

# Louisiana's Opioid Response Plan: A Summary

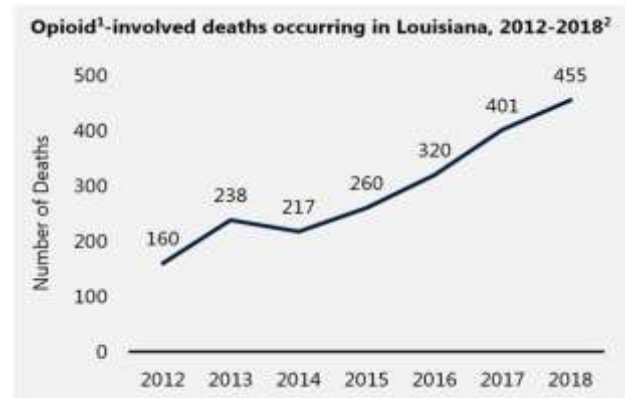
## *A Roadmap to Decreasing the Effects of the Opioid Epidemic*

*Prepared by: Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Opioid Steering Committee*

### Background:

#### The Numbers Are Staggering

- ❖ In 2018, more than 450 Louisianans died of opioid-involved overdoses, a 13.5% increase from 2017<sup>1</sup>, the highest number of opioid-related deaths on record in Louisiana.
- ❖ Deaths involving heroin show a steady increase, but deaths involving fentanyl have increased by almost 800% since 2014.
- ❖ Louisiana ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for opioid prescribing rates<sup>2</sup>, and has consistently prescribed well above average.



### Vision

*The mission of the Department of Health is to protect and promote health and to ensure access to medical, preventative and rehabilitative services for all people in Louisiana. This has never been more critical than in the Department's response to the opioid epidemic at hand. The vision of the Opioid Response Plan is to target the disease of opioid addiction at all levels: socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually and to provide a continuum that supports a lifetime of recovery for all those affected by this disease. LDH intends to leverage the intense national, state and local focus on the opioid response to the benefit of all substance use disorder treatment services across the spectrum of addiction. Through widespread public education, aggressive prevention campaigns and quality treatment services, LDH will address this debilitating epidemic and transform lives, families, and communities, one person at a time.*

### Collaborative Efforts:

#### The Epidemic Demands a Response

Louisiana recognized a rapid escalation in the opioid prescription rate and the drug overdose rate as a public health epidemic. In collaboration with its partners, LDH identified **five pillars** upon which to build the state's response to the opioid epidemic: **surveillance, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery**. The Louisiana Opioid Response Plan (LORP), released in September 2019, is responsive to expert recommendations and public comments, incorporates legislative mandates, applies quantitative and qualitative analysis of state opioid

related overdose data, combines the individual and collective wisdom of state officials in the Office of Behavioral Health, the Office of Public Health, and Medicaid, and expresses LDH's commitment to end the devastation experienced in our state by the opioid epidemic. LORP is built upon strong partnerships that maximize state, local and private resources in the efforts against the opioid epidemic. Those efforts and the key partners at the forefront of this response are described in detail in the LORP.

<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Electronic Event Registration System, OPH Bureau of Vital Records

<sup>2</sup> US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

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*To address the opioid epidemic, LDH developed an Opioid Response Plan, which describes in detail the initiatives, campaigns and strategic activities currently underway and planned in furtherance of the Department's overall mission and goals. Also detailed in the plan are the laws, regulations, policies and guidelines which support and define this mission. With a focus on better data, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services, LDH will improve health, in addition to social and economic consequences associated with opioid misuse and addiction.*

#### Data

- ✓ Analyze opioid-related deaths and potential reasons for variability and under-reporting
- ✓ Disseminate data products to explain the impact of opioid-related events
- ✓ Build shared use of data to create a more focused response to the epidemic

#### Prevention

- ✓ Increase access to and utilization of the Prescription Monitoring Program by prescribers
- ✓ Increase awareness and education for prevention and treatment of opioid use, misuse, and abuse
- ✓ Educate the general public through a public awareness and outreach campaign
- ✓ Utilize evidence-based prevention techniques to educate the public with a special focus in schools
- ✓ Expand the treatment option array to include non-opioid alternatives

#### Intervention

- ✓ Educate the public about Good Samaritan Laws
- ✓ Reduce harm through Syringe Service Programs
- ✓ Increase access to prescription drop boxes and medication disposal bags



#### Treatment Services

- ✓ Expand evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services for people with an OUD diagnosis
- ✓ Implement the hub and spoke model
- ✓ Increase Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) workforce available statewide
- ✓ Increase treatment focus for populations with special needs
- ✓ Focus on quality treatment services

#### Recovery

- ✓ Expand understanding and utilization of peer supports
- ✓ Support recovery homes in the SUD continuum of care

For more information about the Department's opioid initiatives, please visit [OpioidHelpLa.org](http://OpioidHelpLa.org).