

Why in Sequim?

Is what most people ask themselves when they hear about the new regional opioid addiction facility, known as the Jamestown Healing Campus. Why put a 250 patient facility that will actively draft patients from both Clallam & Jefferson County right into a retirement community without even an emergency room?

Many people have a gut feeling that this might not be the wisest choice of location, but cannot put a finger on why. The information on this flyer provides a bit of data that supports that gut feeling. If you have any questions, criticism or additional information for us, would like to donate to **SOS** or get involved volunteering, please visit our website at www.saveoursequim.org.

Location

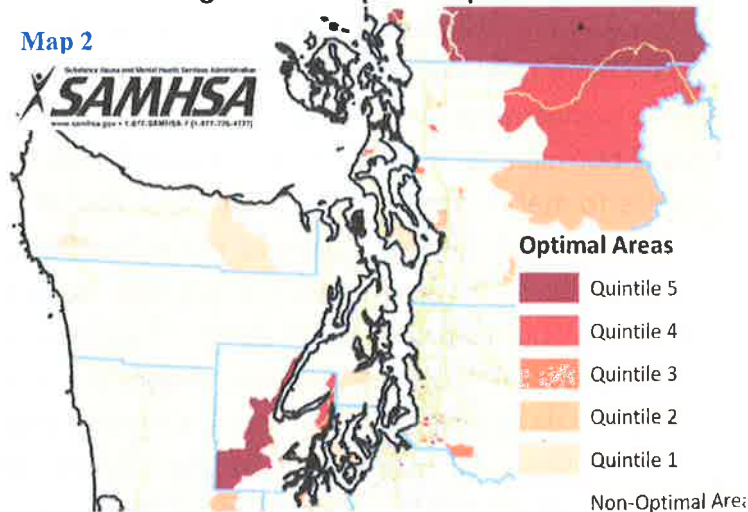
Sequim has a median age of 56, which is 49% above the WA state average of 37 yrs. Sequim also has no inpatient hospital or emergency room, and is under-served in both primary and specialty medical care. With a shortage in subsidized housing and an incredibly tight and expensive rental market, providing housing for people on low income or welfare programs presents a serious challenge for our community.

Furthermore, Sequim has a low level of drug related crime and violent crime¹ (see **Map 1** below) compared to other towns in our area. All of these factors make Sequim a poor choice for any form of opioid MAT clinic, let alone a large, regional one. Which is why the **US Department of Health and Human Services**, classified Sequim as a 'non-optimal area' (see **Map 2** below) for an opioid MAT location, giving it the lowest of the 6 ratings an area could receive. This is the most recent federal service assessment for our area, and it was done in 2016, during the peak of the opioid overdose and death data in Clallam County, when we had the least MAT services available. Since then we have more than tripled our opioid addiction treatment capacity, and cut overdoses in half (see further data below). If Sequim was a non-optimal area then, when things were at their worst in Clallam County, how could it be a better location for it now?

Violent Crime Map 2019



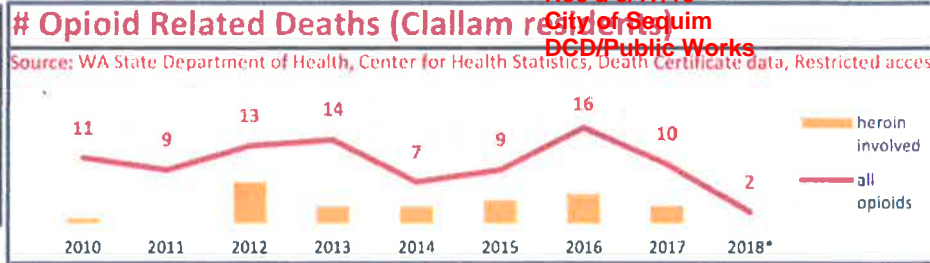
Washington 2016 Potential Areas for Addressing Service Gaps for Opioid Treatment



Need for Treatment

We have all heard how Clallam County had the highest rate of opioid prescriptions in the whole WA State between 2006-2012. Partially because of the high number of orthopedic, cancer and hospice patients in our county that comes with a median age 49% above the rest of the state. Those record numbers were also 7 years ago. How are things recently? In more recent data we can see that our opioid overdoses and deaths peaked in 2016, and have since been dropping significantly. In 2018 we had 30 drug overdoses, and only 2 illegal opioid deaths, neither of which involved heroin² (see table & chart on the top of back page).

