

New York City RxStat

Reducing overdose deaths in NYC through cross-agency collaboration

Overview

RxStat was established in 2012 to bring together public health and public safety agencies to create data-driven policies and programs to reduce overdose deaths in New York City (NYC). Initially formed to respond to increases in prescription opioid-involved overdose deaths, NYC's RxStat has become a nationally recognized model for data-driven collaboration. Today, more than 30 Federal, state, and local government agencies participate in a public health/public safety collaborative model, working together to reduce overdose deaths.

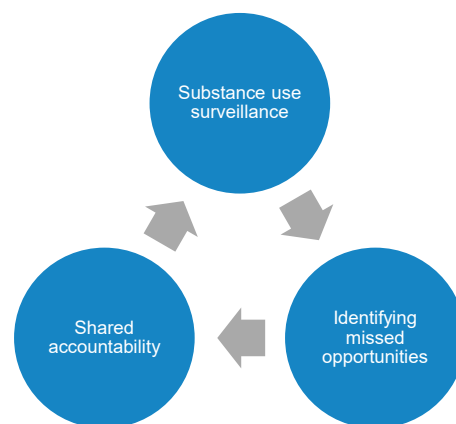
Core Beliefs

1. Opioid overdose deaths are preventable.
2. Public health and public safety have data critical to informing overdose prevention work.
3. Policies should be informed by science and grounded in data.

Drug Trends Meetings: Surveillance of drug use, morbidity, and mortality

Cross-discipline data sharing to inform strategy

By participating in RxStat, agencies have access to the most timely and accurate information on drug trends, including overdose deaths. RxStat provides a mechanism to monitor multiple drug-related data sources and encourages information sharing between participating agencies. RxStat provides leadership from participating agencies with insight into shifts in drug use trends, drug-related morbidity, and overdose mortality. Population-level data also provide information on groups that historically have been made vulnerable to drug-related consequences. Combined with agency-led research and the scientific literature, these data provide a roadmap towards identifying key overdose prevention strategies.



Overdose Fatality Review Meetings: Identifying Missed Opportunities

Review of individual mortality cases to prevent similar deaths in the future

During RxStat Overdose Fatality Review meetings, individual overdose deaths are reviewed. Each case review examines the overdose decedent's life in totality, with agencies working together to identify system gaps that could be closed to prevent similar deaths in the future. Participants review narratives of overdose-involved deaths to gain a holistic understanding of the chain of events leading to the death; identify missed opportunities for prevention and intervention across healthcare, social services, and criminal justice systems for individuals; and develop actionable program and policy recommendations to improve collaboration and communication across agencies and sectors. All OFR members are required to sign a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure agreement before any participation.

Action Meetings: Shared Accountability

Identify action steps, assign responsibility and monitor change

Action meetings will focus on identifying and tracking steps taken to address system gaps. These meetings, which began in 2022, aim to respond to priority areas and find solutions that can be implemented by member agencies. Smaller RxStat workgroups are often formed out of these Action meetings and asked to accomplish a particular goal and report back to the larger group.