

Welcome



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In my opinion the Opioid Crisis is a re-labeling of the disease addiction and is a real and longstanding problem that has gained a new found awareness that is largely a phenomenon of media attention.

The value of main stream media reporting is that it brings attention to the larger issue of addiction and mental health issues.

Physician mandates

Primum non nocere

Preserve Life

Relieve suffering

What is the risk of addiction from prescribed opioid use?

- * Actual rates of Non-Medical use of Pain Relievers (NMPR) is unknown
- * Estimates are between 4-13% of opiates prescriptions in the US result in NMPR
 - * Corollary is 87-96% are used appropriately
- * 4% of NMPR result in opioid addiction / use of heroin (NGA document)
 - * Addiction results in 0.16-0.52% of opioid use



* While the percentage of people who become addicted may be small, the results are *catastrophic*.

* In 2014 1.9 million Americans (0.58% of the population) suffered from substance use disorder

* 586,000 Americans (0.18%) were addicted to heroin

* Drug overdoses killed **63,632 Americans** in 2016. Nearly two-thirds of these deaths (66%) involved a prescription or illicit opioid. (CDC data)

* Addicts turn to heroin because it is cheaper and easier to get than prescription pain pills



What are we seeing
locally?

DO NOT COPY

2014 OD stats

- * 56 total OD deaths
- * 45 Poly-Substance Drug Toxicity (PSDT)
- * 35 PSDT with opiates
 - * 0 opiates as single poison
- * 12 PSDT with heroin
 - * 3 heroin as single agent
- * 7 fentanyl / analog
- * (81% opiates /heroin)

2016 OD stats

- * 58 total OD deaths
- * 38 PSDT
- * 14 PSDT with opiates
 - * 3 opiates as single poison
- * 7 PSDT with heroin
- * 5 heroin as single agent
- * 0 fentanyl
- * (74% opiates / heroin)

2017 OD Deaths

- * 81 total OD deaths
- * 64 PSDT
- * 64 PSDT with opiates
 - * 3 opiates as single agent
- * 20 PSDT with heroin
 - * 2 heroin as single agent
- * 19 fentanyl/ analog
- * (80% opiates/ heroin)

2018 OD Deaths

- * 88 total OD deaths
- * 79 PSDT
- * 67 PTSD with opiates
 - * 1 opiate as single agent
- * 32 PTSD with heroin
 - * 0 with heroin alone
- * 18 Fentanyl / analog
- * (76% opiate /heroin)

What to make of this data?

- * Total number of OD Deaths are stable
 - * opiates and heroin are involved often but the numbers are small and they wax and wane
 - * THE MOST IMPORTANT DATA POINT IS THAT MOST COMMON CAUSE OF OVERRDOSE DEATH IS POLY-SUBSTANCE DRUG TOXICITY
 - * PSDT = the central issue is *addiction*

National Governors Association
Finding Solutions to
the Prescription Opioid
and Heroin Crisis:
A Road Map for States

Essential Components of NGA Road Map

- * Cut the supply side by stemming the flow of imported opiates and apply legislative pressure and educational efforts on health care providers to write fewer opiates
 - * Identify and close “pill mills”
 - * Educate the public about safe disposal of medication
 - * Apply legislative pressure on health care providers to restrict opiate prescriptions
 - * Require checking Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) before initiating opiate therapy
 - * Limit the time period opiates can be prescribed for first time prescriptions

Narcan (naloxone)

- * Increase the availability and training of lay people in the administration of the opiate antidote drug naloxone (Narcan)
- * Now an OTC item
- * Far from a perfect solution
 - * Encourages risky behavior because “rescue” is available

Increase Access to Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- * Concept of MAT is to use medications such as methadone or suboxone to stem cravings with short term use of benzodiazepines (sedatives) and clonidine to stem the anxiety and physical effects of withdrawal in addition “talk therapy”.
- * Reality is there are far too few treatment facilities and insurers, including Medicaid, do not pay for adequate treatment

What is happening in St. Tammany today?

- * A growing recognition addiction is a medical condition
- * Operation Angel
 - * Any drug addict can walk into any police station surrender their drugs without fear of arrest and be transported to a treatment facility
 - * Giving Hope Retreat

Safe Haven Project

- * www.safehavenstp.org
- * On the site of former Southeastern Psychiatric Hospital in Mandeville
- * Will function as a single point of entry for people with mental health / substance abuse issues
- * To include triage / sobering center / crisis respite center

NIH; National Institute on Drug Abuse

May 14, 2014

“To address the complex problem of prescription opioid and heroin abuse in this country, we must recognize and consider the special character of this phenomenon, for we are asked not only to confront the negative and growing impact of opioid abuse on health and mortality, but also to preserve the fundamental role played by prescription opioid pain relievers in healing and reducing human suffering. That is, **scientific insight must strike the right balance between providing maximum relief from suffering while minimizing associated risks and adverse effects**”

THANK YOU

