

# Summary of Tennessee's Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- During the 2018 legislative session, the Tennessee (TN) General Assembly passed the Governor's multifaceted opioid reform initiative, "TN Together."
- TennCare adopted rules that impose limits on the State's coverage of opioid products.
- Multiple State agencies partnered to develop Tennessee's *Nonresidential Buprenorphine Treatment Guidelines*.

## DATA ANALYTICS

- TennCare analyzes Medicaid and Controlled Substance Monitoring Database data to identify patients and prescribers at-risk of opioid abuse.
- Multiple State agencies developed internal and external reports on opioid abuse and aberrant prescribing practices to ensure patient safety and quality health care.

## OUTREACH

- TennCare's Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), dental benefits managers, and pharmacy benefits managers focus on opioid-related education for providers.
- Tennessee Department of Health provides multiple educational opportunities through regional face-to-face events, webinars, media campaigns, and continuing medical education.
- Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) communicates with providers and beneficiaries regarding overdose prevention and treatment.

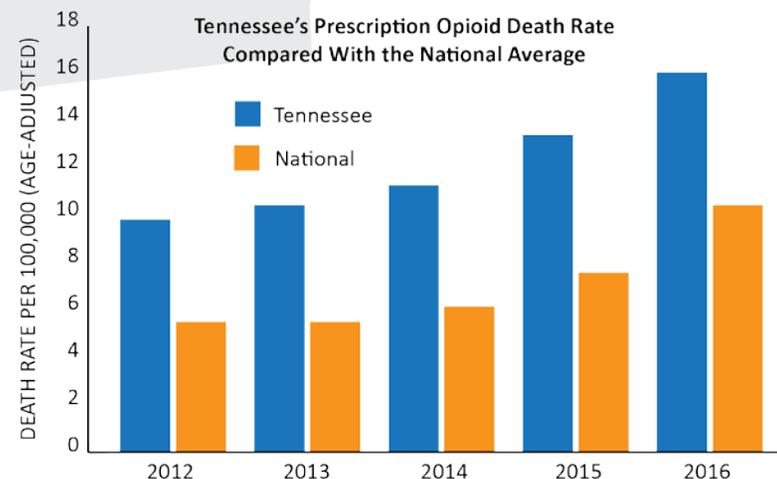
## PROGRAMS

- TennCare covers comprehensive substance abuse treatment services and works with its MCOs to expand enrollee access to high quality medication assisted treatment.

- TDMHSAS implemented "Prescription for Success," a State-wide and multiagency strategy to prevent and treat prescription drug abuse.
- TDMHSAS leads the effort to discard unused medications safely through Tennessee's "Take Back" program.
- Tennessee has 13 accredited and licensed opioid treatment programs.
- "TN Together" dedicated more than \$30 million to fund treatment and services to combat the opioid epidemic.

## OTHER

- TDMHSAS implemented "Public Private Partnership," a group whose objective is to ensure there is "no wrong door" for a Tennessean seeking treatment.
- TDMHSAS implemented "Project Lifeline," a group of peers in long-term recovery who focus on reducing the stigma related to addiction and increasing community support.



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.