Table 1	2016	2017	2018
# overdose reports:	62	31	30
Heroin-involved:	69%	74%	83%
Fatal overdose:	10%	23%	7%



So things are looking pretty good now.

But what does our treatment capacity look like? Currently, we are providing **730** outpatient MAT spots in Clallam County, which is in incredible improvement from the approximately **300** treatment spots in previous years, mainly due to the new OPHS clinic in Port Angeles and NOHN's service expansion (see overview in **Table 2** below). Before the end of 2019, Clallam County will be at **930** MAT spots with the new Baymark clinic in Port Angeles, providing **1** MAT spot for every **81** Clallam residents. If the new Jamestown Healing Campus is built, that number will go up to **1150**, providing **1** MAT spot per **66** Clallam residents. Which means that we are not only saying that **1** in **66** residents is an opioid addict, but an opioid addict that currently wants outpatient MAT treatment *and* has health insurance to cover the costs.

MAT CAPACITY CLALLAM COUNTY

CURRENT

COMING

FUTURE

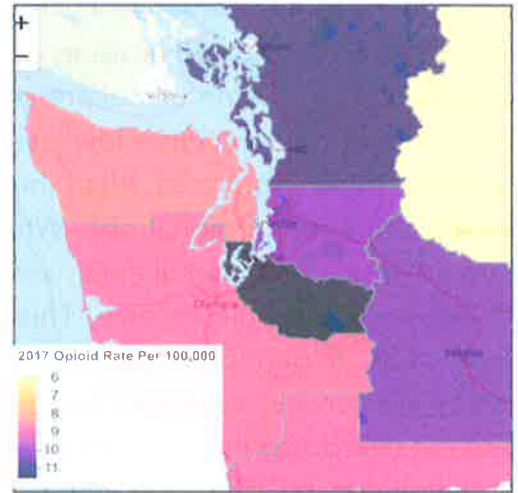
North Olympic Healthcare Services	480	¹
Olympic Peninsula Health Services	150	²
Olympic Medical Center	70	²
Jamestown Family Health	30	¹
CURRENT TOTAL	730	
Baymark Health Services	200	³
TOTAL BY END 2019	930	
Jamestown Healing Campus	250	
TOTAL BY EARLY 2021	1150	

¹ WA State HCA Hub and Spoke 2018 Directory
² Employee Statement
³ PDN article 5/31/2019

Table 2

Per Capita Treatment Capacity	
1:250	2018
1:103	NOW
1:81	end 2019
1:66	early 2021

Map 3: Opioid Overdose Deaths 2017²



But why would it be a problem if we have too much treatment? The problem is not us, it is *all around us*. In Pierce County in 2018, only 25% of over 2,500 heroin addicts had access to treatment, even though 77% said wanted treatment.³ In 2018, they had an opioid MAT capacity of 1 spot per 435 citizens, and they would have to build over 10,000 more treatment spots to get close to the capacity that we have now.

This is concerning, because according to the most recent MAT study in western WA, over 8% of the patients travel 60 miles or more in order to enroll into the programs, and only 53% of the MAT participants have access to stable housing⁴, 18% still take illegal opioids 6 months into the program, and after one year of treatment, 12% still report arrests in the last 30 days or outstanding criminal charges.⁴

This data comes from the most recent MAT studies in western WA, performed by the WA State Department of Health, published in April 2019. These studies also show an average 1-year retention rate of 51%, meaning that 49% of the patients dropped out during that first year⁴. **Map 3** gives an idea, of how much worse the drug problem is in Pierce, King and Snohomish County, an area home to almost 4 million people, with thousands of heroin addicts that cannot find enough treatment locally. Many of the 47% of MAT patients that do not have access to stable housing according to above mentioned study, do not care where they have to go for treatment, and if they relapse, they become our problem. With just over 7,000 people, Sequim does not have the infrastructure or the financial means to support a *regional* MAT facility!

¹ LexisNexis Crime Map Data & Sperling's Best Places, Data Source: Uniform Crime Reports published by FBI

² US Health Department WA State Residents Drug Overdose Quarterly Report

³ Pierce County ACH Semi-Annual Report 1 2018 & Pierce County Transformation Project Plan Submission NOVEMBER 16, 2017

⁴ WA State Department of Social & Health Services – Geographic Distributions of Patients in MAT & WA State MAT, Prelim. Outcomes Yr. 2