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\$14.5 Million Grant Will Enhance Overdose Tracking and Prevention Efforts

A \$14.5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will allow Riverside University Health System – Public Health (RUHS-PH) to expand drug overdose surveillance and better target local prevention efforts.

Riverside County scored a 96.3% on its grant application and was one of 40 jurisdictions across the country to receive the funding under the CDC’s Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program. The program aids with the collection of accurate, comprehensive and timely data on fatal and non-fatal overdoses. The five-year grant was awarded in August.

“This grant supports data initiatives to directly target prevention efforts, respond quickly and effectively to trends, close gaps in service, and reach local populations that are disproportionately affected by the overdose epidemic plaguing our country,” said Public Health Director Kim Saruwatari. “The funding will help improve and automate surveillance to better provide information to community organizations that support those suffering from addiction.”

Between January and May 2023, Riverside County logged 329 overdose deaths. In 2021, Riverside County reported the fourth highest number of overdoses, compared to neighboring Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange counties, with a total of 806 overdose deaths, according to the County’s [Overdose Dashboard](#).

For more information about RUHS-PH, visit ruhealth.org/ruhs-public-health.

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