



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 60 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; over 435,000 Americans reported using heroin in 2014.

NACCHO Recommendations

To protect health and safety, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recommends the following in fiscal year (FY) 2017:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

FY16: \$70 million | FY17 President: \$80 million

FY17 NACCHO Request: \$80 million

In FY2016, 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.

Support Federal Legislation

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

- The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) (S.524/H.R.953), introduced by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), directs HHS to convene a task force that develops best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication and creates a strategy for disseminating such best practices.
- The Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment (TREAT) Act (S.1455/H.R.2536), introduced by Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY), expands the availability of medication-assisted addiction treatment.
- The Opioid Overdose Reduction Act (S.707/H.R.1821), introduced by Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA), is a good Samaritan bill to protect trained individuals who prescribe or administer naloxone from liability.

In 2013, there were over 259 million opioid prescriptions filled, enough to give every American adult 75 pills.

More Americans now die from opioid overdose than from car accidents.

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)	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017 President's Budget	NACCHO Supports
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention	20	70	80	80
	Illicit Opioid Use Risk Factors	-	6	6	6
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	12	25	50	50
	Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Related Deaths	-	12	12	12
Department of Justice	Anti-Heroin Task Forces	7	7	0	7

About NACCHO

NACCHO is the voice of the approximately 2,800 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/topics/emergency/>.

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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.

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