



Washington
Seattle King County Department of Public Health
King County Treatment Connections Project

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

Overview

The King County Treatment Corrections Program (KCTCP) serves King County, Washington, which is composed of Seattle and 38 other municipalities with a total population of 2.18 million. King County has the third largest homeless population in the country.

The number and rate of drug overdose deaths in King County have increased significantly over the past decade, from 282 (13.9 per 100,000) in 2009 to 405 (18.9 per 100,000) in 2018.

- In 2018, 68 percent of drug overdose deaths involved opioids, 55 percent involved a stimulant (typically methamphetamine), and 32 percent involved both opioids and stimulants.
- Fentanyl is increasingly present in overdose deaths, rising from 23 deaths in 2016 to 33 deaths in 2017 to 65 deaths in 2018.

The deaths in King County exceed any other county in the state and account for 30 percent of all overdose deaths in Washington. The 2017 fatal overdose rate for Seattle is nearly double the statewide average (27 versus 15 per 100,000) and is substantially higher than the national rate of 21 overdose deaths per 100,000. The opioid epidemic disproportionately affects men, younger people, homeless individuals, African Americans, and American Indians/ Alaska Natives.

Grant Focus

- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- 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.

Program Approach

The KCTCP will expand access to treatment and recovery support services for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) who are involved in the criminal justice system. Treatment and recovery service engagement for incarcerated individuals (pre- or post-trial) will be enhanced by support for their transition to community-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services once released from custody. The KCTCP will coordinate in-custody and community-based treatment providers to ensure successful treatment initiation or continuation post-release.

Implementation focuses on:

- Shared treatment decision-making sessions guided by a substance use disorder (SUD) specialist that include education on in-jail and in-community options to treat OUD and preliminary release planning
- Enhanced release planning that includes coordinated transition to community treatment providers following release from jail
- Transportation assistance and other services to facilitate completion of community treatment visits
- Continued support to improve treatment retention for the first five visits to a community treatment provider following release
- Evaluation of process indicators and outcomes
- Project management and administrative support

Partnerships with multiple federally qualified health centers and the Seattle Indian Health Board will help ensure that all individuals receive the care they need. Multiple mental health treatment agencies (including one that focuses on SUDs) will provide services. Evergreen Treatment Services will provide street-based case management and outreach services to adults living

unsheltered in Seattle. The University of Washington will provide insight into solving local, state, and regional challenges around in-jail MAT program design and outline best practices for increasing treatment continuation rates for high-risk populations.

Project Partners

- Jail Health Services (Seattle King County Department of Public Health)
- University of Washington, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute
- Federally qualified health centers: NeighborCare Health, Country Doctor, HealthPoint
- Crisis Connections (state recovery helpline)
- Evergreen Treatment Services
- Seattle Indian Health Board
- Mental health treatment: Sound, Valley Cities, Community Psychiatric Clinic

Contact Information

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