




# The Opioid Epidemic in Philadelphia

*Implementation of the  
Mayor's Task Force Recommendations*

Status Report




City of  
**Philadelphia**



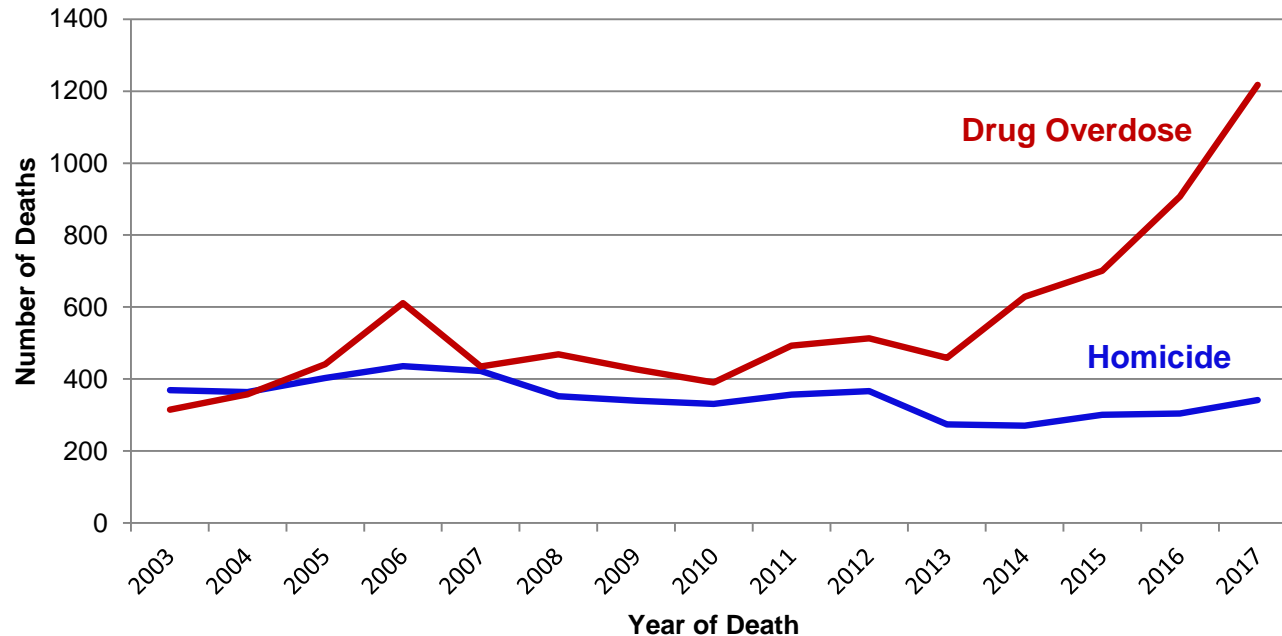
The City believes CUES is part of a larger strategy to save lives, reduce public drug use and treat people

However:

- No site has been selected
  - No city tax payer dollars will be used
  - Private funds will support establishing the CUES
  - Prior to final selection of a site, meetings will be held with community members
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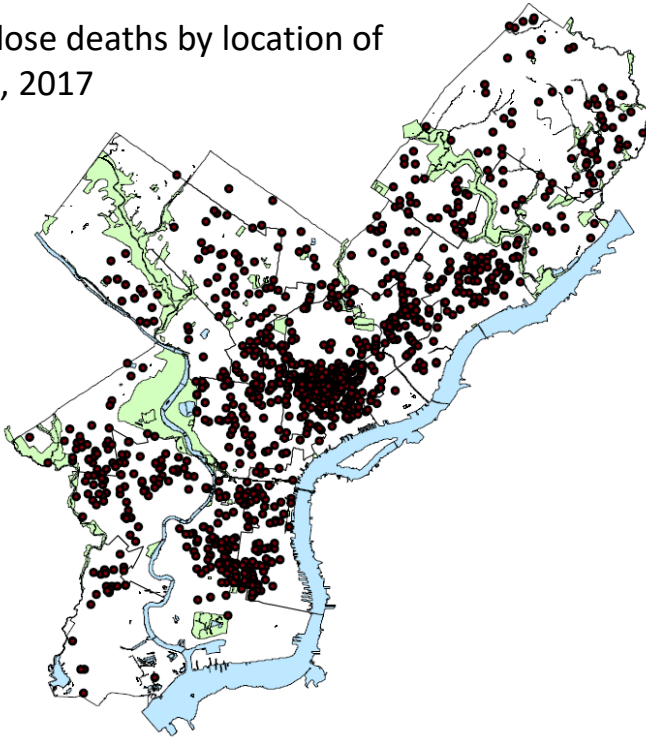
# Drug overdoses caused nearly 4x as many deaths as homicides in 2017

