HHS Priorities and Actions to Support Treatment for Those with Opioid Use Disorder

Brett Giroir, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Expanding Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

HHS OPIOID EPIDEMIC UPDATE

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@HHS_ASH
US OVERDOSE DEATHS: CDC, SEPT 2018

- **Feb 2017 – Feb 2018**
  - Drug overdose deaths: 71,414
  - Opioid deaths: 48,453
  - Drug overdose deaths increased 5.1% from previous year
  - Opioid overdose deaths increased 6.3% from previous year

Note: 2017 figures are provisional
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
STATE COMPARISONS: CDC STATISTICS, SEPT 2018

Figure 1b. Percent Change in Predicted 12 Month-ending Count of Drug Overdose Deaths, by Jurisdiction: February 2017 to February 2018

Select predicted or reported number of deaths

- Predicted
- Reported

Percent Change for United States

5.1

Legend for Percent Change in Drug Overdose Deaths Between 12-Month Ending Periods

-30.0 30.0
# Deaths for the 12 Months Ending in February of Indicated Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Heroin</th>
<th>Nat &amp; Semi – Synthetic</th>
<th>Methadone</th>
<th>Synthetic Opioids</th>
<th>Cocaine</th>
<th>Psycho-stimulants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>16,379</td>
<td>15,301</td>
<td>3,459</td>
<td>22,522</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>8,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2018</td>
<td>15,515</td>
<td>14,704</td>
<td>3,259</td>
<td>29,600</td>
<td>14,570</td>
<td>11,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Increase</td>
<td>-5.3%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
<td>-5.8%</td>
<td>+31.4%</td>
<td>+24.5%</td>
<td>+32.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CRITICAL ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
CURBING ILLICIT IMPORTATION

The Washington Post
May 25, 2018

Inside a truck in Nebraska, troopers found enough fentanyl to kill millions of people

- State troopers seized 118 pounds of fentanyl
- That amount of fentanyl would contain enough lethal doses to potentially kill more than 26 million people
- Largest fentanyl seizure in state history and one of the largest in the United States

Nebraska State Patrol, courtesy
THE STATE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN AMERICA (2017)

• 11.4 million people misused opioids in the past year
  - 11.1 million misused pain relievers
  - 886,000 used heroin
  - 562,000 both misused pain relievers and heroin

• 2.1 million people had an opioid use disorder
  - 1.7 million people with a prescription pain reliever use disorder
  - 0.7 million people with a heroin use disorder

• 53.1% obtained the last pain reliever they misused from a friend or relative; 36% from prescription from a health care provider

• Main reasons for opioid misuse: **Pain 62.6%**

NSDUH, 2017 Data; published Sept. 2018

Diagnosis of “SUD” based on criteria in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th edition (DSM-IV)
INFECTIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Endocarditis
- Skin, bone, and joint infections

National Academies Workshop
Sponsored by OASH, Report July 2018
NUMBER OF BABIES BORN WITH NAS (US)

Outcomes in the fetus
- Growth restriction
- Prematurity
- Death

Outcomes in the Newborn
- Low birthweight
- Small head circumference
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome

Outcomes in the Child
- Developmental disorders

Source: AHRQ HCUP State Inpatient Databases

McQueen, NEJM 2016
LAST MONTH SUBSTANCE USE AMONG PREGNANT

NSDUH, 2017 Data; published Sept. 2018
OPIOIDS: HHS FIVE POINT STRATEGY

1. Strengthen public health data reporting and collection

2. Advance the practice of pain management to decrease the inappropriate use of opioids

3. Improve access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services

4. Enhance the availability of overdose-reversing medications

5. Support cutting-edge research on pain and addiction, leads to new treatments, and identifies effective public health interventions
“The five-point HHS strategy to end the opioid crisis, unveiled under President Trump in 2017, uses the best science and evidence to directly address this public health emergency. Now, HHS is expanding the scope and improving the effectiveness of the strategy.”

Secretary Alex Azar
HHS OPIOIDS LEADERSHIP TEAM OBJECTIVE

GOAL:
Reduce drug overdose mortality in the United States by 15% by January 2021 (compared to November 2017)
POSITIVE CHANGES TO THE OPIOID LANDSCAPE

• Since January 2017, the total number of opioid prescriptions dispensed monthly by retail and mail-order pharmacies has declined by 17%.

• Since January 2017, the total morphine milligram equivalents dispensed monthly (measures the strength of the opioid) by retail and mail-order pharmacies declined by 21%.

• Since January 2017, the number of unique patients receiving buprenorphine monthly from retail pharmacies increased by 16%.

• Since January 2017, the number of naloxone prescriptions dispensed monthly by retail and mail-order pharmacies have increased by 264%.
PAIN RELIEVER MISUSE IS GENERALLY DECREASING

* p = 0.0008
* p = 0.0337
FIRST TIME HEROIN USERS DROPPED BY >50% (2016-2017)

NSDUH, 2017 Data; published Sept. 2018
OVERDOSE MORTALITY: ACHIEVING RESULTS
CDC, SEPTEMBER 2018
HHS SEPTEMBER OPIOIDS ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

• 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (September 14, 2018)
• SAMHSA: Award of State Opioid Response Grants ($930 million)
  – $50 million for Tribes
  – $150 million for hardest hit states
• HRSA:
  - $352M for Community Health Centers
  - >$50M for Rural Focused Opioid Progress
  - $18.5M Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training
• CDC:
  - $194.5M for Surveillance, Prevention Strategies, and Local Public Health Support including Tribes
• Surgeon General Report: Spotlight on Opioids Update
• Announcement of funding opportunity from NIH: HEALing Communities Initiative
• Pain Management Task Force Meeting: September 25-26, 2018
BARRIERS TO ABUSE TREATMENT

- 20.7 million people needed substance abuse treatment, including
  - 1 million adolescents aged 12-17 years
  - 5.2 million aged 18-25 years (15.1% of that age group)

- Only 4 million people received any substance abuse treatment, including
  - 2.5 million who received treatment at a specialty facility
  - NSDUH does not consider physician’s offices as *specialty facility*

94.3% of people who needed substance use treatment but did not receive specialty treatment did not think they needed it

NSDUH, 2017 Data; published Sept. 2018
Clinicians Recently Waivered for Buprenorphine Prescribe Below Their Limit or Not at All

- **Survey:** 4225 clinicians receiving data waiver or increase in authorized patient limit in 2017

- **Main Findings**
  - Only 75% had prescribed buprenorphine since obtaining the waiver
  - Mean number of patients treated in past month = 26.6
  - Clinicians prescribing at or near their limit = 13.1%

- **Barriers to prescribing buprenorphine at or near limit**
  - Lack of patient demand = 19.4%
  - Time constraints in practice = 14.6%
  - Insurance requirements = 13.2%

Jones and McCance-Katz. *Addiction*, Sept 8, 2018
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE
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