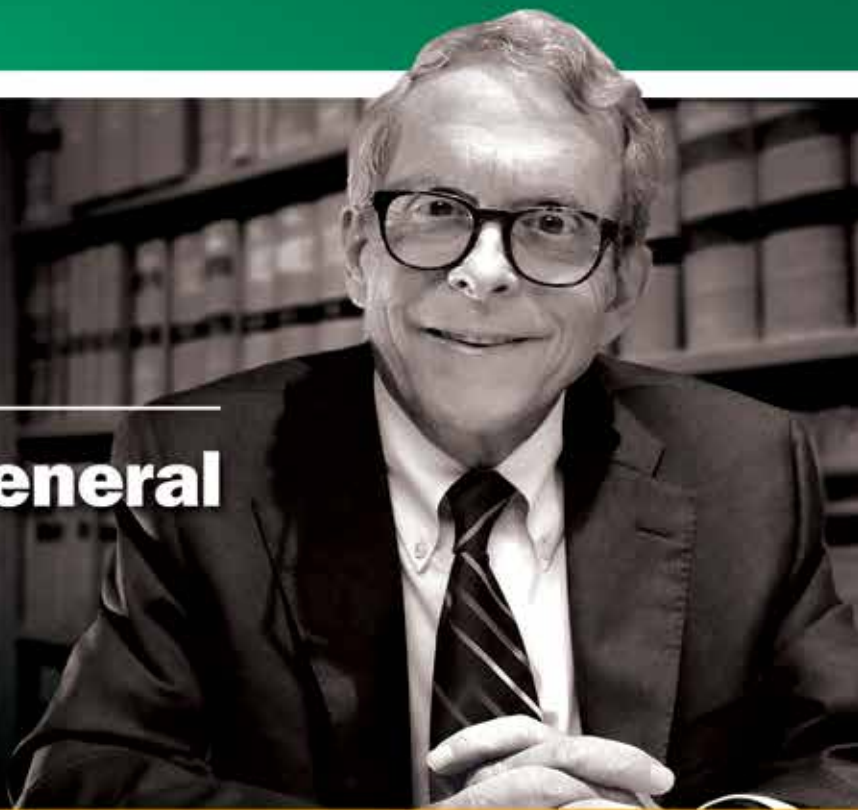




 *Protecting Ohio's Families*

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine



“At the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, we are committed to our goal of protecting Ohio’s families. That mission serves as our greatest motivation and guiding principle.”

– Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

ANNUAL REPORT | 2017



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Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine visits fourth-graders at Herbert Mills STEM Elementary School in Reynoldsburg to talk to them about their participation in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School.

Dear Friends,

At the Ohio Attorney General's Office — where we remain dedicated to our mission of protecting Ohio's families — the past year was a time for achieving goals and standing firm in the face of challenges to our state. My office advocated for business interests, eased the burden for crime victims and their families, worked with communities and law enforcement agencies to fight the opioid epidemic, looked out for consumers, and delivered top-notch training and services to peace officers.

Among the highlights in 2017, my office:

- Unveiled a 12-point "Recovery Ohio" action plan to combat the opioid epidemic at the expense of pharmaceutical companies that make the drugs.
- Introduced Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma), a pilot program that offers specialized services to children who have suffered victimization due to their parents' drug use.
- Made available \$1 million from the Victims of Crime Act Fund to 10 child welfare agencies for a pilot program to help pay for efforts to enlist families and friends to care for children in need of foster care or kinship care.

- Reached a milestone with the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative, which surpassed 13,000 kits analyzed.
- Advanced its efforts — by organizing events, providing trainings, and publishing a newsletter through the CyberOhio Initiative — to help businesses.
- Unveiled the new scenario-based training village at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London.
- Created the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School.

Looking back at 2017, I'm proud of the accomplishments of our staff. Going forward, we will continue to focus on protecting Ohio's families.



Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General



Christina Arredondo of Ross County joins Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine during the announcement of his lawsuit against five leading prescription opioid manufacturers. Arredondo's daughter, Felicia Detty, died of a heroin overdose in 2015 at age 24. She was 5 months pregnant.

Suing opioid manufacturers



In May 2017, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine filed a lawsuit against five opioid manufacturers for misrepresenting the risks and benefits of using prescription opioids to treat chronic pain to consumers, physicians, state agencies, and others. Purdue Pharma, Endo Health Solutions, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and its subsidiary Cephalon, Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and Allergan were named as defendants. The lawsuit alleges that the drug companies violated the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, defrauded the state's Medicaid and Workers' Compensation systems, engaged in a pattern of corrupt activities, and created a public nuisance by disseminating false and misleading statements about the risks and benefits of opioids. Those actions promoted the inappropriate prescribing and use of opioids and fueled the opioid epidemic. In the lawsuit, Attorney General DeWine is seeking a declaration that the companies' actions were illegal; an injunction to stop their continued deceptions and misrepresentations and to abate the harm they have caused; and damages for the money that the state spent on the opioids that these companies sold and marketed in Ohio and for other costs of their deceptive acts.

798

The number of search warrants served by the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) while pursuing drug dealers and others in 2017.



Protecting Ohio's Families



BATTLING DRUG ABUSE

The Ohio Attorney General's Office takes a strong stand against opioid abuse by working with communities and law enforcement to deal with the problem on the ground level and pursuing the companies that make the drugs.

Sharing helpful discoveries



Scientists with the Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science and the Chemistry Department at Bowling Green State University found through an experiment with OxiClean Versatile Stain

Remover that the household product can be used effectively to clean up fentanyl spills. (Two milligrams of fentanyl — an equivalent to about 32 grains of salt — can be enough to kill a person.) In August 2017, BCI sent out a bulletin to more than 900 Ohio law enforcement agencies explaining cleanup instructions, including needed supplies and proper protective gear.

Keeping up with trends

BCI's Chemistry Unit works to keep investigative teams informed of new drug trends in Ohio. In the lab, evidence is examined to determine the presence of illegal or harmful substances. In 2017, the unit reported heroin 4,193 times, fentanyl and related compounds 4,183 times, and carfentanil 1,199 times.

- In May, BCI opened a new lab in Springfield to provide drug testing services for law enforcement agencies in Clark County and beyond. The lab was created through a partnership among BCI, the city of Springfield, and Clark County. The county remodeled the space, and the city purchased equipment and computers. Two BCI scientists work in the lab.

Following successful models

In September, the Attorney General announced that 39 law enforcement departments and their partners would receive \$3 million in grants to be used to replicate or expand partnership programs that address the opioid epidemic. The concept is based on the successes of Drug Abuse Response Teams (DARTs) and Quick Response Teams (QRTs).

DID YOU KNOW?

DARTs and QRTs are made up of law enforcement officers working with drug treatment providers and others to assist overdose survivors in the recovery process.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine provides information on his "Recovery Ohio" action plan to an audience at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland.

Advocating for naloxone use

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. Attorney General DeWine encourages first responders to carry and administer the medication when necessary. To help with the cost and availability of naloxone, in 2017:

- The Attorney General extended an agreement with Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of naloxone, saying the company will provide a \$6 rebate for each naloxone syringe purchased by a nonfederal public entity until March 2, 2018.
- The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) continued to offer free online training on naloxone administration. In 2017, 2,115 law enforcement professionals took the eOPOTA course.

Providing resources

The Attorney General's Office provides assistance and resources for communities dealing with drug problems. Contacts:

- Heroin Unit: **614-644-5808** or **HeroinUnit@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**
- Prosecution assistance: **614-629-8340**
- BCI Tip Line: **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**
- Law enforcement training: **740-845-2696**

Launching 'Recovery Ohio'



In October 2017, Attorney General DeWine unveiled "Recovery Ohio," an action plan of 12 initiatives to combat the opioid crisis. The Attorney General is pressuring drugmakers to pay for the plan. It calls for:

- Legislation to give the governor the ability to declare a public health emergency.
- A law enforcement data infrastructure to improve data sharing and analytics.
- An expansion of drug task forces.
- The creation of more drug courts.
- More substance-use treatment options.
- An increase in the number of critical specialists.
- Ways to empower employers to help employees seek treatment while remaining employed.
- Incentives to entice business owners to hire employees who are in recovery.
- The creation of a cabinet-level position to oversee opioid programs.
- The implementation of proven drug-prevention education in all grades and all schools.
- The introduction of a statewide drug-prevention media campaign.
- The expansion of early intervention programs for families and children involved in foster care.

