



## Prevalence of opioid abuse



- In 2017, **1,468 Kentucky residents** died of a drug overdose. People ages **35–44** experienced the **most overdose deaths**, followed by people ages **45–54**.
- In 2016, less than **1 percent** of Kentucky students in grade 10 reported they had used **heroin** in the past 30 days, and **82 percent** reported that they felt trying heroin once or twice was “high risk.”
- In 2017, of the **8,500 children** in Kentucky’s foster care system, **25 percent** had entered foster care because of a parent’s drug abuse.
- In state fiscal year 2018, **substance use** contributed directly, indirectly, or was a risk factor in **70 percent** of Kentucky’s **child welfare cases** (both in-home and out of home). Substance use contributed **directly** in **49 percent** of the cases.

## Identified education system needs



### Expanded drug education and prevention programs

*Louisville Heroin and Opioid Response Summit Report*

- Comprehensive, universal drug education and prevention programs built upon evidence-based principles should be offered in all schools.

## Current strategies/initiatives



- **Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE)**. Strategic framework that targets prevention, intervention, and recovery services using evidence-based strategies to support pregnant and parenting mothers, individuals who have experienced an overdose, and those who have become involved in the criminal justice system.
- **Regional Prevention Centers, Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy, and Operation UNITE**. Centers provide resources to support school-based prevention programming, environmental interventions, and community-based strategies.
- **Legislation**
  - **House Bill 604**. Requires the department of education to make a toolkit available to assist school districts in developing a trauma-informed approach in their schools.
  - **House Bill 55**. Requires the integration of drug prevention instruction into school curricula and requires Kentucky’s Office of Drug Control Policy to post a list of potential evidence-based curricula for the Department of Education to disseminate to schools.
  - **Senate Bill 192**. “The Anti Heroin Bill” allows for stricter punishment for individuals importing heroin into Kentucky and increases the availability of naloxone.
- **Research**. University of Kentucky research efforts target addicts seeking recovery and children suffering from trauma.
- **Children and schools**.
  - **Central Kentucky’s Educational Cooperative**. Provides Youth Mental Health First Aid training to help participants feel confident and comfortable approaching a youth experiencing a mental health challenge, mental disorder, or a mental health crisis and referring the youth to a professional if needed.
  - **Kentucky Center for School Safety’s “Too Good for Drugs” Program**. Uses age-appropriate curricula to enhance and expand the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that promote safe and drug-free living.
  - **Kentucky Educational Television’s Inside Opioid Addiction**. Series of episodes that focus on the importance of positive youth development, mental health screening, community coalitions, and parent education.
  - **Kentucky Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START) Program**. Uses an intensive intervention model that integrates addiction services, family preservation, community partnerships, and best practices in child welfare and substance abuse treatment.

## Funding sources impacting schools, school-age children & families



- **Opioid State Targeted Response (O-STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants**. Grants exceeding \$83M to support implementation of evidence-based opioid prevention, intervention, and recovery services some of which support children, adolescents, families, and schools.
- **State Youth Treatment-Implementation Expansion (SYT-I) and State Adolescent Treatment Enhancement and Dissemination (SAT-ED) grants**. Grants supporting evidence-based screening, assessment, and treatment of youth with substance use challenges.
- **Project AWARE grant**. Supports the Trauma-Informed Care for Educators learning collaborative led by the Center on Trauma and Children at University of Kentucky which promotes using a trauma-informed approach within a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) framework.
- **Title IV-E funding**. Supports programs aimed at preventing out-of-home placement of children whose families are impacted by substance use.
- **Pharmaceutical settlement**. Kentucky Kids Recovery initiative allocated \$19M to develop/enhance adolescent substance use treatment services and prevention programming.