

Columbus/Franklin County COVID-19 Homeless Response Network (HRN) *Overdose in the Time of COVID-19*

July 28th, 2020


communityshelterboard
Until everyone has a place to call home

www.csb.org



Webinar Overview

Today's Topic: Overdose and Harm Reduction

Questions:

- All phones are muted – please “raise hand” to ask a question or share a comment
- Use the Question pane in control panel to submit question



Webinar will be recorded and posted to

<https://www.csb.org/providers/COVID-19-provider-guidance>



Agenda

- Homeless Crisis Response System Updates
- Statistics on Overdose deaths during this pandemic
- COVID-19, Housing & Harm Reduction
- Resources & Training for Staff



Homeless Crisis Response System Updates

Emergency Shelter

- De-concentration
- Shelter for Isolation/Quarantine (SIQ)

Testing/tracing

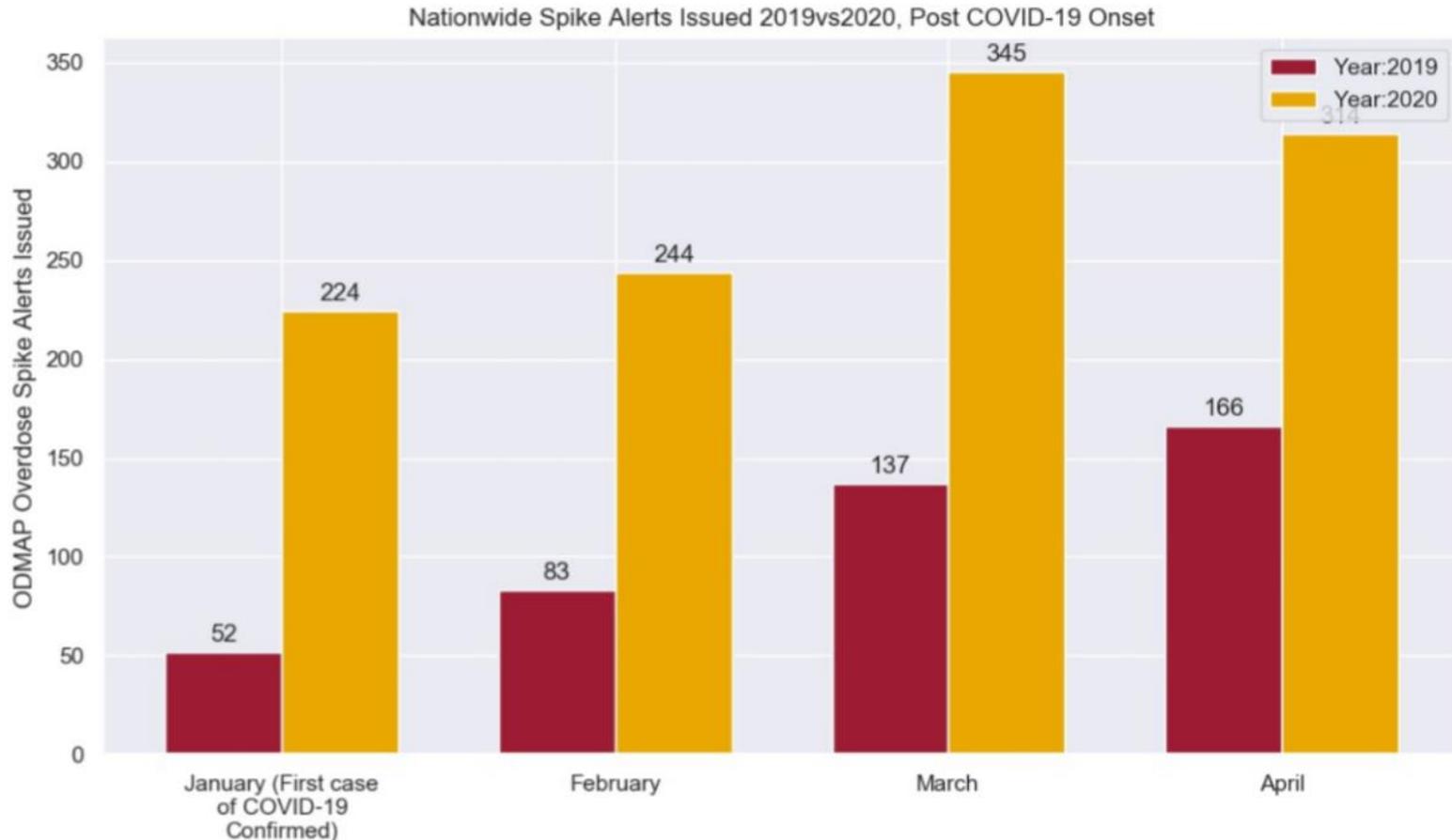
Overdose deaths in Franklin County during the first quarter of 2020 increased 55.3% over last year, according to a final report from the county coroner's office.