Raising awareness

Attorney General DeWine's outreach specialists conducted presentations and promoted drug-awareness activities throughout the state and beyond during the past 12 months, including events in 42 counties. Other 2017 activities include:

- In February, Attorney General DeWine encouraged an audience of more than 1,300 social service providers, public safety officials, and others to share ideas and build on existing programs during his office's "Ideas in Motion — Fighting Ohio's Drug Epidemic" event.
- In September, Attorney General DeWine hosted "Ideas in Practice: A Closer Look at the Continuum of Addiction Treatment," which was broadcast live to medical professionals at 18 satellite locations. The event focused on evidence-based methods for helping opioid-addicted patients. The discussion covered subjects such as components of treatment, partners in the continuum of care, and replicable programs.

Promoting education

In February 2017, Attorney General DeWine, House Speaker Clifford Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), and Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) released the Ohio Joint Study Committee on Drug Use Prevention Education's list of recommendations on options for implementing age-appropriate substance abuse education in schools across all grade levels. The committee held at least 16 meetings, including six regional meetings, took written testimony, and conducted other research before releasing the report. The report is available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov under "Publications" and "For Schools."



"This opioid fight is challenging, but we are determined to make progress."

— Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

2017 OOCIC TASK FORCES'

NARCOTICS SEIZURES



Drug Seized	Amount Seized	Street Value
Heroin	46.9 pounds	\$2,129,260
Fentanyl	90.9 pounds	\$4,126,860
Cocaine	154.8 pounds	\$7,027,920
Methamphetamine	76 pounds	\$3,450,400
Marijuana	2,575 pounds	\$3,862,500
Opioid Pain Pills	8,216 pills	\$82,160
Other prescriptions	11,006 pills	\$55,030
Miscellaneous Drug Seizures <i>(Crack cocaine, steroids, hash, ecstasy, LSD, grabba, etc.)</i>		\$4,726,207

Street Value of All Drug Seizures.....\$25,460,337

Pursuing high-level dealers

The Attorney General's Heroin Unit, developed in 2013 to pursue traffickers and to work with communities affected by the opioid epidemic, prosecuted over 150 individuals for opioid-related criminal cases in 2017. The unit combines the skills of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the Special Prosecutions Section, and drug abuse outreach specialists. A case of note from 2017:

- In November, a Columbiana County grand jury indicted 100 suspects as a result of "Operation Big Oak," a three-year investigation into a Cleveland to Columbiana County trafficking ring involving shipments of fentanyl, carfentanil, heroin, and cocaine. The organization allegedly funneled about 1 million doses of carfentanil and 350,000 doses of fentanyl into Columbiana County.



At the Ohio State Fair, Kirk Merritt, executive director of the Ohio Soybean Association and Council, gives Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine a tour of educational displays related to the soybean industry.

Handling complaints



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Consumer Protection Section fielded 22,371 consumer complaints from individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits in 2017.

The top complaints were:

1. **Motor vehicles**
2. **Utilities, phone, Internet, or TV services**
3. **Shopping, food, or beverages**
4. **Professional services**
5. **Collections, credit reporting, or financial services**
6. **Home or property improvement**
7. **Other**
8. **Identity theft**

Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Tipster or call **800-282-0515** for help with a consumer issue.



\$32 million

The amount of money awarded for consumer restitution and other relief thanks to lawsuits filed by the Consumer Protection Section in 2017.

Protecting Ohio's Families



PROTECTING CONSUMERS



Dealing with identity theft



The Attorney General established the Identity Theft Unit in 2012 to help victims clear up the trouble caused by such crime. Through the unit, individuals can seek

assistance from advocates who work on the victim's behalf to contact credit reporting agencies, creditors, collectors, and other entities that may have inaccurate information. (A self-help option is also available.) In the past year, the unit helped victims resolve \$309,418 in fraudulent charges. The unit also addressed 33 complaints from minors in foster care, who are vulnerable to this crime.

Assisting the public

The Ohio Attorney General's Constituent Services Section operates the Help Center, which the public can contact to file a complaint against a business or report tips on illegal gaming, health care fraud, or patient abuse. The Help Center also assists with public record requests and by providing educational materials.



In 2017, the Help Center fielded **91,226** phone calls, handled **14,519** online inquiries, and received **14,901** pieces of mail.

Examining student loans

In June, the Attorney General's Advisory Group on Student Loan Debt Collection released a report after spending six months looking at whether students are being adequately educated regarding all responsibilities when taking student loans; the uniformity of policies, fees, and penalties regarding unpaid accounts at universities; the university certification process for student debt accounts; and student debt collection and litigation processes within the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The report made 22 recommendations regarding certification practices; notifications about the transfer of past-due debts; the calculation of interest and collection costs; and the serving of appropriate notice of collection costs. The report is available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov, under "Schools."

Investigating skimmer crimes

In October, Attorney General DeWine announced that agents with the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) are helping local law enforcement agencies investigate crimes involving credit card skimmers. The BCI Cyber Crimes Unit has the ability to extract data from the skimmers, which criminals use to steal credit card or debit card information from unsuspecting cardholders. The skimmers are typically hidden on ATM and gas pump card readers. The technology allows agents to pull data from skimmers to aid local law enforcement in identifying both the suspects and victims involved.



Disputing charges

The Consumer Protection Section's dispute resolution process — through which staff members help individuals, businesses, and nonprofits resolve disputed charges — resulted in more than \$2.7 million returned to, or adjusted for, consumers in 2017. The average amount per consumer was \$1,163. Among those helped in the past 12 months:

- An elderly consumer bought gift cards from an electronics store and unknowingly sent them to scammers. The consumer contacted the store's fraud department to cancel the cards and then contacted the Attorney General's Office. The office worked with the store's fraud department, which was able to trace the card numbers and discover that they had been redeemed after the consumer warned the store. The consumer received a refund of \$4,500.
- A college student booked eight buses for a trip. The student made a \$1,049 down payment via credit card. A few days later, the student sent a check for \$8,120. Three days before the trip, the student learned the company didn't have enough drivers. The company said it would not provide the buses unless the consumer paid an additional \$1,450 per bus. The student sought a refund, but it was not delivered. The student contacted the Attorney General's Office, and as a result of the office's efforts, the student received a refund and an apology.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine poses with the winners of the Take Action Video Contest, from left, Nickolas Belliveau, Sam Richardson, and Maggie Cripe.

Sponsoring video contest



Each year, the Ohio Attorney General's Office sponsors the Take Action Video Contest and announces winners during National Consumer Protection Week in March. The contest awards a total of \$5,000 in college scholarships to the top three teams or individuals who submit a 60-second video on one of three topics. This year's topics were smartphone privacy, social networking scams, and creating strong passwords. In 2017, the office received more than 120 contest entries from about 200 students throughout the state.

Posting warnings

In 2017, the Attorney General relayed timely warnings about scams including those involving taxes, data breaches, home repairs, charitable solicitations, federal grants, ticket sales, gift cards, sweepstakes, and the lottery.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office publishes the "Consumer Advocate Newsletter," an online monthly source on the latest scams, valuable training resources, consumer rights, and more. To sign up to receive the free newsletter, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Explaining student loans

The Ohio Attorney General's Office developed a comprehensive online student loan center to help prospective, current, and former college students understand and manage student loans. The Attorney General's Student Loan Center, available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/StudentLoans, offers information and resources to explore careers, choose a school, apply for student loans, and repay loans. The Attorney General's Student Loan Center provides tips on how to reduce the cost of attending college. The site also offers two calculators to help students budget their expenses and plan their loan repayment. The online center has had 4,318 unique hits since going online.



A display shows a sampling of informational materials produced by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Many of the flyers are available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Opening investigations



In 2017, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section opened 540 civil investigations; filed 42 lawsuits for unfair, deceptive, or unconscionable business practices; and obtained 49 judgments and compliance agreements. The Attorney

General's Economic Crimes Unit (a division of the Consumer Protection Section) opened 570 criminal investigative matters; filed 10 indictments and obtained 13 convictions. A few cases of note from 2017 include:

- In February, a Cincinnati-area man was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay \$104,000 in restitution for running a roofing scam in southwestern Ohio. The 36-year-old pleaded guilty to one count of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity and one count of insurance fraud. He scammed 24 homeowners in multiple counties between 2014 and 2015. He contacted consumers at their homes, claimed their roofs were damaged, and encouraged them to file an insurance claim. After accepting their insurance money, he failed to provide any services. A special prosecutor with the Economic Crimes Unit handled the case after being appointed by the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. The case was investigated by the Economic Crimes Unit with assistance from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Warren County Sheriff's Office,

Ohio Department of Insurance, Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission, Colerain Police Department, and West Chester Police Department.

