

New York City Health Department's Multi-Pronged Approach to Expanding Buprenorphine Treatment Capacity

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Assistant Commissioner

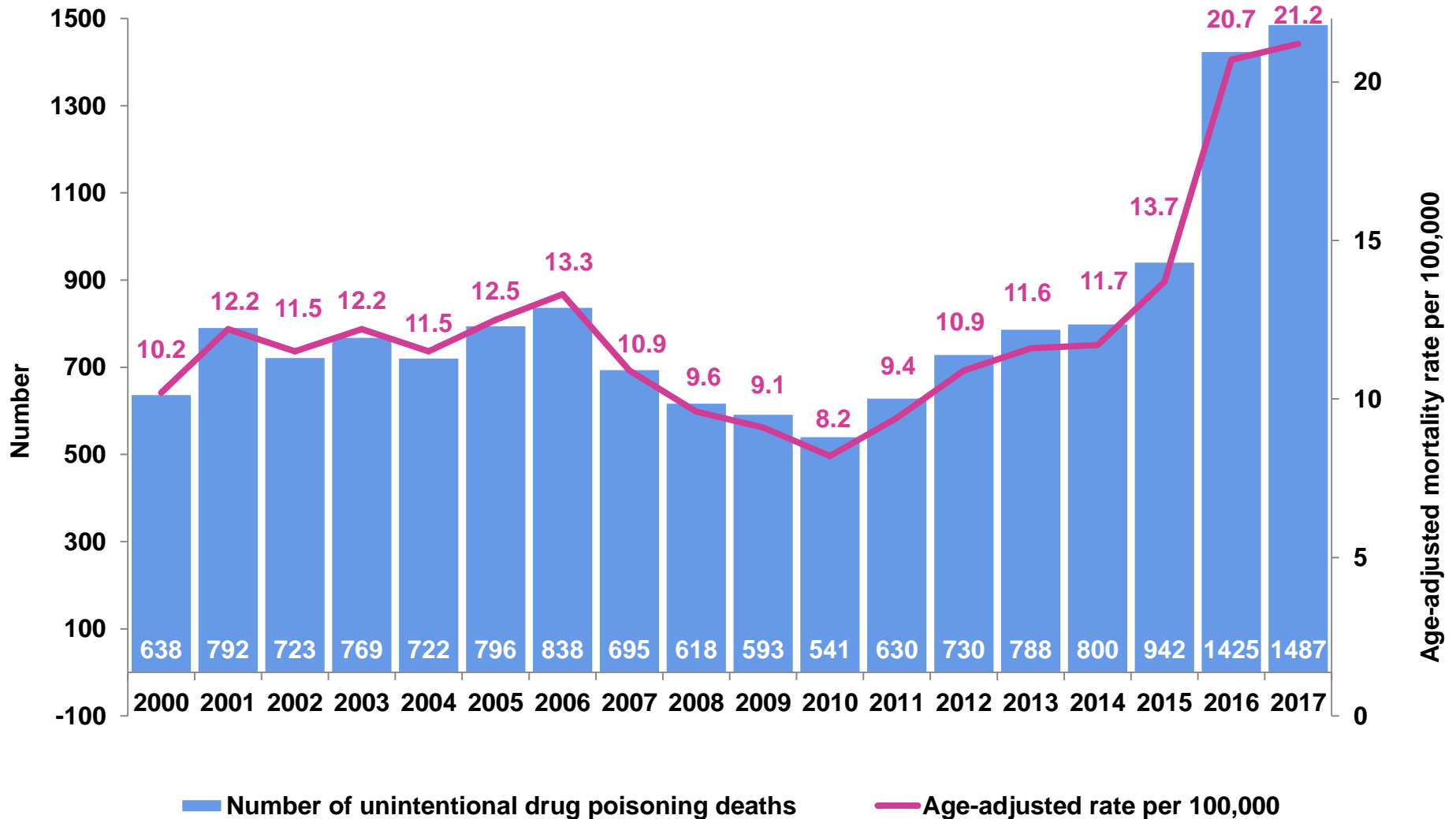
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care and Treatment

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

NYSAM Annual Conference

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Unintentional drug poisoning deaths, NYC, 2000-2017*



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 2000-2017*
 *Data for 2017 are provisional and subject to change

