



**Care Massachusetts
The Opioid Abatement
Partnership**

Care Massachusetts Core Training and Technical Assistance Team



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Background: Care Massachusetts

Care Massachusetts is working collaboratively with cities and towns across the state to take action to end the overdose crisis.

We provide resources and technical assistance with:

- ❑ Connecting municipalities with the people most impacted by the overdose crisis
- ❑ Promoting the selection and implementation of proven public health strategies
- ❑ Educating the public on the source and purpose of the funds
- ❑ Facilitating collaboration across municipalities



OFFICE HOURS

**Getting Started with a Community
Needs Assessment**

4/11/2024



Presenters



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Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1. Recognize the elements of a community needs assessment for opioid abatement planning
2. Identify sources of data for community needs assessments
3. Describe examples of community needs assessments conducted in different communities



What is a Needs Assessment

Systematic process for identifying:

- community's impacts and needs
- community's assets: resources, services, skills, and interests

In the context of opioid settlement planning...

a needs assessment is used to **identify the areas in which interventions can save the most lives**



Why Conduct a Needs Assessment?

To gather essential information about **community impacts and needs** related to the opioid epidemic from a variety of diverse sources

To inform the **selection of strategies** to be implemented in the community

To help ensure that opioid settlement funds **address the community's greatest needs**

To help **identify service gaps** where needs are not being met as well as barriers to care

To **raise awareness** about the community's opioid abatement efforts.

To **identify assets** that may be underutilized or relatively unknown

To better understand the **range of resources present in the community** to address the epidemic



Key Components

- ➔ • **Prepare for needs assessment**
- ➔ • **Gather and explore existing data**
 - Ensure an equity lens
 - Build relationships and engage community
 - Collect new data, gather input
 - Analyze data
 - Create a community profile
 - Communicate findings
 - Use findings for planning



Preparation for Needs Assessment

- **Assessment Team**
 - Identify who will manage this work. Do you need to hire or seek consultation services?
- **Seek Feedback and Engage Community**
 - Engage internal and external key individuals and organizations to help set goals and planning for needs assessment
 - Consider starting to form a community coalition
- **Identify populations of focus**
- **Align scale of needs assessment with resources available**



Gathering and Exploring Data

- Identity existing data sources
- Explore usefulness of sources
 - Are they up to date?
 - Provide new insight?
 - Reflect the needs of specific communities of interest?
 - What else is needed?
- What qualitative, or unstructured feedback is needed
 - What gaps on the “why” and “how” is needed?



Existing Data Sources to Explore

- Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) website
- Internet searches (e.g., treatment programs)
- Publicly available surveys (e.g., American Communities Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- Medicaid/MassHealth (e.g., treatment, methadone)
- Local data (e.g., police departments)
- Talking to community members



Where to access data?

Publicly available data

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/data-on-enrollments-in-substance-addiction-services>
- <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/population-health-information-tool>
- <https://www.mass.gov/lists/current-overdose-data> EMS Regional Opioid Related Incident Dashboard | Mass.gov
- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>
- <https://heller.brandeis.edu/opioid-policy/community-resources/madds/site-reports-2021.html>
- <https://www.drugsdata.org/index.php>

Limited access – request options

- [http://www.mass.gov/info-details/request-for-ms-for-prescription-monitoring-data#prescription-monitoring-program-\(pmp\)-de-identified-data-request-form](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/request-for-ms-for-prescription-monitoring-data#prescription-monitoring-program-(pmp)-de-identified-data-request-form)
- <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-access-to-mdph-confidential-records-data>
- <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/registry-of-vital-records-and-statistics>
 - vital.datarequest@mass.gov
- [matris-data-request-form-2-2-23.doc \(live.com\)](#)
 - matrissupport@state.ma.us



Next Steps

- **Request TTA from Care Mass**
 - Support thinking about your needs
 - Help drafting scope of work
 - Steps for contracting for needs assessment consultation
 - Provide examples of existing data collection tools and templates
 - Support identifying secondary data sources
- **Access Care Mass Resources**
 - [Previous Office Hours slides and recordings](#)
 - [Request individualized technical assistance](#)
 - Sign up for our [listserv](#)
 - Check out the [municipal dashboard](#)
- **Consult with your peers**
- **Start to explore existing data**

**** Coming Soon ****

Needs Assessment
Toolkit and Training
Webinar



Needs Assessment Examples



Community Examples

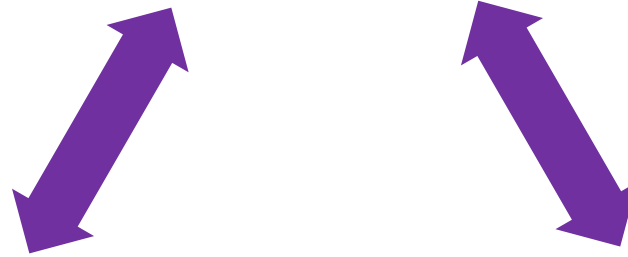
- Grant-funded/ Grant-driven
- Local and Regional
- Population-Specific
- Community members vs CEOs



