Summary of Nevada’s Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Senate Bill (SB) 459, passed in 2015, expands the authority of physicians to prescribe naloxone in certain situations and provides limited immunity for individuals seeking help for others or themselves during a drug overdose.
- SB 459 also addresses requirements for providers to check the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) before they initiate a schedule II, III, or IV drug for a new patient or for a new treatment longer than 7 days for an existing patient.
- Assembly Bill 474, passed in 2017, addresses prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion through enacting prescribing protocols; increases oversight of prescribing; and improves data collection efforts.
- Nevada Medicaid allows for medication-assisted treatment, peer-to-peer counseling, and other behavioral health services as part of the Medicaid State plan.

DATA ANALYTICS

- The PDMP staff review the PDMP data to identify any inappropriate activity.
- Nevada’s Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS’s) Office of Analytics creates analyses and reports.

OUTREACH

- The Nevada Board of Medical Examiners’ website “Know Your Pain Meds” provides information for patients and consumers.
- DHHS’s Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) provides opioid-related training to Medicaid providers via its Prescribe365 website.

PROGRAMS

- DPBH and the University of Nevada, Reno, provide a telehealth link connecting university-based faculty specialists to primary care providers in rural and underserved areas.
- Nevada developed Integrated Opioid Treatment and Recovery Centers, which provide medication-assisted therapy, peer-to-peer counseling, mobile outreach, and other essential services.
- The Nevada Board of Pharmacy, which is responsible for the PDMP, is working to ensure the accuracy of the PDMP data.

OTHER

- Nevada created a model Plan of Safe Care for providers to use to help prevent neonatal abstinence syndrome.
- DHHS helped fund Mission High School, which is a public recovery high school that provides students a place to recover, while also allowing them to earn school credit.
- DHHS used grant funds to start a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program and a Specialty Courts program, to provide people with a chance for treatment rather than incarceration.


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