

In 2014, Governor Bill Haslam dubbed prescription drug abuse a serious problem in Tennessee, devastating families and communities. Consequences we are seeing include record numbers of overdose deaths, more and more babies born addicted, children in state custody, job loss, and incarceration. To combat the problem, state agencies came together, created a strategic plan, and got to work. The collaborative effort, *Prescription for Success: Statewide Strategies to Prevent and Treat the Prescription Drug Abuse Epidemic in Tennessee*, included seven primary goals. Below are highlights of what has been accomplished as of June 2016.

Prescription for Success



Goal 1: Fewer Tennesseans abusing controlled substances

- Reduced doctor shopping by nearly 50% from 2011-2015.
- Funded 10 additional anti-drug coalitions for a total of 43 funded coalitions.
- Decreased prescription opioid crimes, arrests and seizures.
- Increased prevention efforts by reaching 6 million Tennesseans through the “Take Only as Directed” ad campaign.



Goal 2: Reduce the number of Tennesseans who overdose on controlled substances

- Reduced prescription opioid poisonings since 2012.
- The Tennessee General Assembly passes the:
 - Controlled Substances Scheduling Act of 2015 to keep the list of controlled substances up-to-date.
 - Addiction Treatment Act of 2015 includes a Good Samaritan Law assuring people helping others are not charged with a crime.



Goal 3: Reduce the amount of controlled substances dispensed

- Identified the top 50 prescribers of opioids in Tennessee annually.
- Distributed Chronic Pain Guidelines to all medical practitioners.
- Decreased opioid prescriptions by 1.1 million from 2013 to 2015.
- The Tennessee General Assembly:
 - Repealed the Intractable Pain Act in 2015.
 - Passed the Tennessee Prescription Safety Acts of 2012 and 2016.
- Increased licensing requirements for pain clinics.



Goal 4: Increase access to drug collection boxes

- Increased the number of permanent prescription drug collection boxes from 36 boxes in 2012 to 155 boxes in 2016.
- Tennessee Highway Patrol works with law enforcement to properly dispose of medications collected in drug collection boxes.
- The Tennessee General Assembly passes the Ensuring Patient Access to Pharmacy Drug Disposal Programs Act of 2015, allowing pharmacies to participate in drug collection programs.

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Goal 5: Increase access to and quality of early intervention, treatment, and recovery services

- Increased funding to 52 recovery courts for people with substance use and mental disorders: nine new courts are planned.
- Increased recovery court enrollees 225% from January 2012 to June 2015.
- Conducted over 39,000 Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screenings in clinics, health departments, and medical practices throughout Tennessee between January 2012 and March 2016.
- Increased funding to expand the number of Oxford Houses which provide 42 sober homes with almost 300 beds for people in recovery.
- Conducted 2,466 Lifeline recovery trainings, established 233 new recovery meetings, and referred 1,002 people to treatment.
- Certified 123 faith-based "Recovery Congregations/Organizations."



Goal 6: Expand collaborations among state agencies

Transformed the Substance Abuse Data Taskforce to become a State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) to collect data from various state agencies to better understand the comprehensive nature of substance abuse. Hired a Statistical Research Specialist to collect and analyze data and to manage the SEOW.



Goal 7: Expand collaborations among states

Formalized agreements with Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Michigan to share data from the Controlled Substance Monitoring Databases.



What's next?

While we are seeing changes in the use of opioids in Tennessee, there is still work to do. We will continue working on the plan to: decrease the use and misuse of controlled substances, reduce overdoses, increase the number of drug disposal boxes so that each county has access to dispose of their medications properly, and increase access to early intervention, treatment, and recovery services. As long as Tennesseans are under the grip of substance abuse, we will continue to work together so that all Tennesseans are healthy and safe.



Department of
**Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services**

Prescription for Success was developed by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services in conjunction with: Tennessee's Departments of Health, Children's Services, Correction, Safety & Homeland Security, TennCare, TBI, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

