

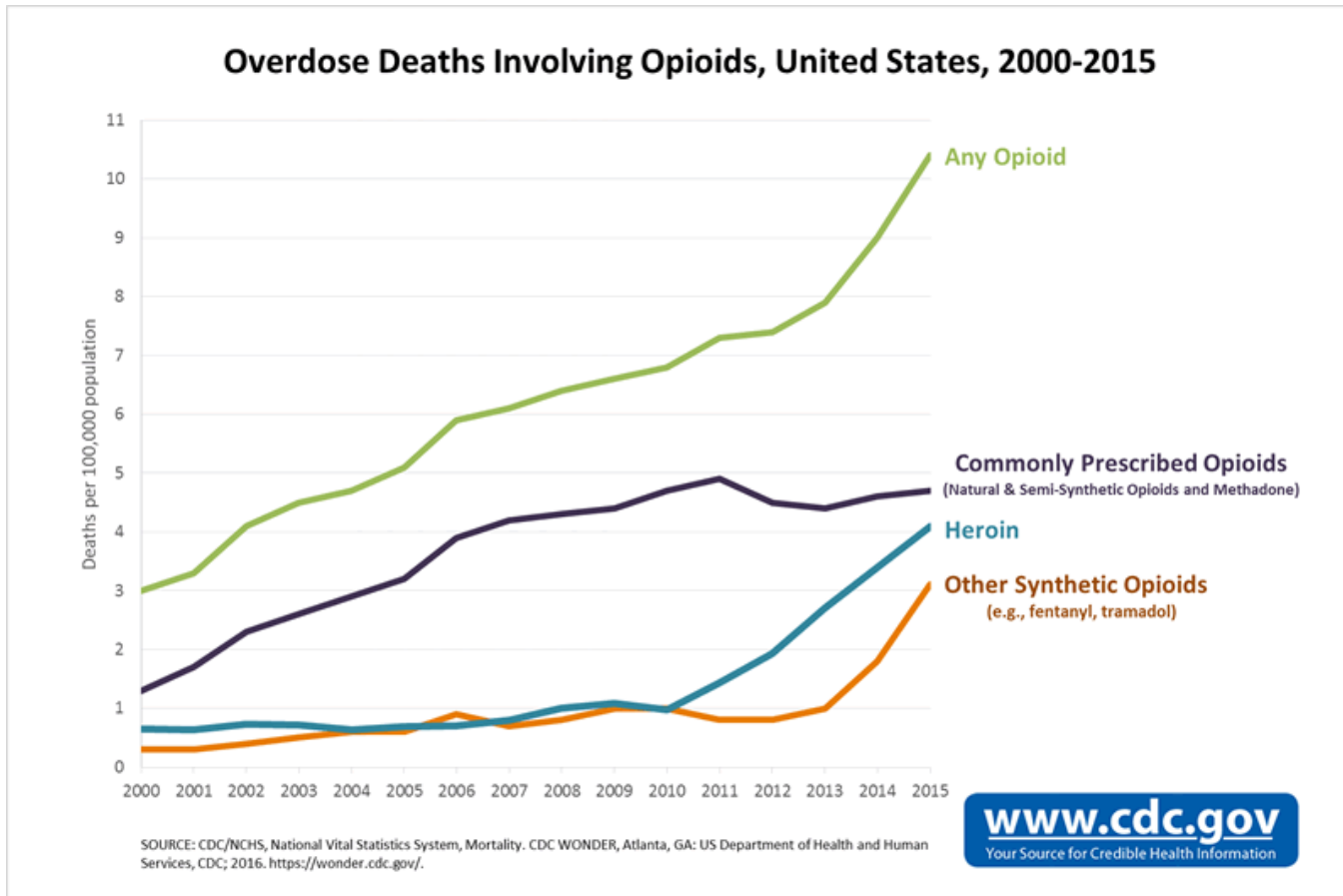


Illinois Policy Responses to the Opioid Epidemic

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HEARTLAND
ALLIANCE
ENDING POVERTY

It is an epidemic..



Opioid Crisis in Illinois

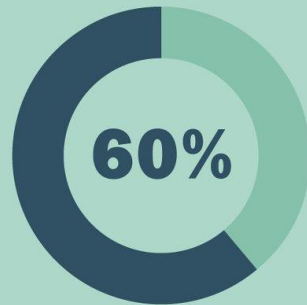
THE OPIOID CRISIS

 **3X**

Nationally, drug overdose deaths have nearly tripled since 1999

 **2,278**

In 2016, there were more than 2,000 drug overdose deaths in Illinois



60.9% of all U.S. drug overdose deaths involved opioids (2014)

44% 

Illinois' drug overdose deaths increased more than 40% since 2013

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

Illinois Substance Use Disorder Treatment System

- Largely funded through grants
- Cuts of 25% or more over the last decade
- Not integrated
- Not evidence-based
- Limited Medicaid funding



What do you do? Establish a Task Force!



Illinois Young Adult Heroin Use Task Force

- Established by legislation
- Initial focus on heroin use in high schools
- Membership mostly state legislators
- Hearings focused on all aspects of crisis
- Hearings held all over the state
- Effectively built consensus for the path forward – mostly a political process
- Legislation based on recommendations introduced the following year

Heroin Crisis Act

Expanded access to treatment

- Required Medicaid coverage of all medication assisted treatments (MAT)
- Eliminated prior authorizations and utilization controls on MAT
- Required parity for MAT prescriptions and in-patient treatment
- Required private insurance to publish its SUD benefit policies

Heroin Crisis Act

Overdose prevention

- Medicaid coverage for Naloxone
- Pharmacist-initiated Naloxone dispensing
- Prescriptions allowed for friends and family
- Protects health professionals from criminal liability and lay people from civil liability
- Requires fire fighters, police, first responders, and school personnel to be trained in Naloxone and to have access to it

Heroin Crisis Act

Other provisions

- Expanded Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- Expanded Medication Take Back Program
- New documentation requirements for Schedule II narcotics
- Expanded Drug Court
- Establishes public awareness and junior and senior high school education programs

Heroin Crisis Act: PASSED

- Passed unanimously out of the House
- Overturned an amendatory veto
- Signed into law during unprecedented budget crisis



Implementation Challenges

- Inconsistent managed care implementation
- Slow training for providers and pharmacists
- Difficulty enforcing parity requirements
- Needed culture change with providers and criminal justice system