- In October, the Attorney General announced a settlement with General Motors Co. The case resulted from a multistate investigation of General Motors related to the auto manufacturer's failure to disclose in a timely manner known safety defects associated with unintended key-rotation-related and/or ignition-switch-related issues in several models and model years of General Motors vehicles. Ohio was a lead state in the investigation that resulted in the filing of a lawsuit on Oct. 19 for violations of the Consumer Sales Practices Act. An Agreed Consent Judgment Entry and Order was immediately submitted to the court and entered on Oct. 20. Ohio was joined in the settlement by 48 other states and the District of Columbia. General Motors agreed to not misrepresent the safety of its vehicles and to other injunctive relief. In addition, the settlement included a \$120 million payment to the states. Ohio's share of the payment was more than \$6.2 million.

7,467

The number of attendees who participated in the 178 educational events organized by the Education Unit of the Consumer Protection Section in 2017.



Overseeing donations

During the past 12 months, the Attorney General's Charitable Law Section — which regulates and provides oversight to Ohio charities to make sure that donations are not misappropriated and that proceeds are used for charitable purposes — provided training to 5,347 people about board governance best practices, bingo recordkeeping, wise giving, and related topics. For information on trainings on charitable topics, call **614-466-3181**.

Registering charities

The Ohio Attorney General's Office maintains an online charitable registration system, with information about specific charities. At the close of 2017, there were 47,076 active charitable organizations in the system. The information is available to the public on the Attorney General's website, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov under "Services."



Keeping track of bingo

In the past 12 months, the Charitable Law Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office issued 3,244 bingo licenses to 1,664 charitable organizations. Additionally, the section issued licenses to 17 bingo manufacturers and 36 bingo distributors. For more information on licensed organizations, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Business/Bingo-Operator/Bingo-Licensing-Information.

Monitoring fundraisers

The Attorney General's Charitable Law Section provides oversight of professional solicitors paid to raise funds for charitable organizations. Solicitors must be registered annually and provide notice of every Ohio fundraising campaign and the results. Information on solicitor campaigns can be found on the Attorney General's website. In 2017, the section handled the registration of 114 professional solicitors who conducted 1,145 campaigns. A case of note from 2017:

- In November, the Attorney General took legal action against a purported children's charity, its operators, and its fundraiser for allegedly defrauding Ohio donors. Cops for Kids Inc. (also known as Ohio Cops for Kids) collected more than \$4.2 million in donations from Ohio residents between 2005 and 2015 but spent less than 2 percent of it on charitable programming, instead paying \$3.3 million to its for-profit solicitor, Telcom Enterprises, and spending \$802,662 on salaries and overhead, according to the lawsuit. Cops for Kids, its organizers, and Telcom Enterprises are accused of defrauding donors. The Attorney General is seeking a permanent injunction prohibiting the defendants from soliciting for charity in Ohio and prohibiting the organizers from incorporating or working for a nonprofit in Ohio. The Attorney General is also moving to dissolve the group, distribute its assets to other charities, and to make Telcom withdraw from solicitations in Ohio. The lawsuit seeks restitution, damages, and civil penalties.



Bidders vie for a donated item during the Support Our Troops Auction hosted by the staff of the Ohio Attorney General's Office to benefit Operation Buckeye, a group that sends care packages to troops. In 2017, the auction raised \$9,000.



Help us protect charities and donors

If you learn that a charity is misusing resources, or you know of fraudulent solicitations, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov or call **800-282-0515**.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and elementary school students kick off a special "learning day" session of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School at a barn in Chillicothe. (See Page 14.)

Investigating crimes



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Crimes Against Children Initiative focuses on identifying, arresting, and convicting people who prey on kids. BCI's Crimes Against Children Unit receives assistance from other BCI units, and the Special Prosecutions and Crime Victim Services sections. In 2017, the unit assisted over 65 law enforcement agencies in 132 cases including:

- In March, a 10-month-old boy was recovered unharmed after BCI agents responded to his abduction in Fulton County. The child's father shot and killed the boy's mother before fleeing with him. An Amber Alert was issued and the man's vehicle was located in Indiana. The father was taken into custody and charged with aggravated murder and kidnapping.



Notifications

In 2017, BCI's Crimes Against Children Unit participated in 15 Amber Alerts and 20 Endangered Missing Child Alerts.

Protecting Ohio's Families




SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Aiding vulnerable youths



The Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Section, in partnership with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, awarded a \$500,000 Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care Initiative grant in October to help at-risk Ohio children and youths. The grant pays for efforts to improve the community response to child victims of violence. The grant will assist agencies in developing methods to better identify child victims, access services, and improve links to resources. In addition, a working group will develop a statewide training plan and issue a report with recommendations.

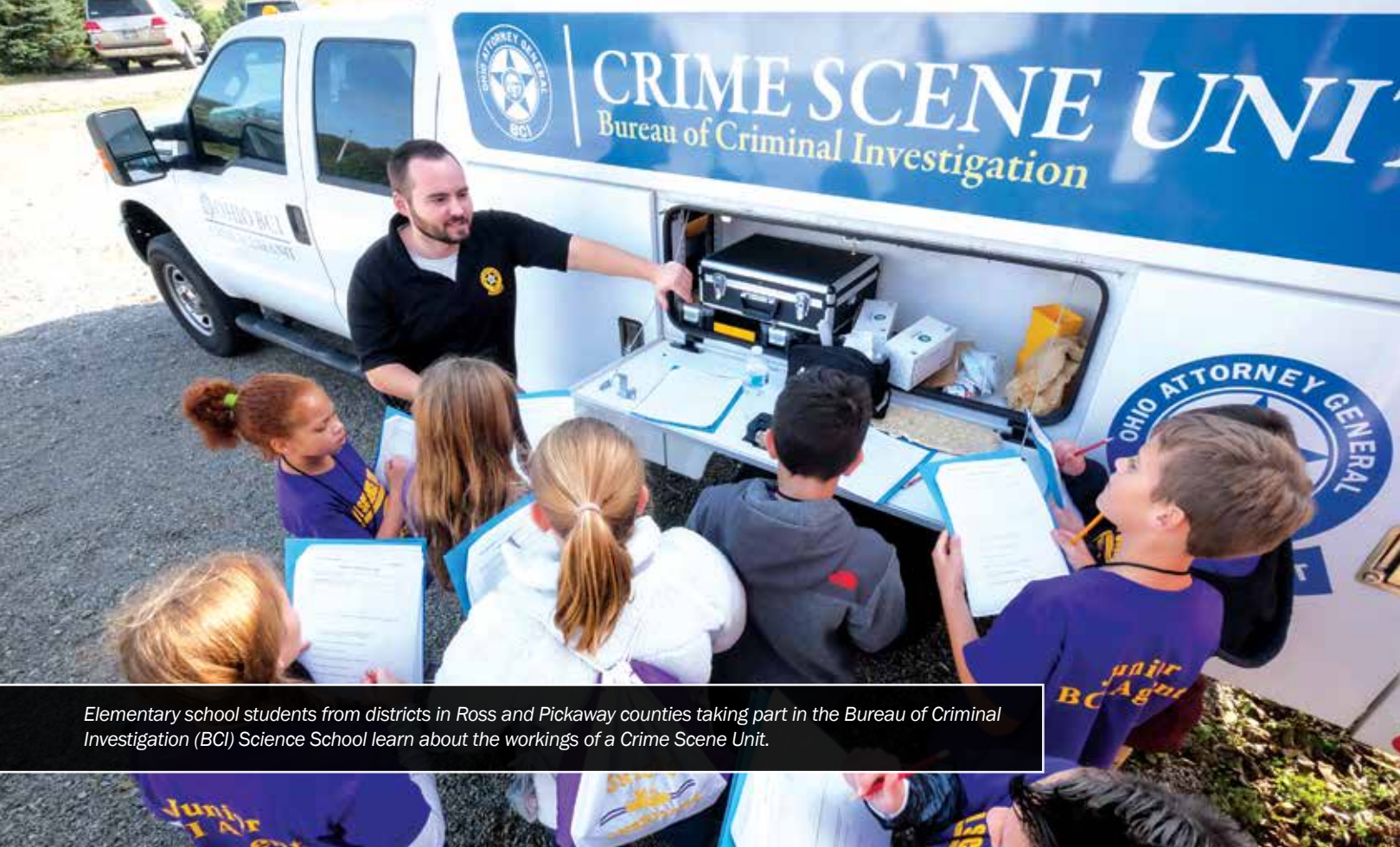
Seeking families to care for kids

With so many parents suffering from opioid addiction, more children are in need of foster care or kinship care. In August, Attorney General DeWine offered \$1 million from the Victims of Crime Act Fund to 10 child welfare agencies to help pay for staff and recruiting efforts to enlist families to care for children. The pilot program, which is being administered by the Waiting Child Fund, provides for the cost of a full-time staff member in each county. The Attorney General made a request to Ohioans to consider becoming foster parents and created a webpage, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/FosterFamilies, with information and set up an email, FosterCheck@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov, for expedited background checks.

