



Local Health Departments Prevent Opioid Abuse and Overdose

Local health departments are on the front lines of the prescription drug and heroin abuse epidemic. They advocate for increased community access to prescription drug abuse treatment and prevention, and for medications that reverse the effects of an overdose and save lives.

A comprehensive federal response is needed. Overdoses caused by opioids, both prescription drugs and heroin, take more than 115 lives a day. Death rates from opioid overdose have never been higher. The problem for most users begins with prescription drug use and later abuse. In the United States, one in 10 people misusing prescription drugs will switch to heroin, and over 591,000 Americans reported using heroin in 2016.

NACCHO Recommendations

To protect health and safety, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recommends the following in fiscal year (FY) 2018:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

FY18: \$476 million | FY19 President: \$126 million*

FY19 NACCHO Request: \$500 million

In FY2017, CDC will fund all 50 states for Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention for States to provide state health departments with resources and support to advance interventions for preventing prescription drug overdoses. Local health departments are key partners for states as they are responsible for ensuring the health of communities and serve on the front lines of the epidemic.

*The FY2019 President's Budget contains an additional allocation of \$175 million for opioids.

Support Funding or Passed Legislation

Funding alone will not curb the epidemic. A more comprehensive solution is needed. NACCHO supports passage of legislation that does the following:

- Requires healthcare providers to physically examine patients before prescribing prescription drugs.
- Mandates the use of tamper-resistant forms for all controlled substance prescriptions.
- Sets limits on prescribing or dispensing controlled substances, with allowances for specialty clinics and pharmacies with documented expertise in the management of substance dependency and chronic pain.
- Prohibits patients seeking drugs from withholding from one healthcare provider information regarding other or prior treatments, visits, or prescriptions from another provider.
- Requires patients to provide identification prior to filling a prescription for a controlled substance.
- Provides immunity from prosecution for possession of a controlled substance during the overdose incident for individuals seeking help or for those providing help for another person experiencing an overdose.
- Increases pharmaceutical industry product stewardship initiatives that allow for safe disposal of unwanted prescription drugs that have significant potential for substance abuse and dependency.
- Protects first responders and good Samaritans from liability associated with naloxone administration during a suspected drug overdose.

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Local Health Departments Protect the Community

Local health departments work to reduce the toll of opioid abuse and overdose through the following:

- **Surveillance** - Monitoring both local and state data to analyze opioid and heroin use, overdose, drug use-related infections, and mortality trends.
- **Education** - Educating healthcare providers on proper opioid prescribing practices and encouraging use of prescription drug monitoring programs.
- **Training** - Teaching first responders and community members to use lifesaving overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone.
- **Treatment and Recovery** - Promoting substance abuse treatment programs including those that use medication-assisted treatment.
- **Cross-Cutting Partnerships** - Creating local task forces to develop and implement “take back” programs that allow for safe disposal of unused prescription drugs.

OPIOID ABUSE AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION FUNDING

	Program (\$ in millions)	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019 President's Budget	NACCHO Supports
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention	112	476	126	500
	Illicit Opioid Use Risk Factors	14	14	0	14
Health Resources and Services Administration	Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Program	-	-	10	10
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	Opioid Treatment Programs/Regulatory Activities	9	9	9	9
	Medication-Assisted Treatment for Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction	56	84	56	84
	Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Related Deaths	12	12	12	26
Health and Human Services	Opioid Allocation	-	-	\$175	-

In 2015, the amount of opioids prescribed per person was three times higher than in 1999. – CDC Vital Signs

About NACCHO

NACCHO is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. Learn more at <http://www.naccho.org>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ian Goldstein, MA
Specialist, Government Affairs
202.507.4273
igoldstein@naccho.org



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

1201 Eye Street, NW Fourth Floor Washington, DC 20005

P 202.783.5550 F 202.783.1583

© 2018. National Association of County and City Health Officials