

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Remains a Local Concern

The 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)¹, reported that 14.5% of persons 12 years old and older in the United States had a substance use disorder; less than half (6.5%) received treatment. Extrapolating those population percentages for the 2020 NKY population (468,471), we can estimate that about 67,928 people in NKY had a substance use disorder and that 4,415 persons received some form of treatment. To be more precise, we know from St. Elizabeth Physicians' data that 40,598 persons with a substance use disorder sought primary care treatment in 2020 in one of their primary care offices. That number jumped to 50,731 in 2021.

The KY Office of Drug Control Policy reports² that 1,964 people died in Kentucky in 2020 from overdose—a 49% increase over 2019. Nationally over 93,000 people died from a drug overdose in 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded. Overdose deaths continued to climb in 2021. CDC's National Center for Health Statistics indicate that there were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 12-month period ending in April 2021, an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before. As the chart on the right depicts, across the 8 counties of Northern Kentucky, there were 225 overdose fatalities in 2020—11% of the state total. As tracked in our Emergency Departments, the morbidity that accompanies opioid and other substance use is also a significant concern. As you can see, since 2012, we have served nearly 13,000 people with a drug overdose in our Emergency Departments. In 2021, the number was 1,590.



Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force

In early 2022, the drugs in our region are predominantly methamphetamine and fentanyl. The Team does not seize heroin often. During 2021, the team seized 14 grams of heroin and 7,000 grams of Fentanyl.

Several years ago, during the last round of methamphetamine surge, the NKY Drug Strike Force saw low quality meth, produced in clandestine labs (barns, back of vehicles), using Sudafed, etc. The meth that is currently in our region is high quality (nearly 100% pure) meth, using materials sourced from China, manufactured in labs in Mexico, which then are transported across the border.

Previously, fentanyl powder was found in our area. Largely today, counterfeit pills containing fentanyl are seized. When people are 'buying' from a dealer, the initial counterfeit pill will look realistic—the right color, consistent color throughout the pill, right size, etc. and they appear to be a prescription drug. Once they continue buying, the mixing of

¹ National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Retrieved from: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/release/2020-national-survey-drug-use-and-health-nsduh-releases>

² KY Office of Drug Control Policy. Retrieved from: <https://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/Reports.aspx>.

ingredients declines, and pills look streaked, or color varies. It is very difficult to determine if the pill is prescription or counterfeit.

Within late February-early March of 2022, the Drug Strike Force conducted over 3 seizures, more than 6,000 counterfeit fentanyl pill were seized. One seizure alone resulted in 675 Xanax.

Guns are also a new phenomenon for the NKY Drug Strike Force. They are seeing drug dealers with guns in their waistband. The increase in firearms and behavior is a real concern for law enforcement and community members.

Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

The Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (NKODCP) is working with an array of county officials, agency leaders, coalitions, and advocates to create a robust regional response to this public health concern. To represent the healthcare sector in the region's strategic direction, Garren Colvin, St. Elizabeth's CEO, serves on the NKODCP Advisory Board. Other members of the Board are:

- Chair: Kris Knochelmann, Kenton County Judge / Executive
- Gary Moore, Boone County Judge / Executive
- Steve Pendery, Campbell County Judge / Executive
- Scott Hardcorn, Northern Kentucky Drug Strikeforce Director
- Steve Divine, Interim Northern Kentucky Health District Director
- Garren Colvin, St. Elizabeth Healthcare Chief Executive Officer
- Kimberly Moser, Kentucky State Representative, Legislative Liaison

