



Chaffee County Public Health

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Harm Reduction Efforts in Chaffee County and HSR13

History

- In Chaffee County from 2012-2014, there were 15 ED visits involving prescription opioids. Of the 64 Colorado counties, 28 were suppressed due to small sample sizes. Chaffee County had the fifth highest ED visit rate in the state, placing it in the highest quintile range and higher than the state rate.
- In 2017, Fremont County Public Health applied for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention for Communities grant on behalf of HSR13. This project served to increase local public health agency capacity to engage in evidence-informed prevention activities to address prescription drug overdose morbidity and mortality. This funding supported the implementation and dissemination of community interventions aimed at preventing prescription drug misuse, abuse, and overdose in high-burden counties in Colorado.
- In 2018, the Substance Abuse Regional Coalition (SARC) was formed ***“To address substance abuse by promoting and supporting Prevention, Treatment, Recovery and Harm-Reduction Activities.”***

Naloxone/Narcan as a Harm Reduction Strategy

- Chaffee County
 - trained 15 officers at Salida Police Department
 - trained about 18 officers at the Sheriff’s Department
 - trained 10 community members at the Congregational Church in Buena Vista
 - talked about the value of Narcan at 10 community events
- Fremont County- trained several community groups
- Custer County- Narcan trainings are given by the public health director with each CPR training
- Barriers
 - Stigma
 - Community member: “I hate it that now we’re being told to learn how to use Narcan on these junkies. I just wish they would all die. They made their own bed and they don’t deserve to live if they overdose.”
 - Law enforcement: Though they eventually came around to having the training, the original comments were about how we don’t really have a big problem in Chaffee and Custer Counties, so there’s no need to carry. Besides, “our EMT’s get on scene fast enough, so we don’t need to know how to use Narcan.” Another LE comment has been, “We’re tired of always dealing with the same people over and over again. Why

bring them back if they're going to overdose again tomorrow or next week?"

- Regional Work
- Successes
 - Public Health as neutral convener, strong relationships
 - Normalization of harm reduction strategies, culture shift
- Funding
 - Regional Health Connector- Colorado Health Institute and Trailhead Institute
 - CDPHE
 - Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (Planning)- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)