

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



COLORADO
CONSORTIUM

for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

corxconsortium.org

About the Consortium

The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention coordinates Colorado's response to the misuse of medications such as opioids, stimulants, and sedatives. The Consortium's mission is to reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado by developing policies, programs, and partnerships with the many Colorado agencies, organizations, and community coalitions addressing one of the state's major public health crises.

The Consortium is part of the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, located at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.



Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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Mission

Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado by developing policies, programs, and partnerships.

Vision

Eradicate prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado.

Values

Based on the Collective Impact model
Transparent, Inclusive, Open
Data driven and evidence based
Consensus based



A Note of Thanks

The Consortium would like to thank our members and partners, who have spent countless hours working with us as we attempt to end prescription drug misuse. We especially would like to thank the co-chairs of our work groups, who volunteer their time and provide guidance and subject matter expertise. Thanks also goes to the members of our Coordinating Committee, who help us set goals and strategies. We would not be where we are today without their dedicated leadership.

If you would like to know more about the Consortium, please visit our website, www.corxconsortium.org. There you can find more information about our mission, individual work groups, and the many projects we have led or supported over the past 10 years.

If you are interested in joining or working with the Consortium, please use the form at www.corxconsortium.org/contact-us, where you can ask questions and join a work group. If you would like to request a speaker, please visit www.corxconsortium.org/contact-us/speaker-request.

Thank you again for your support!

Looking Back on 10 Years

When the Consortium was formed in 2013, leaders and stakeholders developed a vision and a structure for a collaborative response to the opioid crisis. Over 10 years, the Consortium has fostered and established connections with hundreds of communities and organizations across the state, and we can reach more than 1,000 people through our networks. The Consortium's model and work has been studied by other states and organizations looking for an effective way to coordinate their work as they face the opioid crisis.

The past decade presented many challenges as the opioid crisis evolved. As a result, the work of the Consortium also evolved to address those challenges. The timeline on this page highlights important successes upon which the work of the Consortium will continue to evolve.

2012

As illegal opioid use and overdoses climb, Gov. John Hickenlooper and Attorney General John Suthers bring together a diverse group of experts to tackle the problem. These include leaders from medicine, public health, and law enforcement, and it is a bipartisan effort.

2013

The Consortium is formed and establishes key work groups and its connection to the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy. Gov. Hickenlooper releases the state's strategic plan, and Attorney General Suthers commits \$1 million for a public awareness campaign.

2014

We develop our first provider education program, focusing on safe opioid prescribing. We begin work with the CDPHE to plan the Colorado Household Medication Take Back Program.

2015

The Take Meds Seriously public awareness campaign launches, work continues on the safe disposal program, and the Consortium focuses more attention on naloxone, advocating that pharmacies and harm reduction centers be allowed to distribute it without a prescription.



Bridging Gaps

The Consortium has always prioritized working in a bipartisan and inclusive manner, and our commitment goes back to our very start, when we received the support of a Democratic governor and a Republican attorney general. But the commitment is not about politics — working with people with diverse perspectives, such as law enforcement officers and harm reduction advocates, ensures we consider all options and viewpoints while building trust.

Common Cause

Drug abuse prevention and treatment is a team effort in Colorado, especially when it comes to distributing naloxone. Since 2017, naloxone has been available in pharmacies without a prescription, and the Consortium has trained hundreds of people so they can use it. Law enforcement officers also are using naloxone to stop overdoses, thanks to the Naloxone for Life program, which equipped every police department and sheriff's office with naloxone.

2016

Every police department and sheriff's office in the state is equipped with and trained to use naloxone as part of Attorney General Cynthia Coffman's Naloxone for Life program. The Consortium helps promote and manage the program.

2017

The Consortium expands, thanks to funds from the legislature and support from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. New staff members allow greater support for community organizations and local governments and assistance on new work group projects. The Consortium also helps the Office of Behavioral Health manage the State Targeted Response grant, a \$15.7 million commitment from SAMHSA.

