

Characteristics of Emerging Post-Overdose Outreach Programs in Massachusetts

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Session Topic: Opioid Analgesics and Opioid Overdose

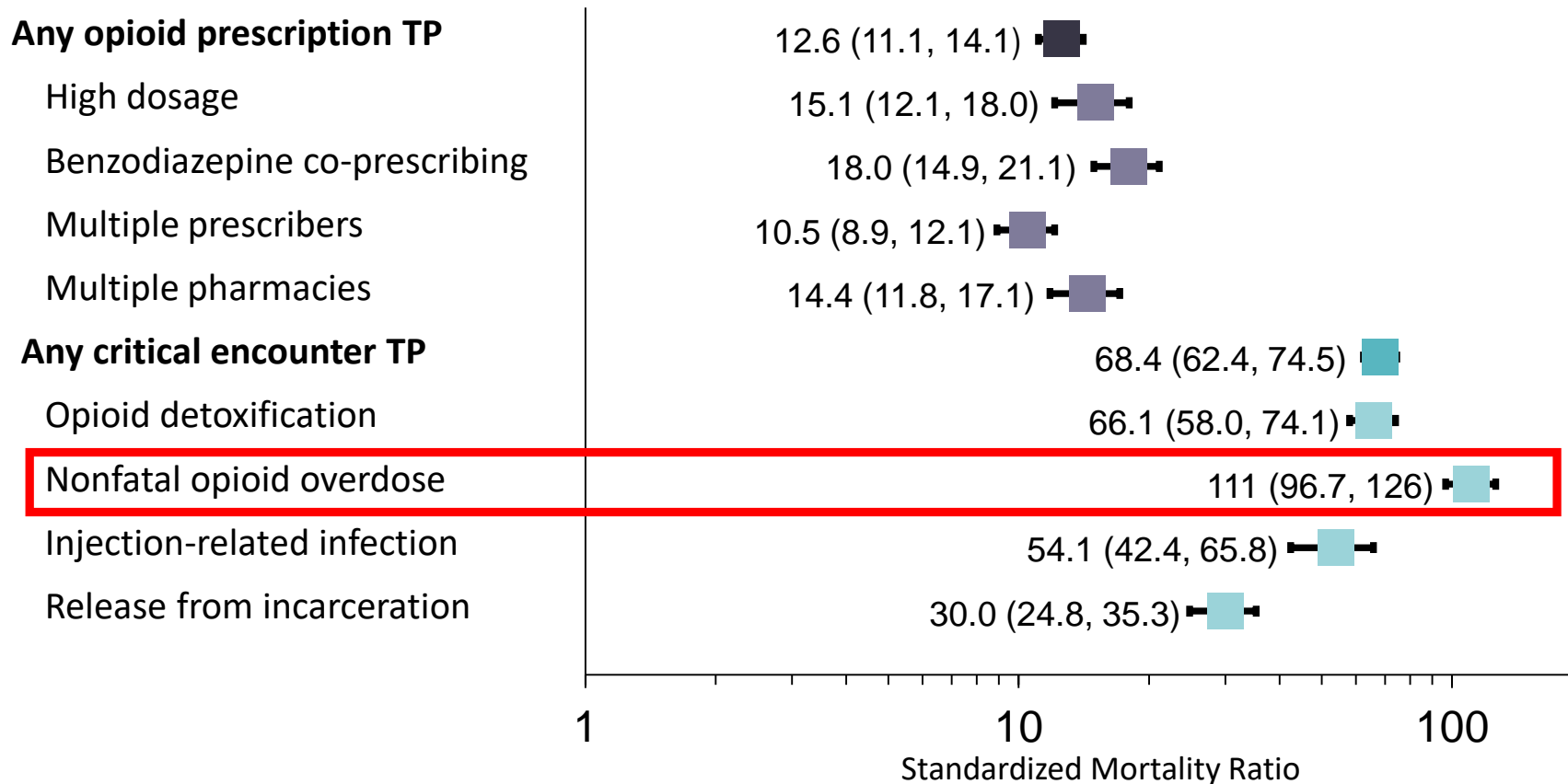


Conflicts of Interest

- There are no conflicts of interest
- This study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (R01CE003052)

Surviving an overdose is one of the strongest predictors of a subsequent fatal overdose

