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- In 2016, 43.1 percent of adults aged 18 or older with AMI received mental health services. This means over half (56.9 percent) of adults with a mental illness did not receive the mental health services they needed.
- Opioid use is rising steadily and rapidly, as shown by the 11.8 million post-year opioid misusers aged 12 and older in 2016.
- In 2016, an estimated 21 million people aged 12 or older needed substance use treatment.
- Among adults in 2016 who had either AMI or substance use disorders (SUDS) in the past year, 8.2 million had both AMI and SUDs.

Given the widespread impact and societal cost of behavioral health and substance use conditions, it is important for communities to make prevention, treatment, and recovery support services available and accessible to all those who need them. For more information or to access services in your community, please contact one of the following locations:

- SPHS Greensburg
  203 South Maple Avenue
  Greensburg, PA 15601
  724-494-0420

- SPHS Waynesburg
  35 South Washington Street
  Waynesburg, PA 15370
  724-427-4100

- SPHS Butler
  1410 North Main Street Ext.
  Butler, PA 16001
  724-274-1370

- SPHS Chicora
  250 Chambers Plaza
  Chicora, PA 16022
  724-489-0215

- SPHS New Kensington
  408 Eighth Street
  New Kensington, PA 15068
  724-335-6860

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter by email? Please consider this option as it will allow more of our resources to be invested in serving consumers and lessen the impact on our environment. If you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter, please email us at: newsletter@sphs.org with your request. Include your mailing address along with your request so that we can update your preferences accordingly.

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Connecting Sexual Violence and Addiction May be Crucial in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

[The following is an excerpt of a post initially published on the NSVRC blog by Krista Vienholt in March 2018, and is reprinted with the permission of the NSVRC.]

Opioids (including prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl) killed more than 42,000 people in 2016, more than any year on record. New information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is helping address opioid addiction even more clearly. As we consider this information and develop strategies to address the rise in overdoses, it’s also critical that we understand the connection between addiction and sexual violence.

The CDC released the latest Vital Signs about opioid overdoses treated in emergency departments. The CDC’s National Syndromic Surveillance Program tracked opioid overdoses July 2016 to September 2017 in emergency rooms in 45 states. Opioid overdoses in emergency rooms have increased:

- 30% overall
- 70% in the Midwestern region
- 54% in large cities

This increase is shocking and heartbreaking - opioid addiction is an epidemic in our communities, and for many of us, with our friends and family. This is something we all know. Not often talked about, however, is the connection between opioid addiction and sexual violence. Sexual violence is a common experience for people actively using and abusing opioids. The Journal of Interpersonal Violence conducted extensive interviews with 46 young adults in New York City who were opioid users, and found that sexual assault was a frequent occurrence, such as when the victim was unconscious, or when victims were forced to have sex in exchange for drugs or money. Opioid addicts also reported being targeted for victimization due to stigma related to being a drug user.

We also know that use of substances - including opioids - can occur in response to sexual violence. Sexual abuse and physical abuse have been identified as significant childhood risk factors for the development of addiction in adulthood. In a study of 295 patients in an outpatient treatment setting for alcohol dependence, drug dependence, or depression, patients dependent on alcohol or other drugs reported a four times higher frequency of emotional and sexual abuse than those in the control group, and two times higher than those with depression.

As we move forward in addressing opioid addiction in our neighborhoods, let us remember that the community-based organizations doing prevention work and providing services to sexual assault survivors play a vital role in response efforts. For some opioid users, sexual victimization may be the reason they continue to use. Drug and alcohol use is also a risk factor for sexual violence. Therefore, addressing sexual victimization, along with other responses to opioid overdoses, may be essential to ending this epidemic.

What could this look like in your community? It begins with educating all responding community service providers (EMTs, law enforcement, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, local health departments, and emergency departments) about the strong cyclical relationship between sexual violence and addiction. For this shared understanding, communities and organizations can determine how to address sexual trauma with survivors who are actively using and refer to the services offered at their community sexual violence program.

For more information on how sexual assault impacts our communities, how to access services in Washington and Greene Counties, and ways that you can become involved in the fight to end sexual violence, please contact the CARE Center STARS Program at 724-229-5007 or 724-627-6108.

Would you like to have a voice in the services that are provided in your community? Get involved with the SPHS Advisory Boards!

The CARE Center is seeking consumers and community members to serve on our Advisory Boards for Washington/Greene Counties, the Mon Valley Area, and Butler County. The Boards meet quarterly and assist with recommendations for program operations to ensure quality and accessibility for all consumers. Members can also assist with special events and community outreach. If you would like more information about becoming involved, please contact the following:

- Butler area: Tom Pardian at 724-431-0498
- Mon Valley area: Chris Garrett at 724-489-0215
- Washington and Greene Counties: Joanna Dragan at 724-229-5007.

Are you a recent graduate? Thinking about a career change? Consider SPHS!

There are several full-time and part-time positions available within SPHS and its affiliates. SPHS offers safe and supportive working environments, often with flexible work hours and benefits. If you are compassionate, reliable, and have a passion for helping others, think about joining the SPHS Team!

Go to: www.sphs.org and check out our Employment section for information on how to apply.
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Our Vision
Every individual served, through trauma informed, recovery based, integrated services, will have the opportunity for growth and inclusion in their community and have access to culturally competent services and supports of their choice. We strive to provide hope, empowerment, and improved quality of life that promote people reaching their full potential as individuals and productive community members.

SPHS Joins the Voices for Recovery

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  Waynesburg, PA 15370
  724-627-6108
- SPHS Uniontown
  84 North Gallatin Avenue
  Uniontown, PA 15401
  724-430-9710
- SPHS Ligonier
  1100 Ligonier Street
  Ligonier, PA 15650
  724-532-1700
- SPHS Monessen
  2 Eastgate Avenue
  Monessen, PA 15062
  724-684-6489
- SPHS CARE Washington
  75 East Maiden Street
  Washington, PA 15301
  724-228-2200
- SPHS Butler
  1610 North Main Street Ext.
  Butler, PA 16001
  724-234-1370
- SPHS Latrobe
  250 Chamber Plaza
  Latrobe, PA 15650
  724-489-0215
- SPHS New Kensington
  400 Eighth Street
  New Kensington, PA 15068
  724-339-6860
- SPHS Charleroi
  250 Chamber Plaza
  Charleroi, PA 15022
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