2018

The legislature passes major bills expanding medication-assisted treatment and supporting harm reduction. The Consortium helped inform the development of those bills through its support of the legislature's Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee.



Helping Colorado's Leaders

Colorado's lawmakers regularly turn to the Consortium for support. We are a valuable source of expertise and can be relied on to be impartial and outside of politics, and we have provided information and expert testimony for dozens of bills. Since 2017, we have helped the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee collect and analyze hundreds of ideas submitted by Coloradans.

In 2017, Gov. Hickenlooper signed a bill creating the center at CU Anschutz that would become the growing Consortium's home.

CU and the Consortium

The foresight of the leadership of the University of Colorado and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus allowed for the creation of an innovative organization that leverages CU's strengths and unique partnerships with diverse organizations.

The Consortium would not be possible without the support of the University of Colorado, in particular the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which has provided the Consortium with a home since our beginning.





Maximizing Impact

One of our roles is helping communities and state agencies ensure their programs make an impact and that funds from the federal government are used effectively. Starting in 2017, we began working with the Office of Behavioral Health to facilitate activities in the State Targeted Response grant and the State Opioid Response grant. We also receive funding from those grants for activities like organizing community events for the Lift the Label campaign.

Expanding Effective Treatment Programs

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is a proven way to treat opioid use disorder. Since 2018, Colorado has greatly expanded the number of MAT clinics, and we have helped establish and support MAT clinics, including in underserved rural areas. Currently, there are 37 clinics in 18 rural counties.



Helping Transform Behavioral Health

Colorado has invested heavily to expand and improve its behavioral health system, and the Consortium has helped in the effort. In 2021, we helped lawmakers with the Behavioral Health Recovery Act, which invested \$112 million to support substance use, mental health, and recovery programs and enhance substance use prevention, workforce development, and care coordination programs. We also were subject matter experts on the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force, which dedicated \$450 million for behavioral health.

2019

Community groups and public health departments receive a major boost with the creation of the Consortium's grant writing assistance program. The Bring Naloxone Home campaign is launched to expand awareness of naloxone. The Consortium is instrumental in creating the *Opioid Response Blueprint: A Guide for Opioid Settlement Investments* to assist state and local decision-makers on use of settlement dollars from opioid litigation, and facilitates the creation of the Colorado Statewide Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Recovery, 2020-2025.

2020

COVID strikes, upending everything, including Colorado's systems for preventing and treating substance use disorder and promoting recovery. The Consortium works with organizations to help them adapt and continue to offer services, while itself facing funding cuts. We help the legislature set priorities as it develops its response.

2021

Colorado begins the process of transforming its behavioral health care system, and the Consortium helps the state and stakeholders discuss options and set priorities. This culminates in the Behavioral Health Recovery Act, which allocates \$112 million for urgent behavioral health needs and reserves \$450 million for future funding.



From the Governor to the Grassroots

The Consortium works hard to keep Colorado's leaders connected to people working on the frontlines in their community. That work can culminate in new legislation, such as the 2021 Behavioral Health Recovery Act. It also means helping volunteers collect medication at take back events.

Creating Strategies and Plans

A crisis such as the opioid epidemic requires hard work and also clear strategies that identify problems and gaps, collect input from stakeholders, and make plans for reaching goals. From the start, the Consortium has been a key player in strategic planning, helping create the state's initial strategic plan in 2013, the Opioid Response Blueprint, and the Colorado Statewide Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Recovery in 2019.

We also helped write the Heroin in Colorado report in 2017 with the input of law enforcement officers and public health experts. Their collaboration continued with the creation of the Heroin Response Work Group.



Innovative Approach

Unlike most states, Colorado's leaders decided not to centralize prescription drug abuse prevention and related work inside the state government. The Consortium's structure allows community groups and public health coalitions of all sizes to work closely with major state agencies, such as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Individuals can also make an impact through volunteering or joining one of our work groups. Our approach is inspired by the Collective Impact model of community organizing.