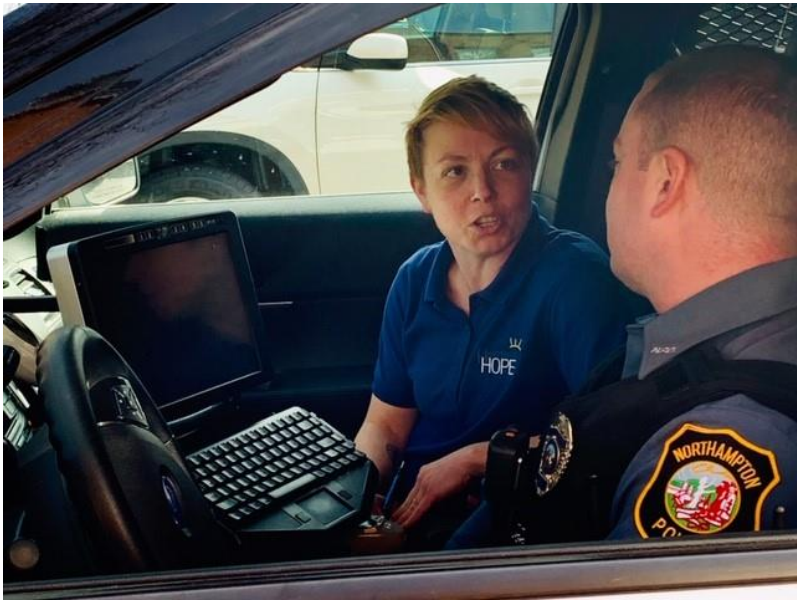
Opioid Overdose Standardized Mortality Ratios Following High-risk Touchpoints (TP)
(Massachusetts, 2014, n=1,315 opioid-related deaths)



Larochelle et al., 2019

How best to engage survivors after an overdose?

First responders (typically police) receive the 911 contact information for overdoses



Knock-Knock...

Did someone
here overdose?



Study Objective

To complete a statewide inventory of Massachusetts post-overdose outreach programs, describing key characteristics

Timeline & Methods Overview

5-Item Screeners

- February – July 2019
- To identify post-overdose outreach programs
- Distribute survey via Qualtrics to MA public safety and public health representatives (N=1,321)

73-Item Survey

- August – November 2019
- Distribute survey via Qualtrics to the 157 screener-identified post-overdose outreach representatives

Analysis

- We analyzed screener and survey responses using descriptive statistics

The Screener

- **Response Rate:** Completed screeners were received from 621 individuals representing all 351 municipalities in MA (responses from 100%)

Type and Timing of Overdose Outreach and Referral Programs in MA, N=351

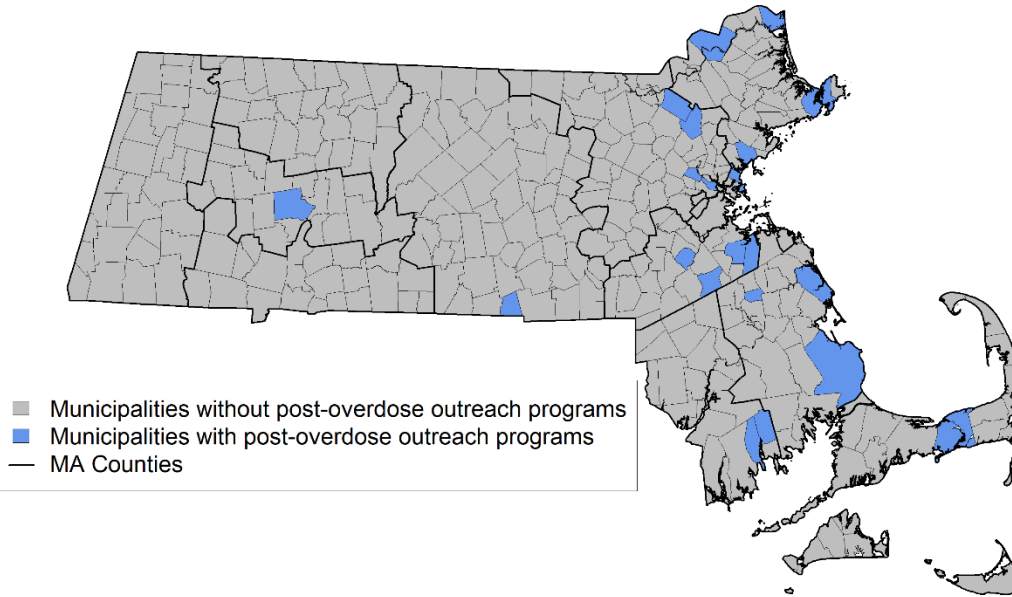
Program Type

Before an overdose event occurs	31%
During the overdose event, on-scene	33%
At the Emergency Department	21%
After the overdose event	45%
No Program / Do Not Know	44%

