



Pennsylvania
 Wyoming County
 Wyoming County Comprehensive Case Management Services

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

Overview

Wyoming County is located in northeastern Pennsylvania, with a population of 27,046 that is primarily white, non-Hispanic or Latino (95.5 percent). In 2017, Pennsylvania experienced 5,456 accidental drug-related overdose deaths (43 deaths per 100,000), more than twice the national average. Pennsylvania experienced a 65 percent increase in drug-related overdose deaths between 2015 and 2017, with more than 80 percent of fatalities involving fentanyl and other novel synthetic opioids (NSOs) by 2017. In turn, from 2015 to 2017, Wyoming County experienced a 57 percent increase in drug-related overdose deaths, resulting in a rate of 40 deaths per 100,000 for 2017. Wyoming County experienced seven overdose deaths in 2015 and 11 in 2017. NSOs found in overdose decedent toxicology reports are of particular concern to first responders, since these drugs have unknown toxicity. Reports indicate that heroin (34.3 percent), opiates/synthetics (9.1 percent), and cocaine/crack (4.5 percent) were the primary drugs of choice

between 2019 and 2020. As for drug supply, in 2017, fentanyl and NSOs accounted for 21 percent of drugs seized in Pennsylvania (14 percent in Wyoming County), an increase of 600 percent from 2015. Pennsylvania continues to be impacted by overdose throughout its 67 counties.

Grant Focus

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

Program Approach

The Wyoming County Comprehensive Case Management Services program will reduce opioid abuse and the number of overdose fatalities, as well as mitigate impacts on crime victims through comprehensive, collaborative

initiatives. The project involves a partnership between the Wyoming County District Attorney's Office and the Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

PERU will provide implementation and evaluation technical assistance as the research partner for this project. Priority considerations will include the disproportionate impact on Wyoming County by the abuse of illicit opioid and prescription drugs, as evidenced by high rates of overdose deaths and seizures. The inclusion of a research partner will assist in the identification of the problem, design of the solution, and evaluation of the proposed initiatives.

Goals for the project include the following:

- Establishing a collaborative peer recovery support program using the Intervention Programming model to improve access to treatment for high-risk individuals, overdose survivors, and their families
- Establishing a mental health, addiction, and crisis referral options for first responders

- Training first responders on identification, safe exposure, and appropriate response to fentanyl, carfentanil, and other dangerous substances
- Training first responders on motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care to screen and conduct referrals to appropriate treatment and nontreatment resources, including providing timely follow-up to those patients and providing nontraditional services to reduce the risk of future overdoses
- Implementing a law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program
- A large-scale evaluation will be conducted for all program goals and deliverables to promote sustainability and replication to other areas of need

Project Partners

- Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU), University of Pittsburgh
- Wyoming County District Attorney's Office

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