

ODMAP SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Leveraging timely overdose data to enhance community engagement

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA



CO-RESPONDER MODEL

The Saint Paul, Minnesota Police Department's (SPPD) Recovery Access Program (RAP) is designed to connect survivors of overdoses to community-based programs and supports. The program partners with licensed clinical social workers and local project partners to support outreach efforts following an overdose event. RAP recently expanded its capabilities with the addition of a licensed alcohol and drug counselor who will assist with outreach, assessments, and referrals to treatment providers.

AFTER SOMEONE SURVIVES AN OVERDOSE, AN OFFICER AND A SOCIAL WORKER WORKS TO GET HIM OR HER "CONNECTED WITH ADDICTION TREATMENT RESOURCES SO THAT THEY HOPEFULLY WON'T EXPERIENCE THIS SITUATION AGAIN," SIPES SAID. "WE SEE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOPEFULLY SAVE LIVES."

SGT. JAMIE SIPES, SPPD COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND STABILIZATION (COAST) UNIT COORDINATOR

RAP's goals include timely and accurate collection of overdose data, outreach and follow-up to calls for service, and engagement with community partners to address substance use disorder (SUD) in Saint Paul.

RAP is integrated into a larger Community Outreach and Stabilization (COAST) Unit. In addition to RAP, the COAST Unit consists of the Mental Health Resource Team and the Police Homeless Outreach Program.

ODMAP INTEGRATION

In the spring of 2019, the SPPD started using the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) to track information about fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Initially, an analyst assigned to RAP extracted information daily from the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system to identify potential overdoses in Saint Paul.

By August 2019, data entry into ODMAP was automated using an application program interface (API) that pulls overdose-related call types from the CAD system on a daily basis. The API transfers the date, time, and location of overdose incidents to ODMAP. The RAP analyst validates the data daily and also searches other call types to make any updates as needed.

ODMAP data is used by the SPPD to:

- Track overdose data and share drug trends within the SPPD and with community partners.
- Notify community stakeholders and the public of spikes in overdoses.
- Conduct outreach and follow-up with individuals who have recently overdosed.

WHAT IS ODMAP?

The Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) launched ODMAP in 2017. ODMAP is a free Web-based, mobile-friendly software platform to support reporting and surveillance of confirmed and suspected fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

The goal of ODMAP is to provide near-real-time data to public safety and public health agencies to mobilize responses to overdoses as quickly as possible. ODMAP displays overdose data within and across jurisdictions to help agencies identify spikes and clusters.

SPIKE ALERT FRAMEWORK

A spike alert is triggered when more than seven overdoses occur within 24 hours. The SPPD reviews the incidents and consults with partners, to include the Saint Paul Fire Department, to examine the factors involved with the overdoses (drug type, location, doses of naloxone administered, multiple fatalities, multiple victims at same location, etc.). The SPPD then assesses which spike alert level is most appropriate based on the framework below. The SPPD has issued 15 spike alerts since June 2019.

LEVEL 1

- Notification to the SPPD with screenshot from ODMAP to discuss at roll call and reminder to carry naloxone.
- Outreach to overdose victims conducted by COAST Unit officers and the embedded social workers.
- Distribute naloxone to overdose victims, their families, and to members of the community, where applicable.
- Dissemination of "Overdose Spike Alert Notification" brochures.

LEVEL 2

- All Level 1 activities with additional targeted outreach, as warranted, to community partners such as shelters and hospitals.

LEVEL 3

- All Level 1 and 2 activities and notification to the media through the SPPD's Public Information Officer.

SAMPLE SPIKE ALERT TEMPLATE

The SPPD issues this "Overdose Alert" after five people overdosed on what is suspected to be heroin in a span of 36 hours. The overdoses occurred in four locations. The SPPD believes all overdose incidents are linked to suspected heroin, which means it is laced with illicit chemicals that make it even more hazardous and deadly.

Due to the spike in overdoses, the SPPD is alerting people to the danger and asking community members to take the following steps:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately if they or someone they know is experiencing an overdose.
- Administer naloxone to people experiencing a suspected overdose.
- Share this information with anyone they know who uses heroin.
- Seek help for opioid addiction through a chemical dependency treatment center.

The SPPD is also reminding people about Minnesota's "Good Samaritan Law," which protects people from being charged or prosecuted if they act in good faith while seeking medical assistance for another person experiencing a drug-related overdose.

SPPD officers will be visiting areas of the city where heroin use is common, informing people about overdose risks and offering information about chemical dependency resources.