



Working to Reduce the Number of Opioid Prescriptions in Kentucky by One-Third by 2025

July 2021

### KY SOS Links

- [About KY SOS](#)
- [Events & Education](#)
- [Standards](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Contact Us](#)



KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and  
Family Services



HealthCare



### Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS) July Newsletter

#### 2021 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit

Registration for the 2021 KY Harm Reduction Summit scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> is NOW OPEN at <http://www.cecentral.com/HRS> - see the attached "Register Now" flyer for this online, live stream conference.

- Please note that "Exclusive items will be mailed to the first 500 registered participants."*

We have a very exciting agenda and are looking forward to meeting with you virtually via Zoom in August! Continuing Education Credits will be offered for the following:

- Attorneys (CLE)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CADC)
- Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES)
- Community Health Workers (CHW)
- Emergency Medical Services Workers (EMS)
- Nurses (ANCC)
- Pharmacists (ACPE)
- Physicians (AMA)
- Registered Environmental Health Specialists/Registered Sanitarians (REHS/RS)
- Social Workers (ASWB ACE)

Contact Kyndall Raburn, Public Health Associate, at (502) 892-8022 or at [kyndall.raburn@ky.gov](mailto:kyndall.raburn@ky.gov) if you have any questions. *Note: There is no charge for attending this two-day, virtual conference.*

#### New Finding on Opioids Prescribed to Patients in the United States is Higher Than Other Countries

The Journal of the American College of Surgeons conducted a new study that found surgery patients in the United States received a disproportionately higher amount of opioids than other countries. The article is titled "Pain or No Pain, We Will Give you Opioids: Relationship between Number of Opioids Pills Prescribed and Severity of Pain after Operations in US vs Non-US Patients," and can be found here: [https://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515\(20\)32336-X/fulltext](https://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515(20)32336-X/fulltext)

#### KY SOS is Hiring!

KY SOS is hiring an Inpatient Pharmacy Consultant to provide support to KY SOS as the program continues to grow! This is a part-time contract position with responsibilities that include, but not limited to, promoting hospital participation, hosting educational webinars and providing technical assistance as requested by hospitals. A full job description can be found [Here](#).



The goal for the community is to create a plan of action to respond to these barriers.

If you are interested in Joining a Coalition to Transform Care in Your Community please reach out to:

Kayla Roe: [kroe@kyha.com](mailto:kroe@kyha.com)

Charles Kendell: [ckendell@kyha.com](mailto:ckendell@kyha.com)

Emily Henderson: [ehenderson@kyha.com](mailto:ehenderson@kyha.com)

Melanie Moch: [mmoch@kyha.com](mailto:mmoch@kyha.com)

### **Baptist Health and Mercy Health Partner with Purchase District Health Department to Distribute Narcan to At-Risk Patients**

Editor's note: Public Health Director Kent Koster, Baptist Hospital's pharmacy director Laura Madison and Lourdes Hospital's community health director Leigh Ann Ballegeer are available for interview.

(PADUCAH; July 8, 2021) – Baptist Health Paducah and Mercy Health – Lourdes Hospital have partnered with the Purchase District Health Department to distribute Narcan nasal spray to at-risk patients as they leave the hospital.

Narcan is an emergency treatment for opioid overdose and can help reverse the symptoms of an overdose and prevent death.

Lourdes Hospital received 300 doses of the nasal spray and Baptist Health received 200. Both hospitals have access to more Narcan as needed. The hospitals are giving the spray out for free to patients who are leaving the hospital or emergency department following an overdose. Each patient receives two doses – one for themselves and one for a close friend or family member to have – as well as education on how to use the spray and reduce the risk of overdose.

“Narcan is a lifesaving medication. By working with Baptist Health and Mercy Health we are able to provide a tool that not only saves a life, but also let's that person know that we do care and we are here for them when they are ready. While today we are putting Narcan in the hands of those that need it most, eventually we hope to see it in everyone's first aid kits,” said Kent Koster, Public Health Director, Purchase District Health Department.

