

Creating  
Resilient  
Communities:  
Substance Use  
Disorder and  
Overdose  
Prevention

Mary Borges

OHA, Public Health Division

Injury & Violence Prevention

HPCDP Grantees and Contractors Meeting

October 30, 2019

## Discussion:

- The value of an opioid overdose emergency plan
- How a plan will create resilient communities
- Overdose Morbidity and Mortality data
- Role of Stakeholders
- Strengthen substance use disorder networks





Why we need a plan :

# Fentanyl

Fentanyl is the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of the drug syndemic  
public health threat unfolding in Oregon

Fentanyl and its analogues killed more than 20,000 in the US last year

- Fentanyl is an opiate that is 50-100X more potent than morphine – an amount that you can't see can kill you
- Fentanyl is manufactured in China. Manufacturers create fentanyl analogues to avoid enforcement efforts
- Fentanyl is mixed by dealers into heroin, meth, cannabis, and other drugs making these drugs deadly to unsuspecting users – can be smoked, snorted or injected
- 1 kilogram of fentanyl @ \$8k can be used to cut 1 million pills and sold for \$20-30 million

# Overdose Emergency Response Plan

- The goals of a plan are to:
- Facilitate early identification of an increase in overdose,
- Prompt implementation of intervention measures, and
- Prevent fatalities from overdose.

# Overdose Response Team or Task Force

- Review existing rates of opioid related fatal and non-fatal overdoses.
- Identify Points of Contact for each Task Force agency
- Identify actions each agency will take during overdose status alerts.
- Establish crisis response work-flow.
- Identify gaps in response and services.
- Identify liaisons in neighboring counties community stakeholders to meet periodically throughout the year to discuss observations and strategies to address opioid and other drug overdose trends occurring within a region.

The background features several sets of concentric, curved lines in shades of gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion and depth. A blue speech bubble shape is positioned on the left side, containing the title text.

# Roles & Responsibilities

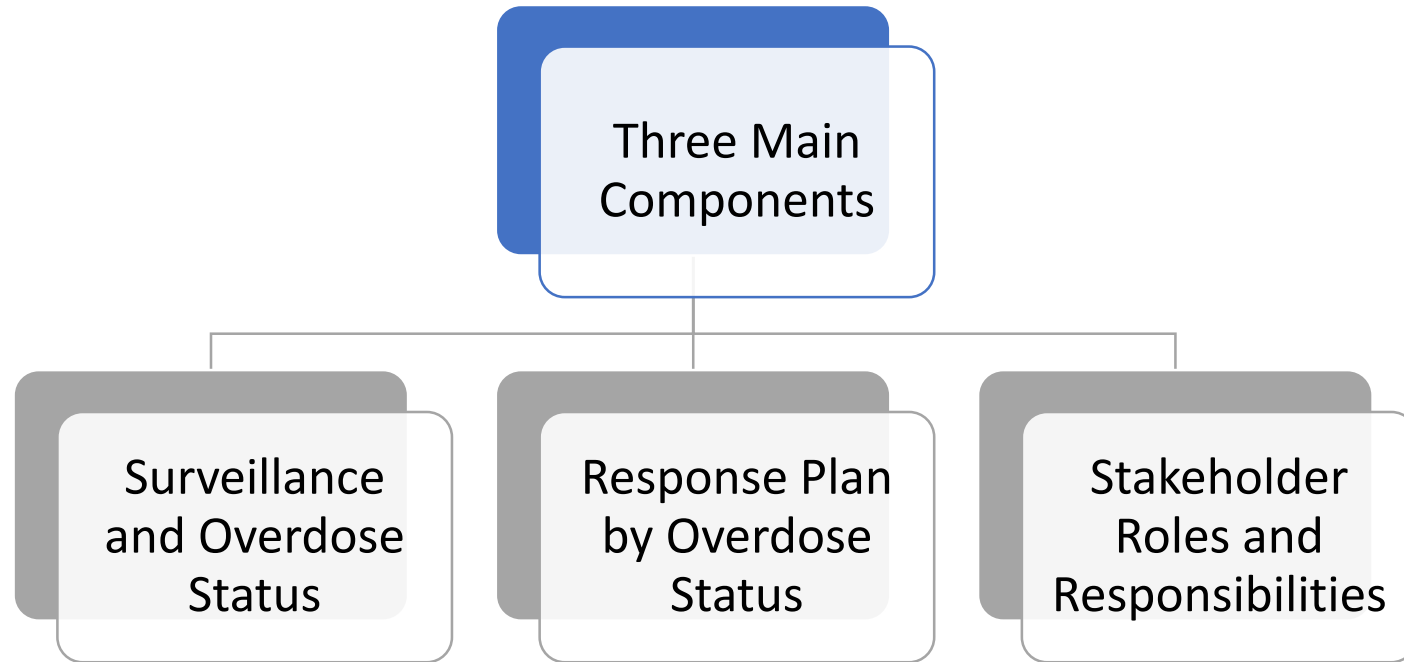
- Local Public Health
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services
- Medical Examiners Office
- Hospital Emergency Departments
- Harm Reduction Programs
- Direct Service Providers
- Community Pharmacists
- Media
- Public
-