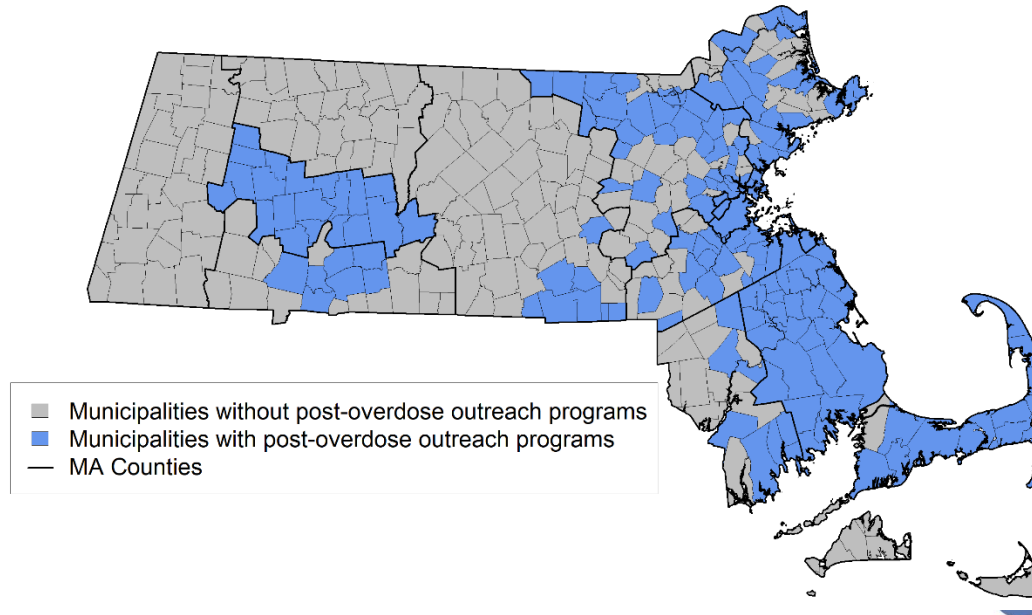
*Response categories were not mutually exclusive. The denominator for each category is 351. Percentages do not add up to 100%.

Post-Overdose Outreach Programs in Massachusetts

Post-Overdose Outreach Programs in Massachusetts, 2015 (N=23)



Post-Overdose Outreach Programs in Massachusetts, 2019 (N=157)



The Survey

Survey Themes

- Team composition, outreach target and timing, service offerings, naloxone delivery, privacy, mandated treatment and cross-community collaboration

Sample

- **157** screener-identified post-overdose outreach programs

Follow Up

- Non-respondents were contacted up to **three times** by email and phone

Response Rate

- Valid survey responses were received from **88% of post-overdose outreach programs (138/157)**

Data Reviewed by Post-Overdose Outreach Programs

- The majority of programs access data from police departments and nearly all programs review and gather the:
 - Survivor’s name & demographics
 - Information about the overdose event
 - Location of the overdose event
 - Address of the survivor

Post-Overdose Outreach Data Access, N = 138

Characteristic	Response	
First Responder Data	Emergency medical services provides data	15%
	Fire department provides data	13%
	Police department provides data	98%
Supplemental Data	Medical history	6%
	Addiction treatment history	15%
	Warrants	57%
	Probation/parole/community supervision	27%
	Prior convictions/criminal record	30%
Data Privacy	Protocol for maintaining confidentiality	84%
	Procedure for storing personally identifiable information	81%

Key Characteristics of Initial Post-Overdose Outreach Visits

<i>Key Characteristics of Post-Overdose Outreach Programs, N=138</i>		
Characteristic	Response	%
Program Start Year	2015 or later	86%
Team Size	1	7%
	2	57%
	3	20%
	4 or more	17%
Team Uniform Type	At least one wears a professional uniform	48%
	At least one wears a soft uniform	47%
	All wear plain clothes	41%
Location of Initial Visit	Known address of overdose survivor	80%
	Known address of social network members	4%
	Site of nonfatal overdose	12%
Duration of Initial Visit	1-20 minutes	59%
	21-40 minutes	30%
	41 minutes or longer	11%
Visit Timeline	2-3 days after an overdose	57%
Team Philosophy	More harm reduction oriented	56%
	Balanced between harm reduction and abstinence	28%
	More abstinence oriented	17%
Type of Overdose Events	Non-fatal overdose events only	21%
	Non-fatal and fatal overdose events	79%
Work with Social Network	Will always engage with social network	61%
	Depends on whether network is aware of overdose	38%
	Will not engage with social network	1%

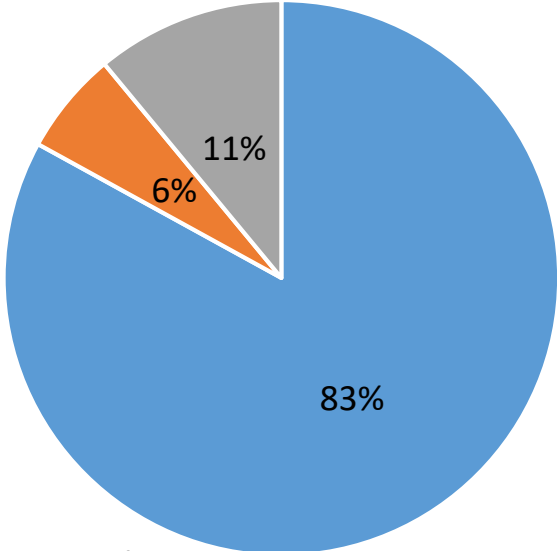
Initial visits:

most often conducted in partnership

Follow-up visits:

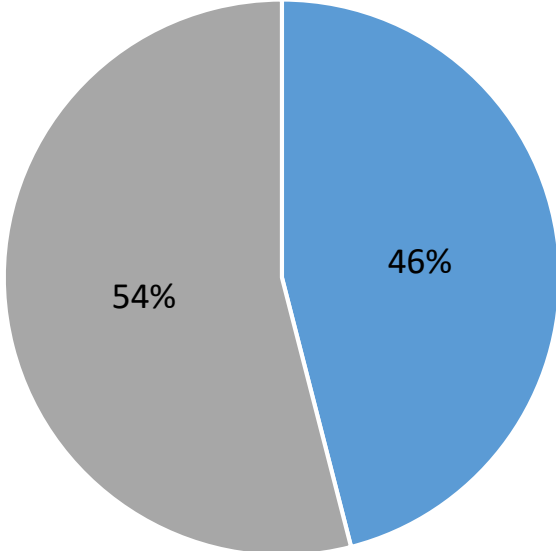
most often conducted by public health professionals

Initial outreach visit team composition
N=138



- Public Health & Public Safety
- Public Safety
- Public Health

Follow up visit team composition
N=119



- Public Health & Public Safety
- Public Health

Services Offered

Post-Overdose Outreach Services, N = 138

Addiction treatment navigation (provide)	97%
Abstinence-based inpatient addiction treatment (refer)	94%
Recovery support services (provide/refer)	94%
Overdose prevention services (provide)	93%
Outpatient medication for OUD (refer)	90%
Medication-based inpatient addiction treatment (refer)	88%
Outpatient addiction counseling (refer)	84%
Team assists with mandated treatment process, as needed	81%
Transportation to addiction treatment (provide/refer)	79%
Bereavement support (provide/refer)	78%
Team distributes naloxone kits	66%
Testing for HIV and HCV (provide/refer)	49%
Safer drug use supplies (provide)	42%
Adolescent and young adult survivor services available	41%
Gender-specific survivor services available	41%

Conclusions

- Post-overdose outreach is an emerging response to the overdose crisis that seeks to engage recent overdose survivors who might not otherwise access substance use disorder treatment and overdose prevention
- Post-overdose outreach programs rely on partnerships with public safety to leverage first responder data

Next Steps

1. Qualitative interviews of post-overdose outreach staff and outreach participants
2. Examine the impact of post-overdose outreach programs on overdose occurrence
3. Determine best practice guidelines for post-overdose outreach programs

