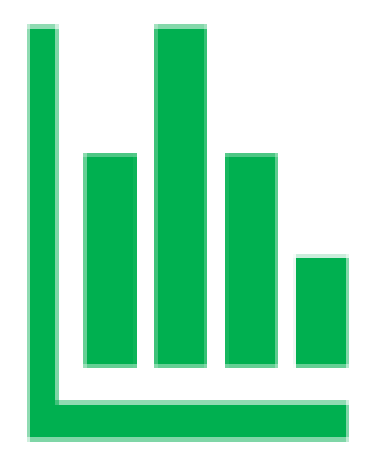




Prevalence of opioid abuse



- In 2017, **more than 1,400** Virginia residents died of an opioid-related drug overdose.
- In 2017, **Fentanyl** accounted for **more than half** of fatal overdoses in the state.
- Drug overdose is the **leading cause** of unnatural deaths in the state, above motor vehicle accidents and gun-related incidents.
- In 2017, Virginia Emergency Medical Services administered **Narcan** more than **4,500 times** in attempts to prevent opioid overdoses.
- In 2016, **2,938 Virginia children** entered foster care, and parental substance abuse factored into **29 percent** of these placements.

Identified education system needs



Expanded prevention programs

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- The Virginia Department of Education is hoping to expand implementation of substance use prevention programs in a multi-tiered system of support framework.

Current strategies/initiatives



- **Governor's Executive Leadership Team on Addiction (GELTA).** Collaboration between the Departments of Health and Behavioral Health and the state police to combat the opioid crisis.
- **REVIVE! Initiative.** Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education (OONE) program for Virginia. Provides training to professionals and stakeholders on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency by administering naloxone.
- **Cross-Agency State Initiative.** Led by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Primary focus is on promoting strong coalitions that use evidence-based strategies linked local data to reduce risk and prevent the development of addiction.
- **Hampton Roads Opioid Working Group (HROWG).** Regional collaboration between medical personnel, law enforcement officials, and other community members that utilizes an action-oriented approach to confront the opioid epidemic in Hampton Roads.
- **Peninsula Community Opioid Response Working Group (PCOR).** Public and private agencies on the Peninsula working to form a partnership between law enforcement, criminal justice, health care and government agencies to reduce opiate abuse in the community.
- **Legislation.**
 - **Executive Order Number 21.** Established the Governor's Advisory Commission on Opioids and Addiction, which is a multidisciplinary, bipartisan group composed of 27 individuals from across Virginia. The group outlined a five-pronged approach to ending the overdose epidemic in Virginia: abuse prevention, harm reduction, supply prevention, treatment and recovery, and justice-interventions.
 - **House Bill 1532.** Permits health education programs for public school students to include a program on the safe use and risks of abuse of prescription drugs.
- **Research.**
 - **University of Virginia.** Working on ways to replace opioids with less-addictive alternatives to relieve patients' post-surgical pain.
 - **George Mason University.** Joining with partners in Northern Virginia and around the state to develop a multidisciplinary initiative and report with recommendations to address the opioid epidemic.
- **Children and schools.**
 - **Virginia Beach Drug Education Curriculum.** Preventative effort in which instruction about the risks of prescription drugs will begin as early as grade 1.

Funding sources impacting schools, school-age children & families



- **Virginia State Opioid Response (SOR) grant.** Supports community prevention efforts, peer supports, and other recovery-based initiatives. Virginia has been awarded more than \$35 million from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) over the past three years.
- **Virginia Project AWARE grant.** Supports the training of more than 850 educators and community members each year in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) to recognize and respond to signs of mental health issues and crises in adolescents.
- **Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) and Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) grant.** Offered to selected school divisions for the implementation of substance abuse prevention and intervention programs within their existing VTSS framework.
- **School Climate Transformation Grant Program.** Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students. Virginia Department of Education is applying for this grant in an effort to increase the number of substance use prevention programs in schools.