# Data Surveillance and Analysis

- Number fatal and non-fatal overdoses can provide insight on the ratio of illicit drug overdoses to prescription drug overdose
- Drugs present in poly-drug overdoses
- Presence of fentanyl
- Prevalence of high dose prescription opioids in circulation
- Manner of Death for fatal overdoses (suicide/accident)
- Naloxone administration
- Age demographics

# Overview of a Plan – a roadmap to monitor, investigate and mobilize partners



• **Status**

**Definition**

**Primary Activity**

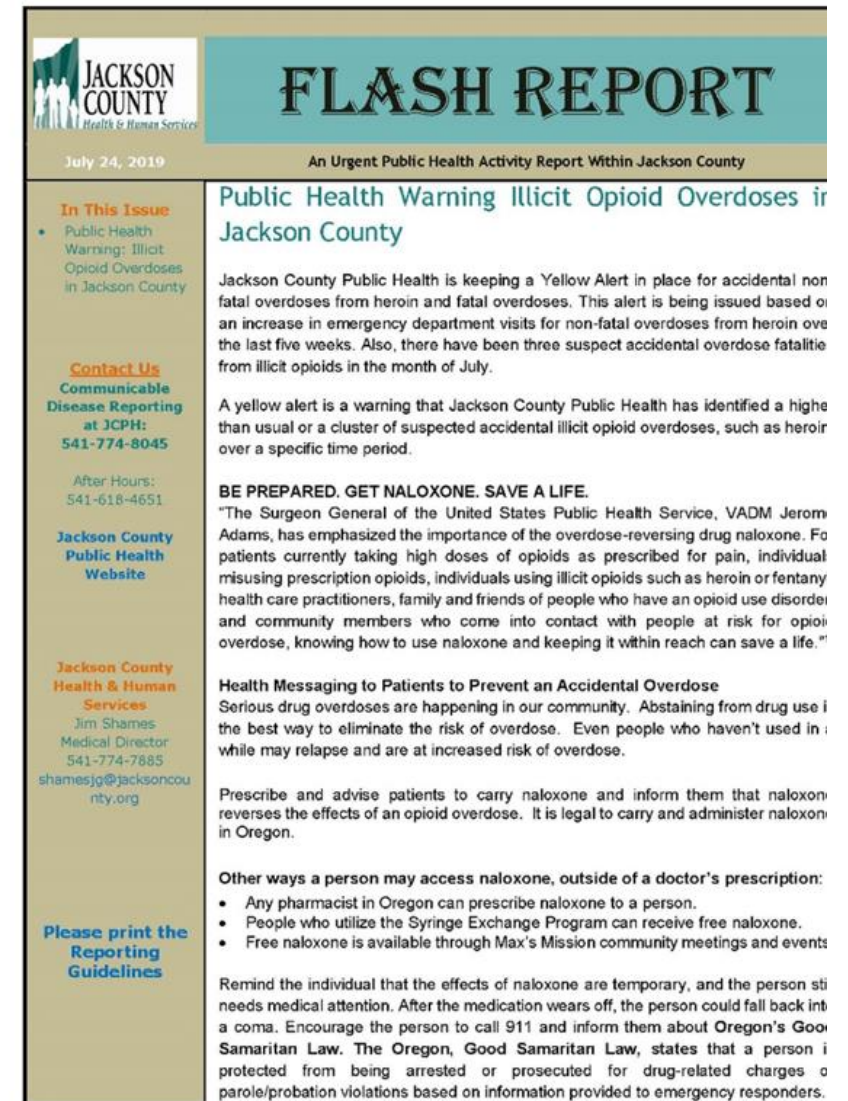
**Green**      **Stable:** Stable rates of opioid overdose based on routine surveillance data.      Monitor

