

# Health Plans Addressing Opioid Misuse and Overuse – A Matter of Life and Death

June 2017



**Addicts Try to Avoid Deadly Fentanyl, But Many Tragically Fail**

**In one year, drug overdoses killed more Americans than the entire Vietnam War did**

the worst year for drug overdose deaths in US history. Then 2016 came along.

**Ohio Sues Drug Makers, Saying They Aided Opioid Epidemic**

**As Many as 4 Are Dead in Drug Overdoses in Georgia**

**Driver overdoses, passes out with 11-year-old girl in car**

David Reitz arrested on child neglect charge after girl calls 911

Teen, friend found dead in Catoosa County home; officials suspect drug overdose

**Body found in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood; death traced to heroin overdose, police say**

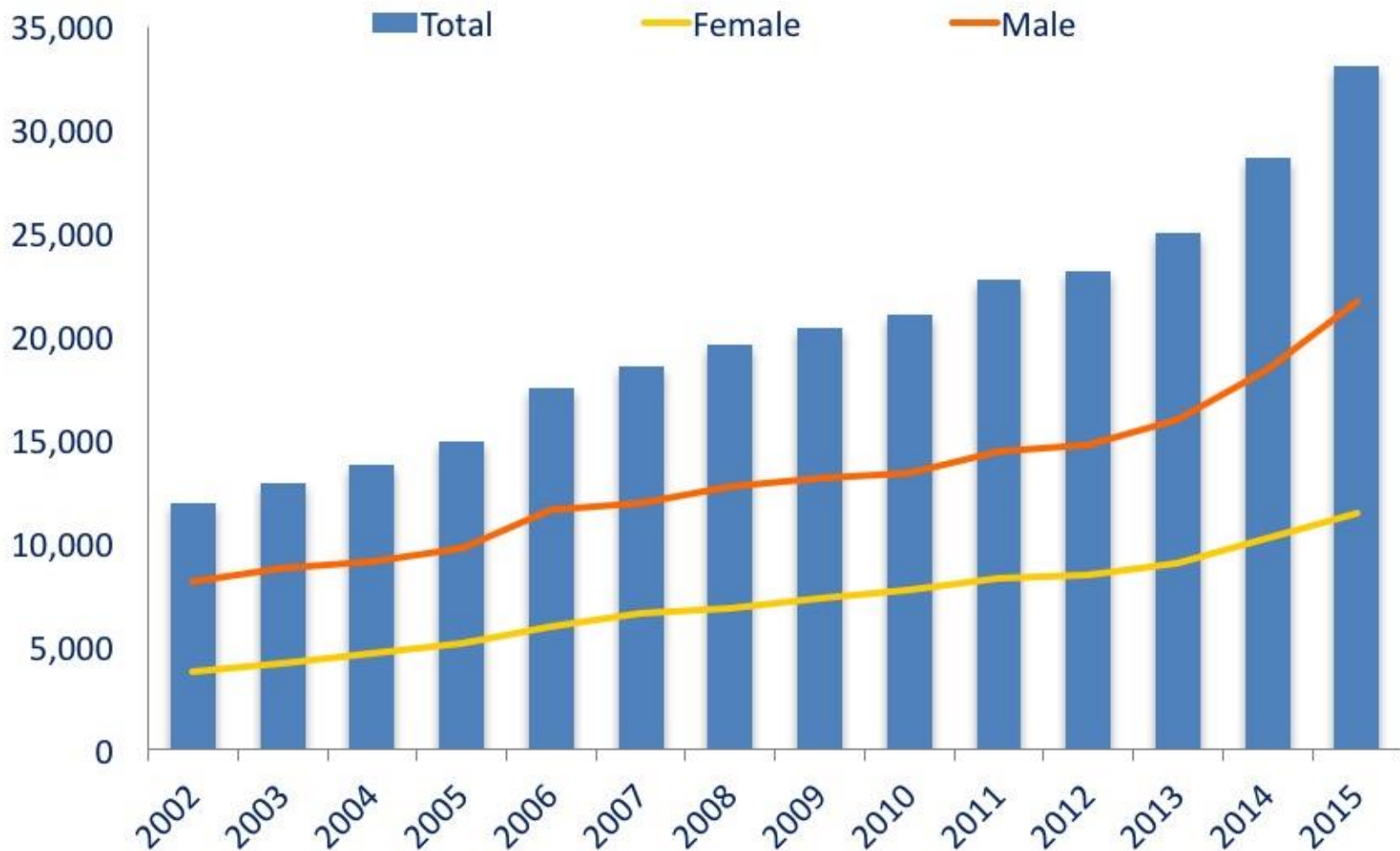
**Heroin: Now The Leading Cause Of Death In Americans Under 50**