Number of drug overdose deaths (unintentional) and homicides – Philadelphia, 2003-2017

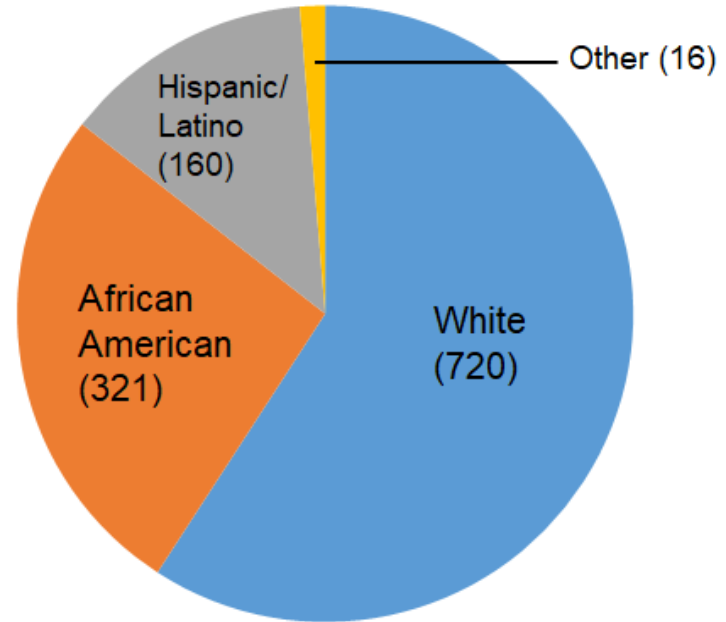


# All geographic regions and demographics are affected

Overdose deaths by location of death, 2017




Overdose deaths by race/ethnicity, 2017



# Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic

- 150+ stakeholders on Task Force and 5 subcommittees
- All meetings open to public. All summaries posted on website.
- 4 community listening sessions in different neighborhoods
- 18 recommendations on:
  - **Prevention & Education**
  - **Treatment**
  - **Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction**
  - **Involvement of the Criminal Justice System**





# The City has taken many actions to reduce the harmful effects of opioid use and overdose

## **Prevention and Education**

- Media campaigns
- Health care provider education

## **Drug Treatment**

- Expansion of treatment programs
- “Warm handoffs”

## **Criminal Justice System**

- Treat addiction in jail
- Overdose education and naloxone distribution

## **Harm Reduction**

- Naloxone distribution
- Comprehensive User Engagement Sites

<http://www.phila.gov/opioids>



## Media campaigns



## Health care provider education

THINK  
NSAIDS

OPIOID PRESCRIBING

### Key Recommendations

- Do not prescribe opioids for **chronic pain**.
- **3 days or less** is usually sufficient for acute pain.
- Prescribe the **lowest effective dose** and avoid increasing dose to  $\geq 90$  MME/day.
- **Avoid concurrent** benzodiazepine and opioid prescribing.

Department of  
Public Health  
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## Media campaigns

**Saving a Life Can  
Be **This** Easy**

**Carry Naloxone (Narcan)  
Prevent Opioid Overdose**

Naloxone is an emergency medicine that prevents overdose death from prescription painkillers and heroin.

