

Seattle and King County Heroin & Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force Process & Recommendations

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Sponsors & Leadership

- KC Executive Dow Constantine
- Former Seattle Mayor Ed Murray
- Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus
- Renton Mayor Denis Law

Chairs:

- Brad Finegood MA, LMHC (Behavioral Health)
- Jeff Duchin MD (Public Health)

Timeline

The Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force met over a six month period from March to September 2016 to review

- 1) current local, state and federal initiatives and activities related to prevention, treatment and health services for individuals experiencing opioid use disorder;
- 2) promising strategies being developed and implemented in other communities; and
- 3) evidence-based practice in the areas of prevention, treatment and health services.

The final report and recommendations were provided to the conveners in September 2016.

Implementation workgroups ongoing

Process

- Three workgroups were initially formed to address the Task Force's focus areas
 - opioid abuse prevention
 - treatment expansion & enhancement
 - health services and overdose prevention).
- These workgroups were comprised of Task Force members with related subject matter expertise, and met between full Task Force meetings.
- A fourth workgroup formed to address policy considerations.
- A fifth workgroup formed to address evaluation
- A sixth de-facto workgroup to address communication

Process

During the course of the Task Force process, a series of community meetings were held in order to

- provide public education about heroin and opioid addiction, treatment and health services, and/or
- to obtain community input

Task force members also utilized various media venues (including radio, television, print and social media) to discuss the heroin epidemic and efforts to address this issue.

Comprehensive Web Page

Home > Community and Human Services > Mental Health & Substance Abuse > Task Forces > Heroin & Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force

Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force

To confront the region's growing heroin and opioid epidemic, the Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force recommends a comprehensive strategy that focuses on **prevention, increasing access to treatment on demand and reducing the number of fatal overdoses.**

The problem

King County like many places across the country, is seeing sharp increase use and abuse of heroin and prescription opiates. The rate of addiction is 1 availability of treatment has not kept pace with the need.

On March 12, 2016, King County Executive Dow Constantine hosted a news conference to announce the formation of a heroin and prescription opiate task force. Serving as co-chairs of the task force were Seattle Mayor E. Durkin, Mayor Nancy Backus, and Renton Mayor Dennis Lee. King County 1 John Urquhart also participated in the news conference, along with other leaders on the front lines in the fight to reduce opiate addiction, overdose deaths.

[Do more online](#)

Document library

Resources

Report: 2016 Drug Use Trends in King County, Washington
 Infographic: Heroin and Opioid Trends in King County
 Continuum of Care for Opioid Misuse, University of Washington Alcohol and WA State Inter-agency Opioid Working Plan (Jan. 2016)
 Heroin Task Force Report, Public Health-Seattle & King County (Aug. 2001)
 Drug Abuse Trends in the Seattle-King County Area: 2014
 Opiate Overdose Education
 "Where the Rubber Hits the Road": Seattle Launches Heroin Task Force
 King County Board of Health endorsement - Jan. 19, 2017
 King County Board of Health meeting - Oct. 28, 2016
 Seattle City Council briefing - Oct. 3, 2016
 Naloxone Program
 Heroin & Opioid Addiction Task Force Recommendations - Sept. 15, 2016 pre

Task Force Meeting Materials

Friday, March 25, 2016 Agenda Meeting Summary

- PowerPoint

Friday, April 22, 2016 Agenda Meeting Summary

- Task Force Work Plan (Final)
- Task Force Work Group Member List
- Equity and Social Justice Charge
- Secure Medicine Return Overview
- Seattle Community Public Commission (CPC) Public Consumption Report and Recommendations
- News release: Seattle CPC Public Consumption Report
- Safe Consumption Facilities: Evidence and Models
- Safe Consumption Facilities: Recommended Reading

Tuesday, May 31, 2016 - Community Conversation on Heroin and Opiate Addiction

- Summary of the Conversation Comments

Friday, June 3, 2016 Agenda Meeting Summary

- Equity and Social Justice Charge

Friday, July 29, 2016, 1-4 p.m., Seattle City Hall, Bertha K. Landis Room

Friday, Aug. 26, 2016 (cancelled)

Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, 1-4 p.m., Seattle City Hall, Bertha K. Landis Room Agenda

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/mental-health-substance-abuse/task-forces/heroin-opiates-task-force.aspx>

HEROIN AND OPIOID TRENDS

HEROIN AND OPIOID USE ARE AT CRISIS LEVELS

DEATHS FROM HEROIN OVERDOSE HAVE TRIPLED...

Year	Deaths
2009	49
2014	156

Source: C. Benito-Gonzalez, ADAM, Drug Trends Data

WHILE DEATHS FROM PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS OVERDOSE HAVE DECREASED

Year	Deaths
2009	167
2014	97

Source: CDC

THE PERCENT OF KING COUNTY DRUG SEIZURES TESTING POSITIVE FOR HEROIN HAS INCREASED NEARLY SIX-FOLD

Year	Percentage
2008	7%
2015	40%

Source: WA State Patrol Crime Lab

THE NUMBER OF NEEDLES EXCHANGED HAS MORE THAN TRIPLED

Year	Needles Exchanged
2000	2,029,243
2015	6,998,794

Source: Public Health Seattle-King County Needle Exchange Program/ People's Health Reduction Initiative