NYC Health Department's public health approach to opioid misuse and overdose

1. Know what is happening

- Surveillance: morbidity and mortality
- Rapid assessment and response

2. Prevent/reduce risky use

- Access and availability of prescription opioids
- Increase perception of risk for licit and illicit opioids

3. Expand access and continuum of care

- Expand access to effective treatment, particularly methadone and buprenorphine
- Establish post non-fatal overdose supports

4. Prevent complications of opioid misuse

- Expand naloxone distribution
- Expand syringe services

5. Increase recovery supports

- Promote peer workforce
- Decrease stigma around treatment

6. Sectors and settings

- Multi-sector

Key principles in expanding access and continuum of care

Keep people alive

Promote recovery

Implementing key principles

- Increase kinds of settings
- Deliver flexible and longitudinal care
 - Harm reduction
 - Low threshold
- Integrate into continuum of care

Multi-pronged approach to expanding NYC buprenorphine treatment capacity

- Training and technical assistance
- Fund safety net primary care clinics to implement Nurse Care Manager model
- Fund syringe service programs to implement buprenorphine prescribing
- Promote emergency department buprenorphine induction
- Public awareness campaign
- Track buprenorphine data changes

Training to prescribe buprenorphine

- Launched 2016
- Buprenorphine waiver trainings
 - Free, ~monthly, meet federal requirements
 - 39 trainings conducted with 1,424 prescribers (MD/PA/NP) trained
 - 6 months post-training (n=265), 150 (57%) obtained federal waiver, and 47 (18%) were prescribing

