



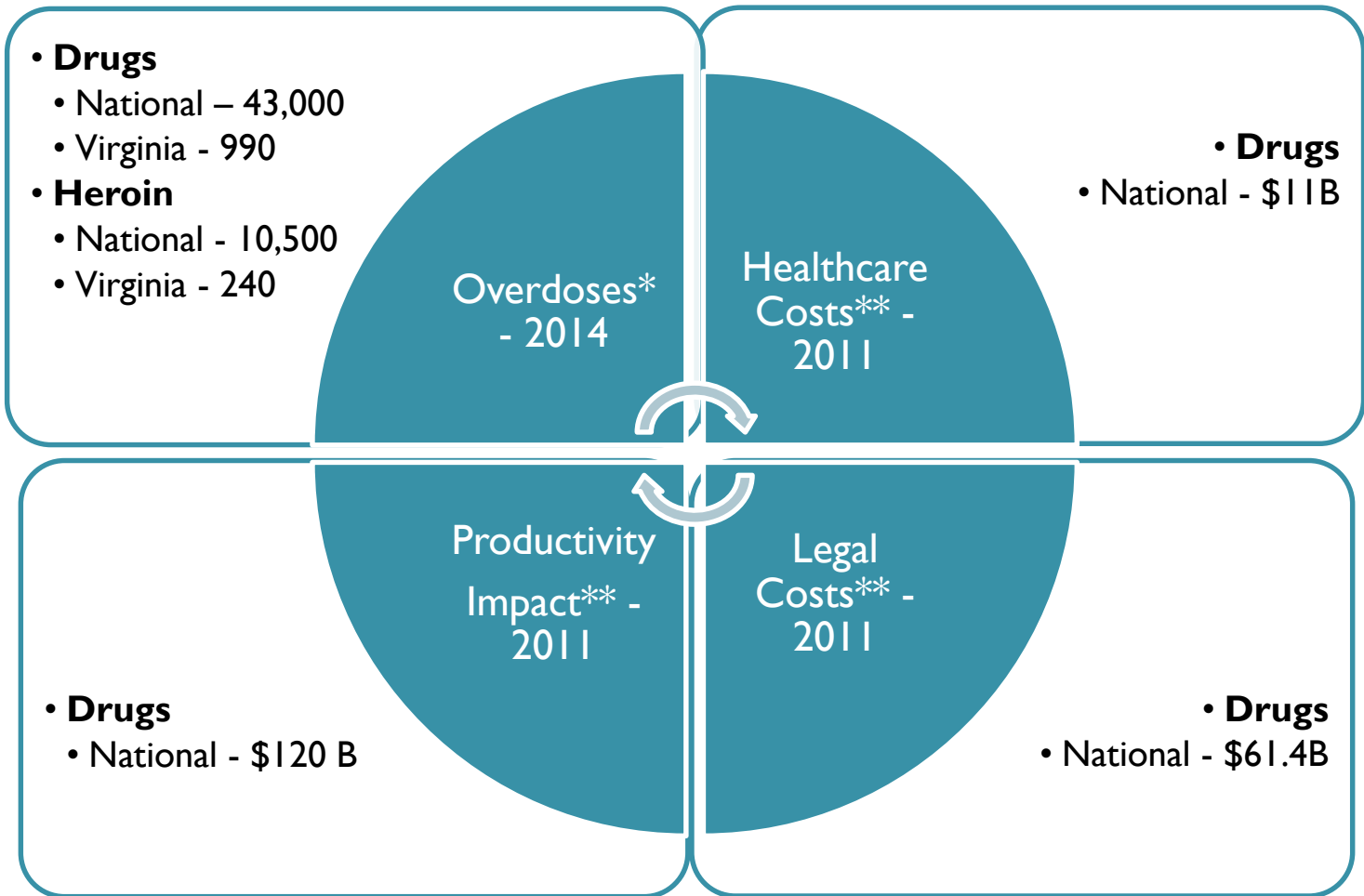
Increase in Heroin & Methamphetamine Use: State Coordinated Response

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Methamphetamines and Heroin Use



The Numbers



- **Drugs**
 - National – 43,000
 - Virginia - 990
- **Heroin**
 - National - 10,500
 - Virginia - 240

Overdoses*
- 2014

Healthcare
Costs** -
2011

- **Drugs**
 - National - \$11B

Productivity
Impact** -
2011

Legal
Costs** -
2011

- **Drugs**
 - National - \$120 B

- **Drugs**
 - National - \$61.4B

*National Numbers - National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [link](#); Virginia – Virginia Department of Health - [link](#)

