

Cuyahoga County Overdose Data to Action Initiative

Data Summary

Year Three September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

KEY FINDINGS:

- Cuyahoga County Board of Health distributed 5,800 Link2Care cards to agencies;
- MetroHealth’s Academic Detailing significantly decreased key outcomes;
- Thrive Peer Recovery Services added to their Peer Recovery Services by expanding services to uninsured individuals;
- The Drug Overdose Integrated Epidemiological Profile, published in July 2022, found that the Hispanic population experienced the highest rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths, a 32% increase from 2019 to 2020;
- Cuyahoga County Board of Health’s media campaign, *Harm Reduction Outreach Campaign* helped to spread awareness and inform the community of drug toxicity and using alone;
- Distribution of Naloxone Kits, through Project DAWN, increased to approximately 19,200 in 2022 compared to 4,239 in 2019;
- Evidence-based treatment services for OUD increased over 100% since baseline.
- Collaboration between Cleveland EMS and Cleveland Division of Police increased Quick Response Team intervention efforts;
- Through peer-review, education on prescribing habits decreased the number of opioid/benzodiazepine prescriptions and opioid pills prescribed have decreased by 56%, 33% respectively since Year One of the grant;
- The Woodrow Project linked 86% of individuals encountered in the ED to treatment and hired a patient navigator to assist clients in recovery;
- Cuyahoga County Board of Health surveillance team developed a method for accessing patient location information based on ZIP code;
- 208 medical providers at MetroHealth went through peer-review to educate them on their prescribing habits and;
- Cleveland State University enhanced their website- registering 107 treatment agencies and 545 treatment services.

The Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University *serves as the evaluator for the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga County Overdose to Action (CCOD2A) Initiative* funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (5-NU17CE925005-02-00). *One of the primary purposes of the evaluation is to examine the CCOD2A Initiative’s ability to meet identified goals and outcomes, these efforts also provide insight into the collaborative way agencies are working to effect change in how Cuyahoga County responds to the opioid epidemic.* This data summary provides a snapshot of findings from the full evaluation report.

Drug-related deaths in Cuyahoga County have remained high, as have suspected nonfatal overdose incidents. *In 2021, the county recorded the second-highest number of drug-related fatalities in history* (n = 675), an increase of 22% from 2020 (n = 553). While mortality rates rose from 2020 to 2021, the *number of naloxone doses administered by EMS, and the total number of EMS events reported as suspected opioid poisonings showed virtually no change.* However, hospital *emergency departments (EDs) in Cuyahoga County reported a slight decrease in suspected drug overdoses from 2020 to 2021 and naloxone kits distributed through Project Dawn (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) increased.*

Table 1 Key CCOD2A Public Health Surveillance Indicators

Cuyahoga County Surveillance Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Drug-Related Deaths	582	553	675	658 ^a
EMS Events with Suspected Opioid Poisoning	2,029	1,829	1,872	1,784 ^a
Emergency Department Suspected Overdoses	4,577	4,330	4,186	3,946 ^a
Project DAWN Naloxone Kits Distributed	4,239	8,347	14,386	19,200 ^a
Opioid Prescriptions (thousands)	525	484	446	442 ^a

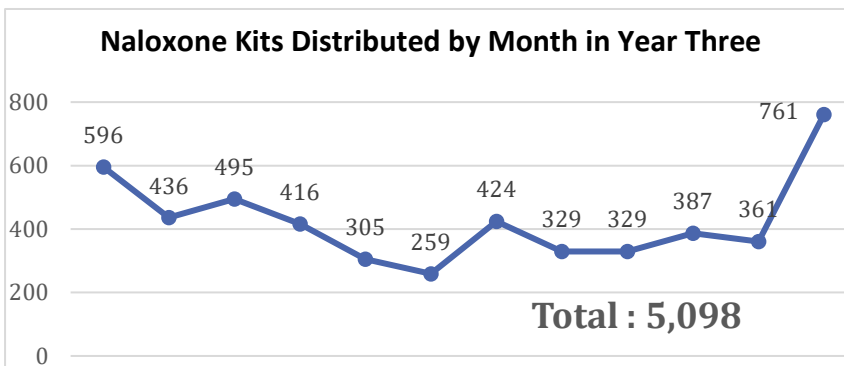
^a2022 counts are estimated.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

