



EXECUTIVE ORDER
TAKING FURTHER ACTIONS TO
ADDRESS THE
OPIOID OVERDOSE CRISIS

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Action Plan Strategies to Date

Since 2015, we have moved aggressively to implement the strategies in four areas: **Prevention, Rescue, Treatment, and Recovery.**

These initiatives have become **national models**, including:

- The Rhode Island Centers of Excellence
- An extensive Peer Recovery Specialist program
- Department of Corrections-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) access
- Limitations on most initial opioid prescriptions for acute pain
- PreventOverdoseRI.org, a public dashboard for tracking the Strategic Plan
- (401) 942-STOP (7867), Rhode Island's English/Spanish treatment and recovery hotline

Partnerships to Address the Overdose Crisis

The General Assembly has been a tremendous partner in addressing the opioid crisis.

- Limiting initial opioid prescriptions
- Strengthening the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
- Requiring hospital discharge plans for patients with substance use disorder
- Mandating electronic prescribing for controlled substances
- Dedicating new funding to fighting the epidemic every year

The Rhode Island Fusion Center, in collaboration with the **State Police** as well as **federal and local law enforcement**, has been a critical player in analyzing public safety information and disseminating it to the community.

Recommitting to New Strategies to Address the Overdose Crisis

Despite the State's best efforts, deaths from opioid overdoses have continued to increase, reaching 290 in 2015 and 336 in 2016, particularly as more Rhode Islanders are exposed to potent, illicit fentanyl.

Focusing on IMPLEMENTATION for 2017

Prevention: Public Outreach Campaign

Both BHDDH and RIDOH will launch a coordinated public outreach prevention campaign in Fall 2017 to engage families and youth on the risks of opioid use and misuse.

- Establish a Family Task Force
- Collaborate with schools to expand access to prevention programming for high-risk youth
- Expand family support groups throughout the state

Prevention: Public Outreach Campaign

Initial funding partnerships include:

- Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)
- Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH)
- The Del Prete Family Foundation
- The Rhode Island Foundation

... with additional funding support from the Rhode Island Foundation's matching-grant challenge.

Prevention: Family Task Force

The Family Task Force will report to the Overdose Task Force through the existing State Youth Treatment Planning (SYTP) program, which works collaboratively with the Parent Support Network of Rhode Island Youth and Family Coalition.

They will provide guidance on how to best publicize and engage families and youth in statewide prevention programming.

Additional Prevention Initiatives

Develop a public education plan warning patients of the risks of taking opioids with every opioid prescription pain medication dispensed in Rhode Island.

Encourage proper disposal of opioids by increasing the number of drug take-back days and advising patients to flush excess opioid medications.

Provide timely electronic feedback to all opioid prescribers in the state on their opioid prescribing patterns compared to peers.

Continue building on successful work to reduce initial opioid prescriptions for acute pain.

Rescue: Increase Access to Naloxone

Encourage all entities with public spaces, including State agencies, to supply naloxone and train staff.

Both BHDDH and RIDOH will use federal grant dollars to purchase naloxone in community settings.

Rescue: Adopt Best Practices for EDs and Hospitals

Encourage all Rhode Island Emergency Departments (EDs) and hospitals to achieve a minimum of Level of Care 3 based on best practices identified by BHDDH and RIDOH Levels of Care for Emergency Departments and Hospitals.

RIDOH to publicly report the level of care designation of each hospital annually

Rescue: Establish a Comprehensive Harm Reduction Strategy

Examine existing harm reduction efforts and propose a comprehensive strategy for intravenous (IV) drug users that provides essential health information and services while respecting individual dignity and autonomy.

Treatment: Rhode Island Centers of Excellence

RIDOH and BHDDH shall ensure that Care New England and Community Care Alliance are supported as newly-certified Centers of Excellence to expand access to comprehensive treatment for opioid use disorder.

Treatment: Expand Capacity for Bupenorphine Providers

Both BHDDH and RIDOH will **facilitate the hiring and placement of five nurse care managers** in health settings within high-risk communities and encourage healthcare teaching programs to expose providers in training in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) throughout the state.

- Expand MAT in communities where it is needed the most
- Provide care coordination and referral to recovery support services

Recovery: Pre-arrest Diversion Programs

Implement statewide pre-arrest diversion programs at law enforcement agencies where mental health counselors ride along with officers to help divert people with substance use disorders into treatment and away from the criminal justice system.

- Build on the successes of West Warwick Police Department Drug Overdose Prevention Pilot program, a part of The Providence Center's Community Diversion program
- RIDOH and BHDDH to apply for federal funding for high-risk communities

Additional Recovery Initiatives

Expand access to alcohol- and drug-free residences for people in various stages of recovery.

Create alternative non-emergency settings for patients with opioid use disorder, such as through the Recovery Navigation Program at The Providence Center.

Additional Recovery Initiatives

Make readily available an existing model consent form for overdose patients to gain access to peer recovery specialists, giving consent at the same time it is given for other medical services.

Connect all overdose victims with peer recovery specialists immediately following an accidental overdose.

- Hospitals
- Emergency Departments
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Community Centers
- Police Departments

Track Our Action Plan

- **PreventOverdoseRI.org**, public dashboards based on the Rhode Island Overdose Prevention Plan.
- **health.ri.gov/data/drugoverdoses**, a RIDOH data page