**FACT**



# National Overdose Deaths

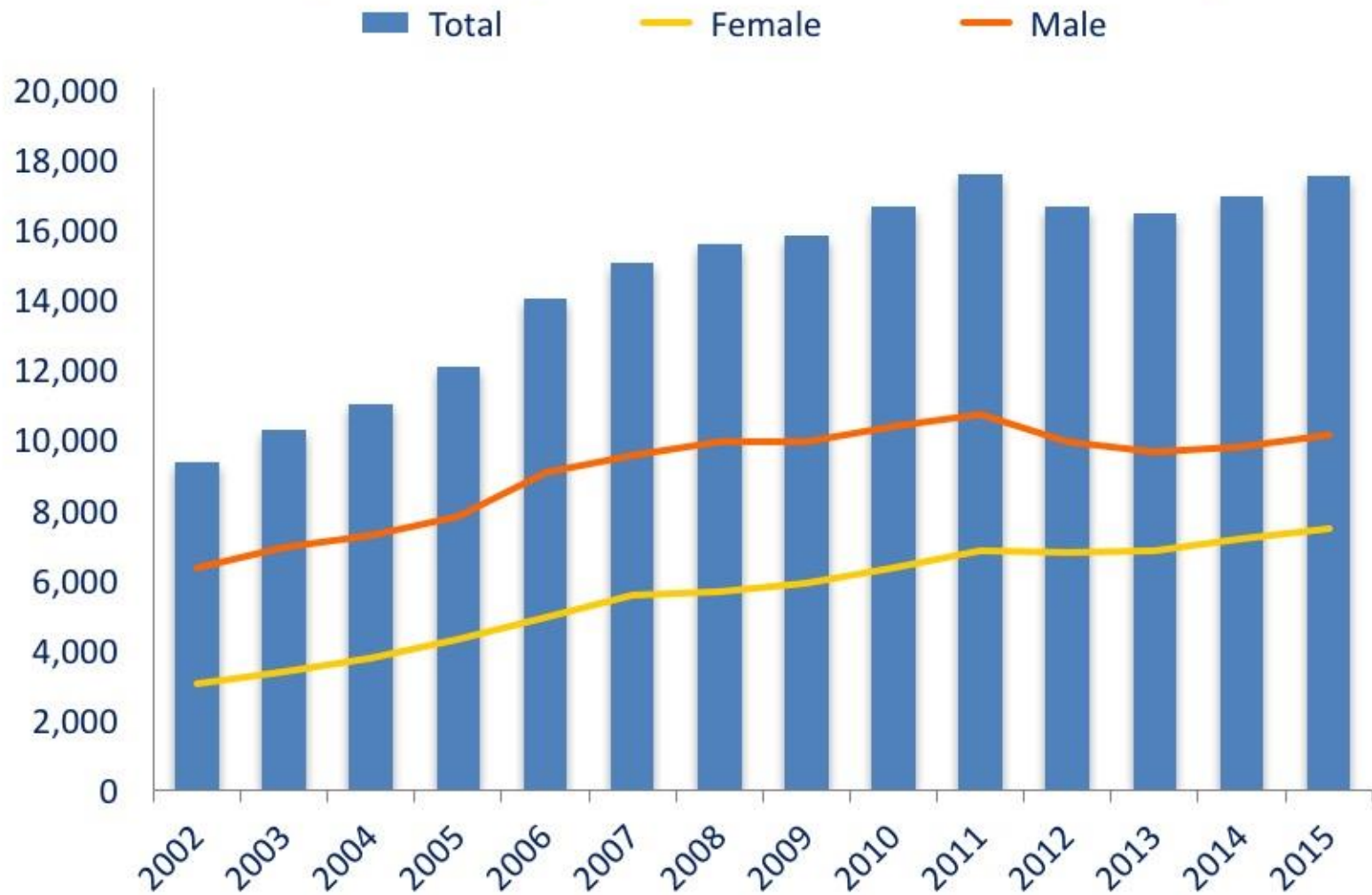
## Number of Deaths from Opioid Drugs



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

# National Overdose Deaths

Number of Deaths from Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers  
(excluding non-methadone synthetics)





# 2016 Surgeon General's Report

- Over 20 million people have SUD
- 12.5 million Americans reported misusing prescription pain relievers in the past year
- Opioid analgesic pain relievers are the most prescribed class of medications in the US
- Dramatic increases in misuse - more than 200 % increase in ED visits from 2005 to 2011

