

Internship Abstract

Title: Reduce opiate use/misuse in 12 -18-years-old

Name: Ashley Rhea

Preceptors: Direct Supervisor: Kathy McFadden, Director
Project Supervisor: Laurie Smith, Community Initiatives Coordinator

Agency: Atlantic Prevention Resources Absecon, NJ

Purpose: Plan and implement “5 minute Visit” program to reach physicians to reduce opioid prescribed to youth.

Significance: The Misuse of opioids is defined as taking a medication in a manner or dose other than prescribed. An example would be taking someone else’s prescription or taking a medication to feel euphoria also known as getting high. (National Institute on Drug Abuse,2018). In 2016, there was more the 42,000 people killed by opioids. This opioid epidemic within the adolescence population is one of the fastest growing dilemmas in the United States. There are two products that Atlantic Prevention Resources and Join Together Atlantic County supports for prevention which is, Deterra and locking medicine cabinets. Deterra is a drug disposal pouch that provides an easy way for people to deactivate and dispose of unwanted, unused, or expired, medications in the home or offices. There is a simple three step process to safely dispose of the drugs which is: tear open the pouch and place unused medication inside, fill the pouch halfway with warm water, wait 30 seconds, and seal the pouch tightly, shake and throw it away in a regular trash can. The locking medicine cabinets protects opioid misuse by securing prescription medications in the home. Atlantic Prevention Resources provides a free locking medicine cabinet to any Atlantic County resident.

Method/Approach: Presenters will go through the JTAC physician lists and identify pediatricians and orthopedists in the Atlantic County area. Once a target list has been created, an elevator speech and a 5 minute presentation are created. At scheduled informational meetings the presenter will give the presentation to the physician's and execute the pitch..

Outcomes/Results: 4 pediatricians have been shown how to secure and dispose of opioids properly. They have signed a contract to provide patients with information and tools to prevent opioid misuse. Locking medicine box posters and brochures with disposal information have been placed in waiting rooms. More people will have an understanding on how they can lock up their unused medication and how they can dispose of their medication for free.

Evaluation/Conclusion: “5 minute visits” to physicians with proper information about Deterra and medicine cabinets . By filtering through the JTAC physician list a focus group was able to be accomplished. There were twelve physicians targeted in the program and four physicians have been presented to. All four physicians agreed to display lockbox signs in their waiting room for patients to learn where they can receive their free locking medicine boxes.

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<https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/substance-use/drugs/opioids/index.html>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/what-scope-prescription-drug-misuse>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/summary>