



Illinois
Boone County Health Department
Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Program

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

Overview

The geographical area to be served encompasses Boone County, which has witnessed above-average rates on important indicators related to opioid overdoses:

- Boone County's nonfatal opioid overdose rate per 100,000 population for 2017 was 94.8, slightly less than the 104.5 statewide, but the fatal overdose rate was 27.9 compared to 21 statewide.
- The county's nonfatal heroin overdose rate per 100,000 was 65.4, slightly lower than Illinois' 70.7, but its fatal overdose rate was 11.2 compared to 8.8 statewide. Although fewer overall overdoses occur in Boone County than in the state, they are fatal more often.

In addition, young adults appear to be disproportionately affected. The number of nonfatal overdoses among 15- to 34-year-olds nearly doubled from 2015 to 2016 and increased an additional 25 percent in 2017, hitting an all-time high of 29. Further analysis of Illinois Department of Public Health data shows a troubling increase in natural

or semi-synthetic opioid deaths. From 2015 to 2016, the number of deaths from natural or semi-synthetic opioids doubled. In 2017, that number tripled to six times that of 2015. This same trend was seen in heroin deaths, with one heroin death in Boone County in 2015, two in 2016, and six in 2017.

Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.

- Integrate standardized screening practices into the criminal justice system.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

Program Approach

The Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction (COAR) program is a system-wide series of coordinated interventions:

- Connecting individuals at risk for overdose (those getting out of jail) and their families with substance abuse and behavioral health treatment services.
- Providing training for law enforcement/criminal justice systems.
- Creating a screening tool to identify individuals with substance use disorders.
- Developing a plan to reduce the risk of overdose death and enhance treatment among pre-trial and post-trial populations leaving jail.
- Implementing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and cognitive behavioral treatment within the jail.
- Integrating behavioral services into the jail's detainee health services, including introducing MAT.
- Introducing Narcan.
- Creating a list of resources in Boone County for peer support, behavioral health, and other services.

Performance metrics that will be used to assess the project's effectiveness include:

- Number of individuals referred to and receiving recovery support services
- Number of individuals referred and receiving substance use treatment services
- Change in number of probation violations and opioid-related bookings
- Change in number of overdoses
- Frequency and interval of overdose events experienced by program participants

Project Partners

- B1 Food Pantry at Belvidere First Assembly of God
- Boone County Administration
- Boone County Board
- Boone County Drug Prevention Coalition
- Boone County GIS
- Boone County Health Department
- Boone County Jail
- Boone County Planning
- Boone County Probation
- Boone County Public Defender
- Boone County Sheriff
- Boone County State's Attorney's Office
- City of Belvidere
- City of Rockford, Community Action Agency
- Crusader Community Health
- OSF Medical Center
- Remedies Renewing Lives
- Region 1 Planning Council
- Rosecrance
- Sinnissippi Centers Inc.
- SwedishAmerican (a division of UW Health)
- Transformation Behavioral Health

Contact Information

Project Director: Amanda Mehl

Email: amehl@boonehealth.org

Phone: (815) 547-8591

Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at www.cossapresources.org.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov and follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.