



# SOUTHWEST COLORADO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

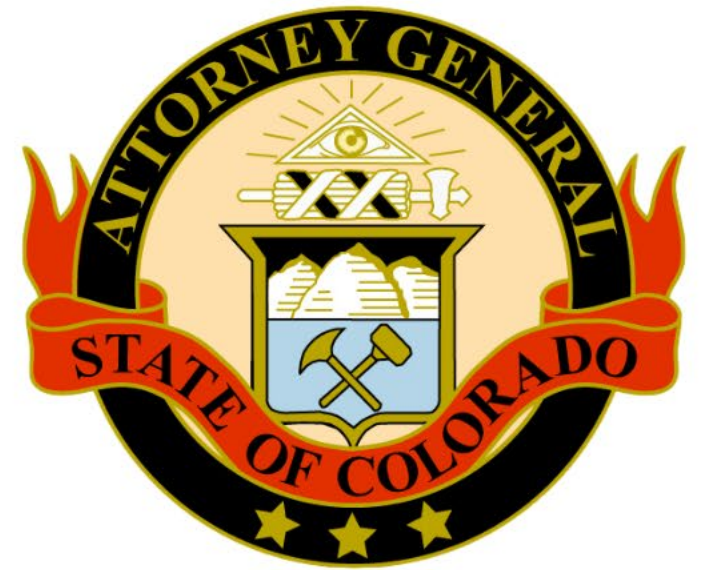
## **Special Meeting**

Thursday, 8 October 2020  
12:30 – 1:30 pm

Remote Meeting Only  
Zoom ID: 964 1237 6617

State Opioid Response Presentation

**"Together, we serve the people of Colorado, advancing the rule of law, protecting our democracy, and promoting justice for all."**





# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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**PHIL WEISER**

Colorado Attorney General



**HEIDI WILLIAMS**

Director, Opioid Response



# AG Weiser's Priorities

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**Defending the Rule of Law**

**Addressing the Opioid Epidemic**

**Improving the Criminal Justice System**

**Protecting Consumers**

**Protecting Our Land, Air, and Water**

**Community Engagement**

# WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

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For this discussion, opioids are considered any type of prescription opioids, illicit/black-market opioids, heroin and Fentanyl.



# The Problem

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- Colorado has lost over 5000 people to opioid overdose in the past 10 years
- An estimated additional 2000 people have lost their lives to fentanyl and heroin
- Roughly 70% of people who use heroin report they used opioid medications first
- Our state has only around 30% of the total drug treatment capacity we need.

**Current proposed settlements with Johnson & Johnson and three large distributors provide significantly more settlement funds to Colorado if local governments join in the settlement.**



CDPHE. (n.d.). Counts of drug overdose deaths due to any opioid in Colorado, 2010-2019. Retrieved from [https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/PSDVIP-MHPPUBLIC/views/DrugOverdoseDashboard/PoisoningDeathFrequencies?iframeSizedToWindow=true&display\\_count=n&showAppBanner=false&origin=viz\\_share\\_link&showVizHome=n&isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&embed=y](https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/PSDVIP-MHPPUBLIC/views/DrugOverdoseDashboard/PoisoningDeathFrequencies?iframeSizedToWindow=true&display_count=n&showAppBanner=false&origin=viz_share_link&showVizHome=n&isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&embed=y)

Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Consortium. (n.d.). Heroin in Colorado (p. 3. Rep.). doi:<http://www.corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/Heroin-in-Colorado-FINAL-April-2017.pdf>

Brown, J. (2020, June 28). Opioid crisis in Colorado could get worse amid pandemic. Retrieved August 6, 2020, from <https://apnews.com/bf1c11ac45d63808ffae945c750cd81>

