



Recommendations to Improve Transition from Detention to the Community for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder

“In order to slow down the opioid crisis, we’ll have to treat people where we find them, and jails are one of the places we find them.”

Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a public health crisis that has plagued New Mexico for generations. There are more than 19,000 people in New Mexico who abuse or have a dependence on opioids. Only 10,543 are receiving medication assisted treatment (MAT). In New Mexico, the drug overdose death rate has more than tripled in recent years from 7.6 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990 to 24.8 deaths per 100,000 population in 2016. Individuals with untreated OUD may engage in drug-seeking behavior that can result in repeated jail bookings. They also have a greater than 90% relapse rate. On release, individuals with OUD are 12 times more likely to experience a fatal overdose.

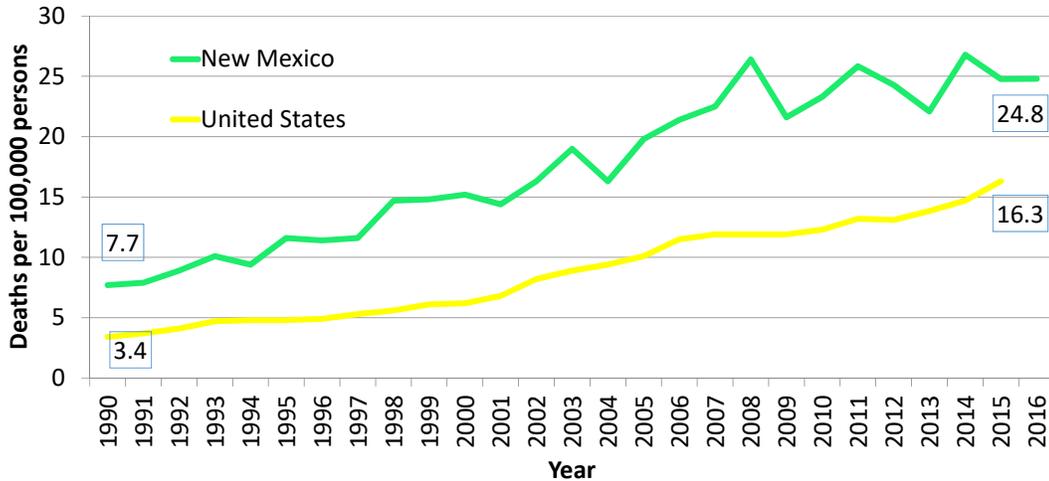
A coordinated public safety and public health approach is needed to slow the cycle of arrest, incarceration, release, and re-arrest for people with OUD. These recommendations are for state lawmakers, detention professionals, behavioral health professionals, county commissioners, county managers, and other decision makers. The cost associated with implementation of these recommendations should be shared by the state, which will need to provide for community services that serve individuals involved in the criminal justice system including MAT and transitional and permanent supportive housing. The State Health and Human Services Departments and managed care organization must also play a role in providing pre-release services and reentry care coordination.

Recommendations

1. Fund and establish detention reentry programs to assess an inmate’s risks and needs, identify available services, plan for needed treatment and services, and coordinate transition from the detention center to community-based services.
2. Pilot the efficacy of providing MAT to individuals diagnosed with OUD before they are released from detention.
3. Enroll eligible inmates in Medicaid to facilitate timely access to treatment following release from detention.
4. Expand capacity for detention centers to provide overdose prevention education and naloxone kits to inmates.
5. Link detained populations and their families with the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line and the New Mexico Peer to Peer Warmline.

Recommendations are based on the April 2018 report titled *Improving Transition from Detention to the Community for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder* funded by the New Mexico Opioid State Targeted Response Initiative.

Drug Overdose Death Rates New Mexico and United States, 1990-2016



Rates are age adjusted to the US 2000 standard population
Source: United States (CDC Wonder); New Mexico (NMDOH BVRHS/SAES, 1990-1998,2016 ; NM-IBIS, 1999-2015)

Economic Cost of Opioid Misuse in N.M.

- Estimate of the number of people in N.M. in 2017 Q2 who are chronic prescription opioid users, and may need treatment (22% of chronic prescription opioid patients) = 12,400*
- Estimate of the number of people using NMDOH Syringe Services program in 2016 who indicated heroin use = 6,976
- Cost per year per person misusing opioids estimate = \$46,970**
- Estimated annual cost of prescription opioid misuse in N.M. = \$582,000,000
- Estimated minimum annual cost of IV heroin use in N.M. = \$328,000,000
- Estimated annual cost of opioid misuse in N.M. = \$910,000,000

* Vowles, K. E., McEntee, M. L., Siyahhan Julnes, P., Frohe, T., Ney, J. P., & van der Goes, D. N. (2015). Rates of opioid misuse, abuse, and addiction in chronic pain: A systematic review and data synthesis. *Pain*, 156, 569-576. Note: The Winsorized mid point (min+max)/2 was used as a proxy for the number of people who have potentially problematic prescription opioid use.

** Florence, C., Zhou, C., Luo, F., & Xu, L. (2016). The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse, and Dependence in the United States, 2013. *Medical Care*, 54, 901-906. 10.1097/MLR.0000000000000625

Data Sources: NM Board of Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program; NMDOH Harm Reduction Syringe Services Program

Slides: Michael Landen, "Overview of the Opioid Use Crisis in New Mexico" (November 2017)