

Efforts to Address the Opioid Epidemic in Clark County



Overview

- **Background**
- **Current work – SNHD**
- **Challenges**
- **Next Steps**

Background

- Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death among Americans under 50
- Despite recent declines, opioid prescribing is still high and inconsistent across the U.S.

82 opioid pain prescriptions per 100 Nevadans (2015)



Every 1 ¼ hours a person in Nevada visits an ER with an opioid related diagnosis (2015)



Every 1 hour a person in Nevada is admitted into a hospital for an opioid related diagnosis (2015)



18.4 overdose deaths per 100,000 Nevadans (2015)

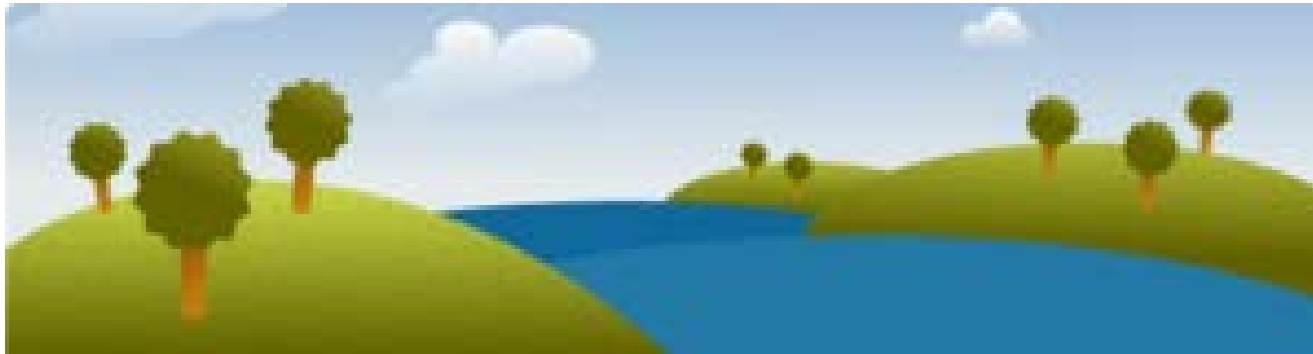


Background, cont.

- Each year since 2008, more Clark County residents have died from opioid overdoses than from firearms and motor vehicle traffic accidents
- Opioid-involved overdose rates were highest in the 45-54 year old age range compared to other age groups in Clark County
- Non-Hispanic Whites had the highest death rate from opioid analgesic poisonings in Clark County

The “Perfect Public Health Problem”

- Preventable
- Upstream
- Surveillance
- Convening Role
- Response on multiple fronts
- Practitioner Guidance
- Education (providers & community)
- Policy & Systems Change
- Unintended consequences



