

# Save Lives, Save Costs: Help Law Enforcement Reduce the Opioid Overdose Epidemic

Orman Hall

Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area's Heroin Response Strategy

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# Introduction

- 1.5 million inmates in jails/prisons have a substance use disorder (SUD) (CASA)
- Burden of dealing with the opioid overdose epidemic has fallen largely on the shoulders of law enforcement officials

# Challenges

- **Untreated substance use costs \$700 billion annually (NIDA)**
  - **\$8.2 billion in criminal justice costs (Clin. J. Pain)**
  - **\$4,700 – \$12,000 per person to treat; \$24,000 - \$32,000 to incarcerate (Fed. Reg.)**
- **In 2010, 85 percent of U.S. incarcerated inmates abused controlled substances (CASA)**
- **Only 11% of ind. with SUDs receive treatment in prison or jail (CASA)**

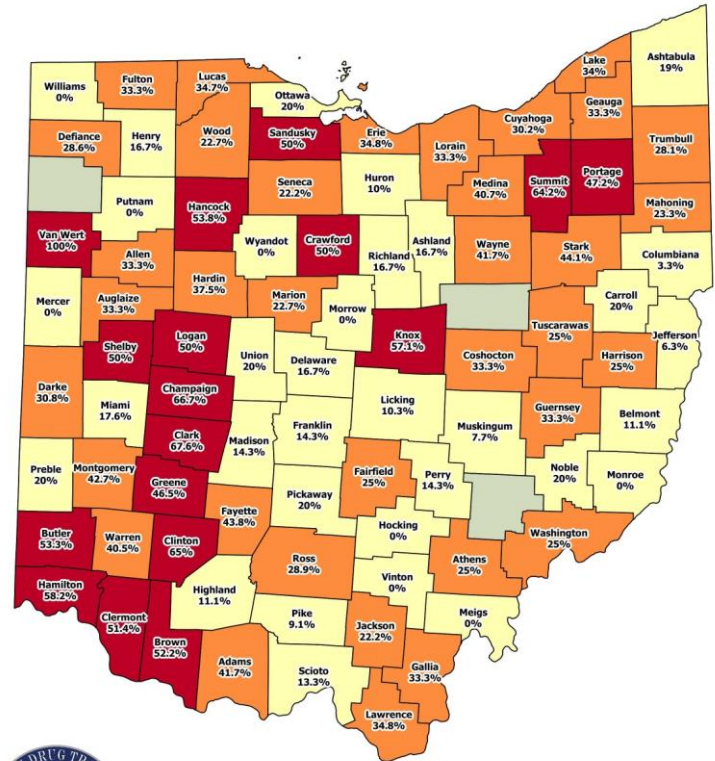
# Illicit Fentanyl

- **“Next wave of the opioid crisis” - House E&C Committee**
  - **“[I]llicit fentanyl has become the MSG of narcotics, a potent additive to heroin, cocaine, or even counterfeit prescription drugs” - Rep. Tim Murphy**
- **Driving an increase in cocaine-related overdose deaths (Am. J. Public Health)**
- **Difficult to detect**
  - **Maybe shipped through mail**

# Fentanyl Overdose in OH

- There was significant variability in the rate of fentanyl overdose deaths across Ohio with southwest and northeast Counties seeing the greatest number of fentanyl mentions. Early results from Hamilton and Cuyahoga County suggest that fentanyl related fatalities will increase in 2016.

Percentage of Overdose Deaths with a Fentanyl Mention  
Ohio - 2015



# Need for Treatment

- Out of the 5,000 prisons and jails in the U.S., fewer than 40 offer medications for incarcerated individuals with SUDs (SAMHSA)
- Providing 40% of eligible offenders SUD treatment and recovery support services during incarceration would save the U.S. economy over \$12.9 billion per year (Crime & Delinquency)
- Cost savings from substance use treatment
  - \$1 invested = \$4 return in health care costs + \$7 in law enforcement & other criminal justice costs (NIDA)

# SUD Is a Brain Disease

- A chronic, relapsing brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences (NIDA 2014)
- Should be treated similar to other chronic, relapsing diseases (e.g., diabetes, asthma, heart disease)
- Can be managed successfully with treatment (NIDA 2014)
- Relapse
  - Not uncommon
  - Does not signal treatment failure
  - Indicates treatment should be reinstated or adjusted or alternative treatment is needed

# Medication-Assisted Treatment

- An evidence-based method that combines counseling, behavioral therapies, and FDA-approved meds to treat SUDs
- Approved meds for opioid use disorders
  - Methadone (opioid full agonist) – available at federally regulated opioid treatment programs (OTPs)
  - Buprenorphine (opioid partial agonist) – available in OTPs and physician offices
  - Naltrexone (non-opioid) – available in physician offices



