The Opioid Epidemic and Naloxone- An Evidence Based Strategy to Prevent Fatality

Stephen Alsum

The Grand Rapids Red Project steve@redproject.org (616) 456-9063

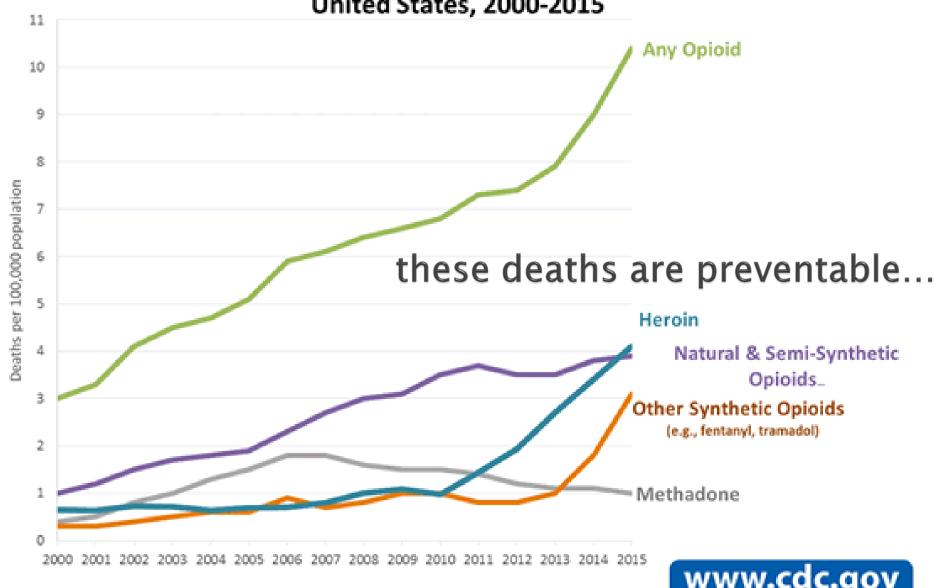
Red Project Basics

- A 501c3 non-profit founded in 1998
- Mission: Improve Health, Reduce Risk, Prevent HIV
- We utilize a Harm Reduction philosophy
 - The space in between prevention & treatment
 - Meeting people where they are at
 - Providing a range of options
 - Client centered
 - Low threshold approach
 - Pre-recovery supports
- Health Issues: HIV, Hepatitis C, and Overdose

Red Project Programming

- Overdose Prevention
- Rapid HIV/Hepatitis C Testing
- Risk Reduction Counseling
- Syringe Access
- HIV Linkage To Care & Case Management
- Recovery Coaching/Access To Treatment
- Support Groups
- Red Project provides comprehensive programming along the continuum of care

Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, by Type of Opioid, United States, 2000-2015



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality. CDC WONDER, Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. https://wonder.cdc.gov/.



Kent County Drug Deaths by drug of first mention

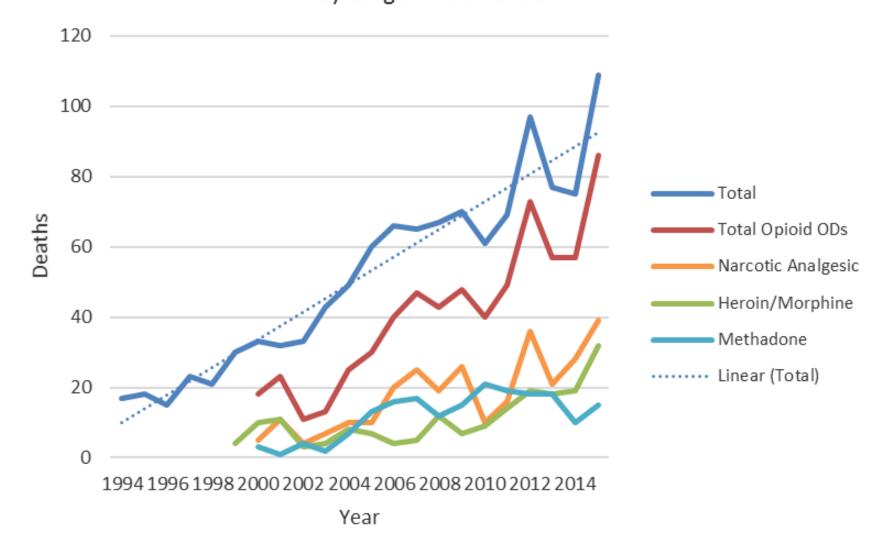
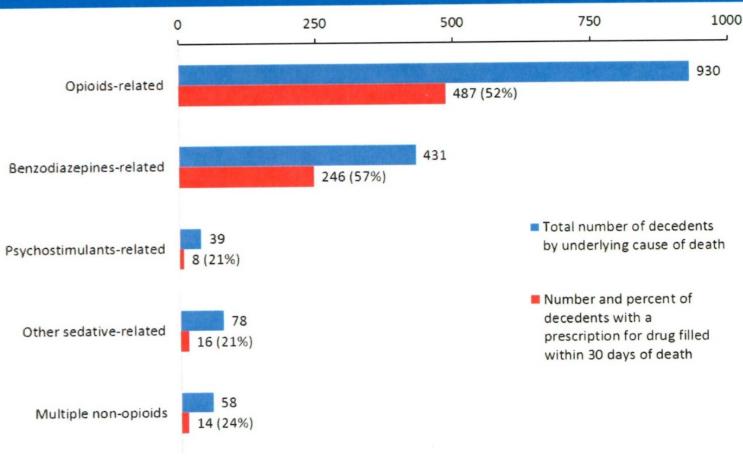


Figure 6. Decedents With a Recent Prescription Filled for the Drug Mentioned as a Cause of Death¹:

MI Overdose Decedents, 2009-2012



Deaths are mutually exclusive.

