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state.nj.us/njsp
The Problem

“Sector siloing” of information and institutional boundaries

• Key data held hostage within institutions
• Trends, patterns, bad drug batches, areas and populations in need of assistance should be identified and mitigated
• People with SUD often touched by many sectors
• Should be identified for treatment services
The Solution

• Drug Monitoring Initiative created to develop drug intelligence capability to serve both public safety and public health partners
• Formed non-traditional information-sharing partnerships/collaborations:
  o Law enforcement
  o State’s Department of Health (DOH)
  o State’s Department of Human Services (DHS)
• Sharing vital bio-surveillance and drug demand data indicators
The Solution

- Data Use Agreement with DOH to share all first responders’ naloxone administration data for more comprehensive/accurate picture of epidemic in state
- For the DHS, Division of Addiction Services, we overlaid “journey to arrest” and treatment services data to show areas of need
Overcoming Pushback

Fostering collaboration and reducing “institutional stigmas”

- Address beliefs/stigma that law enforcement:
  - Is only here to arrest and doesn’t understand the problem
  - Should not get involved in a “public health problem”
- Address belief that Public Health partners have no need for law enforcement data
Successes

• Achieved understanding of community drug harms in real-time

• Utilize data to identify and mitigate:
  o Spikes in overdoses
  o Bad drug batches
  o At-risk areas and communities

• Share high-risk area information and “bad batch” alerts with partners:
  o Dept. of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services
  o Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Medical School, Rutgers University
Successes

RWJ Medical School, Rutgers University responded with new program in 2017:

• Community based trainings in the most afflicted areas
  ○ To date 420 trainings; 7,327 people trained

• Substance use disorder awareness training and free naloxone to attendees
  ○ To date 7,155 naloxone kits disseminated
Successes

• Be persistent and open-minded; share data and drug intelligence
• Implement comprehensive Drug Monitoring Initiative/Capability
• Identify the data stakeholders that will complement your initiative
• Identify or propose multi-sector working groups

Thank you!
Resources

- **NJ CARES**: A realtime dashboard of opioid-related data and information
- **New Jersey State Police**
- **Division of Addiction Psychiatry, RWJ Medical School, Rutgers**: Opioid Overdose Prevention Network provides free trainings and naloxone kits to communities
- **Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)**: System for sharing of information between federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, international and private sector partners