DID YOU KNOW?



Attorney General DeWine's Human Trafficking Commission and the University of Dayton's Human Rights Center have released a free online manual that can be used by Ohio schools, youth counselors, after-school programs, and anti-human trafficking organizations to assist in developing anti-human trafficking education for children. The Human Trafficking Prevention Education Guidance for Implementation of Youth Programs is available under "Publications" at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Human-Trafficking-Commission.



Elementary school students from districts in Ross and Pickaway counties taking part in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School learn about the workings of a Crime Scene Unit.

Offering science lessons

In March 2017, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School became available to teachers and students throughout Ohio. The free curriculum uses hands-on experiments and inquiry-based learning aligned to the Ohio Department of Education's fourth-grade standards and exposes students to careers in forensic science and criminal investigation. The videos that accompany the lessons take students into the field with BCI agents and into the laboratory with forensic scientists. The lessons are available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCIScienceSchool.

- In November 2017, about 50 students from three elementary schools in Ross and Pickaway counties attended a BCI Science School learning day at a barn in Chillicothe. The students performed experiments involving science and math in a setting much like the one from the lesson plan. A teacher from the Union-Scioto Local School District came up with the idea for students to extend their BCI Science School lesson in a barn, and BCI staff and local law enforcement partners helped make her vision a reality for students.

Listening to teens

Since 2014, the Attorney General's Office has each year recruited a Teen Ambassador Board of high school juniors and seniors from public, private, charter, home, and online schools throughout Ohio. The 2017-18 board, assembled in June, is made up of more than 250 students representing over 140 schools in more than 50 counties. Throughout the year, members of the board advised the office on issues relating to teens. During the Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance and the 2017 Law Enforcement Conference in October, members took part in workshops and shared what they know about the risks apps pose for teens.



Hunting for evidence



In October, the Attorney General announced that BCI had added an electronic detection K-9 to its investigative team. Reptar, a Labrador retriever and his handler, a BCI special agent, work to locate hidden electronic storage devices, particularly during searches for child pornography. While executing search warrants, Reptar sniffs for the chemicals found on storage media such as memory cards, computers, cellphones, and tablets. Two grants covered the \$11,000 cost to buy and train Reptar. The dog and his handler are available to offer free assistance to law enforcement agencies statewide.

Healing homes



With the number of children in foster care increasing as a result of parental addiction, Attorney General DeWine announced a new pilot program in March to provide targeted treatment for troubled families. Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma), an intervention program that offers specialized services to children who have suffered victimization due to their parents' drug use, will operate extensively throughout southern Ohio.

Sharing data about missing kids

To coincide with National Missing Children's Day in May, the Attorney General's Office published its annual "Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse Report," which documents that 19,902 children were reported missing in Ohio in 2016 and 98 percent of those children were recovered safely. The Missing Persons Unit within BCI operates the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse. For the report, the unit compiles state data on missing children, assists law enforcement and families, and works with the Ohio departments of Education and Job and Family Services to train and provide resources for peace officers, teachers, parents, and children. The clearinghouse issues Ohio's Endangered Missing Child Alerts and Endangered Missing Adult Alerts, coordinates with law enforcement on Amber Alerts, and promotes awareness of issues related to abductions, human trafficking, and runaway children. To view the report, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov look under "Media," and click on "Reports."

- To recognize National Missing Children's Day, the Attorney General's Office and the Reynoldsburg Youth Human Trafficking Coalition sponsored a family event and balloon launch on May 20 in Reynoldsburg. Gina DeJesus, who was abducted and held captive with two other girls for more than nine years in Cleveland, urged attendees to be observant and ask questions about things they see going on around them. The agency continues to seek information on children who have been missing for decades.



Children prepare to launch 200 balloons, each with the name of a missing Ohio child, during BCI's National Missing Children's Day event in Reynoldsburg.



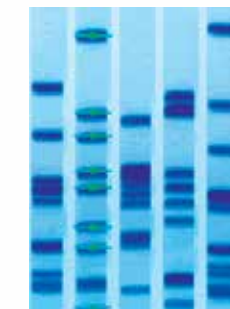
Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine visits the new Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) laboratory in Springfield. The lab is staffed with two BCI drug chemistry scientists who focus on testing evidence for law enforcement agencies. (See Page 3.)

Testing sexual assault kits



After taking office, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine learned that thousands of sexual assault kits that had never been submitted for DNA testing were still on the evidence shelves of law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Late in 2011, the Attorney General acted upon the recommendation of a task force formed to study the problem and urged law enforcement agencies to send their previously untested kits to BCI for free lab analysis. Law enforcement agencies submitted 13,931 cases to the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative. Out of the 13,646 cases processed as of December 2017, there were 4,942 hits to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Among recent cases:

- DNA testing conducted as part of the initiative helped investigators with the Muskingum County Sheriff's Office make an arrest in connection with a 1998 sexual assault.



4,942

The number of matches found in a comparison of DNA from kits tested as part of the Attorney General's testing initiative to DNA profiles in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

Protecting Ohio's Families



The Attorney General's Office unites its resources to work with law enforcement agencies – individually and through task forces – to combat organized criminal enterprises and other threats to the safety of Ohioans.



Sharing findings



Researchers with the BCI Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative and the Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) examined data from more than 2,500 rape kits to determine which factors increased the probability that a DNA profile could be obtained. The research findings, which were published in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* in 2017, highlight best practices in rape kit forensic laboratory testing procedures.

Combining forces



In 2016, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and Battelle announced a joint venture between BCI and the global research and development organization headquartered in Columbus. Since then, forensic scientists from both organizations have been working together at the BCI lab in London to run tests on Massively Parallel Sequencing (MPS) technology and will seek FBI approval for the use of MPS to solve missing persons cases. With MPS at BCI, the lab will soon be able to generate faster DNA results and obtain an expanded range of DNA information to help investigators make identifications.

Solving cold cases

In 2012, Attorney General DeWine asked law enforcement agencies to submit cold case information to BCI to be included in an online database. Today, there are 1,982 cases in the Ohio Unsolved Homicides database. The database can be viewed at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov. The goal of the initiative is to bring visibility to such cases. Since its inception, 23 of the cold cases have been resolved.

Tips on any unsolved homicide can be submitted through the website or by calling **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**.



A BCI forensic artist explains how she built a clay model of the Akron victim with only a skull to go by.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, with Akron Fire Chief Clarence Tucker, provides information on a forensic facial reconstruction performed by BCI on remains found in front of a burned out home.

Using facial reconstruction

Since 2016, a forensic artist at BCI aided by 3-D technology has been reconstructing the faces of unidentified decedents in hopes that the public can help identify them. BCI is offering facial reconstruction as a last resort when DNA and other leads don't produce results. To see *Facial Reconstruction*, a video about the process at BCI, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov and click on "Videos." To read about unidentified remains found in Ohio, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Local-Law-Enforcement/Unidentified-Remains.

In 2017, reconstructions were performed on:

- The remains of a woman found on March 10, 2007, in Marion County.
- The remains of a man found on July 19, 1989, in Marion County.
- The remains of a man found on Jan. 8, 2016, in Akron.
- The remains of a man found on Feb. 18, 1982, in Twinsburg.

Resolving missing persons cases

The Attorney General's Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) helped resolve 20 cases in 2017. The program, which is free to police, coroners, and families of missing individuals, helps match unidentified remains with DNA submitted by relatives of missing people.