Interpreting the Graphs

- How did we get here today?
- The '90s
 - Pain as a vital sign & patient satisfaction as a measure of doctor performance
 - Opioid availability increases, as does overdose
- c. 2008-current
 - Opioid overdose epidemic is recognized
 - Prescription opioids become less available
 - Effective treatment options not widely available
 - Heroin use (82% begin w prescription opioids) and overdose begins to increase
- Lessons Reactionary vs Proactive, & a focus on Comprehensive Care

The Silver Lining



Naloxone



GR Area Programming

- Clean Works Program October 2008
- Cherry St Health Methadone Clinic 2012
- Network 180 and SUD Treatment 2013
 - SA Turning Point, Arbor Circle IOP, Our Hope, Jellema House, Freedom House, Cherry St Health Methadone Clinic, Degage Open Door Women's Shelter, Network 180 Access Center, etc
- Results (as of 3/29/2019)
 - 9,000+ individuals trained which has led to 1,000+ reported reversals
- The Future
 - Increased local collaboration/partnerships
 - Technical assistance and program support in "out-state"

What is the point?

- Massachusetts provides overdose education and naloxone distribution on a statewide level, supported through their health department
- ▶ Walley et al. *BMJ* 2013; 346: f174. found that:
 - 0 kits per 100,000 people resulted in a 0% change
 - 1-100 kits/100,000 people resulted in a 27% reduction in community overdose mortality rates
 - >100 kits/100,000 resulted in a 46% reduction
- Decreasing overdose mortality is dependent on increasing naloxone kit distribution

Table 2. Annual number and age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths involving all opioids^{2†}, by sex, age, race, and selected counties – Michigan, 2016-2017

	201	2016		2017		Change from 2016 to 2017	
Decedent Characteristics	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Difference of rates	% change in rate	
All	1,788	18.8	2,053	21.4	2.6	13.8*	
Sex			-				
Male	1,202	25.6	1,349	28.3	2.7	10.5*	
Female	586	12.0	704	14.5	2.5	20.8*	
Age group (years)							
15-24	152	11.0	160	11.7	0.7	6.7	
25-34	503	40.5	579	45.6	5.2	12.7	
35-44	411	35.5	458	39.6	4.1	11.6	
45-54	385	28.6	437	33.0	4.5	15.7	
55-64	279	20.0	335	23.9	3.9	19.5	
65 and older	54	3.3	82	4.9	1.6	47.4	
Sex and age group (years)						
Male							
15-24	108	15.3	100	14.3	-1.0	-6.3	
25-44	640	53.2	704	57.8	4.6	8.7	
45-64	417	31.1	493	37.0	5.9	18.9	
Female							
15-24	44	6.5	60	9.0	2.5	38.5	
25-44	274	22.9	333	27.6	4.7	20.4	
45-64	247	17.7	279	20.1	2.4	13.4	
Race	-						
White	1,461	19.7	1640	21.9	2.2	11.2*	
Black	276	18.2	353	23.7	5.5	30.2*	
American Indian	25	28.7	26	29.8	1.1	3.8	
Selected counties							
Wayne	538	30.6	636	36.1	5.5	18.0*	
Macomb	262	30.6	320	37.5	6.9	22.5*	
Oakland	69		69				
Genesee	120	31.8	131	35.3	3.5	11.0	
Kent	64	9.9	102	15.9	6.0	60.6*	
Ingham	66	25.9	63	21.9	-4.0	-15.4	
St. Clair	56	39.2	50	35.9	-3.3	-8.4	
Washtenaw	64	16.4	62	16.8	0.4	2.4	
Monroe	43	31.4	48	35.0	3.6	11.5	
Calhoun	41	33.1	44	36.8	3.7	11.2	
Kalamazoo	54	22.6	44	17.0	-5.6	-24.8	
Muskegon	33	20.1	34	23.0	2.9	14.4	

2016-19 Expansions

- Direct Client Service Delivery
 - Muskegon County
 - Ottawa County
 - Allegan, Lake, Mason and Oceana
- Technical Assistance/Program Start-Up
 - A statewide epidemic...
- Law Enforcement Training
- Kent County
 - Community Task Force
 - Medical Community
 - Post Overdose Wellness Visits

Sources

- Centers for Disease Control
- Kent County Medical Examiner
- Red Project Internal Data
- Physicians Desk Reference
- The Chicago Recovery Alliance
- Project Lazarus
- Prescribe to Prevent
- Walley et al