Overview of the Opioid Epidemic
RISE IN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN AMERICA

A Multi-Layered Problem in Three Distinct Waves

399,000 people died from an opioid overdose (1999-2017)

1990s
mark a rise in prescription opioid overdose deaths

Rx OPIOIDS
Include natural, semi-synthetic, and methadone and can be prescribed by doctors

2010
marks a rise in heroin overdose deaths

HEROIN
An illegal opioid

2013
marks a rise in synthetic opioid overdose deaths

SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS
Such as fentanyl and tramadol are very powerful and can be illegally made

Learn more about the evolving opioid overdose crisis: www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths

Other Synthetic Opioids
e.g., Tramadol and Fentanyl, prescribed or illicitly manufactured

Commonly Prescribed Opioids
Natural & Semi-Synthetic Opioids and Methadone

Heroin

Wave 1: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths
Wave 2: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths
Wave 3: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths

Statistically significant drug overdose death rate increase from 2016 to 2017

Illicit Opioids
Comparison of Potentially Lethal Doses

HEROIN  FENTANYL  CARFENTANIL
Variation in Trends of Fatal Drug Overdoses

2010–2016

- A total of 47 states had an increase in their drug overdose mortality rate.
- WV had the highest absolute rate at both time points.
- NH and DC had the largest absolute rate increase — each over 25 deaths per 100,000.
- ME, CT, MD, MA, NH, NJ, VT each moved up over 20 spots in the ranking of states.

SOURCE: https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose

Vital Signs: Opioid Overdoses Treated in Emergency Departments

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.
CDC’s Response

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
CDC Overdose Prevention in States Initiative

Five Components

- PDMPs
- System-Level
- Evaluate Policy
- Surveillance
- Rapid Response

Evidence Practices that Work

A small subset
Declaring a Statewide Emergency

- **The 7 P’s – Potential Accrued Benefits of Declaration**
  - **PERSONNEL.** States that issue declarations have reassigned and/or appointed new personnel to better address the epidemic.
  - **PAY-FORS.** Declarations may provide governors and states with additional options to supplement existing opioid funding. State emergency orders can allow the governor to redirect previously allocated funding or use certain reserve funding.
  - **PROCUREMENT.** State emergency declarations have allowed for accelerated procurement practices for certain supplies.
  - **PRACTICE.** Executive orders have been used to force changes in practice among public or private actors.
  - **POLICY.** Declaration states have used their emergency orders to address larger policy issues and address existing regulatory barriers.

Support Better and Faster Data - PDMPs

[PDMPs](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2016/12/prescription-drug-monitoring-programs)
Academic Detailing

- Targeted Naloxone Distribution
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Eliminating Prior-Authorization Requirements for Medications for Opioid Use
- Disorder Screening for Fentanyl in Routine Clinical Toxicology Testing
- 911 Good Samaritan Laws

Additional Evidence-Based Practices

- Naloxone Distribution in Treatment Centers and Criminal Justice Settings
- MAT in Criminal Justice Settings and Upon Release
- Initiating Buprenorphine-based MAT in Emergency Departments
- Syringe Services Programs
Resources

- CDC Resource Center: https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/resources/index.html

Questions?

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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