“Opioids are a common drug of abuse because as depressants, they have sedative effects that result in decreased anxiety and a calming feeling,” said Laura Madison, pharmacy director of Baptist Health Paducah. “Having Narcan readily available allows for immediate intervention to reverse the opioid effect when a person with suspected overdose is found with slow breathing or unable to awake. For many, abstinence may not be immediately achievable. With education, support, and tools to reduce harm, the data shows lives are being saved. Dispensing naloxone allows us to provide an intervention today that creates future opportunity for the next stages of healing.”

“Opioid use disorder is a major issue in our region, and we see its effects in our hospital all too often,” said Michael Yungmann, president of Mercy Health – Lourdes Hospital. “We appreciate our partnership with the Purchase District Health Department and the Opioid Taskforce, which has made it possible for us to put Narcan in the hands of people who, without it, may die and never have the chance to go into treatment and recovery.”

Throughout the opioid epidemic, Kentucky has had one of the highest fatal overdose rates. The Purchase District's rate of drug arrests and drug overdose deaths are substantially higher than the national average and as much as 2.5 times higher in some counties in the district. Data from the Kentucky Office of

Drug Control Policy indicates that the Purchase District also has a higher than average rate of patients with opioid prescriptions.

The Narcan distribution is funded by the HRSA Rural Community Opioid Response Program Implementation Grant that the Purchase District Health Department used to create the Purchase Area Health Connections Network's Opioid Taskforce that is addressing the opioid epidemic by focusing on prevention, treatment, and recovery programming.

Purchase District Health Department (PDHD) serves Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, and McCracken County. For more information please visit: [www.purchasehealth.org](http://www.purchasehealth.org). PDHD was awarded the HRSA implementation grant (GA1RH39592) on behalf of Purchase Area Health Connections, a regional coalition that serves Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Lyon, McCracken, and Marshall. For more information on please visit: [www.purchasehealthconnections.com](http://www.purchasehealthconnections.com)<<http://www.purchasehealthconnections.com>>.

Baptist Health Paducah is a regional medical and referral center serving about 200,000 patients a year from four states. With more than 1,700 employees and 260 physicians, it offers 35 points of care with a full range of services, including cardiac and cancer care, diagnostic imaging, women's and children's services, surgery, emergency treatment, rehabilitation, and more. It has the region's first heart center and accredited chest pain center, as well as the only cancer center, certified stroke center, and Neonatal Intensive Care unit. The hospital is also designated Pathway to Excellence® for excellence in nursing services by the American Nursing Credentialing Center. It opened in 1953 as Western Baptist Hospital and changed its name in early 2013, along with other facilities in Baptist Health, the largest not-for-profit healthcare systems in Kentucky. Learn more at [BaptistHealth.com/Paducah](http://BaptistHealth.com/Paducah).

Mercy Health - Paducah is part of Bon Secours Mercy Health<<https://bsmhealth.org/>>, one of the 20 largest health systems in the United States and the fifth-largest Catholic health system in the country. The ministry's quality, compassionate care is provided by more than 60,000 associates serving communities in Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia, as well as throughout Ireland. Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital is a 359 licensed-bed facility accredited by The Joint Commission and was named as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission. Lourdes is home to the region's largest multi-specialty physician network, Mercy Medical Associates, which consists of more than 100 providers serving in over 30 locations throughout western Kentucky. Consistent with its commitment to serve each patient with dignity, Bon Secours Mercy Health provides nearly \$2 million per day in community benefit. The mission of Mercy Health – Paducah is to extend the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and bring good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved. For more information, [Click Here](#).

### **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>

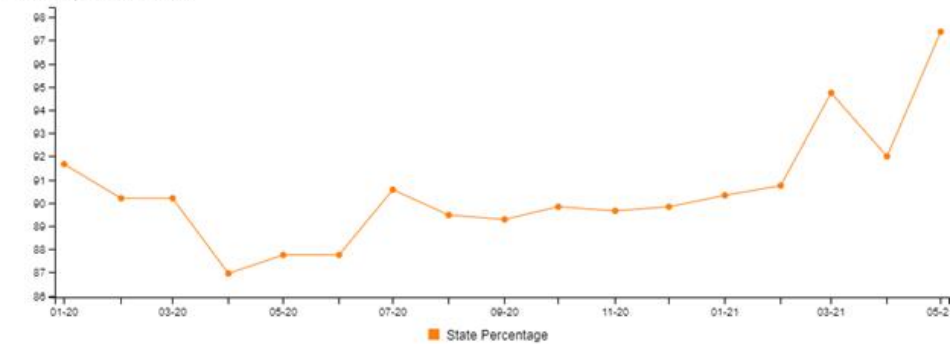
All other KY SOS resources can be found at <http://www.kentuckysos.com/Resources>

### **Data Update**

### Statewide Opioid Stewardship Program

KY SOS-5 The organization offers compassionate care to patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).