**Yellow**      **Potential or Suspected Increase:** Multiple data sources suggest potential increase.      Investigate and Prepare

**Red**      **Confirmed Increase:** Increase in number of overdoses corroborated by multiple data sources or additional confirmatory evidence is available.      Active Response

# Figure 1: Sample of Jackson County Public Health Flash Report

When overdose thresholds are exceeded and Public Health has determined to issue an alert, a Flash Report providing details on situational awareness, risk communication and actions can be issued to community stakeholders.



The image shows a sample of a Jackson County Public Health Flash Report. The report is dated July 24, 2019, and is titled "FLASH REPORT: Public Health Warning Illicit Opioid Overdoses in Jackson County". It is an urgent public health activity report within Jackson County. The report is divided into several sections: "In This Issue" (Public Health Warning: Illicit Opioid Overdoses in Jackson County), "Contact Us" (Communicable Disease Reporting at JCPH: 541-774-8045, After Hours: 541-618-4651, Jackson County Public Health Website), and "Jackson County Health & Human Services" (Jim Shames, Medical Director, 541-774-7885, shamesjg@jacksoncounty.org). The main body of the report contains the following text: "Public Health Warning Illicit Opioid Overdoses in Jackson County", "Jackson County Public Health is keeping a Yellow Alert in place for accidental non fatal overdoses from heroin and fatal overdoses. This alert is being issued based on an increase in emergency department visits for non-fatal overdoses from heroin over the last five weeks. Also, there have been three suspect accidental overdose fatalities from illicit opioids in the month of July.", "A yellow alert is a warning that Jackson County Public Health has identified a higher than usual or a cluster of suspected accidental illicit opioid overdoses, such as heroin over a specific time period.", "BE PREPARED. GET NALOXONE. SAVE A LIFE. 'The Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, VADM Jerom Adams, has emphasized the importance of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone. For patients currently taking high doses of opioids as prescribed for pain, individual misusing prescription opioids, individuals using illicit opioids such as heroin or fentanyl health care practitioners, family and friends of people who have an opioid use disorder and community members who come into contact with people at risk for opioid overdose, knowing how to use naloxone and keeping it within reach can save a life.'", "Health Messaging to Patients to Prevent an Accidental Overdose: Serious drug overdoses are happening in our community. Abstaining from drug use is the best way to eliminate the risk of overdose. Even people who haven't used in a while may relapse and are at increased risk of overdose.", "Prescribe and advise patients to carry naloxone and inform them that naloxone reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. It is legal to carry and administer naloxone in Oregon.", "Other ways a person may access naloxone, outside of a doctor's prescription: Any pharmacist in Oregon can prescribe naloxone to a person. People who utilize the Syringe Exchange Program can receive free naloxone. Free naloxone is available through Max's Mission community meetings and events.", "Remind the individual that the effects of naloxone are temporary, and the person still needs medical attention. After the medication wears off, the person could fall back into a coma. Encourage the person to call 911 and inform them about Oregon's Good Samaritan Law. The Oregon, Good Samaritan Law, states that a person is protected from being arrested or prosecuted for drug-related charges or parole/probation violations based on information provided to emergency responders."

# Post Overdose Review

- Identify next harm reduction steps.
- Review preliminary data collected to identify trends related to overdoses.
- Examine staff capacity and ability to implement crisis response effectively.

# Resilient Communities



## Final Thought:

Methamphetamine and Stimulants are the 4<sup>th</sup> wave in the US but already endemic and are overtaking opioids as a cause of death in Oregon.