

Prescription Drug & Heroin Use

An Epidemic in Virginia and the Ongoing Prevention Response

Virginia's Opioid Crisis



1 out of 6 high schoolers have misused prescription drugs in their lifetime



1 out of 56 high schoolers have used heroin in their lifetime



Every 12 hours a Virginian dies from an opioid overdose



Every 2 hours a Virginian is arrested for an opioid-related crime



There were **4,076** administrations of Narcan by Emergency Medical Services in 2016



Virginia spends **\$546 million** annually on healthcare related to opioid abuse

Why Prevention Matters



Decreases drug-related emergency room visits



Reduces cost of drug abuse treatment



Prevents drug-related deaths



Decreases incidents of family violence



Each dollar invested in substance abuse prevention yields **\$10** in savings

Improves school attendance and academic achievement



Increases productivity, and job stability



Promotes better physical health outcomes



What's Being Done?

Data-Driven Public Health



Virginia's Social Indicator Dashboard centralizes behavioral health data for research and community planning

<https://tinyurl.com/VA-Dashboard>

Targeted Prevention Funding

Communities are using federal grants to implement environmental and evidenced-based prevention strategies

Opioid Prevention Treatment and Recovery (OPT-R)

Federal Prevention Funding Sources

Partnerships for Success Grant (PFS)



Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG)

Support local and state prevention funding and efforts!

Data Sources: 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Virginia Medical Examiner Database System (VMEDS) via the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Virginia Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) via the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Research Center, Virginia Department of Health (VDH) via Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Matrix Global Advisors LLC (2015). Health Care Costs from Opioid Abuse: A State-by-State Analysis., Pentz, M.A. (1998). Costs, benefits, and cost-effectiveness of comprehensive drug abuse prevention. In: Bukoski, W.J. and Evans, R.I., eds. Cost-Benefit/Cost-Effectiveness Research of Drug Abuse Prevention: Implications for Programming and Policy. NIDA Research Monograph No. 176. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, pp.111-129. Hahn-Smith, S. (2011). Substance Abuse Prevention: Benefits Outweigh Costs Spreading the Message Where It Counts. Prevention Tactics, (6), 7th ser. doi:10.18411/atp.2017-023



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