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

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Chelsea Kelleher
Senior Policy Analyst, Health Division
NGA Center for Best Practices
Purpose of this Session

• Provide a brief overview of the National Governors Association
• Provide a brief overview of the national opioid crisis
• Highlight sections from Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States
• Discuss the opioid threat in west coast states, and policy approaches
About the National Governors Association

• The National Governors Association (NGA) is the nation’s oldest organization serving the needs of governors and their staff.

• NGA Office of Government Relations (OGR): serves as the collective voice of the nation’s governors in Washington, DC

• NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center):
  • Economic Opportunities
  • Education Division
  • Environment, Energy & Transportation Division
  • Health Division
  • Homeland Security & Public Safety Division
2014 RAPID INCREASE IN DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH RATES
Illicit Fentanyl

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration, “National Heroin Threat Assessment Summary,” June 2016
Illicit Fentanyl

Figure 4: Number of Fentanyl Exhibits in NFLIS, 2004-2015

Source: DEA
West Coast Opioid Issues

• Different heroin markets
  • The U.S. heroin market is geographically divided by the Mississippi River. In the northeast, white powder heroin is more common; in the west, black tar heroin is more common.

• Counterfeit pills
  • Users purchase what they believe is OxyContin, Percocet, or Xanax, only to find it is fentanyl

• Opioid analogues
  • Carfentanil
  • U-47700 or “pink”

• Fentanyl mixed with cocaine or meth
Governors Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction

• In July 2016, 46 governors signed on to “A Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction”
• Governors redoubled efforts in three areas:
  • Reducing inappropriate prescribing
  • Improving education about opioids
  • Ensuring pathways to treatment and recovery
• Since then, states have:
  • Increased use of PDMPs and established prescribing limits
  • Issued emergency declarations and public information campaigns about the dangers of opioids
  • Improved access to naloxone; increased access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT); and invested in peer recovery services
Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States

STEP 1
Assess the Situation

STEP 2
Develop and Select Policies

STEP 3
Finalize Policies, Implement & Evaluate

https://www.etsy.com/...
Opioid Road Map Highlights: Key Factors

1. Wider Availability of Prescription Opioids
   - Increasing Prescription Opioid Misuse and Overdose

2. Lack of Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
   - Increasing Heroin Use and Overdose

3. Changing Economics and Supply of Heroin

Underlying Biological and Social Risk Factors for Substance Use Disorder
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 and Demand

Responding to Opioid Misuse and Overdose
- Health Care Strategies for Treatment and Recovery
- Public Safety Strategies for Response
State Prevention Approaches

• **California** Data Dashboard
  • Dashboard tool shows opioid data throughout the state, to help target resources

• **Oregon** Prevention Efforts
  • Prescribing guidelines
  • Support to providers and patients on opioid alternatives

• **Nevada** Prescribing Changes
  • 14 day prescription limit
  • Patient screening and education before prescribing
Contact

Chelsea Kelleher  
Senior Policy Analyst, Health Division  
National Governors Association  
ckelleher@nga.org  
202-624-5342