

Opioid Crisis Town Hall: Library Needs and Responses

WebJunction and Public Library Association

September 12, 2017

#libsopioidtownhall



Resources

On WebJunction:

[Opioid Crisis: Libraries, Resources, Context and Data](#)

Use new Facebook group to share additional news, resources, and library responses:

[Libraries and the Opioid Crisis](#)

Agenda

- The opioid crisis impacts libraries – an overview
 - How is your library impacted by the opioid abuse epidemic?
- Crisis response at the library
 - Interacting with patrons in crisis
 - Direct intervention
 - Community support networks
- Wrap up
 - What do you think is the single most important response for a public library in this crisis?

Moderators and Panelists



Betha Gutsche
WebJunction
Program Manager



Jennifer Peterson
WebJunction
Community Manager



Rachel Fewell
Central Library
Administrator,
Denver Public Library
(CO)



Kim Fender
Director, Public
Library of Cincinnati
and Hamilton
County (OH)



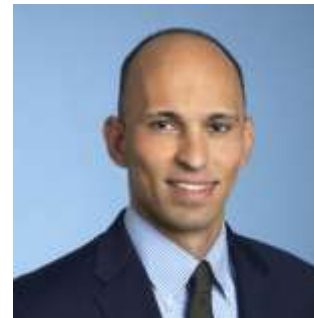
Vanessa Christman
Assistant Director,
Santa Barbara Public
Library, recently at
Humboldt County
Public Library (CA)



Dana Murguía
Sr. Program Manager,
Public Health, Healthy
Communities,
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Shawn Cunningham
Director of
Communications and
Strategic Initiatives,
Multnomah County
Public Library (OR)



Hadi Sedigh
Associate Legislative
Director for Justice &
Public Safety, National
Association of
Counties

The opioid crisis impacts libraries

An overview

A national crisis

- Since 2013, overdose has surpassed car crash as the leading cause of preventable death
- 61% of overdose deaths involve an opioid (including heroin)
- At least half overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid



<https://pixabay.com/en/drugs-heroin-injection-syringe-154210/>

– Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014

Libraries are on the frontlines

- Drug use in the library
- Discarded needles
- Onsite overdoses and fatalities

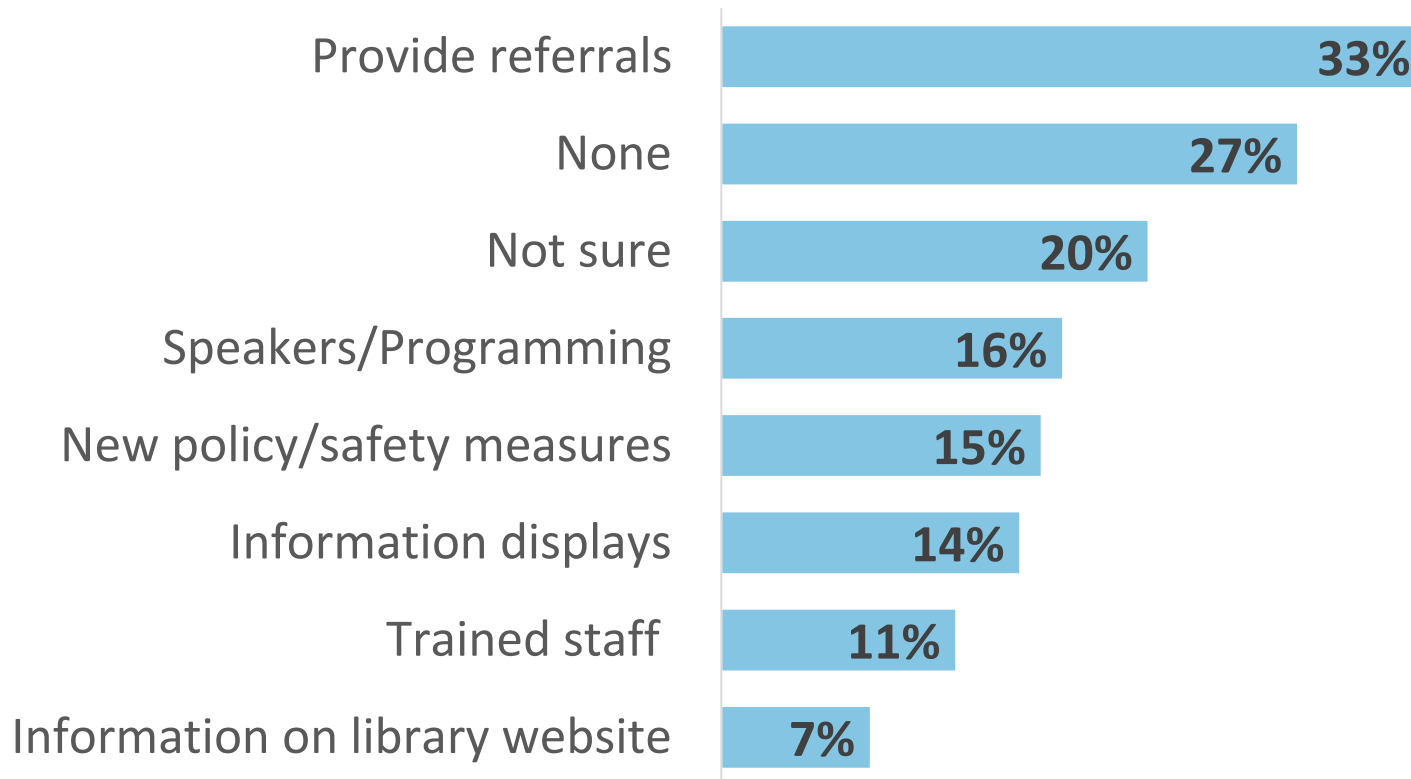
“libraries are ...uniquely vulnerable to those seeking a place to use drugs.”

