



BJA's

Comprehensive
Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Abuse
Program



Wisconsin
Madison Police Department
Pathways to Recovery Madison & Dane County

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

Overview

Madison has a population of 258,054; Dane County's is 542,364. A 2018 toxicology report about drug-involved overdose deaths in Dane County pointed to the presence of opioids in 86 percent of individuals. Thirty-five percent used opioids and benzodiazepines, while 53 percent used opioids and stimulants. Dane County has been disproportionately impacted by the abuse of illicit opioids and prescription drugs. In 2018, Dane County EMS completed 501 runs for suspected opioid overdoses. The rate of such EMS runs in the county was 96 per 100,000 population, while the rate for Wisconsin was 85. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services–Division of Public Health (DHS-DPH), Dane County's 2017 age-adjusted rate of opioid-related hospital discharges per 100,000 was 321.1, while Wisconsin's overall was 199.9—a difference of 47 percent. Wisconsin DHS-DPH also reported a disproportionate rate of deaths from opioids in Dane County: 16.9 fatalities per 100,000, compared with Wisconsin's 15.9. From 2014 to 2016,

the opioid overdose death rate among African-American residents in Dane County (27.4 per 100,000) was twice as high as the opioid overdose rates among white Dane County residents (13.4 per 100,000). This pronounced disparity is unique to Dane County, as demonstrated by a comparison of opioid overdose death rates with the next largest and comparable county and Wisconsin statewide.

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 peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

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

Program Approach

Pathways to Recovery Madison & Dane County implements diversion strategies at both the prevention and intervention stages and incorporates aspects of all five pathways to treatment identified in the Police Treatment and Community Collaborative model.

The program goals are as follows:

- Pathways to Recovery will expand to other law enforcement jurisdictions a pre-arrest diversion program—Madison Area Addiction Recovery Initiative—for individuals who commit low-level, nonviolent, drug-related offenses by identifying candidates for referral, facilitating connections to assessment, and monitoring for six months.
- For individuals who remain compliant with their treatment plans during those six months, the original charges will be dropped and never referred.
- The Addiction Resource Team will identify and conduct outreach, outside of an overdose situation to individuals in need of opioid use disorder treatment services. In addition, the team will serve as a Quick Response Team in response to drug overdoses with the goal of contacting an individual within 72 hours of an overdose.
- The team will implement harm-reduction strategies to provide overdose prevention education and naloxone distribution to individuals with opioid use disorders and their support networks.
- The overall goal of the Addiction Resource Team is to connect individuals with substance use disorders to community treatment and recovery services with an emphasis on ongoing addiction support and recovery.

- Pathways to Recovery also includes the creation of Safe Stations at select Madison Fire Department locations.
- Safe Stations will provide the opportunity for individuals struggling with substance use with the ability to self-refer for treatment and recovery services.
- The Madison Police Department will incorporate Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) data collection tools to track real-time fatal and nonfatal overdose data. The evaluator from the University of Wisconsin–Population Health Institute will work with the MPD data analyst to develop a data collection system that will provide initiative-level information as well as assist in evaluation efforts.

Project Partners

- Madison Fire Department
- Public Health Madison & Dane County
- Dane County Department of Human Services
- University of Wisconsin–Population Health Institute

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