

South Carolina Opioid Crisis

Interagency Collaboration



South Carolina Overview



- 5.1 million residents across 46 counties
- 4 metropolitan areas: Greenville, Columbia, Charleston & Myrtle Beach
- Steady increase in opioid OD fatalities between 2015 to 2019, but 63% increase from 2019 to 2020 during pandemic (1,409: CDC)
- EMS Naloxone administrations from 4,200 in 2015 to 9,455 in 2020 (225% increase) despite other concurrent Naloxone programs

S.C. Cooperation Journey



- First interagency cooperation project in **2016**:
 - Law Enforcement Officer Narcan (LEON) - Solicitor's Office, DHEC* Office of EMS and Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS)
- Opioid Emergency Response Team (OERT) was created in late **2017** by the Governor bringing together DHEC*, DAODAS, State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), HIDTA, and other state agencies
- No unified data source because of barriers of information silos, privacy concerns, and distrust

South Carolina Journey



- EMS data timely and complete but no data agreements until all state agency legal departments finally agreed on rules in **2019**
- EMS data shared through BioSpatial feed with analytics provided weekly to OERT
- ODMAP program in place since **2017** but very limited participation from law enforcement
- In **2021**, DHEC Office of EMS pushed out data through BioSpatial to ODMAP to “illuminate” the entire state map

South Carolina Journey



- On weekly OERT calls, EMS data is reviewed, and additional overdose surveillance information is shared by members to enhanced investigation, and rapid response across agencies
- Enhanced ODMAP provides local jurisdictions situational awareness and context of drug activity beyond their district lines
- Joint agency projects possible: COPE (Community Outreach Paramedic Education Program), Community Distribution of Narcan, continuation of LEON and ROLL, and others

Key Points



- EMS data has important operational value
 - Strategic planning of resources
 - Law Enforcement & Legislature awareness
 - Planning of innovative programs (COPE)
 - Measuring effectiveness of programs
 - Understanding the scope of problem
- Public health emergencies require novel solutions that face multiple challenges
- Cooperation, trust and communication between state agencies must exist to see progress

Questions?



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