

Summary of Utah's Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Utah House Bill (HB) 50, passed in 2017, limits the number of days of opioid prescriptions for acute, noncomplex, non-chronic conditions.
- The Utah Division of Medicaid and Health Financing (Utah Medicaid) has restricted the initial fill of short-acting opiates for prescribers to a 7-day supply; 3-day supply for dental providers.
- Utah HB 119, passed in 2014, grants immunity to persons who prescribe, dispense, or administer an opiate antagonist, in good faith, to someone at risk of experiencing an overdose, or to a person in position to assist someone at risk.
- Utah Code section 31A-22-615.5 provides flexibility to insurers to enact new policies to prevent opioid addiction and overdose.

DATA ANALYTICS

- Utah's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP), the Controlled Substance Database, uses a patient dashboard to track the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances, including opioids.
- Utah Medicaid analyzes data to determine drug coverage limits through the Medicaid point of sale system.

OUTREACH

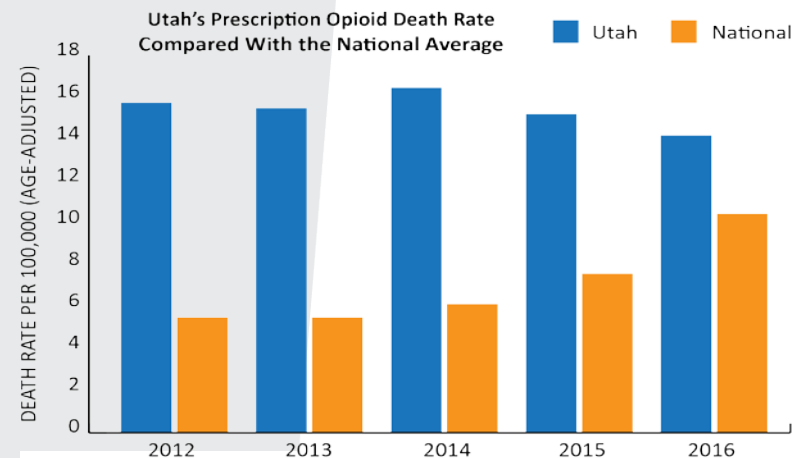
- The College of Pharmacy at the University of Utah conducts reviews to improve the safety and efficacy of drug use in Medicaid patients.
- The Use Only as Directed campaign is designed to prevent and reduce the misuse and abuse of prescription pain medications.
- The Talk to Your Pharmacist outreach program encourages pharmacists to start a conversation with patients who have been prescribed an opioid.

PROGRAMS

- Drug-Take-Back events are held twice a year, and permanent collection sites are available to dispose of unused medications.
- 10 States have PDMP data sharing agreements with Utah.
- 16 opioid treatment programs (OTPs) are located throughout Utah.
- Utah Medicaid provides coverage for OTP services, including medication-assisted treatment including methadone, suboxone, and naltrexone.
- Utah Medicaid uses a lock-in program, called the Restriction Program, to restrict Medicaid beneficiaries who exhibit overuse, misuse, abuse, or possible fraud in their use of clinical services.

OTHER

- The Utah Coalition for Opioid Overdose Prevention was formed to prevent and reduce opioid abuse, misuse, and overdose deaths through a coordinated response.



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.

