



PRESS RELEASE  
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**CCS and MHAC Unveil New Report on Addiction in Ohio,  
Reveals Scale of Addiction Disorders, Need for Data to Improve Measures and Outcomes**

Cleveland – As drug overdose deaths continue to reach record highs in Ohio, The Center for Community Solutions (CCS) and the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC) release *By the Numbers 3: Developing a Common Understanding of the Future of Behavioral Healthcare, Analysis of Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment in Ohio*. The report focuses on the demographic characteristics of clients in treatment, the types of services they received, and spending related to alcohol and other drug addictions in the Buckeye State and in local ADAMH board areas through 2012.

“This report analyzes Ohio’s publicly funded addiction treatment services and spending,” noted Jon Honeck, who serves as the Edward D. & Dorothy E. Lynde Fellow at CCS. “This report looks at the big picture of addiction treatment. From 2007 to 2012, the percentage of clients in treatment for marijuana, heroin, and other opiates increased steadily, but alcohol addiction remained the most common reason to be in treatment.”

“This report also completes the first set of *By the Numbers* reports, which brought together state and county data on mental health and addiction spending and policy,” said Joan Englund, the Executive Director of the MHAC. “It completes the larger analyses of Ohio’s publicly funded behavioral health system, an analysis that we have been working on since the publication of the first *By the Numbers* report in 2011.”

Using data provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, *By the Numbers 3* paints a portrait of an addiction treatment system that served large numbers of people but was in transition as it tried to keep pace with a surging opiate epidemic. For example:

- Over the two year period 2011-2012, nearly 160,000 people in Ohio received treatment for addiction through the publicly-funded treatment system. Men consistently made up 63 percent of the clients seeking treatment.
- Alcohol was the most frequently-treated substance in 34 ADAMH board areas, and eleven board areas had clients with opioids (heroin and other opiates) as the most frequently treated substances. These eleven boards were located in the southern or eastern parts of the state.
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT), which is considered the standard of care for opioid-use disorder, has become more widespread over time but as of 2012 was still not reaching some clients who need it because its availability was uneven throughout the state.

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- Ohioans with alcohol or drug-related diagnoses visited emergency rooms (ER) or were admitted to inpatient hospital treatment more than 250,000 times in 2012. Of these visits, 53,000 had a primary diagnosis that was alcohol- or other drug-related.

*“By the Numbers 3* contains both trends and point-in-time analyses from before the Affordable Care Act,” Honeck added. “So the data in this report represents a baseline that policymakers can use to measure and improve system capacity.”

A digital version of this report and previous editions of the *By the Numbers* series can be downloaded for free at [communitysolutions.com](http://communitysolutions.com) and [mhaadvocacy.org](http://mhaadvocacy.org).