Drug Use & Harm Reduction in an Urban Environment

Presented by:
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Learning Objectives:

* Overdose/Polysubstance Use Crisis - Stats

* Common Drug Contaminants

* West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force

* Resources

* Questions & Contact Info.
Overdose/
Polysubstance Use
Crisis
12 Month-ending Provisional Number and Percent Change of Drug Overdose Deaths

Based on data available for analysis on: March 5, 2023

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: United States

Overdose Data Source: cdc.gov
12 Month-ending Provisional Number and Percent Change of Drug Overdose Deaths

Based on data available for analysis on: March 5, 2023

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: Illinois

Select jurisdiction

- **Illinois**

- ○ Predicted Value
- ■ Reported Value

**Illinois**
- 12 month ending period: **October 2022**
- Reported number of deaths: **3,777**
- Predicted number of deaths: **3,888**
- Percent pending investigation: **0.26**

*Underreported due to incomplete data.*
Figure 2. Acceleration Rates of Opioid Overdose Deaths by Urbanicity

Large central metro indicates counties in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) with a population ≥1,000,000 that contain all or part of a principal city of the area; large fringe metro, the remaining counties (similar to suburbs) of MSAs with ≥1,000,000 population; medium metro, counties in MSAs with populations of 250,000 to 999,999; small metro, counties in MSAs with populations <250,000; micropolitan, nonmetropolitan counties belonging to a micropolitan statistical area; and noncore, the remaining nonmetropolitan counties. Large central metro is the most urban category and noncore the most rural.
Figure 1 Changes in Annual Opioid Prescriptions Compared to Overdose Death Rates from Different Types of Opioids.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo</th>
<th>Sample Name</th>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Ratio / Amounts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Dope" /></td>
<td>Code: AC2023C011 Sold as: Dope</td>
<td>Diphenhydramine, Fentanyl, Heroin, Xylazine, 4-ANPP, 6-Acetylmorphine, Quetiapine</td>
<td>50, 5, 5, 5, 1, 1</td>
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<td>80, 40, 20, 20, 10</td>
<td>Feb 22, 2023</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>DrugsData</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: drugsdata.org
The fentanyl problem is a direct consequence of drug prohibition and interdiction. As my colleague Dr. Jeff Singer has written:

Fentanyl's appearance in the underground drug trade is an excellent example of the "iron law of prohibition:" when alcohol or drugs are prohibited they will tend to get produced in more concentrated forms, because they take up less space and weight in transporting and reap more money when subdivided for sale.

Fentanyl is at least 50 times more powerful per pound than heroin, which means you have to smuggle nearly 50 pounds of heroin to supply the market that a single pound of fentanyl could. This is a massive incentive to smuggle fentanyl, and the more efforts are made to restrict the drug trade, the more fentanyl will be the drug that is smuggled. The DEA has even admitted, “The low cost, high potency, and ease of acquisition of fentanyl may encourage heroin users to switch to the drug should future heroin supplies be disrupted.” In other words, heroin interdiction makes the fentanyl problem worse.
‘I was scared I was going to die’: Jefferson County deputy treated with Narcan after opioid exposure

Updated Apr 07, 2021; Posted Apr 07, 2021

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is often mixed with street drugs. Authorities suspect its presence in illicit narcotics may be the driving force behind an increase in drug overdose deaths.
Fentanyl facts (1)

**FACT:** Fentanyl must enter your body for it to affect you. Being in a room with an open bag of fentanyl is not enough to cause an effect.

Putting your hands on a person or providing rescue breathing will *not* result in your own overdose.

**NOPE:** People have overdosed by being in the same room where fentanyl has been found.
Have you heard of Xylazine?
“Tranq Dope”—The Heroin Combo That’s Been Putting Philly to Sleep

By Maria Mozawa and AJ Willingham, CNN
Updated 4:36 PM ET, Thu February 4, 2021

Horse tranquilizer is hitting the US as a dangerous street drug

An Animal Tranquilizer Is Now Linked To One In Three Overdoses In Philadelphia

Misha Gejewski
Contributor
Healthcare
I write about the brain and the body but sometimes other things.

PHILADELPHIA, PA – JULY 27: Michael Kowal, 26, prepares a shot of heroin and cocaine near the...
FDA alerts health care professionals of risks to patients exposed to xylazine in illicit drugs

11-8-2022] Health care professionals should be cautious of possible xylazine inclusion in fentanyl, heroin, and other illicit drug overdoses, as naloxone may not be able to reverse its effects. FDA is aware of increasing reports of serious side effects from individuals exposed to fentanyl, heroin, and other illicit drugs contaminated with xylazine.

Xylazine is FDA-approved for use in animals as a sedative and pain reliever. Xylazine is not safe for use in humans and may result in serious and life-threatening side effects that appear to be similar to those commonly associated with opioid use, making it difficult to distinguish opioid overdoses from xylazine exposure. However, we do not know if side
West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force
• Founded in June 1987 as a 501(c)3

• Mission: Promoting positive habits through education, prevention, and intervention. Enabling individuals and communities to gain the power to persevere.

• Community Systems Approach – Engage all sectors of the community

• Programs include Youth Alcohol and other Drug Prevention, HIV/AIDS, Prevention, Gang & Domestic Violence Prevention
West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force

- CONVENE IN 2016 BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD, IL-8 and OTHERS

- BRINGS TOGETHER COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES (CBO), GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, BUSINESSES, FAITH-BASED GROUPS AND PERSONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

- TO CONFRONT THE EPIDEMIC OF OPIOID OVERDOSES AND RESULTANT DEATHS IN CHICAGO’S WEST SIDE COMMUNITIES.

- PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP ASKED TO CONVENE IN JULY 2019
• Monthly Meetings (Live and Virtual)
• Informational E-Mail Blasts (600+ recipients)
• Social Media: Facebook: westsidetaskforce2020 ; Twitter: @taskforceinfo; Instagram: @westsidetaskforce
• Special Focus Workgroups (Fentanyl, Housing, CTA/Narcan, Legislative)
• International Overdose Awareness Day Event
• Community Engagement Project on Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)
• Direct Intervention Outreach (Street Outreach)
Beginning on September 2019, a Street Outreach Team was established to go to “hot spots” to deliver Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)

To date provided training to over 12,000 individuals and distributed 2X doses of naloxone/Narcan
Strengths of the Outreach Effort

➢ Staffed by community residents
➢ Persons with Lived Experience – Knowledgeable and comfortable on street
➢ Initial Team trained by CRCC and Chicago Recovery Alliance (3 Hour Training of Trainers)
➢ Steeped in Harm Reduction Principles and Practices
➢ Open to Collaboration – Leading to shared learning and Warm Handoffs
➢ Excellent Record Keeping to share with community and funding sources
➢ Daily Debriefs which lead to adjustments as they go
➢ Consistent presence, build relationships with People Who Use Drugs
WSHOTF: Outreach Schedule

West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force Outreach Team

SCHEDULE
April 2023

All outreach starts at 10 AM, based on weather conditions, or unless otherwise noted

The Task Force Outreach Team provides on-site training on how to respond to overdoses and provides the overdose reversal drug naloxone, also called Narcan in its nasal-spray form. The team works in collaboration with organizations that provide treatment and support for those with Opioid Use Disorder. These organizations assist individuals in receiving Medicine-Assisted Treatment, which relieves withdrawal symptoms and allows them to safely begin recovery.

For more information about the team or about how you or someone you care about can receive treatment for their Opioid Use Disorder, contact:

Contact – Luther Syas – Director of Outreach
773-230-7281 – westsidetaskforce@yahoo.com

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Pulaski/Lake</td>
<td>10 am – 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Whipple/Roosevelt</td>
<td>10 am – 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Garfield Counselling Center 4132 W. Madison</td>
<td>10 am – 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>St. Louis/Lake</td>
<td>10 am – 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>4200 W. Madison</td>
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<td>Pulaski/Van Buren</td>
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<td>Division/California</td>
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<td>Madison/LaClair</td>
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<td>Chicago/Homan</td>
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<td>4/28</td>
<td>Pulaski/Van Buren</td>
<td>10 am – 2 pm</td>
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Opioid-related EMS responses Citywide, 2021 & 2022 & 2023

Citywide, Jan-Dec 2021 n=11,099
Citywide, Jan-Dec 2022 n=11,274

Data Source: Chicago Fire Department
West Side Overview, January 2023

Community areas included Austin, East Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, North Lawndale, & West Garfield Park.

- Citywide Opioid-Related EMS Responses, n=804
- West Side Opioid-Related EMS Responses, n=247 (31% of Citywide total)

Trends on Chicago’s West Side

- 9% decrease Dec 2022 (n=271) to Jan 2023
- 7% increase Jan 2022 (n=246) to Jan 2023
  (Citywide - 26% increase Jan 22 (n=800) to Jan 23)

Hot Spot Areas on Chicago’s West Side

- (Austin) Madison corridor, especially near Mayfield, Central, S Laramie
- (East Garfield Park) Madison corridor, from Kedzie to Sacramento
- (Humboldt Park) Chicago Ave corridor, Pulaski to Kedzie
- (North Lawndale) Pulaski corridor, 18th to 21st
- (West Garfield Park) Pulaski corridor, particularly Congress to Laramie, Madison to Wilcox, and at Lake
Illinois Harm Reduction & Recovery Coalition (IHRRC)

https://www.illinoisharmreduction.org/
CALL TO ACTION: Please consider filling out a witness slip as a PROPONENT for HB002

https://my.ilga.gov/WitnessSlip/Create/141833?committeeHearingId=19887&LegislationId=141833&LegislationDocumentId=178347
RESOURCES:
• Since January 2022, CDPH and CPL have distributed over 1000 Narcan kits from 51 library branches.

• CDPH has trained over 280 library staff on opioid overdose.

• By the end of 2022, Narcan will be available in all libraries citywide.

DID YOU KNOW...
You can get Narcan through the Chicago Public Library?

The Chicago Department of Public Health and Chicago Public Library are partnering to provide Narcan at public libraries around the city.
CDPH Narcan Locator: click here
Illinois DOPP Program:
https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=58142

CDPH Fentanyl Test Strips:
OSU.CDPH@cityofchicago.org
No Judgement
No Shaming
No Preaching
JUST LOVE!

Call if you’re going to use when you’re alone. An operator will ask for your first name, EXACT location, and the # you’re calling from. If you stop responding after using, we will notify EMS of your location, & possible overdose.

1(800)484-3731
www.NeverUseAlone.com
WSHOTF & CDPH Coordination Meetings:

Contact:
Sarah Richardson:
sarah.Richardson@cityofchicago.org

ADVOCACY & POLICY:

NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION COALITION (HARMREDUCTION.ORG)

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE (DRUGPOLICY.ORG)
Contact Information:

- Lee Rusch, Director WSHOTF
  - 773.450.1567
  - westsidetaskforce@yahoo.com

- Carolyn Bloom, Program Manager
  - 312.439.0046
  - cbloom@housingforhealth.org