

ODA Quarterly NEWSLETTER



Issue #7
November, 2025

Latest Deflection News & Information

Welcome back to our quarterly Newsletter!

Ohio Deflection Association delivers support around public safety for the health and wellbeing of those struggling with substance use and mental health disorders. Through the development of deflection and pre-arrest diversion strategies, support tools and facilitating the education of community partners providing outreach services. Focusing on real life challenges with real time solutions by providing communities with education, guidance and resources.

2025 ODA Updates:

The Ohio Deflection Association has officially started the planning process for the 5th Annual Training Summit. The Summit will be held January 20th- 23rd, 2026 in Cincinnati, Ohio

Stay tuned for more information!

ODA Updates:

The Ohio Deflection Association County Map has been updated.

Please use this map as a resource to collaborate and coordinate with other QRTs and partners across the state of Ohio.

If you have any additional updates or corrections, please forward them to our Administrative Assistant admin@ohiodeflectionassociation.org

[ODA County Map](#)

Planning for the 2026 Summit is well underway! Please keep an eye out for the official agenda, which will be released soon.

This years summit will feature an exciting lineup of topics, inspiring speakers, and valuable opportunities for collaboration.

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Register Now!](#)

Advanced pricing for the 2026 Summit will run until November 30th

**Member
\$375**

**Non-Member
\$425**

2026 Summit Quick Links:



Registration

Become a sponsor

Become a Vendor/ Exhibitor

Hotel Booking

Award Nominations

**If you have any additional questions or concerns please don't
hesitate to reach out.**

admin@ohiodeflectionassociation.org

Deflection Update:

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2025-04D to suspend the normal rulemaking process to allow the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to adopt a rule allowing expanded access to tools to prevent drug overdoses. In addition to test strips and reagent kits for fentanyl, the rule, OAC 4729-8-02, exempts tests for the following compounds from the definition of drug paraphernalia under Ohio law:

Xylazine;

Medetomidine;

Benzimidazole-opioids (commonly referred to as nitazenes); and

Benzodiazepine and benzodiazepine-related compounds.

“Test strips and reagent kits are important components to reducing harm caused by illicit drugs,” said Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt. “By decriminalizing these public health tools, we can help people who use drugs stay alive with the ultimate goal of recovery.”

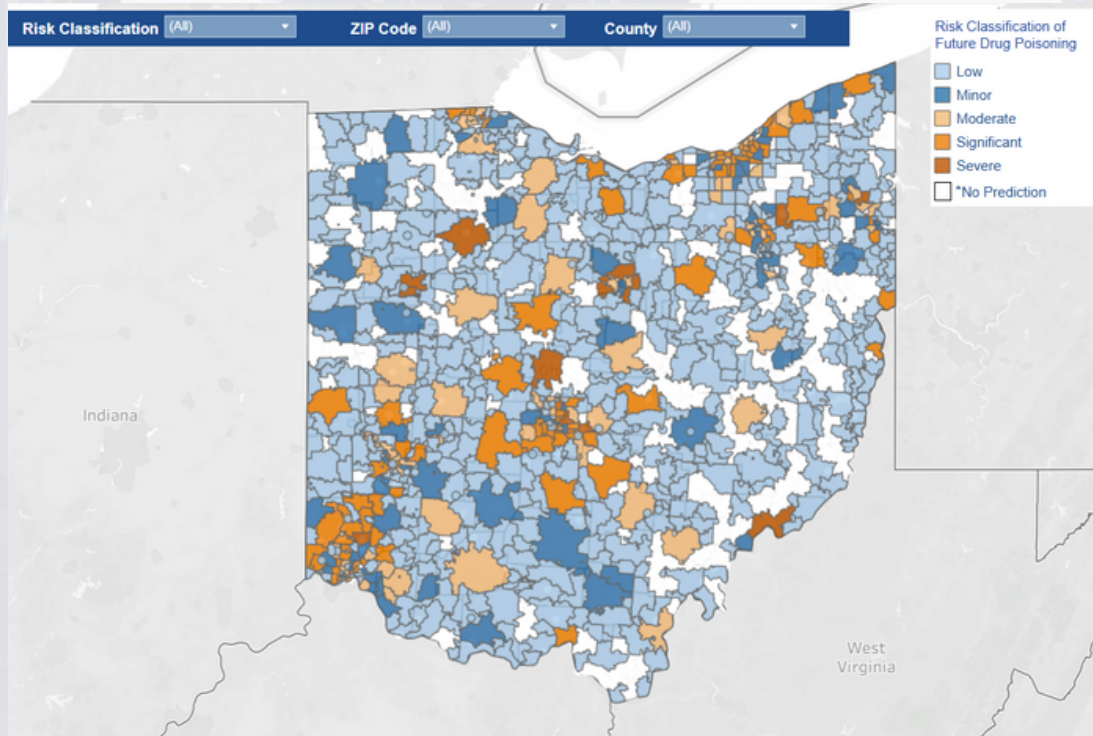
[Click here for more details](#)