Percentage Answered Yes



**KY SOS Metric 5:** The organization offers compassionate care to patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).

Patients with OUD should be identified and have comprehensive care offered or arranged when accessing the health system. This is a process measure, requiring reporting of Yes or No into KY Quality Counts data collection system. A facility answers in the affirmative when there is presence of a referral process and/or the facility has availability of MAT/MOUD on hospital formulary. As opioid overdose fatalities have reached a new peak in Kentucky, much of the burden of this epidemic is falling on hospitals. This burden has also presented opportunity. The opportunity for treatment, harm reduction, and same-day linkage with support services that connect people with hope and help following overdose or an opioid-related complication. Empowered and equipped to begin addiction treatment in emergency departments (EDs) Kentucky is building a no-wrong-door recovery-oriented system of care in partnership the [Kentucky Opioid Response Effort \(KORE\)](#).

The ED bridge model implements low-barrier, rapid access to addiction treatment in the hospital. This medication-first approach treats opioid use disorder as a chronic disease rather than a moral failing. Such stigma is a missed opportunity for treatment and places individuals experiencing active withdrawal at higher risk of opioid overdose following discharge. Medications for opioid use disorder, such as buprenorphine, treats opioid withdrawal, lowers rates of illicit opioid use, decreases likelihood of an overdose, reduces the number of emergency room visits, and improves treatment retention. Naloxone (Narcan™) prescribing and dispensing is also a life-saving element of the ED bridge model. Through the co-location of Peer Support Specialists or other types of care coordinators in or near the ED, individuals are then actively linked to ongoing care. Hospitals often establish their own outpatient bridge clinics to facilitate the transition to long-term care while also partnering with community providers delivering harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support. Through these combined elements, the bridge model meets individuals where they are and helps minimize structural barriers often faced when seeking help. To learn more, visit <https://cabridge.org>.

Kentucky's first implementation bridge clinic cohort included three hospitals - the University of Kentucky First Bridge; St. Elizabeth in Northern Kentucky; and the University of Louisville in partnership with Seven Counties. KORE now funds bridge clinics in 12 hospitals across the state that have served over 9,000 individuals since 2018. These hospitals have established innovative and collaborative bridge programs, inpatient consultation teams, linkage with subspecialties such as Infectious Disease, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery, and Trauma, and coordination with community-based Quick Response Team. These hospitals have demonstrated innovation and commitment to ensuring individuals and families in Kentucky have access to evidence-based care no

matter where they are on their journey toward wellness and health. We urge additional hospitals across Kentucky to follow their lead and build ED bridge programs for the communities they serve. Reach out to KORE to learn more.

**Katherine Marks, PhD**

Project Director – Kentucky Opioid Response Effort

[kore.ky.gov](http://kore.ky.gov)

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 August Webinar** – Jessica Johnson, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with Robley Rex VA Medical Center, will present *More than Opioid Stewardship: The Overdose Crisis and Health System Care for People Who Use Drugs* on August 18, 11:00 AM EST – 12:00 PM EST.

*Zoom Information:* [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89452437180?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89452437180?pwd=VkhSMTZiRkxNTzY0c0hJeklQMTN4dz09)

[pwd=VkhSMTZiRkxNTzY0c0hJeklQMTN4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89452437180?pwd=VkhSMTZiRkxNTzY0c0hJeklQMTN4dz09)

Meeting ID: 894 5243 7180

Passcode: 2501

**KY SOS Webinar Upcoming** – Mercy Health Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital will present on their peer support specialist program in the emergency department. The date/time will be announced once confirmed.

**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.*