# Treatment: Effectiveness

- **MAT effective in**
  - Treating opioid use disorders
  - Reducing drug-related disease, criminal recidivism, and morbidity and mortality
- **Why?**
  - Long-lasting changes in brain chemistry can cause difficulty with abstaining from opioid use; withdrawal symptoms and cravings can be overwhelming
  - MAT can help reduce withdrawal symptoms and curb opioid cravings that can lead to relapse
  - Individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) who do not have access to medications are 10 times more likely to die from overdose during the first two weeks following release compared to the general population

# Drug Courts

- **Specialized court-based program that targets criminal offenders charged with drug possession or a non-violent offense and diagnosed with SUD (NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE)**
- **Federal policy: Offer all FDA-approved medications (e.g. the federal funding for drug courts is contingent upon access to all FDA-approved medications for OUD when med. appropriate )**

# Drug Courts Effectiveness

- 75% of drug court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program (NADCP)
- Individuals in drug courts have reduced crime that lasts at least 3 years (NADCP)
- **Decreased Cost**
  - Every \$1 invested equals \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs
  - Cost savings can range from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per person

# Addressing Diversion of Medications

- Provide effective treatment to reduce demand for contraband drugs
- Diverted buprenorphine/naloxone film present in jails
- Practitioner-administered delivery systems: adherence, diversion
  - Injections
    - FDA-approved: once-monthly naltrexone
    - Under development: once-monthly or once-weekly buprenorphine injection, each with multiple doses, to cover initiation through maintenance
  - Implants
    - FDA-approved: six-month buprenorphine

# Innovative Examples: TN

## Local jail partners with Watauga Recovery Center to prevent harmful detox of addicted pregnant women

By Kylie McGivern  
Published: September 1, 2015, 8:24 pm



The Washington County Detention Center says it has struggled to maintain care for

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- ▶ Two charged in multiple stabbings overnight in Kingsport, TN
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# Innovative Examples: : WA



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## About LEAD

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Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a new innovative pilot program that was developed with the community to address low-level drug and prostitution crimes in the Belltown neighborhood in Seattle and the Skyway area of unincorporated King County. LEAD will divert low-level drug and prostitution offenders into community-based treatment and support services – including housing, healthcare, job training, treatment and mental health support -- instead of processing them through traditional criminal justice system avenues.

A unique coalition of law enforcement agencies, public officials, and community groups collaborated to create this pilot program. These groups make up LEAD's [Policy Coordinating Group](#), which governs the program.

LEAD's goal is to improve public safety and public order, and to reduce the criminal behavior of people who participate in the program. The program will be thoroughly evaluated to determine whether it has been successful or not.

Search



# Innovative Examples: TX

## Prioritizing Treatment Over Punishment

An Overview of Mental Health Diversion from Jail in Texas

Rachel Gandy and Erin Smith, LBJ School of Public Affairs

To combat the over-incarceration of persons with mental illness in Texas, state and county leaders are developing innovative strategies to divert individuals out of jail cells and into community treatment.



# Innovative Examples: MA

## GLOUCESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE

OUR TEAM

### How does it work?

If an addict comes into the Gloucester Police Department and asks for help, an officer will take them to the Addison Gilbert Hospital, where they will be paired with a volunteer “ANGEL” who will help guide them through the process. We have partnered with more than a dozen additional treatment centers to ensure that our patients receive the care and treatment they deserve — not in days or weeks, but immediately.

If you have drugs or drug paraphernalia on you, we will dispose of it for you. **You will not be arrested. You will not be charged with a crime. You will not be jailed.**



# Innovative Examples: FL

- Sheriff William Prummell

You may bring your **"use amount"** of drugs to any Deputy or Sheriff's facility without fear of arrest. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will then assist you in obtaining necessary treatment.



Recovery Center (Detox) .....	941-347-6444
Screening/OP Main Number .....	941-639-8300
CBHC Crisis Hotline .....	941-575-0222
National Suicide Hotline .....	1-800-273-8255

# Policy Priorities

- Provide effective treatment for individuals with SUDs when med. need is identified
  - Drug courts
  - Jails
- Outcomes studies: reduction in jail bed day, costs, recidivism
- Amend or repeal Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP) to access Medicaid while in jail
- Use of private health insurance to cover treatment costs while in jail
- Re-entry and recovery support to save lives and reduce costs and recidivism

# Conclusion

- Thank you to the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit and conference sponsors
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