

The Opioid Epidemic in Richmond and the Local Response

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City of Richmond Opioid Task Force
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City of Richmond Opioid Task Force

- Convened at the request of Councilmember Ellen Robertson
- Chief of Police brought stakeholders on board
- Current membership includes
Richmond City Health District, Richmond Police Department, Richmond Ambulance Authority, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Richmond City Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Friend of Prevention Coalition, Richmond City Human Services, others
- Full task force has convened 4 times; smaller subset meets more frequently

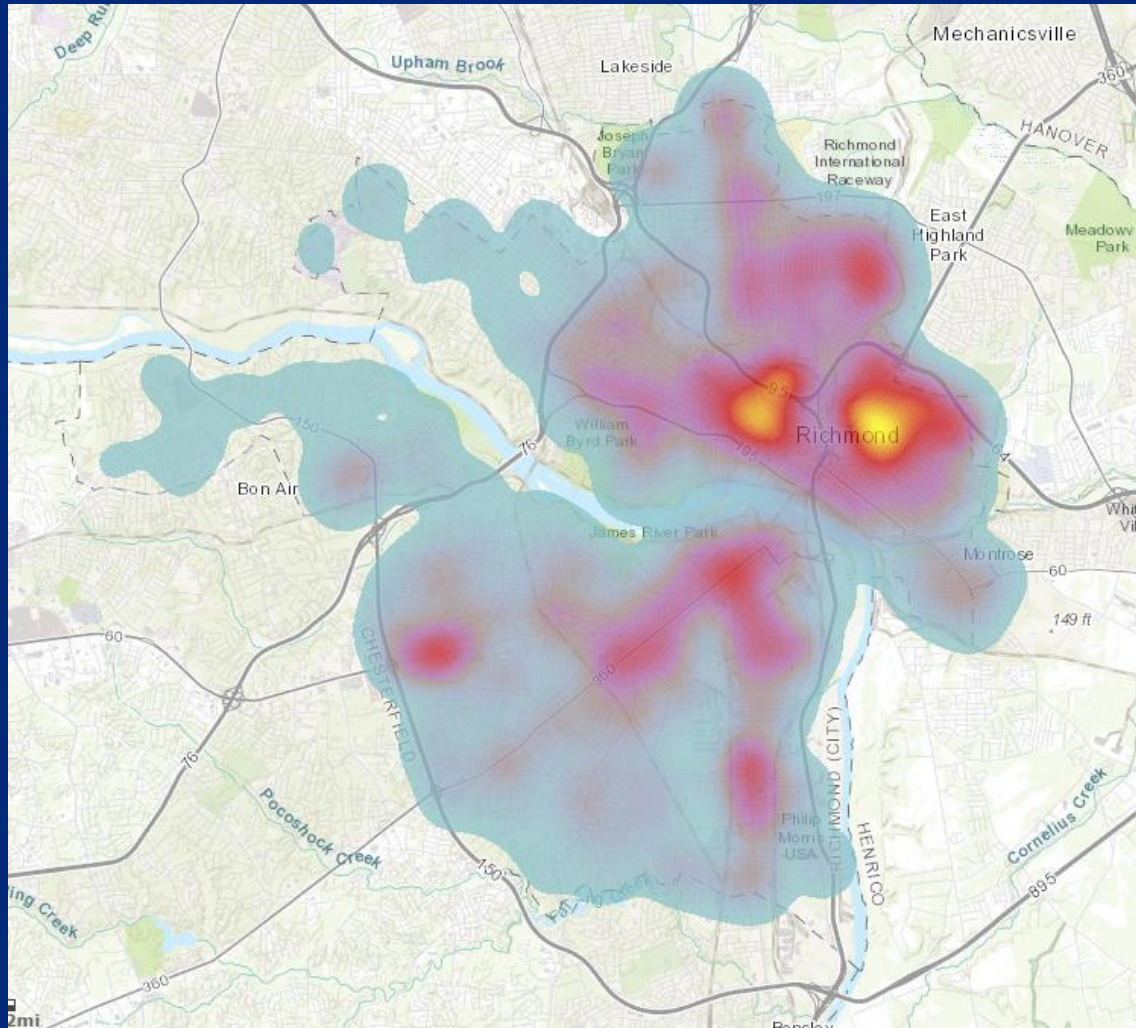


City of Richmond Opioid Task Force: Objectives

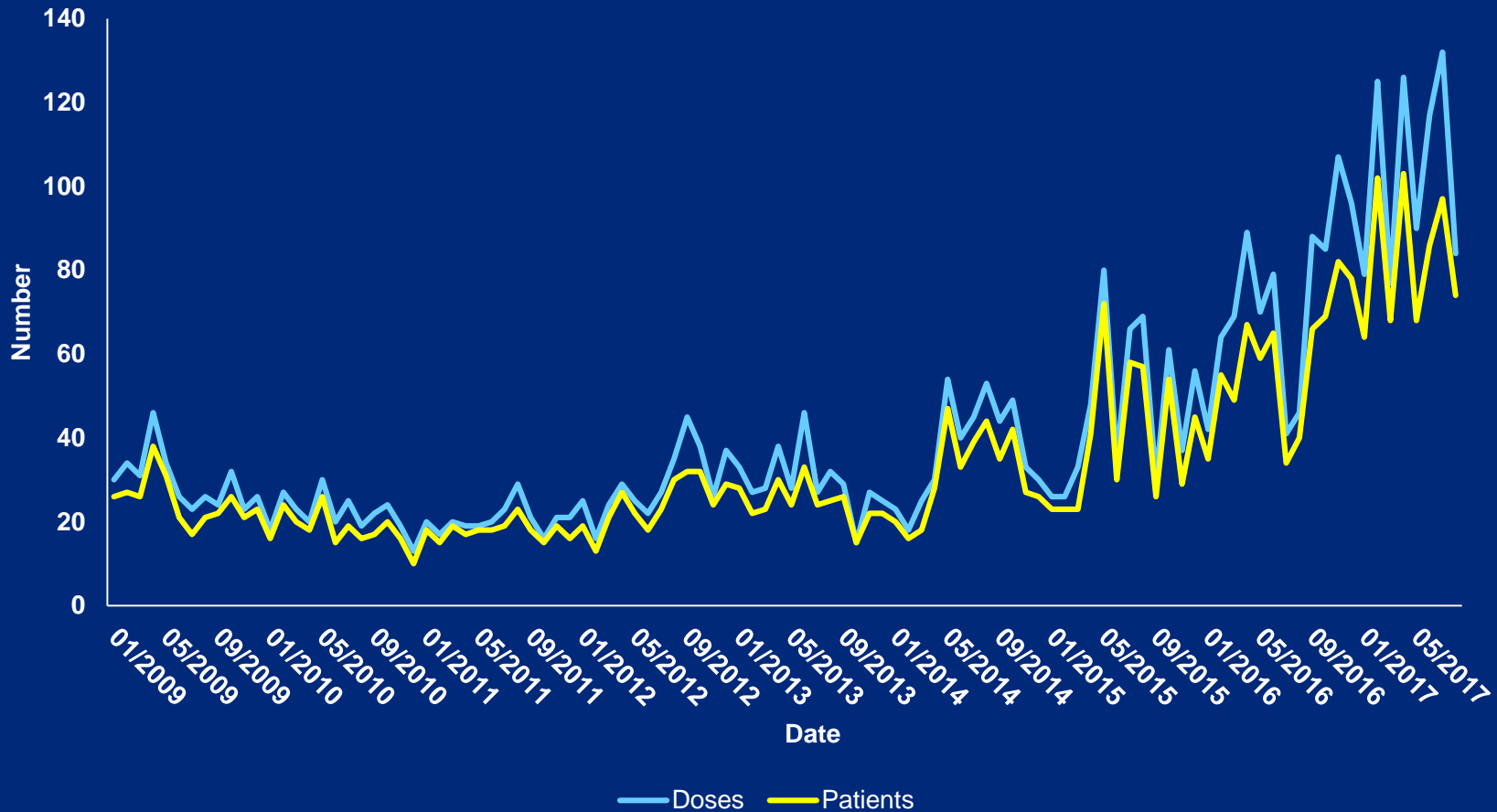
- *Strengthen the capacity of the City of Richmond to collaboratively plan, align, and execute community-driven approaches to address the opiate epidemic with strategies focused on prevention, reducing harm, and treatment and recovery, through*
 - Interagency information sharing
 - Steering, coordinating, and aligning priorities and opiate response activities
 - Identifying gaps in our response and resource needs to correct them

