



Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies

UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Health Department
Opioid Response Project: Secondary Data Review and
Summary Recommendations



Overview and Methods

- Completed secondary review of opioid response strategies
- Interviewed key stakeholders from public health, public safety, tribal health
- Emphasized public health and public safety partnerships
- Explicit recommendations on first responder/EMS-led MOUD initiation
- Highlighted linkages to (integrated) systems of care
- Sustainable funding for harm reduction



- 2019 AHD Substance Use Assessment, State of Alaska DOH Opioid Dashboard, 2023 Health Analytics Drug Overdose Mortality Update

Thematic Priorities

1. Address stigma and misconceptions surrounding substance use.
2. Strengthen workforce synergies between public health and public safety.
3. Expand access to treatment and long-term recovery services.

- Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention

Thematic priorities	Primary prevention strategies	Secondary prevention strategies	Tertiary prevention strategies
#1 Address stigma and misconceptions surrounding substance use, risk, and the daily struggles and lived experiences of individuals from all backgrounds	Prioritize initiatives that increase dissemination of accurate, evidence-based, non-stigmatizing information on social determinants of OUD to clinical and non-clinical audiences as well as youth via in-school programs.	Initiate treatment and support compliance through peer recovery support services.	Support the development of transitional and long-term housing first options for people in recovery from OUD.
#2 Strengthen workforce synergies between public health and safety in both clinical and community settings	Prioritize initiatives that increase information on mental health disorders that commonly co-occur with opioid misuse and addiction to clinical and non-clinical audiences.	Strengthen community-based crisis response and jail diversion programs.	Expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Correctional Facilities, support the development of a recovery coaching/peer support training to facilitate linkage to and increase retention/treatment compliance with medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and support patients treated for opioid overdose in the Emergency Room (ER).
#3 Expand access to comprehensive detox, treatment, and long-term recovery services	Support initiatives to expand the health workforce with knowledge about addiction and addiction pathways and provide interprofessional training opportunities to nurses, social workers, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, psychologists, harm reduction specialists, peer recovery specialists and physicians to ensure widespread adoption of screening/identification, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) and other validated screening tools.	Consider evidence-based treatments for OUD that combine pharmacological treatments with behavioral therapies and consider treatment options and implications for polysubstance use.	Consider monitoring and reporting/sharing requirements and data management systems (e.g. dashboards) for EMS and clinical responses focused on screening/identification, initiation of MOUD, referral to continuing treatment, overdose education, and provision of naloxone – also consider monitoring programs for quality measures.



Thematic Priority #1: Address stigma and misconceptions surrounding substance use.

Prevention
Strategy

Prioritize evidence-based, non-stigmatizing information on social determinants of OUD for clinical, non-clinical, and youth audiences.

Support/expand the use of peer recovery coaches.

Support access to stable recovery housing.

Examples

HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) - Alaska Childrens Trust

Alaska Peer Support Certification - DOH



Thematic Priority #2: Strengthen workforce synergies between public health and public safety in both clinical and community settings.

Prevention
Strategy

Prioritize initiatives that increase information on mental health disorders that commonly co-occur with opioid misuse and addiction clinical and non-clinical audiences.

Strengthen community based crisis response.

Increase access to MAT in correctional facilities and expand reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals with OUD.

Crisis Now Initiative

*Alaska Reentry
Partnership*

Examples



Thematic Priority #3: Expand access to comprehensive detox, treatment, and long-term recovery services.

Prevention
Strategy

Increase adoption of screening/identification, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) and other validated screening tools.

Establish or expand telehealth programs to increase access.

Promote employment supports and opportunities for individuals in recovery.

Examples

*ANTHC's Telehealth
Technology Assessment
Center*

*Alaska Health Workforce
Coalition Workforce
Priorities*



RHTP: Opportunities

- Deepen statewide, cross sector collaboration
 - workforce, TA needs, communities of practice
- Data interoperability can improve outcomes
- University and community partnerships
 - research and evaluation services, microcredentialing opportunities, interprofessional lens



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Connect with us!!!

For more information on the the center and opportunities for collaboration, please contact: thhedwig@alaska.edu or krtrawver@alaska.edu