– [American Libraries, June 21, 2017](#)

How is your library
(or your community)
impacted by the opioid
abuse epidemic?

Crisis responses at the library

Library Responses: what we heard from you



Town hall discussion

- ❑ Interacting with patrons in crisis
- ❑ Direct intervention
- ❑ Working with community agents and partners

Topic 1 – Interacting with patrons in crisis

Potential issues

- Recognition and assessment
- Effective engagement
- Confidentiality and patron privacy
- Policy adjustments
- Public education

Approaching opioid abuse in Denver

Department of Environmental Health

- Opioid Specialist
- Harm Reduction Action Center



Rachel Fewell
Central Library
Administrator,
Denver Public Library
(CO)

Denver police department – “co-responder” program
funded by Denver Human Services

Denver Public Library – biweekly meetings with mayor’s
office and multiple city agencies

Community Resource Specialist Team

- Two Social workers
- Five Peer Navigators



Training for DPL Staff

Social worker-led training

- Trauma-informed systems of care
- Finding resiliency
- Homelessness 101
- Mental health first aid

General HR/City agency provided training

- “Sharps” and hazardous materials training
- Safety at DPL
- Narcan training – 62 staff members trained throughout the system
- Social workers with security staff

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County



Kim Fender
Director, Public
Library of Cincinnati
and Hamilton County
(OH)

- Our library is not part of the city or county
- Our staff does not administer naloxone
- Rely on first responders, including a special detail police officer in our Main Library afternoons and evenings

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

- Overdoses almost exclusively at Main Library – average 1 per week
- Only 2 branches have had an overdose – both also in Cincinnati
- Becoming more public – not just in restrooms
- No arrest or transport
- Staff need to recognize overdose – now assume anyone non-responsive has overdosed

Partnerships Developing

- Working with police
- Hamilton County heroin Coalition

Topic 2 - Direct intervention

- Overview of naloxone
- The pros and cons of training library staff as first responders who can administer overdose antidotes

