

Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS)

April Newsletter

Pharmacy Webinar Series Part Two: KASPER Webinar

The second webinar in this free series will be April 26th at 12:00 PM CST. Jill Lee, an Investigator/Pharmacist Consultant for the Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch of the KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services will review KASPER features, analyze substance use and overdose deaths in KY, review pharmacists' role in preventing misuse and diversion, identify unlawful/improper prescription, and provide tips from the branch that can help your practice.

DATE: April 26th, 2022

TIME: 12:00 PM CST

REGISTRATION: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

(https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7ob6z9keQQ2QcOIE0ZiG2g)

Job Opportunity with DEA Outreach Program

Links Global is working with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) outreach program: Operation Engage. The organization has a job opportunity for a community outreach specialist, who will work with community stakeholders and national partners to implement Operation Engage-related deliverables within the Louisville area. [Job Listing Here](#)

Partner with Us to Promote DEA Drug Take Back Day

Observance Presents Opportunity for SOS Partners

As members of the State Opioid Stewardship Program, we appreciate the leadership you have shown in helping to reduce the amounts of prescription opioids circulating in Kentucky. Yet, we must continue to help make our communities safer by disposing of unused medication. As leaders in prescription opioid safety, promoting events like this Spring's DEA Take Back event can help make an impact in improving prescription safety across Kentucky.

While the issue of unused prescriptions might seem harmless to some, the truth is these leftover medications pose a serious risk to the health and safety of our family, friends, and communities. In fact, in 2019, **50% of those who misused prescription pain relievers in the past year said that they obtained the pain relievers from a friend or relative.** This is in comparison to 35% who obtained their pain reliever from a doctor and 6% who bought from a stranger (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2018).

Child safety is also at risk. In the state's most recent child fatality/near fatality report, statistics show the leading cause of child neglect in case investigation findings is accidental

overdose/ingestion – typically the result of environmental neglect, when prescribed or illegal drugs are left accessible to children.

SOS facilities can be leaders in helping to promote resources to help people safely rid their homes of unused prescription medications, including prescription opioids. Here are some sample messages to promote at your facility, with local media, your website, and social media platforms. Social media graphics have been created for the April Take Back promotion, with Kentucky-specific messaging. These images can be downloaded and shared [here](#).

- Prescription drop boxes are available across Kentucky in conjunction with law enforcement agencies and local governments. There are now over 200 locations in 116 counties, with sites being added daily.
- Simply go online to the [DEA's designated website](#) or a [Kentucky-specific page](#) created by the Office of Drug Control Policy. Scroll to the collection site locator and type in a ZIP code or other locality information.
- For individuals experiencing transportation or access issues, consider promoting the use of drug disposal bags. These can be [purchased online](#) or obtained from a pharmacist, and are easy to use.
- Prevention and safety are just as critical to opioid response as treatment and recovery – and it is the area where nearly every Kentuckian has the chance to make an impact.

The next DEA Drug Take Back Day will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30. More details and information about the event can be found at www.deatakeback.com.

Post-Partum Opioid Dispensing in Kentucky

Kentucky has a decade's long history of substance use disorder in its citizens. As the statewide and national opioid crisis continues, to combat this problem, one strategy as a commonwealth has been to examine opioid prescribing in the healthcare setting.

The Cabinet of Health and Family Services' (CHFS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Kentucky Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KyPQC) quantified the level of opioids dispensed to postpartum women in Kentucky in the first seven days following uncomplicated deliveries among primigravida (first time) mothers. Primary outcome measures included the days supply of the opioid prescriptions, as well as the metric quantity and overall morphine milligram equivalent (MME) load per prescription.

A review by Dr. Adam Berrones of KASPER (Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting) data housed in OIG from 2014 to present, uncovered a high level of opioid analgesic prescriptions dispensed in this population that far exceeded the American College of Surgeons Expert Panel Consensus. Adhering to these expert guidelines by Johns Hopkins University are key, as appropriate opioid prescribing for women having uncomplicated child deliveries could

mitigate the incidence of substance use disorder in a relatively vulnerable population: Kentucky women who are opioid naïve.

Although this KASPER data review showed significant decreases over time, the average MME for both spontaneous vaginal delivery and cesarean sections among Kentucky resident mothers, at the present time, are at levels that are inconsistent with the expert recommendations.

CHFS will be collaborating closely with CEOs and Chief Nursing Officers with the end goal of more closely aligning their opioid prescribing patterns with current recommendations. Adam Mather, the Inspector General, and the medical advisor of KyPQC, Dr. Connie White, thus began conducting outreach initiatives with hospitals who had the highest (average) levels of MME. In addition, Pharmacist Consultants with the Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch in OIG, began meeting directly with providers to discuss their prescribing patterns.

