



## Prevalence of opioid abuse



- In 2016, West Virginia had the **highest rate of opioid-related overdose deaths** in the United States—43.4 deaths per 100K.
- The state placed **4,581 children** in foster care in 2016. In **47 percent** of those placements, **parental substance use was a factor**.
- **33 out of every 1,000 infants** born in 2013 had **opioid-withdrawal syndrome**.
- Opioid epidemic costs the state's economy **\$8.8 billion a year (12% of GDP)**—largest share of GDP among all states—for health care and substance abuse treatment, criminal justice costs, lost worker productivity, and the burden of fatal overdoses.

## Identified education system needs



### Educator training and resources

*Reported by: Conrae Lucas-Adkins, Assistant Professor, Department of School Psychology, Marshall University*

- Educators need more training and resources to meet the nonacademic needs of their students.
- Reported by: Susan Beck, Office of Special Education; Stephanie Hayes and Drew McClanahan, Office of Leadership and System Support; and Amber Stohr, Office of Research, West Virginia Department of Education*
- Educators need more training and resources, particularly to address mental health issues.
  - It is especially difficult to get resources to rural areas.

## Current strategies/initiatives



- **West Virginia's Statewide Opioid Response Plan.** Plan contains 12 recommendations for action across 6 areas: prevention, early intervention, treatment, overdose reversal, recovery, and supporting families with substance use disorder.
- **Legislation.**
  - **House Bill 2195 (WVBE Policy 2520.2).** Bill requires county boards of education to provide school-based K–12 comprehensive drug awareness and prevention programs in coordination with educators, drug rehabilitation specialists, and law enforcement by SY 2018/19. Bill also requires health education classes in grades 6–12 to include at least 60 minutes of instruction on the dangers of opioid use.
  - **House Bill 4402 (WVBE Policies 2520.5 and 4373).** Bill requires students in grades K–12 receive age-appropriate safety information at least once annually. Bill also directs state Board of Education to propose a policy establishing training requirements for all public school employees focused on developing skills, knowledge, and capabilities related to preventing, recognizing, and responding to suspected abuse and neglect.
  - **Senate Bill 465 (WVBE Policy 4373).** Bill changes the reporting window for all mandatory reporters who have reasonable cause to suspect a child is neglected or abused from 48 hours to 24 hours.
  - **Senate Bill 36 (WVBE Policy 2422.7).** Bill allows for school districts to use naloxone for emergency medical care or treatment for adverse opioid events during school hours or events on school property.
- **Research.** State is partnering with West Virginia University to spend at least \$10 million to develop and test a model to combat the opioid epidemic.
- **Children and schools.**
  - School district staff have initiated **school-based mental health services** in many schools throughout West Virginia.
    - West Virginia leads the nation in school-based health centers (SBHCs) with approximately 160 SBHCs in 38 of 55 school districts.
  - **Defending Children Initiative (“Handle with Care”).** If law enforcement personnel encounter a child at the scene of a potentially traumatic event, they alert the child's school/child care agency. Schools then implement trauma-sensitive curricula and offer onsite trauma-focused mental healthcare as needed.
  - **Youth Mental Health First Aid** teaches participants (e.g. parents, teachers, health and human services workers) about risk factors and warning signs of mental health challenges.
  - **Marshall University Behavior Resource TA Center** provides support to teachers and schools to educate students with behavioral challenges.

## Funding sources impacting schools, school-age children & families



- **State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant.** Grant aims to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths through prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder. West Virginia received almost \$12 million in 2017 and an additional \$330K in supplemental grant funding in 2018.
- State adopted **Medicaid expansion** which increases insurance coverage for opioid-use disorders.
- The **U.S. Department of Justice** awarded **more than \$6 million** to programs to combat the opioid crisis. Recipients include the West Virginia University Research Corporation (\$1.4M); West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (\$900K); Child Protect of Mercer County Inc. (\$750K); Marshall University Research Corporation (\$750K); and the Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center (\$313K).
- **WV-AWARE grant.** Goal of the grant is to raise awareness of mental health issues by training adults who interact with youth on how to detect, respond, and connect youth and families with appropriate mental health services.
- **Cardinal Health's Opioid Action Program.** More than \$3 million in grants awarded to more than 70 nonprofit organizations in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ohio to support efforts to combat the opioid epidemic, specifically in prevention education.