



Massachusetts  
Newbury Police Department  
Essex County Outreach Program

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

## Overview

Of the 14 counties in Massachusetts, Essex County consistently ranks second-highest for drug overdose rates (2018) and higher than the national average (23 per 100,000 versus 20 nationally). While other counties have seen declines in overdose deaths, in Essex County attributed fatal overdoses numbered 313 in 2018, up from 279 the prior year. More impoverished communities—for example, Lynn and Lawrence—continue to record the most overdoses (342 and 312, respectively, in 2019), with a total of 79 fatal overdoses last year in those two communities alone. The project covers all 34 communities within Essex County. The sheriff's department will help perform outreach visits to homes of individuals who have experienced an overdose and provide fatal overdose follow-up with the families of deceased victims within a month of their overdoses. Law enforcement will use a database to enter information about overdoses, and schedule follow-up visits. The project is planning to establish a link to overdose calls throughout the state to

serve communities better. The county recognizes that individuals are 120 times more susceptible to overdose upon release from jail and has partnered with the Clean and Sober Existence (CASE) unit at Middleton Jail to provide follow-ups with individuals upon their release from the program.

## 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.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.

- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

An Essex County Outreach (ECO) database has been established for the entry and subsequent awareness of overdoses, to help the outreach team quickly respond when overdosing individuals are most receptive to treatment.

ECO will be divided into four hubs based on geography and overdose rates to obtain accurate information on specific programs and determine how funding can be best utilized.

For communities without existing outreach programs, a region-based pool of recovery coaches will be available to respond, using the database for assistance and to link substance use counselors to health-care partners.

A data collection tool will be established for uniform reporting of statistics to analyze the effectiveness of the program.

Officers involved in the program will be trained on outreach expectations.

The program will partner with the Department of Children and Families to address the needs of children witnessing

overdoses or living with parents struggling with a substance use disorder.

State police participating in the program will provide a link with the medical examiner's office to conduct further investigations.

## Project Partners

- 34 Essex law enforcement partners
- Essex County Sheriff's Office
- Department of Children and Families
- State police and the medical examiner's office
- Essex County hospitals
- PAARI AmeriCorps recovery coaches
- Pettengill House
- Department of Public Health

## Contact Information

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