

# GOVERNOR'S OVERDOSE TASK FORCE

## 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH GOALS AND ACTIVITIES AT-A-GLANCE

### Desired Impact

The Governor's Overdose Task Force has set forth the following outcomes: **to end the overdose crisis, ensure racial equity is embedded across all pillars, change lives, uplift community voices, use data to drive change, and build connections to care.** The Task Force is committed to addressing the root causes of overdose including the socioeconomic factors that influence health.

To achieve these desired outcomes, a series of additional goals and activities—aligned with the Task Force Strategic Wheel—have been outlined in the *Governor's Overdose Task Force Strategic Plan Refresh*.



The key components of the Task Force Strategic Plan—as shown above—aim to respond to the ever-changing landscape of overdose trends and emerging issues across Rhode Island. The 2023 Strategic Refresh is based on the original four pillars of the Governor's Task Force, with the addition of five elements that, collectively, support a robust and equitable response to the overdose epidemic:

Racial equity is a fundamental component of the work of the Task Force and remains a priority for all the pillars.

1. Addressing the social determinants of health is a foundational element that affects all pillars as well and must be prioritized to improve population health outcomes.
2. Data capacity and effective surveillance are critical tools that facilitate rapid understanding of what is needed to implement effective life-saving activities.
3. A strong governance structure with accountability measures, authentic community engagement, and transparent processes is critical to expanding on our public-private partnerships.
4. The ability to pivot or infuse additional resources quickly, across the right pillars at the right times, is essential to ensure flexible and rapid emergency responses that address the changing epidemic.

### Ensuring Racial Equity

**Core Strategy:** Ensure that the Racial Equity conversation is being embedded across all pillars.

### Building Strong Governance and Community Engagement

**Core Strategy:** Track what is implemented and create line of accountability for investments while strengthening the community's voice in the Governor's Overdose Task Force—specifically people who use drugs (PWUD).

### Expanding Data Capacity and Surveillance

**Core Strategy1:** Ensure that data is disaggregated and presented by race/ethnicity.

**Core Strategy2:** Pursue additional data-sharing between all state agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders to allow for more effective community outreach.

### Addressing the Social Determinants of Health

**Core Strategy1:** Increase the building of community capital through education and messaging.

**Core Strategy2:** Focus on disparities across all aspects of social determinants of health, including inclusive housing, stable employment, and basic needs.

**Core Strategy3:** Provide safeguards to address and improve social connectedness—a key social determinant.

### Reinforcing Comprehensive Prevention

**Core Strategy1:** Implement evidence-based primary prevention in schools, professional settings, and high-risk communities.

**Core Strategy2:** Incorporate prevention for workplace injuries, disability leaves, and rehabilitation services.

**Core Strategy3:** Prioritize prevention activities that recognize race equity, eliminate structural racism and disparities.

**Core Strategy4:** Prevent overprescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids.

### Strengthening Harm Reduction and Rescue

**Core Strategy1:** Sustain naloxone accessibility via a statewide plan and evaluate impact.

**Core Strategy2:** Maximize access to harm reduction materials and resources.

**Core Strategy3:** Ensure harm reduction services are comprehensive and responsive to evolving needs of PWUD.

**Core Strategy4:** Improve alternate post-overdose engagement strategies.

**Core Strategy5:** Prioritize racially focused harm reduction outreach strategies, including undocumented people.

**Core Strategy6:** Develop robust harm reduction policies.

### Increasing Engagement in Treatment

**Core Strategy1:** Increase capacity and reduce barriers to ensure treatment-on-demand.

**Core Strategy2:** Monitor and improve treatment program outcome assessments.

**Core Strategy3:** Improve partnerships among substance use and primary care providers.

**Core Strategy4:** Modernize treatment policies.

### **Supporting Recovery**

**Core Strategy1:** Standardize recovery-focused data collection methods and success metrics.

**Core Strategy2:** Build recovery capital across personal, family/social, community, and cultural environments.

**Core Strategy3:** Recruit, support, expand, and train Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS).

**Core Strategy4:** Support substance-exposed newborn (SEN) interventions and infrastructure.

**Core Strategy5:** Develop and implement recovery policies