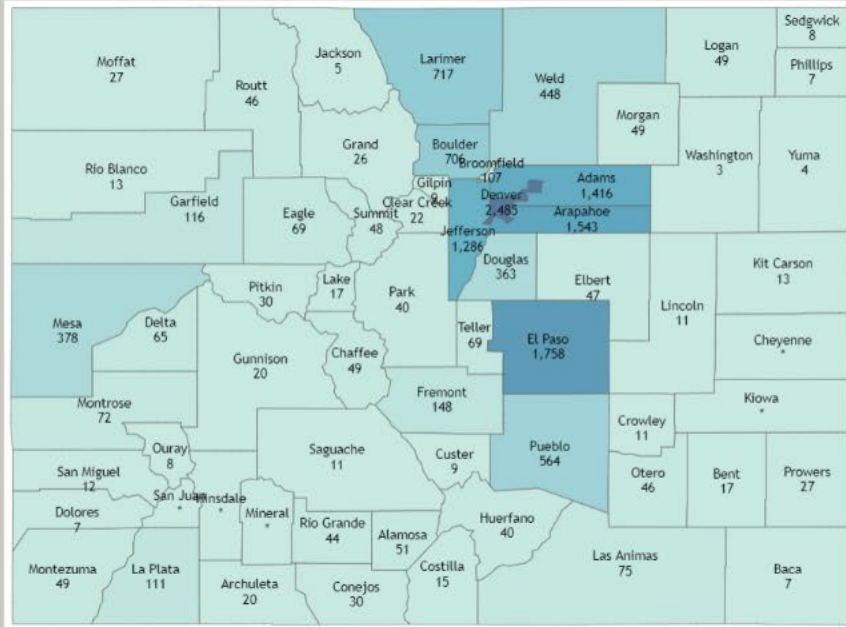


- Our criminal justice system is now addressing this public health crisis. In Alamosa County, for example, 90% of those in county jail are addicted to opioids
- One third of people with opioid use disorder (OUD) have been involved with the criminal justice system in the previous year.
- Despite robust evidence showing the effectiveness of addiction treatment in correctional facilities, people with OUD who are incarcerated rarely receive medication. Reentry into the community can be a dangerous time: people recently released from prison are 129 times more likely than the general population to die of an overdose.
- Our society criminalizes the disease of addiction and stigmatizes patients. We often force people, many of whom are stable on maintenance medication, to experience painful and dangerous opiate withdrawal by failing to offer such medication when they're incarcerated

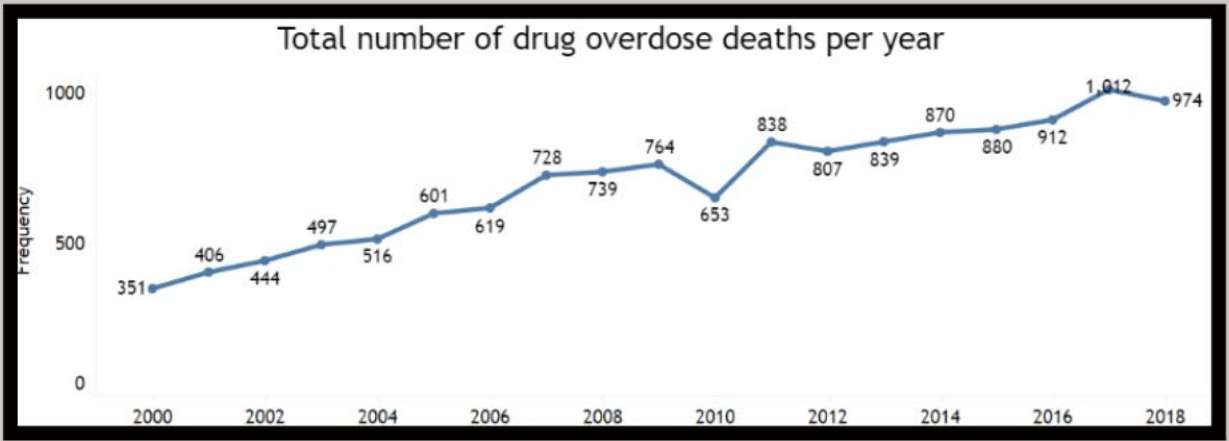
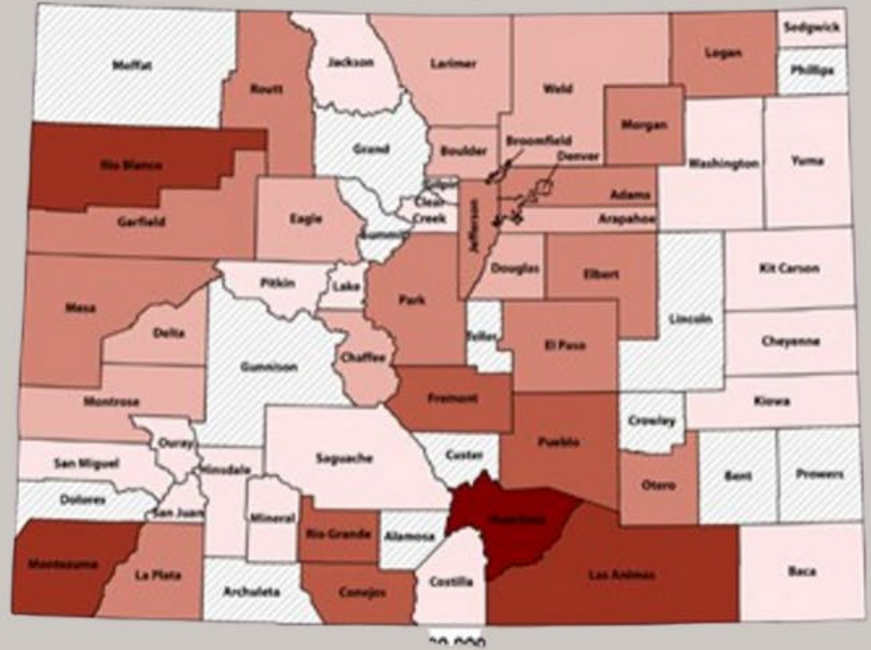
Sherry, A. (2019, July 01). Colorado's Opioid Crisis Fuels Alamosa's Jail Overcrowding. Retrieved from <https://www.cpr.org/2018/03/29/colorados-opioid-crisis-fuels-alamosas-jail-overcrowding/>

