About the National Governors Association

- The National Governors Association (NGA) is the nation’s oldest organization serving the needs of governors and their staff.
- NGA Office of Government Relations (OGR): serves as the collective voice of the nation’s governors in Washington, DC.
- NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center): policy research and development firm that directly serves the nation’s governors by developing innovative solutions to pressing public policy challenges. Focus areas include:
  - Economic Opportunities
  - Education Division
  - Environment, Energy & Transportation Division
  - Health Division
  - Homeland Security & Public Safety Division
NGA Activities to Support States in Addressing the Opioid Crisis

NGA publication:
Six Strategies for Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse

First Rx abuse policy academy chaired by Governors Bentley (AL) and Hickenlooper (CO)

NGA publication:
Prescription Drug Abuse: Lessons Learned from and NGA Policy Academy

NGA issues recommendations to federal partners

Second Rx abuse policy academy chaired by Governors Shumlin (VT) and Sandoval (NV)

NGA expert roundtables on heroin and opioids in rural areas

NGA issues recommendations to federal partners

NGA opioid compact signed by 46 governors

NGA publication:
Finding Solutions to the Opioid Crisis: A Road Map for States

Governors report on actions taken since signing compact

NGA expert roundtable on state emergency declarations for opioids

NGA issues new recommendations to federal partners

Governors focus on opioids at five NGA meetings since 2014; session planned for Feb. 2018


Opioid State Action Network launches with monthly calls for state leaders

Learning labs on
- New Jersey’s Drug Monitoring Initiative
- Rhode Island’s Strategic Plan on Addiction and Overdose
- New Mexico’s Integrated Addictions and Psychiatry teleECHO program
- Massachusetts’ opioid use disorder treatment for justice-involved populations

Governors report on actions taken since signing compact

NGA publication:
Prescription Drug Abuse: Lessons Learned from and NGA Policy Academy

NGA expert roundtable on state emergency declarations for opioids

NGA issues new recommendations to federal partners

Governors focus on opioids at five NGA meetings since 2014; session planned for Feb. 2018

Learning labs on
- Kentucky’s approach to address infectious disease related to substance use
- Ohio’s Maternal Opiate Medical Support (MOMS) program

*Governors issue recommendations to federal partners in 2016 and 2018
Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States
States Are Concerned About Opioids and Infectious Disease

- Evidence strongly suggests national increases in acute HCV infections are being fueled by the nation’s opioid epidemic

- An analysis of 40 states from 2004–2014 showed:
  - 15 states had an increase of 500% or higher in cases of acute HCV infection
  - 6 states had an increase of 1000% or higher

- CDC identified 220 counties in 26 states with potential for rapid spread of HIV and HCV related to injection drug use

- Much of the cost of treatment falls on state Medicaid programs – a large and growing part of state budgets

NGA Learning Lab on Addressing Infectious Diseases Related to Substance Use

• Model state: Kentucky
  o Highlighting public health surveillance and comprehensive community-level prevention, including syringe service programs, screening and connections to treatment

• Seven participating states:
  o Alabama
  o Arkansas
  o Delaware
  o Michigan
  o Utah
  o Virginia
  o Washington

Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Infectious Disease Learning Lab—State Goal Themes

• **Stakeholder engagement**
  - Educating law enforcement and local/state government on harm reduction approaches
  - Partnering with local health departments and the harm reduction community on connecting individuals to treatment and preventing future infections
  - Example: Kentucky Harm Reduction Syringe Exchange Programs

• **Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) and Other Community Harm Reduction Services**
  - Authorizing SSPs where they currently are not legal, or addressing paraphernalia laws
  - Expanding SSPs and harm reduction programs in rural and underserved areas
  - Improving treatment capacity through new pilot programs for hepatitis C treatment and connections with state Medicaid programs
  - Example: New York Medicaid State Plan Amendment for Harm Reduction Services

• **Data and Surveillance**
  - Improving data and surveillance for HIV, hepatitis C, endocarditis, and other infectious conditions
  - Example: Tennessee HIV/Hepatitis C Vulnerability Assessment
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