HEALing Communities Study approach to community assessment

Data Collection

- Internet searches
- State and national sources
- Phone calls to services
- Community input



Data Visualization

- Maps
- Dash boards
- Photovoice



Community Engagement

- One-on-one discussions
- Focus groups
- Data walks



Data used in the HEALing Communities

Community Characteristics

- Sociodemographic information
- Estimated prevalence of OUD
- Economic history & cultural assets
- Transportation and housing
- Local media outlets
- Existing substance use coalitions

Opioid-related Outcomes

- Opioid-related overdose deaths
 - By substance
 - By race/ethnicity and age
- “touchpoints” analysis
- Injury location by location type and race/ethnicity

High-risk opioid Prescribing

Harm Reduction & Recovery

- Naloxone & fentanyl test strips
- Syringe services programs
- Recovery Centers & Support groups
- Supportive housing

MOUD

- Addiction treatment programs (outpatient, OTP, inpatient)
- # of residents receiving buprenorphine
- # of residence receiving methadone

Emergency services

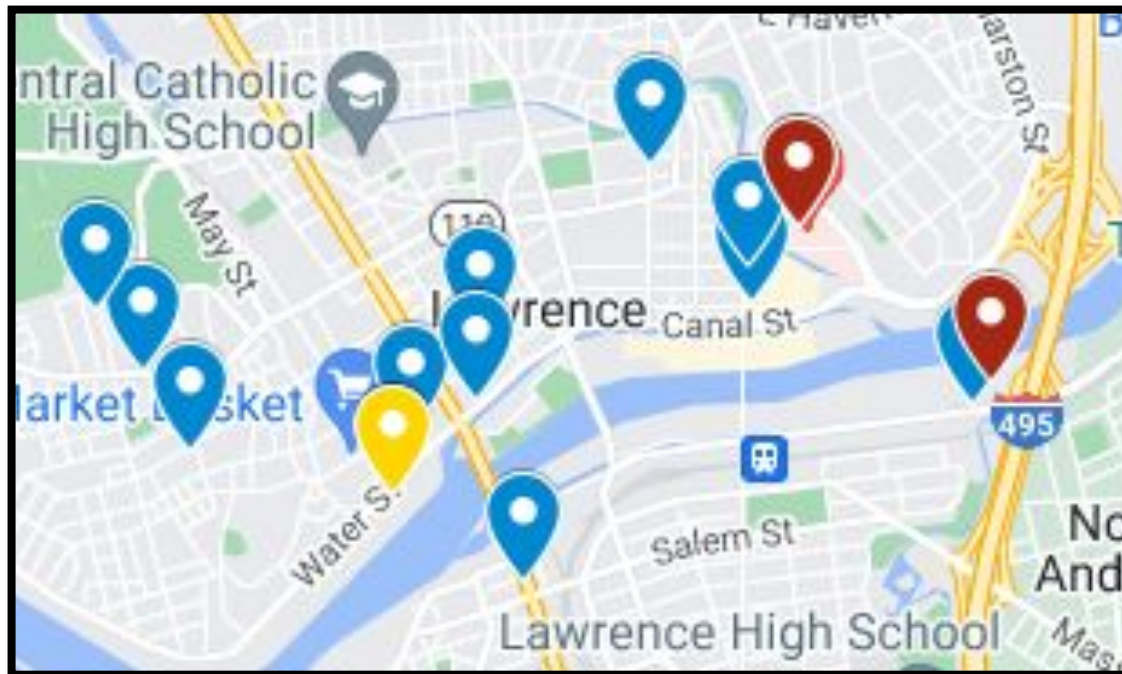
- Availability
- Opioid related incidents



Data Visualization: Asset Mapping

Baseline static distribution of community resources

- Internet search
- Community input
- Create with Google “My maps” tool



Key

- Treatment and/or recovery program
- Harm reduction and/or syringe service program
- Emergency department / hospital
- Federally Qualified Health Center or primary care clinic

Questions & Discussion



NEXT STEPS

❑ **Upcoming Office Hours:**

- April 25th - How Could Communication Support Your Abatement Activities?
**Register [here](#)
- May 9th - RIZE Community-Based Organization Grants
**Register [here](#)

Note that there are now unique registration links for each event**

❑ **Webinar: How to Use the BSAS Data Dashboard**

- May 15th 1-2pm
- Registration will be available soon

❑ **[Previous Office Hours slides and recordings](#)**

❑ **[Request individualized technical assistance](#)**

❑ **Sign up for our [listserv](#)**



Conference Slides & Recordings are available [on our website!](#)



 [Home](#) [Expenditures Reports](#) [Request Help](#) [Resources](#)

Resources

Events

Massachusetts Municipal Opioid Abatement Conference

This inaugural conference held in March of 2024 aimed to connect municipalities to the resources and tools needed to uphold the requirements of the State Subdivision Agreement. Panelists included government officials, community leaders, and people from across the Commonwealth with expertise in opioid prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

[Learn More](#)

Q&A will be posted once finalized



FEEDBACK SURVEY

Please take a couple minutes to respond to the anonymous feedback survey after the call ends



THANK YOU!

