



North Carolina
Cumberland County Department of Public Health
Cumberland-Fayetteville Opioid Response Team

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

Overview

Cumberland County is the fifth-largest county in North Carolina, with a population of 325,841. An urban community with a large agricultural industry, it is home to Fort Bragg, the largest U.S. military installation with approximately 57,000 military personnel, 11,000 civilian employees, and 23,000 family members. In 2019, Cumberland County was designated a Tier 1 community in terms of economic distress by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. North Carolina has been significantly impacted by the opioid epidemic. Data from the North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (IVPB) show drug deaths increased 350 percent since 1999. Cumberland County has been disproportionately impacted by abuse of illicit opioids and prescription drugs, as demonstrated by high rates of overdose injuries and deaths documented by the IVPB. Between 1999 and 2008, poisoning deaths in Cumberland County hovered between 8 and 14 annually; they reached 34 in 2014, then 79 in 2017. The IVPB reported that opiate poisoning

emergency visits for Cumberland County are ranked in the top five in the state. In April 2019, there were 161 emergency room visits for drug poisonings, compared to 117 in April 2018. In 2017, more than 16 million opioid pills were dispensed in Cumberland County. In 2018, the Cumberland-Fayetteville Opioid Response Team (C-FORT) was established to engage in a collective impact initiative to develop localized solutions to the opioid crisis. C-FORT meets monthly to assess community resources and gaps, review opioid-related data, and conduct strategic planning.

Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.

- Increase access to naloxone.
- 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 project goal is to reduce the number of opioid overdose injuries and deaths in Cumberland County, employing the following strategies:

- Expand post-overdose outreach to the entire community.
- Provide linkage to care opportunities for persons who experience a nonfatal overdose.
- Create an opioid fatality review team.
- Provide project coordination for C-FORT.

- Enhance diversion programs by removing barriers to transitional housing.
- Strengthen community knowledge and awareness regarding substance use disorders.

Four program guides will be created:

1. Best Practices for Post-Overdose Response
2. Jail-Based Opioid Prevention and Education Curriculum and Best Practices
3. Implementing an Overdose Fatality Review in a Rural Area
4. Using the Collective Impact Model to Address the Opioid Epidemic

Project Partners

- North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
- Cumberland-Fayetteville Opioid Response Team

Contact Information

Project Director: Ashley Curtice

Email: acurtice@co.cumberland.nc.us

Phone: (910) 433-3672

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