

OVERCOMING OPIOID ADDICTION IN RURAL AMERICA

CRYSTAL S. GRAENING

UNIVERSITY OF MARY



“Every 12 minutes, another person in this country dies of an opioid overdose.”

Leia Raphaelidis, MS, FNP-BC





115+
**NEED FOR
INTERVENTION**

- More than 115 people die every day in the United States from overdosing on opioids (NIDA, 2018)
- In the state of North Dakota, opioid overdose deaths have tripled in the span of 3 years (Harris, 2017)

people DIE EVERY DAY
from opioid-related
drug overdoses.

LIMITED RESOURCES IN RURAL AMERICA

- Access to behavioral health services
 - 18.7 percent of those in rural areas had a diagnosable mental health disorder in 2016 (APA, 2019)
 - Those in need must travel great distances, resulting in less treatment (Lin & Knudsen, 2019)
- The stigma of the disease

HEALTH PLAN GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1. Provide education to the rural population regarding opioid addiction
2. Support of the rural community and those facing opioid addiction
3. Advocate for the rural population for better programs, resources, and funding



Image Credit : Parker Knight

People need to get educated on addiction, so we can change the stigma surrounding the social label of "JUNKIE"

www.HeroinSupport.org

DESTIGMATIZING ADDICTION

- Addiction is a disease
- Labeling people who suffer from it
- Negative connotations
 - Increases the stigma
 - Decreases the provision of care

(Walsh, 2017)

UNDERSTANDING OPIOID ADDICTION

- Making wrong choices?
- Addiction defined
- Opioids alter receptors within the brain
- People want to quit but cannot without help



ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES

Education for rural communities

Overcome the stigma

- Allows for care to those with an addiction
- Support from the community

ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND RESOURCES

Local clinicals with MAT
availability

Consistent, ongoing care

- Support through periods of relapse and non-adherence to treatment
- Nurse practitioners provide holistic, patient-centered care

(Moore, 2019)

Mental Health Services

PROVIDING A VOICE FOR RURAL AMERICA



Image Credit: Google Images

- Legislative level
 - Expand programs and resources within rural populations
 - Advanced practice nurses having more waiver availability for MAT
- Funding
- Pivotal to sustainability of support and services to rural communities

SUMMARY



Advanced practices nurses can help address the opioid crisis in rural areas



Educate the rural population on opioid addiction



Provide support and resources



Advocate for the rural population at the legislative level



Work to obtain grants for funding and support

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