

Community Opioid Action Strategies

View each of the plans cited to see specific activities and programs under each of the priorities and strategies.

General Categories of Priorities and Strategies¹

A) Safer Prescribing and Dispensing

- Increase Prescription Monitoring Program Use by Providers
- Reduce High-Risk Opioid Prescribing Through Provider Education and Prescribing Guidelines

B) Education and Stigma Reduction

- Increase Accessibility of Information and Resources
- Increase the Impact of Prevention Programming in Communities and Schools

C) Monitoring and Communication

- Strengthen Data Collection, Analysis, and Sharing to Better Identify Opportunities for Intervention

D) Access to Care

- Increase Access to Care for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder

E) Emergency Response and Rescue

- Increase the Number of First Responders and Community Members Who Have Access to and Are Trained to Administer Naloxone

F) Law Enforcement Initiatives

G) Supporting Justice-Involved Populations

- Increase the Capacity of Deflection and Diversion Programs Statewide
- Decrease the Number of Overdose Deaths After an At-Risk Individual's Immediate Release from a Correctional or Other Institutional Facility

¹Most of these strategies are reflected in "State of Illinois Opioid Action Plan."

<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Illinois-Opioid-Action-Plan-Sept-6-2017-FINAL.pdf>

Best Practices for Community Drug Strategies²

The first phase of action was to conduct a scan of other community drug strategies (CDS), including both poly-substance and opioid-specific strategies. Common approaches that were considered and incorporated into the WECOS include:

- **Four pillar approach:** 1) Prevention, (2) Treatment, (3) Enforcement, and (4) Harm reduction.
- **Coordinated and comprehensive response:** A response that balances public health with public safety.
- **Leadership structure:** To provide sustainability, coordination, evaluation, and oversight of projects.
- **Front line workers and those with lived experience:** By including these groups in the development process we will learn about and from groups which are at high risk of addiction and overdose.
- **Collective impact framework:** Collective impact theory is based on the idea that complex social issues are best addressed when different sectors of a community work together.
- **Communication:** Consistent communication is needed with the broader community about opioid use and overdose prevention, and among working groups.
- **Evidence-based activities:** Many ideas may come from activities that are part of developing a strategy (e.g., community consultations), but they must be backed by an evidence base to be part of the final strategy.
- **Support of the municipality:** Municipal or regional council endorsement of a CDS can be helpful to moving activities forward and championing the strategy at several levels.

²Windsor-Essex Community Opioid Strategy https://www.wechu.org/sites/default/files/chronic-disease-prevention-and-workplace-wellness/OpioidStrategyJAN222018_FINALPrintVersion.pdf

Sampling of Community Action Strategies

Denver Public Health and Environment. Opioid Response Strategic Plan. 2018-2023.

Goal 1: Prevent Substance Misuse

- A) Increase awareness of risks of misuse
 - reduce stigma
 - Increase interaction w. people in recovery
- B) Promote medication safety
 - Educate consumers about safe use of prescriptions
 - Educate hospitals and doctors about opioid alternatives
- C) Promote peer recovery support services
 - Link peer recovery programs to treatment services

Goal 2: Improve Treatment Access and Retention

- A) Remove barriers to facilitate speed treatment
- B) Keep people connected to treatment after crisis

Goal 3: Reduce Harm

- A) Increase monitoring of and communication about existing and emerging threats
- B) Minimize ancillary health problems for people who use drugs
- C) “Innovative” service facilities for people who use drugs, i.e. safe places

https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/771/documents/CH/Substance%20Misuse/DDPHE_OpioidResponseStrategicPlan.pdf

Saint Louis County, Missouri, Action Plan Addressing Opioid Addiction and Overdose.

Priority 1: Education and Prevention

- A) Encourage safer opioid prescribing, use, storage, and disposal
 - Health care providers
- B) Reduce stigma and promote resources for treatment and support
- C) Promote alternative chronic pain management
 - Respecting the needs of patients with chronic pain

Priority 2: Harm Reduction and Rescue

- A) Increase access to naloxone



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B) Decrease risks associated with injection drug use

Priority 3: Treatment

A) Strengthen connections to treatment for those who have overdosed

B) Strengthen treatment for high-risk groups

- Jail, homeless, uninsured

Priority 4: Recovery

A) Recovery housing needs for people recovering from addiction

B) Employment needs for people recovering from addiction

Priority 5: Public Health Data

A) Timely monitoring of trends and interventions

B) Identify predictive risk factors

C) Communicate with the public

https://stlouisco.com/Portals/8/docs/document%20library/Recover/Opioid_Action_Plan_2018_w_ebv2.pdf

Fairfax County (VA) Opioid Task Force Plan

Goal 1: Reduce Deaths from Opioids

A) Education and awareness for the public & health care providers

- Addiction, treatment, recovery
- Reduce stigma

B) Drug storage, monitoring and disposal

- Drug take back
- Education

C) Treatment for opioid use disorder

- Naloxone
- Syringe exchange

D) Enforcement and criminal justice

- Prosecute dealers
- Diversion and drug court
- Police training



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Goal 2: Data Use

A) Monitoring

- Integrate initiatives
- Identify trends
- Evaluate interventions

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/sites/community-services-board/files/assets/documents/pdf/opioid-task-force-plan.pdf>

Windsor-Essex (Ontario, CA) Community Opioid Strategy: An Action Plan for Our Community

Prevention and Education

- Support healthcare providers to play a key role, through appropriate prescribing practices, patient education about opioids and overdose prevention, and other pain management options. (Each recommendation has both short-term and long-term actions.)
 - Short-term action
 - Long-term action
- Provide early education and prevention about opioids and other substance use.
- Develop a local overdose monitoring and response system.

Harm Reduction

- Increase access to a variety of harm reduction options, such as non- abstinence based programs that accept clients using opioid substitution therapies, safer drug use equipment, and mobile outreach activities, for people who use opioids and those affected by people who use opioids.
- Address stigma associated with problematic substance use through the development of supportive policies and education of healthcare professionals, community organizations and the public.

Treatment and Recovery

- Work with provincial partners to advocate for increased funding to expand the capacity of the local substance use treatment system.

Enforcement and Justice

- Redefine the role for enforcement agencies and other first responders to build “public safety-public health” partnerships for a safer and healthier community.

https://www.wechu.org/sites/default/files/chronic-disease-prevention-and-workplace-wellness/OpioidStrategyJAN222018_FINALPrintVersion.pdf