



public health *revolution*

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CLINICAL AND POPULATION
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Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS)

DHS: The issue and how it impacts the people that we serve

In Allegheny County individuals are now dying from drug overdose more often than from traffic accidents and homicides combined. From 2008-2014:

- 119 overdose deaths were of caregivers involved with Children Youth and Families (CYF)
- 53 overdose deaths involved people who had received aging services
- 100 deaths were of people who had received DHS homeless services
- 54 deaths were of adults who had recently left the county jail
- 510 deaths were of adults who had received behavioral health services within the past year (231 deaths were within the month before their deaths).

DHS: What we are doing about the issue

Here are the 7 main steps DHS is taking this year:

1. Identifying when substance use and risk of overdose is an issue for our clients—and where to turn
2. Helping to stop the initial addiction through prevention programs with schools and community groups
3. Creating an easy point of entry into substance use treatment
4. Getting people into treatment and offering recovery supports as quickly as possible

DHS: What we are doing about the issue

Here are the 7 main steps DHS is taking (continued):

5. Making sure people with opioid use issues can get effective treatment, which includes medications (i.e., methadone, Suboxone, and Vivitrol)
6. Reversing opioid overdose by distributing Narcan
7. Preventing overdoses through community outreach teams and making prevention education part of every human service

1 Identifying Substance Use and Risk for Overdose

- Delivering overdose awareness and prevention training program for staff and providers across DHS
- Screening for opioid and other drug use among adults involved in our system (e.g., putting the screening questions in the MH assessment and developing protocols for how to respond)
- Providing CYF staff and providers with expert consultation in individual substance use issues, level of care assessments for caregivers, and education and training in CYF offices

2 Preventing Substance Use and Addiction via School and Community Based Drug/Alcohol Prevention

- Expanding student assistance programming
- Including specific overdose prevention education within school and community prevention programs

3 Creating an Easy Point of Entry Into SUD Treatment

- Developing a RFP for coordinated entry as the preferred pathway for people to access help for substance use issues (i.e., coordinated intake)
- Marketing and communicating the preferred pathway —both to our internal system and providers and to the public
- Developing a RFP for low barrier shelter that can also serve as a regional assessment center

4 Treatment on Demand/Warm Hand-Off/ Recovery Supports

- Expanding treatment availability by a) increasing number of qualified providers and b) using contracted sites outside of Allegheny County
- Increasing recovery support for people while they are waiting for SUD treatment opening (RFP for coordinated intake/entry)
- Improving access to SUD treatment for those incarcerated and released from the criminal justice system
- Improving process for warm hand-offs

#5 Effective Treatment for Those With Opioid Use Disorder

- Developed and issued Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) position paper with key partners
- Increased availability and use of MAT
- Increased availability and use of other evidence-based programs (i.e., peer supports)

#6 Reversing Opioid Overdose by Distributing Narcan

- Training DHS staff and providers to use and carry naloxone, as appropriate
- Distributing naloxone to DHS staff, contracted providers, and EMS
- Distributing naloxone to individuals, including those leaving the Allegheny County Jail.

#7 Preventing Overdoses Through Community Outreach and Making Prevention Education Part of Human Services

- Training DHS staff and providers to use and carry naloxone, as appropriate
- Distributing naloxone to DHS staff, contracted providers, and EMS
- Distributing naloxone to individuals, including those leaving the Allegheny County Jail.