



Bridging the Gap in Opioid Awareness in Santa Cruz County

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SEAHEC Scholars 2019-2021

Why is this a problem?

Arizona reports over a 4 year timespan

- More than **two** people die every day from opioid overdoses
- **8,916** suspected opioid deaths
- **64, 382** suspected opioid overdoses
- Naloxone was administered **34, 912** times
- **2,562** diagnosed neonatal abstinence syndrome

Santa Cruz County

- **80** suspected opioid overdoses
- Naloxone was administered **642** times



Santa Cruz County Overcoming Addiction Consortium

- Established in 2019
- Network of organizations engaged in *prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce development* initiatives around substance use disorder (SUD) in Santa Cruz County.
- **Mission:** *reduce stigma and heal our community* by making culturally appropriate mental health and substance use disorder service readily accessible for those seeking to improve their quality of life
- **Goal:** collaborate across sectors to increase the availability of, and access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services to prevent, treat, and recover from SUD and, specifically, opioid use disorder (OUD)



S.O.S.A. CONSORTIUM

Santa Cruz County Overcoming Substance Addiction Consortium

HEAL • CONNECT • RESPECT

“Working together for an addiction free Santa Cruz County”

SOSA's Accomplishments



1. Received the Health Resources Services Administration Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning grant.
2. Increased the collaboration between primary care and behavioral health providers to provide inclusive care to those affected by SUD/ODD.
3. Implemented an innovative collaboration between EMS, peer support specialists and telemedicine.
4. Provided training for 223 community members, paraprofessionals, and healthcare providers.
5. Continuously reducing the stigma for patients with SUD/ODD.

SEAHEC and SOSA Collaboration

- SOSA currently uses meetings, brochures, and Facebook to provide information to the general public about their ongoing projects and events.
- SEAHEC scholars collaborated with SOSA to develop the first ever SOSA website for community members
- Website will be used to inform people about SOSA and important resources regarding opioid misuse
- SEAHEC scholars have provided all of the information for the website to SOSA
- SEAHEC scholars met with website developers to discuss how information will be listed on SOSA website

Summary of Website Content

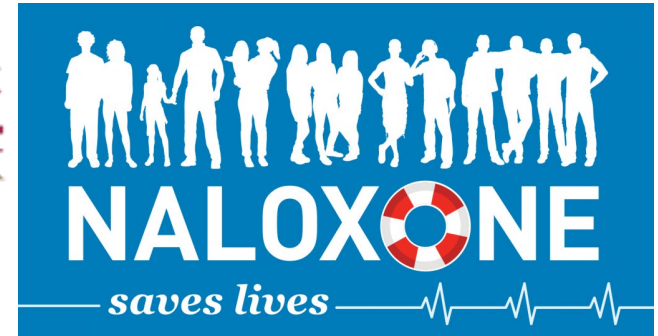
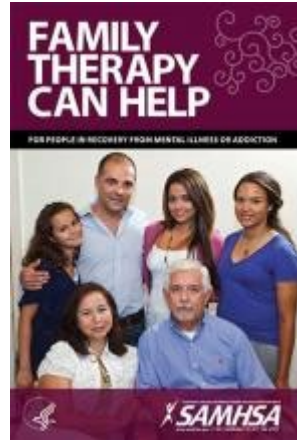


- Statistics on opioid misuse and overdose in Arizona
- Overdose information
 - Signs and symptoms
 - Recognizing an overdose
 - What to do for an overdose?
- Mental health, substance abuse, and domestic abuse hotlines
- Community meetings for people struggling with OUD

(ADHS, 2021)
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2018), (CDC, 2020), (CDC, n.d.)

Summary of Website Content

- Naloxone (Narcan) resources
 - *FREE* naloxone hubs
 - Naloxone training
- Outpatient clinics
 - Medication-assisted treatment
 - 5 local clinics
- Inpatient treatment centers
 - Community Bridges Inc.
 - America's Rehab Campuses
- Resources for loved ones



Strengthening Families, Empowering Communities

(Santa Cruz County Overcoming Addiction Consortium, 2020; US Food and Drug Administration, 2019)

Implications



- Increased access to opioid resources among community members
- Increase awareness of the issues associated with opioid misuse in the community
- Increased use of resources available to the community
- Lowered rates of opioid misuse, overdoses, hospitalizations and deaths

Recommendations

Moving forward:

- Continued expansion and updating of the website by community members with input from relevant stakeholders
- Dissemination of the website to community members by trusted sources like Mariposa Community Health Center



References

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