2022 Highlights

For Coloradans fighting the opioid and overdose crises, 2022 was a year of new strategies and initiatives as well as new challenges. The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention continued its mission to reduce overdose deaths, prevent substance use disorders, and support Colorado's treatment, recovery, and harm reduction programs. Once again, we worked with dozens of community groups, affected friends and family, and local governments in all parts of the state as they started or led important local programs. We also assisted state leaders as they developed new strategies and systems.

The Consortium continues to build on a decade of success, providing continuing support of medication-assisted treatment programs, creating a new fentanyl overdose prevention campaign, creating new educational opportunities for medical providers, improving use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and developing tools peers can use to support each other. We continue to help organizations in Colorado find the support they need, whether directly from the Consortium, its partners or through the grant writing assistance program.

The Consortium's staff, peers in other organizations, coalition leaders, and community members worked countless hours in 2022 and accomplished many great things. Here are some of the achievements we are proudest of in what was a busy and productive year.

Expanding Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment

The Consortium works closely with the CU College of Nursing and School of Medicine to increase access to medication-assisted treatment for Coloradans with opioid use disorder. Thanks to a continued \$3 million allocation from the legislature, the Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion Program treated more than 1,000 new individuals in 2022. The MAT program helped six organizations operate 37 clinical sites in 18 rural and frontier counties.



Helping Partners Find Sustainable Funding

One of our biggest successes is our ability to help nonprofits and local government agencies find grants and apply for federal and state funds to provide community-based services related to prevention, harm reduction, intervention, treatment, and recovery. Using a pool of experienced grant writers, the Consortium's grant writing assistance program has helped recovery organizations, sober living transitional services, local public health and human services departments, harm reduction centers, the Regional Opioid Abatement Councils and others.

The return on investment has been incredible. In 2022, 15 organizations won 16 grants totaling \$4.7 million, a 40:1 return on the \$119,510 spent by the program. Since 2019, 44 organizations have won grants totaling \$20,875,216, a 41:1 return on investment.



Equipping Colorado With Naloxone



Naloxone saves lives—the safe, easy-to-use medication can stop opioid and fentanyl overdoses. Colorado is committed to ensuring more Coloradans have naloxone, including community organizations and schools. In 2022, the legislature allocated \$19.7 million for the purchase of naloxone through the Colorado Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund, which is administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The Consortium is helping the CDPHE to promote the program and helping organizations order naloxone.

Unlocking the Power of Peers

For many people dealing with substance use or medical issues, talking to peers can provide needed perspective and understanding, often because of guidance drawn from the peer's personal experience. The Consortium spent much time in 2022 helping build Colorado's peer support system. That included hosting peer support symposia and consulting with the Behavioral Health Administration

about how to use the \$5.9 million allocated to develop the peer support workforce.

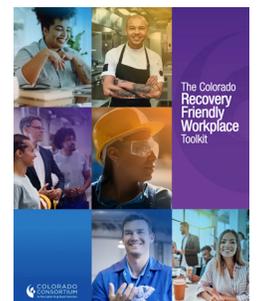
The Consortium's Benzodiazepine Action Work Group is developing its own curriculum to help peers support each other as they manage benzodiazepine withdrawal. A pilot program is expected to launch in 2023.

Coordinating Regional Councils

Litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors brought in settlement funds to the state of Colorado. Sixty percent of Colorado's settlement funds were distributed across 19 regions of the state to Regional Opioid Abatement Councils (ROACs). The Consortium's External Relations staff assisted in the formation of these ROACs, along with referring them to qualified facilitators, and providing members with ideas on how to spend the funds using evidence-based strategies for mitigating the opioid epidemic. From serving as non-voting members on ROACs to leading subcommittees on specific topics, the External Relations team has provided education and communication support between the Office of the Attorney General and the ROACs.

Bringing Recovery to Workplaces

Employers, employees, and communities can all benefit when businesses and organizations create healthy, safe, and productive environments for people in recovery. In partnership with the Colorado School of Public Health, the Consortium developed resources to help promote Recovery Friendly Workplaces, where employers use evidence-based policies to create positive change and eliminate barriers for those impacted by addiction. The program launched in August with the publication of the Recovery Friendly Workplace toolkit.