Opiates are a type of medication or drug

- Heroin
- Oxycontin
- Morphine
- Codeine
- Fentanyl
- Hydrocodone
- Methadone

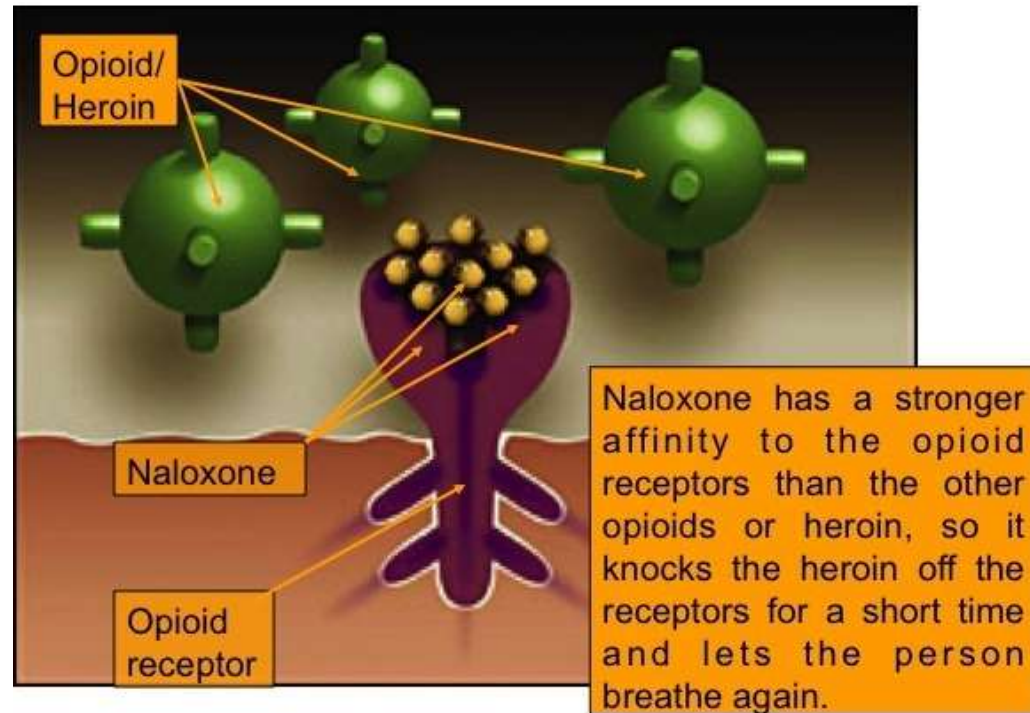


Dana Murguía

Sr. Program Manager,
Public Health, Healthy
Communities,
Humboldt County,
DHHS

What is naloxone?

- Brand name Narcan
- Opiate antagonist
- No abuse potential
- Works **ONLY** for opioids



Naloxone distribution in Humboldt County

Naloxone distribution began in 2003

- Overdose death rate in 2003 was 18 times higher than national average
- After one year, opiate overdose deaths decreased by 42%

In 2016

- 1,526 naloxone kits distributed
 - No adverse events reported
- 116 reported overdoses reversals with no adverse effects
 - One reversal reported by law enforcement agency

Addressing Legal Concerns

- Laws vary by state
- Good Samaritan Laws
- From the Network for Public Health Law, [resource](#) summarizes naloxone access and Good Samaritan laws

Humboldt County Public Library

- Collaboration and staff training is important first step
- Training included spotting overdose; led to our quicker response inside and outside of facility
- Important considerations moving forward
 - Ongoing discussion and training
 - Transparency/clarity in who responds and reports
 - Training a coalition of library staff
 - Setting up systems for training in light of staff turnover



Vanessa Christman
Assistant Director,
Santa Barbara Public
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Communication

- Messaging to stakeholders and the public
 - Security incident reports/reports to the public
 - Interacting with law enforcement: It's sometimes complicated
- “Bad reputation” concerns
- Owning it = ongoing discussions, outreach, and programming
- Being a conduit for community education

Topic 3 - Community support networks

- Who and how to connect with community agents and partners to address the opioid crisis

Partnerships and paths forward

A community problem

- Libraries: open spaces
- Opioid abuse and overdose are complex issues
- Coordination is key

Turn to partners

- Look to leaders as champions
- Build and deepen relationships
- Rethink how partners can contribute

Look for new approaches

- Borrow and adopt successful strategies
- Be creative
- Support staff

Focus on solutions

- Relationships are key
- Acknowledge limitations
- Resilience is vital



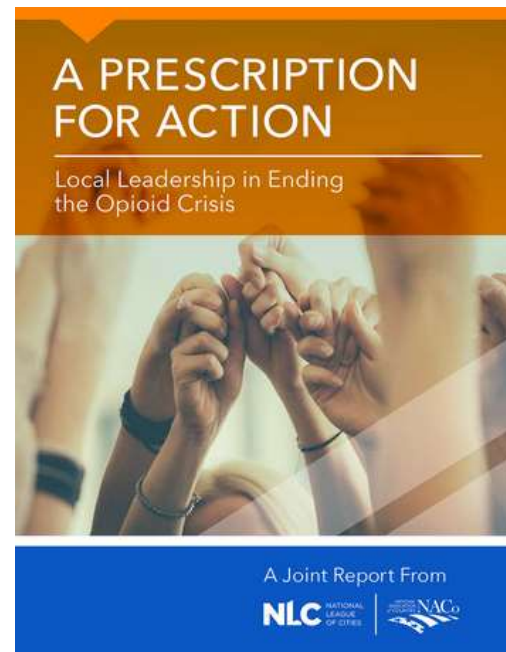
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Whole-community effort



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- Ways to start the conversation, establish a task force
- Whom to potentially partner with, what relationships to develop

Wrap up

What do you think is the single most important response for a public library in this crisis?

THANK YOU!

Insights gleaned from this town hall will be shared to inform plans for future efforts.

New Facebook group: [Libraries and the Opioid Crisis](#)

