The Opioid Epidemic –
Expanding the Understanding of the Unique Needs of Persons Living with Brain Injury

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Objectives:

Arizona Specific statistics and Response

Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
Arizona Declares State of Emergency June 15th, 2017

Opioid Report
June 15, 2017 – September 13, 2018

11,391 possible opioid overdoses reported

40% of the possible opioid overdoses were fatal

969 Arizona babies born with possible drug-related withdrawal symptoms

Naloxone
7,125 naloxone doses administered outside of the hospital by emergency medical services, law enforcement, and others

26,656 naloxone kits distributed to the public by pharmacies
Arizona Opioid Timeline

- **June 1, 2017**
  - 2016 Arizona Opioid Report Released
  - ADHS releases a report showing 790 people died of opioid overdose in 2016 – a startling 74% increase in the past four years.

- **June 5, 2017**
  - Opioid Emergency Declared

- **June 5, 2017**
  - Governor Ducey declares a state of emergency, authorizing ADHS to coordinate the public health response

- **June 5, 2017**
  - ADHS releases its Opioid Prescribing Guidelines

- **June 5, 2017**
  - ADHS leads an Advisory Team to complete the update to Arizona’s Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for acute and chronic pain

- **June 15, 2017**
  - Enhanced Surveillance Reporting Implemented
  - Enhanced real-time reporting requirements take effect to gather data on suspected opioid overdoses, suspected opioid deaths, naloxone dispensed, and naloxone administered.

- **June 28, 2017**
  - ADHS issues the Opioid Overdose Epidemic Response Report and Opioid Action Plan, providing recommendations, response activities, and preliminary legislative ideas.

- **September 5, 2017**
  - OAR Line – Opioid Assistance + Referral Line – Launches
  - ADHS is launching one of the nation’s first real-time, comprehensive hotlines for healthcare providers seeking consultation for complex patients with pain and opioid use disorder.

- **October 16, 2017**
  - PDMP Mandate In Effect
  - State law requiring health care providers prescribing opioids or benzodiazepines to check the Arizona Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program.

- **November 2017**
  - Launch of 2018 Opioid Prescribing Guidelines
  - ADHS leads an Advisory Team to complete the update to Arizona’s Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for acute and chronic pain.

- **January 26, 2018**
  - Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act Takes Effect
  - The Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act, Senate Bill 1001, goes into effect. Provisions include continuing education requirements for health care providers, a 5-day limit for first fills of new opioid prescriptions, and additional funding for treatment.

- **May 29, 2018**
  - Governor Ducey Terminates Declaration of Opioid Emergency
  - After completion of all requirements of the emergency declaration order, the Opioid Action Plan, and implementation of the Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act, Governor Ducey officially ends the declaration of emergency.

www.azdhs.gov
Arizona Lessons Learned (Partial list)

Opioid Surveillance System

- Chronic pain is the most common pre-existing physical condition, followed by depression and history of substance use disorder, including alcohol.
- About 40% of people who had a suspected overdose had nine or more prescriptions for opioids filled in 18 months.
- Thirty-six percent (36%) of people who had a suspected opioid overdose were prescribed opioids by 10 or more providers since January 2017.
- Heroin, oxycodone, and benzodiazepines were the most commonly identified drugs involved in verified opioid overdoses.
- Reported overdoses frequently involve multiple drugs. Polydrug use was indicated in 42% of the overdose fatalities.
- The most common drug combination in fatal and non-fatal overdoses was heroin and methamphetamine, followed by the combination of oxycodone and benzodiazepines.
Arizona Lessons Learned (Partial list)

**Hospital Discharge Records**

- The number of reported 2017 deaths directly attributed to opioids among Arizona residents or non-residents in Arizona is 949, a **20% increase** from the 800 deaths reported in 2016.
- Heroin deaths were 36% of the total opioid deaths in Arizona in 2017.
- Opioid deaths among men have historically been higher than women, and are continuing to increase at a faster rate.
- Hospital data indicates that in 2017 there were 51,473 unique opioid-related encounters in Arizona hospitals, totaling an estimated $431 million in healthcare costs.

Five designated Centers of Excellence that are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide immediate access to opioid treatment, and two Medication Units were opened to expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment in rural Arizona.
Arizona Moving Forward - Highlights

• ADHS will be launching a **chronic pain program and campaign** promoting options for pain management and self-management strategies.

• The Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith, and Family and ADHS is producing a new **youth prevention campaign** for the fall of 2018, which was authorized and funded by the Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act.

• ADHS is working with stakeholders to develop new **regulations for pain management clinics**. Arizona will license pain management clinics starting January 2019.

• The new OARLine: Opioid Assistance + Referral Line for Arizona Providers: will be expanded in the future to provide information and referrals to the public.

• Arizona health professional schools will begin implementing components of the new **pain and addiction curriculum**. ADHS is working with licensing boards to deem students that complete the curriculum as eligible to provide buprenorphine treatment to patients.

www.azdhs.gov
Arizona Awarded $20 Million To Combat The Opioid Epidemic

News Release
September 19, 2018

- Increase access to medication-assisted treatment in both urban and rural areas of our state;
- Increase distribution and public awareness of the overdose reversal medication, Naloxone;
- Expand access to recovery support services including housing, peer support, and job search assistance;
- Reduce recidivism by creating supports for individuals who transition from correctional settings;
- Enhance support for opioid-exposed newborns and pregnant women who have opioid use disorder.
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona

**Unmet Need**
- Awareness of the intersection of Brain Injury and Substance Use
- Universal Screening / monitoring
- Training for Professionals
- Integrated Care for the Unique Needs of persons living with Brain Injury.
- Long terms Support for persons with Brain Injury

- Brain Injury ➔ Substance Use
- Substance Use ➔ Brain Injury
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona – Meeting the Need
Building Awareness

• Writing / Distributing Opinion Editorials

• Development of FAQ sheets for Opioids, Stimulants and Alcohol use and brain Injury

• Attendance / Exhibiting at conferences for Addiction and Specialty Courts
Community Partners

- East Valley Police Departments – Provide Brain Injury education at critical incident teams training
- Outreach to the Phoenix Veterans Court
  - Active Partnership – referrals for Resource Facilitation
- Outreach to the Phoenix Drug Courts
  - Formal Partnership Pending
Collaboration

• Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona will host a cross disability round table discussion with key state stakeholders
• November, 2018
Development - Brain Injury Recognition in Addiction Improvement Networks Program

• Professional Training for Substance Abuse Professionals
• Partnership with Facilities – data collection
  • Provide training
  • Employ brain injury screening tools
  • Provide Brain Injury Specific curriculum along with traditional Substance Use curriculum (cognition groups and activities)
  • Provide long term Resource Facilitation Services to professionals and persons identified as having a brain injury
• Report out Findings
Questions?

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