**PhillyNaloxone.com**

Department of Public Health  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## Overdose education and naloxone distribution



Distributed over  
**31,000 doses**

Trained over  
**1,300 people**

### Next trainings:

- May 16 at DBHIDS, 10:00am-2:00pm
- May 24 at Prevention Point, 1:00pm-3:00pm
- June 6 at Prevention Point, 10:30am-12:30pm



Register online:

<http://www.phillynaloxone.com>

# Overdose Prevention



## Comprehensive User Engagement Sites (CUES) provide space and materials as well referrals to treatment

- 
- Places where people who use drugs can safely use pre-obtained drugs **under medical supervision**
  - Programs:
    - **Engage drug users**
    - **Encourage them to begin treatment**
    - **Refer into treatment**
    - **Provide or connect with other social services**
  - There are **more than 100 facilities like this worldwide**
- 




## **Recommendation #13**

Further explore comprehensive user engagement sites (CUES)



Since the Task Force, the City has:

- Consulted with experts
  - Reviewed studies
  - Site visit to Vancouver's SIF in November 2017
  - Commissioned study on potential health benefits of a CUES in Philadelphia
- 







# CUES have been shown to reduce the harmful effects of drug use

Years of research on existing CUES have shown that they:



**Save lives**



- **HIV**
- **Hepatitis C**
- **Skin infections**



- **Public drug use**
- **Discarded syringes**

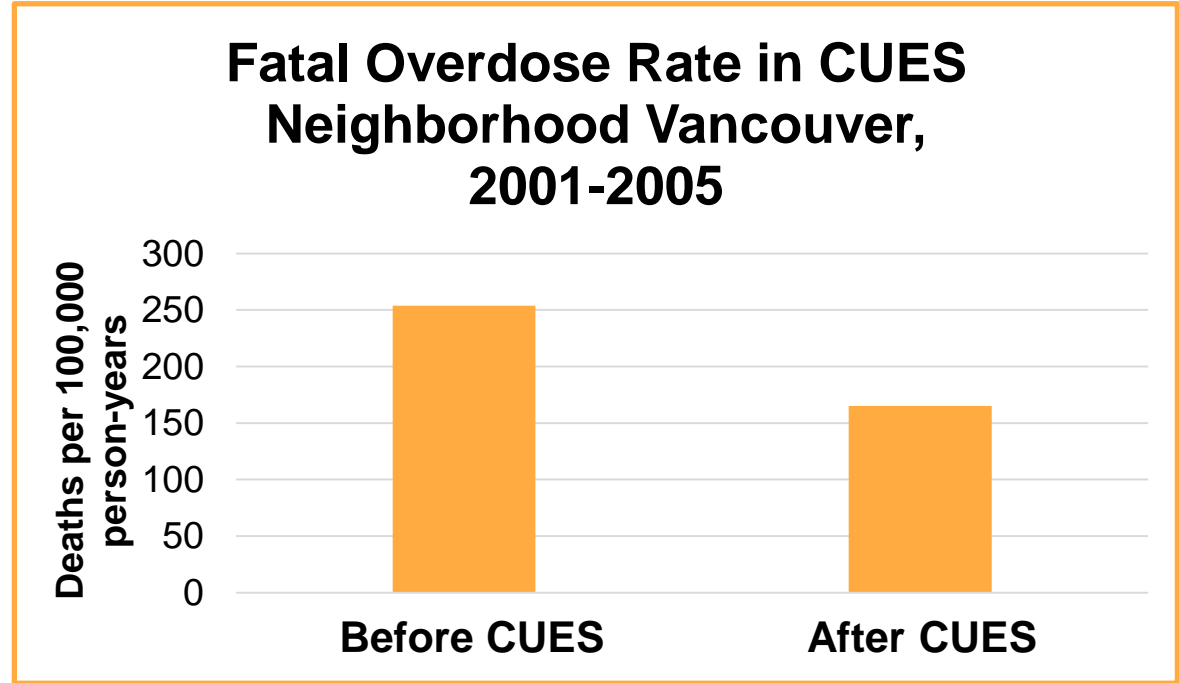


**Treatment rates**



## CUES reduce overdose deaths

- Fatal overdoses decreased by 35% around the CUES
- Decrease of only 9% in the rest of the city
- No overdose deaths in CUES