Educating providers

Providing education to Colorado's health care providers has long been one of the Consortium's missions. Over 1,000 people registered for the 25 online modules that the Consortium offers for continuing medical education credits. An additional 1,487 people participated in live provider education events. Topics included safe prescribing and pain management for dentists, dental hygienists, and

oral surgeons, along with an expanded array of educational events focused on benzodiazepine prescribing, tapering, and managing benzodiazepine induced neurological dysfunction. Our most popular modules continue to focus on safe opioid prescribing, tapering, and education on fentanyl.

Fighting the Fentanyl Epidemic

Fentanyl has hit Colorado hard, causing 534 overdoses in 2020 and 912 in 2021. This year, the Consortium made fighting the fentanyl epidemic its top priority. Our efforts can be seen in the Capitol, in the community – and in restaurants and entertainment venues across the state.

Contributing to Legislation

The legislature once again relied on the Consortium for its expertise while drafting several bills during the 2022 session. The most impactful measure was the Fentanyl Accountability and Prevention Act. The act allocated \$54.6 million toward the purchase of naloxone and support for treatment and detoxification programs. Harm reduction groups and community education and public awareness campaigns will also receive millions of dollars.

Moving forward, the Consortium will work with state and local government agencies or community groups to make sure the programs established by the act make the greatest possible impact. We also will help monitor the act's implementation and study the effects of the criminal justice provisions, such as the impact of the Good Samaritan laws.



Educating Those Most at Risk

2022 saw the beginning of a statewide effort to educate members of the public about fentanyl.



Multiple players, including the Consortium, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Colorado Office of the Attorney General are developing public awareness campaigns. The Consortium is a leader in this work, launching the Keep the Party Safe overdose prevention campaign in August on International Overdose Awareness Day. We are working closely with our partners to ensure the campaigns are coordinated, based on research and best practices, and are effective among the target audiences.

Supporting Schools and Communities

Parents and educators are in desperate need of resources and information that can help keep their children and students safe. So are teens and students, who fear losing loved ones and friends – or who have already lost them. The Consortium helped fill those needs, providing reliable information about naloxone and fentanyl. We worked with school districts, parents, and student groups to create presentations and distribute material around the state. We also assisted schools, community colleges, and universities create their own overdose prevention efforts.

Programs and Projects

The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention is in continuous collaboration with stakeholders to help develop, coordinate, and manage an extensive number of programs intended to fight all aspects of the opioid crisis. In our 10 years, we have trained providers and strengthened systems for the prescription drug abuse prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

Our partners include state and local elected officials, such as the Attorney General, the General Assembly, and County Commissioners across the state. The Consortium also works with state agencies such as the Colorado Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Administration, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Other partners include healthcare professionals, community coalitions and grassroots organizations, nonprofits, businesses, academic institutions, affected family members and friends, and more.

The Consortium's coordinating committee and nine active work groups help identify our priorities and set the scope for our projects. Our team of program managers work with work group co-chairs to lead many of our most important projects.

The Consortium led or assisted with many vital programs and created or supported important projects in our 10 years. Examples include:

Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion Program

Managed grant program to fund six agencies providing medication for opioid use disorder services. More than 1,000 new patients across 18 counties were served utilizing a \$3 million allocation from the Legislature.

Provider Education

Creating the state's leading program to educate physicians, dentists, nurses, and other health care providers about opioid prescribing safety, pain management, and more.

Public Awareness

Developed the Keep the Party Safe, Bring Naloxone Home, and Take Meds Seriously public awareness campaigns.

Safe Medication Disposal

Helped the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment collect more than 265,332 pounds of medication from 177 collection sites through the Household Medication Take Back program.

Recovery Strategic Plan

Coordinated the community outreach used to develop the Statewide Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Recovery: 2020-2025. Nearly 400 Coloradans from 40 counties participated in the drafting process of the strategic plan.

Data Monitoring and Analysis

Work with the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup to monitor substance abuse trends.



