

2019

Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program Annual Report



Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program 2019: Year 2 Report

In 2019, the OC-OFRP continued to examine the complex systems that Ocean County residents engage with from their affiliation within their communities, linkage to the health care system, involvement with the criminal justice system as well as their family history, environment, and autonomous agents of impact (experiences). At the conclusion of the second year of the fatality review, the conceptual framework for local substance use disorder and overdose becomes more solidified as more data is compiled. During 2019, the OC-OFRP expanding their scope to include the following:

- **Expanded Executive Committee**

- The goal of the expanded executive committee follows the RxStat Model from New York City in which the observations and discussions that come from the social autopsy process result in actionable items for the executive committee to discuss and implement.
 - The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) discussed with the OC-OFRP executive committee the regulations surrounded access to the PMP and that decedent PMP records are unable to be shared in New Jersey. Executive membership voiced their frustration that New Jersey has a mechanism to identify doctors that may be over-prescribing medications, yet the PMP does not have the function to conduct an investigation on these doctors.
 - The concept of universal consent was explored in order to have improved communication amongst local agencies. The executive group was able to research this concept and discuss the legalities with county counsel where it was determined not to be viable at the local level.

- **Chief's Opioid Response Committee**

- Throughout 2019, the Chief's Opioid Response Committee met to discuss public safety's experience with the overdose epidemic, specifically, focusing on linkage to behavioral health providers. Agencies were invited into the April 2019 meeting to discuss their programs.
- A one-sheet resource document was developed for police departments providing information on accessing the system of care as well as providing stigma free language.
- The "Because We Care" pilot from the Brick Township Police Department partnered with the "Share Your Story" initiative out of the fatality review to conduct interviews with narcotics recipients and families in their home. This process was formalized in 2019 and expanded to Lacey Police Department. A grant through the CDC/NACCHO was awarded in December 2019 to add a full-time social worker to expand the pilot to additional police departments and procure a database to streamline data collection.

- **Share Your Story Sub-Committee**

- The sub-committee has focused on developing different strategies for stigma reduction in 2019. The first project was held on October 24, 2019 for an event titled, "Share Your Story" in which 75 attendees listened to four stories of love, loss, and hope in the overdose epidemic. The goal is to bring awareness to substance use disorder and overdose through powerful stories told by those who live in our community.

- **Municipal Fatality Reviews**

- In order to gather more data on a local level, a local municipality was able to provide de-identified school and police data on five decedents in which trends could be identified and provided back to the municipality to look at programming and policy changes.

Ocean County Overdose Decedent Data

At the end of 2019, 31 agencies were affiliated to conduct social autopsies with the Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program representing state, county and local entities. A total of 47 cases had been reviewed with 28 male cases (60%) and 19 female cases (40%). Please note 1 case in 2019 could not be reviewed because there was an error with the name. The ages in the reviewed decedent cases ranged from the youngest decedent who died at the age of 23 to the oldest who died at the age of 59. In review of all cases from January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019, the following has been found: *Please note this information is obtained by multiple agencies. Some data may be missing.

- ❖ 32 or 68% had a known criminal history
- ❖ 25 or 53% had been linked to substance use treatment
- ❖ 22 or 47% were reported to have fair to poor health
- ❖ 22 or 47% were known IV users
- ❖ 20 or 43% had been diagnosed or linked to mental health treatment
- ❖ 15 or 32% did not graduated from high school
- ❖ 14 or 30% had been convicted of a DUI
- ❖ 13 or 27% had reported family substance use
- ❖ 12 or 26% were not employed
- ❖ 5 or 11% had been diagnosed and known to have Hep C
- ❖ 1 or 2% was impacted by Hurricane Sandy

2019 Youth Data (18 and under)

Since 2013, there has been **seven** cases of 18 and under decedents with one case reviewed in 2018 and the remaining six being reviewed at the November 2019 meeting. There were 3 male and 4 female. The youngest was 16. The OC-OFRP discussed at length a youth's ability to decline treatment and/or leave against clinical/medical advice. In New Jersey, there is no involuntary hold or treatment requirement for substance use disorder.