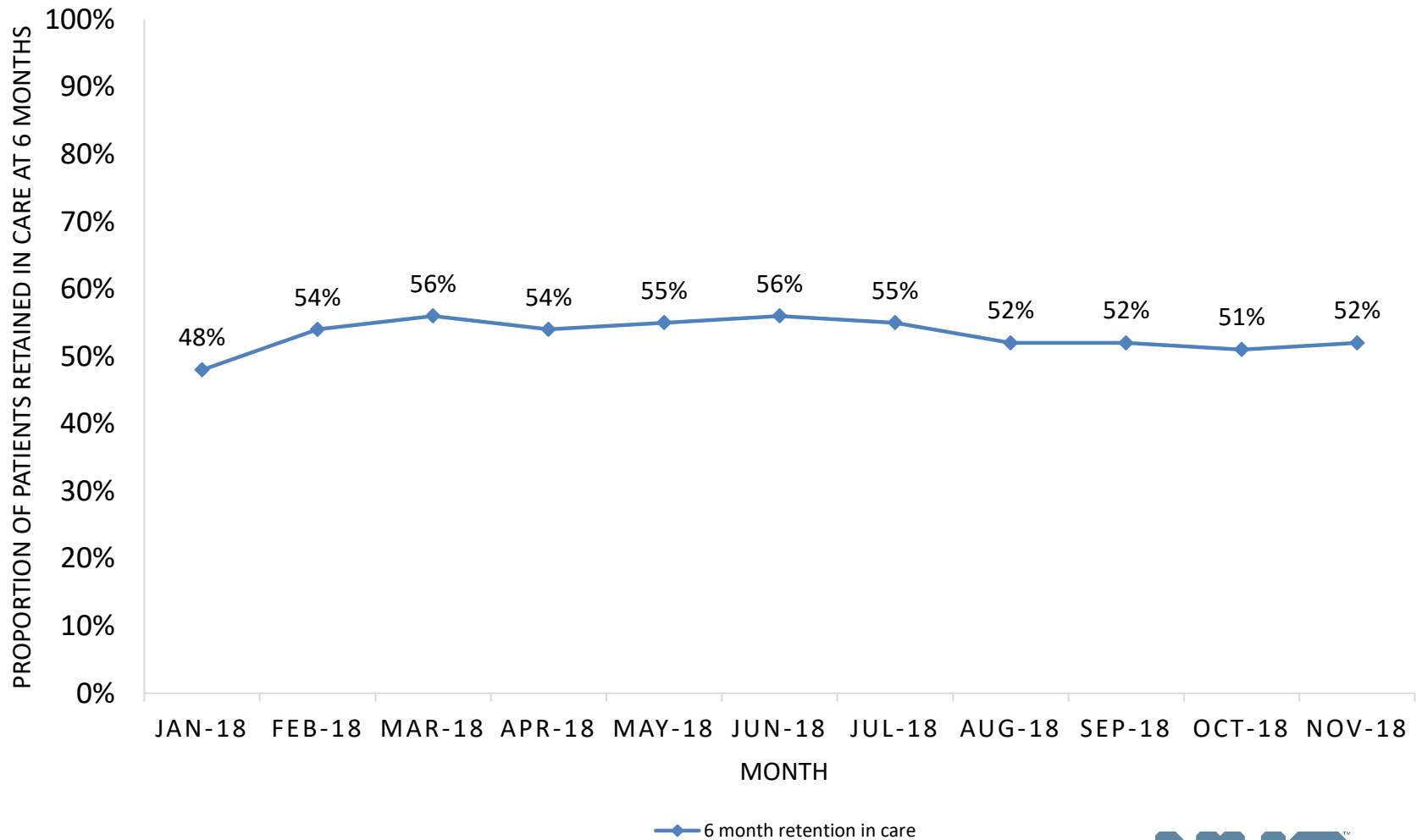
Technical assistance in primary care

- Guidance on workflow, outreach strategies, staff education, clinical mentorship, learning community
- 39 primary care practices engaged
 - 30 offering buprenorphine

Nurse Care Manager initiative

- Launched 2016
- RN-level Nurse Care Manager (NCM) works with new buprenorphine prescribers and other staff in primary care to coordinate patient care
 - Modeled after successful program in Massachusetts
- 26 clinics among 13 organizations offering buprenorphine
- Prescribers
 - 84 new prescribers
- 570 patients seen between Dec 2016–Nov 2018

Nurse Care Manager initiative: 6-month retention in care



Buprenorphine in primary care learning community

- Quarterly sessions, led by local buprenorphine experts
- Open to any NYC buprenorphine prescriber
- Topics:
 - Assessing patients for treatment
 - Urine toxicology interpretation
 - Chronic pain
 - Working with patients with opioid use disorder
 - Harm reduction

Buprenorphine in syringe service programs

- Launched 2017
- 7 syringe service programs funded
 - 4 to develop implementation strategy
 - 3 to initiate prescribing
- Provision of technical assistance
 - Workflow, staffing models, staff education, policies and procedures
- 5 funded programs currently prescribing buprenorphine (+2 additional non-funded programs)

Buprenorphine in NYC emergency departments

- Citywide emergency department convening in 2017
- Provision of technical assistance
 - Workflow, staffing models, referral network
- 15 emergency departments engaged to offer buprenorphine inductions
 - 7 currently offering buprenorphine

Increase public awareness and decrease stigma: Living Proof

- Ran three times 2017–2019
- Six testimonials from New Yorkers about buprenorphine (and methadone)
- Posters and videos disseminated citywide
 - Television
 - Subways
 - Bus shelters
 - Newspapers
 - Social media
- Reach
 - Nearly 3M television views
 - 2M online video completions

I am living proof that buprenorphine treatment works.

Of all the treatments I've tried, buprenorphine is the only thing that worked for my opioid addiction. Now I'm in school, I go out to eat, to the movies—simple stuff—but the greatest joy is having a relationship with my daughters. I got back my life.

— Chelle

Opioid addiction treatment with methadone and buprenorphine is available in New York City.

If you or someone you know needs help, call 888-NYC-WELL or visit nyc.gov/health/addictiontreatment for more information.

Thrive NYC 


I am living proof that methadone treatment works.

I had a horrible addiction to heroin. I didn't really care if I lived or died. My family wanted me to change, but I didn't know how. I started methadone treatment. It's medicine. It helped me stop craving and taking drugs. Today I have my family. Every Sunday I cook at home. My kids and grandkids come to visit. Thanks to methadone treatment, I'm living life.

— Camille

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Thrive NYC 

Buprenorphine, NYC, 2014–2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Percent change, 2017-2018
Total prescribers	2,107	2,144	1,861	1,930	2,358	22%
Total NYC residents who filled at least one buprenorphine prescription	13,150	13,293	13,612	14,098	15,174	8%
Total NYC residents who filled 6+ months of buprenorphine prescriptions	6,099	6,386	6,993	7,246	7,932	9%

Conclusions

- Critical to incorporate key principles in buprenorphine expansion work
- The Health Department increased capacity in NYC to prescribe buprenorphine
- Increased number of patients filling buprenorphine prescriptions
- Modest increase in prescribers following initial decline
- Further increases expected as initiatives become fully operational
- Impact will continue to be monitored through prescribing data

Thank you