

Opioid Epidemic and Planning

What can planners do to address the greatest community crisis of today?

Convening a Conversation

Planners addressing the crisis is an emerging issue.

There is a lot of expertise in the room and we are starting this conversation to learn from each other on this topic and brainstorm possible solutions.

You will not be hearing us talk as experts on the topic.

We will all be working to identify solutions and strategies we can take back to our communities.

Agenda

- Understanding the opioid crisis through the Planning Context
- Key terms
- Tools
- Introduction to the roundtable activity

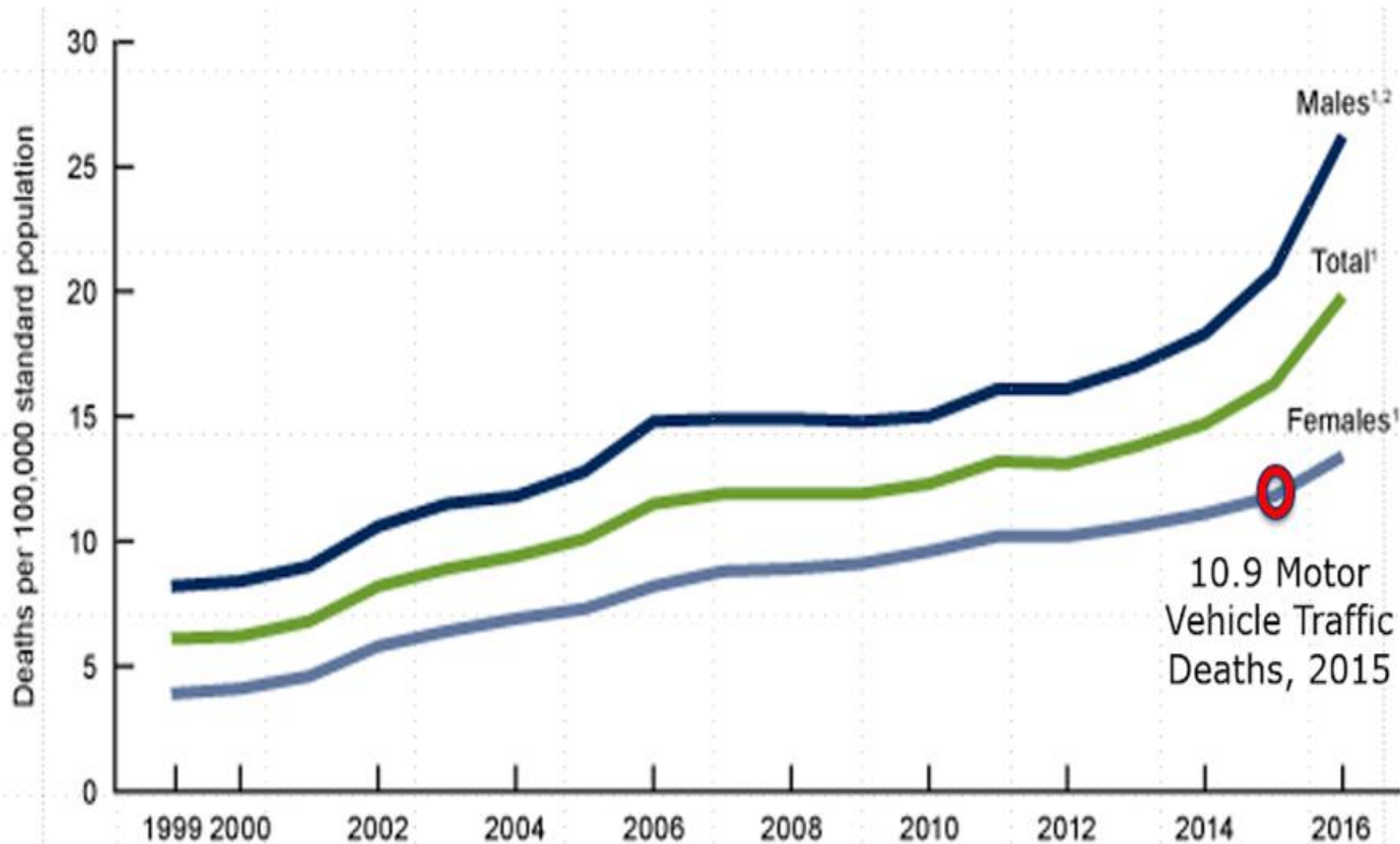
Planning Context

Planning Link to the Opioid Epidemic

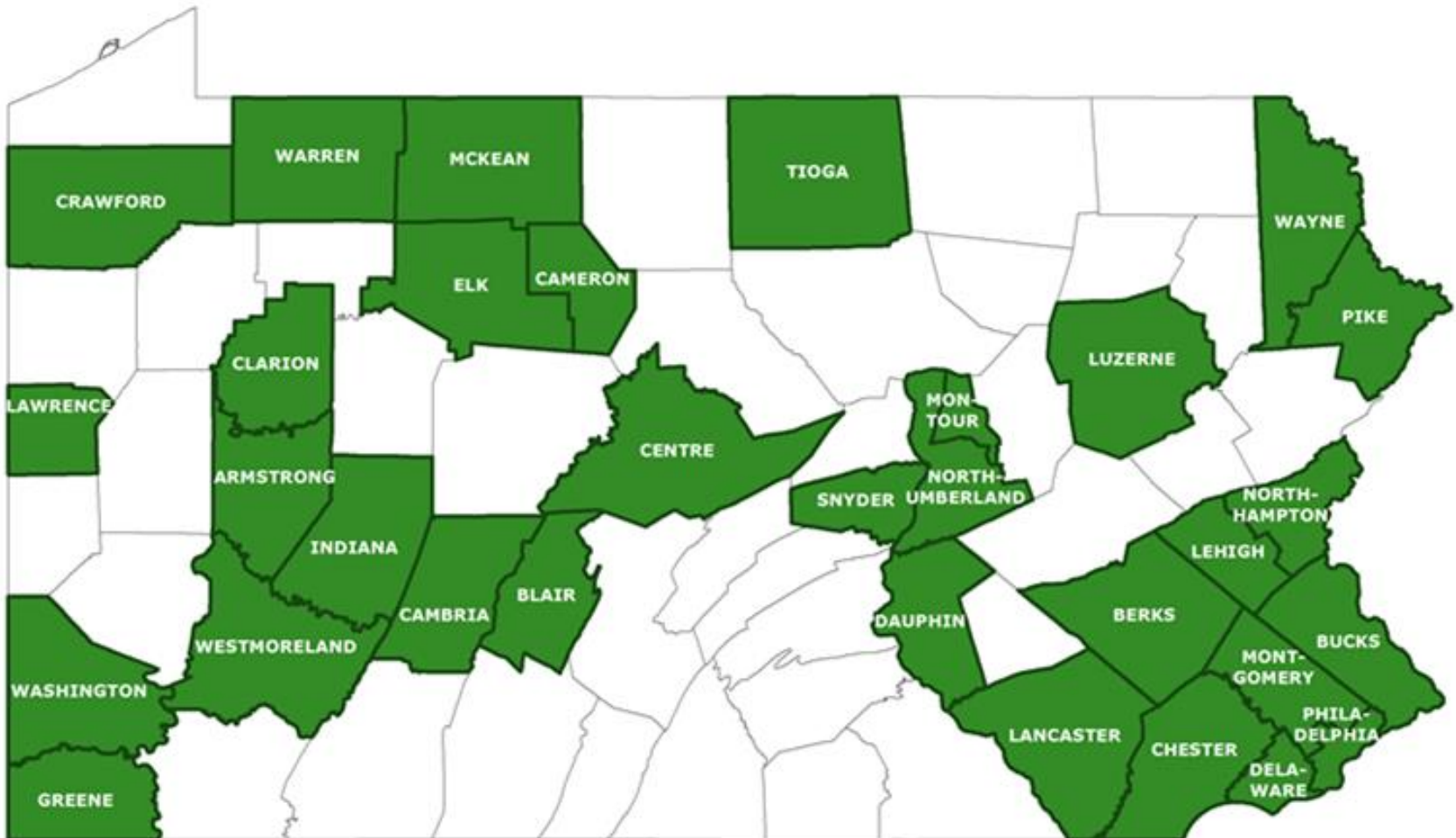
As planners we have seen opioid issues strike our communities, but what skills do we have to bring to solving this issue?