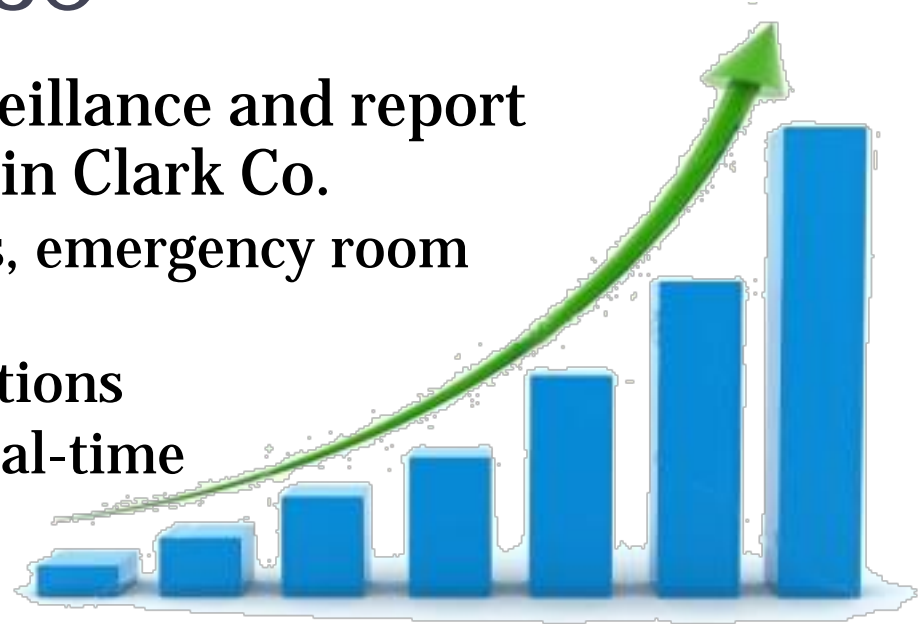
SNHD – Opioid Advisory Council

- *Informal formation – Nov 2016*
- *Who: Gov't agencies, community groups, health care providers, and many others*
- *Mission: Develop a systems-level response to the southern Nevada opioid crisis through evidence-based strategies and unique community collaborations.*
- *Long-Term Goal: Shared resources, consistent messaging and activities across the region, and unified policy developments*
- **Needs Assessment and Strategic Action Plan**



SNHD -Surveillance

- Conduct opioid-related surveillance and report on epidemiological findings in Clark Co.
 - Monitoring rates of fatalities, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations
 - Identifying high-risk populations
 - Developing improved and real-time surveillance methodologies
- Work with Office of Informatics to:
 - Develop an online data dashboard to display trends in prescribing practices from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
 - Visualize trends in opioid-related mortality, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations
 - <https://opioid.snhd.org/>



SNHD - Media Campaign

Plan and air media campaigns

- *Focus:* the impact of prescription opioid misuse on individuals and families
- *Partnership:* Philadelphia Department of Public Health – TV spots
- *Mediums:* television, radio, mobile/desktop banners, and billboards
- *Launched:* August 28th – September 30th



Visit our opioid education web page on the www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org website.

SNHD - Letter to Opioid Prescribers

- *Date:* July 7, 2017
- *Target audience:* Primary care providers/prescribers in southern Nevada.
- Reviewed by multi-disciplinary community partners
- Letter and extensive resources sheet
- *Purpose:* provide actionable guidance, resources, and a public health perspective on the opioid crisis in southern Nevada



July 7, 2017

Dear Health Care Provider/Prescriber:

As you are aware, the overuse of prescription opioids has become a national epidemic. Since 2008 more Clark County residents have died each year from opioid overdoses than firearms or motor vehicle traffic accidents¹. Nationally, among new heroin users, about three out of four report abusing prescription opioids before using heroin². On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District, I am contacting you to offer resources to assist you in addressing this critical issue with your patients including:

- Strategies for assisting high-risk patients
- Medication-assisted treatment certification programs
- Local addiction recovery services locator
- Information about PMP (Nevada's prescription drug monitoring program)
- Opioid prescribing guidelines
- Opioid prescriber resource sheet

Please see the sections below for brief descriptions on each topic and a link to all resources at the bottom of this letter.

Don't "Fire" Your Patients Who May Be Over-using Opioids

SNHD - Harm Reduction Efforts

- Provide harm reduction training on topics including: drug related HIV and Hepatitis C, harm reduction, drug-related stigma, and overdose prevention
- Facilitate the Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance monthly that includes:
 - *Mission:* To improve the health and well-being of people who use drugs by reducing drug-related stigma, overdoses and the harmful effects of drugs within the Southern Nevada Community regardless of their circumstances.
 - *Goal:* To decrease overdose rates in people who inject or use drugs
 - *Subcommittees:* Awareness/Education/Outreach, Treatment/Recovery, Leadership , Community Advisory Board
- Participate in monthly outreach to people experiencing homelessness as part of a collaborative team to deliver tertiary prevention to PWID through Hepatitis C education and testing, education and distribution of bleach kits

**SOUTHERN NEVADA
HARM REDUCTION
ALLIANCE**

HELP+HOPE+SUPPORT

Meeting You Where You're At

Challenges

- **Many, many moving parts with many different agencies**
- **Lack of real-time data on overdose deaths**
- **Barriers to implementing medication assisted treatment**
- **Diverse community populations involved**

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