What Does the Data Tell Us?

- Franklin county had **191 overdose deaths**, up from 123 in the same quarter of 2019
- Many of the overdose deaths are attributed to fentanyl mixed with opioids. **Fentanyl was found to be a factor in 134**, or 70.2%, of the deaths
- Overdose deaths among African Americans increased 44%
- The ***majority of the deaths were among those in their 30s***. About 70% of the overdose victims were males, and 68% were white.
- There's also been a pattern of ***weekend spikes*** during COVID-19, according to the [Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program \(ODMAP\)](#).

National ODMAP Submissions January-April 2019 and 2020 Comparison





Unintended consequences of social distancing

- Boredom and loneliness can be triggers for addiction
- Additional stressors such as job loss and/or decreased income
- Individuals who haven't used substances in a while, such as those being released from correctional facilities, are at higher risk for overdose.
- Individuals are using alone and there is no one present to seek emergency assistance.



COVID-19, Housing & Harm Reduction

Bela Koe-Krompecher LISW-S, LICDC

Amber Feit BA, CDCD

COVID facts

- How COVID Spreads
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. You can take steps to slow the spread.
 - Maintain good social distance (about 6 feet). This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.

COVID, Substance Users and Outreach

HARM REDUCTION

- *Definition: Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs. -Harm Reduction Coalition*



Harm Reduction Principals

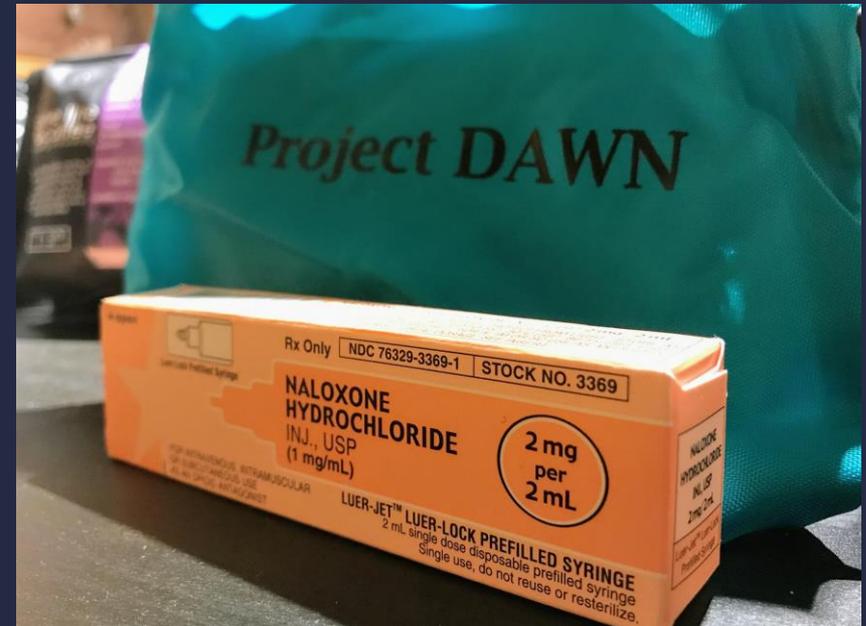
- Accepts, for better and or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them.
- Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe abuse to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.
- Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being—not necessarily cessation of all drug use—as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
- Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm.
- Ensures that drug users and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.
- Affirms drugs users themselves as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use, and seeks to empower users to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use.
- Recognizes that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination and other social inequalities affect both people’s vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.
- Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger associated with licit and illicit drug use.
- (Harm Reduction Coalition)