With such an immediate crisis, planning's long-term solutions can be hard to include in the process, but there are skills of planning that can be of great use

Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates: United States, 1999–2016

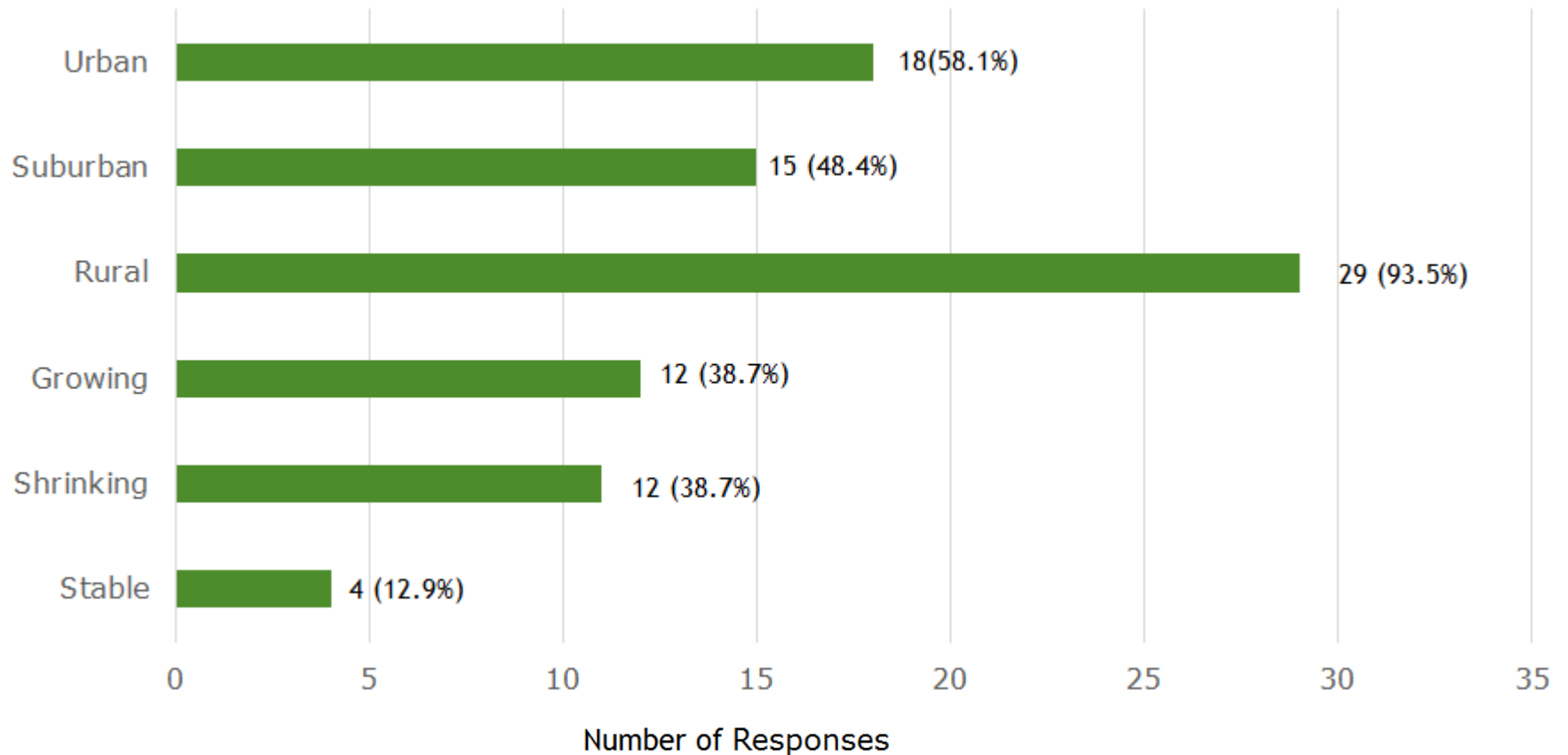


Statewide Planning Director's Survey



