



**WHAT OHIO START IS DOING FOR FAMILIES**

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT.....



Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) is an intervention model helping public children services agencies (PCSAs) bring together caseworkers, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors into teams to aid families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorder. It is led by Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO).

**In 2019, Ohio START served over 1,000 people, bringing important care and needed comfort to 445 adults and 583 children.**




**Family Peer Mentors provided 3,676 visits to families.** On average, a family received 23 visits, each visit lasting an average of 60 minutes.



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**Family Peer Mentors give hope to Ohio START clients.**

**“I think for me it goes back to the peer mentor. She gets to say, ‘Change is possible. I’ve experienced this. This is where I am five years later,’ ... so that they see that there is hope.”**

**“Ohio START screens all clients for trauma,** as there is a strong link between traumatic experiences and substance use. Adults in the Ohio START program are screened for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and had an average score of 4.4, which is 4 times the national average. Children are screened using the Trauma Screening Checklist from the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center. Children 5 and under had an average of 4.1 trauma exposures and children 6-18 had an average of 6.4 trauma exposures.”



**Screening for trauma can lead to services:** counseling, housing, legal assistance, child care and transportation.

**“These families ... have so many barriers in place that we have to tackle those first before we can even address the substance abuse disorder. Like we’re focusing on basic needs, food and shelter right now before we can even worry about getting them into treatment.”**





## WHAT OHIO START IS DOING FOR COUNTIES

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**In 2019, Ohio START ADDED 14 COUNTIES,** increasing activity in the program to **46 total counties participating.**



**There were 50 training sessions** offering instruction and guidance to the **710 children services and behavioral health staff.**



**Ohio START is changing perceptions of children services.**

“I think it’s benefiting the parents, because they know that everybody is together on their side, trying to keep their children in their home, and they do feel that. They feel that it’s a team effort... I think every single one of my families have all said that they never realized before that children services would try and help them.”



**Families are learning to look at children services as their partners.**

“There are some families that don’t want anything to do with children services. But when they hear about a peer mentor and an Ohio START worker and we explain what it is, they seem to soften a little bit more to the idea of having children services involved. They look at us as more of a stronger support.”