Case Study

Incorporating ODMAP Data in the Overdose Fatality Review Process

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A successful fatality review does not only move recommendations into action (although that is important), it also strives to continuously improve and enhance the way it utilizes data in order to make data-driven recommendations.

For the Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program (OC-OFRP), the recommendation to use Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) data started a 2-year journey developing the Overdose Response Plan. It was not until the plan was operational that the OC-OFRP realized it was not using ODMAP to its full potential.

In ODMAP, the registered user can search any date to identify the overdose activity at that specific time. Using this feature to search dates provides the opportunity to identify what was happening in the community at the time of specific overdose decedent death.

In short, when an overdose fatality review (OFR) identifies an overdose decedent, a team member with ODMAP access can search the date of death to see the fatal overdoses, nonfatal overdoses, naloxone administrations, and municipalities in which this activity was happening. It allows the OFR to build community context on the date of the decedent's death and ask questions like:

- Was our jurisdiction experiencing an increase in overdoses at this time or was this an isolated event?
- Were there more than one fatal overdose death on this date, and could they be linked to a fatal batch of heroin or fentanyl? Were there nonfatal overdoses? How many naloxone administrations were requested?
- Were fatal or nonfatal overdoses and naloxone administrations clustered in certain geographic areas? Are these hot spots for overdose activity?
- If you look up the days prior to and after the specific decedent's death, was this increased activity occurring over several days?

The OC-OFRP has since added this information into each decedent case, looking at the date of overdose death and the 2 days prior and 2 days after to have the community context on overdose activity. The OFR Data System has variables to capture this information. In the decedent Case Information section, there is a question asking, "Was the death possibly connected or related to a contaminated/tainted batch or a community spike in overdoses?" ODMAP is a great tool to determine whether there was a spike around the time of the death. Also included in the County Profile section, updated annually, is a question about the level of ODMAP reporting at the county level. This question can help drive the OFR members to explore
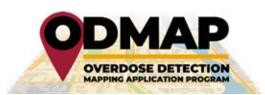
whether and how ODMAP is used in the county and advocate for better, more consistent reporting across all jurisdictions.

In addition, ODMAP data can be used to inform decedent case selection by looking at high-overdose municipalities or locations. The benefit of utilizing ODMAP data does not just add community context into an OFR; the data can inform other initiatives in jurisdictions to support overdose response activities.

OFR Data System Access

OFR sites can access the OFR Data System by completing the OFR Data System registration form.

Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at www.cossapresources.org.

Learn more about OFRs and facilitation at https://www.cossapresources.org/Tools/OFR.

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