By the Numbers*

318 — Total number of LINK cases opened at BCI

128 — Cases closed

190 — Active LINK Cases * Remains and missing persons

Offering age-progression photos

In 2017, BCI began offering age-progression photographs to help law enforcement with missing persons investigations. Age-progression photographs can bring older cases back into the public eye to generate new tips. The technique is performed by a forensic artist with the BCI Missing Persons Unit. A 2017 case of note:



In November, BCI released a photo to draw more attention to the case of Elaine Johnson, who disappeared from Parma in 1990. Johnson, who was 41 at the time of her disappearance, was last known to be at her residence in the 5900 block of Stumph Road on Nov. 22, 1990. Her money, credit cards, and identification were found inside her apartment, but her keys were missing. Her car was found in the apartment complex's parking lot, and her clothing items were in the complex's laundry room, where her storage locker was open. Anyone with information on her disappearance or whereabouts are urged to contact the Parma Police Department at **440-885-1234**. Law enforcement officials or family members of missing persons interested in learning more about the services provided by BCI's Missing Persons Unit should call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**.



Providing prosecutors



Attorneys in the Special Prosecutions Section can act, upon request of the appropriate local authority, as lead prosecutors in cases in which there is a conflict of interest. In addition, local prosecutors can call upon those in the section to serve as assistant prosecutors. In 2017, the section opened more than 370 criminal matters at the request of prosecutors or courts in 51 Ohio counties. The section had 10 trials in 2017. A case of note from the past year:

- In August, a Pike County grand jury indicted a 42-year-old man from Beaver, Ohio, on one count of money laundering, one count of telecommunications fraud, and one count of theft. He is suspected of transferring more than \$3,500 from the Pike County Firefighters' Association to his personal bank account and spending the funds on personal expenses.



Cuyahoga County Sheriff Clifford Pinkney, with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, talks about the creation of a new human trafficking task force in Cuyahoga County.

Combating criminal enterprises

Attorney General DeWine's Office oversees the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), which provides structure and support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that uncover organized criminal enterprises within their jurisdictions. The commission combats criminal enterprises primarily by establishing task forces in one or more counties where organized criminal activity is suspected or detected. Of note in the past 12 months:

- In May 2017, Attorney General DeWine, Cuyahoga County Sheriff Clifford Pinkney, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley, Acting Special Agent in Charge Steve Francis of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, and Independence Police Chief Michael Kilbane announced the formation of a new OOCIC task force, the Cuyahoga County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force.
- Upon its formation, the task force opened a number of investigations and immediately rescued nine human trafficking victims, including a 14-year-old girl who was being advertised on the Internet for sex. Three suspects are facing felony human trafficking charges related to the case.

9,244

The number of peace officers and other law enforcement professionals who completed human trafficking training through OPOTA in 2017.

Maintaining high standards



BCI's laboratories in London, Richfield, and Bowling Green hold international accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors —

Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) which is now doing business as ANAB. BCI successfully completed a limited scope off-site records review. The assessment objectives included a review of management organization, proficiency testing program participation, corrective action records, internal audit records, and management review records. Maintaining compliance requires a rigorous quality assurance program.

\$439,969

The external funding acquired in 2017 for forensic science research at the Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at BGSU.

Preparing students for science careers



In 2017, the Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at Bowling Green State University continued to advance both the study and practice of forensic science in Ohio. From the launch of graduate and undergraduate forensic science degree programs at BGSU to the acquisition of \$439,969 in external grant funding for forensic science research and the procurement of \$300,000 in undergraduate scholarship funds, the center helps drive forensic science forward. Some 2017 accomplishments:

- The initiation of the Master of Science in Forensic Science Degree at BGSU.
- Establishment of the Choose First Scholarship Program for forensic science majors.
- The publication of seven peer-reviewed manuscripts.
- The presentation of 32 local, state, or national science-related seminars and programs.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine visits with guests after making a speech at the launch of the Hue Jackson Foundation, an organization to combat human trafficking. Jackson, the head coach of the Cleveland Browns, started the foundation to raise awareness of the crime and to help victims.



Jon Sprague, director of the Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science, right, instructs a Bowling Green State University student.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) provides free, expert forensic laboratory services to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.



In 2017, BCI received **24,807** chemistry assignments, tested **54,054** DNA samples, and analyzed **166,942** pieces of evidence for Ohio law enforcement.

Fighting Human Trafficking

The Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission — made up of elected officials, law enforcement, social service agencies, religious groups and schools — works to end trafficking. The office has two human trafficking task forces authorized through the OOCIC: The Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force and the Cuyahoga County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. The Ohio Revised Code requires local law enforcement to collect data on human trafficking investigations. In 2017, law enforcement reported 202 human trafficking investigations leading to 70 arrests and 18 successful criminal convictions.


Reaching out to local law enforcement

In January 2017, at a meeting of the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission, Attorney General DeWine announced a new effort to prevent the victimization of high-risk youths. As part of the initiative, BCI's Missing Persons Unit began analyzing records from the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, a central repository of information about the state's missing children, and pinpointing children who have run away multiple times in a short period of time or who have been reported missing from several communities. The unit also began searching law enforcement databases and public sources, such as social media, to look for other red flags that might indicate that those children could be vulnerable to traffickers. After gathering the information, the analysts began contacting law enforcement authorities in the communities where the children live and sharing the information with them so they can intervene before a trafficker gets a chance. In the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission's 2017 annual report, being a runaway or homeless played a factor in 44 cases.

146

The number of high-risk juveniles identified by BCI's Missing Persons Unit and reported to 13 local law enforcement agencies in 2017.



 The Rev. Dan Rogers shows Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine around at the Cherry Street Mission Ministries' Life Revitalization Center in Toledo, where adults attend vocational education classes to prepare them for employment.

Fighting data security threats



Attorney General Mike DeWine's CyberOhio Initiative works to protect the sensitive data of Ohioans by strengthening businesses in the fight against cyber-criminals. Among CyberOhio's 2017 highlights:

- In March, the Attorney General's Office sponsored a free CyberOhio Business Summit in Lewis Center so business owners could learn how to better protect against cyberthreats. For more information about CyberOhio, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CyberOhio.
- In August, CyberOhio released the *Data Breach Prevention and Response Guide for Businesses and Charities*.
- In October, CyberOhio launched "Ohio Cyber Watch," a quarterly newsletter geared toward highlighting the cyberthreats facing small businesses.
- In October, CyberOhio experts hosted a roundtable discussion for business leaders and law enforcement representatives.
- In November, the Attorney General endorsed Senate Bill 220, the Data Protection Act. The bill, recommended by the CyberOhio Advisory Board, encourages businesses to voluntarily adopt strong cybersecurity practices to protect consumer data.



Protecting Ohio's Families



SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Nurturing development



In September, Attorney General DeWine released an updated version of the *Ohio Economic Development Manual*. It provides an overview of Ohio laws, tax systems, funding sources, and agencies that play a role in economic development throughout the state. The free manual

contains practical examples of how various economic development tools have been used in projects throughout Ohio. It has been downloaded more than 2,050 times from www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EconomicDevelopment.

Providing information

In 2017, the Attorney General's Office hosted several educational workshops and conferences for businesses. Among the events:

- The "Growing Your Business" conference in Cleveland, conducted with Case Western Reserve University, covered the local, state, and university resources available to businesses.
- Workshops for JumpStart, Youngstown Business Incubator, and Innovate New Albany educated startup companies about intellectual property issues.
- Outreach efforts, which led to an opportunity to help a Cincinnati company developing sweat sensor technology.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, the Attorney General's CyberOhio Initiative created multiple cybersecurity trainings for small businesses and presented them on 32 occasions with more than 900 Ohio citizens attending.



\$38,785

The amount of money saved by small businesses and non-profits that participated in the Ohio Attorney General's dispute-resolution services.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine joins Montgomery County Sheriff Phil Plummer in announcing the arrests of four suspected drug traffickers, believed to be associated with the Sinaloa Cartel in Mexico.

Offering mobile training



The Mobile Academy of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) provides free training at an agency's doorstep. The firearms and driving courses use state-of-the-art simulators. In 2017, the academy conducted 81 courses using the driving and judgmental use of force simulators, training almost 2,400 officers. OPOTA's portable training facilities were used to train more than 400 officers in the past year in building-clearing techniques. The 44 mobile subject-control courses trained and refreshed 940 officers in force-on-force skills.

