

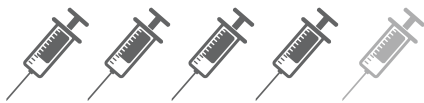
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Prescription drug abuse is now one of the fastest growing public health concerns in the U.S. Prescription drugs include a variety of medications, such as opioids for moderate-to-severe pain and sedative-hypnotic medications for anxiety and sleep disorders. When used appropriately, medications can be immensely helpful. However, in recent years a dramatic increase in the misuse of these drugs has resulted in an epidemic of addiction, poor outcomes, and overdose deaths.

1 in 5 started illicit drug use with prescription drugs



4 in 5 new heroin users had previously misused Rx opioids



PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE COALITION

Given the complexities of prescription drug abuse, no one agency, system, or profession is solely responsible for addressing the problem. A solution requires a broad and coordinated coalition of active participants.

The LA County Prescription Drug Abuse Coalition is a broad, cross-sector coalition that is taking a coordinated effort to comprehensively address the prescription drug abuse epidemic to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of our communities.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE STATISTICS

According to a joint report by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, drug overdose deaths have more than doubled in the past 14 years, and half of these deaths (approximately 22,000 per year) are related to prescription drugs. Drug overdoses have surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of injury deaths in the U.S.

JOINING THE COALITION

The Steering Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, and all members of the coalition will convene at least annually to assess progress. The frequency and focus of Action Team meetings will vary and is dependent on its leadership and needs of the group.

Help reduce the toll of prescription drug misuse and abuse! For more information or to join the Los Angeles County Prescription Drug Abuse Coalition, please contact Marghot Carabali at (626) 299-4147 or mcarabali@ph.lacounty.gov

VIEW THE FULL STRATEGIC PLAN

The LA County Prescription Drug Abuse Strategic Plan is available online at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/Plan/DrugAbuseStrategicPlan.pdf>



Working together to reduce prescription drug abuse & overdose deaths



STRATEGIC PLAN

LA County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control has developed a five-year strategic plan that utilizes a multifaceted approach to reduce prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths. The work of the coalition will be guided by the strategic plan and led by the Prescription Drug Abuse Steering Committee, which will oversee the work of the nine, priority-specific action teams focused on various key aspects to address prescription drug abuse.

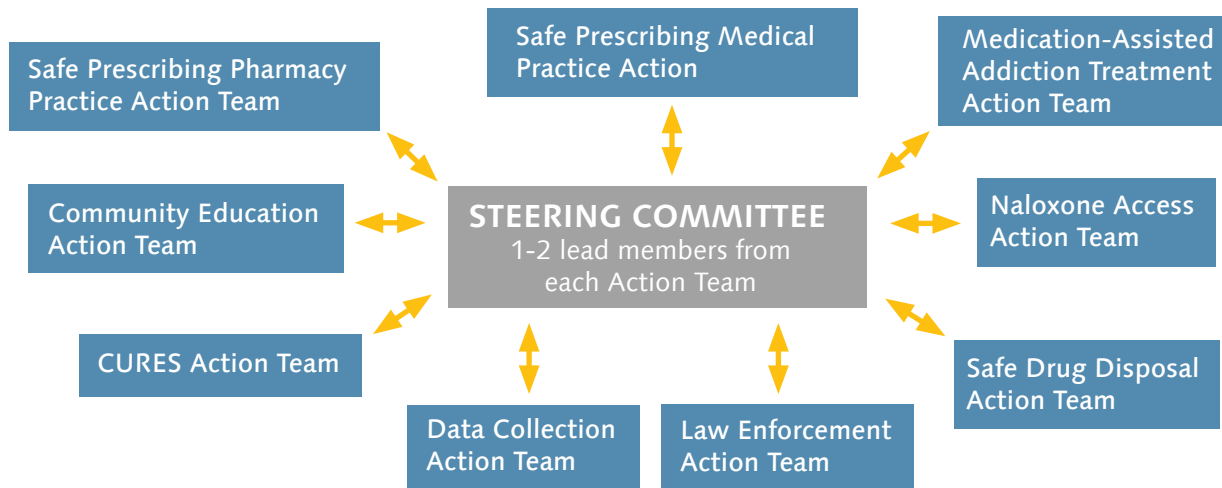
GOAL

- Reduce prescription drug abuse deaths by 20% over the five-year course of the plan.

Action Teams have been formed to identify and implement measurable and actionable goals for each of the objectives, and your participation will help ensure the coalition makes progress towards these objectives and goals.

COALITION STRUCTURE

The overarching Steering Committee, comprised of 1-2 lead members from each action team, will guide coalition efforts to ensure coordination and leverage synergies among teams. Action teams will focus on specific action items within the key objectives of the strategic plan.



COALITION MEMBERS

The coalition includes a broad spectrum of stakeholders:

- LA County health departments
- Health plans
- Community clinics
- Hospitals
- Pharmacies
- Emergency physician groups
- Medical Associations
- Medical groups and Independent Physician Associations
- Law enforcement and corrections
- Medical examiner
- Urgent care or retail clinics
- Addiction treatment providers
- Others impacted by the opioid epidemic (schools, educators, advocates, etc.)

PRIORITY I: EDUCATION & TRAINING

Objective 1: Increase public awareness of the risks of prescription drug abuse, safe use/storage/disposal, and available resources for help.

Objective 2: Educate health care professionals on best practices for safe prescribing and identifying prescription drug misuse through screenings.

Objective 3: Provide training to help the criminal justice community better understand prescription drug abuse and navigate the interface between public health and law enforcement.

PRIORITY II: TREATMENT & OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Objective 4: Expand access to medication-assisted treatment for individuals addicted to prescription drugs.

Objective 5: Expand access to naloxone for overdose prevention.

PRIORITY III: TRACKING, MONITORING, & DATA EXCHANGE

Objective 6: Promote increased utilization of California's Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) to decrease misuse and diversion of prescription drugs.

Objective 7: Increase data collection and information sharing across agencies and organizations to enhance safe practices.

PRIORITY IV: SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL

Objective 8: Support convenient, safe and free prescription drug disposal programs to help decrease the supply of unused drugs.

PRIORITY V: ENFORCEMENT

Objective 9: Collaborate with law enforcement to identify and address improper practices, such as indiscriminate prescribing by "pill mills" and inappropriate "doctor shopping."

PRIORITY VI: COMMUNITY TRENDS & POLICY

Objective 10: Positively influence policy, at all levels, by identifying and communicating community factors contributing to prescription drug abuse.