

Efforts to Address the Opioid Epidemic in Clark County



Board of Health Meeting
November 16, 2017

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

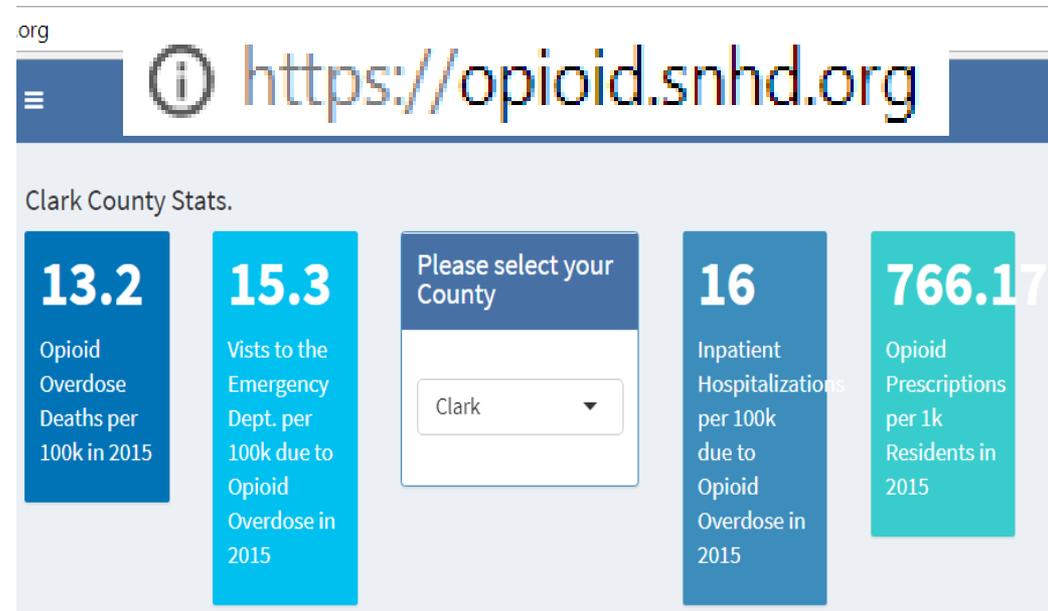
SNHD - Opioid Advisory Council

- *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
 - Identifying high-risk populations
 - Improving surveillance methodologies
 - Preparedness and the Fusion center
- **Office of Informatics:**
 - Online data dashboard
 - 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
- *Campaign Impressions:* >8,083,000



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



Las Vegas Vending Machine Project

- *Launched:* April 2017
- *Goal:* Reduce the transmission of bloodborne infections and their related health complication to people who share needles, prevent overdose, and lessen the time between active addiction and substance abuse treatment.
- *Each kit contains:*
 - 10 sterile syringes & needles
 - a cooker
 - cotton
 - rubbing alcohol
 - a band-aid
 - a sharps container



Upcoming Projects at SNHD

- Collaboration with CDC on comprehensive data collection and evaluation for syringe exchange programs
- Office of EMS & Trauma Systems grant to train first responders in naloxone



Contact

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