

Prescription Monitoring Program Education and Compliance

Issue

Drug overdose (all manners) is the leading cause of injury-related death, both in the United States and in Oklahoma. In 2014, Oklahoma had the eleventh highest age-adjusted drug overdose mortality rate in the nation, 38% higher than the U.S. rate (20.4 and 14.8 per 100,000 population, respectively). The drug overdose death rate increased nearly fourfold from 1999 to 2009 and has since remained near the 2009 level with only slight decreases occurring in 2010 and 2011. The dramatic increase in drug overdose deaths paralleled a marked increase in the dispensing of prescription opioids to treat non-cancer pain in Oklahoma. From 1999 to 2014, the drug overdose death rate involving prescription opioids increased fivefold from 2.5 to 12.1 per 100,000 population. Prescription opioid sales per person more than tripled from 2001 to 2014. The percentage of publicly-funded substance abuse treatment admissions for prescription opioids increased nearly fivefold from 1999 to 2013, and more than doubled for admissions involving any prescription drug. Of the more than 4,000 nonfatal poisoning hospitalizations in 2013 in Oklahoma, over 90% were drug related.

Intervention

In October 2015, a contract was established with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDDC) to provide education and training to physicians, healthcare providers, and dispensers on using the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) electronic data system to address the prescription drug overdose epidemic. A full-time Program Administrator Analyst (PAA) working at the OBNDDC is supported through this contract. The PAA's work focuses on providing education and training to healthcare provider groups to promote the use of the PMP and increase compliance with PMP mandates. The PAA develops marketing and outreach programs, provides technical assistance to providers, and disseminates information to providers on PMP rules and changes, such as the new law effective November 2015 that requires providers check the PMP prior to prescribing and every 180 days prior to authorizing refills for opioids, benzodiazepines, and carisoprodol. The PAA works in collaboration with the Injury Prevention Service (IPS) Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program and coordinates efforts with the IPS Unintentional Poisoning Project Coordinator, local community educators such as Regional Prevention Coordinators funded by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), Health Educators in county health departments, and local healthcare organizations to increase statewide prescription drug abuse/overdose prevention activities.



Impact

The PAA has provided educational trainings on the PMP to a variety of audiences across Oklahoma. The passing of legislation requiring prescribers to check the PMP has made it even more critical for providers to have accurate information on how to access and utilize the PMP in order to be in compliance with the law. The legislation also increased opportunities to expand awareness on the prevalence of prescription drug overdose and state prevention efforts.

The following has been conducted since October 2015:

- Conducted presentations at 16 conferences, educating over 900 physicians and staff;
- Provided two PMP introduction trainings to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University, School of Pharmacy;
- Collaborated with the Oklahoma Veterinary Board to set up two PMP information booths;
- Collaborated with the Oklahoma Medical Board of Licensure and Supervision and the Oklahoma Medical Association on a PMP information booth covering upcoming changes and re-registration procedures;
- Coordinated one PMP information booth at the Association of Narcotics Enforcers conference;
- Provided technical assistance to providers across the state calling the PMP helpdesk; and
- Collaborated with the IPS to disseminate educational material on prescription drug overdose prevention.