Useful Resources:



RecoveryOhio's Overdose Early Warning Dashboard is a groundbreaking tool designed to predict when communities may be at heightened risk for a spike in drug overdoses, so local leaders can take action in time to save lives.

The first-of-its-kind dashboard draws upon a variety of data sources to pinpoint ZIP codes at increased risk for overdoses up to 30 days in advance – providing local leaders with a critical window for intervention.



[Click here for more information](#)

Useful Resources:

As part of our 2025 expansion efforts, we are pleased to announce the introduction of an official telephone line for enhanced support. our part-time Administrative Assistant will be available to assist you during the following hours:

Tuesdays: 11am- 4pm

Wednesdays: 2pm- 5pm

Thursdays: 10am-2pm

Please feel free to call during these times should you or your team require any additional support.

513-319-7567

The Ohio Deflection Association Secretary, Nicole Jenkins has developed a new calendar, now available on our website, to keep everyone informed and up to date.

This centralized resource includes BRIDGE events, Outreach initiatives, funding opportunities and deadlines, as well as updates related to National Deflection Day/ Week

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please don't hesitate to reach out.

admin@ohiodeflectionassociation.org



Wed Nov 12th 1:00pm - 2:00pm

**2025 ODA Monthly
Deflection Meeting**

Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 252 573 784 603 3 Passcode: f62u6g28 Dial in by phone +1 ...



Wed Dec 10th 2:00pm - 3:00pm

**2025 ODA Monthly
Deflection Meeting**

Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 252 573 784 603 3 Passcode: f62u6g28 Dial in by phone +1 ...



Fri Dec 19th 5:00pm - 8:00pm

**A winter Wonderland of
Recovery- Jackson County**



Tue Jan 20th 2026 5:00pm - Fri 23rd 12:00pm

**2026 5th Annual ODA
Summit**

ohiodeflectionassociation.org/2026Summit/

[Click here to see our website](#)

Strengthening Deflection Across Ohio: ODA's Impact in 2025

Words from ODA President, Dan Meloy

"In 2025, the Ohio Deflection Association (ODA) continued to expand its leadership role in advancing deflection and community-based crisis response. The year began with the ODA Summit in, January, drawing participation from 14 U.S. states and Canada, and featured nationally accredited training sessions and the presentation of ODA awards. ODA provided \$19,000 in mini-grant awards to support 19 deflection initiatives, while distributing nearly \$11,000 in outreach supplies to more than 30 teams across Ohio."

"In a significant organizational milestone, ODA conducted a search for our first Executive Director and selected Cmdr. (ret.) Tom Fallon. He began his service as ODA Executive Director in January, during the 2025 ODA Summit. Throughout this year, ODA partnered with each of Ohio's five regions to host regional "Lunch and Learn" events- introducing the ODA regional representatives, facilitating community conversations about stigma, and showcasing Ohio's "Early Warning Dashboard" with RecoveryOhio Director Erin Reed. These efforts underscore ODA's ongoing commitment to community collaboration, innovation, and systems change."