To learn more

Law enforcement can arrange for on-site firearms, driving, and subject-control courses. Send an email to AskOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?



OPOTA is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and is a recipient of the Accreditation With Excellence Award. The intent of the award is to provide agencies an opportunity to be further recognized for effective use of accreditation as a model for the delivery of enhanced public safety services and management professionalism. The CALEA Accreditation With Excellence Award attaches to the agency's accreditation for a period of four years.

Protecting Ohio's Families



The Attorney General's Office provides technology, training, and expertise to peace officers through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.



Aiding investigations



The Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) is a secure portal for the criminal justice community to conduct research on subjects and assets involved in investigations. As of Jan. 1, 2018, OHLEG had more than 28,800 registered users, including officers, detectives, analysts, and others. OHLEG provides 17 databases in one free investigative tool, and it's accessible from any smartphone or computer. OHLEG puts a wealth of information at a user's fingertips, including school safety plans; human trafficking reports; domestic violence reports; concealed carry information; and Blue, Amber, and Missing Adult alerts. The Ident-A-Drug application can help officers identify unknown pills.

Updating lessons

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) releases new basic training curricula twice a year in order to ensure that the training of peace officers and other public safety professionals meets local needs and puts officer safety at the forefront. In 2017, OPOTC issued 24 updated or new lesson plans for peace officer basic, peace officer refresher, private security, jailer, corrections, and humane agent students. Most of the modifications were legal updates due to legislation or changes in case law. During this time, the commission also worked with the Office of Criminal Justice Services to conduct a job task analysis for peace officer basic training. This analysis consisted of surveying new peace officers and their supervisors to determine what tasks need to be taught in basic training. The results of this analysis will dictate the changes to basic training during the next five years.

Providing guidance on critical incidents



In March 2017, BCI completed a guide for law enforcement on the investigation process that takes place after an officer-involved shooting: *Requesting BCI Investigative Services for an Officer-Involved Critical Incident*.

7,482

The number of basic training certificates issued by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) in 2017.

Supporting mental-health care

In April, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced a new grant to the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI) to help construct a community mental health center in Athens. The center will be the first in the state to provide patients with extended in-residence psychiatric care. The Adam-Amanda Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, named for two young adults who suffered from mental illness, will teach daily living skills and provide patients with counseling, psychotherapy, and access to medical and dental care. The \$60,351 grant for construction is from settlement funds. The land and another building were donated by the Athens-Hocking-Vinton Mental Health and Recovery Board.

Opening law enforcement training village

Among the requests of the Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training was a call for more scenario-based training to allow for the teaching of decision-making skills under stress. In May 2017, Attorney General DeWine unveiled a new training village at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London. A garage was repurposed to hold an interactive simulation system that uses surround sound and high-definition projectors to illuminate a 180-degree wraparound screen to bring training scenarios to life. Next door, an office building was converted into a “shoothouse.” Mats cover the walls and floors to allow for combat with role players, and screens throughout allow for the projection of scenarios. The village will be used in existing courses as well as newly developed courses specific for the location.

Increasing accessibility



OPOTA offers courses in various formats and locations to meet the diverse training needs of law enforcement. Through regional courses, OPOTA conducted 267 trainings with a total enrollment of 3,840 officers in 2017. The academy also provided 112 courses online through its free

eOPOTA lineup, with 23,310 law enforcement officers and others completing nearly 219,000 course sessions. OPOTA also offers a wide range of courses at its facilities, which include a campus in Richfield and a main campus and Tactical Training Center in London. In 2017, the 863 classes offered in London drew an enrollment of 10,001 students, while Richfield’s 231 campus classes drew 8,534 students. In January 2016, OPOTA added a new learning platform in the form of a live-streaming webcast. With its user-friendly, interactive platform, the webcast enables OPOTA to present courses to up to 3,000 students at a time. The service provides a training platform that is economic for agency budgets while still incorporating participation through interaction with an instructor. In 2017, 24 live courses were also provided via webcast, training almost 13,000 individuals.

218,819

The number of eOPOTA course sessions completed by 23,310 law enforcement officers and others in 2017.

Making improvements

In 2014, Attorney General DeWine appointed an advisory group to look at how Ohio trains its law enforcement officers and to make suggestions for improvement. In April 2015, the Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training completed its report. The document offered 29 recommendations regarding improving standards and included innovations to advance the law enforcement profession. The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) has been working to fulfill the recommendations. As of Dec. 31, 2017, 24 have been completed and two more are in progress.

To learn more

To read advisory group reports and other publications, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov, click on “Publications.”



Training pistols and related gear are available to law enforcement to borrow through the Scenario Training Equipment Program (STEP).

Lending gear

In October, Attorney General DeWine announced a new program at the Attorney General’s Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to deliver free, scenario-based training equipment to local law enforcement agencies. The Scenario Training Equipment Program (STEP) offers an inventory of training gear that OPOTA manages like a library. To borrow the equipment, the agency has to send at least one instructor to attend OPOTA’s Scenario Based Training Instructor course and submit a safety plan and scenario lesson plan. Once the instructor has successfully passed the course, he or she can then borrow from OPOTA’s library of equipment. Each kit includes training pistols; training rifles; marking cartridges; training Tasers, pepper spray, and batons; protective gear; and role player props.

Bringing officers, kids together to play

Ohio’s Badges for Baseball program, sponsored by the Attorney General’s Office and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, pairs local law enforcement officers and children to help build character and teach life lessons through an academic leadership program and the game of baseball. The program served 845 children this year, and, since its launch in 2012, the Badges for Baseball program has reached 4,803 children ages 10 through 12 in Canton, Dayton, Hamilton, Lima, Lorain, Springfield, Toledo, Youngstown, and Zanesville. A few activities from 2017:

- In June, 35 Ohio youths and nine mentors traveled to Aberdeen, Md., to participate in the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Summer Camp.
- In the fall, 60 children visited the University of Dayton and 40 others visited Kent State University for College Experience Day.



Campers from Ohio and nine other states work on their baseball skills during the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation’s summer camp in Maryland.

Providing workshops, honoring officers

OPOTA provides education for peace officers and other criminal justice professionals through the Attorney General’s annual Law Enforcement Conference. The 2017 event drew 654 people to attend 30 workshops and hear from experts in public safety and criminal justice. The theme of the two-day event was “Protecting Ohio: Cybersecurity.” Attorney General DeWine presented 10 awards to individuals and groups for excellence in law enforcement during the Distinguished Law Enforcement Achievement Awards luncheon. The event’s keynote speaker was retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Brian Shul, who overcame life-threatening injuries to become the pilot of the SR-71 Blackbird.



A law enforcement training officer works through a practice drill on the 180 simulator in the new training village at the Attorney General’s Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London.



Heather Andrews, a sexual assault survivor who advocated for the establishment of Trauma Recovery Centers, speaks with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine after he announced that his office would be awarding more than \$2.6 million in grants to create the network of support services for victims of violent crime.

Helping survivors

Ohio's Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, administered by the Attorney General's Office, addresses the needs of sexual assault survivors by paying for crisis response, hospital advocacy, and criminal justice advocacy. In 2017, 27 agencies received grants of \$47,500 to assist victims. An additional grant of \$142,500 was awarded to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the state sexual assault coalition.



Expanding services

In 2013, the Ohio Attorney General's Office conducted a statewide survey and found that only 36 counties offered direct, comprehensive services for sexual assault survivors and eight had few or no services. That year, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine established the Sexual Assault Services Expansion Program. Since then, it has awarded more than \$10 million in grant funds as part of the initiative to ensure that victims throughout the state have access to victim services that they deserve. Today, 80 counties report that they provide all core services.

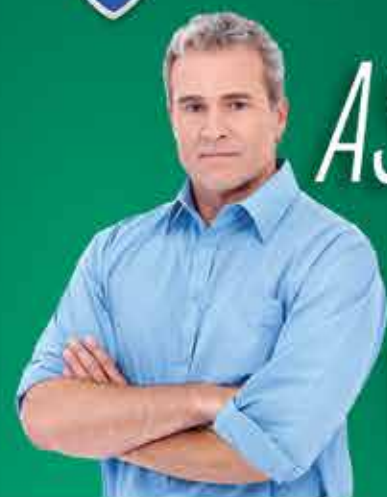


\$85.5 Million

The amount of money the Attorney General's Office awarded to 367 crime victim services providers throughout Ohio in 2017.



