Police and Overdose in Portland

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Outside In

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Multnomah County Health Department

National Harm Reduction Conference
November 16, 2012
Agenda

1. Portland and trends
2. Overdose survey
3. Our work
4. Our plans
Multnomah County Health Department
Syringe exchange trends
2008 - 2011
SEP visits - ↑ 27%

- 2008: 31,906
- 2009: 43,400
- 2010: 40,556
- 2011: 2008
Syringes given - ↑ 54%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>OI (n = 2,490)</th>
<th>MCHD (n = 795)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt; 30</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless/unstable</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary meth use</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unduplicated outpatient and residential admissions for heroin, Multnomah County

Source: Oregon Health Authority, CPMS Data
## Syringe exchange survey

**Dec 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
2. Female  
3. Trans MTF  
4. Trans FTM  
5. Other |
| 2. Do you identify as Latino or Hispanic?                               | 0. No  
1. Yes |
| 3. What race are you? (circle all that apply)                           | 1. White  
2. Black/Afr-Amer  
3. Native Amer/Alask Nat  
4. Native Haw/PI  
5. Asian/S Asian  
6. Other |
| 4. How old are you?                                                     | __________ |
| 5. What is the highest level of education you completed?                | 1. Grade 11 or less  
2. High school or GED  
3. Some college  
4. Bachelor’s or more |
| 6. Are you in school now?                                               | 0. No  
1. Yes |
| 7. Do you consider yourself to be:                                       | 1. Bisexual  
2. Gay or lesbian  
3. Heterosexual or “straight”  
4. Other:  |
| 8. What best describes your current living situation? (use response card) | 1. Permanent housing/own  
2. Permanent housing, other  
3. Temporary or unstable housing  
4. Homeless |
| 9. What zip code do you live in (or did you sleep in last night)? (If you don’t know, what neighborhood or city?) | __________ |
| 10. Which of these drugs have you used in the last 3 months? Which have you injected (last 3 months)? | a. Speedballs... (H & C together)  
   b. Goofballs... (H & meth together)  
   c. Heroin (by itself)  
   d. Powdered cocaine (by itself)  
   e. Crack cocaine (by itself)  
   f. Methamphetamine (by itself)  
   g. Methadone...  
   h. Buprenorphine/suboxone...  
   i. Opiate pain med:s like OxyContin or Vicodin...  
   j. Benzos/downers like Valium, Xanax, Klonopin...  
   k. Alcohol...  
   l. Other: __________ |

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No use  
Used  
Injected
## Survey Sample Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>vs. 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># participants</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>+61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (mean)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>no change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What drugs did they use in the last 3 months?

- Heroin: 86% (↑ 11%)
- Alcohol: 53% (↓ 8%)
- Meth: 49% (↑ 11%)
- Cocaine: 46% (↓ 8%)
- Benzos: 44% (↑ 5%)
- Bupe: 33%
- Speedballs: 32% (↓ 10%)
- Rx opiates: 27% (↓ 7%)
- Methadone: 19%
Overdose (n=438)

- **Lifetime**: 58% (+6% vs. 2010)
- **In last year**: 23% (+5% vs. 2010)
Who overdosed in the last year?

1. Younger participants
2. Newer to injecting
3. Mixing opiates with benzos or alcohol
4. Using and injecting more types of drugs
5. Witnessed OD
6. Sharing syringes and paraphernalia
7. Did survey at OI
The last time you saw someone OD...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Portland n = 255</th>
<th>Seattle n = 170</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Called 911</td>
<td>135 (53%)</td>
<td>85 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Police showed up</td>
<td>97 (72%)</td>
<td>53 (62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Police confiscated drugs or works</td>
<td>13 (13%)</td>
<td>2 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Someone was arrested</td>
<td>11 (11%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. “I was arrested”</td>
<td>3 (3%)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Reasons for not calling 911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Portland n = 120</th>
<th>Seattle n = 81</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person woke up</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave rescue breathing</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revival techniques</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of police</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave naloxone</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Took them to hospital</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are we doing in Portland?

1. Ongoing OD education with participants

2. Communication with police

3. System-wide alerts during OD increase
What do we want to do in Portland?

1. Distribute naloxone widely

2. Provide treatment on demand

3. Better surveillance, including non-fatal ODs
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Questions?

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