Opioids: A Crisis in Evolution

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Overdose Deaths and Substance Misuse

In America's drug death capital: How heroin is scarring the next generation

Huntington, West Virginia (CNN) — Sara Murray tends to two dozen babies in the neonatal therapeutic unit at Cabell Huntington Hospital. They shake. They vomit. Their inconsolable, high-pitched screams pierce the air. The symptoms can be traced to babies born addicted to the opioids their mothers consumed during pregnancy.

26 heroin overdoses over 4 hours in 1 West Virginia city

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. - Officials in a West Virginia city are warning people about an especially dangerous batch of heroin after authorities responded to 26

Drug firm shipped 241M pain pills to WV over five years, suit alleges

Drugs are killing so many people in West Virginia that the state can’t keep up with the funerals

President Obama to Visit Center of Heroin Epidemic

U.S. Health Secretary Talks About Opioids in West Virginia

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President Obama to Visit Center of Heroin Epidemic

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price hears about efforts to fight opioid addiction in West Virginia, which has the nation's highest drug overdose death rate.
An Epidemic in Evolution

2001-2015 Resident Drug Overdose Mortality Rate
West Virginia and United States

2006-2016 West Virginia Occurrence Drug Overdose Deaths
Involving Heroin or Fentanyl by Year

Data Source: CDC Wonder

2016 data is preliminary.
Source: West Virginia Health Statistics Center, Vital Statistics System
Total societal costs of prescription opioid abuse -- $78.5 billion

Workforce - Lost productivity and lost production $20 billion

Total Health Care costs -- $28 billion
($26 billion covered by insurance)
Fatal overdoses, including costs related to healthcare and lost productivity -- $21.5 billion

Criminal justice costs -- $7.7 billion

“The U.S. has finally turned the tide in the battle against HIV. In the past six years, new HIV infections in the U.S. have fallen 18 percent. Yet we need only look back at our country’s inaction at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic to remind ourselves that without the political will and financial commitment, it will be nearly impossible to stem the tide of the opioid epidemic in our country. Regrettably, we are poised to repeat history.”
WV SUD Associated Trends - Select Indicators

Costs Estimates

OCME: $2,400 per case

Foster Care: $25,000 - 28,528 per child, per year

NAS: $41,000 - 93,400 per child

Birth to Three: $3,900 per child, per year
Efforts to Reduce Vulnerability

- Enhanced surveillance for HIV and Hepatitis C
- Concurrent outreach to corrections, health care providers, regional jails and juvenile facilities
- Expansion of Hepatitis B and C testing and vaccinations
- Statewide 24/7 substance use helpline: 844-HELP-4-WV
- Syringe Service Program expansion
- Overdose outbreak investigations and the development of standard operating procedures
- Statewide overdose prevention initiative - Naloxone distribution
- Expansion of treatment and recovery services
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) enhancements
West Virginia counties vulnerable to rapid dissemination of HIV/HCV co-infection and the location of active and planned syringe service programs.
May 2015: Physicians permitted to prescribe Naloxone to initial responders, family and friends. Initial responders can possess and administer Naloxone.

June 2016: Pharmacists permitted to dispense Naloxone without a prescription

As of August 8, 2017 (7 mo.)
Policy Strategies Enacted in WV

1. Making naloxone available without a prescription or third-party prescribing
2. Overdose response training for professionals and laypersons and community-based naloxone education and distribution programs
3. Good Samaritan laws
4. PDMP and CME requirements for prescribers
5. MAT and Pain Clinics
6. Harm Reduction Programs at community level
7. Office of Drug Control Policy
State Office of Drug Control Policy

• Moving Upstream - Strategic plan to reduce the prevalence of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse among youth and adult populations

• Primary prevention initiatives:
  1. LARCs
  2. Overdose follow up & prevention
  3. K-12 education and community integration
  4. Early childhood interventions
  5. Systems accountability

• A coordinated and comprehensive approach to substance use disorder as a complex, multifaceted, social, and contemporary challenge using a public health approach to combat the epidemic
Comprehensive Response Strategy

- Criminal Justice System Reform
- Prescription Drugs
- Innovation in Treatment
- Innovation in Disease Management
- Regulatory Environment
- Economic Development
Contact Information

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