Drug Overdoses and Drug Use

San Francisco Health Commission
February 18, 2020
Presentation Overview

• Data on overdoses and overdose reversals

• SFDPH and City overdose prevention and harm reduction efforts
  - including work with first responders and health alerts

• Treatment options

• Immediate and future action plans
Data
Processing of Data for Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in San Francisco

**Death report to OCME**
- Toxicology
- Death scene investigation
- Autopsy / imaging
- Medical history

**OCME cause of death determination**
- Establish manner of death (unintentional)
- Rule out other causes
- Attribute causal drugs
- Prepare narrative
- Close case
- Send to DPH Vital Records

**DPH Vital Records**
- Review with OCME for completeness / errors
- Submit to CA EDRS

**CA EDRS**
- Process submission and make available for extraction (~2 weeks)

**DPH**
- Extract data end of January & June of each year
- Data includes demographics, geographic data, etc.
- Analyze and prepare report in local context
Proportion of Monthly Drug Overdose Deaths Identified for 2018 by Date of Data Retrieval

2019 Retrieval Date

Cases Identified on 25 January 2019 (1 month after end of 2018)

Additional Cases Identified on 31 July 2019 (7 months after end of 2018)
Number of Opioid, Cocaine, and Methamphetamine Overdose Deaths by Varying Intervals in San Francisco

**By Month**

Monthly Count Range: 7-31

**By Quarter**

Quarterly Count Range: 41-72

**By Half-Year**

Half-Yearly Count Range: 89-144

**By Year**

Yearly Count Range: 186-259
Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Half-Year in San Francisco

Data as of 29 January 2020

Opioids, Methamphetamine, or Cocaine

- Opioids
- Methamphetamine
- Cocaine

Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Half-Year in San Francisco

Data as of 29 January 2020

- Opioids, Methamphetamine, or Cocaine
- Opioids
- Fentanyl
- Methamphetamine
- Cocaine
Number of Opioid Overdose Deaths by Mutually Exclusive Opioid Type and Half-Year in San Francisco

Data as of 29 January 2020

- Prescription opioids (excluding heroin or fentanyl)
- Heroin (excluding fentanyl)
- Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues

Data as of 29 January 2020
Overdose Prevention &
Harm Reduction Efforts
Harm Reduction

• SFDPH policy

• Promotes methods of reducing the physical, social, emotional, and economic harms associated with harmful behaviors that impact individuals and their community

• Free of judgment, clients are directly involved in setting their own health goals

Examples in San Francisco

• Syringe access and disposal

• Naloxone

• Medication-Assisted Treatment (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine)

• Sobering Center
Naloxone Distribution and Overdose Prevention Initiatives

- SFHN co-prescribing in Primary Care, hospital, Emergency Department
- Jail pre-release naloxone dispensing
- Project FRIEND – training for first responders and take-home naloxone kits dispensed by EMS
Street-Based Engagement to Address Health Needs

• “Encampment” health fairs
• Low-barrier medical services at syringe access sites
• Increased mobile outreach with medical teams
• Mobile health access points
• Mobile methadone van
• Harm Reduction Therapy Center van
Overdose Alerts and Notices

• Alerts and notices about overdoses
  o Community response from funded provider – DOPE Project
  o Medical advisory from Health Department
  o Advisory and community messaging sent to treatment programs, shelters, navigation centers, schools, etc.

• Flyers and messaging to community members
  o Facilitates engagement in conversations with participants

• Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking (ACDC)
  o Lab testing of drugs associated with overdose or toxic reactions; alerts about results
Treatment Options
SFDPH Behavioral Health Services

Points of Entry

- Community Providers
- Justice-Involved Systems
- Homeless Services
- Behavioral Health Access Center
- Primary Care & Hospital
- City Partners (eg. HSA, SFUSD)

Self

- Prevention, Early Intervention, & Outreach
- Outpatient Treatment
- Residential Treatment
- Crisis Programs
- Hospitalization & Involuntary Treatment
- Locked Facilities

Individuals may move between different levels of care dependent on their needs.
Substance Use Treatment Options

- Seven opioid treatment programs contract with SFDPH
  - Buprenorphine
  - Methadone
  - Jail Health – continued and new treatment

- Residential treatment – 491 beds
  - Withdrawal management
  - Residential treatment, up to 90 days
  - Residential step-down programs

- Low-threshold buprenorphine
  - Street Medicine pilot program
  - BHS Pharmacy expansion of services
  - Buprenorphine prescriptions are up 55% since 2010

- Two targeted programs including contingency management

- Pharmacotherapy research (e.g. mirtazapine)
Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions

Outpatient Buprenorphine

- Alcohol
- Cocaine/Crack
- Heroin
- Methamphetamine

- Buprenorphine prescriptions count
- Number of unique bup patients count
Immediate Actions – 2019/2020

Reform the Behavioral Health System
• Using residential treatment bed availability website to address vacancies
• Creating a new drug sobering center
• Expanding Hummingbird model to community
• Adding residential treatment beds

Strengthen Overdose Prevention
• Launching SRO Overdose Prevention Project
• Project FRIEND: empowering first responders
• REBOOT 2.0: behavioral intervention research

Lower Barriers to Treatment
• Extending intake hours and shortening intake process
• Expansion of tele-buprenorphine at syringe sites and other points of contact
• Addiction Medicine Consult Service at ZSFG
Future Initiatives

• Mental Health SF
  • Expansion of case management
  • Street Crisis Intervention Team
  • 24/7 Mental Health Service Center
    (BHS Pharmacy and BHAC expansion)

• Mental Health Reform
  • Managed alcohol program
  • Addressing inequity in overdose reversal

• Overdose Prevention Sites
QUESTIONS?