Opioid Overdose Trends and the Role of Community Pharmacists

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Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S.

Overdose Deaths: Prescription Opioids

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder
Overdose Deaths: Heroin

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder
Overdose Deaths in California

5 year totals: 2008-2012 (All opioids, All intents) rate per 100,000

Source: CDPH Vital Statistics Death Statistical Master File
Prepared by CDPH, Safe and Active Communities Branch
No Methadone Maintenance in Rural/Northern Counties
California’s Gap in Treatment Access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Rate per 1000 residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past Year Opioid Abuse or Dependence</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buprenorphine Capacity</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone Capacity</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gap = 2.9 per 1,000 or >100,000

2014 census of licensed slots reported by CA Department of Health Care services
Treatment Saves Lives

**Figure 1**—Heroin overdose deaths and opioid agonist treatment: Baltimore, MD, 1995–2009.
The Solutions

• Safe prescribing practices

• Naloxone distribution

• Access to treatment for opioid addiction
Naloxone Pharmacy Access Timeline

- September 2014: AB 1535 signed
- January 2015: 4052.01 implemented
- April 2015: emergency regulations
Making Naloxone Happen

• Training availability

• Pharmacy adoption of policies and marketing of naloxone access

• Proactive patient selection by pharmacists
Making Naloxone Happen

• Affordable commercial naloxone product

• Clarity on who is the “prescriber on record”

• Third party reimbursement for pharmacist NPI’s
Increasing Access to Treatment

• Active participation in buprenorphine treatment by pharmacists

• Need to partner with local prescribers for collaborative care of buprenorphine patients
Increasing Access to Treatment

• Willingness of pharmacies and pharmacists to become remote methadone dispensaries for OBOT methadone programs

• Particularly needed in rural areas where methadone clinics do not exist