2022 Major Projects

Provider Education Work Group

- Hosted harm reduction expert Maia Szalavitz as part of annual education symposium
- Introduced new curriculum for dentists and behavioral health providers in rural communities
- Created 19 new online education modules so health care providers can continue to learn at their pace and during the pandemic
- Improved marketing program so more providers would find our free CME modules

Harm Reduction Work Group

- Developed a toolkit to facilitate connections between law enforcement and community organizations regarding the dissemination of expired naloxone

Benzodiazepine Action Work Group

- Developed a peer-support program to train people how to help people manage health issues
- Worked on materials for providers and patients about safe benzodiazepine prescribing

Recovery Work Group

- Developed and disseminated the “Recovery Friendly Workplace Toolkit”
- Helped peer support professionals contribute to the Behavioral Health Administration’s plan for workforce development
- Co-sponsored the Rural Peer Professional Conference in Glenwood Springs
- Spearheaded the collection and analysis of recovery data
- Continued to post recovery-related events and updates on the Recovery Ready Colorado Facebook page to highlight recovery-related stories

Affected Families and Friends Work Group

- Hosted a speaker training workshop to bolster member’s ability to share their story with impact
- Bolstered the online presence of the “Beyond the Numbers” series with a YouTube page
- Facilitated the growth of community resources benefitting families with 10 guest speakers

Treatment Work Group

- Helped the Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing troubleshoot reimbursement issues occurring with opioid treatment providers
- Continued information sharing for treatment professionals about innovations in treatment and best practices

Safe Disposal Work Group

- Collected 62,188 pounds of unused medication, setting a new record
- Collaborated in program review, which looked at performance data to find potential improvements
- Helped create a new marketing strategy for Take Meds Back
- Expanded the Colorado Needle Disposal program

Public Awareness Work Group

- Launched the Keep the Party Safe fentanyl overdose prevention campaign
- Refocused the Bring Naloxone Home campaign to target younger audiences

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Work Group

- Continued working to integrate PDMP with electronic health records
- Evaluated risks and benefits of adding diagnostic information to database

External Relations



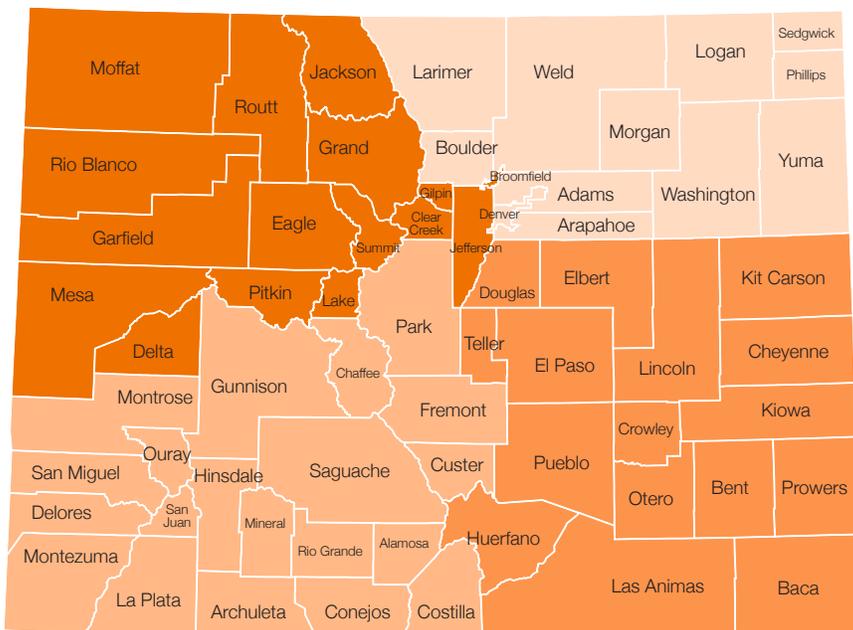
One of the Consortium's most important missions is to provide communities with the support and resources they need.

