

Responding to the Opioid Epidemic: Identifying Actionable Approaches for Cities in Minnesota



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The contents of this report represent the views of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of RCP, CURA, the Regents of the University of Minnesota, or the League of Minnesota Cities.



Resilient Communities Project

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RESPONDING TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC:

IDENTIFYING ACTIONABLE APPROACHES
FOR CITIES IN MINNESOTA

MARA DALY, ASHLEIGH WALTER, KAITLYN SCHMALTZ

INTRODUCTION

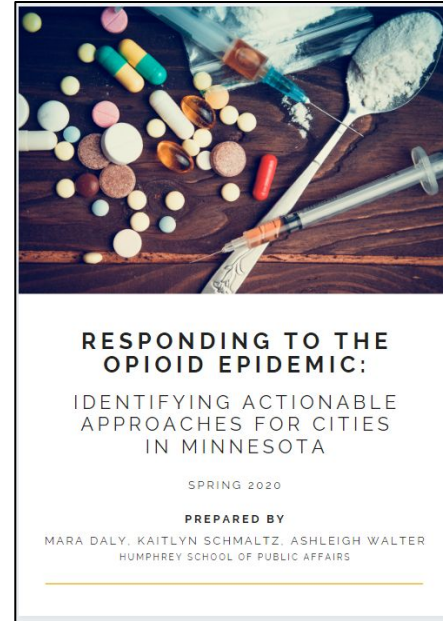
- Opioid epidemic has created need for Minnesota cities to develop new policy to address the crisis.
- Sought to identify existing programming in Minnesota and around the country.
- Ultimately, LMC seeks to develop a toolkit of strategies for member cities.



PROJECT DELIVERABLES

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WRITTEN REPORT



VISUAL REPORT

EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS



70,000+

Drug-related deaths in the United States in 2017



422

Drug-related deaths in Minnesota in 2017



600%

Increase in drug-related deaths from 1999 to 2017

WHY LOOK AT CITIES?

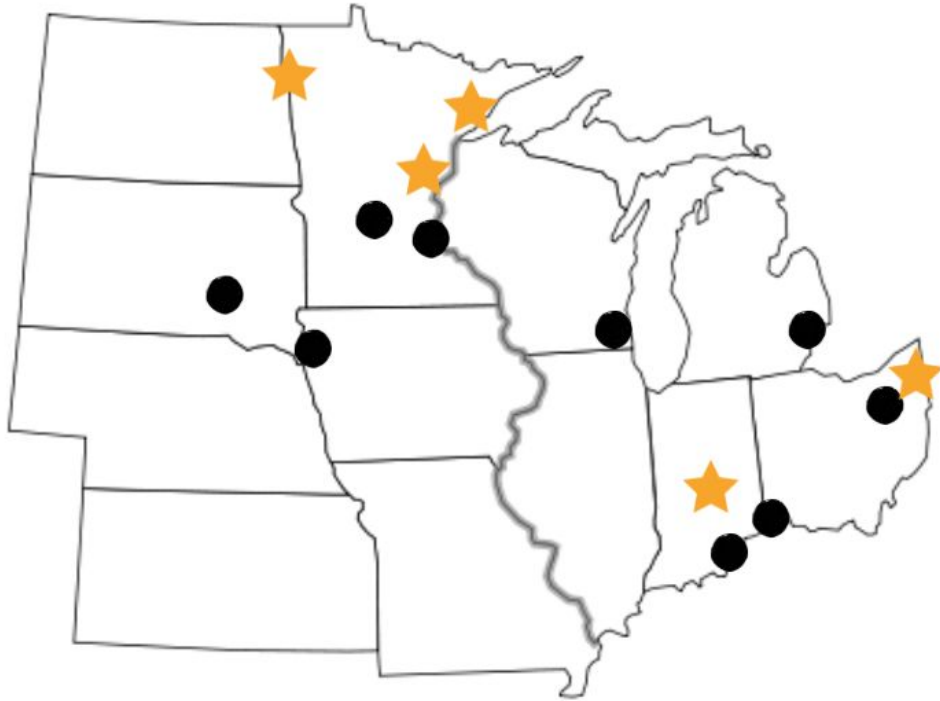
- Unique position of cities to communicate with residents
- Existing impact on residents' lives through public service delivery
- The League of Minnesota Cities mission of “Promoting excellence in local government” is well suited for this work

