NJ-State Opioid Response

The Center for Prevention Science (CPS), within the Rutgers School of Social Work, was contracted by the New Jersey Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to serve as the data management, training, and evaluation team for the NJ-State Opioid Response (NJ-SOR) initiative that began its third cycle of funding in 2022. The program's main objective is to increase access to FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD). Additionally, the NJ-SOR initiative provides an infrastructure across the state to support the continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services for opioid use disorder (OUD) and other concurrent substance use disorders.

Data Management, Training, and Evaluation

The New Jersey State Opioid Response (NJ-SOR) project is an initiative aimed at addressing the devastating effects of the opioid crisis in New Jersey. With the goal of reducing opioid misuse, addiction, overdoses, and deaths, NJ-SOR seeks to implement comprehensive strategies for prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Objectives of the project include increasing access to medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD), launching a public information, education, and training campaign, expanding availability of naloxone kits to high-need communities, increasing access to opioid use treatment in correctional facilities, and developing a mobile van pilot program that can bring services to communities with low access to MOUD. In collaboration with various units within the state government, healthcare providers, community organizations, and stakeholders, the NJ-SOR project aims to address the multifaceted aspects of the opioid crisis and implement evidence-based interventions for maximum impact. The CPS received a $1,150,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is contracted to administer program evaluation, data management for over 50 providers, and training support for the NJ-SOR project during the current two-year funding period spanning from October 2022 to September 2024.

The Rutgers University Center for Prevention Science plays a vital role in the NJ-SOR project, collecting essential data from substance use treatment providers, conducting interviews with partners, and submitting comprehensive reports to the state. Working closely with New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the team is responsible for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of various interventions, analyzing key metrics related to opioid misuse and overdose, and identifying areas for improvement. Activities include evaluating the implementation of prevention and treatment programs, measuring the impact on reducing opioid-related deaths and hospitalizations, and assessing the accessibility and quality of recovery support services. By closely tracking data and conducting thorough analysis, the evaluation team plays a crucial role in ensuring the project's success and achieving its specific goals of reducing opioid use disorder, related consequences, and improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities in New Jersey.

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Meet the Team!

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We have a large team of undergraduate and graduate students that are critical members of our team!