

San Francisco Health Service System Health Service Board

Board Forum

Opioid Crisis Overview

November 9, 2017

The Facts

- 236 million prescriptions in 2015 for opioids which is a decrease from 282 million in 2012
- Over 2 million Americans are considered to be dependent on, to have abused or re addicted to prescription pain pills
- 21 - 29% of people prescribed opioids misuse them
- 8 -12% will develop dependency
- 4 - 6% will transition from prescription opioids to heroin



<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/prescribed.html>

The Crisis

- Opioids are medications that are derived from the opium “poppy plant.” These drugs are morphine and codeine (legal) and heroin (illegal)
- Semi-synthetic opioids are made with both synthetic and natural ingredients. These medications are hydrocodone (Vicodin) and oxycodone (Percocet).
- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid which was developed to be an anesthetic. Illegally produced Fentanyl has been responsible for a number of overdose deaths in recent years.
 - National Institute on Drug Abuse (04/06/2017) <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2017/04/addressing-americas-fentanyl-crisis> (accessed 10/20/2017)
- Methadone is another synthetic opioid. It is used to support heroin addicts to relieve withdrawal symptoms
- One significant issue with opioid use disorder is that over time, persons dependent on opioids require a higher dosage to achieve the same pain relief.
- Lastly, when prescription opioids become unavailable or too expensive to sustain, some individuals turn to heroin which can be less expensive.

Federal Action

- 21st Century Cures Act, (2016) allocated \$1 billion over two years in opioid crisis grants. The first round of distribution (\$485 million in grants to all 50 states and U.S. Territories) occurred in April 2017.
- Establishment of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis (March 29, 2017).
- Commission requests that the President declare of public health emergency (July 31, 2017). Note that there has not been such a declaration which would release Federal resources and funds to help opioid addicts and implement prevention programs.
- CVS pharmacy announces new restrictions on filling prescriptions for opioids, dispensing a limited seven-day supply to patients who are new to pain therapy (September 22, 2017).
- To date, 49 states have prescription drug monitoring programs and state legislatures are also taking measures to regulate pain clinics and limit quantities of opioids that can be dispensed
 - Adapted from <http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/18/health/opioid-crisis-fast-facts/index.html> (accessed 10/20/2017)

State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis California Strategic Plan

Established in August 2017, there are 5 aims with numerous goals within each aim:

- **Aim I:** Increase access to Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment
- **Aim II:** Reduce unmet treatment need
- **Aim III:** Reduce opioid overdose related deaths through access to treatment, prevention, and recovery activities
 - One goal in particular is to establish a learning collaborative and provide trainings to primary care providers and emergency departments.
- **Aim IV:** Increase Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) utilization for underserved, uninsured, Medicaid and Tribal Communities
- **Aim V:** Track progress of MAT expansion project

http://www.uclaisap.org/ca-hubandspoke/docs/Strategic-Plan-California-Opioid-STR_8-30-17.pdf (accessed on October 20, 2017)

San Francisco Health Service System Experience

- Recipients with opioid prescriptions account for 11% of the total SFHSS population
- Total Rx payments, excluding the Kaiser Medicare spend, amounted to over \$134 million in 2015 with \$2.74 million attributable to opioids
- On average, 2% of the Rx spend is for opioids with the City Plan Medicare retirees trending much higher at 5%
 - Marina Coleridge, “Opioid Analytic” presented to the San Francisco Health System Board on August 10, 2017