



Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Tennessee Comprehensive Opioid Response Strategies

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

Overview

Tennessee has seen an increase annually of drug overdose deaths from 2013 to 2017, with a total increase of more than 52 percent and an increase of more than 800 percent in deaths involving fentanyl. In the same time frame, nonfatal opioid overdoses rose to 11.8 per 100,000 residents. In addition, the state has seen a significant increase in emergency department visits for suspected drug overdose from 2017 to 2018, and in 2017, more than 66 percent of drug overdose deaths involved more than one contributing drug. These trends present funding challenges for the state, since Tennessee is not a Medicaid expansion state; individuals who are poor, including individuals transitioning from a period of incarceration, have limited access to treatment services. The Tennessee Comprehensive Opioid Response Strategy selected communities for participation based on a combination of factors: high numbers of fatal and nonfatal drug and opioid-related-drug overdoses, the presence of active ongoing community partnerships, and a documented willingness to engage in a complex multidisciplinary

project. Selected communities include six new implementation project sites in Davidson, Montgomery, Sumner, Putnam, Wilson, and Washington counties, as well as five enhancement project sites for counties that are currently COAP-funded (Sullivan, Hamilton, Knox, Jefferson, and Coffee).

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.
- 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.
- Integrate standardized screening practices into the criminal justice system.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

- Reducing the number of OUD overdose deaths and poisonings among justice-involved individuals.

TDMHSAS will address gaps in services to better serve law enforcement agencies (LEAs), courts, behavioral health workers, and communities. Participating counties will create a systems map to highlight data sources, opioid use, local crime and jail reports provided before training sessions, documentation of technical assistance, and implementation manuals.

TDMHSAS will also support LEAs in identifying individuals who need substance abuse treatment services and connecting them to treatment, as well as develop programs that embed social services with LEAs to rapidly respond to opioid overdoses where children are affected.

TDMHSAS will work with counties to connect individuals at risk for overdose, and overdose survivors and their families with substance abuse and behavioral health treatment providers or peer recover support providers.

TDMHSAS will work with Jefferson and Coffee counties to implement treatment for OUDs in county jails, including using medications to reduce overdose risks and to enhance treatment and recovery services among pre- and posttrial populations.

Program Approach

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and its partners will work with counties to enhance community capacity to respond to substance abuse and opioid abuse disorders (OUDs) by:

- Enhancing state-level planning and resource coordination to strengthen the delivery of technical assistance and support to communities.
- Increasing formal strategic planning, implementation oversight, and monitoring related to OUD responses in local communities.
- Expanding local community access to strategic planning tools; OUD data; and training, technology, and treatment resources.
- Improving the early identification of justice-involved individuals with OUDs and working to divert them from incarceration into treatment and recovery support services.

Project Partners

- Tennessee Department of Correction
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Tennessee Recovery Navigators
- Policy Research Associates

Contact Information

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Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at www.cossapresources.org.

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