



Opioid Preparedness Exercise Summary

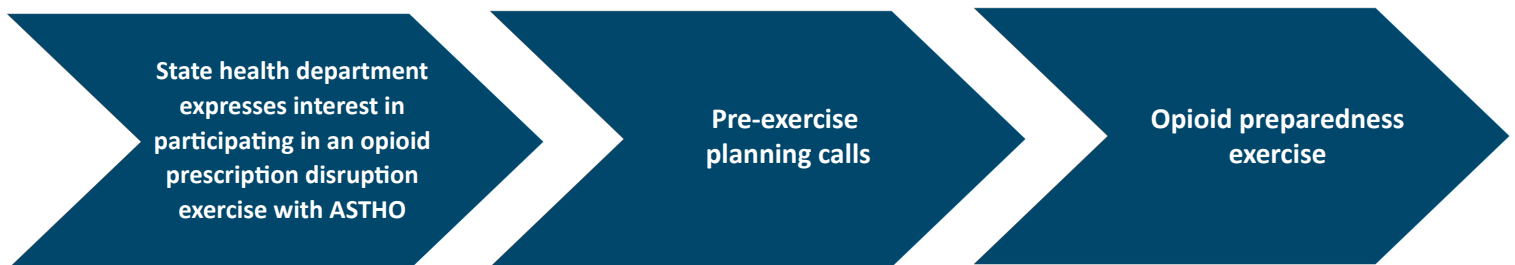
ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support and collaboration from CDC’s Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP), conducts scenario-based preparedness exercises with state health agency staff and key response partners to support planning for and responding to disruptions in access to opioid prescriptions or medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). A disruption is any event that halts a patient’s ability to access opioid prescriptions or MOUD. While disruptions may occur due to a provider’s death or retirement, these exercises focus on disruptions involving law enforcement actions against providers. ASTHO and ORRP work together to incorporate lessons learned from real actions and state responses into the practice exercises to ensure they represent realistic scenarios.

ASTHO’s opioid preparedness exercises are designed for states that are interested in developing, updating, or reviewing their protocol with state and local partners. During the exercise, ASTHO will facilitate discussions about ways to plan and prepare for a disruption, accounting for risk mitigation and continuity of care for impacted patients.

Exercise Goals

- Promote collaboration between key stakeholder groups conducting opioid preparedness activities.** Streamlined communication and coordination during a response are essential. The exercise emphasizes understanding roles and responsibilities to ensure a smooth response.
- Practice response scenarios to support developing and/or enhancing the state’s opioid prescription disruption response protocol.** The exercises are designed to identify potential gaps or resource needs that stakeholders can work together to address.
- Support peer learning and relationship building to enhance response efforts for disruptions in access to opioid prescriptions.** The exercise is intended to share foundational information about a response and to allow participants to understand the unique roles and responsibilities that stakeholders play in preparing for and responding to disruptions in opioid prescriptions.



- ASTHO and ORRP communicate via email with the state health department planning team to schedule a pre-exercise planning calls.
- ASTHO will coordinate logistics, set an agenda, and create materials for all pre-exercise planning calls.

During the pre-exercise planning calls, ASTHO will facilitate discussion to help members of the planning team identify topics and activities to include in the tabletop exercise and develop a list of state and local stakeholders to participate in the exercise.

- The exercise is split into two, 120-minute sessions.
- All exercises are tailored to fit the needs of the state. Activities may focus on partnership building or stakeholder mapping, mock scenarios, and/or after-action discussions (“hotwash”).