

Growing Collaborative Action Partnerships to Prevent Opioid Abuse in Rural, Low-resource Regions



Nicole Zautra, MPH, Meagan Benetti, MS, & Allison Howland, PhD

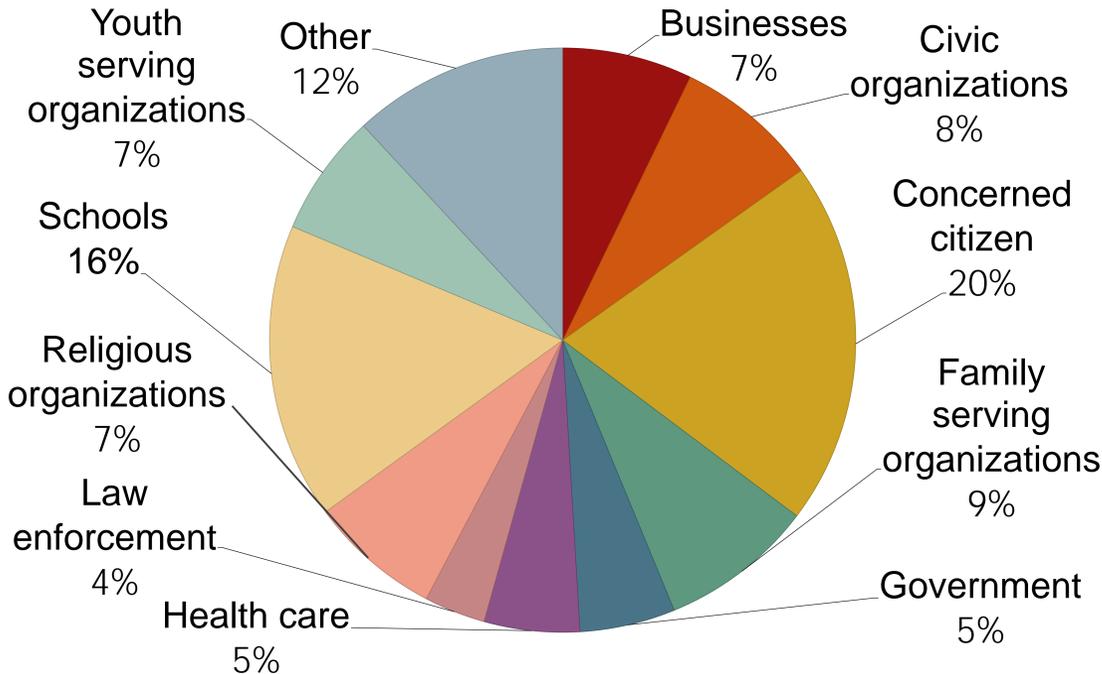
Problem

Opioid use is a national public health problem, particularly in rural, low-resource areas. In 2014, Indiana ranked 16th in the U.S. for overdose related deaths; roughly 30% of Indiana drug related deaths were caused by heroin and opioid prescription medication use (ISDH, 2015).

Project Overview

Six southeastern Indiana community coalitions, a local system of care, and university evaluators joined together to collaboratively **develop**, **implement**, and **evaluate** coordinated, region-wide strategies to reduce and prevent opioid abuse focused across the rural region.

Sector Representation



Recommendations

- Coordinated, collaborative prevention efforts are essential to address the opioid problem and its associated adverse consequences in rural, low resource regions.
- Increased and diversified collaboration is required to harness available resources and empower communities to deploy coordinated awareness, prevention, and harm reduction strategies.
- Regional partnerships should employ agile, open, honest, and focused collaborative action.

Lessons Learned

- Individual partner and group capacity to implement prevention activities was enhanced through regular engagement data-informed decision making.
- Convening as a group provided an opportunity for partners to identify underutilized resources and conceive of new and innovate prevention strategies.
- Diversity in available resources and capacity promoted creativity in collaborative efforts.

Strategy Development



Process

