

BRIEFING NOTE FOR JOHN JAY/TOW JUVENILE JUSTICE 2016 REPORTING FELLOWS

SESSION TWO: THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC---BACKGROUND INFO

FROM: Dr. Sharon Stancliff

Medical Director, Harm Reduction Coalition, NYC

22 W. 27th Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10025,

Stancliff@harmreducion.org 212-377-9127

Where is the focus and funding on those not in treatment?

A case for harm reduction.

- In the United States, 13.4% of persons aged 12 or older with illicit drug dependence or abuse (an estimated 917,000 individuals) in 2013 received treatment for their illicit drug use within the year prior to being surveyed. More than 8 out of 10 persons with illicit drug dependence or abuse did not perceive a need for treatment for their illicit drug use.
 - Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2013
- In 2013, 22.7 million adults needed treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use but only 2.5 million, or 11 percent of those individuals received specialty treatment.
 - 2015 National Drug Control Strategy 2015 or. SAMHSA, NSDUH, 2014
- White House budget request for treatment has more than doubled to **\$14,281.6m** since 2008 and this year's request is over \$10 million more than the enacted 2016
 - *ONDCP National Drug Control Budget FY 2017 Funding Highlights*
- Background- the budget is divided between Demand Reduction (prevention and treatment) and Supply Reduction (Enforcement and Interdiction). For the first time more is requested for Demand Reduction than Supply Reduction but where is the funding for those not in treatment or not wishing to give up all drugs?

What is harm reduction?

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

- Harmreduction.org
- Syringe Access provided by Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPS), Pharmacy sales and prescription

- SEPs have a powerful association with reductions in the risk of HIV transmission, strong association with reductions in Hepatitis C and are not associated with increases in injection. Also serve as gateway and even access point to treatment.
- Funding- since the outbreak of HIV in Indiana in 2015 federal funding can be used to provide staffing (but not the syringes) essentially for the first time. But no funding line in the budget
 - *Abdul-Quadar et al AIDS Behav 2013;*
<http://www.npr.org/2016/01/08/462412631/congress-ends-ban-on-federal-funding-for-needle-exchange-programs>
- Naloxone provision- naloxone is a safe prescription medication which can be used to prevent an opioid overdose from becoming fatal.
 - Legal for use by non- medical people in all but 4 states
 - Funding in federal budget \$12 million enough to purchase 150,000- 200,000 kits; targeted at law enforcement and EMS. However the published evidence finds that it is most effective in the hands of people who use drugs and their associates. And in one calendar year NYS distributed over 40,000 kits
 - *Walley et al. BMJ 2013; 346: f174;*
<http://publichealthlawresearch.org/product/naloxone-overdose-prevention-laws-map/>
NYSDOH data
- Addiction medication prescribing (buprenorphine primarily) in lower threshold settings that do not require complete abstinence- primary care, SEPs
 - Methadone and/or buprenorphine powerful tools in preventing overdose and HIV. Helpful in preventing Hepatitis C and in promoting access to medical care.
 - These benefits are apparent even if people continue to use drugs.
 - Funding- most to formal treatment; maybe \$500 million towards primary care
 - *Clausen T. et al. Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 2008; Gjersing L et al Drug and Alcohol Dependence 2013; Stancliff J of Add Med 2012*

Related projects

Overdose prevention training and naloxone distribution in NYS prisons

- Harm Reduction Coalition is collaborating with New York State Department of Health/AIDS Institute and NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to train all soon to be released inmates. To date we are in 9 of 54 prisons and from February 2015 to April 2016 2,400 inmates have been trained with 850 accepting kits upon release.
 - Article: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4635619/>
 - Training video: https://vimeo.com/164337787?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=29220
- Harm Reduction Coalition collaborated with New York State Department of Health/AIDS Institute, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Offices of Alcohol and Substance Use Services and Albany Medical Center to create and implement a training on the use of naloxone by law enforcement across NYS but outside of NYC. In the first 20 months of operation naloxone was used over 900 times; about a third of those assisted were under 25 years old.