

Opioid Overdose Recovery Program

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 an evaluator for the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP) initiative that began in 2015. The program's main objective is to link people who have experienced an opioid overdose to withdrawal management, substance use disorder treatment, recovery support services, and other services as needed.

Evaluation Component

The roles of RU-CPS on this project include (1) creating data collection instruments (2) data collection and management (3) data analysis and (4) generating quarterly and annual reports.

In October 2015, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), launched a program, which granted funds to five agencies to operate the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP). This program was created to respond to individuals who were administered naloxone after experiencing an opioid overdose and who are afterward treated at hospital emergency departments. Initially implemented in emergency departments in five counties, the program has since expanded to serve all 21 counties in New Jersey.

Drs. Andrew Peterson (PI) and Kristen Powell (Co-PI), Director and Associate Director of the Center for Prevention Science at the Rutgers School of Social Work, have been awarded \$1.4 million to date (October 2015 to September 2024) to conduct the evaluation of this program as it has gone over the years. The program's main objective is to link people who have been reversed from an opioid overdose to withdrawal management, substance use disorder treatment, recovery support services, peer support services, and follow-up services for up to eight weeks after their overdose. The program employs Recovery Specialists and Patient Navigators to support people enrolled in OORP. The evaluation team was tasked with creating the data collection instruments, collecting and managing the statewide OORP data, and conducting evaluation and reporting for NJ DMHAS. The evaluation team has used a mixed methods approach. For more information on the program and findings, see the following:

Citations

1. Powell, K.G., Treitler*, P., Peterson, N.A., Borys, S. & Hallcom, D. (2019). Promoting opioid overdose prevention and recovery: An exploratory study of an innovative intervention model to decrease opioid-related deaths. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 64, 21-29. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2018.12.004>

2. Lardier, D.T., Powell, K.G., Morton, C.M., Peterson, N.A., & Borys (in press). Peer Recovery Specialists and Referrals to Treatment: Clinical Correlates among Patients of an Opioid Overdose Recovery Program in New Jersey. *Substance Use & Addiction Journal*.
3. Lardier, D.T., Powell, K.G., Peterson, N.A., Borys, S., & Hallcom, D.K. (2022). Client characteristics and service utilization with emergency department peer recovery specialists in a state-wide opioid recovery intervention. *Social Work in Mental Health*. [Advanced online publication, 20 pages]. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2022.2138735>
4. Powell, K.G., Treitler*, P., Peterson, N.A., Borys, S. & Hallcom, D. (2019). Promoting opioid overdose prevention and recovery: An exploratory study of an innovative intervention model to decrease opioid-related deaths. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 64, 21-29. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2018.12.004>
5. McGuire, A.B., Powell, K.G., Treitler*, P., Wagner, K., Smith, K., Cooperman, N.A., Watson, D.P. (2020). Emergency department-based peers for medication assisted treatment linkage post opioid overdose: Models and factors affecting implementation. *Journal for Substance Abuse Treatment*, 108, 82-87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsat.2019.06.013>
6. Lardier, D.T., Powell, K.G., Peterson, N.A., Borys, S., & Hallcom, D.K. (2022). Polysubstance use latent profiles in New Jersey: Association with prior overdoses, prior emergency department peer recovery engagement, and mental health diagnosis. *Substance Abuse*, 43(1) 1011-1022. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08897077.2022.2060436>
7. Treitler*, P., Powell, K.G., Morton, C.M., Peterson, N.A., Borys, S. & Hallcom, D. (2022). Locational and contextual attributes of opioid overdoses in New Jersey. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 22(20), 108 - 119. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1533256X.2021.1901203>

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Meet the Team!

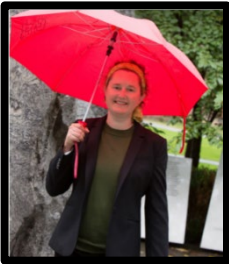


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