



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



New Mexico
Bernalillo County
Bernalillo County Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program

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

Overview

Bernalillo County is in the center of New Mexico. Geographically, it is one of the state's smaller counties (1,167 square miles) but is the most populous, with a population of 678,701 (2018 Census). The county seat is Albuquerque, the largest city in New Mexico. It is considered a "minority-majority" state with a population that is 50.3 percent Hispanic or Latino, 38.5 percent Anglo or white, 6.2 percent American Indian or Alaska Native, and 3.4 percent African American. The county has witnessed the largest number of total drug overdose deaths in New Mexico and carries a disproportionate percentage of the state's total number of deaths. In 2017, Bernalillo County had 169 drug overdose deaths, which represented 35 percent of the state's drug overdose deaths. In the previous five years (2012 to 2016), 923 drug overdose deaths occurred in Bernalillo County. From 2012 to 2016, the rate of emergency department visits related to opioid overdose in New Mexico grew from 60 per 100,000 people to nearly 80 per 100,000 people.

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.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Develop and disseminate research on opioid policies and interventions.
- 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

The Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) will expand its opioid harm reduction services to address existing accessibility gaps in behavioral health services in Bernalillo County's 14 qualified opportunity zones and in other neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the abuse of illicit opioid and prescription drugs.

DBHS will collaborate with the New Mexico Department of Health, Public Health Division, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's 360 Albuquerque Initiative to develop a mobile harm reduction delivery system.

DBHS will connect individuals at risk of opioid overdose and/or survivors of a nonfatal overdose and their families with care and will join forces with state, metropolitan area, rural, tribal, and federal partners to plan, develop, and implement a comprehensive opioid emergency management plan.

- **Mobile Harm Reduction Program**—partnership with the New Mexico Department of Health. The mobile unit will provide needle exchange services, drug take-backs, Narcan training and distribution, and support service referrals.
- **Off Reservation Urban Indian Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program**—partnership with First Nations Community HealthSource, New Mexico's Urban Indian Health Center, and a federally qualified health center. Services will include culturally appropriate mental health and opioid abuse counseling and MAT.
- **Youth Transitional Living Program**—partnership with Healing Addiction in Our Community, Serenity

Mesa Recovery Center. Services will include long-term inpatient and transitional living services for young people (aged 14 to 21).

- **Youth ADOBE (Adverting Disparities in Outcomes by Building Engagement) Program**—partnership with the University of New Mexico Board of Regents, Health Sciences Center. Services will include wraparound services for justice-involved youth by primary care doctors, nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, and care coordinators.

The county is in the process of contracting a data-management provider to develop an integrated data system to document, monitor, and evaluate program performance.

Project Partners

- New Mexico Department of Health
- Office of Emergency Management Policy Research Associates
- First Nations Community HealthSource, Urban Indian Health Center
- Healing Addiction in Our Community, Serenity Mesa Recovery Center
- University of New Mexico, Youth ADOBE Program
- University of New Mexico, Institute for Social Research
- Bureau of Infectious Disease
- District of New Mexico, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

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