Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States

Governor’s Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Summit

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National Governors Association

- Founded in 1908

- Chair Gov. McAuliffe (D-VA) and Vice-Chair Gov. Sandoval (R-NV)

- Through NGA, governors share best practices and develop innovative solutions to improve state government.

- NGA Center for Best Practices: a think tank/consultancy -- works to surface evidence-based practices and works directly with governors.
Solutions

Evidence Based

Coordinated

Impactful

Roadmap
  • Ways to organize
  • Best approaches
  • State examples

Law Enforcement and Health working together
Realities of the Opioid Crisis

• This crisis is impacting EVERYONE
  • Urban and rural
  • All ages
  • All income levels and socioeconomic status

• The solutions are complex:
  • Strategies may be slow to show results
  • Several factors are compounding states’ progress
    • Greater availability of heroin
    • Spread of illicit fentanyl
    • Data lag
  • Lack of evidence for effective strategies
Spread of the Opioid Crisis

2014 RAPID INCREASE IN DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH RATES

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Opioid Road Map Highlights: How We Got Here

- **FACTOR 1**: Wider Availability of Prescription Opioids
- **FACTOR 2**: Lack of Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
- **FACTOR 3**: Changing Economics and Supply of Heroin

Underlying Biological and Social Risk Factors for Substance Use Disorder

Increasing Prescription Opioid Misuse and Overdose

Increasing Heroin Use and Overdose
In 2014, **28,647** people died of an opioid overdose.

- **Over 1,000** people will be treated today in an ER for an overdose.
- **78** people will die today of an overdose.
Overview of the Opioid Crisis

• The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) expects overdose rates to increase in the next year.

• Human cost and negative impact on state budgets.
  • Inpatient charges for hospitalizations related to opioid abuse/dependence tripled in 2012 ($14.85 billion).
  • Medicaid funds about 50% of hospitalizations.
Joint effort between Health and Homeland Security and Public Safety

• **2012 – 2015:** NGA convened prescription drug abuse policy academies with 13 states -- including Nevada

• **February 2016:** Governors agreed that collective action is needed to end the opioid crisis
Timeline of NGA Activities

• Summer – Fall 2016:
  • 46 governors sign *Governors Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction*
  • NGA releases *Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States*
  • Learning Labs:
    • Launches Learning Lab for Improving Information Sharing and Data Analysis Between Law Enforcement and Public Health (Summer 2016)
    • Launches Learning Lab: State Strategies for Combatting Heroin and Illicit Fentanyl (Fall 2016)

• Publications:
  • *Six Strategies for Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse.* (September 2012)
  • *Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse: Lessons Learned from an NGA Policy Academy* (February 2014)
  • *Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States.* (July 2016)
Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States
Opioid Road Map Highlights: Comprehensive Policy Framework

Overarching Prescription Opioid Misuse and Heroin Policy Framework

Health Care and Public Safety

Preventing Opioid Misuse and Overdose
- Health Care Strategies for Prevention and Early Identification
- Public Safety Strategies for Reducing Illicit Supply

Responding to Opioid Misuse and Overdose
- Health Care Strategies for Treatment and Recovery
- Public Safety Strategies for Response
Opioid Road Map Highlights: Select Health Care Strategies

• Prevention:
  • **Guidelines** for all opioid prescribers
  • **Limit** new opioid prescriptions for acute pain, with exceptions
  • Develop and adopt a comprehensive opioid **management** program
  • Remove **methadone** for managing pain from Medicaid preferred drug list

• **Treatment and Recovery:**
  • Change **payment** policies
  • Increase access to **naloxone**
  • Provide evidence-based MAT and recovery services
Opioid Road Map Highlights: Select Public Safety Strategies

- **Reducing Illicit Supply and Demand for Opioids:**
  - **Establish** a collaborative information sharing environment
  - **Expand** statutory tools for prosecuting
  - **Expand** partnerships and data access

- **Responding to the Crisis:**
  - **Empower**, educate and equip law enforcement personnel to prevent overdose deaths and facilitate access to treatment
  - **Reinforce** use of best practices in drug treatment courts
  - **Ensure** access to MAT in correctional facilities and upon reentry
  - **Strengthen** pre-trial drug diversion programs
Opioid Road Map Highlights: Finalize, Implement and Evaluate
Staff Resources

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