

Ohio addiction policy fact sheet

4 Children, youth and families

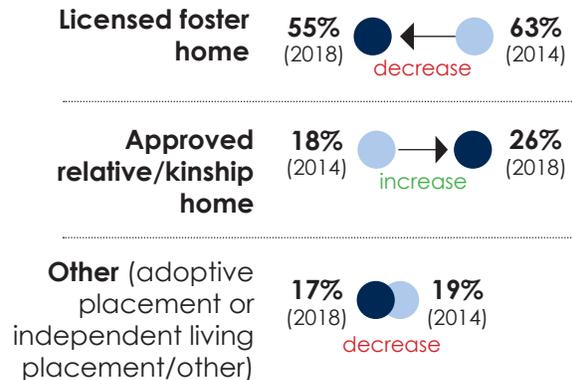
On the horizon: Hopeful trends

Ohio's sharp rise in drug overdose deaths from 2011 to 2017 was followed by a steady increase in the number of children entering the child protection system. These trends highlight the relationship between the opioid crisis and child maltreatment.

In spite of the many challenges Ohio faces in addressing the addiction crisis, the state has seen some hopeful trends in recent years, including:

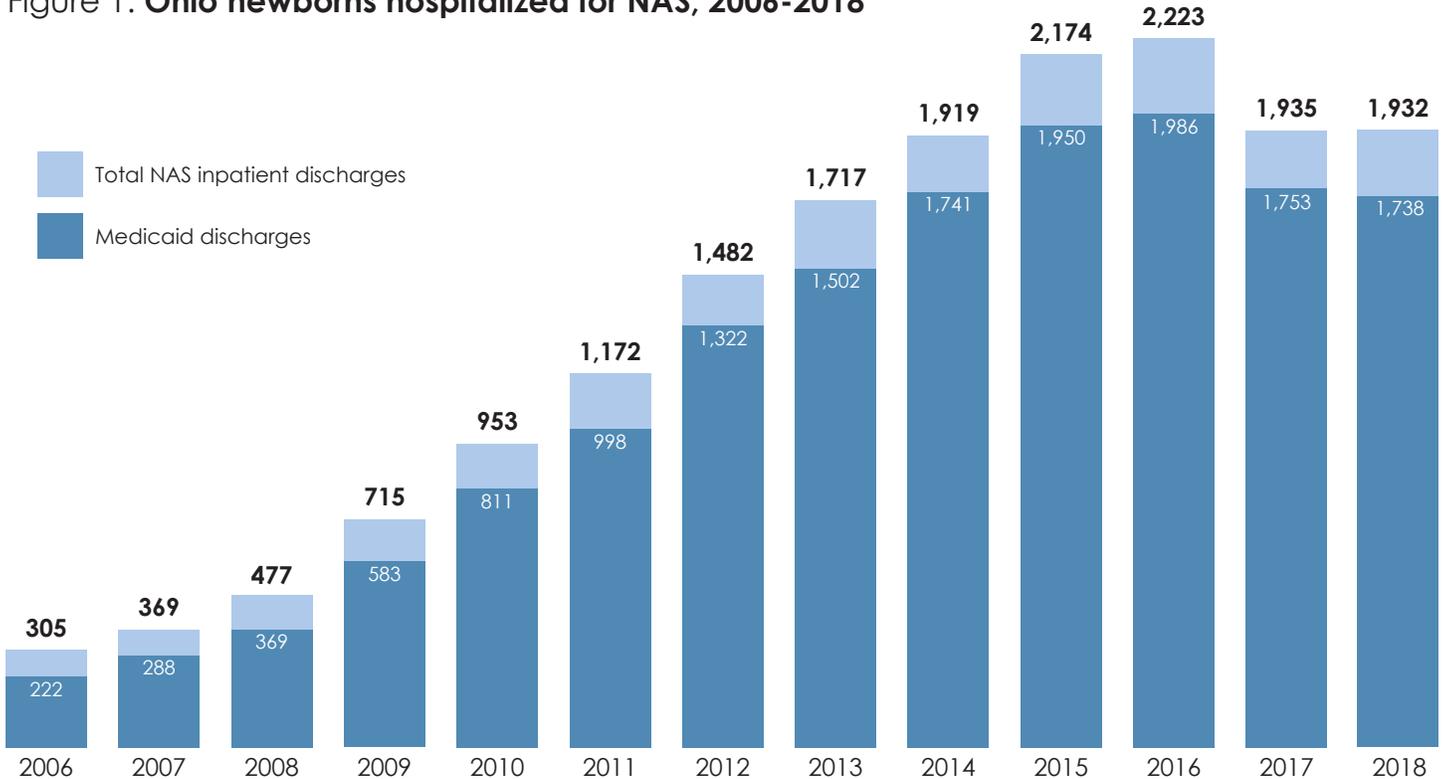
- As shown in figure 1, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) cases declined in 2017 and 2018, after rising steadily from 2006 to 2016.
- Recent trends toward more children in kinship care and non-congregate settings, as shown in figure 2, are hopeful and may accelerate as a result of the Family First Prevention Services Act (see [federal child welfare laws fact sheet](#) for details).
- The number of children removed from the home due to parental drug use declined slightly in 2019 after peaking in 2018 (see figure 3).

