Policies and Strategies to Reduce Deaths due to Prescription Opioid Overdose and Misuse

2018 OTPC Policy Objective
Oklahoma Turning Point Council (OTPC)

• OTPC is an independent statewide council focused on education and advocacy efforts aimed at improving Oklahoma’s health status

• The Turning Point philosophy is anchored by two fundamental convictions:
  1. Communities have inherent strengths
  2. Everyone has a stake in public health
Oklahoma Turning Point Council (OTPC)

• The OTPC provides guidance and receives feedback from community partnerships on local and state policy issues that may impact health improvement efforts

• OTPC sponsors community meetings on primary policy objectives and sponsors an annual Policy Day to engage the community in the development of primary policy objectives and advocacy efforts
Educate the public and advocate for programs and policies to reduce deaths from prescription opioid overdose and misuse.
What are Opioids?

• Opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain.
  • Prescription opioids (oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine and methadone)
  • Fentanyl – synthetic opioid pain reliever
  • Heroin – illegal opioids

Source: CDC Opioid Basics
What is a “drug overdose?”

• Injury to the body (poisoning) that happens when a drug is taken in excessive amounts.
• An overdose can be fatal or nonfatal.

What is “drug misuse”

• The use of prescription drugs without a prescription or in a manner other than as directed by a doctor, including use without a prescription of one’s own; use in greater amounts, more often, or longer than told to take a drug; or use in any other way not directed by a doctor.

Source: CDC Commonly Used Terms
Public Health Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose and Death in the U.S. & Oklahoma

• In the past 15 years, opioid overdose deaths in the U.S. quadrupled.
• In 2016, more than 46 people died every day from overdoses involving prescription opioids nationwide.
• The opioid epidemic has enormous human and economic costs.2 In 2013, the epidemic cost the U.S. $78 billion.
• Nearly four out five unintentional poisoning deaths in Oklahoma involve at least one prescription opioid.
• More unintentional poisoning deaths involved prescription opioids than alcohol and all illicit drugs combined.
• More Oklahoma adults aged 25-64 die of unintentional prescription opioid overdoses than motor vehicle crashes.
• In 2016, enough opioids were prescribed in Oklahoma for every adult to have more than 100 pills.

Sources: CDC Opioid Overdose 2017 & Hub Staff Report 2017
Policies and Strategies to Reduce Prescription Opioid Related Overdose & Death

- Increase public awareness of the burden and prevention of prescription opioid overdose and death.
- Improve the way opioids are prescribed through clinical guidelines that ensure patients have access to safer, more effective pain treatment and reduce the risks associated with opioid therapy.

Source: 2016 State Plan Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Oklahoma
POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID RELATED OVERDOSE & DEATH

• Expand access to and use of naloxone through standing orders at pharmacies, naloxone administration training for law enforcement and emergency medical personnel below paramedic-level, and distribution through local, community-based organizations.

• Expand access to evidence-based treatments, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT). MAT is the use of medications, in combination with counseling or behavioral therapies, for the treatment of substance use disorders.

Source: 2016 State Plan Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Oklahoma
POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID RELATED OVERDOSE & DEATH

• Support national and state efforts to address the epidemic.
  o The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency in November 2017.
  o In 2013, the state plan, *Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Oklahoma*, was created. In 2016, the state plan was updated to include notable progress since 2013 and provide a course of action to continue reducing prescription drug abuse in Oklahoma.

Source: 2016 State Plan Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Oklahoma
Policies and strategies to reduce prescription opioid related overdose & death

• Support national and state efforts to address the epidemic continued ...
  o In 2017, legislation proposed by the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General to form the Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse was signed into law. The Commission’s final report outlines recommended policies and prevention strategies to address the prescription opioid problem in Oklahoma.

Source: Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse
POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID RELATED OVERDOSE & DEATH

• Support enactment of a *Good Samaritan Overdose Immunity Law* in Oklahoma.
  o Good Samaritan Overdose Immunity Laws have been enacted in a majority of states to encourage people to seek medical attention for overdoses or follow-up care after naloxone administration (a drug reversing the effects of an opioid overdose). The laws provide varying degrees of immunity from arrest, charge, or prosecution under specified circumstances.
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• The OSDH Injury Prevention Service (2015) survey of law enforcement on attitudes and opinions on a Good Samaritan law found that
  • More than 90% of respondents felt drug abuse was a problem in their community
  • 52% said they would support a Good Samaritan law for drug overdose
  • Less than 20% resorted being against a Good Samaritan law
  • Approximately 33% had a neutral opinion
IMPACT OF PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

• Multifaceted approaches will lead to reduced opioid prescribing, increased usage of the opioid reversal drug naloxone, decreased opioid-related overdose and death, and reduced costs to society.

• In Oklahoma, following state plan strategies over the past 4 years has resulted in a 25% decrease in the unintentional overdose death rate related to prescription opioids.

Sources: Oklahoma Watch, USDHHS, & Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse
State and community support is essential in reducing deaths due to prescription opioid related overdose and misuse.
CALL TO ACTION

• Sign your organization to the [OTPC’s Letter of Support on Programs and Policies to Reduce Prescription Related Opioid Overdose and Death](#).

• Educate partners and advocate for programs and policies to reduce prescription related opioid overdose and deaths.

• [Contact your state elected officials](#) to voice your support for programs and policies to reduce prescription related opioid overdose and death.

• [Join OTPC](#) and create partnerships in your community and state to support programs and policies to reduce prescription related opioid overdose and death.

• [Register to vote!](#)

• [Be aware of Oklahoma election deadlines and dates!](#)
REFERENCES

For additional information please visit

http://okturningpoint.org/ or

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