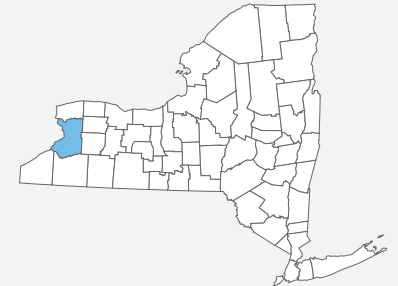


Erie County, N.Y.

Law Enforcement and Public Health Collaboration



Erie County works with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to create collaborative processes to connect individuals with substance use disorders to care. As of 2018, the Erie County Department of Health has trained over 21,000 first responders, including law enforcement officers from

11 local police departments, on recognizing opioid overdoses and administering naloxone. The Department of Health continues to provide these law enforcement agencies with naloxone and analyzes overdose data from the supply requests.

This series of briefs highlights innovations happening in Erie County, New York, the site of a recent peer exchange for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grantees. Erie County was selected as the site of this peer exchange due to its comprehensive and collaborative approach to addressing the opioid crisis.

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The Erie County Department of Health and local High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) collaborated to co-sponsor a law enforcement conference for Erie County in 2015. At this event, Baltimore HIDTA presented on the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), an application that allows law enforcement to track fatal and non-fatal overdoses in real-time to mobilize a cohesive and collaborative response. Soon after, eight local police departments registered for the application.

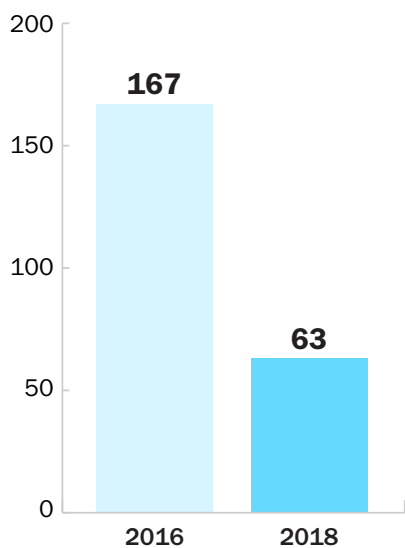
Erie County's Department of Health has leveraged ODMAP to provide connections to treatment for individuals who experience a reported overdose. Law enforcement officers in the county

The misuse of opiates became a growing public health and justice issue in Erie County, N.Y., in the 2010s. In 2016, the county of 925,000 people experienced 301 opiate overdose deaths. Opiate painkillers were the number one prescribed drug in the county in 2012, topping 80,000 prescriptions. This, along with the closing of two major substance abuse treatment clinics in Erie County in 2013, led County Executive Mark Polancarz to declare a public health crisis and task county and other local leadership with finding solutions to save lives. Since 2016, **the county has invested over \$1.7 billion** of county, state, federal and grant funding in developing an array of interventions **to curb the number of opiate-related deaths and connect county residents to treatment.**

use ODMAP to report cases of overdose and/or when they administer naloxone using a tablet in their squad cars. Department of Health staff review the information in ODMAP daily and then requests the police report from police department clerks. An analyst within the Department of Health provides contact information for the individual found on the police report who overdosed to peer navigators to follow up within 24 hours after the incident. The peer navigator will contact the individual by phone or text and visit in person to connect him or her to treatment services in the community. Law enforcement officers also leave brightly colored envelopes with treatment information with the individual after responding to an overdose. The envelope includes information to connect with treatment providers, contact information for peer navigators, information to obtain naloxone and brochures on how to identify an opiate overdose. By leaving packets instead of providing connections at the time of the overdose, individuals can explore treatment options once they have stabilized from the overdose.

Officers can also make direct referrals to the Department of Health for treatment without an overdose occurring. Because police reports are public record and not considered private like medical records, this process provides law enforcement and the Department of Health the ability to refer individuals to treatment without violating Health

After the Cheektowaga Police Department implemented the referral program in 2016, overdose numbers **dropped 61%**.



Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations. The data sharing through ODMAP is done through an open Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request the Department of Health established with participating police departments.

The referral program has received strong support and leadership from local police departments. The police department in Cheektowaga, N.Y., a suburb in Erie County of 87,000 people, saw its overdose numbers go from 167 in 2016 to 63 in 2018 after implementing the program. The overdose death toll went from 16 in 2016 to 5 in 2018 as well. As of March 2019, 103 clients in Cheektowaga alone have sought treatment through the referral program. Overall, the program has led to 70 percent of people contacted by peers being referred to treatment with 20 to 30 percent of those individuals remaining in treatment for 90 days. Erie County has partnered with surrounding rural counties to coordinate funding and training for ODMAP and has assisted these jurisdictions with building data systems and garnering support from law enforcement.

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