- ❖ 5 or 71% had been diagnosed or linked to mental health treatment
- ❖ 4 or 57% had juvenile charges
- ❖ 4 or 57% had been linked to substance use treatment
- ❖ 1 or 14% left treatment against clinical advice

January 1, 2018-December 31, 2019

The OC-OFRP began reviewing cases in 2018 resulting in a total of 111 cases with 69 male cases (62%) and 42 female cases (38%). The ages in the reviewed decedent cases ranged from the youngest decedent who died at the age of 16 to the oldest who died at the age of 67.

- ❖ 68 or 61% had a known criminal history
- ❖ 61 or 55% had been linked to substance use treatment
- ❖ 60 or 54% were reported to have fair to poor health
- ❖ 60 or 54% did not graduated from high school
- ❖ 56 or 47% were known IV users
- ❖ 56 or 50% were not employed
- ❖ 53 or 48% had been diagnosed or linked to mental health treatment
- ❖ 34 or 31% had known family substance use
- ❖ 27 or 24% had been convicted of a DUI
- ❖ 13 or 12% had been diagnosed and known to have Hep C
- ❖ 5 or 5% was impacted by Hurricane Sandy

Key Issues Identified in 2019

Since January 2018, the recommendations and observations of the OC-OFRP could be organized into five general categories, which are outlined below. This list includes key issues from 2018 and 2019. It is the recommendation of the OC-OFRP that Ocean County providers should look at the issues below to see if they can facilitate any changes in their processes to address the items listed below.

Client Trends	Needed Programs/Gaps	Agency Policy and Procedures	County Level Issues	State Level Issues
Primary Support issues -parental, spousal use -domestic violence -lack of support (2018) Use of benzodiazepines(2018) Chronic pain reported(2018) DUI prevalence(2018) Suicidal Ideation(2018) History Trauma (ACE) (2018) High doses of methadone(2018) Polysubstance use(2018) and increased use of stimulants (2019) Decedents had outstanding child support (2019) Many clients were employed and had private insurance so data on treatment is unknown (2019) Domestic Violence reported in decedent cases (2019) Multiple criminal charges (2019) Underlying and untreated mental health (2019)	Case management for those with SUD(2018) Workforce development/case management(2018) More education for doctors and primary care (2018) Housing for those in recovery(2018) Services for children of incarcerated parents (2018) Grief groups for children with parents/guardians that overdosed(2018) Increased prevention and early intervention programming (2019) Education and linkage/referral to Ocean County employers (2019) Resource navigation to the families of those with SUD (2019) More trauma informed care for agencies (2019)	Enhanced supervision for clinicians and recovery specialist(2018) Discharge summaries with secured referrals, follow up procedures to ensure compliance (2018) Ensure consents are being obtained to get an accurate history(2018) Tracking of clients after discharge for compliance, provide assistance if needed(2018) PMP checks and mandatory urine screens for decedents receiving multiple prescriptions (2019) Education on potential of relapse to those in recovery (2019)	Silo's in treatment(2018) Need for improved communication(2018) PMP being checked(2018) Questions on how probation is working with residents with SUD (2019) Veteran Affairs needs to be a partner in the community (2019) DCPP to be a partner in the social autopsy process (2019)	NJSAMS(2018) Access to school records(2018) Need for standardization in data(2018) Flexibility in record sharing(2018) Expansion of legislation to include PMP, medication counseling, and urine screens mandatory and doctor compliance supervised (2019) A Marchman Act for NJ (2019)

Ocean County Data

The OC-OFRP aims to have transparency in its process and corresponding data collection.

2006-2018 County Percentages of Total Admissions as per NJSAMS

2006- Essex (12%), Monmouth (8%), Camden (7%), **Ocean (7%)** of 55,033 admissions
 2007- Essex (14%), Monmouth (8%), Camden (7%), **Ocean (7%)** of 59,545 admissions
 2008- Essex (13%), Monmouth (8%), Camden (8%), **Ocean (7%)** of 64,091 admissions
 2009- Essex (11%), Monmouth (9%), Camden (8%), **Ocean (8%)** of 69,477 admissions
 2010- Essex (10%), Monmouth (9%), **Ocean (9%)**, Camden (8%) of 71,874 admissions
 2011- Monmouth (10%), **Ocean (9%)**, Essex (9%), Camden (8%) of 73,964 admissions
 2012- Monmouth (10%), **Ocean (9%)**, Essex (9%), Camden (8%) of 75,837 admissions
 2013- **Ocean (10%)**, Monmouth (9%), Essex (9%), Camden (8%) of 75,558 admissions
 2014- **Ocean (10%)**, Monmouth (9%), Essex (9%), Camden (8%) of 65,553 admissions
 2015- **Ocean (10%)**, Monmouth (9%), Essex (9%), Camden (8%) of 69,447 admissions
 2016- **Ocean (9%)**, Camden (9%), Essex (9%), Monmouth (8%) of 76,509 admissions
 2017- **Ocean (9%)**, Camden (9%), Essex (9%), Monmouth (7%) of 82,644 admissions
 2018- Essex (9%), Camden (9%), **Ocean (9%)**, Monmouth (7%) of 89,629 admissions

In 2018, Ocean County was third for admissions after 5 years as first. In 2018, there was a 3% increase in admissions in Ocean County from 2017 whereas Essex experienced a 13% increase and Camden a 5% increase.

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/publications/statistical/>

New Jersey Substance Abuse Monitoring System, Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions-Ocean County Residents (%)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Under 18	6%	6%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	5%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
18-21	13%	10%	14%	15%	15%	16%	14%	11%	10%	8%	8%	7%	5%
22-24	11%	14%	13%	14%	13%	15%	14%	14%	16%	13%	13%	10%	7%
25-29	16%	16%	18%	18%	18%	18%	20%	20%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%
30-34	10%	11%	11%	11%	13%	13%	15%	16%	18%	18%	17%	18%	18%
35-44	24%	23%	19%	18%	17%	15%	16%	16%	17%	19%	20%	22%	25%
45-54	15%	14%	14%	13%	12%	12%	11%	12%	12%	13%	13%	14%	15%
55 and Over	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%

NJCARES Historic Data

Ocean County	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*to date
Suspected Overdose Death	154	132	157	253	189	217	150
Naloxone Administration	n/a	n/a	624	977	621	811	549
Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed	454,390	450,508	483,061	450,466	417,019	365,341	259,822

<https://www.njcares.org>, retrieved 12/9/19

- There are an estimated **38,664** adult problem drinkers in Ocean County in need of treatment.
- There are an estimated **28,175** adult problem drug users in need of treatment.
- That is an additional **66,839** not captured in the information we are discussing!
 - That is bigger than every municipality population in Ocean County except Brick, Lakewood and Toms River

Estimate of Treatment Need for Alcohol and Drug Addiction New Jersey 2010 retrieved: https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/publications/need/Tx_by_Type_2010.pdf on 10/3/19

Ocean County's Vision: Following the North Star

 Ocean County Health Department		Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program 2019-2020 Est. 2017 Goal: To reduce overdose death in Ocean County				 Public Health <small>Prevent. Promote. Protect.</small>	
↓		↓		↓		↓	
Data Collection for Program Development and Policy Change				Provider Education and Networking	Community Healing/ Stigma Reduction	Funding for Program Development	
Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program Executive Committee	Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program	Ocean County Municipal Specific Fatality Reviews	Chief's Opiate Response Committee	Ocean County Partner Meetings	Share Your Story	Review of Funding Opportunities	
The Ocean County Fatality Review Program (OC-OFRP) Executive Meeting meets bi-monthly to discuss the overarching trends and issues observed in the OC-OFRP, data sets from local, state and federal partners, and ways to utilize partnerships to develop programming and policy change in Ocean County	The Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program (OC-OFRP) meets monthly to conduct a social autopsy on overdose decedents to identify trends within those with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and gaps in the Ocean County system of care	Using the expertise for local Municipalities, the OC-OFRP will expand in 2019-2020 to hold focus groups with municipal police departments and school systems	Partnering with the local police departments, participate in interviews of families post-narcarn or overdose death	Various Ocean County agencies host monthly meetings; these meetings provide opportunities to discuss SUD and overdoses as well as address the program and policy changes identified. These meetings bring together partners to break down silo's and partner to ensure residents have access to appropriate clinical care	A multi-prong effort to reduce stigma in the community. Share Your Story interviews families in the community on their experiences with SUD and overdose. Host stigma free campaign in community	OCHD review of federal, state and local opportunities for funding to support local agencies and partners to develop programming needs identified in various planning meetings	
← Collaboration throughout the continuum →							
Key Partners: Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO) Ocean County Medical Examiner (OCME)	Key Partners: See Page 2 for listing of 2019-2020 Affiliated Partners	Key Partners: Municipal Police Departments and School Districts	Key Partners: Municipal Police Departments	Key Partners: Community Meetings	Key Partners: OCHD OCPO Hope Sheds Light	Key Partners: OCHD	

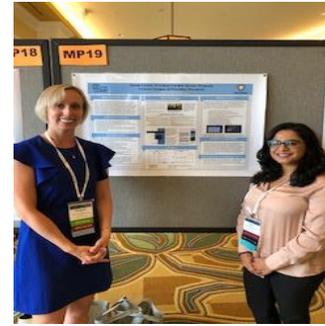
Reflections on 2019

Successes

- A Chief's Opioid Response Committee was formed by bringing in the local Chiefs of Police to discuss the overdose epidemic and formalize strategies through a public safety and public health partnership.
- The executive committee of the OC-OFRP was expanded to help move the recommendations of the monthly fatality review committee into actionable steps
- In 2019, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) selected the OC-OFRP as a National Model Practice. This honor means that Ocean County implemented a program that *“demonstrates exemplary and replicable outcomes in response to an identified public health need.”*
- The First National Conference on Fatality Reviews was held Washington D.C. and Kimberly Reilly was invited to present on the OC-OFRP and the success of the sub-committees.
- In order to address the underlying stigma in Ocean County, a Share Your Story sub-committee was formed and a Share Your Story event was held on October 24, 2019 highlighting four stories of love, loss, and hope in the overdose epidemic.
- A partnership was formed with Brick Police Department in a program called, “Because We Care: Share Your Story” in which police officers outreach the homes of those reversed by naran to conduct a questionnaire on their and their families experiences in the community, with law enforcement, the judicial system, and healthcare providers. The OCHD partnered to assist with questions and to provide navigation to treatment and recovery supports. This model expanded to Lacey Township Police Department in 2019. A CDC/NACCHO grant was secured to expand the project in 2020.
- In 2019, legislation to mandate fatality reviews to each county is reviewed.
- The first year-end conference was held focusing on the successes of the group along with a training on self-care during the overdose epidemic.

Barriers

- Some agencies are unable to participate in the fatality review due to confidentiality. This has resulted in significant gaps in information.
- Funding at both the State and National Level is very specific for programming which makes it difficult to support the innovative ideas from the OC-OFRP.



Above: Kimberly Reilly (OCHD) and Nava Bastola (NY/NJ HIDTA) presenting the fatality review poster at the NACCHO Annual Conference. Below: Same receiving the award for a 2019 Model Practice.



Below: The Share Your Story Invite for October 12, 2019.





Ocean
County
**Health
Department**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Thank you to all of our partners in 2019!

**Thank you to the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Ocean County Board of Health
for your support!**

For more information on the Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program, please contact:

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