



# State Response to Opioids and Infectious Disease

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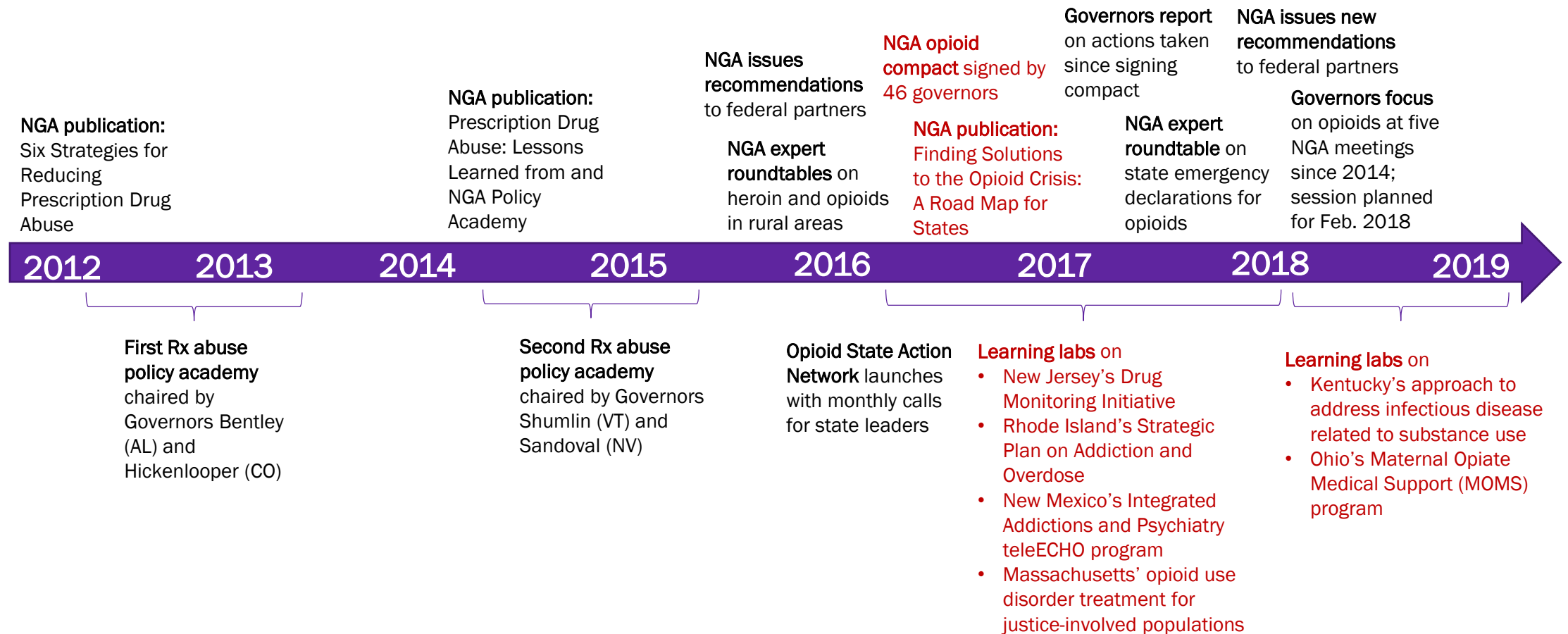
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## About the National Governors Association