The Consortium's external relations staff is a vital link to grassroots efforts and offers communities a wealth of knowledge and technical assistance as they work on prescription drug abuse prevention. Staff members share knowledge and resources, help implement and develop programs, and ensure all Colorado communities have access to the latest research and resources and can connect with state and national leaders.

The members of our external relations team support community members and organizations across the state, whether they are in urban, rural, or frontier communities. They share resources and best practices with our local partners and elevate the voice of local communities to state policymakers and funders.

In 2022, the Consortium's external relations team ...

- Supported school districts as they explored ways to educate students, parents, and staff about the dangers of fentanyl and how to use naloxone.
- Assisted the Regional Opioid Abatement Councils (ROACs) as they identified experts in their communities, identified and prioritized strategies, lead and participated in ROAC work groups, and served as a liaison with the Office of the Attorney General.
- Collaborated with partners to establish recovery residence programs in rural areas
- Participated in hundreds of events, meetings, and trainings that reached thousands of individuals across the state.
- Created individualized content to present at community town halls, continuing medical education lectures, classrooms, symposiums, and conferences about comprehensive strategies to prevent opioid overdoses to diverse audiences.



The external relations staff has four members assigned to each quadrant of the state in order to improve assistance based on regional and local needs.



The Consortium in the Community

Untold numbers of Coloradans have been affected by the opioid and the overdose epidemics. Thousands of people have lost their lives, while thousands more are in recovery from opioid and other substance use disorders.

The Consortium joins and supports communities across the state and their grassroots efforts remember those we have lost and support people in recovery.



Every August, people around the state organize dozens of events as part of International Overdose Awareness Day, where they gather to honor those lost to overdoses and promote ways to prevent opioid and other overdose deaths.

In September, the Consortium joins those who encourage and celebrate people in recovery as part of National Recovery Month.

Since its founding, the Consortium has and continues to:

- Provide technical assistance to community stakeholders and coalitions.
- Provide ongoing support to communities through presentations, naloxone education, communications consultation, access to local data, and legislative updates.
- Educate local stakeholders on policy issues related to substance use disorders and assist them in communicating their challenges and needs to state policy makers.
- Provide timely dissemination of materials, information about funding opportunities, grant writing services, and connections to relevant subject matter experts as needed.

The External Relations Team continues to focus on implicit bias, institutional racism, and barriers to behavioral health equity and disseminate relevant learning on this topic to partners.

Consortium Funding 2022

The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, the community engagement arm of the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, is able to accomplish its mission with funds from a variety of sources. Below is a summary of funders and activities for 2022. The time period for funding allocations vary.

2022 Funders



COLORADO
Behavioral Health
Administration



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



The Colorado
Health Foundation™



In SB21-137, the Behavioral Health Recovery Act of 2021, the Colorado legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to the Center for:

- Training and education for healthcare, behavioral healthcare, and public healthcare professionals.
- Further promoting the use of evidence-based models of care for treatment of pain and substance use disorders.
- Grant writing assistance for non-profit organizations and local public health.
- Strengthening recovery support programs and services.

As of July 1, 2022, \$241,829 was available to be used for these activities. Funds will be fully spent by June 30, 2023.

\$3,000,000 was allocated from state funds to continue the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Program in rural and frontier counties. The program is a collaboration between the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, CU's College of Nursing, and the Practice Innovation Program at CU's School of Medicine. The program began as pilot in 2017, then was expanded in 2019 with funds from Senate Bill 19-001. Funds are appropriated annually. The majority of funds were distributed to MAT clinics and providers in 18 counties.

Also, \$1,250,000 was allocated from state funds to the Center for:

- Continuing education designed to help prescribers of pain medication to safely and effectively manage patients with pain;
- Continuation of statewide public awareness campaigns about the safe use, storage, and disposal of opioids and the availability of drugs to prevent overdose;
- Community engagement activities to address substance use prevention, harm reduction, criminal justice system response, treatment, and recovery.

