



Ohio  
 Erie County Health Department  
 Erie County Health Department / Erie County Community Health Center  
 Drug Overdose Response Team

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

## Overview

The rural area of Erie County, Ohio, is the geographic focus of the project. The opioid epidemic has significantly impacted Erie County for many years. The county reported more than 50 deaths from unintentional drug overdose between 2017 and 2018 and experienced more than 250 drug-overdose-related emergency department visits in 2018. While rates have slowed the past two years, these statistics are still upward trending with no clear peak in sight.

Erie County is ranked 14th among Ohio's 88 counties for per capita encounters (inpatient and outpatient hospital visits) for drug addictions/overdoses. Erie County is ranked 32nd in state population. The county ranks higher in the following areas: 24th for unintentional drug overdose deaths and 16th in the age-adjusted death rate (2017); 22nd in drug overdose deaths and 15th in the age-adjusted rate (2015–2017); 22nd in overdose encounters and 12th in the rate of overdose encounters (2017); and 26th in per capita opioid doses dispensed (2017). The

population impacted is primarily adults. In the summer months, a large amusement park, Cedar Point, is open, and many visitors from a five-state area visit, more than doubling the population on any given day and adding to the problem. Resources that are currently available include a 16-patient detox facility and a 48-bed women's recovery housing facility.

## 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.

- 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.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.

- The team will work with schools, local law enforcement, emergency medical staff, treatment providers, the faith-based community, the newly state-certified family treatment court, and the proposed adult drug court to help where needed and share information or data across different agencies.
- The team will bring more cohesion and accessibility to all services already available and work to expand services that prove beneficial.

## Program Approach

The goals of the program are as follows:

- Have two team members dedicated to potential overdose calls dispatched by the Erie County Sheriff's Department. Whether on scene with law enforcement, at the hospital after transport, or within 24 to 48 hours after an individual has left the hospital, the team will make attempts to contact the individual and provide resources and linkages for recovery.
- The team will continue to follow up with individuals willing to work with the team to maintain their recovery.
- Team members will also work on fine-tuning and familiarizing themselves with a comprehensive services portfolio to assist individuals.
- Resource kits will be made available for family and friends of affected individuals.
- When not responding to or following up on potential overdose calls, the team will be active in the community disseminating information.
- Networking with community providers to educate and assist where needed.

## Project Partners

- Erie County Sheriff's Department
- Erie County Prosecutor's Office

## Contact Information

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