

Summary of Alabama's Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- In 2017, the Governor established the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council to combat the opioid crisis.
- The Alabama Medicaid Agency (AMA) implemented multiple policies to limit prescription opioids including reducing allowable morphine milligram equivalent dosages, decreasing the maximum on-hand supply, and restricting timing of refills.
- Effective March 2018, the State Health Officer published a standing order for the distribution of naloxone that can be used in place of a prescription from a regular healthcare provider.

DATA ANALYTICS

- AMA performs analytics of its claims data to track opioid prescribing, including analyses of opioid prescribing trends by age, provider specialty, and location.
- AMA uses drug utilization review to improve the quality of pharmaceutical care by ensuring that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and unlikely to result in adverse medical outcomes.

OUTREACH

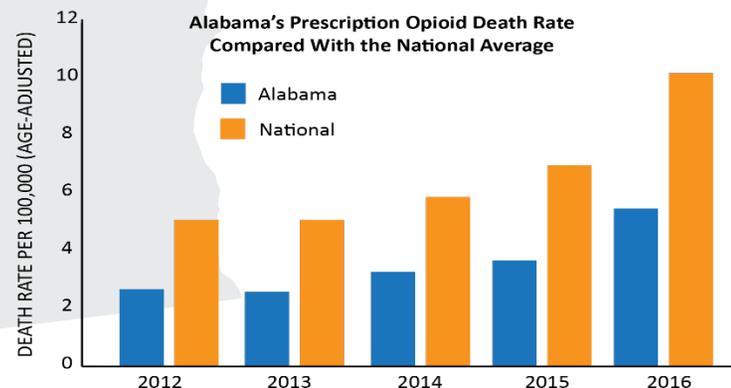
- AMA uses a contractor to train providers on policy changes and to consult with high prescribers of opioids.
- The Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) opioid website provides resources to help individuals find drug disposal locations, treatment providers, and helpline phone numbers, as well as helping providers find information such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain.

PROGRAMS

- AMA's Lock-In Program is designed to help prevent beneficiaries from abusing controlled substances, monitor their care more closely, and facilitate appropriate prescribing habits.
- Alabama has 21 opioid treatment programs certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and ADMH.

OTHER

- The Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded a grant to ADMH to develop a centralized data repository allowing for rapid response to outbreaks of overdoses and other opioid-related events, as well as providing a framework to measure the progress of initiatives addressing the crisis.
- ADMH trains individuals to become Certified Recovery Support Specialists and to assist others in recovery.



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.