OUR METHODOLOGY

- *Phase I:* Literature review & online scan of current programs
 - Peer-reviewed sources
 - Search engines, City websites, Local news outlets, Nonprofit reports
 - Identified sample of cities with programs in place

- *Phase II:* Interviews with key informants
 - 7 interviews with mayors, public health officials, city staff, care providers
 - Identified catalysts and barriers to opioid response

PHASE I: SOME OF THE PROGRAMS IN PLACE IN THE MIDWEST



- **CINCINNATI, OH:** Analyzed EMS response data to map the major points in the city
- **SIoux CITY, IA:** All fire and police officers carrying Narcan
- **CLARKSVILLE, IN:** Widespread Narcan training for city employees
- **MILWAUKEE, WI:** Founded city-county heroin-opioid task force

PHASE II: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

- Mayor Dennis Buckley, *Beech Grove, Indiana*
- Michael Dulitz, Opioid Response Project Coordinator, *Grand Forks, North Dakota*
- Mayor Gerard Neugebauer, *Green, Ohio*
- Brad Vold, Morrison County Public Health Director, *Little Falls, Minnesota*
- Meagan Lambert-Irish, Substance Use Outreach Liaison, *Saco, Maine and Biddeford, Maine*
- Patrick Boyle, St. Louis County Public Health Chair, *Duluth, Minnesota*
- Sadie Holland, Prevention Education Manager, *MN Teen Challenge*

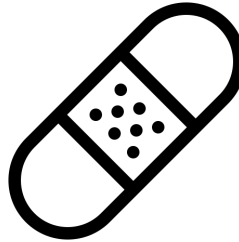
FIVE CATEGORIES OF OPIOID RESPONSE



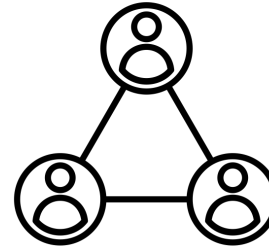
**MONITORING &
SURVEILLANCE**



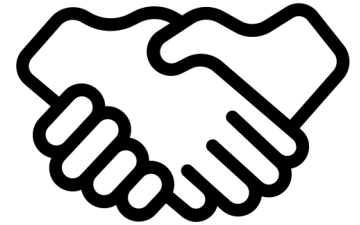
PREVENTION



**HARM
REDUCTION**




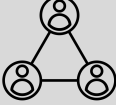



**LINKAGES TO
CARE**



**STAKEHOLDERS &
PARTNERSHIPS**

OVERVIEW OF INTERVIEWEE PROGRAM CATEGORIES

City/Organization	Population (2018)	 Monitoring & Surveillance	 Prevention	 Harm Reduction	 Linkages to Care	 Stakeholders & Partnerships
City of Beech Grove, IN	14,795		X		X	X
City of Grand Forks, ND	57,056		X	X	X	X
City of Green, OH	25,747			X		
Cities of Biddeford, ME & Saco, ME	21,27; 19,485				X	X
City of Little Falls, MN	8,343	X	X			X
City of Duluth, MN	85,884	X		X	X	X
Minnesota Teen Challenge/ <i>Know The Truth</i>	NA		X			X

KEY TAKEAWAYS

BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

- Lack of funding
- Small size & lack of Public Health Department
- Jurisdiction limitations

CATALYSTS FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

- Grants (State, Federal, or Non-profits)
- Collaboration with other entities & sectors
- “Motivated Mayor” or other charismatic City leaders

THE ROLE THAT CITIES CAN PLAY

- Messenger and Agenda-Setter
- Fundraiser and Grant Writer
- Two Key Response Types for Cities:

- Harm Reduction



- Stakeholder Engagement & Community Partnership



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Focused, qualitative research targeting county public health officials in Minnesota
- Program evaluation
- Look into the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Develop a meta-look at ongoing research across Minnesota

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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& All who shared their experience in interviews.