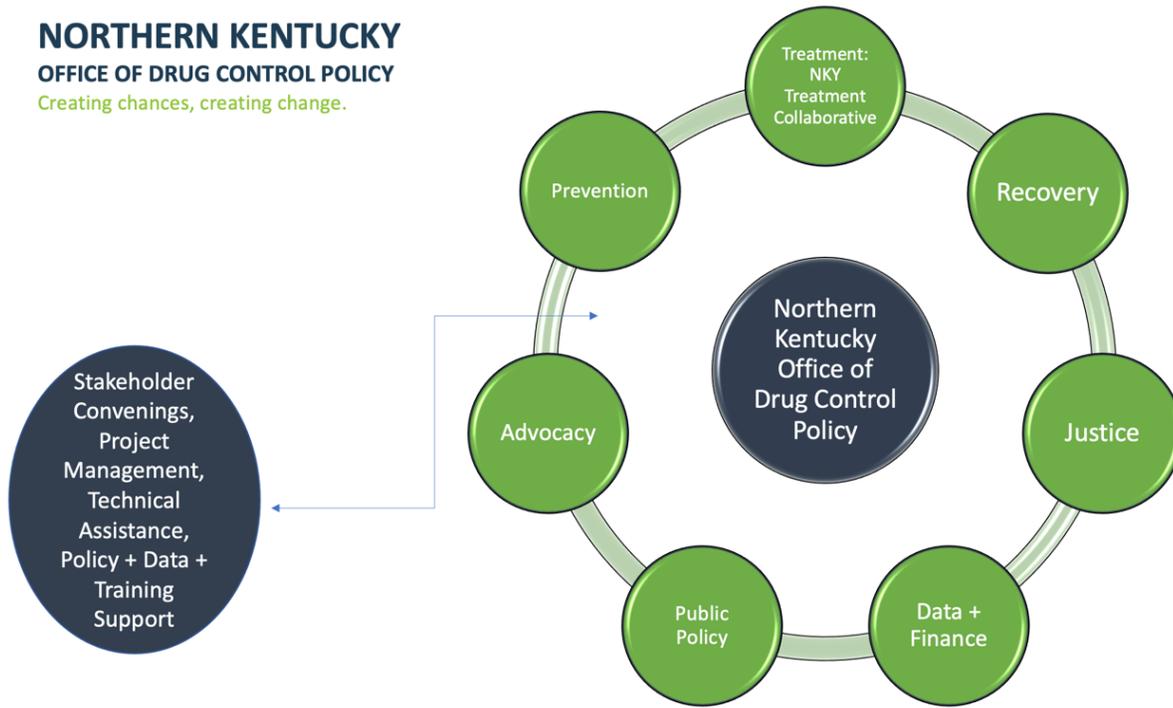
The Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (NKYODCP) assists with the development of substance use policy initiatives, coordinates regional efforts at the direction of its Board, and provides advisory services to the Fiscal Courts of Boone, Campbell and Kenton Counties and other organizations as directed.

The Office serves as the subject matter expert on the issue of substance use and in the development of a comprehensive regional plan to reduce the prevalence of substance use among the youth and adult populations in Northern Kentucky while coordinating efforts among all respective county and regional agencies toward the implementation of the regional plan.

- Areas of focus: Regional Plan, Data Dashboard, 24/7 Addiction Helpline and Diversion Support
- For more information about NKY's Regional Response Plan see:

- Regional Plan: <https://nkyodcp.org/regional-plan/>
- Data Dashboards: <https://nkyodcp.org/data-dashboard/>

NORTHERN KENTUCKY
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Creating chances, creating change.



Moving forward, Amanda Peters, Director of the Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy board will be convening partners to orchestrate a regional recovery-oriented community response around these seven pillars.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

Substance use disorder and mental health remain in the top four issues named in the 2022-2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): Heart disease, Cancer, Substance Use, and Mental Health. As such, it will remain a priority for our work. Based on the latest CHNA, we have established the following goals and objectives. By the end of December 31, 2024, we will have:

- Enhanced the system of care for patients with a diagnosis of SUD by reaching more patients at all entry points.
- Supported local programs designed to improve the health and well-being of youth as a prevention strategy.
- Contributed to a reduction in overdoses and infections related to substance use disorder.
- Increased referrals to JRC for treatment including for pregnant women.
- Improved patient outcomes at Journey Recovery based on national outcome measures at 30 days post treatment.