Putting the Hammer Down on Prescription Drug Abuse

A Political and Public Health Perspective from Colorado
The Problem

More than 255,000 Coloradans misuse prescription drugs

Deaths involving the use of opioids nearly quadrupled between 2000 and 2011.
Prescription Opioid Deaths by County - 1999

This map shows prescription opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 people.

(Colorado Public Radio, 2015)
Prescription Opioid Deaths by County - 2013

This map shows prescription opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 people.

(Colorado Public Radio, 2015)
Heroin Deaths by County - 1999

This map shows heroin overdose deaths per 100,000 people.

(Colorado Public Radio, 2015)
Heroin Deaths by County - 2013

(Colorado Public Radio, 2015)
Source of Opioids Among Non-medical Users

The Plan

COLORADO CONSORTIUM GROWING
Now over 250 members and organizations involved.
The Plan

- The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention was created in 2013 to establish a **coordinated, statewide response** to this major public health problem.

- Its mission to reduce the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs through improvements in education, public outreach, research, safe disposal and treatment.

- The goal of these efforts is to prevent **92,000 Coloradans from misusing opioids by 2016**.
The Bills

SB 12-020 – COLORADO’S GOOD SAMARITAN LAW (protects those who call in overdose)

SB 13-014 Colorado’s Third-Party Naloxone Bill

HB 14-1283 – MODIFYING THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

HB 14-1207 – CDPHE HOUSEHOLD MEDICATION TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

SB15-053 - DISPENSE SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY DRUGS FOR OVERDOSE VICTIMS
Rep. Jonathan Singer seeks to make painkillers harder to abuse

DENVER (CBS4) – Lawmakers want to help curb prescription drug abuse in Colorado, a state they say has one of the highest abuse rates in the country.

Some lawmakers want a pill that can't be crushed and snorted, or melted and injected. That is how many people abuse prescription drugs.


Singer, D-Loveland, demonstrates the abilities of specially painkillers to resist tampering, lessening their potential for abuse.

"We're trying to create a hammer down on prescription drug abuse."


Singer said that Wednesday afternoon when he used a hammer to try to crush-resistant painkiller for the House Public Health Care Services Committee Tuesday afternoon.

The bill because addicts often can't get the instant, intense from digesting, pills which can deliver a slower release, lessening properties. As a result, one method of abuse is to hit it.

How it works (Rep. Rogers - STOPP Act)
Why it’s Important

TEENS SAY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ARE
"EASIER TO GET THAN BEER"
BECAUSE THEY CAN TAKE THEM FROM THEIR
FRIENDS’ AND FAMILY’S MEDICINE CABINETS
A little History

2012 First Appearance on Market

34 states abuse deterrent laws

2014 Mass

2015 ME, MD, NY (govs desk), IN - dept of health has the ability to put in guidelines to put ways to deal with drug abuse opioid
So the Bill passed Right?

Just Two Things:

1) It’s new - more research required

1) Health Insurance doesn’t want to pay for it.

- Lowest Cost vs. not on formulary
What Can We Do?

Continue Working with Partners

- Law Enforcement
- Clinical Addiction Counselors
- Medical Societies
- Family Members
- Bill Amended to Study

CO Consortium on Rx Abuse

(Credit: Cap Times, 2015)
So What Can We Do?

More Research
Thank You

Some Helpful Links

Colorado Consortium on Prescription Drug Abuse
http://takemedsseriously.org/

Prescription Drug Abuse in CO

Cap Times Article about State Legislator’s Family

Colorado Plan to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse