



New Jersey
County of Hudson
Hudson County Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program

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

Overview

According to New Jersey's Drug Monitoring Initiative, Hudson County ranks seventh out of New Jersey's 21 counties in drug overdose deaths. The New Jersey Regional Operations & Intelligence Center (ROIC) Office of Drug Monitoring & Analysis identified Hudson County as the "gateway region of the New York Metropolitan Area," and reported that from 2015 to 2018, drug-related deaths in the county increased by 72 percent (107 to 184). Statewide in 2018, Hudson County accounted for nearly six percent of suspected opioid deaths and had the eighth-highest number and seventh-highest rate of drug-suspected deaths statewide. Throughout New Jersey, there has been a specific up-tick in the use of synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl), which are growing increasingly popular as a cheaper source of opioids. In 2015, synthetic opioids accounted for only one percent of Hudson's suspected heroin submissions and suspected heroin glassine bags, respectively. By 2018, those percentages rose dramatically, with 38 percent of suspected heroin

submissions and 34 percent of suspected heroin glassine bags containing fentanyl. The increase in overdoses and overdose deaths has created a need for law enforcement to receive more training in the effects of specific substances as well as enhancing safety protocols. Naloxone administrations also have increased throughout the county, which have become an invaluable resource in addressing overdoses, although costly. The program will serve all municipalities within Hudson County.

Grant Focus

- Increase access to naloxone.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Support prescriber education programs.

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

Program Approach

The Hudson County Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program will operate according to three components:

1. Community navigators will provide light case management services, as well as assist with linkages to treatment and resources, and will consist of one person with lived experience and one with professional experience. Navigators will be located at various locations throughout the county to address community needs. A roster of locations will be made available on the county website.
2. An overdose fatality review team (OFRT) will address concerns surrounding overdose deaths by completing social autopsies of decedents and identifying areas of opportunity for best practices to be implemented. The OFRT will meet monthly to discuss social determinants and services that decedents received prior to their deaths, with a goal of identifying opportunities to provide system enhancements that could help reduce future overdoses.

3. Medical services will be provided to Hudson County residents who are working toward recovery. Services will include primary care, physicals, vision and dental check-ups, and women's health visits. These services are intended to improve quality of life while residents work on establishing and maintaining recovery.

The program strives to meet those in need where they are and address identified needs while providing information on resources and support that are readily available.

Project Partners

- Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
- Hudson County Prosecutor's Office

Contact Information

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