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## **The Ohio Domestic Violence Network and the Ohio Pharmacists Association Launch the *Ohio Pharmacists Care about Domestic Violence Initiative***

*Pharmacies across the state offer resources for domestic violence victims during the pandemic*

**COLUMBUS**, Ohio (Aug. 3, 2020) – The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) and the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA) have joined forces to create *the Ohio Pharmacists Care about Domestic Violence Initiative*. The effort invites pharmacies to become places where domestic violence survivors can seek support and get information about resources for domestic violence and mental health services as well as access to housing, food, medical care, and medications.

“Survivors are at increased risk during this pandemic, and pharmacists are trusted professionals who are well-positioned to provide information and assistance,” said Mary O’Doherty, Executive Director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

Domestic violence cases increased by 31% in the Franklin County Municipal Court in June.<sup>1</sup>

The “Ohio Pharmacists Care about Domestic Violence” initiative provides pharmacists with guidance on assisting domestic violence victims seeking help. The initiative also developed a universal education flyer with contact information for National Domestic Violence Hotline, which can help survivors find the shelters in their communities.<sup>2</sup> The flyer also includes information about the Ohio COVID Care Line and safety planning tips. Social media images and emails were created to raise awareness on the role pharmacies can play in increasing safety for domestic violence victims.

“After reading media reports about creative ways that pharmacies were helping domestic violence victims, OPA reached out to ODVN to explore ways for better supporting domestic violence victims during these precarious times,” said Stuart Beatty, PharmD, and OPA’s Director of Strategy and Practice Transformation.

“Pharmacists are uniquely positioned as accessible health care providers in communities across Ohio, making them a safe and trusted professional for citizens who may be experiencing domestic violence,” according to Beatty, who is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at The Ohio State University. “Pharmacists know their patients and care for their patients, and OPA is excited to partner with ODVN on this important initiative.”

**About the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN):** ODVN provides a strong statewide voice for Ohio's 75 domestic violence programs that serve all 88 counties. ODVN advocates on domestic violence-related issues at the state and federal level and runs a training academy for advocates and allies, a legal assistance and relocation program for survivors, a statewide prevention program and is the home to the Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury.

**About the Ohio Pharmacists Association:** The Ohio Pharmacists Association works to unite the profession of pharmacy and encourage interprofessional relations while promoting public health through education, discussion and legislation. The association proudly represents over 3,300 pharmacists, student pharmacists, and industry professionals advancing pharmacy practice and patient care in Ohio.

References:

1. <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20200721/reports-of-domestic-violence-spike-in-central-ohio>
2. <https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Pharmacy-Flyer-color.pdf>

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