Update on the Ongoing Opioid Crisis

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Year End Data
Overdose Deaths in Vancouver

Annual Overdose Deaths in Vancouver
Jan 1, 2007 - Dec 31, 2017

Source of Data: BC Coroners Service and VPD

***Deaths in 2017 have yet to be confirmed by BC Coroner Service
Overdose Deaths in Vancouver

Monthly Overdose Deaths in Vancouver
Jan 2017 - Dec 2017
*VPD deaths yet to be confirmed by BC Coroner Service

Source of Data: BC Coroner Service and Vancouver Police Department
Estimated Ratio of Overdose Deaths to Calls, Jan 1-Dec 31
Total number of VPD overdose-suspected deaths to total number of VFRS overdose calls.
Map shown by local health area. City overall ratio: 1:22
VFRS calls from UBC are excluded.
Toxicology reports are not yet complete on police-attended sudden death cases, and final overdose death numbers need to be confirmed by the BC Coroners Service.

Data Source: Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.
City Investments in 2017
Summary of City Investments

$3.5M to address the Opioid Crisis

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services
- Additional DTES Medic Unit
- Health and wellness supports

Community Policing and Safety
- New Strathcona CPC
- Sustained budget increase for CPCs

Community Overdose Grants
- 23 high impact projects
- $600K towards peer employment, capacity building
- Leveraged: Over $1.07m
Areas of Investment and Impact

- Innovation in Data Monitoring
- Supporting Harm Reduction and Treatment Options
- Working towards a Clean Drug Supply
- Addressing Stigma
- Collaborative Leadership
Innovation in Data Monitoring

- Leading the Country in municipal data monitoring and coordination
- Staff continue to provide weekly updates to City managers on the crisis to strategize around response
- Staff are working with the FCM and the national Opioid Overdose Surveillance Task Group to better understand the scope of the problem at a national level
Update on Harm Reduction: Overdose Prevention Site Moves Indoors

- First peer-engaged overdose prevention site in the country has moved indoors

- Staff coordinated with partners to move the OPS indoors to 58 East Hastings, an empty storefront owned by BC Housing.

- Part of the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) lease portfolio
Update on Clean Drug Supply: Innovation

- For the first time, people know what is in their substances
- $60K capital investment to the BC Centre on Substance Use to purchase equipment
- Currently deployed at Insite and the Powell Street Getaway
- Pilot currently underway, over 500 samples tested since Oct 2017
Update: Initial Steps towards De-Stigmatization Successful

- While over 80% of BC residents are aware of the opioid issue, but stigma continues to isolate substance users

- 36% of Canadians would not want friends or family to know about non-prescription opioid use

- Consulting with People with Lived Experience Advisory to finalize and implement de-stigmatization programs

- Staff working with Megaphone Magazine to build on the successful “How to Save a Life” event series –
  - 6 events with 450 participants, 270 trained in naloxone

Collaborative Leadership in 2017

- April 2017 – Senate Committee on Bill C-37: streamlining safe injection site applications

- May 2017 – Big City Mayor’s Task Force
  - Recommendations to Federal government: Pan-Canadian data coordination, treatment scale-up, and address root causes

- September 2017 – UBCM endorses resolutions for response to overdose crisis
Moving Forward In 2018
The Province recently announced a new Overdose Emergency Response Centre

- Locally-driven, community-based response

- Municipalities identified as key partners

- Staff will update Council on the throughout 2018
Summary and Next Steps in 2018

1. Monitoring Impacts
   Continue to monitor impacts: Ensure that the City has regular updates on the impacts of the crisis on residents and coordinate across City departments.

2. Addressing Stigma
   Work together with people with lived experience to find solutions: Implement innovative approaches and support low-barrier, peer employment opportunities.

3. Collaborative Leadership
   Work with local community, Provincial and National Partners: Participate on the Vancouver’s Community Action Team, continue to work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities towards a pan-Canadian response and include this work as part of a new Urban Health Leaders Council in 2018.
Thank You