



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



Tennessee
Nashville/Davidson County Metro Public Health Department
Opioid Overdose Reduction Program (OORP)

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

Overview

The Tennessee Opioid Overdose Reduction Program (OORP) serves the Nashville/Davidson County area. Until recently, prescription opioids were the main driver of escalating overdose rates in Tennessee. In 2017, Tennessee reported the third-highest opioid prescribing rate in the United States, at 94.4 prescriptions per 100 persons, while Nashville's rate was 73.7 prescriptions per 100 persons, compared to the national rate of 58.7 prescriptions per 100 persons.

Over the last three years, more than 1,000 Nashville residents have died as a result of drug overdoses. The annual number of drug overdose deaths increased by 41 percent between 2017 and 2019, from 330 in 2017 to 466 in 2019. Across demographic categories, the largest increase in overdose deaths over the last three years was among individuals 25 to 44 years of age. In this same time period, the number of overdose deaths involving fentanyl increased by 175 percent in Nashville (from 105 in

2017 to 289 in 2019), with fentanyl involved in 62 percent of overdose deaths in 2019.

In addition to overdose deaths, there has been a notable uptick in nonfatal overdoses caused by illicitly manufactured opioids in combination with other drugs, such as stimulants, which has overburdened first responders and emergency departments in the area. Emergency responders have continued to report annual increases in suspected overdose events and the administration of Naloxone.

Grant Focus

- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.

- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

Program Approach

The OORP will:

- Leverage the Overdose Reduction Workgroup to gain community support for the program and formulate strategies to reduce overdoses. This workgroup has identified a need for improved data collection as critical to its ability to direct resources to the right people at the right time in the community. Refreshed priorities and strategies will be built from data provided from enhanced surveillance activities.
- Establish an overdose fatality review panel (OFRP) building on the experience of jurisdictions with existing review panels. The OFRP will examine and highlight areas of weakness and opportunity in order to save lives.
- Adopt the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) for overdose surveillance and rapid responses. Nashville currently uses Fire Department/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data, hospital emergency department data, and medical examiner data to monitor overdose activity and address trends. ODMAP will enable EMS surveillance to work in real time.
- Create regular surveillance reports and long-term overdose trend reporting to community stakeholders. Nashville will issue public-facing overdose reports to assist community stakeholders in their response to the overdose crisis. In addition, where appropriate, internal reports will be used with metro partners, first responders, law enforcement personnel, and hospital staff members to better address overdoses.

All the above activities will support and be supported by cross-sectoral partnerships either in existence or in formation.

Project Partners

- Nashville Fire Department/EMS
- Metropolitan Nashville Police Department
- Davidson County Medical Examiner's Office
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Tennessee Department of Health
- Local substance use disorder treatment providers
- Local hospital emergency departments

Contact Information

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