How are Maryland Schools Addressing the Heroin / Opioid Epidemic?

22nd Advancing School Mental Health Conference
October 19, 2017

Reginald Burke, Specialist
School Completion and Alternative Programs
Drug and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland, 2016

![Graph showing the number of deaths from 2007 to 2016. The graph indicates a significant increase in total deaths, with a sharp rise in opioid-related deaths.](image)
3 Tiers of Practices / Activities

- Prevention—Strategies and programs designed to bring awareness to the dangers of opioid abuse.

- Intervention—Strategies, programs, and supports designed to intervene with a student suspected of using opioids.

- Postvention—Strategies and programs that provide support and assistance for families, students, and educators affected by abuse of opioids.
Heroin / Opioid Needs Assessment Results (May 2017)

- All 24 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) completed the survey.

- Forwarded to student services directors. In many instances, the surveys were completed in conjunction with partners from the local health departments.
Prevention Practices

- **Evidence-Based Programs/Practices**
  - Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)
  - Botvin Life Skills
  - Smart Choices
  - Gateway Prevention and Intervention

- **Awareness Activities**
  - School Assemblies
  - Parent Meetings/Community Awareness Campaigns
  - Student Plays
  - Guest Speakers
  - Videos / Documentaries

- **Staff Training**
  - Face-to-Face
  - Online Modules
Intervention / Postvention Practices

Intervention
- Naloxone administration.
- School-based/outside provider substance abuse counseling.
- Partnerships with local health departments/agencies.

Postvention
- Referral to school-based psychologist/counselor.
- Referrals to outside provider.
Data Collection

- Number of staff participating in professional development.
- Number of students participating in awareness presentations.
- Number of staff trained in naloxone administration.
- Number of students receiving counseling, treatment, or psychological services.
- Student assessment surveys.
Resources Needed

- Funding needed for:
  - Staff training, guest speakers, and updated materials
  - Teacher substitutes.
  - Community Awareness events.
  - Prevention activities and materials.
  - Health curriculum expansion.
- Programs available for adolescents that are uninsured or receiving medical assistance.
- Naloxone model policy.
Resources Needed (con’t)

- Increase in school-based Student Services staff (i.e., school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, certified addictions counselors, etc).
- More collaborative partnerships with community mental health agencies to provide treatment and recovery services.
- Increased access to behavioral health services in rural counties.
Start Talking Maryland Act Workgroup Survey

- Survey was designed to capture the program/services provided in the Maryland public schools.

- Completed by behavioral health and substance abuse service providers.

- Fifty two programs/services were identified by the providers/contacts who completed the survey.
For the program / service you listed above, please select the program or service provided from the drop-down list (Behavioral, Substance (Ab)use, Both, or Other). If Other, please indicate.
For the program / service listed above, please check all the services provided in the school setting.
For the program / service listed above, please check each Local Education Agency (LEA) or LEAs served by the program or service.
For the programs/service listed above, please indicate if the program/service is evidence-based or not.
If an opportunity exists would the program or service be appropriate for expansion to other school systems?
If appropriate for expansion, which barriers might hinder replication to other school systems?
State Level Initiatives

- Increase the integration of evidence-based prevention education and programming into LEA’s.

- Explore the creation of an online course module that will be administered to those teaching drug addiction and prevention education.

- Provide clear and consistent guidance within the school system on safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs.
State Level Initiatives (con’t)

- Partner with law enforcement to support reducing availability of prescriptions in the home through awareness of drug take back programs and events.

- Revise the Maryland Health Education Curriculum Framework to include the lethal effects of fentanyl.

- MSDE Video:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Klrfb0sv8o
Questions/Comments

Contact Information

Reginald Burke, Specialist
School Completion and Alternative Programs
Division of Student, Family, and School Support
Maryland State Department of Education
Email: reginald.burke@maryland.gov
Phone: (410) 767-0313