Governor Raimondo’s Task Force on Overdose Prevention and Intervention
November 9, 2020

DIRECTOR NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, M.D., M.P.H.; RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIRECTOR KATHRYN POWER, M.Ed.; RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND HOSPITALS
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
RI Office of Veterans Services
Kasim Yam, Director

Helpful Websites:

1) VA Providence Healthcare System
   Website: www.providence.va.gov

2) US Department of Veterans Affairs
   Website: www.benefits.va.gov/ROPROVIDENCE

Veterans Crisis Line
   1-800-273-8255, press 1 ~ text 838255
   Website: www.veteranscrisisline.net

General Info/Q&A: www.vets.ri.gov

Service Providers: www.riserves.org
Unite RI: https://rhodeisland.uniteus.com

Vet Center
   2038 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI 02889
   (401) 739-0167
   Website: https://www.vetcenter.va.gov
Data Update: Rhode Island Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths
January 2020-July 2020

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In July 2020, 40 accidental drug overdose deaths occurred in Rhode Island. This is the highest count of accidental drug overdose deaths recorded in any month since the State started tracking fatal overdoses.

Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of October 15, 2020. Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths.
Fatal Overdoses in Rhode Island January-July 2016-2020

**All Drug Fatal Overdoses:** At least one drug contributed to the death.

**Opioid-Involved Fatal Overdoses:** Any opioid, including fentanyl, contributed to the death. Other substances may have also contributed.

Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of October 15, 2020. Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths.
Proportion of Fatal Overdoses by Select Substance, January-July 2016-2020

Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of October 15, 2020. Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths.
PreventOverdoseRI
Rhode Island’s overdose information dashboard: 2020 updates

Brandon DL Marshall, PhD
Associate Professor of Epidemiology
Brown University School of Public Health
Agenda

1. Tour of updated features on PreventOverdoseRI

2. Our community-driven COVID-19 page

3. Unveiling the new “Emerging Trends” data page
   - First emerging trend topic: race & ethnicity data in Rhode Island
We have many pages translated in Spanish and Portuguese

In addition, Google Translate integration enables users to translate the entire site into many other languages.
Our Local Events page contains upcoming and ongoing events around the state as well as free, online webinars.

Local Events

Note: The current COVID-19 health crisis has brought many events to online platforms. Please check back here from time to time to see new community events.

A Virtual Release of the Providence Community Overdose Engagement Reports

**WHEN:**
October 30th, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**
Register here

**ABOUT:**
Join the City of Providence Healthy Communities Office, West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation, Project Weber/RENEW, Amos House, RI Public Health Institute and Systems Change Strategies as we release the 02907 and 02903 CODE (Community Overdose Engagement) Plans.

Ongoing Events:

Community First Responder Program (CFRP): Upgrade Your First Aid Kit

**WHERE:**
Online at: web.uri.edu/cfrp

**ABOUT:**
Visit our website and learn how to become a Community First Responder and receive free hem reagent supplies including Narcan®/naloxone and fentanyl test strips by mail. [Learn more]

Anchor Recovery Meetings
Missed the last Task Force Meeting? We have you covered!

Presentation Archive

Below you can find an archive of past Governor’s Task Force presentations.

For detailed meeting notes, please visit the Rhode Island Secretary of State’s website.

October 2020
Click here to listen to the recording of this event.

- CODE Meeting Action Steps: Response to Increases in Overdoses
- Machiste Rankin, RICARES
- Data Update: Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths January 2020-June 2020
  Rachel Seagoss, MPH; Rhode Island Department of Health
- Rhode Island’s Review of Overdose Accidental Deaths (ROAD): August 2020 Findings
  Heather Seger, LICSW Family Outreach Coordinator, and Rachel Seagoss, MPH; Rhode Island Department of Health
- Governor’s Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force Evidence Update: Plans + Progress
  Kimberly Paull, MPH; Director, Data and Analytics, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

Audio & Video recordings of each meeting are included
Our **Get Help** map has been updated with current locations of treatment options.

We have also added new filtering map functionality.

Mouseovers and a text box provide contact information for each provider.
New COVID-19 Resources

Our new page highlights resources offered by our harm reduction, treatment, and recovery organizations during COVID-19.

New page includes information about:

- What can you do to use drugs safely right now?
- Can I still get treatment?
- Who can you call for mental health and substance use support?
- Where can you get recovery support?

Thank you to everyone who contributed!
New data page on **Emerging Trends** that will highlight a new topic every 6 months.

The current focus is on **race and ethnicity data** in Rhode Island.
Since 2017, Black Rhode Islanders have faced higher rates of overdose death than White residents each year.

Dashed lines show the average overdose rate among all races.

Being above the dashed line means a higher than average overdose death rate.

In 2019, Black Rhode Islanders had almost double the overdose rate (58.2) than white residents (31.3).
Since 2016, overdose death rates among Hispanic Rhode Islanders has steadily increased, while the Non-Hispanic rate has fallen.

The overdose death rate for Hispanic Rhode Islanders increased from 21.4 in 2016 to 30.6 in 2019.

For Non-Hispanic Rhode Islanders, it fell from 32.3 in 2016 to 25.7 in 2019.
We also see differences in treatment across racial and ethnic groups.

Rates of Methadone receipt per 100,000 by race/ethnicity, Q1 2018 to Q3 2020

Methadone receipt among all racial and ethnic groups grew steadily for two years before declining in 2020.
Rates of Methadone receipt per 100,000 by race/ethnicity, Q1–Q3 2020

While rates of methadone receipt have grown among all groups since 2018, we see that the rate among whites (614 per 100,000) is almost double that of Blacks (336 per 100,000) as of Q3 2020.

The rate of methadone receipt among Hispanic Rhode Islanders is in the middle, at 493 per 100,000.
Questions & Next steps:

We need to understand why racial/ethnic disparities have grown in the last few years: what is contributing to increasing rates of fatal overdose among Black and Latinx Rhode Islanders?

What other data sources might give us a deeper understanding of these disparities? Are we accurately capturing race & ethnicity in all of our data sources?

We must assess our current overdose response to identify barriers in prevention, treatment, and recovery that contribute to disparities. Example: research shows that Black and Latinx people are less likely to receive evidence-based treatment after an opioid use disorder diagnosis.
Thank you to all who make this work possible!

- Maxwell Krieger, BS, Abdullah Shihipar, MPH, and Jesse Yedinak, MPA
- Todd Hampson, BA, who is our amazing Web Developer, and our dedicated team of Brown University SPH staff & students
- Members of the Overdose Data Council in Rhode Island
- Staff & Directors at the Rhode Island Department of Public Health (especially Rachel Scagos, who provided PORI with overdose data for this presentation)
- Staff & Directors at BHDDH (especially Gabriela Arredondo, Jamie Goulet, and Linda Mahoney, who all provided data and information for this presentation)
- Staff & Directors at the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) on Opioids and Overdose
- The wonderful community organizations who contributed to our COVID-19 page!
Syndemic: Intersectionality of COVID-19 and the Drug Overdose Epidemic

Julian Drix, MPH
November 9, 2020
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