

# Overdose Outbreak Response Resource Sheet

CDC's Division of Overdose Prevention has compiled a set of resources to assist jurisdictions in detecting and responding to overdose clusters or outbreaks. If the tool or document is public facing, the direct link has been provided below. Some tools and documents are also listed that are not public facing but can be provided by your Science Officer upon request. These are denoted as such.

This list is a living document; new resources will be added as they become available.

## Overdose Outbreak Toolkit or Guide

- **[Opioid Overdose Outbreak Investigation Guide \(2019\)](#)**

Can be shared upon request. This draft guide developed by CDC was designed to support CDC's [Opioid Rapid Response Teams \(ORRT\)](#) responses to potential overdose outbreaks. The guide provides a comprehensive approach to conducting a timely and effective investigation in response to a notable increase in opioid overdoses in a given area. It discusses available overdose surveillance systems and describes the steps involved in an overdose investigation, including providing resources and tools for assisting in an overdose outbreak investigation.
- **[ASTHO's Guide for State Health Departments Responding to an Overdose Spike \(2020\)](#)**

This online guide provides a phased approach to planning for an overdose spike, mobilizing in response to a spike, and developing a short and long-term response.
- **[Ohio Department of Health's Rapid Increase in Drug Overdoses: Community Response Plan Template \(2020\)](#)**

An online guidance document developed by the Ohio Department of Health for mobilizing immediate local efforts in response to overdose spikes.

## Interview Protocols or Examples to Inform Outbreak Investigation

- **[National HIV Behavioral Surveillance \(NHBS\)](#)**

In 2003, CDC created NHBS to conduct behavioral surveillance among persons at high risk for HIV infection. This includes conducting interviews with people who inject drugs every three years (the survey trades off each year between three different populations at higher risk of HIV: gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, and heterosexually active persons at increased risk for HIV infection). This online resource contains:

  - [protocols for conducting the interviews](#) including consent forms,
  - process for [conducting a formative assessment](#),
  - [operations manual](#) including sampling and managing incentive payments to participants, and
  - [questionnaires](#) including questions on drug misuse, overdose, and treatment.

### ■ **Massachusetts Epi-Aid Opioid Overdose Interview Guide**

Can be shared upon request. This qualitative interview guide was used to conduct case interviews with people who had recently experienced or witnessed a drug overdose as part of an Epi-Aid investigation of sharp increases in drug overdose deaths related to illicitly made fentanyl. Questions include drug use routine, types of drugs used, use of naloxone, and risk perception related to the current outbreak.

### ■ **Ohio Epi-Aid Stakeholder Interview Guide**

Can be shared upon request. This qualitative interview guide was used to conduct key informant interviews with healthcare, community, and law enforcement providers about a sharp increase in drug overdose deaths investigated as part of an Epi-Aid and eventually linked to illicitly made fentanyl. Questions cover a variety of topics for each type of key informant, including perceptions of changes in the drug market, how their agency is responding to the current overdose outbreak, and characteristics of the overdoses based on the population of persons who use drugs they directly serve.

## **Public Health/Public Safety Partnerships**

### ■ **Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) Toolkit (2020)**

This document (Draft Version 2.0) provides guidance for data-driven overdose response coordination among public health, criminal justice, law enforcement, and first responders.

### ■ **Overdose Fatality Review Guide (2020)**

Overdose fatality reviews involve a series of confidential overdose death reviews by a multi-disciplinary team to identify system gaps and community-specific strategies to enhance overdose prevention and intervention efforts. This is a companion guide to the PHAST toolkit to assist jurisdictions in planning, implementing, and evaluating an overdose fatality review.

### ■ **RxStat Technical Assistance Manual (2014)**

This online guide details New York City's RxStat model for understanding the patterns and characteristics of drug use within a local jurisdiction. It is designed to support jurisdictions in implementing a local version of RxStat.

## **Coordination/Resources for Local Health Departments**

### ■ **NACCHO's Opioid Overdose Epidemic Toolkit for Local Health Departments**

This online toolkit provides links to webpages and downloads within the categories of monitoring and surveillance, prevention, harm reduction and response, linkage to care, and stakeholder engagement and community partnerships.

### ■ **Essential Measures: Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Toolkit (Developed by the Massachusetts Health Officers Association and Education Development Center) (2018)**

Building on the 10 essential public health services, this online toolkit was designed to assist local health department staff in responding to the opioid epidemic within their jurisdictions.