The CHFS team will present more of these data at the KHA Annual Meeting on May 17 at 3:30 to give more details about this project.

J Am Coll Surg. 2018 October; 227(4): 411–418. doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2018.07.659.

2022 Stigma of Addiction Summit

The Stigma of Addiction Summit is a half-day, virtual, action-oriented symposium focused on understanding, addressing, and eliminating the harmful impacts of stigma on those who use drugs and experience addiction, on **June 8, 2022** from **11:30 – 4:30 PM EDT**.

Registration opens on April 18. [Remind me to register](#)

From the OD2A Quick News:

[FindHelpNowKY.org adds resources, options for Deaf/Hard of Hearing community](#)

For those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind, there is often a lack of understanding between those with and without hearing loss and, many times, providers don't grasp what is truly involved in providing culturally affirmative and linguistically accessible treatment.

However, thanks to a partnership between near-real-time substance use disorder treatment locator [FindHelpNowKY.org](#) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services program at the Kentucky Division for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, the website now offers information in American Sign Language and has resources specifically created for the diverse linguistic community.

Through the partnership, enhancements were created to the Population Served and Languages Supported sections of [FindHelpNowKY.org](#) so that treatment facilities can designate that they can accommodate the needs of Deaf or Hard of Hearing clients. The resources section of [FindHelpNowKY.org](#) also now includes a video in ASL that explains how to use the website. The

video is available on [FindHelpNowKY.org](https://www.findhelpnowky.org) and the [FindHelpNowKY](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) YouTube channel and has been linked to additional partner sites such as the Hearing Loss Association of America.

Did You Know...?

KY SOS Advisory Committee members will come to your facility or schedule a zoom meeting for technical assistance. This opportunity allows your staff to get specific education on opioid best practices. If you have specific questions, reach out to KHA SOS staff and you'll be connected with the appropriate KY SOS Advisory Committee member.

Two Articles from CMS Health Equity Quarterly

- [Changes in Access to Medication Treatment During COVID-19 Telehealth Expansion and Disparities in Telehealth Use for Medicare Beneficiaries with Opioid Use Disorder](#) – This data highlight provides an overview of how access to medication treatment for people enrolled in Medicare Fee-For-Service with opioid use disorder changed amid COVID-19 telehealth expansion.

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) or **Melanie Landrum** (mlandrum@kyha.com).

The Happenings

Upcoming Events/Webinars

- **KY SOS April Webinar** hosted by **Michael Muscarella, PT, DPT, LDE**, Baptist Health Paducah, and **Charlie Workman, MSPT, MBA**, Baptist Health Lexington, and **Holly Johnson, PT, DPT, Cert. MDT**, will present an educational webinar on **April 20, 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST**. This webinar, entitled *Battling Kentucky's Opioid Crisis: Choose PT!*, will focus on Physical Therapy services as an alternative to opioids for pain control and management. Calendar invites have been sent for this event. Please share with your PT and OT departments too. CE is pending for this webinar.

Zoom information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87933414469?pwd=YkJSd0pGUGN3KzVZN25NY0ZFL1U3QTO9>

Meeting ID: 879 3341 4469

Passcode: 2501

- **KY SOS May Webinar** hosted by **Doug Oyler, PharmD**, Director of the Office of Opioid Safety at the University of Kentucky, will present an educational webinar on **May 10, 11:00 – 12:00 PM EST**. This webinar is entitled, Experience with an Inpatient Multimodal Analgesic Order Set. Calendar invites will be sent closer to date. Share webinar information with colleagues. CE is pending for this webinar.

Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81705334093?pwd=MThDS0tDWGJmUEMwOFJPaFJmYnFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 817 0533 4093

Passcode: 2501

- **KY SOS June Webinar** hosted by **Emily, Sacca, PT, DPT, John Edwards, DNAP, CRNA, and James Borders, MD**, entitled Perioperative Opioid Stewardship – Changing the Culture. Calendar invites will be sent closer to date.

Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81522976622?pwd=c2YrWVR0SEdMU29WYWZEMWFkcWV2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 815 2297 6622

Passcode: 2501

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
- 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>

For more information, please visit www.kentuckysos.com or contact a KHA staff member to assist.

Emily Henderson for program and pharmacy-related questions– ehenderson@kyha.com

Melanie Landrum for data-related questions – mlandrum@kyha.com

Claire Arant for administrative assistance – carant@kyha.com

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