

Minnesota State Government Opioid Oversight Project

In order to address the opioid crisis currently gripping the state, Minnesota is working to increase awareness, decrease the number of persons who develop opioid use disorder and reduce the harms resulting from opioid addiction.

The State Government Opioid Oversight Project (SOOP) is state agencies working together at every level — from prevention, to emergency response, to treatment — in order to eliminate duplication of efforts, align work and leverage resources.



Background

In 2014, Minnesota was chosen to be one of six states to participate in a yearlong National Governors Association (NGA) prescription drug abuse academy. As a result, in order to develop a robust approach to reduce overuse of prescription opioids, prevent and treat opioid use disorder, Minnesota developed the State Substance Abuse Strategy Framework. To implement the framework, at the request of the Office of Governor Mark Dayton, SOOP was formed.

SOOP state agency partners include:

- Department of Human Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Labor and Industry
- Department of Public Safety
- Minnesota State Judicial Branch
- Minnesota Board of Pharmacy
- Minnesota Board of Medical Practice
- Minnesota Board of Dentistry
- Minnesota Board of Nursing
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Board of Podiatric Medicine

How SOOP is addressing opioids

Opioid Prescribing Practices

Many prescribing practices for opioids exceed the dose and duration needed to manage pain. Overprescribing opioids contributes to the development of new, chronic opioid users.

- *Action:* The Opioid Prescribing Workgroup published prescribing guidelines for acute, post-acute and chronic pain prescribing protocols for our Medicaid recipients.

Safe Disposal

People being prescribed more opioids than they need results in excess medication in need of safe disposal.

- *Action:* As of July 2016, Minnesota pharmacies are allowed to be drop-off sites for unused prescriptions.
- *Action:* The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency hosts Earth 911 showing drop-box locations.

Data and Prevention

Efforts must move upstream to prevent opioid use disorder and opioid overdose deaths from occurring. Good data is a key part of this effort.

- *Action:* The Minnesota Department of Health's Data driven prevention initiative has created an online data dashboard, and will next focus on a statewide strategic plan.
- *Action:* The Department of Public Safety collaborated with the Department of Health to share law enforcement and public health data in order to identify new trends.
- *Action:* The Department of Human Services is creating a campaign directed to health care providers on how to educate patients about the safe use of opioids.
- *Action:* The Department of Human Services received a federal grant to raise awareness and bring prescription drug abuse prevention education to schools, communities, parents, prescribers and their patients.

Prescription Monitoring Program

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) offers prescribers and dispensers the ability to view controlled substance prescription history for individual patients.

- *Action:* As of July 2017, prescribers and pharmacist are required to have a PMP account.
- *Action:* The Board of Pharmacy is sending out controlled substance insight alerts to prescribers and pharmacies concerning individuals who, based on PMP data, may be doctor shopping.

Increasing Access to Naloxone

Naloxone is a proven lifesaving medication to reverse the effects of an opioid during an overdose. Naloxone can be administered by anyone, has no abuse potential and saves lives.

- *Action:* Minnesota distributes Naloxone to emergency medical services across the state.
- *Action:* As of January 2017, Minnesota allows pharmacies to dispense Naloxone for those at risk for opioid overdose.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Infants are impacted by the opioid epidemic when they are exposed to opioids in utero, resulting in withdrawal, neonatal abstinence syndrome.

- *Action:* DHS awarded grants to the five northern tribes to provide prenatal care for women with opioid use disorder and services for infants.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

More individuals need opioid use disorder treatment including MAT, but access to treatment has not kept up with the demand.

- *Action:* The Department of Corrections is developing a high-level strategic plan to expand access to opioid use disorder for people involved in the criminal justice-system.
- *Action:* DHS has issued grants to increase the availability of office-based opioid treatment.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Reform

Starting in 2012, DHS has been working to streamline and modernize the substance use disorder treatment system in Minnesota.

- *Action:* Substance use disorder reforms passed in 2017 mean that individuals will soon be able to go directly to providers to receive an assessment, providers will be reimbursed for services off-site, and three new services—treatment coordination, peer recovery support, and withdrawal management—will be added.

Justice Involved Populations

Individuals who have been involved with courts, jails, or prisons are often in need of effective interventions.

- *Action:* The Department of Corrections has developed an action plan on Expanding Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment for Justice-Involved Populations
- *Action:* The Department of Public Safety is hiring an opiate analyst in the Data Fusion Center.
- *Action:* State Court Administrators Office is working on stabilizing funding and creating a predictable, equitable funding system to support drug courts throughout the state.