



The Opioid Epidemic: Fireproofing Our Communities

In service to our Mission, PeaceHealth is working in collaboration with community partners to halt this epidemic and bring healing to patients and families suffering from substance use disorder and chronic pain.

The Need

"The current opioid epidemic is the deadliest drug crisis in American history." — *The New York Times*, 10/26/2017

- Overdoses, fueled by opioids, are the leading cause of death for Americans under 50 years old.
- Declared a public health emergency in October, 2017, this epidemic impacts every segment of our society — young and old, rich and poor, urban and rural.
- It has its roots in the over-prescription and misuse of opioid painkillers, and now the availability of inexpensive, illegal opioids (like heroin and fentanyl), is rapidly adding fuel to this fire.

Facts & Faces of Opioid Addiction

4.3 million

Americans use opioids for non-medical purposes.
— National Survey on Drug Use and Health

78 people

die each day from prescription painkiller overdose.
— Centers for Disease Control

21.2 years

is the average age for first-time use of prescription painkillers in the past year.
— National Survey on Drug Use and Health

77%

21–35 year olds represent the majority of opioid use disorder patients entering treatment.¹

70%

of patients with dependency on opioids, opiates or heroin entering treatment are male.²

1.6x

likelihood that a patient in treatment for opioid use disorder has chronic pain.³

^{1,2,3} MAP Health Management analyzed data for 30 substance abuse treatment facilities nationwide, including 734 individuals entering treatment during 2015–16.

Deeper Dive

What is Suboxone?

- A pain medication used for treatment of opioid addiction and chronic pain.
- The first medication on the market that masks the effects of opioid withdrawal.
- People in treatment with Suboxone can continue to function in their daily lives.

Community	Opioid Deaths/100,000 lives	Total Suboxone Prescribers	PeaceHealth Suboxone Prescribers
NWN-Ketchikan	0	3	1
NWN-Prince of Wales	0	2	0
NWN-Skagit Co.	11.2	13	0
NWN-Whatcom Co.	7	8	6
CN-Cowlitz Co.	13.6	5	2
CN-Clark Co.	8.8	25	2
ON-Lane Co.	9.26	29	11

Community Health – Fire Prevention

PeaceHealth is involved in multidisciplinary opioid work groups in each of our Networks.

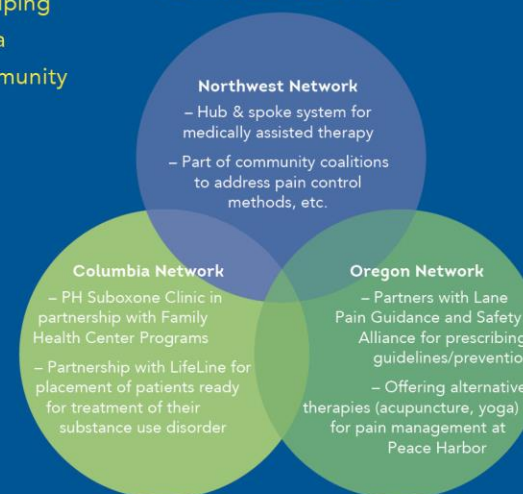
These workgroups bring together all sectors of the community to address the opioid epidemic. They vary by region, yet all have a similar focus:

- Control access to opioids
- Prescribing guidelines
- Alternate treatment for chronic pain
- Adequate access to treatment and medication assisted therapy (MAT)
- Opioid misuse prevention and education

TAKING ACTION – What PeaceHealth Is Doing

Addressing the opioid epidemic and helping those in need is a systemwide community health priority.

FIREFIGHTING Current PeaceHealth efforts



FIREPROOFING

PeaceHealth Medical Group three-phase plan to address opioid issues began in December 2017

INCLUDED IN THE PLAN

Standard guidelines for prescribing and treatment of chronic pain in primary care and pain management settings

- Include tapering flowchart for dosage adjustments
- Standing orders for urine drug screening

New CareConnect tools

- Report patient-level detail by provider
- Opioid patient registry

- Documentation of risk screening and pain management agreements

Accountability

- Peer reviews

Prevention and treatment

- Overdose prevention — Narcan (naloxone) policy and procedure
- Embedded treatment program
- Suboxone prescribing