



Facts in Support of Appropriations Bill SF1410 / HF1651

The Opiate Crisis in Minnesota

Opiate-related deaths from 2000-2013 increased by 222% in Hennepin County and 118% in Ramsey County. Killing 169 residents of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties in 2013.

People in rural counties in the US are nearly twice as likely to overdose on prescription painkillers as people in big cities.

Minnesota admissions to addiction treatment programs for heroin and other opiates reached 10,000 in 2013. Anecdotal reports indicate that most of the young patients entering treatment programs initially used prescription opiates before progressing to heroin addiction.

In the month of March 2014 alone, nearly 210,000 prescriptions for opioids were dispensed in Minnesota. This represented 42% of all prescriptions filled that month. Hydrocodone and oxycodone prescriptions were by a wide margin the two most-prescribed pills in the state that month.

Prescribers wrote 61.6 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons in Minnesota during 2012.

We will see benefits in Minnesota when we invest in implementing Steve's Law.

What we know is:

- *Attorney General Holder stated that Naloxone used in concert with 911 Good Samaritan laws have resulted in the reversal of over 10,000 overdoses since 2010*
- *An economic analysis published in the Annals of Internal Medicine found the economic benefit in terms of life years and productivity saved versus the cost of naloxone distribution is greater than the benefits seen by mammography screening for breast cancer*
- *Police in Quincy, MA, Los Angeles, CA, Seattle, WA and New York state have found access to naloxone to be empowering in terms of increasing their ability to save lives*

National organizations supporting 911 Good Samaritan and Naloxone Implementation:

- *White House Office of National Drug Control Policy*
- *US Department of Health and Human Services*
- *US Conference of Mayors*
- *American Medical Association*
- *American Society of Addiction Medicine*
- *National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators*
- *Attorney General Holder, Justice Department*

Sources:

*Drug Abuse Trends in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area. Carol Falkowski, Drug Abuse Dialogues
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration. Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)
CDC, MMWR, July 1, 2014*

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OPIATES IN MINNESOTA

1998 2000 2008 2011 2012 2013 2014

Admissions to addiction treatment programs in Minnesota and Twin Cities

Statewide

Heroin	887	1,941	3,437	4,687	5,278
Other opiates	448	2,986	4,964	4,811	4,724
Total	1,335	4,927	8,401	9,498	10,002

Twin Cities

Heroin	2,252	2,724	3,063
Other opiates	2,009	1,879	2,081
Total	2,479	4,261	4,603

Opiate-related deaths by county (includes heroin and other opiates)

Hennepin	41	84	84	84	132	222%
Ramsey	17	31	36	45	37	118%
Total	58	115	120	129	169	191%

March 2014 opioid prescriptions dispensed in Minnesota

Hydrocodone	108,498	22%
Oxycodone	87,999	18%
Codeine	13,177	3%
Total	209,674	42%

2012 Prescribing rates per 100 persons in Minnesota

All opioids	61.6
Long-acting	10.2
High-dose	2.2
Benzos	24.9

Out of hospital opiate deaths, X42 (unintentional), X62 (suicide) or Y12 (undetermined) as underlying cause of death, with any mention of opiate in the system (T40.0, .1, .2, .3, .4, .6) as contributing or other significant condition

Year of Death	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
2010	152	19.79	152	19.79
2011	183	23.83	335	43.62
2012	59	7.68	394	51.3
2013	195	25.39	589	76.69
2014	179	23.31	768	100

Gender				
GENDER	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
F	260	33.85	260	33.85
M	508	66.15	768	100

Age Group				
Age Group	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Younger than 15	1	0.13	1	0.13
15-19	23	2.99	24	3.13
20-24	77	10.03	101	13.15
25-29	89	11.59	190	24.74
30-34	84	10.94	274	35.68
35-39	81	10.55	355	46.22
40-44	75	9.77	430	55.99
45-49	96	12.5	526	68.49
50-54	107	13.93	633	82.42
55-59	74	9.64	707	92.06
60-64	41	5.34	748	97.4
65-69	9	1.17	757	98.57
70-74	5	0.65	762	99.22
75-79	3	0.39	765	99.61
80-84	1	0.13	766	99.74
85+	2	0.26	768	100

Shot of life

By Richard Crawford editor@chanvillager.com | Posted: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 11:30 pm

A drug that can reverse the effects of a heroin overdose found nearly immediate use in Carver County.

On the evening of Feb. 18, a Carver County Sheriff's deputy administered Narcan to revive a female in Chaska who was unconscious after overdosing from heroin, according to Chief Deputy Jason Kamerud.

"I would say this did in fact save her life and underscores the validity of our decision," Kamerud said.

The Sheriff's Office was one of the first law enforcement agencies in the state to provide the drug, Naloxone Hydrochloride (Narcan), for deputies on patrol.

A law passed in the state last year called "Steve's Law" allows first responders to carry the antidote in the event they respond to an overdose situation.

Narcan can reverse the effects of opiate overdoses, which include heroin, codeine and other prescription drugs, according to Kamerud.

Even though members of fewer than 5 percent of law enforcement agencies currently carry Narcan, Kamerud said the Sheriff's Office moved quickly to acquire the drug and train staff on proper administration because of recent overdose incidents in the county and the increase in drug-related deaths elsewhere.

Nationwide, in the past 10 years there have been more deaths that were drug-induced than caused by motor vehicle accidents, Lt. Eric Kittleson said.

According to 2013 statistics from the state Health Department, 503 Minnesotans died from drug overdoses compared to 374 deaths from motor vehicle accidents. Since 2000, nearly 5,000 people in the state have died from drug overdoses.

Chanhassen death



Narcan

Lt. Eric Kittleson displays a syringe of Naloxone Hydrochloride that was recently used to revive a Chaska female who overdosed on heroin.

In June 2013, Dylan Turcotte, a Chanhassen teen, died as a result of a heroin overdose and an acquaintance was sentenced to a second-degree manslaughter charge.

“There were a couple local cases that were concerning to us,” Kamerud said. “It was important to our citizens to have this available to save lives.”

Kittelson said the Sheriff’s Office received its first shipment of Narcan on Jan. 28. Deputies underwent relatively simple training on use of the drug, which is administered through a nasal spray.

Each dose, which costs about \$40, blocks a key receptor in the brain for about 30 to 90 minutes, allowing overdose victims adequate time to get advanced medical help.

“There’s no consequence to administering it to someone who is not overdosing from heroin,” Kamerud said.

First dose

Three weeks to the day the Sheriff’s Office received the first shipment of Narcan, Deputy Ben Gramentz, who normally patrols in Victoria, was en route from the Sheriff’s Office in Chaska and was nearby when the overdose call came in, Kamerud explained.

Somebody at the residence alerted police. Chaska police, Ridgeview paramedics and Gramentz responded to the scene.

It was the first time the Sheriff’s Office administered Narcan. When Gramentz arrived, the female was described as on the ground, “not breathing and not conscious.”

Shortly after the Narcan was administered, the female “regained consciousness and began to breathe on her own.”

The law grants prosecution immunity to anyone who seeks medical assistance for an overdose victim and also grants prosecution immunity to anyone needing assistance for an overdose. “The short version,” Kamerud said, “is the whole idea is to save lives.”

The law, passed by the Legislature in 2014, was named after Steve Rummler, who died four years ago after a heroin overdose. According to the Steve Rummler Hope Foundation, Rummler battled a prescription drug addiction for years following a back injury.

There is a push in this state legislative session to identify funding to help more first responders purchase the drug.