

Boston Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

A CDC-funded project harnessing data to reduce overdoses and opioid health disparities in Boston



Funding Information

Recipient Organization
Boston Public Health Commission

Project Period
9/1/2023 – 08/31/2028



Contact Information

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Boston OD2A

The Office of Recovery Services (ORS) leads substance use policy and strategy for the Boston Public Health Commission. ORS is implementing Boston OD2A, working closely with government and community partners. These collaborators include the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center, and the Institute for Community Health.

Boston is receiving

\$1.3M per year for 5 years

This \$6.5M will expand harm reduction, enhance clinical practices, and boost data operations.

Funding Background

The Centers for Disease Control funds Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities. The grant expands evidence-based interventions targeted at reducing overdoses in cities and counties, leveraging data analysis to better serve communities at high risk. Recipients work closely with the CDC to implement tailored strategies, while also forming a network across the US, learning together and sharing resources.

Key Activities

01 Helping Communities Navigate Treatment

Funding three substance use navigators in community health centers to connect people to services and evidence-based medicine

02 Distributing More Naloxone

Hiring a new staffer to bring the overdose-reversing medication to more communities, exploring creative ideas and partnerships

03 Training More People on Overdose Rescue

Raising capacity throughout the public and targeting service providers who work directly with people at risk of overdose

04 Advancing the Healthcare Workforce

Training medical professionals about substance use trends, barriers to care, stigma, and more

05 Data Dashboard

Merging and visualizing data about opioid use and overdose in Boston, informing shared response

Citywide Overdose Indicators (2022)

352

Opioid overdose deaths

2,181

Boston EMS patients who received Narcan

94%

Fentanyl in opioid-related deaths

Target Populations

Community needs assessments and public health science inform the Boston OD2A focus on four populations. This project will prioritize individuals who are at increased risk of overdose.

- Black
- Experiencing homelessness
- Latinx
- Individuals re-entering from incarceration

Key Outcomes

- Reduce Overdose Burden
- Enhanced Program Responsiveness
- Expanded Data Utilization
- Increased Naloxone Access
- Engagement in Care
- Improved SUD Patient Outcomes
- Reduce High-risk Opioid Prescribing Practices
- Strengthened Healthcare Capacity



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