LET'S TALK OPIOIDS.

COMMUNITY UPDATE AND CONVERSATION ON OPIOID CRISIS RESPONSE

OCTOBER 28
5:30 - 7:30PM
U.S. CELLULAR CENTER
ASHEVILLE, NC
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The Backdrop

According to a 2013 Drug and Alcohol Dependence study, 4 out of 5 people who use heroin began misusing prescription painkillers.
Rate of Outpatient Opioid Pills Dispensed by County per North Carolina Resident, 2016

Statewide dispensing rate (2016): 66.5 pills per resident

Opioid overdose is more common in counties where more pills are dispensed.

Outpatient opioid pills dispensed per person (2016)
- 34.7 - 44.9
- 50.0 - 74.9
- 75.0 - 99.9
- 100.0 - 151.9

Source: Opioid Dispensing – NC Division of Mental Health, Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2016/Population – National Center for Health Statistics, 2016
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
Rate of Outpatient Opioid Pills Dispensed by County per North Carolina Resident, 2017

Statewide dispensing rate (2017): 51 pills per resident

Opioid overdose is more common in counties where more pills are dispensed.

Source: Opioid Dispensing – NC Division of Mental Health, Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2017; Population- National Center for Health Statistics, 2017; Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
Reduce oversupply of prescription opioids: Statewide, 43 pills per resident dispensed in 2018

Outpatient opioid pills dispensed per person (2018)
- < 42.0
- 42.0 - 55.0
- 55.1 - 72.5
- > 72.5

Technical Note: All CSRS data are subject to change
Source: Opioid Dispensing – NC Division of Mental Health, Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2018, Population—NCHS, 2018
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
Health Department Regions

Buncombe County
Progress in North Carolina

- 2017-2018: 10% reduction in ED visits for opioid-related overdoses
  - Increase in Buncombe County

- 2018: unintentional opioid-related deaths decreased in NC by 5%
  - 2017-2018: 30% decrease in deaths in Buncombe
Current trends in WNC: Regions 1 and 2

Rate of overdose deaths declined in 2018 **BUT:**
- Rate is still high in NC
  - 2018: ~3.5 deaths per 100k people
  - 2012: <2 deaths per 100k people

- **Region 2** (including Buncombe and Henderson) still considerably higher than state average
  - ~4.5 deaths per 100k people

- ED visits are on the decline in NC, but on the rise in Buncombe; 10% higher than 2018
The Face of Buncombe County
2018 Demographics of Opioid Overdose Victims

### General Demographics
- 72% Male
- 96% White
- 77% between 20-39
- 28% lived or were staying in West Asheville

### Substance Use
- 84% had fentanyl in their system
- 29% had methamphetamine in their system
- 17% alcohol
- 14% benzos

### People who use opioids are in the workforce
- 35% laborers
- 20% worked in restaurants
- 10% worked in healthcare
- 6% were veterans
In Buncombe County

• 2015: 38 deaths
• 2016: 52 deaths
• 2017: 125 deaths
• 2018: 88 deaths
Progress in North Carolina Prevention

- 2017-2019: opioid dispensing decreased by 24%

- Drug-Free Communities
- CARE Team
- Historical Mapping Project
- Medical School Project
- Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant School Project
- Medical Residency Project
Progress in North Carolina

Treatment

- 2017-2019: prescriptions for drugs used to treat OUD increased by 15%

- OUD treatment for uninsured/Medicaid beneficiaries increased by 20%

North Carolina’s MAT Project for EMS

Comprehensive Mental Health/MAT

Project CARA

MAT in Jails
Progress in North Carolina Recovery

- Peer Support Services reduce substance use, reduce involvement with the criminal justice system, and reduce use of emergency services

- Post-Overdose Response for Buncombe County
- START Model for DSS
- Justice Center Resource: Diversion Programs and Treatment Courts
Progress in North Carolina
Harm Reduction

- Harm Reduction Education
- Naloxone Training and Distribution
- Syringe Services
- Safe Disposal
- STD Testing/Treatment
Next Steps

Naloxone

• Libraries
• YMCA
• Private and Charter Schools

Criminal Justice

• Linkage to care from jails
• Community Health Worker model, FIT
• LEAD

Social determinants of health

• Housing, employment, legal assistance, transportation
• Harm reduction

Become a community that humanizes people who use drugs.
Let's Talk Opioids.

Community Update and Conversation on Opioid Crisis Response

Become a community that humanizes people who use drugs.