**National Institute on Drug Abuse - National Drug Intelligence Center - [link](#)

Involved Parties

Public Safety

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Criminal Justice Services

Health and Human Resources

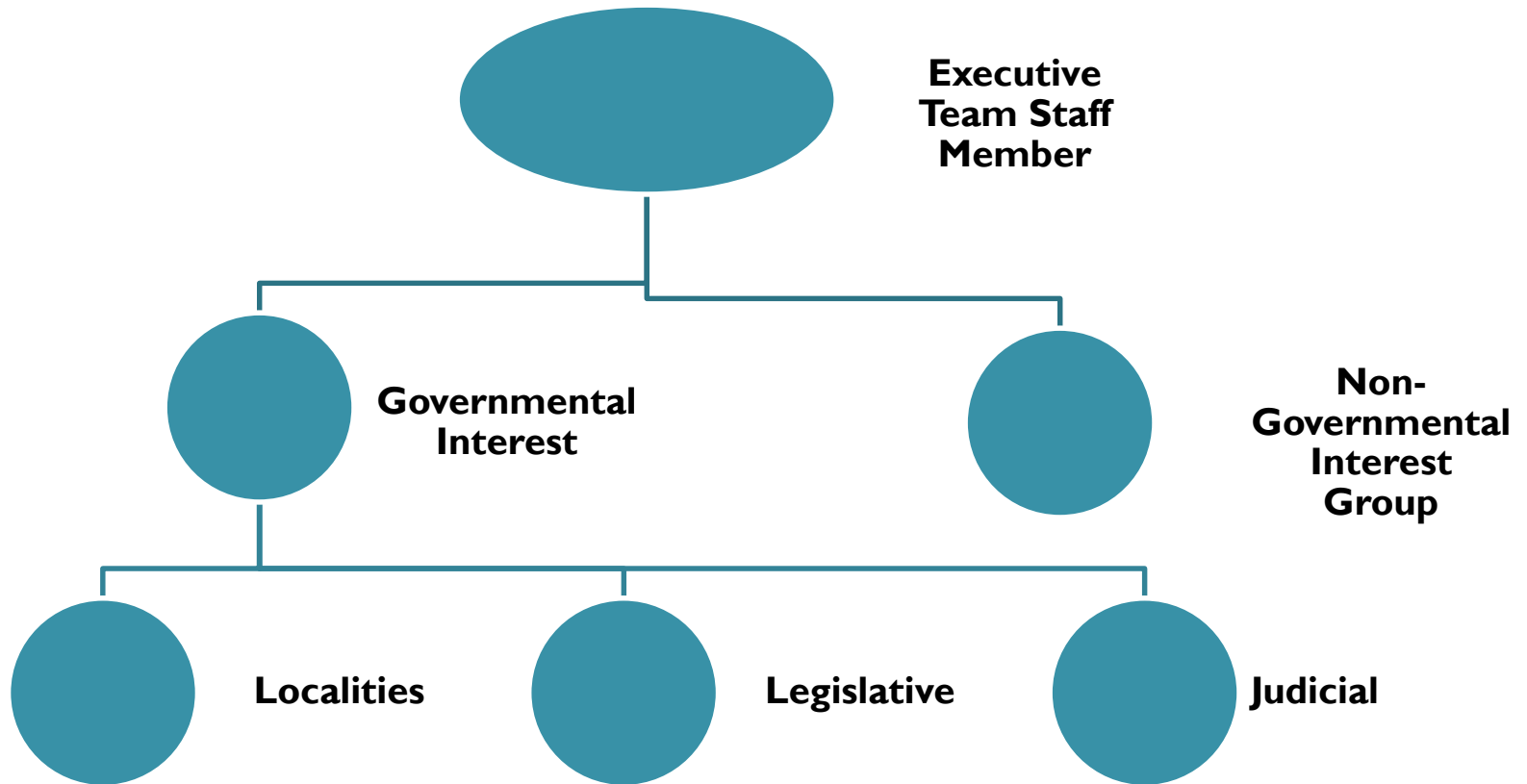
- Department of Medical Assistance Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Health Professions

Education

Non-Governmental
Interests

Localities

Proposed Model



What is Virginia Doing to Address Overdoses?

- Naloxone Hydrochloride
 - Narcan - Nasal Spray used to immediately treat known or suspected opioid overdose
 - Works quickly
 - Price has increased due to demand
 - Use of Narcan by 1st responders supported by federal, state, and local governments
 - Evzio – cheaper injectable form provided to families or health care facilities

Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces

- Coordinated effort between state and local law enforcement
- Investigating drug distributors including doctors to limit availability of pharmaceutical drugs
- Most effective task forces often involve federal law enforcement participation and a dedicated Commonwealth's Attorney
- Provides opportunity to divert users to drug courts or treatment programs

Improving Treatment Options

- Drug courts: 33 in Virginia but not everywhere, cost effective compared to case adjudication, reduces recidivism, accountability for users
- Inpatient/outpatient treatment: Expanding funding
- MD office-based treatment: Expanding guidelines for prescriber training and treatment parameters

Other Considerations

- Enhanced education and regulations for pain Rx prescribers: positive results so far
- Emergency needle exchange programs: Combat HIV or Hep C outbreaks; legislation in VA in SFY 2016 failed
- “Prescription only laws”: Reduce access to pseudoephedrine; some success in other states

A Coordinated Response

- Many state and local agencies have a piece in responding to/combating the problem
- Need better coordination of all entities; creation of a “unifier” position
- Virginia’s successful prisoner re-entry efforts as a possible model for addressing heroin, methamphetamine and other drug use and deaths
- Committee representation includes not only those in substance abuse recovery and affected family members, but also individuals formerly involved the court system for drug offenses