- In June 2022, MetroHealth revised their Narcotics Report Card now known as Controlled Substance Scorecards. **MetroHealth also developed a Provider Education Team during this grant year**, which increased collaboration and efficacy of their processes.
- **Review of Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) checks** from baseline through Year Three shows a **6% decline** in the overall number of providers checking OARRS **prior** to issuing an opioid prescription. It is unknown why providers are decreasing their checking of the PDMP but a focus group participant shared that it could be due to the amount of time it takes providers to checks OARRS and EPIC.
- Overall, the number of **opioid prescriptions has decreased by 25%**. **Co-occurring prescriptions** of opioids and benzodiazepines has **decreased by 56%** from baseline to Year Three and the number of **opioid pills issued has declined by 33%**.
- MetroHealth is providing guidance and educational resource information to providers regarding best practices. In conjunction with Centers for Health Affairs, a best practice model was adopted to assist in reducing the number of opioids prescribed by providers who are chronic opioid prescribers.

Enhancing Prevention and Response Efforts

Implementing Naloxone education and distribution programs has helped to increase access to naloxone across the county. In 2021 the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County provided community outreach and furthered grassroots efforts to distribute fentanyl test strips. They also worked with MetroHealth’s Project DAWN program to **identify and install over 40 NaloxBoxes throughout various locations in the county**, in addition to distributing naloxone itself.



Cuyahoga Cleveland Medical Examiner’s Office and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health oversee the county’s Overdose Fatality Review (OFR). In Year Three of CCOD2A, **the OFR committee completed 18 case reviews- furthering the connection of datasets across platforms and agencies throughout the county**. The Opioid Use Disorder Specialist conducted 7 Next-of-Kin interviews.

Description of Activities	Year 3 Data
Lay responders trained in overdose response	2,796
Law enforcement trained on overdose response	49
Community agency staff trained on overdose response	443

Implementing Naloxone education and distribution programs has seemingly furthered access to Naloxone distribution. Combining education and distribution programs has increased the access. Surveys from trainings indicate that individuals are gaining knowledge.

Linkage to Care

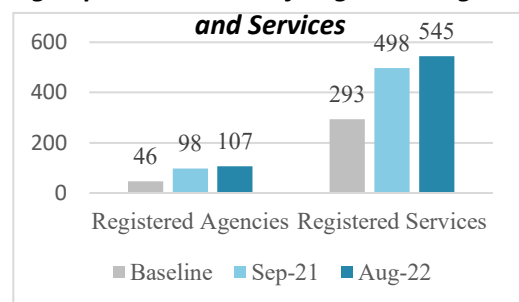
The CCOD2A Initiative is working to expand linkage to assist more individuals in need of treatment services and link them to care. **Seven different agencies in CCOD2A Initiative are currently involved in improving linkage.**

The table below depicts YR 3 data. Each agency uses different indicators for program participation, referral for services, and linkage to care but the table depicts progress made in encounters, engagement, referral and linkage in YR 3.

	Encounter	Engage	Refer for Treatment	Link
Woodrow PRS	166 individuals were encountered, a 5% increase from YR 2	166 [100%] of clients engaged in YR 3	156 [94%] of the clients encountered were referred	145 [87%] of clients linked with treatment, same as previous year
Thrive PRS	628 individuals were encountered, an 8% decrease between YR 2 and YR 3	559 [89%] of the clients encountered were engaged, a 6% increase from YR 2	524 [83%] of the clients encountered were referred for services, a 5% increase from YR 2	405 [64%] of the clients encountered were linked with treatment, an increase of 2%
MetroHealth ExAM Program	528 individuals who were incarcerated were approached to participate in the program	527 [99%] of those encountered agreed to participate	72 [100%] individuals re-entering the community were referred	65 [90%] of individuals linked with services
Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)	All patients identified for secondary screen for drug use disorder are approached.	232 [100%] patients encountered engaged screen, similar to previous years.	229 [99%] of the patients encountered were referred, a 4% increase from YR 2.	44 [19%] of patients encountered linked with treatment compared to 13% in YR 2.
Syringe Service Program (SSP)	1,142 individuals were encountered, 51% decrease from YR 2.	1,142 [100%] of clients engaged in YR 3	107 [9%] of those encountered were referred, an 85% decrease from baseline	47 individuals linked; 18% decrease from YR 2.