Harm Reduction Practices during COVID

- 82% – who inject opiates and roughly half of methamphetamine users are interested in reducing or stopping their use and are open to a broad array of services to help them manage their substance use
- 48% of Methamphetamine users would like to reduce or end their drug use (Washington State Syringe Exchange Health Survey, 2019)
- Substance Users want access to: clean syringes, fentanyl test strips and naloxone (NCBI, Harm Reduction Coalition..)
- COVID-19 keeps users isolated— aggressive outreach is key to keeping people safe and saving lives
- Access to many services have been cut off during the outbreak and many agencies have reduced staff as well as 1:1 contact

Harm Reduction Practices during COVID

- What the YMCA is doing:
- We operate several different housing programs, the downtown YMCA houses over 400 men in SRO units.
- We supply PPE for our residents.
- We partner with several agencies to help provide:
Narcan, fentanyl test strips and COVID testing.



Harm Reduction Practices during COVID

- The Franklin County Health Department reports overdose surges in real time, our staff then notifies known users and supplies Narcan and fentanyl test strips
- We partner with various agencies such as the Southeast RREACT team, The Franklin County Health Department, Maryhaven, Safepoint and Harm Reduction Ohio
- SE RREACT provides extensive outreach for people who are experiencing substance abuse issues, they offer Peer Support, Social Workers and Addiction Specialists to help link users to same-day treatment. They also offer free Naloxone and fentanyl test strips.
- Harm Reduction Ohio offers free Naloxone for users.
- Safepoint provides free syringes and other Harm Reduction supplies via it's in person location (new COVID hours). There is a program being designed for mail Naloxone delivery.

Resources

- Harm Reduction Ohio: <https://www.harmreductionohio.org/> email: mary@harmreductionohio.org
- Southeast RREACT: <https://southeasthc.org/> contact: James Alexander alexanderj@southeastinc.com
- Safepoint: <https://safepointohio.org/> contact: safepoint@equitashealth.com
- Harm Reduction Coalition: <https://harmreduction.org/>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>
- COHHIO <https://cohhio.org/>

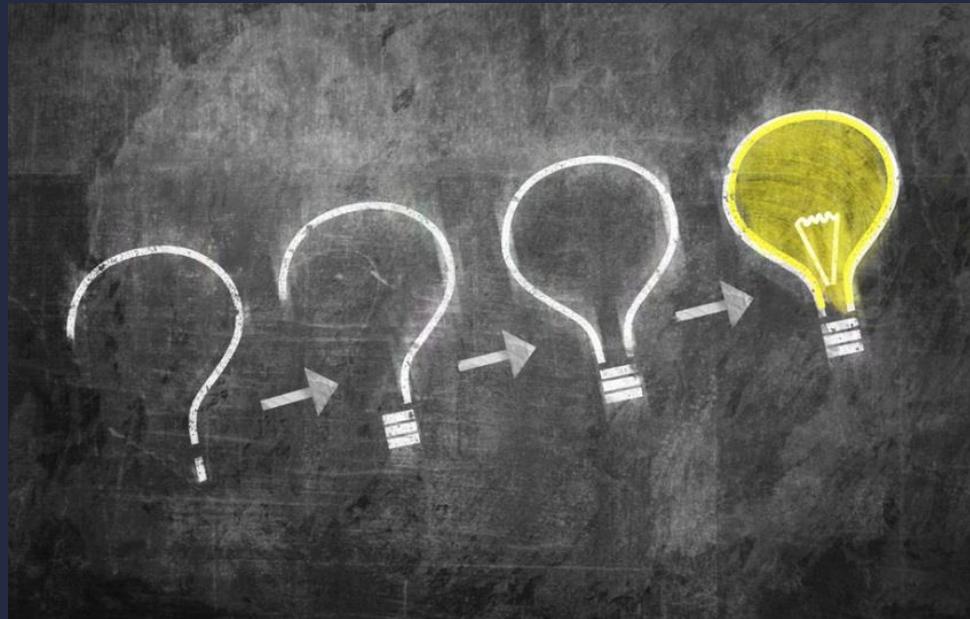


Presenter Contact Information

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Questions?