- 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

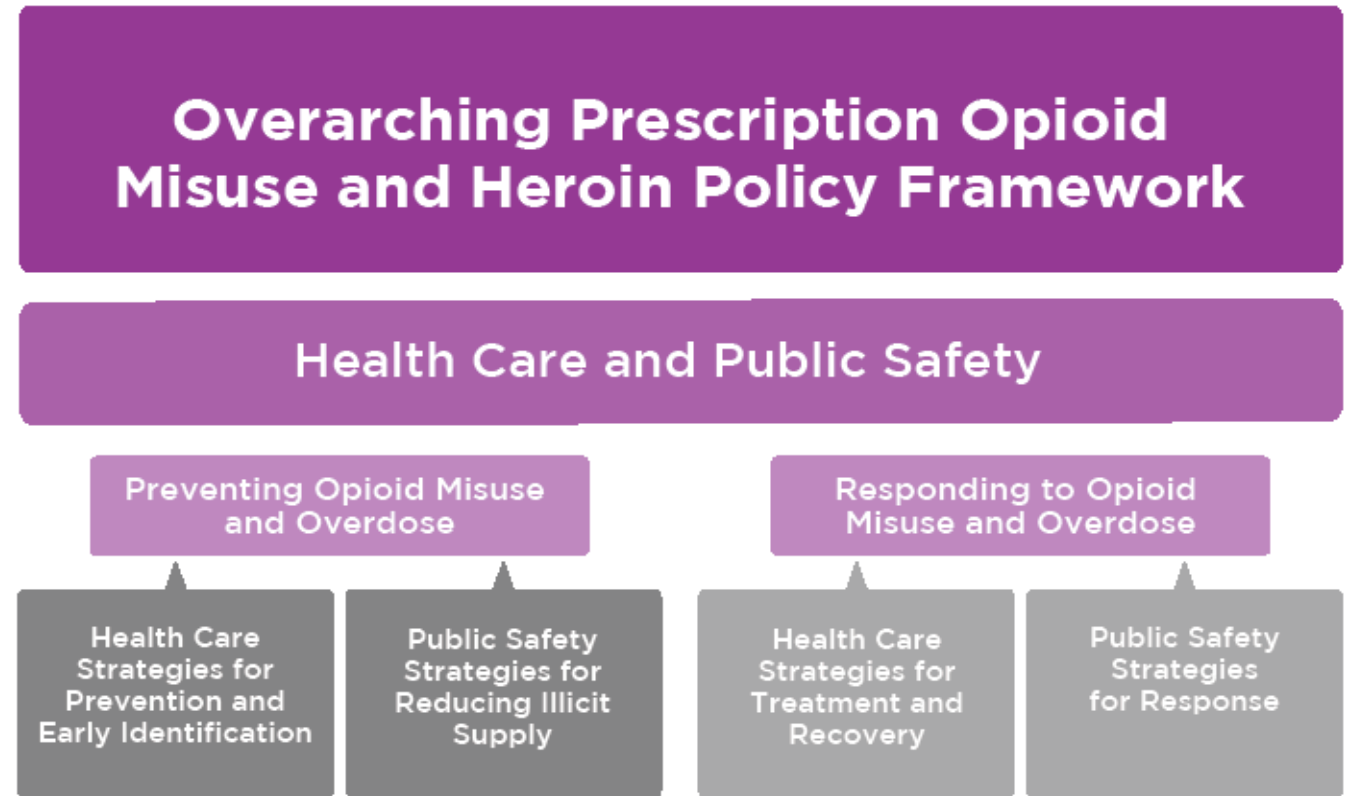


\*Governors issue recommendations to federal partners in 2016 and 2018

# NGA Opioid Road Map

## Finding Solutions to the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Road Map for States

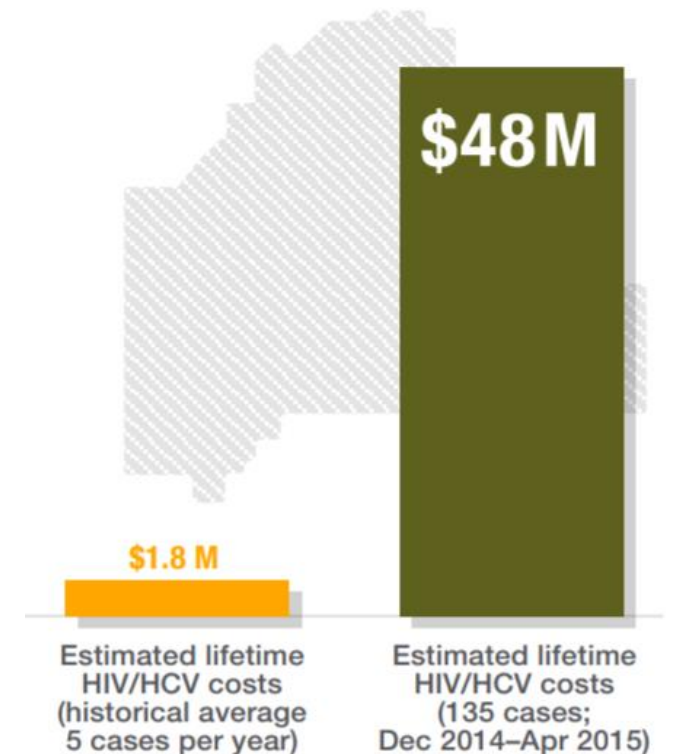
National Governors Association



# 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:<sup>1</sup>
  - 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