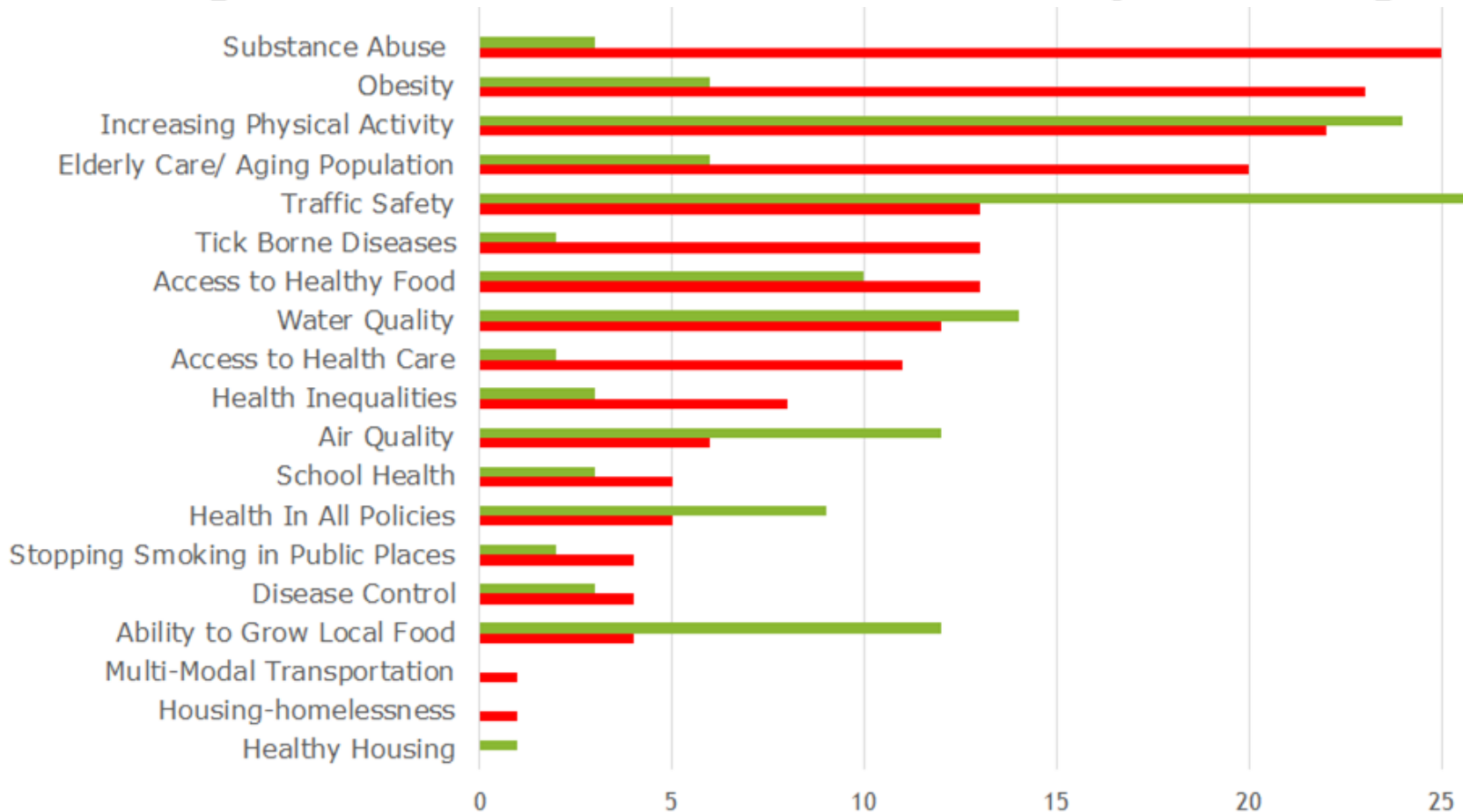
Statewide Planning Director's Survey

Opinion of Community Character



Issue in Pennsylvania

Pressing Issues v. What Planners Believe they Can Change



Historical Context

Protecting health, safety, and welfare is the basis of the planning profession and commonly used tools like zoning.