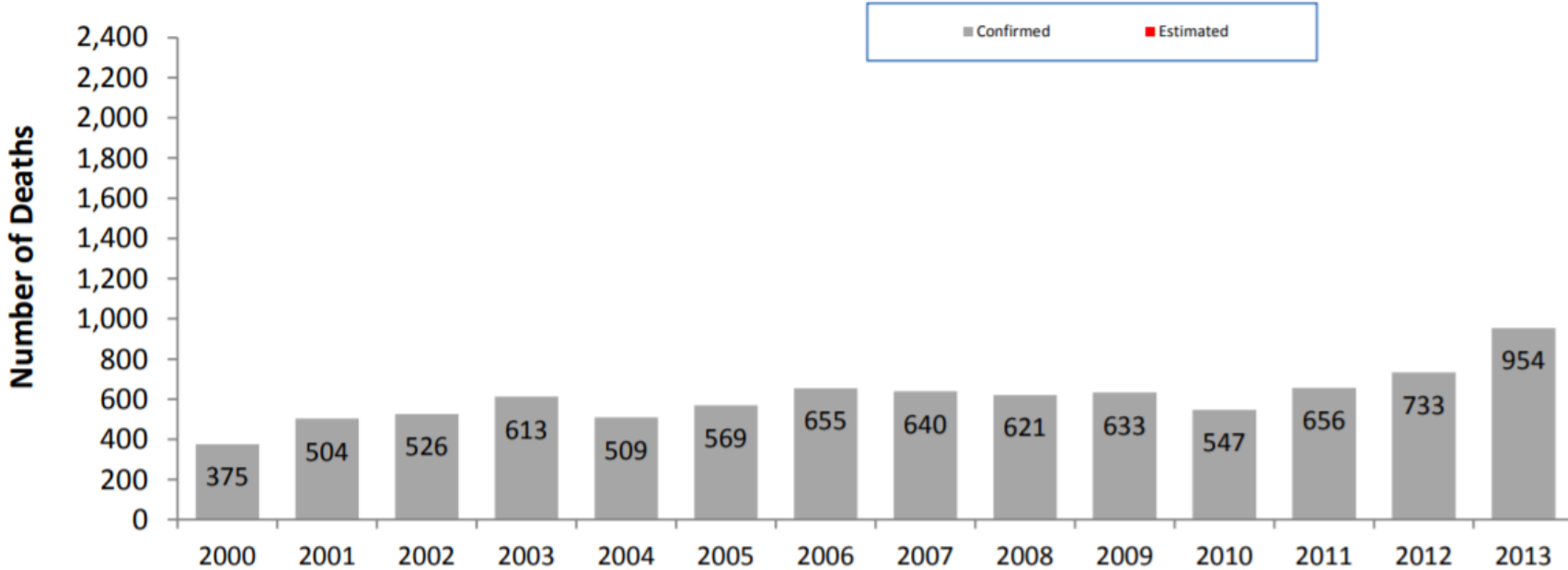
Thank you!

We are grateful to the post-overdose outreach program staff who answered the survey and our partners at community-based programs and the state health department for their ongoing partnership

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the function and purpose of post-overdose outreach programs in Massachusetts
2. Discuss the varied approaches to connecting with overdose survivors and social networks during post-overdose outreach
3. List the key characteristics of post-overdose outreach efforts

Confirmed opioid overdose fatalities in Massachusetts 2000 - 2018



Source: Massachusetts Department of Health, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/opioid-related-overdose-deaths-among-ma-residents-february-2020/download>

Team Characteristics

Post-Overdose Outreach and Referral Program Team Characteristics, N = 138

Characteristic	Response	N	(%)
Outreach Team Members	Police officer	118	(85.5)
	Recovery coach	89	(64.5)
	Harm reduction provider	37	(26.8)
	Social service professional	26	(18.8)
	Medical professional	22	(15.9)
	Addiction treatment provider	19	(13.8)
	Emergency medical technician (EMT)	18	(13.0)
	Fire fighter	8	(5.8)
	Clergy/faith-based provider	4	(2.9)

Outreach Visit Characteristics

Post-Overdose Outreach Visit Characteristics, N = 138

Characteristic	Response	%
Pre-Visit Contact	No attempt to contact before initial outreach visit	51%
	Attempt to contact by phone, text, or other method	49%
Location of Initial Visit	Known address of overdose survivor	80%
	Known address of social network members	4%
	Site of non-fatal overdose	12%
Uniform Type of Team	At least one team member wears professional uniform	48%
	No professional uniforms, but at least one soft uniform	12%
	All wear plain clothes	41%
Vehicle Type of Team	Police vehicle	13%
	Unmarked vehicle	69%
	Personal vehicle/other	18%
Time Between Event and Visit	Within 1 day after reported overdose	17%
	2 to 3 days after reported overdose	57%
	4 or more days after reported overdose	19%
Duration of Initial Visit	1-20 minutes	59%
	21-40 minutes	30%
	41 minutes or longer	11%