The Opiate Epidemic In Richmond

EMS Calls for Suspect Overdoses, Richmond Ambulance Authority, Jan 2016 – June 2017



EMS Naloxone Administration, Richmond Ambulance Authority, Jan 2009 – May 2017



Rate of Fatal Opioid Overdoses— Richmond City and Statewide, 2007 – 2017 (3rd Qtr)



Response to the Opioid Epidemic: Policy and Best Practice Considerations

- **Specific approaches tailored to locality, but common themes emerge**
- **Generally a multi-pronged approach**
- **Prevention**
 - **Raise public awareness**
 - **Fewer pills in circulation**
 - **Change prescribing (guidelines, limitations)**
 - **Prescription monitoring programs**
 - **Drug take-back programs**
 - **Reduce “pill mills”**
 - **Utilize partners across sectors**
 - **Share and use data to monitor trends, target interventions**

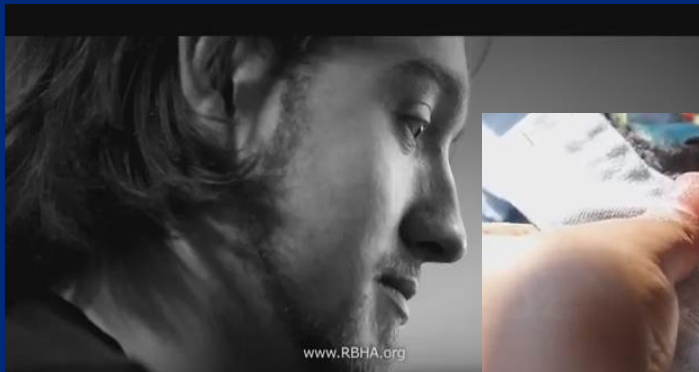
Response to the Opioid Epidemic: Policy and Best Practice Considerations (2)

- **Intervention/Treatment and Harm Reduction**
 - **Increase access to Medication Assisted Therapy**
 - **Change payment policies**
 - **Expand and strengthen workforce and infrastructure**
 - **Create linkages to MAT and treatment**
 - **Increase access in correctional facilities**
 - **Increase access to naloxone and training**
 - **Consider needle exchange, supervised injection sites**
 - **Good Samaritan/safe reporting laws**
 - **Educate and reduce stigma**
 - **Strengthen pre-trial diversion programs connecting to substance abuse treatment**