The Behavioral Health Administration, formerly the Office of Behavioral Health, provided the Center with \$248,753 from State Opioid Response (SOR) funds to coordinate the efforts of existing statewide work with the goal of avoiding duplication of activities. This funding also supported Consortium efforts to provide technical assistance, resources, and planning to community partners addressing prescription drug abuse.

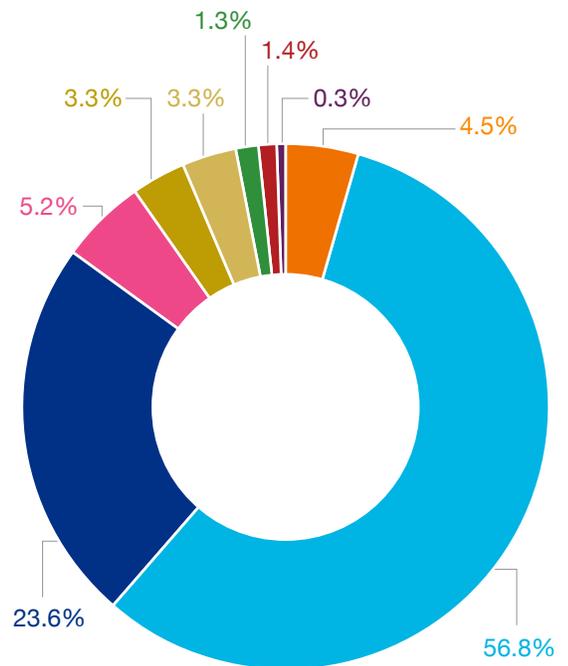
Under the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Overdose Data to Action grant (OD2A), the Consortium received \$175,724 to provide technical assistance and prevention resources to OD2A grantees and Colorado communities. In partnership with CDPHE’s Oral Health Unit, funds were also used to educate dentists, dental hygienists, oral surgeons, and other oral healthcare providers on pain management and safe opioid prescribing. Funds also supported the Colorado Naloxone Project, a project to distribute naloxone to at-risk patients prior to discharge from the emergency department.

The Colorado Health Foundation’s remaining funds from 2021 supported final evaluation of two recovery-oriented pilot programs in emergency departments. Funds were fully spent in March 2022.

CoBank’s grant funds continued to support provider education curricula development and delivery about a variety of topics, such as pain management, safe opioid and benzodiazepine prescribing, and non-opioid pain management.

Consortium Funding Sources 2022

| Funder | Funding Period | Amount |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| State ARPA | 7/1/22 – 6/30/23 | \$241,829 |
| State MAT Expansion | 7/1/22 – 6/30/23 | \$3,000,000 |
| State Center Appropriation | 7/1/22– 6/30/23 | \$1,250,000 |
| Behavioral Health Administration State Opioid Response | 9/30/22 – 9/29/23 | \$274,965 |
| CDPHE Overdose Data to Action | 1/1/22 – 8/31/22 | \$175,724 |
| CDPHE Overdose Data to Action | 9/1/22 – 8/31/23 | \$175,724 |
| Colorado Health Foundation | 7/1/21 – 3/31/22 | \$78,220 |
| CoBank | As of 7/1/22 | \$71,026 |
| General gift fund/donations | | \$18,476 |
| TOTAL | | \$5,285,964 |



Public Awareness

Since its launch, the Consortium has developed public awareness campaigns that help raise awareness and change attitudes. We strive to use best practices, including incorporating extensive research and evaluation, when planning our campaigns. Over the course of 10 years, we have developed many materials that can be used by communities.



Keep the Party Safe

Keep the Party Safe is our first fentanyl overdose prevention campaign. After analyzing overdose data, we decided to target adults ages 18 to 44, who are most at risk of an overdose.

The campaign's philosophy is not to judge but to keep people safe. Its messages, creative style, and tactics are focused on reaching members of our target audience who might occasionally engage in risky behavior and do not respond to traditional public health campaigns. Keep the Party Safe has advertised in restaurants, coffeeshops, sports bars, and concert venues, as well as on YouTube, TikTok, and other digital channels.