Protecting Ohio's Families



ASSISTING CRIME VICTIMS

The Ohio Attorney General's Office, through the Crime Victim Services Section, provides assistance and compensation to ease the burden for crime victims and their families.

Improving response to campus assaults



In 2017, the Ohio Attorney General's Office finalized and implemented a memorandum of understanding as part of a pilot project with Columbus State Community College's police and administration, the Columbus

Division of Police, the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, and the Sexual Assault Response Network of Ohio (SARNCO). The group created the agreement to outline each party's role in responding to a sexual assault report on campus, and spell out how the parties will work together to create consistent services and responses. The group continues to meet on a quarterly basis.

Covering exam costs

The Ohio Attorney General's Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) program is mandated to cover medical expenses of patients examined after a sexual assault to ensure the proper collection of evidence. In 2017, the program reimbursed medical facilities for 7,642 exams at a cost of \$4.8 million.

Providing notifications

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) is a service that enables Ohioans to track the status of offenders in custody. In 2017, 75,015 people registered for VINE. Text notifications were recently added and received 20,827 requests for information.

Hosting advocates

The Attorney General's 2017 Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance attracted about 1,300 victim advocates to Columbus from throughout the state for presentations and workshops focusing on the theme "A Call to Action!"



"I always look at every child on my caseload as 'my kid' and fight for them with all I have. 'My kids' keep me going every day."

— Det. Jennifer Schinkal of the Highland County Sheriff's Office, who was recognized at the conference for working to bridge the gap between children's services and law enforcement



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine visits with a fairgoer at the Ohio State Fair. Each year for the event, the Attorney General's Office sets up a display featuring information on the office's activities and services.

Pursuing cases

In 2017, the Attorney General's Elder Justice Initiative looked into 332 matters concerning the well-being of Ohio's senior citizens. A 2017 case of note that was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office:



- In February, a Monroe County woman was charged in connection with the theft of more than \$700,000 from elderly people and others. The woman was indicted on seven counts, including theft from the elderly, aggravated theft by deception, telecommunications fraud, and money laundering. According to investigators, the suspect lied to get people to give her money and promised to pay it back promptly. Instead of paying them back, she wired the funds to others, knowing the money would end up overseas. An attorney from the Attorney General's Economic Crimes Unit was appointed to serve as a special prosecutor by the Monroe County Prosecutor. The case was investigated by the Attorney General's Economic Crimes Unit and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the Marshall County (W.Va.) Sheriff's Office and BCI.

To request assistance, training, or more information about elder justice issues, contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at **800-282-0515** or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ElderAbuse.

Protecting Ohio's Families



PROTECTING SENIORS

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Elder Justice Initiative works to improve elderly victims' access to criminal justice services and assist local law enforcement in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting elder abuse cases.

Providing information



Older adults are popular targets for criminals. To make the public aware of some of the threats, the Ohio Attorney General's Office conducted events on the subject in 2017, including:

- In April and October the Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission, in partnership with the Ohio Association of Senior Centers and the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, conducted anti-fraud forums in Guernsey and Clark counties. The events, which featured experts from law enforcement, adult protective services, and

other fields, answered questions about detecting and avoiding fraud and financial exploitation.

- Throughout June, when Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed, representatives from the Elder Justice Initiative spoke at events throughout the state and offered information on financial exploitation of senior citizens.
- In December, representatives from the Elder Justice Initiative collaborated as guest instructors to provide an advanced training course on elder abuse criminal investigation at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London. The class provided hands-on tools and tips to effectively investigate such cases.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Elder Justice Initiative has assisted more than 1,200 older Ohioans and their family members to better understand and address elder abuse and exploitation.



462

The number of active cases that the Attorney General's Elder Justice Initiative was handling as of Dec. 31, 2017.

393

The number of public inquiries about abuse, neglect, or exploitation that the initiative resolved in 2017.



Andrew Thomas, M.D., chief medical officer for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, gives Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine a tour of the hospital.

Prosecuting workers' comp fraud



The Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit is responsible for prosecuting employers, providers, and claimants who defraud the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) program. The unit posted 36 indictments and 69 convictions and recovered more than \$1 million in workers' compensation fraud cases in 2017.

Cases of note during the past year:

- In March, a Mahoning County man was sentenced to five years of probation and ordered to repay more than \$40,000 to the BWC for creating false employment records in order to secure benefits.
- In May, a tax-preparation service operator was convicted of one count of workers' compensation fraud for working while receiving permanent total disability benefits from the BWC. The man was sentenced to five years of probation. In addition, he was ordered to pay more than \$56,000 in restitution.

To report fraud and abuse

To report possible Medicaid fraud or patient abuse, neglect, or misappropriation in a care facility, call **800-282-0515** or visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Tipster**.



Protecting Ohio's Families



**FIGHTING
HEALTH CARE
FRAUD**

The Attorney General's Office identifies and prosecutes fraud and patient abuse and neglect in the health care industry through the Health Care Fraud Section.

Guarding Medicaid



The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit posted 167 indictments and 156 convictions and recovered more than \$38.4 million in Medicaid fraud, patient abuse and neglect, and care facility misappropriation cases in the past 12 months. Among the unit's fraud cases of note in 2017:

- In February, the owner of two northeast Ohio home health care companies was sentenced to 10 years in prison and her son was sentenced to more than seven years for their role in a scheme to fraudulently bill Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans

Affairs. The two were found guilty of defrauding the programs out of more than \$8 million. Prosecutors say the companies provided services for the elderly and disabled from offices in Cleveland Heights, Twinsburg, and Mentor. They collected millions by preparing and submitting forged documents for services that were never provided.

- In September, a Hilliard-area man was sentenced to four years in prison and his wife was given three years of probation for conspiring to defraud Medicaid. The couple operated Columbus Home Health Care Services in Columbus, which routinely submitted bills to Medicaid for services that were never provided, causing a loss to Medicare and Medicaid of over \$1 million.

Pursuing convictions, returning funds

The Ohio Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Section was responsible for 203 indictments and 225 convictions in 2017. The section also recovered \$39.5 million in restitution orders and settlements for Ohio.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit offers presentations and workshops for health-care providers, law enforcement agencies, Medicaid advocates, and others. In the past year, the unit made a record 66 outreach and training presentations.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine testifies before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on General Government and Agency Review on House Bill 49, the state's biennial budget bill.

Resolving claims



The Attorney General's Workers' Compensation Section provides legal counsel and advice to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Industrial Commission of Ohio. Typically, the cases focus on whether the claimant is entitled to participate in the workers' compensation fund for an alleged injury or occupational disease and the type of benefits a claimant may be entitled to receive. Overall, the section settled 2,180 court cases last year. In 2017, as part of the section's internal alternative dispute program, 541 court cases were settled at section-initiated conferences. Also during that time, the section won four cases in the Ohio Supreme Court, 57 cases in state appeals courts, 13 cases at trial, and 12 cases through summary judgment or motion to dismiss. A case of note in 2017:

- In *State ex rel. Moffitt v. Indus. Comm.*, the claimant sought to be declared permanently and totally disabled and receive workers' compensation benefits. However, the section was able to produce evidence that the claimant, while asserting that his injury prevented him from working, was also working 500 hours per year as a roofer. The court of appeals held that such work was inconsistent with being permanently and totally disabled.

2,180 The number of court cases settled by the Attorney General's Workers' Compensation Section in 2017.



Protecting Ohio's Families



The Ohio Attorney General's Office safeguards the interests of Ohio's citizens and represents the state and its numerous agencies, offices, boards, and commissions in a broad range of legal matters and in every level of the courts.

Recovering debt



The Ohio Attorney General's Office is required to collect debt for state government entities and public colleges and universities. It also has agreements with more than 180 Ohio political subdivisions to do their debt collection. The work of the Attorney General's Office to collect debts owed to Ohio government agencies results yearly in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars that is returned back to state government clients, public colleges, universities and political subdivisions.

Handling appeals

The Appeals Section of the Attorney General's Office represents the state and its agencies on appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court. Highlights from 2017:

- In early 2017, the section led a challenge on behalf of Ohio and 12 other states against the "Stream Protection Rule" issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. By expanding federal authority over state coal resources, the rule exceeded the federal agency's authority. Ultimately, Congress rescinded the rule under the Congressional Review Act.

