Opioid Misuse Prevention Program (OMPP)

April 15, 2015
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Agenda for Presentation

• Overview of qualitative data collection for the OMPP Needs Assessment by intervening variable.

• Review of the Public Opinion Poll Survey (Opioid Misuse Prevention Program) results.
Opioid Misuse Prevention Program (OMPP) Needs Assessment

• In October 2014, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) issued a request for applications for local jurisdictions to address the opioid misuse problem through funding and the use of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model.

• Training and technical assistance is provided by BHA and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Pharmacy.
Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)
Qualitative Data Collection

- Conducted 11 focus groups:
  - Including people in treatment for opioid addiction, providers of addiction treatment and law enforcement

- Conducted 19 key interviews:
  - Including pharmacists and doctors/medical practitioners
Survey Background

• Online survey for ages 18 and over, conducted statewide, February 20 - March 15, 2015, was designed by the UMB School of Pharmacy and BHA.

• Purpose: To explore perceptions, awareness, and the use of prescription opioids and heroin in Maryland and its jurisdictions.

• Number of surveys collected in Anne Arundel County: 1,418
Intervening Variables

• **Intervening Variables** are groups of factors that have been identified through research to influence the incidence and degree of substance misuse and its consequences.

• Changing these variables at the community level will cause changes in misuse and its outcomes.

• Opioid misuse intervening variables include: community norms, enforcement, perceived risk, retail access and social access.
Community Norms

- The acceptability or unacceptability of certain behaviors in a community
- Norms around sharing medications
- Inappropriate use of opioid medication
- Heroin use
Community Norms Results

• Parents misuse prescription drugs so youth think it is OK.
• Doctors and pharmacists do not discuss the dangers of inappropriate use of opioids with patients.
• There is a perception that prescription opioids are not as dangerous as heroin.
• There is a stigma associated with medically-assisted treatment.
• There is a lack of treatment options.
Community Norms Survey Results

• 71% of respondents are concerned or very concerned about prescription opioid abuse in the communities. (79% for heroin)
• 56% of respondents know someone in their community who has used prescription opioids to get high. (50% for heroin)
• 30% admitted to ever using prescription opioids without a doctor’s permission. (8% for heroin)
Enforcement

The impact of law enforcement practices on opioid misuse consumption patterns and consequences.

• Includes the enforcement of rules, laws and policies surrounding substance abuse and its consequences.

• Also, includes public perception of the levels of enforcement and how likely people are to believe they will get caught if they violate rules, laws and policies.
Enforcement Results

- Some areas have reported increase in patrols and surveillance due to the increase in overdose deaths.
- Shortage of officers to deal with the problem.
- Police have a lack of knowledge/training on substance abuse and community resources.
- Lack of knowledge of the Good Samaritan law and confidence in using it.
- Low number of arrests for drug possession.
- Belief that courts will not punish or implement severe penalties for drug use.
Enforcement Survey Results

• 61% of respondents had never heard of the Good Samaritan law.
Perceived Risk

• An individual’s judgment about the characteristics and severity of risk regarding opioid misuse and its consequences.
Perceived Risk Results

• Perception that friends sharing opioid drugs is acceptable.
• Low perception of getting arrested for possession.
• Lack of knowledge that prescription opioid misuse can lead to heroin use.
• Lack of knowledge that chronic medical conditions or injuries lead to pain management and possibly addiction.
Perceived Risk Survey Results

• 90% of respondents reported addiction is a risk of prescription opioid abuse. 73% reported overdose is a risk and 72% reported it can lead to other drug use.

• 62% of respondents reported prescription opioids are dangerous or very dangerous.

• 51% of respondents reported prescription opioids are safer than heroin.
Retail Access

• The accessibility of opioids from retail sources.
• Perception of ease of access.
• Geographic pockets with easy access.
• Specific prescribers, hospitals and pharmacies.
Retail Access Results

• Doctors are overprescribing prescription opioids for pain.
• Heroin is less expensive than prescription opioids.
• Hospitals and emergency rooms are easy places to get prescription opioids.
• Lack of knowledge and training on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for pharmacists and doctors.
Retail Access Survey Results

• 50% responded that getting prescription opioids from doctors was easy or very easy.
• 78% responded that prescription opioids should be stored in a locked place.
• 53% reported unused medications should be taken to a collection event.
Social Access

- Access one has to opioids through social networks.
- Ease of access from friends/family.
- Knowledge of safe storing procedures.
- Availability of drug take back locations.
Social Access Results

- Prescription opioids are available in homes.
- There is a lack of supervision/proper storage of prescription opioids in the home.
- Lack of knowledge of drug take-back sites or transportation to return prescription drugs.
- People get addicted to prescription opioids due to pain management for injuries.
- People get addicted to prescription opioids due to partying behaviors and associating with peers that abuse drugs.
Social Access Survey Results

• How do people obtain prescription opioids?
  – 65% stealing from family
  – 56% drug dealers
  – 50% friends provided
Opioid Misuse Messages

• 83% of respondents reported they have not talked to their doctors about the risks of prescription opioids.
• 76% have not seen messages concerning prescription opioids at their doctor’s offices.
• 6% reported talking to their pharmacists about the dangers of prescription opioids.
• 43% of respondents do not know where to refer someone for treatment.
Acknowledgements

• Thank you to OMPP staff:
  • Larry Dawson and Shayna Dee, BH Administration
  • Francoise Pradel, Ph.D., Nicole Sealfon, M.P.H., and Marianne Gibson, M.S., University of Maryland, Baltimore

• Thank you to:
  • Elin Jones, M.S., Public Information Director, Anne Arundel County Department of Health
  • Northern Lights Against Substance Abuse coalition
  • South County Bridges to a Drug Free Community coalition
  • Western Anne Arundel Substance Abuse Prevention (WASP) coalition
  • Those who completed surveys and forwarded to contacts
Opioid Misuse Prevention Workgroup

- Arlene Hall, R.N., M.S.N, CARN, Anne Arundel County resident
- Mandy Larkins, M.S., Pathways
- TyJuan Thompson, AAC Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families
- Barbara Studer-Baer, B.S.N., R.N., South County Bridges to a Drug Free Community
- Sandy Smolnicky, M.A., Anne Arundel County Dept. of Health
- Katelyn Wilkes, Anne Arundel County Dept. of Health
- Sherry D. Medley, Hands of Hope and Western AA Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Sgt. Ryan Frashure, Anne Arundel County Police Department
- Sara Gannon, Office of the County Executive, Constituent Services
- Victor Henderson, M.P.A., Office of the County Executive, Constituent Services
- Pamela Brown, Ph.D., AAC Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families
- Derrick Farmer, Western AA Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
- Kathy Little, Anne Arundel County Dept. of Health
- Angela Gerben, Northern Lights Against Substance Abuse Coalition
- Lauren Greulich, Pathways Student Intern

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