Opioid Crisis – California Fire Service Impact and Response

League of California Cities
Kristin Thompson, RN, EMS Division Chief
Newport Beach Fire Department
California Fire Service: Opiate Crisis Survey

45 Responses

Region 3 – #2

Region 2 – #3

Region 1 - #20

Region 2 - #20
Opiate Overdoses: Deaths

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*, Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021

*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 1/2023.
Poisonings: Counterfeit/fakes

- $\$, every state, online accessibility, Mexico
- Look alike/false marketing
- One pill can be lethal: 6/10
- Not legitimate medicine - lethal amount of fentanyl, carfentanyl
- Mixed into other drugs
Fire Service - Impacts

- Fire-Based EMS
- Increased call volume
- Increased opioid overdoses

![Bar chart showing percentage increase in different categories]

- 10-20% increase: 39%
- 30%+ increase: 22%
- 20-30% increase: 20%
- No increase: 15%
- Other: 10%
Fire Service - Impacts

- Opiate Overdose Responses - Community Served
  - Annually/last 2 years

- 100-500: 44%
- 50-100: 24%
- Other: 20%
- 100-1000: 10%
- 1000-2000: 2%
- 2000-3000: 2%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase OD's</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same person multiple times</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same area/location multiple times</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased deaths</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age OD's</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OD &quot;MCI's&quot; - Mult OD Patients</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric's</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other impacts</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Fire Service - Impacts on Budget

- Narcan purchases: 66%
- Personnel costs: 59%
- Other financial considerations: 17%
- Creating personnel positions: 14%
- Costs of private entity to assist: 7%
- Specific EMS units in place: 3%
Fire Service - Impacts on Budget

- Equipment/supplies utilized on responses
- Training equipment
- PPE
- Resuscitations – not transported
- OT – off duty personnel training
- Newly created positions
- Creating/Upstaffing specific units
- Program materials/marketing
Opioid Settlement Funds

- Dept did not receive funds: 40%
- Plans are in process to spend funds: 20%
- Funds managed by another governing body-no say: 18%
- Other: 16%
- Funds not supporting fire/EMS response: 4%
Opioid Settlement Fund Expenditures

- Specific criteria
- Audits
- Limited info for Fire-Based EMS

Bar chart showing the distribution of expenditures:

- Education/training materials: 48%
- Other: 44%
- Develop, support an Opiate...: 40%
- Narcan/Narcan Kits: 40%
- Equipment/supplies: 28%
- Personnel costs (Specialty): 24%
- Mobile unit: 16%
- Test Strips: 12%
- Hiring private company to...: 8%
- Treatment related: 8%
Fire Service Response: Education/Training Provided To:

- Community Events – 53%
- Employees of organization – 41%
- At-Risk populations – 41%
- Governing Bodies – 35%
- Businesses/Bars/Restaurants/Venues/hotels – 15%
- Jails/LE/Juvenile facilities
Fire Service Response: Education/Training Provided To:

- High Schools: Staff/Parents/Students
- Middle Schools: Staff/Parents/Students
- Elementary Schools: Staff/Parents/Students
- 15%-38%

- High Risk - Poisonings
Fire Service Response: Education/Training Content

- Narcan use/access - 70%
- Signs/symptoms - 70%
- CPR/Recovery position/911 access - 50%
- Fentanyl specifically - 50%
- Counterfeit/Poisonings - 40%
- Scope of crisis & prevention techniques - 30%
Education – Who is teaching?

- Firefighter paramedics: 45%
- Fire Service Nurses/Nurse Practitioners: 24%
- Firefighter EMTS: 18%
- Chiefs, Managers, Executive: 11%
- Contract company: 1%
Fire Service Response: Narcan Distribution

- "Leave Behind" program: 75%
- Other employees/departments: 25%
- Schools-staff: 22%
- At Fire stations: 19%
- Schools - students/and or parents: 13%
- Community events: 9%
- Fire dept Nurse Practioners/BH units: 10%
- Vending machines: 6%
- Major venues /events /bars /restraunts/...: 6%
- Other- Boys-Girls club, Juvenile Justice,...: 6%
Fire Service Response: Treatment

- Partner with sobering/addiction facilities – assist public
- Treatment assistance to firefighters with addiction
- EAP/Peer Support/Clinicians
- Social Services
- Medication (Buprenorphine) Pilot
Fire Service Response: Partnerships

- Law Enforcement – 75%
- County resources (Behavioral Health, Public Health, LEMSA, Social Services) – 40%
- Homeless outreach services – 37%
- Other fire departments – 29%
- Local Hospitals -29%
- State Entities-20%
- Narcan Distribution Project
- Private companies/vendors
- ODMAP-surveillance
California Fire Service: Impact and Response

- Complex issue
- Mitigating the effects
- Improving the health of our communities

- Q and A