Figure 2. Placements of Ohio children removed from the home, 2014 and 2018



Source: Public Children Services Association of Ohio 2015-2016 and 2019 Factbooks

Figure 1. Ohio newborns hospitalized for NAS, 2006-2018



Note: Hospitalizations occurred in Ohio hospitals

Source: Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Hospital Association

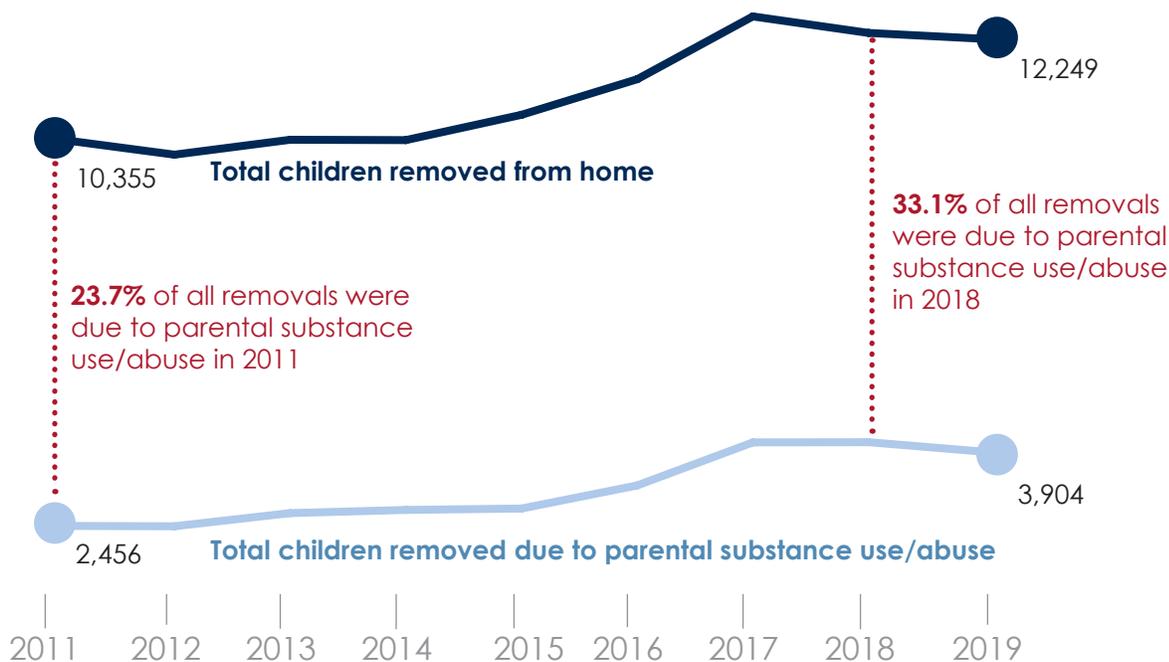
Out-of-home placements due to parental addiction declining slightly

Substance use in the home increases the chance that children will be placed outside of the home with a kinship caregiver, foster family or in residential treatment/congregate care.³ In these cases, child protection agencies work with the family to create a plan for the long-term stability

and well-being of the child, including permanency through family reunification or with permanent adoptive parents.⁴

In 2019, 3,904 Ohio children were removed from their homes due to parental substance use or abuse.⁵ Figure 2 shows the number of children removed for this reason rose from 2011 to 2018 and then decreased slightly in 2019.

Figure 3. Total number of children removed from the home and removed due to parental substance use/abuse, 2011-2019



Note: Substance use/abuse may be one of multiple reasons for removal. As of Oct. 12, 2020, there had been 7,386 children removed from the home in 2020, including 2,496 children removed due to parental substance use/abuse.

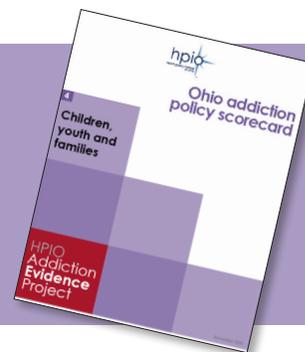
Source: Data provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services via email on Oct. 28, 2020.

This fact sheet is an excerpt from the HPIO publication

Ohio addiction policy scorecard: Children, youth and families

View the complete report at

www.hpio.net/ohio-addiction-policy-scorecard-children-youth-and-families



Notes

1. Key Findings: Public Health Reporting of NAS Offers Opportunities for Treatment and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. [https://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/features/public-health-reporting-of-nas.html#:~:text=Neonatal%20abstinence%20syndrome%20\(NAS\)%20is,NAS%20for%20public%20health%20monitoring](https://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/features/public-health-reporting-of-nas.html#:~:text=Neonatal%20abstinence%20syndrome%20(NAS)%20is,NAS%20for%20public%20health%20monitoring).
2. Hill, Timothy B. CMCS Informational Bulletin. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: A Critical Role for Medicaid in the Care of Infants. Baltimore, MD: Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2018. <https://www.medicare.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib060818.pdf>
3. Parental Substance Use and the Child Welfare System. Washington, DC: Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/parentalsubabuse.pdf>
4. DePanfilis, Diane. Child Protective Services: A Guide for Caseworkers. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2018. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/cps2018.pdf>
5. There may be other removal reasons in addition to parental substance use/abuse.