

BALTIMORE'S APPROACH TO OPIOIDS

Two Decades Fighting the Opioid Epidemic in Baltimore

Heroin Epidemic in Baltimore

- Long history of Heroin usage in Baltimore dating back to the 1930s and 1940s; increased with returning Vietnam veterans in 1960s and 1970s.
- Heroin addiction occurring in families—grandparents/parents/young adults
- By early 1990s, somewhere between 25-40,000 Baltimoreans addicted to illicit substances
- Two thirds used heroin as primary drug of choice, though many were poly-substance users: cocaine, MJ, EtOH, and tobacco
- Primary mode of use for heroin: INTRAVENOUS

HIV/AIDS in BALTIMORE

- By 1993, AIDS was leading cause of death for 25-44 yo, AA and White, Male and Female
- 75% of cases related to IVDU: 60% Users; 12% sex partners; 3% babies
- Worst hit zip codes had >5% HIV prevalence among ALL adult residents, not just IVDUs

NEEDLE EXCHANGE LEGISLATION

- Needed an exemption from State Paraphernalia Law for Baltimore City to run its own program
- First proposed in 1992--killed
- Proposed again in 1993—no vote
- Mayor Kurt Schmoke made it the top priority for City in 1994 Legislative Session
- Opposed by sitting Governor Schafer
- Overcame that opposition

NEEDLE EXCHANGE LEGISLATION -2

- Grass roots
- Legislative advocacy (district by district)
- Cummings' bill/emergency legislation
- Hearings
- Last minute obstacle

NEEDLE EXCHANGE LEGISLATION-3

- Passed House overwhelmingly
- Passed Senate 24-23
- Governor signed

IMPLEMENTING NEP

- Interview process for staff
- Van vs. permanent site
- Outfitting van
- Choosing locations
- Original Rules and Services
 - 1:1
 - Drug Tx slots
 - Wound care
 - TB/STD/HIV testing
 - DOT for HIV/AIDS meds

NEP STUDY

- Conducted by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- Vlahov—ALIVE study; perfect population
- Multiple aspects studied
 - Effect on drug use/sexual activity
 - Effect on young people's likelihood to use drugs (Hasstret)
 - Success of getting clients to drug tx

NEP STUDIES—PART 2

- THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION NEEDED TO BE ANSWERED: DID PARTICIPATION IN THE NEP AFFECT THE INCIDENCE OF HIV INFECTIONS VS NON-PARTICIPANTS?
- Bar-coded needles/DNA testing
- Results impressive:
 - One-time user of NEP = 40% reduction
 - Regular user of NEP = 70% reduction
 - Perfect user of NEP = 100% reduction (no conversion)

BALTIMORE NEP TO THE PRESENT

- Has expanded to 14 sites from original 2
- Has expanded from \$300k (City) to \$1.2m (City + State)
- Exchanged over 15 million syringes
- Enrolled several thousand participants in SUD tx
- Thousands tested for TB/STD/HIV and referred for tx
- Student Volunteers from local schools of medicine, nursing and undergrad
- Very well-accepted in City
 - Sunset repealed
 - Seen as an important site for services (incl. Homeless)

NEP'S MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS

- FOR MANY PARTICIPANTS, COMING TO THE NEP IS THE ONE TIME IN THEIR DAY THAT THEY ARE TREATED AS A HUMAN BEING
- THE BIG FINDING:
 - Prior to Implementing Baltimore's NEP, >60% of all HIV infections were in IVDUs
 - By 2017, only 8% of HIV infections are in IVDUs

NEP IN SACRAMENTO

- Three programs are allowed to provide syringe exchange services in City of Sacramento
- On October 18, Harm Reduction Services received authorization from Cal DPH to provide syringe exchange services in Sacramento County
- Work for more

RED BOX PROGRAM

- In 1996, implemented program for syringe disposal in areas of the city not served by the NEP
- Four sites—surplus mailboxes—painted red
- Pre- and Post-Intervention surveys of community members and police officers
- Evaluated areas around red boxes and at control areas for excess used syringes
- Virtually no problem with mailboxes, vandalism, mail
- Collected thousands of used syringes
- 10.9% tested HIV+
- TRYING PILOT IN SACRAMENTO AT DISCOVERY PARK

OPERATION STAYING ALIVE--NARCAN

- In 2002 Baltimore started Narcan distribution program
- Trained 500 users in first year—mostly NEP participants
- Rx'd Narcan
- 750 saves in first four years

- Continued to be expanded to additional populations

NARCAN

- **Baltimore City's Standing Order: A Blanket Prescription 2015**
- Allows Narcan to be dispensed by pharmacies and overdose response program employees or volunteers
- Serves as a blanket prescription for all City residents, allowing them to buy Narcan at a pharmacy without an Rx from their doctor-and without training

NARCAN PROGRAM RESULTS

- Since 2015, BCHD and its partners have trained more than 43,000 Baltimore residents - and saved the lives of nearly 3,000
- WE NEED TO WORK IN SACRAMENTO TO EXPAND AVAILABILITY OF NARCAN BEYOND SOME FIRST RESPONDERS

SUBOXONE/BUPRENORPHINE

- Major effort in Baltimore to expand number of providers who prescribe suboxone
- In PCP offices
- Free training for providers who want an X
- Hub and spoke system
 - Hubs for walk-in
 - Spokes for on-going tx if don't have a PCP

SACRAMENTO VALLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY, SACRAMENTO COUNTY DHS to do additional work to significantly increase the availability of suboxone in the County—including the Jail