## FACING ADDICTION IN AMERICA

*The Surgeon General's Report on  
Alcohol, Drugs, and Health*

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



# ACAP Work With Our Plans

- Collaborative of 13 Plans focused on prescription drug misuse & overuse
- Papers
  - Toolkit
  - 42 CFR Part 2
- Working with plans to develop national benchmarks for PQA opioid measures



# New ACAP Release - *Responding to the Prescription Opioid Crisis*

- Focused on approaches taken by 5 plans
  - Community Health Plan of WA
  - Inland Empire Health Plan
  - Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
  - Partnership Health Plan
  - UPMC *for You*
- Partnership Health Plan demonstrates multi-faceted approach is key
  - **76%**↓ unsafe opioid doses
  - **66%**↓ members with opioid prescriptions
  - **78%**↓ rate of prescription opioid escalations





# Components of Comprehensive Strategies to Prevent and Respond to Opioid Overuse and Abuse

## Prevention & Alternative Approaches to Pain Management

- SBIRT
- Formulary Management
- Alternative Approaches to Pain Management

## Identifying Members and Providers for Interventions

- Claims-Based Algorithms to Detect and Prevent Abuse among members
- Metrics for identifying risky prescribing
- Provider education and supporting tools

## Member Engagement & Management

- Pharmacy or Provider Lock-In
- Pain-Focused Initiative
- Face-to-Face Member Outreach
- Facilitating access to MAT

## Coordinated Care & Improving Integration

- Integrated Care Teams
- Integrated Rounds
- Coordination with carved-out state services/ programs

## Provider & Cross-Stakeholder Engagement

- Provider education and toolkits
- Coordination with Community Partners

Integrated Care Across Providers and Settings with Input from Key Stakeholders

# Today's Focus

- Report covers all aspects of plan activities, from screening to stakeholder involvement
- BUT today, we will highlight 3 issues:
  - Pain Management
  - Provider Education
  - Access to MAT



# Pain Management

- Partnership Health Plan – Managing Pain Safely initiative
  - Formulary modifications and new edits
  - Required taper plans
- Neighborhood Health Plan – Ease the Pain program
  - Peer outreach to members
  - Evidenced-Base clinical guidelines
  - Alternative treatments not usually covered
  - Integrated care team and co-managed care rounds
- Inland Empire Health Plan- Centers of Excellence
  - Incorporate resources across department and care settings
  - Focus on patient-centered, evidenced base care
  - Evaluation based on patient outcomes, utilization, cost and program engagement



# Provider Education

- Community Health Plan of WA
  - University of WA – providers encouraged to access Medicine Pain Consult (telephonic clinical advice) and Psychiatric and Addictions case conferences
  - Development and dissemination of guidelines
  - Targeted provider outreach
- Partnership Health Plan
  - Project Echo – Weekly peer-to-peer video conferences to improve skills for caring for individuals with chronic pain
  - Developed guidelines for PCPs, ED, pharmacists and dentists
  - Provide tools including dose calculator and taper toolkit



# Access to MAT

- Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
  - Reduce administrative burdens – eliminated and/or fast tracked prior authorizations
- Partnership Health Plan – incentive payments
  - Partnering with community coalitions to identify new or existing MAT prescribers accepting referrals
  - Instituted incentives for credentialed prescribers who increase access



# Some Policy Considerations

## Ensure Access and Coverage

- Medicaid expansion has played a major role in making treatment available

## Improve Integration of Care

- Need to continue to work better across payers and providers

## Modernize 42 CFR Part 2

- Need to modernize outdated requirements to support care coordination and patient safety

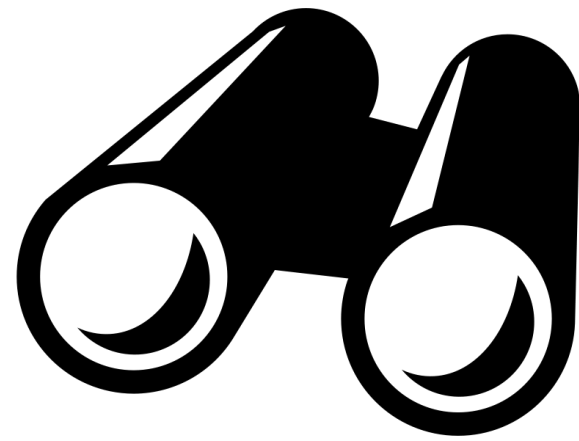
## Ensure Access to MAT

- Need to encourage more providers to become high quality prescribers





# Our Work Continues



- Be On the Lookout - More ACAP Papers
  - How health plans can encourage PCPs to become MAT prescribers
  - Improving case management for individuals with substance use disorder