Cleveland State University is continuing their work to enhance their drughelp.care resource linkage tool. CSU has **continued to increase usage of their web app while making enhancements to increase usability and linkage to services.**

drughelp.care Number of Registered Agencies and Services



Sisters of Charity is developing a program to deliver crisis response and recovery continuum of care to individuals suffering from SUD or co-occurring disorders in Cuyahoga County. Through CCOD2A, **Sisters of Charity will provide outreach to service entities providing critical-time services and harm reduction services.** Sisters of Charity will start seeing clients in YR 4.

Education and Health Systems Support

One of the many ways MetroHealth and Center for Health Affairs (CHA) are addressing the current opioid crisis in Cuyahoga County is through provider education or Academic Detailing (AD). **MetroHealth and CHA collaborated to develop an AD program for opioid safety and overdose reduction and a toolkit to expand the use of AD to additional hospitals and nontraditional settings.**

- Preliminary outcomes for **AD suggest that AD is having an impact on MetroHealth providers.** When measured six months prior to training provided in Academic Detailing and six months after, **the average number of opioid pills, the average number of opioid prescriptions written, and the average number of opioid/benzodiazepine prescriptions written, all statistically significantly decreased.**
- In YR 3, **77 Emergency Department providers completed training on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT);**
- **60 clients from the ED were linked to MAT services** for a total of 221 clients in the past three years.

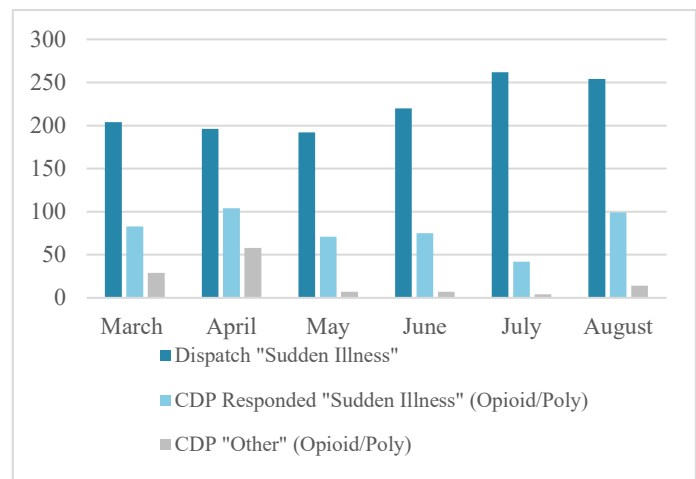
Partnerships and Collaborations

A focus of the CCOD2A Initiative is working to develop and enhance partnerships across all agencies. However, public safety and first responders play an important role to further understand the epidemic including identification where overdoses and nonfatal overdoses are occurring in Cleveland. The Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) hired an analyst in February 2022 who serves as a conduit for assessing multiple sources of overdose related information and disseminating information across agencies for assessment and action.

Quick Response Teams (QRT) aim to reduce future risk and provide post-overdose intervention. MetroHealth facilitates the QRT program and **made 669 outreach attempts in YR3, and engaged with 252 (individual or family), and linked 23% of the clients they refer to services.**

During Year Three, **significant strides have been made across agencies in combining and sharing data.** By combining information across data sources, the CDP Analyst **identified 593 nonfatal opioid or polysubstance incidents** out of 1,328 calls for service that were initially categorized as "sudden illness".

Nonfatal Opioid and Polysubstance Incidents 2022



****Qualitative Data was collected and analyzed throughout Year Three. The full evaluation report includes details and analysis of these findings.**