The campaign launched on International Overdose Awareness Day, Aug. 31. Before the end of the year it had earned more than 11 million impressions and garnered extensive media coverage. For more information, visit www.KeepthePartySafe.org.

Bring Naloxone Home

In 2019, the Consortium created Bring Naloxone Home to promote naloxone. It also tells people how to spot signs of an opioid overdose, how to use naloxone, and where they can get it. In 2022, the campaign's focus shifted to target 18- to 25-year-olds. A new look and strategy led to 6.6 million impressions among one of the most at-risk age groups. For more information, visit www.bringnaloxonehome.org.

EndOverdoseCO

International Overdose Awareness Day is a grassroots effort we support through the EndOverdoseCO.com website, which we redesigned in 2022. We also created the [@EndOverdoseCO](https://www.instagram.com/EndOverdoseCO) Instagram account.

Take Meds Seriously and Take Meds Back

The Consortium's original public awareness campaign, Take Meds Seriously focuses on the three pillars of medication safety – safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal. In addition to the www.TakeMedsSeriously.org website and digital ads, the campaign developed print assets such as rack cards and fact sheets.

Moving Forward

In December 2022, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a slowing of drug overdose deaths for the period of July 2021 to July 2022. This is in contrast to the sharp acceleration of drug overdose deaths in recent years that is being acknowledged as the fourth wave of the nation's opioid crisis, driven primarily by illicit fentanyl. The overall numbers of drug overdose deaths remain historically high, and we can hope that we are at a pivotal point in reversing the devastating trend.

In addition to the ongoing efforts of the Consortium's ten work groups, the upcoming year of 2023 offers several opportunities to further enhance the statewide response to the opioid crisis.

The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Program, which is a collaborative effort between the Consortium, the University of Colorado School of Nursing, and the Practice Innovation Program of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, will issue a new request for proposals to support the provision of MAT and community support in frontier and rural communities and for expanding those services in areas of the state where there is a lack of access for treatment of opioid use disorders.

This past year, Consortium staff and members of the Consortium's Recovery Work Group contributed to informing the peer professional work force development state plan for use of \$1.9 million dollars allocated for advancing the peer support profession. The plan is scheduled for release in February 2023, and funding will become available soon after. The Recovery Work Group will continue to provide valuable input on activities to advance the peer professional workforce in Colorado.

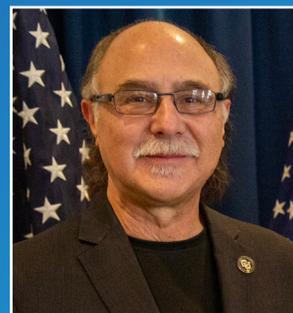
In 2022, the Consortium, the Pew Charitable Trust, and the Center for Improving Value in Healthcare (CIVHC) began work on a partnership project to analyze data from private and public insurance sources related to six opioid treatment measures. In 2023, a joint Data Work Group of the Consortium and the Colorado State Epidemiological Work Group will meet to examine six years of opioid use disorder treatment and report on findings, which will be beneficial for understanding the scope and impact of increased access to treatment in our state. The findings and recommendations will be shared with state partners, community stakeholders, treatment providers, and state legislators

Concerns about the disproportionate impact of the opioid crisis on Black, Hispanic, and Native American communities is of particular concern, and the Consortium will coordinate with community leaders and services providers to improve access to naloxone and treatment for opioid use disorders, as well as improving access to available funding from state and federal sources, as well as opioid settlement funds.

With regard to Colorado's share of opioid settlement funds, the Consortium offers a broad network of subject matter experts who can help inform decision makers of local governments and the 19 Regional Opioid Abatement Councils and local governments about evidence-based approaches for addressing the opioid crisis.

Staff of the Consortium and members of the work groups will also prepare for the legislature's Interim Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders, which is expected to convene during the summer or fall of 2023. This will entail updates to legislators on implementation of enacted policies and results from funding of services related to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and alternative criminal justice responses, as well as presenting new policy recommendations.

2023 promises to be another impactful year in addressing the opioid crisis in Colorado.



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