



Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Actions Already Taken by the Dayton Administration to Address Opioid Abuse

Opioid addiction has had a devastating impact on families and communities in Minnesota, and across the country. Overdoses involving prescription opioids account for more overdoses than any other drug, and the great majority of heroin and other illicit opioid users start with prescriptions. In 2016, 395 people died from opioid overdoses in Minnesota – an 18 percent increase over the previous year.

In response, Governor Dayton and his Administration have worked to curb opioid use disorder and save lives. Since 2014, the Dayton Administration has implemented aggressive strategies to reduce the flow of illicit opioids into our communities, improve treatment and prevention options, and support disproportionately impacted communities. Read below to learn more about past and ongoing actions taken by Governor Dayton to ensure healthier, safer communities all across Minnesota.

Actions Already Taken by Dayton Administration

Policy	Description
<p>Expanded Access to Life-Saving Opioid Overdose Medication</p>	<p>Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature enacted “Steve’s Law” in 2014, which allows non-health care providers to administer Naloxone, a life-saving drug used to treat those who have overdosed on opioids. The law also provides immunity from criminal and civil charges if an individual seeks emergency medical assistance in the case of a drug overdose. Immunity also is provided for the individual experiencing the overdose.</p>
<p>Joined National Task Force Focused on Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse</p>	<p>Under Governor Dayton’s leadership, Minnesota joined a prescription drug abuse taskforce coordinated by the National Governors Association in 2014. Working with state policymakers from across the country, Minnesota has developed strategies to address prescribing practices, disposal options, prescription drug monitoring programs, public and provider education, treatment strategies and data, and metrics and evaluation. Building on this work, the Dayton Administration formed the State Government Opioid Oversight Project. The project connects policymakers from across Minnesota state government to coordinate opioid-related activities.</p>

<p>Established Opioid Prescribing Workgroup to Reduce Abuse</p>	<p>In 2015, Governor Dayton worked with the Legislature to establish an Opioid Prescribing Workgroup to reduce opioid dependency and substance use from prescription drugs. The Opioid Prescribing Work Group is comprised of consumers, health care and mental health professionals, law enforcement and representatives of the managed care organizations that contract to serve Minnesota Health Care Program members. The group is developing resources for providers to communicate with patients about pain management. It also is implementing an opioid prescribing quality improvement program for health care providers whose practices do not meet required standards.</p>
<p>Provided Additional Support for Pregnant Women Struggling with Addiction</p>	<p>Untreated opioid addiction during pregnancy can have devastating consequences. In 2015, Governor Dayton signed legislation providing \$1.4 million for 2016 and 2017 and \$2.4 million for 2018 and 2019 to help ensure pregnant women struggling with opioid addiction receive the support they need. The law directs state government to support efforts of five Minnesota tribes, by providing integrated services to identify and treat pregnant mothers and infants exposed to opioids, including community supports.</p>
<p>Convened Tribal-State Opioid Summit to Develop Prevention and Treatment Strategies</p>	<p>In partnership with Minnesota’s 11 Tribal Nations, Governor Dayton’s Administration convened a Tribal-State Opioid Summit in 2016 to discuss strategies to address the opioid crisis in American Indian communities.</p> <p>A final report issued in March 2017 summarized policy and budget recommendations in five areas: prevention, intervention and treatment, prenatal exposure, prescription monitoring, and law enforcement and public safety. These recommendations included key takeaway information, such as supporting culture and value based services and improving data collection to inform future practices.</p> <p>The report also highlighted measures that had already been taken by the state that are working, and further recommendations for how the state and tribes can continue to work together in order to fully address the opioid crisis in Minnesota. Tribal Nations held their own Tribal Opioid Summit in November 2017 to further discuss and refine their recommendations.</p>
<p>Improved Access to Prescription Drug Drop-Off Sites</p>	<p>Old or unneeded prescriptions left in medicine cabinets can be an easy source for those who would like to abuse prescription medications. To help Minnesotans more easily dispose of medications, Governor Dayton signed legislation in 2016 allowing any Minnesota pharmacy to be a drop-off site for unused prescriptions, including opioids. By creating a designated location to safely dispose of unwanted or expired medication, the risk of harmful abuse, crime, and accidental poisoning can be substantially reduced.</p>

