



Officials Announce Plan for Opioid Crisis

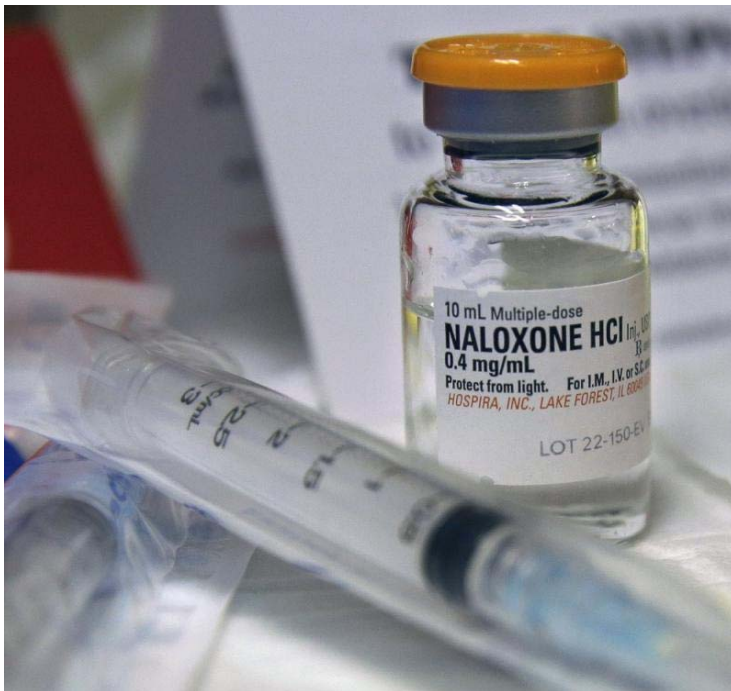
By ALEX AUBUCHON (/PEOPLE/ALEX-AUBUCHON) • JAN 29, 2018

[Tweet \(http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&text=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis\)](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&text=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis)

[Share \(http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&t=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis\)](http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&t=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis)

[Google+ \(https://plus.google.com/share?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v\)](https://plus.google.com/share?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v)

[Email \(mailto:?subject=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis&body=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v\)](mailto:?subject=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis&body=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v)



http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wual/files/styles/x_large/public/201801/naloxone.jpg

Several of Alabama's government heads have announced their plan for fighting the opioid epidemic currently gripping the state.

The Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council issued its report and action plan last week to find solutions to the state's opioid crisis.

The council is recommending several priorities including revamping the state's prescription monitoring system, implementing programs to get addicts into treatment instead of jails and prisons, and also widely expanding access to naloxone. That's a medication that can block the effects of opioids and prevent an overdose.

Lynn Beshear is the Commissioner of Alabama's Department of Mental Health. She says it's hard to

overstate how important it is to have naloxone handy.

"If a person is not breathing, and they are going to die, in order to move this person towards recovery, the first thing you have to do is save their life. I mean, that's just fundamental. A person has to be alive in order for us to be able to help them."

Beshear says there are currently more active prescriptions for opioids in Alabama than there are residents in the state.


TAGS: [OPIOIDS \(/TERM/OPIOIDS\)](#) [OPIOID ADDICTION \(/TERM/OPIOID-ADDICTION\)](#)


[ALABAMA OPIOID OVERDOSE AND ADDICTION COUNCIL \(/TERM/ALABAMA-OPIOID-OVERDOSE-AND-ADDICTION-COUNCIL\)](#)

[LYNN BESHEAR \(/TERM/LYNN-BESHEAR\)](#)


[ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH \(/TERM/ALABAMA-DEPARTMENT-MENTAL-HEALTH\)](#)

[NALOXONE \(/TERM/NALOXONE\)](#)

 [Tweet \(http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&text=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis\)](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&text=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis)

 [Share \(http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&t=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis\)](http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v&t=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis)

 [Google+ \(https://plus.google.com/share?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v\)](https://plus.google.com/share?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v)

 [Email \(mailto:?subject=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis&body=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v\)](mailto:?subject=Officials%20Announce%20Plan%20for%20Opioid%20Crisis&body=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fyb3bz76v)

1 Comment **WUAL**

 Login ▾

 Recommend  Share

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH



OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS 

Name



John Cruz • 20 hours ago

I am thrilled that more states are creating action plans, but nearly all of them focus their attention to the patient AFTER addiction has taken root. What if we were able to use educational behavioral modification paired with enhanced measurements to move closer to prevention rather than remediation? Check out www.drproveit.com for more. We are in the final stages of testing and are very excited to help the community.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

(<http://www.facebook.com/alpublicradio>)

(<https://twitter.com/ALPublicRadio>)



(<http://www.instagram.com/alabamapublicradio>)

(<http://www.npr.org/>)



(<http://www.bbc.com/>)

920 Paul Bryant Drive, Digital Media Center - Gate 47

(800)654-4262

Contact Us (<http://apr.org/contact-us>)

© 2018 Alabama Public Radio