Response to the Opioid Epidemic at the Local Level

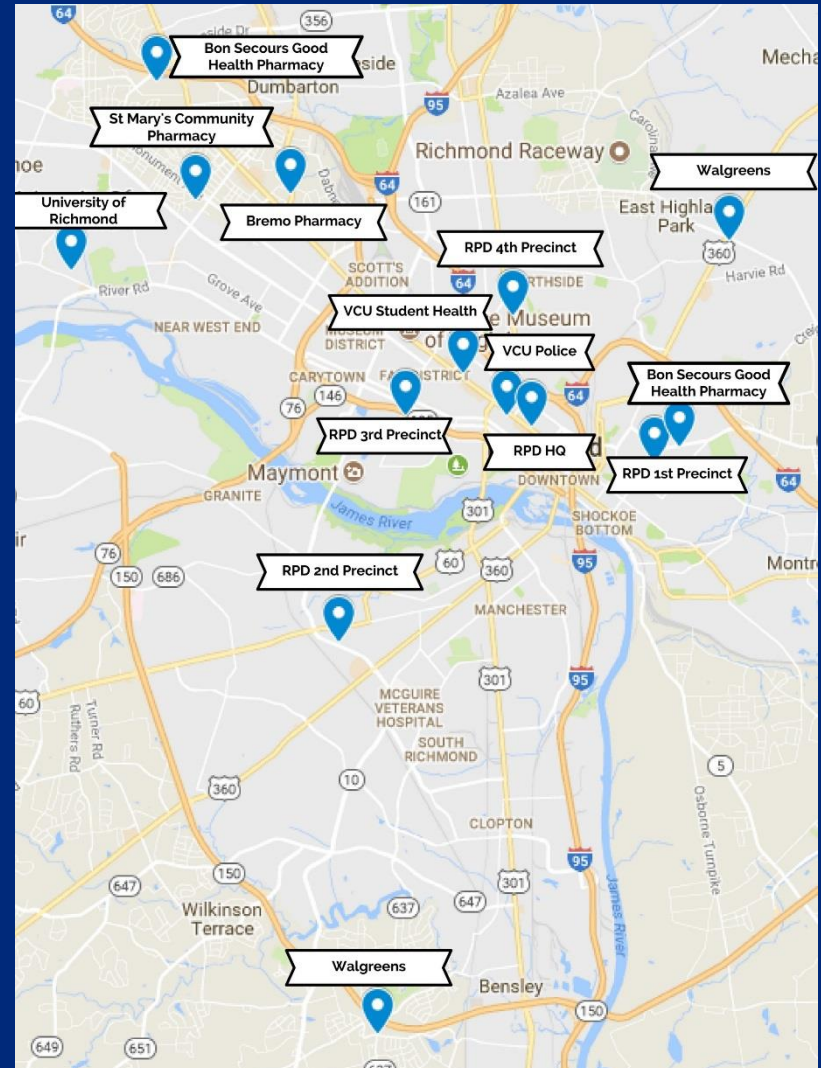
Prevention

- Raising awareness, education
 - Media and educational outreach
 - Comcast Spotlight commercials
 - RBHA & FOPC Young Adult Socials
 - School-based intervention pilot (RPS)
 - Mayor's Youth Academy: Too Good for Drugs
 - REVIVE RVA regional summit



Prevention

- Decreasing chances for misuse
 - Drug disposal bins
 - Drug disposal kits (RCHD, RBHA, Walmart)
 - Education on drug disposal in utility bills
- Moderating prescribing
 - Board of Medicine opioid prescribing regulations
 - Prescription Monitoring Program



Treatment and Recovery

- Increasing awareness of and access to treatment
 - Targeted referrals after overdose, resource cards/list
 - Alive RVA peer recovery warm line
 - Non-profit organization support (VRF)

ADDICTION RECOVERY SUPPORT WARM LINE

1-833-4PEERVA
(1-833-473-3782)

**Peer Recovery
Warm Line**

*Treatment Resources
Recovery Supports
Housing, Food &
Health Resources*

*You don't have to
face this alone.
Call us.*

We encourage those
struggling with
addiction, their loved
ones & community
members to reach out.



Alive RVA Warm Line
8:00 am - 12:00 midnight
7 days/week

Talk to trained individuals with lived experience in
addiction recovery. Safe and confidential.
We're here to help.

Alive RVA Project Partners:
Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia;
Mental Health America of Virginia; Friends 4 Recovery;
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority; Chesterfield Mental Health Support Services
& Goochland-Powhatan Community Services Board

Treatment and Recovery

- **Increasing treatment capacity**
 - **Construction ongoing at RBHA North Campus, increasing Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT)**
 - **Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services**
 - **Access to substance abuse treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries**
 - **24 area facilities, clinics, providers in ARTS network**



Harm Reduction

- Reducing harms
 - REVIVE! layperson training for opiate overdose response
 - Naloxone (opioid overdose antidote) available without a prescription in pharmacies
 - Naloxone can also be obtained free of charge through RCHD
 - 314 kits already dispensed to date
 - Targeted for those who might otherwise not be able to obtain naloxone



Legislative Impacts

- **2017 Legislation**
 - **Federal**
 - **Cures Act: OPT-R funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery**
 - **State**
 - **DMAS ARTS benefit**
 - **Safe overdose reporting (§ 18.2-251.03)**
 - **Comprehensive harm reduction (§ 32.1-45.4)**
- **2018 Legislation**
 - **General Assembly in session**
 - **Several bills increasing use of PMP, data sharing, naloxone expansion, drug disposal**
 - **No formal support for specific bills at this point from Task Force**
 - **Medicaid Expansion—implications for ARTS**

Future Policy Considerations

- Recent state and federal funding and legislation have facilitated implementation of best practices
 - Further work still to be done
- Would benefit from City-level funding and policies that support or advance existing best practice initiatives
 - Advocacy for Medicaid expansion will increase access to care
 - Funding support for Task Force member budgetary requests
- City of Richmond Task Force continues to consider additional actions
 - Specific legislative requests tailored to the City may be forthcoming

Thanks!

