



State gains in pill battle

Officials cite legislation, crackdowns on doctors, more public awareness

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About 1 million fewer prescription pain pills will be dispensed in Scioto and Gallia counties this year than were in 2010, a state agency estimates.

Orman Hall, head of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, sees the drop as evidence that the state's battle against a deadly drug epidemic is making a dent.

But he knows the fight is far from over. People are still dying from pain-pill overdoses, and babies are born hooked on drugs. Projections show that 23 million *more* painkillers will be prescribed this year in Ohio than last year.

"I think we're making really solid progress," Hall said. "That's not to say we've done everything we need to do. We have not. There's still a tremendous amount of work we need to do."

Read the entire story here:

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/10/31/state-gains-in-pill-battle.html>