The Deflection ECHO:

Ohio's Deflection ECHO is a statewide learning community connecting law enforcement, peers, public health, fire/EMS, treatment providers, and other partners involved in deflection. Each one-hour monthly session includes a brief presentation followed by group consultation where teams can discuss scenarios, ask questions, and learn together in an "all teach, all learn" environment.

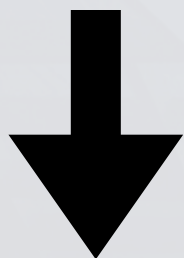
Sign Up Below:

Deflection ECHO

Knowledge Hub

Sign up for Deflection News

Read below for more details.



DEFLECTION ECHO SCHEDULE

11

DEC, 2025

TBD – MENTAL HEALTH AND DEFLECTION

DEBBIE PLOTNIK, MSS, MLSP, MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

08

JAN, 2026

WORKING WITH PSYCHOSIS

NICHOLAS DUNLAP, M.ED., LPCC
CONSULTANT & TRAINER, COORDINATED
SPECIALTY CARE FOR FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS

12

FEB, 2026

ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

KATE DAWES, OUTREACH AND SUCCESS
MANAGER, DECOACH RECOVERY CENTER

12

MAR, 2026

SUBSTANCE USE COERCION

CHERYL STAHL, LPCC-S, OHIO DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE NETWORK





The Deflection ECHO:

**From Trends to Action: Addressing Xylazine and
Medetomidine in the Field**

**Current drug trends and practical considerations for
overdose response and wound care.**

**Substance Use, Overdose, and Brain Injury: Integrating
Trauma-Informed, Person-
Centered Care**

**An introduction to hypoxic/anoxic brain injury risk after
overdose and ways to best support
individuals at risk including communication strategies,
accommodations, and resources.**

**Partnering with Hospital Emergency Departments: Practical
Experience from Ohio
Deflection Teams**

**A panel featuring three Ohio teams who sharing their
unique approaches to engaging hospitals
and emergency departments to support warm handoffs and
post-overdose linkage.**

Stay Connected

**Sign up here for the Substance Use Deflection Initiative
newsletter to receive updates on
Deflection ECHO sessions, technical assistance, funding
opportunities, tools, and statewide
deflection news.**

Sign Up Below:

Deflection ECHO

Operation Bridge

Bridging Recovery & Interdiction Data Gathering Enforcement.

As 2025 ends we wanted to share some of the highlights that occurred across the state. This year we saw 17 counties hold Bridging Recovery Interdiction Data Gathering Enforcement (BRIDGE) events. BRIDGE brings together public safety and public health stakeholders in a collaborative effort to reduce the supply of drugs entering a community while simultaneously providing on demand treatment and recovery resources for low-level, nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders.

During the 2025 BRIDGE events, communities,

- **Engaged with 8,401 citizens**
- **Served 970 meals for those with food instability**
- **Connected 30 people with BMV for reinstatement services**
- **Distributed 1,508 Naloxone kits**
- **Distributed 1,090 Fentanyl test strips**
- **Collected 62 lbs. of unused Rx medication**
- **Made 283 referrals to treatment**
- **Saw 96 people enter treatment programs during BRIDGE events.**

**If you have any questions, please reach out to:
BRIDGE@dps.ohio.gov**

Training Opportunity:



Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care for Post Overdose Outreach Teams :

This is an online course that aims to equip first responders and post-overdose outreach teams with the background and tools to implement a trauma-informed response when interacting with a person who has experienced an overdose.

The course is divided into 5 modules. All modules will need to be completed in order to complete the requirements for course completion.

[Click here for more information on this course:](#)