Treatment Costs in Scott County

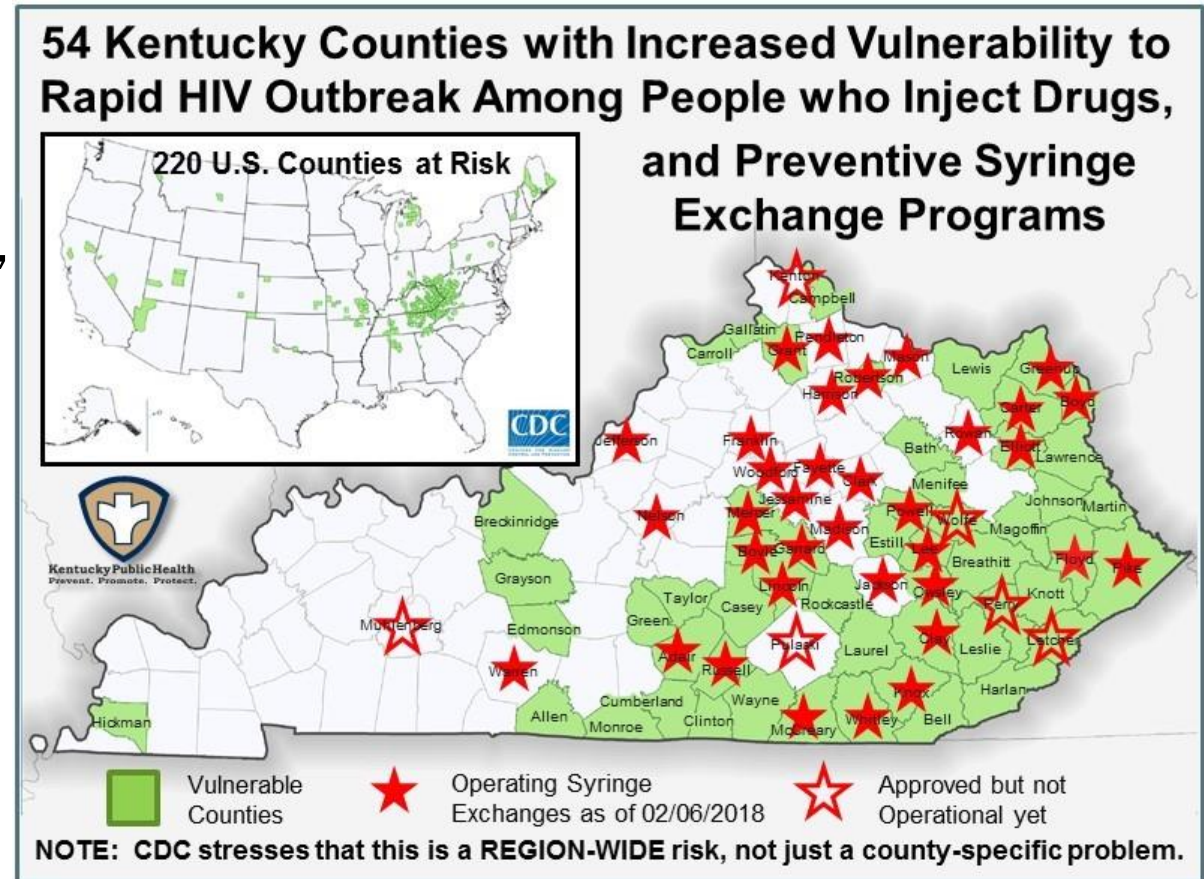


Source: amfAR

1. Zibbell, et al. (2018). Increases in Acute Hepatitis C Virus Infection Related to a Growing Opioid Epidemic and Associated Injection Drug Use, United States, 2004 to 2014. American Journal of Public Health

# NGA Learning Lab on Addressing Infectious Diseases Related to Substance Use

- Model state: Kentucky
  - Highlighting public health surveillance and comprehensive community-level prevention, including syringe service programs, screening and connections to treatment
- Seven participating states:
  - Alabama
  - Arkansas
  - Delaware
  - Michigan
  - Utah
  - Virginia
  - 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



# Contact

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