# A CUES would improve treatment rates and public order in Philadelphia

Elsewhere, CUES have resulted in:



**57%**  
entry into  
drug  
treatment  
over 2 years





**50%**  
decrease in  
public drug use  
and injection  
paraphernalia

**No increase in crime or drug trafficking**



# The City is encouraging the development of one or more CUES

- 
- Meet with stakeholders and community members
  - Identify organization(s) to operate CUES
  - Find funding
  - Identify location(s)
  - Explore legal issues
- 

## Recommendation #6

### Increase the provision of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

The Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research has begun meeting with providers to identify barriers to providing MAT so that adoption of MAT can be supported across the network.

MAT inductions are now occurring in the Emergency Department of Temple Episcopal Hospital.

Published a webpage to inform the public and other key stakeholders about the community based treatment options for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the city: [www.DBHIDS.org/MAT](http://www.DBHIDS.org/MAT).





# DBHIDS Adult Community MAT Program Capacity

**24 Provider Agencies** Operating 47 Locations

**Total MAT Capacity – 8,707 slots**

Total Occupied MAT Capacity – 6,861 slots

Total Available MAT Capacity – 1,846 slots


Available MMT Capacity – 748 slots

Available Non-MMT Capacity (Buprenorphine, Vivitrol) – 1,098 slots

## **Program Types**

Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient, Residential, Partial Hospitalization, Withdrawal Management, and Centers of Excellence

## **Total MAT Capacity:**

- 79% occupied
  - 21% available
- 

## Recommendation #7

### Expand treatment access and capacity

The Mural Arts Storefront Initiative engages individuals in artistic activities in Kensington. DBHIDS is providing two Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) to reduce stigma, build relationships, and promote access to SUD Treatment.



# Substance Use Disorder Treatment Continuum

Within DBHIDS, Community Behavioral Health (CBH) manages the behavioral health services for Medicaid beneficiaries while the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) manages care for uninsured individuals and various recovery support services.



\*Coordinated Response to Addiction by Facilitating Treatment (CRAFT)

## **Recommendation #8**

Embed withdrawal management into all levels of care, with an emphasis on recovery initiation

Withdrawal management across all levels of care will prevent people seeking treatment from solely relying on detox to enter into treatment.

Withdrawal management is currently being offered in the community through several providers and levels of care:

- PHMC Pathways to Recovery
- Northwestern Human Services
- Wedge Recovery Centers
- Northeast Treatment Centers (NET)



## Recommendation #9

### Implement “warm handoffs” to treatment after overdose

The Recovery Overdose Survivor Engagement (ROSE) Project through PRO-ACT employs Certified Recovery Specialists to connect individuals who are at risk of or have survived an opioid overdose to treatment.

In January, **125 individuals were engaged from which 78 referrals to treatment were coordinated.**



## Recommendation #10

Provide safe housing, recovery, and vocational supports

Assist First Step Staffing (FSS) in connecting with individuals who are in recovery and may also have a history of homelessness, substance use, and/or incarceration.

- 16 full-time positions have already been developed and filled.
- A recent Orientation and Job Placement session attracted 67 job-seekers interested in full-time jobs.



## Recommendation #15

### Address homelessness among opioid users

Increased the Identification Card Acquisition Program at Prevention Point Philadelphia to five days per week. **73 individuals were helped to obtain identification cards from July 2017 – February 2018.**

Launched the Hub of Hope, a full-service homeless outreach engagement center which offers medical, behavioral health, and social services.

