STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN NEW YORK
In 2017, the opioid overdose death rate was 17% higher in New York counties than in non-Appalachian counties.
In 2017, the opioid prescription rate in New York was 38 prescriptions per 100 residents - 35% lower than in non-Appalachian counties.
From 1999-2017, opioid abuse progressed from legal, prescription opioids to illegal opioids, like heroin and fentanyl.
1) What has been your biggest challenge with stemming the opioid epidemic in your county?

- Lack of communication and collaboration across county systems: 11%
- Lack of data on the impact of the crisis in your county
- Lack of effective treatment options or providers: 44%
- Lack of housing and employment opportunities to support people in recovery: 44%
- Lack of training for law enforcement and other first responders on how to react to overdoses

0% 10% 20% 30% 40%
WHY COUNTIES?

Counties are on the frontlines due to their involvement in:

- Health
- Human Services
- Justice & Public Safety
- Economic Development
2) What have you as a county leader done in your community to address the opioid epidemic?

- a. Convened stakeholders to come up with solutions: 21%
- b. Increased public awareness of the dangers of opioid misuse: 28%
- c. Increased access to naloxone and medication-assisted treatment: 18%
- d. Worked with law enforcement to stem the tide of illegal opioids in the county: 18%
- e. Collaborated with schools and businesses to help people in recovery get meaningful training and employment: 16%
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Exercise strategic local leadership
   • Set a tone of compassion
   • Opioid Task Forces
   • Regional cooperation

Case Studies: Ross County, Ohio and Mercer County, W.Va.

2. Emphasize preventive and educational initiatives
   • Safe disposal sites
   • Community outreach
   • Data and technology

Case Study: Allegany County, Md.
3. Expand access to addiction treatments
   - Naloxone and MAT
   - Telemedicine
   - Mental health treatment

Case Studies: Project Lazarus (Wilkes County, N.C.)

4. Criminal justice response to illegal opioids sales; treatment and services to justice-involved individuals
   - Reduce illicit opioids
   - Treatment and workforce training in jails
   - Housing and employment opportunities

Case Studies: A New Beginning (Campbell County, Tenn.)
RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Mitigate local economic impacts and consider new economic development strategies
   • Collaborate with educational institutions
   • Help businesses learn to work with individuals in recovery
   • Reinforce safety net services
   • Expand entrepreneurial opportunities

Case Studies:
   Housing Development Alliance (Perry County, Ky.)
   Coalfield Development Corporation (Lincoln, McDowell, Mingo and Wayne Counties, W.Va.)
3) What sort of resources do you as a county official need to lead your county's efforts to address the opioid crisis?

a. Training and education on best practices - 25%

b. Case studies and examples of counties having an impact - 14%

c. Peer-to-peer learning opportunities - 14%

d. Templates for legislation, information-sharing agreements or MOUs - 14%

e. Other - 32%
• **45,000** deaths due to opioid overdoses nationwide in 2017
• **5,600** of these deaths were in Appalachia

• Counties must partner with states, with the federal government and regionally with municipalities and other counties to pool their resources and develop solutions together.
QUESTIONS?

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