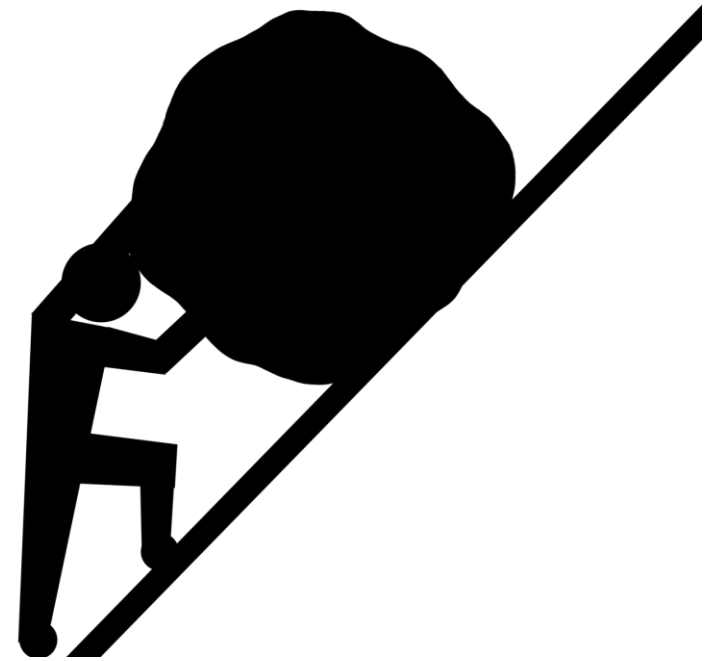
Planner as Convener

Planners have networks including a wide variety of fields (e.g., elected officials, zoning hearing boards, planning commissions) that have a role to play in solving the opioid crisis.



Keep Going

There isn't much research that has been done with planning's role. There will be new and innovative ways to get involved. Planners will also make mistakes and learn from them.



Key Terms

Stigma and Language

Terms like addict, substance abuser, and clean have strong connotations and place all of the burden on the affected individuals.

The language used reinforced the idea that individuals are merely lacking the willpower to quit.

Planners can play a role in destigmatizing those affected by encouraging and using appropriate language.

Brain Development

Upstream factors

Genetics, mental health disorders, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), Trauma, Early substance abuse

Opioids work to rewire brain architecture to deaden the pre-frontal cortex and activate pleasure centers. This is like cutting the brakes on your car.

Mental Health Link

We weren't able to find studies directly involving planning and the opioid epidemic.

The link between planning priorities like promoting active transportation and green space and mental health improvements have been shown.

A link between environmental stressors and opioid use has also been shown.

Tools

INDIVIDUAL



Individual with
Opioid Use Disorder

- Harm Reduction & Prevention
- Access to Treatment

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Family Members



Neighbors &
Community



Physical Environment

Harm Reduction & Prevention

Naloxone

Needle Exchange

Safe Injection Sites

Medical Disposal Units



Harm Reduction & Prevention

Behavioral Health Support

Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment
(Sbirt)

Diversion to Treatment or Restorative Justice

Urban Design and Improved Mental Health

Access to Treatment

Identification Cards to Get Treatment

Destigmatize Opioid Use Disorder & its Treatment

Expanded Treatment Facilities

Transit Options to Treatment Facilities

Housing Stability

Community Impacts

Improved Police Relations

Alternatives to Drug Dealing

Job Programs that Target People in Drug Trade & Returning Citizens

NAR-anon Programs

Trauma Informed Training in Schools - Access to Social Workers

Community Impacts

Clean & Green Vacant Lots

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design



Opioid Crisis Task Forces

Many communities have found Opioid Task Forces that planners can join.

If your community doesn't have one, consider being the impetus of starting one.

Introduction to the Exercise

Roundtable Exercise

You will put yourself in the shoes of someone in a community and provide the tools that they have available to a public forum to address the opioid crisis.

Tables are divided into Rural, Suburban, and Urban communities.

Public Forum

The Elected Officials have convened a public forum to discuss how opioids have been affecting your community. The goal is to come up with a strategy for addressing the crisis in your community.



Your Role

Each person will select a role to play. Each person will have a different perspective and tools to bring to help solve this crisis in their community.

Consider how your role would act.

NIMBY Neighbor

Family Member affected by crisis

Elected Official

Planning Director/Planner

Facility Developer/Operator

Hospital Emergency

Department

School Administrator

Police Chief

Measuring Success

Addressing the opioid epidemic is an issue that has eluded communities around the country, so there is no expectation that you solve the crisis for your community.

The exercise aims to put you in the shoes of different types of community members to create empathies for their point of view. It also hopes to build understanding of tools that may be available to different types of community members.

Potential Resources/Tools

Warm Hand-Off Process

Naloxone (Narcan) Training

In-Patient Treatment

Out-Patient Substance Abuse Counseling

Medication Assisted Treatment

Prevention Programs

Youth Mentoring Programs (Big Brothers Big Sisters/Big Buddies/Bigs in Blue)

Forensic Case Management

Drug Task Force/Coalition

Community Awareness/Support Groups

Rx Take Back Events

Medication Disposal Units

Social Workers in Schools

Access to Transportation

Employment/Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Housing