Berk, J. (2020). A Good Place to Start — Low-Threshold Buprenorphine Initiation. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 383(8), 701-703. doi:10.1056/nejmp2017363

Counts of drug overdose deaths due to any drug in Colorado, 2000-2018



Colorado Drug Overdose Death Rate 2016





# OPIOID RESPONSE



**2018**

Filed lawsuit  
against Purdue  
Pharma

**2019**

Amended lawsuit  
to include Sackler  
family

**2020**

Ongoing litigation

**2020**

Heidi Williams,  
Director of Opioid  
Response



|                   |                           |                         |                      |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| LOCAL GOVERNMENTS | TREATMENT PROVIDERS       | LAW ENFORCEMENT         | PUBLIC HEALTH        | CORONERS            |
| NON PROFITS       | BUSINESS LEADERS          | COLLABORATIVE CARE      | STATE DEPARTMENTS    | FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS |
| FAITH COMMUNITIES | PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS | UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | TRIBES              |

**SUCCESSSES** *↳* **CHALLENGES** *↳* **GAPS**

# ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

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## PREVENTION, EDUCATION

**Widespread prevention and education efforts among communities**

## TREATMENT

**Evidence-based treatment models**

## RECOVERY

**Evidence-based recovery models**

# PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

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Youth/Family/  
Sports/Rural  
Prevention and  
Education

Mental Health and  
OUD Screenings -  
Primary Care

Drug Take Back,  
Naloxone  
Distribution and  
Education

Safe Prescribing  
Practices/PDMP

Reduce  
Stigma\*

\*Should be addressed throughout

# TREATMENT

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Medication Assisted  
Treatment -  
Inpatient,  
Outpatient, Jails

Workforce;  
Employer Programs\*

Address Dual  
Diagnosis

Gender Relevant  
Models for  
Substance Use  
Disorder,  
including Youth

Transportation\*

\*Should be addressed throughout

# RECOVERY

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Ongoing Medication  
Assisted Treatment

Sober Living

Community Support  
Programs\*

Peer  
Support

Reintegration  
Support

\*Should be addressed throughout

# Other Areas of Focus

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Jail MAT  
Inpatient Treatment  
Reintegration  
Ongoing MAT



## SYRINGE ACCESS

Safe Syringe Access  
Safe Syringe Disposal



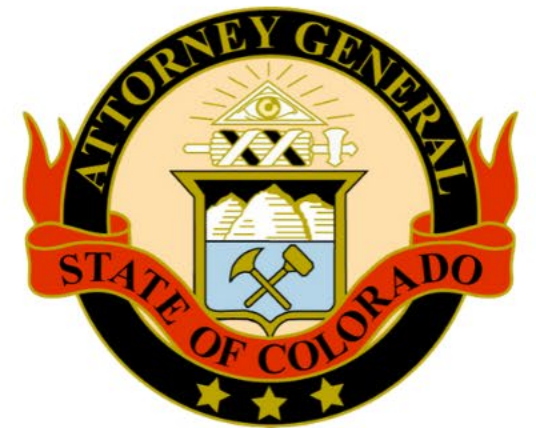
## FUNDING

Collaboration  
Innovation  
Partnerships

# We Want to Hear from You

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Please tell us about any successes, challenges, and gaps related to opioids in your community.







**THANK YOU**