

## NCPHP Participates in North Carolina Opioid Prevention Summit July 1, 2019

NCPHP joined over 800 experts, government officials, doctors, practitioners and members of the public at the [Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit](#) held June 11-12 at NC State's McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, participants were able to interact with local and national experts in opioid treatment and best practices.

According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#), in 2017 there were 1,953 overdose deaths involving opioids in the state – a rate of 19.8 deaths per 100,000 people. That is higher than the average national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 people. The greatest single rise occurred among deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone, from 116 in 2013 to 1,285 deaths in 2017. Prescription opioid deaths remain statistically unchanged, with 659 reported deaths in 2017.

“As a member of the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) Opioid Task Force, this summit was needed to continue to drive home the impact this is having on our colleagues, friends and neighbors across this state,” said Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO of the North Carolina Physicians Health Program (NCPHP). “This summit brought together leaders from across the state and the region to address this issue through education and advocacy. I am proud to join similar professionals in working to develop solutions to address this national health crisis.”

Also unveiled at the summit was the NC Opioid Action Plan 2.0, an updated version of the original action plan developed in 2017. Since the original plan was launched, opioid dispensing has decreased by 24 percent. Prescriptions for drugs used to treat opioid use disorders increased by 15 percent in that time frame, and opioid use disorder treatment specifically for uninsured and Medicaid beneficiaries is up by 20 percent. There were nearly 10 percent fewer emergency department visits for opioid overdoses in 2018 than in 2017.

In addition, North Carolina has received more than \$54 million in federal funding, which has provided treatment for over 12,000 individuals with substance use disorders.

For more information on the NC Opioid Action Plan 2.0, visit [here](#).