<p>Secured \$1.5 Million Federal Grant for Opioid Abuse Prevention</p>	<p>In 2016, Governor Dayton’s Administration secured a \$1.5 million federal grant over five years to prevent and reduce opioid abuse and reduce opioid overdoses. Thanks to the grant money, Minnesota is developing evidence-based prevention strategies, working with pharmaceutical and medical communities to prevention overprescribing, raising community awareness, and improving educational offerings for schools, communities, parents, prescribers, and patients.</p>
<p>Reformed Minnesota’s Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment System</p>	<p>Governor Dayton worked with the Minnesota Legislature in 2017 to transition Minnesota’s substance use disorder treatment system into a client-centered system, with an emphasis on managing substance abuse as a chronic condition. These changes remove barriers that previously prevented Minnesotans on Medical Assistance from accessing substance abuse treatment. The reform package allows patients to more quickly access services, and adds important services like withdrawal management, care coordination and peer support.</p>
<p>Expanded Prescription Monitoring Program to Crack Down on “Doctor Shopping”</p>	<p>“Doctor shopping” occurs when patients struggling with addiction seek out multiple opioid prescriptions from different doctors. To prevent this behavior, Minnesota’s state health licensing boards began collaborating with the Board of Pharmacy in 2017 to maximize the number of providers who are using the Prescription Monitoring Program system. This system allows prescribers and pharmacies to view controlled substance prescription histories for individual patients, and sends alerts to prescribers and pharmacies about individuals who may be doctor shopping.</p>
<p>Secured Grant to Expand Access to Naloxone</p>	<p>In 2017, Governor Dayton’s Administration secured a \$300,000 annual federal grant, which will be used to purchase Naloxone, a medication designed to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose, for emergency service providers across Minnesota.</p>
<p>Mandated Addiction Risk Warning on Opioid Prescriptions</p>	<p>Governor Dayton and the Legislature enacted legislation in 2017 that requires opioid prescriptions to contain a warning about the addiction risk. The law limits opiates to a four-day supply for certain situations of dental or ophthalmic pain, but provides health care providers discretion if a larger quantity is necessary.</p>
<p>Established Grant Programs to Expand Opioid Addiction Treatment Programs</p>	<p>The Governor and Legislature created a \$1 million grant program in 2017 to build capacity among health care and other service providers to prevent and treat opioid addiction, especially in rural Minnesota. The Governor and Legislature also invested an additional \$1 million in a chronic pain rehabilitation therapy demonstration project.</p>

<p>Expanded Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction</p>	<p>Medication-Assisted Treatment programs help relieve withdrawal symptoms and psychological cravings as individuals are treated for opioid use disorder. In 2017, Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature provided \$825,000 for health care providers to purchase direct injectable drugs to treat opioid addiction.</p>
<p>Secured \$6 Million Grant to Expand Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment</p>	<p>In 2017, Governor Dayton’s Administration secured a \$6 million Medication-Assisted Treatment expansion grant from the federal government. The project is a partnership with the Red Lake Nation, the White Earth Nation, and Fairview Health Services. The grants are being used to build the capacity to provide office based medication assisted therapy that integrates primary care with behavioral health services and makes these services more accessible. This grant in particular will be serving American Indian and African American communities most adversely affected by opioids. It is estimated that more than 440 clients will annually benefit.</p>
<p>Secured \$10 Million Federal Grant to Improve Opioid Prevention and Treatment</p>	<p>In 2017, Governor Dayton’s Administration secured funding of more than \$10 million in federal grants to encourage collaborative care between opioid treatment programs, health care clinics, care coordinators, and County and Tribal entities. Grants will focus on improving provider capacity to identify and treat opioid addiction and improving access to Naloxone to treat opioid overdoses.</p> <p>In addition, the grant is supporting the development of a statewide “Know the Dangers” public service awareness campaign. After launch, the campaign will increase awareness of opioid abuse and offer information and overdose intervention resources to potential and current opioid users.</p>

Governor Dayton’s 2017 Legislative Proposals

In addition to the administrative actions undertaken by the Dayton Administration since 2014, Governor Mark Dayton offered these legislative proposals in 2017 to combat opioid abuse in Minnesota.

Proposal	Description
<p>An Opioid Stewardship Program to Fund Statewide Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment</p>	<p>In 2017, Governor Dayton proposed an Opioid Stewardship Program, which would have been dedicated exclusively to opioid abuse prevention and treatment in Minnesota. The program would have required opioid manufacturers to pay a “penny-a-pill” fee on pharmaceutical companies that produce opioids in order to fund these programs. The Legislature did not pass this proposal in 2017.</p>

<p>Supporting Opioid Abuse Prevention Efforts in Minnesota’s American Indian Communities</p>	<p>American Indians lose their lives at five times the rate of white Minnesotans from opioid overdoses. To help address this serious issue, Governor Dayton proposed \$4 million for prevention programs to reduce the number of opioid users and overdoses in American Indian communities. The Legislature did not pass this proposal in 2017.</p>
<p>Improving Drug Monitoring</p>	<p>Governor Dayton’s 2017 budget included \$200,000 for a drug analyst position at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). This position would have allowed the BCA to begin work monitoring the drug threat to Minnesota, and to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and other state and local agencies to allow more timely deployment of opioid response resources throughout the state. The Legislature did not pass this proposal in 2017.</p>

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