



BJA's  
**Comprehensive**  
Opioid, Stimulant,  
and Substance Abuse  
Program



Louisiana  
City of New Orleans Health Department  
New Orleans Opioid Survival Connection

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

## Overview

The project serves New Orleans, which is contiguous with Orleans Parish. Historically, alcohol has been the drug of choice in New Orleans, but other drugs, including crack cocaine, have afflicted the city. In recent years, as with much of the nation, New Orleans has seen a significant rise in opioid use and overdoses. In 2016, opioid overdoses surpassed homicides for the first time as a leading cause of death in the city. That fact led the city to undertake aggressive action to combat the opioid crisis in a multifaceted campaign to stem the rate of overdoses. This included a public awareness campaign, ensuring that first responders were equipped with naloxone; increased use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) options; legalization of syringe service efforts; and increased coordination among public health, law enforcement, and treatment providers. On a statewide level, efforts to improve monitoring of prescriptions and standardizing cause-of-death reporting by coroners have

helped curb opioid use and knowledge of overdose patterns. The crisis has had an indiscriminate impact and has served to unite efforts across the state, parish, and city governments.

## Grant Focus

- Increase access to naloxone.
- Support prescriber education programs.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.

## Program Approach

- Overdose hotspots are monitored to target outreach efforts, with linkages to treatment for overdose survivors or those at risk of overdose.
- In partnership with the local public hospital, the program receives referrals of patients who recently survived an overdose or whose opioid use has

created/complicated medical issues resulting in hospitalization.

- Patients referred from the hospital are connected to treatment programs that are best suited to their needs, typically MAT.
- The program conducts follow-up with clients to assist with ongoing needs and to connect them to other social services.
- Community outreach and education efforts involve training the public on how to administer naloxone. Other lifesaving actions, such as CPR and tourniquet application, are also offered.

## Project Partners

- University Medical Center Emergency Department
- New Orleans EMS
- New Orleans Opioid Task Force
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Field Office
- Mayor's Office of Community Engagement
- Xavier University College of Pharmacy

## Contact Information

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