Offering opinions

In 2017, the Attorney General issued 45 opinions on a wide range of legal subjects, including public contracting, civil service employment, the Ohio public records law, health care insurance for township officers and employees, and the compatibility of various positions of public employment.



DID YOU KNOW?
The Attorney General's Public Service Mock Trial Competition offers law students practical insight into a public sector legal career. In 2017, students from eight Ohio law schools took part in the two-day competition.

Advancing public safety, promoting savings



The Attorney General's Public Utilities Section represents the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Power Siting Board in various legal matters. The section offers legal advice to the PUCO regarding its regulation of telephones, electricity, natural gas, motor carrier and hazardous material transportation, railroads and water. The section advises the Ohio Power Siting Board which reviews and approves plans for new energy facilities in Ohio. In 2017, the section:

- Successfully negotiated a global settlement with a major electricity provider and numerous parties establishing rate certainty and reducing customer rates by nearly \$100 million.
- Helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars in new utility investment through successful representation before the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Receiving recognition

The Ohio Attorney General's Office represents the state and its many agencies in crucial legal matters. In 2017, the achievements of the AGO legal teams were recognized:

- The Appeals Section was awarded a "Best Brief Award" from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) for its work on the state's case challenging the "Waters of the United States" rule, which extended federal jurisdiction over water bodies. The association bestows the awards to recognize high-quality written advocacy in the U.S. Supreme Court and to highlight legal briefs that can serve as models for others. The section won the same award in 2015 and 2016.
- The Constitutional Offices Section received a "Best Brief Award" in the public sector category from the Litigation Section of the Ohio State Bar Association. The brief, originally filed in the Ohio Supreme Court, was selected for being an outstanding example of written advocacy.



A summer view of the Ohio Statehouse

Providing counsel

The Attorney General's Executive Agencies Section provides counsel to seven cabinet agencies and more than 80 state boards and departments. In 2017, the section successfully represented these clients as plaintiffs and defendants in various administrative, state and federal court proceedings. The section opened 1,088 matters, of which 916 were administrative-related, and closed 1,042 of them. The section includes the Tobacco Enforcement Unit, the Workers' Compensation Defense Unit, and the Business Counsel Unit. In 2017, the Workers' Compensation Defense Unit addressed 625 Industrial Commission hearings and appeals. The Business Counsel Unit reviewed and approved 2,425 contracts. A case of note from 2017:

- Attorneys from the Executive Agencies Section, while representing the Accountancy Board, won a case that resulted in the revocation of the CPA certificate of an accountant who traveled abroad on trips not related to work and funded by misappropriated money from a nonprofit charter school funded by the Ohio Department of Education.



Protecting civil rights

The Civil Rights Section of the Attorney General's Office represents the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and prosecutes cases on the commission's behalf. The section also conducts free training for employers, human resources professionals, landlords, condominium associations, and businesses throughout Ohio to promote compliance with fair employment and fair housing laws. In 2017, the Civil Rights Section conducted 27 free public presentations throughout the state on fair employment and fair housing laws. A total of 865 people attended the presentations. The work of the assistant attorneys general from the section yielded approximately \$400,000 for victims of discrimination in 2017. Among cases of note:

- A 70-year-old man was terminated from his employment while substantially younger employees were retained. The Civil Rights Section prevailed in this case and received damages on behalf of the complainant.
- A manager was accused of egregious allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation toward a female employee. The Civil Rights Section prevailed in this case as well, receiving an order requiring the employer to pay monetary damages to the victim and to provide fair employment training to all of its employees.

Anyone interested in free training on Ohio's laws against discrimination may contact the Civil Rights Section at **614-466-7900**.



At a Joint Economic Committee hearing in Washington, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine provided testimony about Ohio's response to the opioid epidemic.

Conserving natural resources

The Ohio Attorney General's Environmental Enforcement Section investigates and prosecutes those who violate environmental laws and represents state agencies that safeguard Ohio's natural resources. In 2017, the section filed 32 cases in state and federal courts enforcing laws protecting Ohio's air and water and regulations guiding the proper disposal of waste. During the past 12 months, the section collected more than \$2.8 million in fines and penalties. The section's combined judgments, settlements, and restitutions in 2017 totaled more than \$10.1 million. Among cases of note in the past year:

- In response to a suit filed by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, in May the U.S. District Court in Cleveland granted a permanent injunction against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps threatened to dump toxic waste dredged from the Cleveland Harbor back into the deep waters of Lake Erie unless the state paid for onshore containment of the waste. The court ruled that the Corps was required to dredge the harbor to maintain navigability, and it could not dump the dredged water back into the lake.
- In December, the Attorney General urged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to close a lock in waters in Illinois to prevent invasive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. He filed comments with the Corps on its plan for preventing nuisance species from moving from the Mississippi River Basin into the Great Lakes. The Corps' plan involves electrical fences, noise, and water jets to keep out invasive species, but Attorney General DeWine says that it doesn't go far enough. He advised that the Corps immediately close the lock at Brandon Road, near Joliet, while also developing plans for complete hydrologic separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins to block the spread of the fish.



Maintaining standards



The Attorney General's Education Section handles litigation for the Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education. The section works to revoke or suspend the licenses of educators whose actions fail to meet professional obligations to their students, school districts, and communities. Additionally, the section provides legal counsel to Ohio's universities, community colleges, and technical colleges. As of Jan. 1, the section was handling 96 administrative cases (including educator licensure cases), 87 court cases, and 61 cases before the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or U.S. Department of Education.

Preserving competition

The Ohio Attorney General's Antitrust Section promotes competition in the marketplace by enforcing state and federal antitrust laws. The section also provides free assistance to public entities in Ohio to detect possible anti-competitive activity. Ohio public entities can sign up for the Attorney General's Partnership for Competitive Purchasing to take advantage of this assistance. A case of note in 2017:



In November, Attorney General DeWine and 48 other state attorneys general were granted final approval of an antitrust settlement with the maker of Provigil, a sleep disorder drug. The drugmaker was alleged to have engaged in

unlawful acts designed to delay the entry of lower-priced generic versions of the product onto the market. Court approval of the settlement cleared the way for distributions totaling more than \$1.67 million to Ohioans who may have been overcharged because of this anti-competitive activity. Over 2,000 Ohioans received checks from this settlement with an average check amount of \$850.



“The safety of our kids in this state is my top priority.”

— Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine leads students from Worthington Estates Elementary School on a tour of his office.

Year in review

2017



March 22:

The Attorney General announces the Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) pilot program to offer intervention and treatment for troubled families.



March 3:

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Science School becomes available at no charge to teachers and students throughout Ohio.

May 15:

The Attorney General's 2017 Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance attracts about 1,300 victim advocates to Columbus for presentations and workshops focusing on the theme "A Call to Action!"

Aug. 24:

With the opioid epidemic tearing families apart, the Attorney General urges Ohioans to become foster parents, and he announces the release of \$1 million to fund a pilot program to help promote kinship care placements.

Oct. 10-11:

About 700 peace officers and other criminal justice professionals gather for the Attorney General's 2017 Law Enforcement Conference.

Oct. 30:

To combat the opioid crisis, the Attorney General releases his "Recovery Ohio" action plan, which includes new tools for law enforcement, an expansion of treatment options, and more prevention programs.

Feb. 14:

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine hosts "Ideas in Motion — Fighting Ohio's Drug Epidemic."



May 9:

To deliver a higher level of scenario-based advanced training for law enforcement, the Attorney General opens an immersive training village at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London.



May 31:

The Attorney General files a lawsuit against five prescription opioid manufacturers accusing them of contributing to the state's addiction crisis.



Sept. 25:

Nearly 700 medical professional gather at 18 satellite locations for the Attorney General's "Ideas in Practice: A Closer Look at the Continuum of Addiction Treatment" event.



Oct. 13:

The Attorney General announces that he is awarding \$85.5 million to 367 crime victim service providers as part of the "Ohio Attorney General's Expanding Services and Empowering Victims Initiative."



FOR ASSISTANCE

The Ohio Attorney General's most frequently requested services:

Reach our Help Center

800-282-0515
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Contact

File a consumer complaint

800-282-0515
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/FileAComplaint

Submit a law enforcement tip

855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LETips

Report a scam

800-282-0515
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportAScam

Pay a debt to the state

877-607-6400
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/PayOnline



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

800-282-0515



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov