



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



Texas
City of Houston
Drug Overdose and Misuse Alert System Houston

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

Overview

Houston is a large urban area in Texas with a population of 2.3 million. Between 2010 and 2017, the number of fatal drug overdoses in the state increased 23 percent, from 526 to 646. Three-fourths of the decedents were Houston residents. Between 2015 and 2018, 1.3 million prescriptions were written in Houston for scheduled drugs monitored by a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP).

Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- 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.
- Strengthen the nation's prescription drug monitoring programs.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

Program Approach

The Drug Overdose and Misuse Alert System (DOMAS) project will fill the current gap in access to real-time data to address opiate overdose and misuse in Houston.

Specific objectives of this project are to:

1. Implement the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), using Houston

emergency medical services (EMS) data for real-time alerts and mapping for overdoses with notifications to law enforcement, public health services, health care providers, and the public.

2. Provide situational awareness of prescribing patterns for opioids and other drugs and actual overdose sites at the ZIP Code level through analysis of Texas PDMP data.
3. Enhance awareness of street drugs among stakeholders through cooperation with the Houston Forensic Science Center to provide timely local analyses of seized drugs, especially opioids.

The Houston Health Department has consulted with the ODMAP program manager about strategies to implement ODMAP and register as an ODMAP user. As collaboration is established with the local hospital emergency room, law enforcement, and community groups, real-time EMS data will become available. These data will be combined with PDMP data, which are available on a quarterly basis. The Houston Forensic Science Center will compare the PDMP/ODMAP data to drug seizure data and conduct analyses to provide briefings to all stakeholders.

ODMAP will enhance the existing surveillance focus on overdose deaths and reduce the lag time between incident and treatment. Real-time data collection will increase public safety and enhance public health responses.

Project Partners

- Houston Emergency Medical Services
- Houston Health Department
- Houston Police Department
- Houston Forensic Science Center
- ODMAP administrators
- Local hospital emergency room
- Community groups

Contact Information

Project Director: Angelina Esparza

Email: Angelina.esparza@houstontx.gov

Phone: (281) 901-4711

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

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov and follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.