Opiate Abuse/Addiction:
Outreach for Older Adults in Lake County
Lake County Overview

Population: 230,000. Ohio’s 11th largest.

Ohio’s smallest county geographically

Largely suburban with urban and rural areas

Ohio’s seventh wealthiest county

Median household income: $55,000

Poverty rate: 8.86%

Home ownership: 73.9%
Opiates & Lake County

Lake ranks 23 out of 88 counties

Overdose deaths:

2015: 42
2016: 86
2017: Higher again/final data not yet available
Opiates & Lake County

No one is immune.

Males outnumber females 3:1

Nearly every Lake County city/township has lost someone to overdose.

Fentanyl is increasing dramatically.
Lake County Seniors

Seniors (60+) currently make up 23% of the population.

That population is expected to grow by 20,000 by 2030.

- 60-74: 31.9% growth expected
- 75-84: 45.5% growth expected
- 85+: 54.8% growth expected
Lake County Seniors

Current demographics

97% Caucasian
56% female
52% married
9.4% caring for a family member
25% working full time or part time
27.9% household income below $25,000
75.5% Lake County resident 25 years+
Lake County Seniors

Physical/behavioral health

14% report feeling depressed or anxious in last three months

3% have accessed ADAMHS-funded mental health services

Suicide rates among seniors vary significantly
Physical/behavioral health

14% report not having enough money to pay for vision or dental care

6% report not having enough money for Rx meds

6% report not having enough money for tests or treatment recommended by a physician
Lake County Senior Services

Funding:

Senior levy
ADAMHS levy
JFS
Lake County Senior Services

Senior Service Provider Network:

ADAMHS system
JFS/Adult Protective Services
RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
Council on Aging
Senior centers
Laketrans (transportation)
Senior-specific challenges relative to the opiate epidemic

- Exploitation/crime
- Evolving roles/responsibilities
ADAMHS/JFS/RSVP partnership

RSVP has over 500 volunteers available, and has served Lake County for over 43 years

Senior community trusts and respects RSVP

“Peer-to-peer” opportunities
Exploitation/crime impacting seniors
Exploitation/crime

Awareness:

RSVP facilitates ADAMHS presentations for seniors.
Exploitation/crime

Presentations

Venues: Lake County Senior Centers deemed best after considering libraries, community rooms, etc.

Presentations offered for free and in partnership with the senior centers.
Exploitation/crime

Presentations cover:

The nature of addiction

*It’s an illness. It’s treatable*

*It often begins with the use of Rx meds*

Warning signs/red flags

Ways you can fight back

*Importance of purging home medicine cabinets*

Treatment options

Resources and how to access them
Exploitation/crime

Since 2010 collections have totaled more than 15 tons.

Safe Disposal of Older/Unused/Expired Rx Medications

Why:
Getting rid of older, unused and/or expired Rx medications from your home helps ensure they won't find their way into the hands of abusers, addicts or children. So please dispose of your older, unused and/or expired Rx medications responsibly.

More Information:
www.lakeopiategtaskforce.org

How & What:
Flush your meds can cause serious negative environmental impacts. Instead, take them to one of our secure collection bins. Use a felt-tipped marker to obscure any personal information on the labels.

YES!
Prescription drugs
Cold/Flu meds
Pain relievers
Pet meds

Vitamins
Creams
Cough syrup
NO!
Needles or syringes

Where:
M-F 7a-8p, Sat. 9a-5p, Sun. 1p-5p*
- Lake County Sheriff's Office
  104 E. Erie St. Painesville
- Eastlake Police Department
  35150 Lakeshore Blvd.
- Mentor Police Department
  8500 Civic Center Blvd
- Willoughby Police Department
  36700 Euclid Avenue
- Willoughby Hills Police Department
  35405 Chardon Road
- Madison Township Police Department
  2065 Hubbard Road
- Lakeland Community College Police
  7700 Clocktower Drive, Building A, lower level
- Kirtland (*Closed Sundays)
Exploitation/crime

Goals: Easy. Safe.

Deterra pouches

Funding:

- 25% ADAMHS
- 75% Senior Levy Contingency Fund

Peer-to-peer involvement
Exploitation/crime

Caregivers/Others

How seniors can become victims

Adult Protective Services
Seniors: Evolving roles & responsibilities
Evolving roles & responsibilities

National Data:

36% of grandparents raising their grandkids have done so for more than five years.

Over 40% of children being cared for by a grandparent are there because of parental substance abuse.
Evolving roles & responsibilities

National Data:

Custodial grandchildren have higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems.

2.7 million grandparents are raising grandchildren.

60% of grandparent caregivers are in the workforce.
Evolving roles & responsibilities

National Data:

For every child in foster care nearly 25 are being raised by grandparents or other relatives.

21% of grandparents raising their grandkids are living below the poverty line.

Grandparents raising grandchildren help to save taxpayers over $6.5 billion each year because they keep those kids out of the foster system.
Evolving roles & responsibilities

Local initiatives:

JFS/RSVP partnerships
Kinship programs
Evolving roles & responsibilities

Ongoing challenges

Responsibility vs. custody

Public assistance childcare – income based

Guardianship

Finger-pointing
Evolving roles & responsibilities

Keys to success:

Collaboration

Avoiding duplication