kyha.com](mailto:ehenderson@kyha.com)

Melanie Moch for data-related questions – [mmoch@kyha.com](mailto:mmoch@kyha.com)

Claire Arant for administrative assistance – [carant@kyha.com](mailto:carant@kyha.com)

*Missed a webinar? All presentations are recorded and can be found under the events & education link.*