



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



West Virginia
Berkeley County Council
Juvenile Opioid Treatment, Intervention, and Prevention Program

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

Overview

Berkeley County is West Virginia's second-largest, fastest-growing county by population. Located approximately 70 miles from Washington, DC, it is one of the easternmost counties in the state, adjacent to Western Maryland and Northern Virginia. With a current estimated population of 117,000, Berkeley County is transitioning from a rural to a suburban area. Its largest city, Martinsburg, has a population of approximately 17,500. In 2019, 26 of the 546 overdoses in the county resulted in deaths, representing a 21 percent decrease in the fatality rate from 2018. These statistics, provided by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program and the Berkeley County Ambulance Authority, indicate that the county is moving in the right direction, although significant work remains to be done. A new challenge is the rise of designer drugs, particularly designer stimulants. If a user is suspected of having used a designer drug, the cost for drug screening increases substantially—up to \$30 to \$40 per test. In addition, these individuals typically

do not meet criteria for admission into most inpatient detoxification centers because these substances do not show up in regular drug screens. Also of concern is the number of individuals under probation supervision who continue to test positive for illicit substances. Of the 8,640 drug screens conducted by West Virginia's 23rd Judicial Circuit in 2019, more than 15 percent yielded a positive result, with cocaine being the most common substance after marijuana.

Grant Focus

- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- 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.
- Strengthen the nation's prescription drug monitoring programs.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

Program Approach

School-aged children in Berkeley County comprise 16 percent (19,581 pupils) of the total population. Working in partnership with Berkeley County Schools, the Juvenile Opioid Treatment, Intervention, and Prevention Program (JOTIPP), hosted by the Berkeley Recovery Resource Center, will:

- Provide peer recovery support services to address treatment and intervention needs, primarily for students and, secondarily, their families.
- Strengthen education and prevention activities at the middle and high school levels, instilling and reinforcing student resilience and reducing stigma.
- Provide sustaining funds to Project AWARE, an ongoing initiative of the Berkeley County school system, the goal of which is to improve the mental health and well-being of all school-aged children.

The team consists of a project coordinator, a recovery coach specialist, and a research analyst. Having the ability to provide streamlined services to a large proportion of the county at one time allows for a more comprehensive, systematic response to the opioid crisis. JOTIPP will reach beyond the student population and connect families to community resources to support those in recovery or seeking recovery from substance use disorder in an effort to reduce opioid use and the number of overdoses. Ensuring programmatic success through comprehensive data analysis is a priority of this program. The long-term goal of the community is to curtail opioid use, supporting all citizens to lead productive, healthy lives.

Project Partners

- Berkeley County Schools
- Berkeley County Board of Education
- Martinsburg Initiative
- Project AWARE

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

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