

Summary of West Virginia's Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- West Virginia's Safe and Effective Management of Pain (SEMP) guidelines give physicians a tool to offer patients non-opioid alternatives for pain management.
- The 2018 Opioid Reduction Act (West Virginia Code § 16-54-1 et seq.) codified and centralized opioid-related efforts.
- West Virginia used the Medicaid 1115 Substance Use Disorder Waiver to expand benefits, increase awareness, and increase availability of opioid antagonists.

DATA ANALYTICS

- West Virginia's Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) and the Public Employees Insurance Agency provide medical coverage to approximately 66 percent of State residents, which allows State analysts to collect health experience data for a large portion of West Virginia's population.
- West Virginia performs analytics on its own Medicaid claims data to identify at-risk Medicaid beneficiaries and high-prescribing physicians.
- West Virginia creates SEMPs reports that detail changes in the population's morphine milligram equivalent use.
- West Virginia's Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health compiled information from multiple resources to publish a comprehensive [Overdose Fatality Analysis](#) report in 2016.

OUTREACH

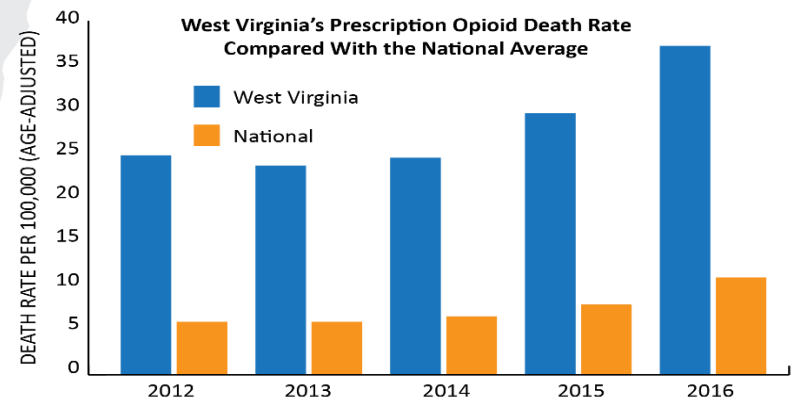
- BMS publishes eight annual newsletters covering topics such as treatment guidelines for pain and the use of naloxone.
- House Bill 2195 (2017) requires comprehensive drug awareness and prevention programs in all public schools.
- West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) produced a [West Virginia Overdose Response Video](#) to provide additional opioid abuse prevention information.

PROGRAMS

- West Virginia's Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment tool helps identify treatment needs.
- BMS implemented a "lock-in" program to reduce inappropriate care and avoid potential adverse drug interactions.

OTHER

- Governor's Executive Order 5-11 created the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse (GACSA) to provide guidance and recommendations.
- West Virginia sponsors Help4WV, a 24-hour service offering call, chat, and text communication to provide immediate help.
- DHHR provides funding to nine substance use disorder programs through the Ryan Brown Addiction Prevention and Recovery Fund.
- West Virginia is the first State with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' approval to offer neonatal abstinence syndrome treatment services to newborns.



Source: CDC WONDER online database. Accessed at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html> on December 22, 2017.

Note: Because deaths from illegally made fentanyl cannot be distinguished from deaths from pharmaceutical fentanyl in the data source, these data include both.

