



VIRTUAL SITE VISIT:

New Jersey Department of Health

Advancing the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Capacity Building Initiative and Highlighting Specialized Jurisdictional Support

Field Employees: Jasmine Chambers-Carlisle, SUDORS Abstractor and Kelly Pinzon, SUDORS Abstractor

Purpose: Elevate New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) abstraction efforts.



OD2A Strategies Discussed

Surveillance – Implement innovative surveillance activities



Local Partnerships

New Jersey Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner (OCSME)



Data and Surveillance Contributions

The NJDOH conducts overdose surveillance by reviewing and abstracting from primary data sources including:

- Death certificates
- Coroner/medical examiner reports
- Postmortem toxicology reports

Manually requesting data has presented challenges. However, the team developed a consistent request schedule that improved turnaround time.

Challenges and Opportunities



Challenge:

- Meeting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data abstraction deadlines due to delays in receiving data from partner sources.

Opportunity:

- Consistent file delivery has improved workload pacing.
- Field employees can now identify emerging patterns among decedents, helping NJDOH consider targeted prevention strategies.

JURISDICTION GOALS

Jurisdictions initially set goals to strengthen overdose surveillance and prevention.



Enhance real-time data by collecting on-the-ground insights to guide overdose prevention strategies.



Achieve high-quality and timely data submission to the CDC by implementing internal quality control procedures.



Connect data to action by translating findings into targeted surveillance activities.

OUTCOMES

Field Employees' impact on the Jurisdiction



Increased Capacity: Enhanced ability to collect and analyze overdose data to meet OD2A requirements.



Collaborative Insight: Shared findings with NJDOH teams to inform prevention programming.



Data Informed Decision Making: Opportunities to identify patterns and trends to improve policy and intervention planning.

ACTIVITIES

Tasks completed by Field Employees



Met CDC abstraction deadlines for P15 and P16



Launched SUDORS dashboard on CDC website



Improved data access from medical examiners



Maintained tracking spreadsheets for data sources



Enhanced abstraction interface and user experience



Supported backend database improvements for usability



Developed training to improve data quality



Reduced errors during quality checks



Trained and refreshed abstractors on CDC standards

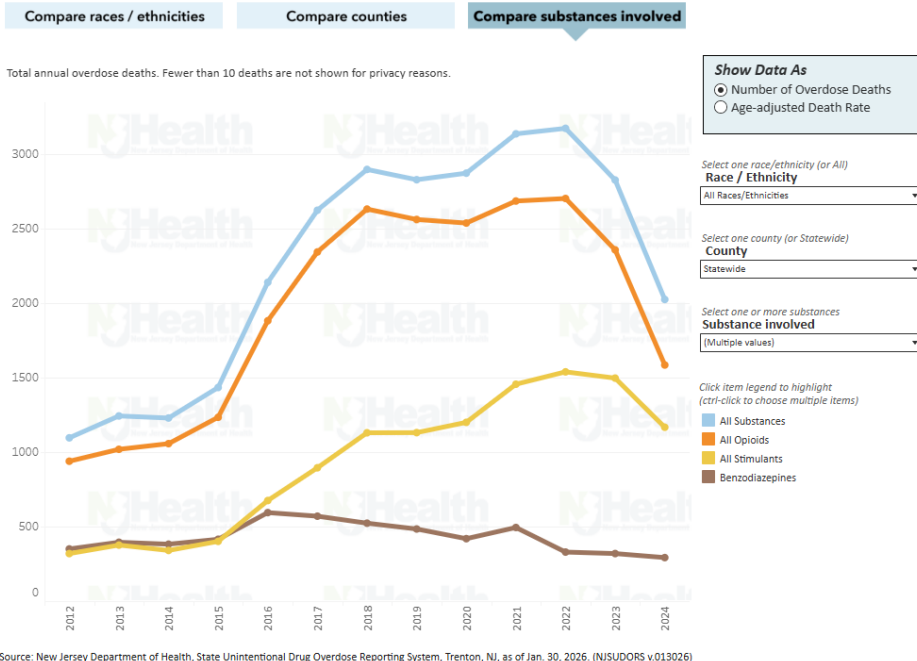
Key Accomplishments

The **New Jersey SUDORS Overdose Mortality Data Explorer** provides detailed data on overdose deaths in New Jersey, including substances involved, demographics and circumstances.

** Follow the link to see the live dashboard and clear visuals of the graph below*

Unintentional Overdose Deaths Over Time

The trend of unintentional overdose deaths in New Jersey may be viewed by county, race and ethnicity, or substance involved by using the buttons below. Data may be viewed as raw counts or age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population by choosing under "Show Data As." Drop-down menus to the right of the chart can be used to select a subgroup of the population to view.



Reflections from the Jurisdiction

My role on the OD2A project has allowed me to have a better understanding of the current state of substance use in New Jersey and recognize patterns among those at higher risk. Abstracting these stories feels like a way to honor the lives behind the data—not just reduce them to statistics. Knowing that my work contributes to prevention campaigns and policy change is incredibly rewarding.