Collaboration with Public Health and Emergency Medical Services

- Operation Recovery: targeted distribution of Narcan and fentanyl test strips.
- Southeast Healthcare
- Rapid Response Emergency Addiction and Crisis Teams (RREACT) of the Columbus Fire and Police departments.

Naloxone/Narcan Kits



Franklin County Public Health:

You can now request a [naloxone kit online](#) to be mailed to you and complete a quick online training, all from the safety of your home.

In the training you will learn how to:

- Recognize the signs and symptoms of an overdose
- Distinguish between different types of overdose
- Perform rescue breathing
- Call emergency medical services
- Administer intranasal naloxone

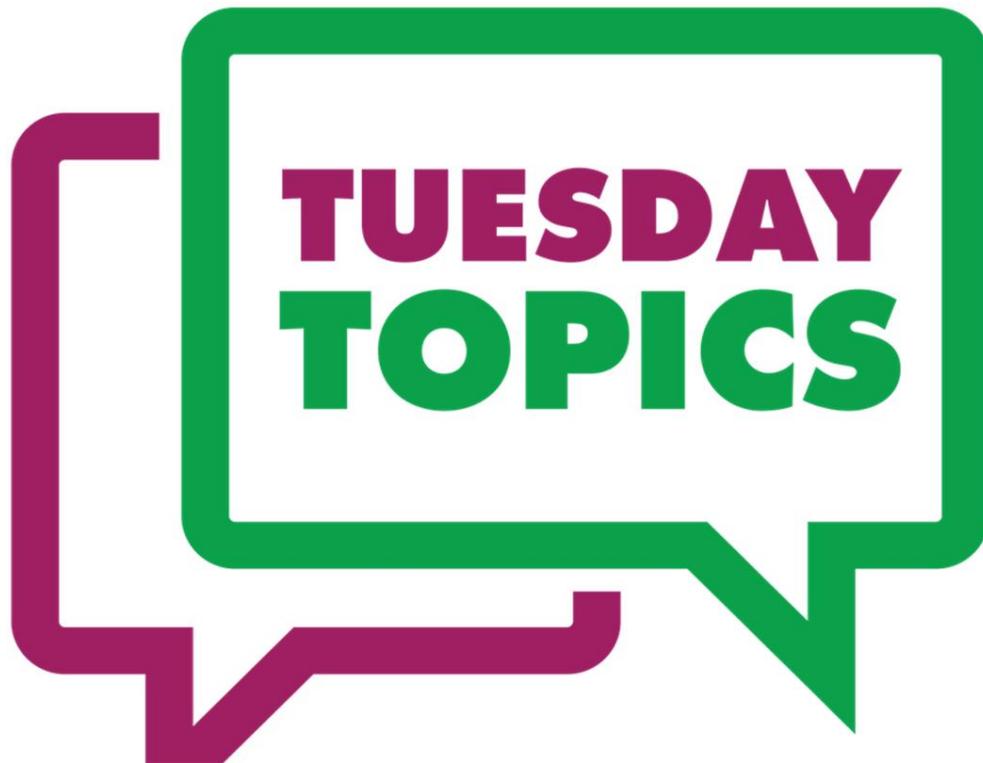


**Additional
Training
Resource**

Dr. Anahi Ortiz's Presentation for COHHIO
Understand, Prepare, React : Addiction 101

- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [Power Point Slide](#)

Future Topics



- **Prevention Resources & the Homeless Prevention Network, Tuesday, August 11th**
- **Back to School Resources & Support for Families, Tuesday, August 25th**

QUESTIONS

CSB COVID-19 Information Repository:

<https://www.csb.org/providers/COVID-19-provider-guidance>

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Community Shelter Board



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