PEOPLE SEEKING TREATMENT FOR HEROIN HAVE INCREASED AS A PERCENT OF ALL DRUG TREATMENT ADMISSIONS

Year	Percentage
2000	0%
2015	3.4%

Source: SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health

YOUNG ADULTS ARE LARGEST GROWING GROUP SEEKING OPIOID DETOX

Year	People Under 30 Seeking Detox
2004	553
2014	1,053

Source: SAMHSA 2014 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Report

PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS HAVE LESS SUCCESS ACCESSING METHADONE TREATMENT THAN THOSE WHO ARE STABLY HOUSED

Group	Success Rate
Homeless	48%
Stably Housed	75%

Source: Needs Exchange Program

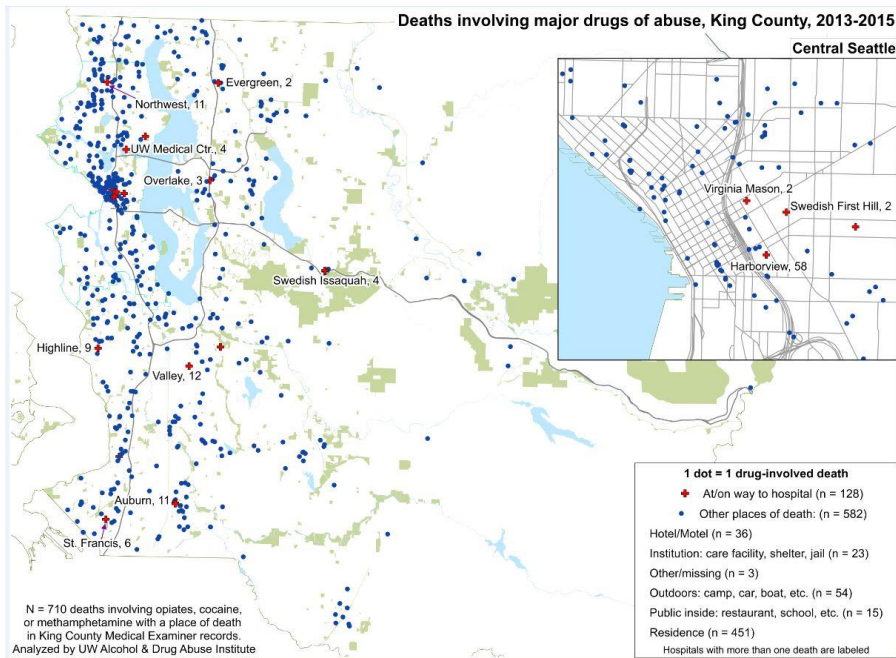
MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT SAVES LIVES

Medication-Assisted Treatment cuts risk of death from overdose in half compared to people in counseling alone or not in treatment

Source: SAMHSA, 2014. Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: A Practice Guideline for Health-Care Providers. (www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment)

WHAT KING COUNTY IS DOING

King County has convened the **Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force** that includes individuals from across many disciplines who will come together over a period of six months to develop both short and long-term strategies to prevent abuse and addiction, prevent overdose, and improve access to different types of treatment for opioid addiction. For more information, visit: kingcounty.gov/heroin-opioids-task-force



Task Force Participants

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Auburn Police Department
- City of Bellevue Emergency Medical Services
- City of Seattle Mayor's Office
- Department of Community and Human Services
- Downtown Emergency Services Center
- Evergreen Treatment Services
- Harborview Medical Center
- Hepatitis Education Project
- Kelley-Ross Pharmacy

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- King County Adult Drug Diversion Court
 - King County All Home
 - King County Emergency Medical Services
 - King County Needle Exchange
 - Neighborcare Health
 - King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
 - King County Sheriff's Office
 - Muckleshoot Tribe
 - People's Harm Reduction Alliance

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- Public Defender Association
 - Public Health – Seattle & King County
 - Puget Sound Educational Service District
 - Recovery Community
 - Renton Police Department
 - Seattle Children’s Hospital
 - Seattle Fire Department
 - Seattle Human Services Department
 - Seattle Police Department
 - Seattle Public Schools

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- Swedish Hospital, Pregnant and Parenting Woman Program
 - Therapeutic Health Services
 - US Attorney for Western Washington’s Office
 - US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 - UW Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI)
 - WA State DSHS of Social and Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.

King County HEROIN AND OPIATE ADDICTION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

PREVENTION

Increase awareness of the possible adverse effects of opioid use, including overdose and opioid use disorder.



Promote safe storage and disposal of medications.



take back
YOUR MEDS

Work with schools and health care providers to improve screening practices so we can prevent and identify opioid use.



King County HEROIN AND OPIATE ADDICTION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

TREATMENT EXPANSION

Make buprenorphine more accessible and available in communities with the greatest need.



Make treatment on demand available for all types of substance-use disorders.



Alleviate artificial barriers placed upon opioid treatment programs.



King County HEROIN AND OPIATE ADDICTION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

USER HEALTH SERVICES & OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Continue to distribute naloxone kits to reverse the effects of heroin overdose to more locations such as treatment providers, homeless shelters, law enforcement, and first responders.



Create at least two locations where adults with substance-use disorders will have access to on-site services while safely consuming opioids or other substances under the supervision of trained healthcare providers.

