

RODA – Overdose Fatality Review Preliminary Recommendations

Year 1 OFR: September 2020 – August 2021 June, July, August 2020

Purpose

The mission of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team is to improve countywide surveillance of overdose mortality. This enhanced surveillance will inform prevention efforts to address new cases of drug addiction, overdose, and death. This multidisciplinary team reviews selected overdose deaths to fill gaps in knowledge of local overdose mortality trends and to increase coordination and collaboration among partner agencies. OFR teams has proven to be a valuable tool in other states and counties for informing strategic planning, policy change, and other program improvements at the local and state level.

Confidentiality

All team proceedings are strictly confidential. Except as necessary to carry out the team’s purpose and duties, members of the OFR and guests may not disclose what transpired at the meeting. These meetings are not recorded, and notes transcribed during meetings only reflect a general overview of key themes discussed. Confidentiality agreements are required of all team members and support staff that access confidential information to complete investigations and/or analysis of information in performing overdose death reviews. It is not only important for the integrity of the team to protect proceedings at team meetings, but also for respect of the privacy of the deceased and family members. All data provided to the team must adhere to protection standards of its original source and cannot be re-disclosed as a record of the fatality review team. While a majority of OFR members and guests do not have access to confidential information, a signed confidentiality form is required before participating in the OFR meetings.

Meeting Structure

- Meeting takes place last Wednesday of every month from 1-3p.m.
- RUHS-Public Health, Sheriff-Coroner’s Department, Emergency Medical Services, and RUHS-Behavioral Health present pertinent information on decedents.
- Updates from Epidemiology Department regarding overdose trends are provided at each meeting.

Agencies Present

- Riverside University Health System-Public Health
- Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health
- Riverside University Health System-Public Health Nursing
- Riverside County Sheriff-Coroner Department
- Riverside Emergency Management Services Agency
- University of California-Riverside

- Inland Empire Harm Reduction Coalition
- Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) - Clinical Pharmacy Programs

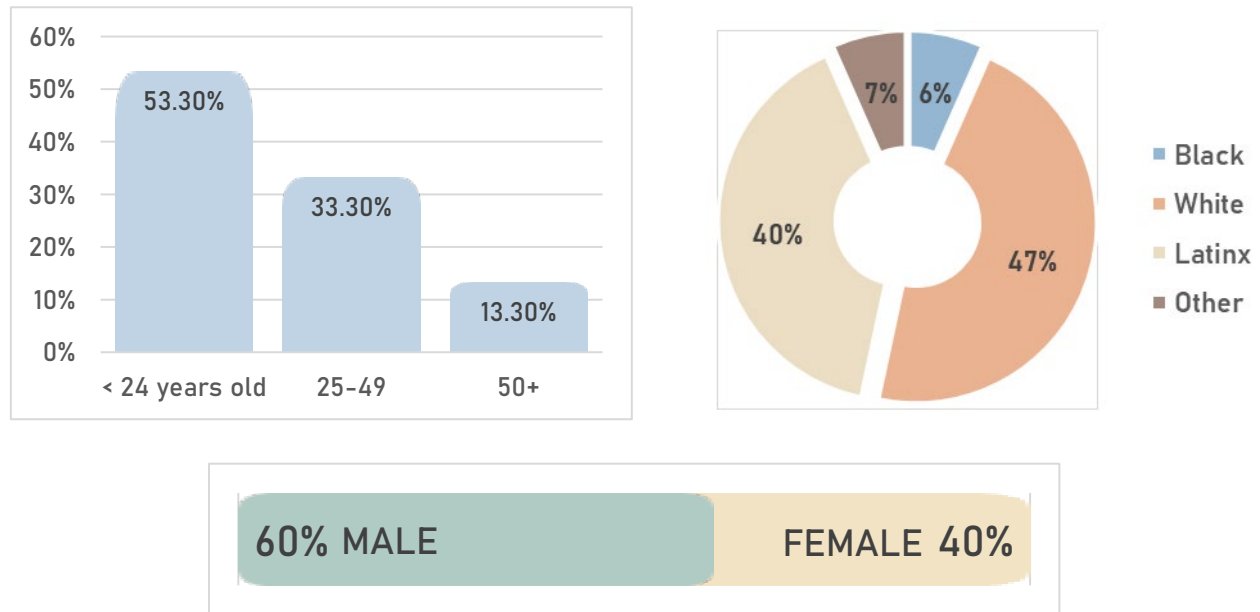
Case Review

15 total cases reviewed

- February: Two (2) overdose deaths
- June: Six (6) overdose deaths among youth population (ages <24 years)
- July: Four (4) overdose deaths with evidence of injection drug use
- August: Three (3) overdose deaths of individuals experiencing homelessness

Monthly themes are chosen based on a review of the enhanced surveillance data indicating areas of particular concern.

Demographic breakdown of reviewed cases in Year 1



Recommendations

Partnerships

- Explore partnerships with San Diego County to address use and access to fentanyl among youth.
- Develop partnerships with faith-based community groups.
- Identify hotel hot spots. Partner with hotels to include overdose prevention resources in rooms and/or train hotel staff.

- Partner with agencies that provide resources to homeless encampments to include overdose prevention resources and more information on shelters/County housing.

Education and Training

- Increase school education programs on the prevalence and dangers of counterfeit drugs.
- Increase education and knowledge of drug tolerance levels, specifically working with individuals in recovery.
- Juvenile Court: Require youth and their parents to attend harm reduction training. Work with partners to supply naloxone.
- Support screening and training on adverse childhood experiences.
- Identify and/or create messaging focusing on stigma reduction for substance use disorder, harm reduction, and treatment.
- Increased need and education on mental health services and resources.

OFR Structure

- RODA OFR team to expand partnerships with Riverside County Probation Department to provide insight of programs available, successful interventions, and lessons learned for referrals to treatment.
- RODA OFR team to include Riverside County Drug Court judge, if possible. Judge to give insight on the overall effectiveness of drug diversion programs, and what can be improved.
- Continue to focus on fentanyl as a rising issue in Riverside County.
- RODA OFR team to include Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) for a better insight of what programs are available, and to present pertinent information on decedents.

Naloxone

- Distribute/provide access to fentanyl testing strips.
- Work with pharmacies that may be resistant to selling Naloxone/Narcan.
- Purchase Naloxone for mass distribution.

Resources

- Provide EMS/first responders with social service or case management resources so they can refer individuals with a history of substance use or their families to necessary resources.
- Promote Behavioral Health's harm reduction and treatment activities.
- For media campaign – set up interviews with local radio hosts with an interest in health and public safety.