A National and Statewide Perspective on the Opioid Crisis

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Presentation Objectives

- Describe the public health burden of the opioid epidemic.
- Identify trends in the global consumption of opioids.
- Discuss CDC’s strategic framework for prevention.

There are no disclosures associated with this presentation.
The Epidemic in America
In 2016, more than 42,000 Americans died from overdoses involving prescription or illicit opioids.

For every ONE person who died there were:

- 15 people who reported having a substance use disorder involving heroin
- 41 people who reported having a substance use disorder involving prescription opioids
- 273 people who reported misusing prescription opioids in the past year
- 2,174 People who reported using prescription opioids in the past year

Other Health Consequences Associated with Opioids

- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Hepatitis B and C
- HIV
Opioid overdoses went up 30% from July 2016 through September 2017 in 52 areas in 45 states.

The Midwestern region saw opioid overdoses increase 70% from July 2016 through September 2017.

Opioid overdoses in large cities increased by 54% in 16 states.

Opioid overdose ED visits continued to rise from 2016 to 2017.

Detecting recent trends in opioid overdose ED visits provides opportunities for action in this fast-moving epidemic.

SOURCE: CDC's Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) Program, 16 states reporting percent changes from July 2016 through September 2017.
Every State Has Seen Dramatic Increases in Drug Overdose Deaths

*Estimated Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Drug Poisoning by County, United States*

1999

2016

Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, United States, 2000-2016

- Any Opioid
- Other Synthetic Opioids (e.g., fentanyl, tramadol)
- Commonly Prescribed Opioids (Natural & Semi-Synthetic Opioids and Methadone)
- Heroin

Almost 215 million opioid prescriptions in 2016
Trends in Global Opioid Consumption

SOURCE: International Narcotics Board; World Health Organization population data. (By Pain & Policy Studies Group, University of Wisconsin/WHO Collaborating Center, 2017)
CDC’s Framework for Prevention
CDC Budget

- $475 million in FY18
- Increase from $175 million in FY17

- Major activities
  - Support states, territories, and tribes
  - Build the capacity of partners
  - Enhance work with law enforcement
  - Expand the Rx Awareness campaign
  - Provide training and education for healthcare providers
  - Improve surveillance, IT, and health systems
  - Fund extramural research
Preventing Opioid Overdoses and Opioid-Related Harms

- Conduct surveillance and research
- Empower consumers to make safe choices
- Build state, local, and tribal capacity
- Support providers, health systems, and payers
- Partner with public safety
Conduct Surveillance and Research

- Understand the epidemic
- Collect timely data
- Focus prevention efforts
Build State, Local, and Tribal Capacity for Prevention

- Implement evidence-based interventions
- Conduct Epi-Aid investigations
Overdose Prevention in States (OPIS)
State-based Interventions are Improving Outcomes

New York
- 75% drop in patients
- 2012 Action: New York required prescribers to check the state’s prescription drug monitoring program before prescribing painkillers.
- 2013 Result: Saw a 75% drop in patients who were seeing multiple prescribers to obtain the same drugs, which would put them at higher risk of overdose.

Florida
- 50% decrease in overdose deaths
- 2010 Action: Florida regulated pain clinics and stopped health care providers from dispensing prescription painkillers from their offices.
- 2012 Result: Saw more than 50% decrease in overdose deaths from oxycodone.

Tennessee
- 36% drop in patients
- 2012 Action: Tennessee required prescribers to check the state’s prescription drug monitoring program before prescribing painkillers.
- 2013 Result: Saw a 36% drop in patients who were seeing multiple prescribers to obtain the same drugs, which would put them at higher risk of overdose.

State Successes Around Data Timeliness

Orange County, FL
- Combined medical examiner and emergency department data
- Identify community clusters of overdoses
- Near real-time understanding of the heroin epidemic

New Hampshire
- 70% increase in opioid emergency department visits
- 827% increase in heroin emergency department visits
- Combined data with emergency medical services and medical examiner data for more comprehensive picture
Support Providers, Health Systems, and Payers

- Promote use of the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain
- Train healthcare providers on implementation of Guideline
Partner with Public Safety

- Collaborate with law enforcement, including DEA
- Provide recommendations for first responders exposed to synthetic opioids
Empower Consumers to Make Safe Choices

- Launch Rx Awareness campaign
- Raise awareness about the risks of prescription opioids
- Encourage discussions about safer and more effective pain management
Prescription opioids can be addictive and dangerous.

It only takes a little to lose a lot.

cdc.gov/RxAwareness
Questions?
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