

# Concurrent Session 3: Harm Reduction and Awareness Campaigns

Moderator: Melissa Heinen, Institute for Intergovernmental Research

- Thought to Action: Reigniting In-person Coalition Work and Overdose Spike Alert Response in the Post-COVID-19 Emergency Era
  - Speaker: Gregory Gallo, Dutchess County, New York
- Tackling a Crisis Through Collaboration: Addressing the Overdose Epidemic in Cobb County, Georgia
  - Speakers: Flynn Broady, Jr., and Daniel Spinney, Cobb County, Georgia



# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

## **Thought to Action: Reigniting In-person Coalition Work and Overdose Spike Alert Response in the Post-COVID-19 Emergency Era**

**Gregory Gallo, LCSW**

**Community Engagement & Prevention Coordinator**

**Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health**

**845-486-2790 / [ggallo@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ggallo@dutchessny.gov)**



**Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health**

# Site Information

- County: Dutchess
- City, state: Poughkeepsie, New York
- Year started: 2022
- Estimated number of overdose deaths per year: 118
- Size of jurisdiction: 297,545 (U.S Census Bureau)
- Funding sources: Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health



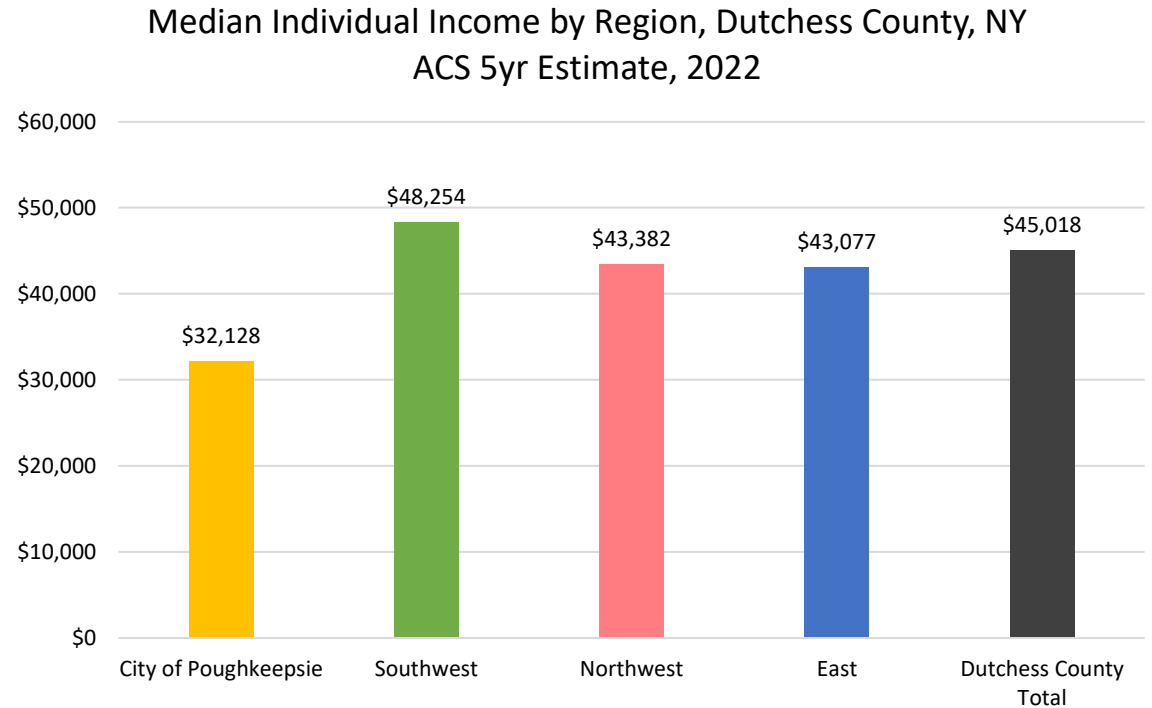
# Recommendation

- Dutchess County Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Committee
- Recommendation made January 2023
- “Promote in-person interagency collaboration and relationships that may have worsened during COVID-19”
- Implemented December 2023 via Overdose Spike Alert project

# Dutchess County – Stats at a Glance

2022 Race Estimates	White NH	Black NH	Asian NH	Other NH	Hispanic
City of Poughkeepsie	38.7%	32.7%	1.5%	5.9%	21.2%
Southwest	68.3%	8.3%	4.5%	4.4%	14.6%
Northwest	81.0%	4.8%	2.3%	4.6%	7.4%
East	74.9%	6.3%	2.3%	3.5%	13.0%
Dutchess County Total	68.7%	10.0%	3.4%	4.5%	13.5%

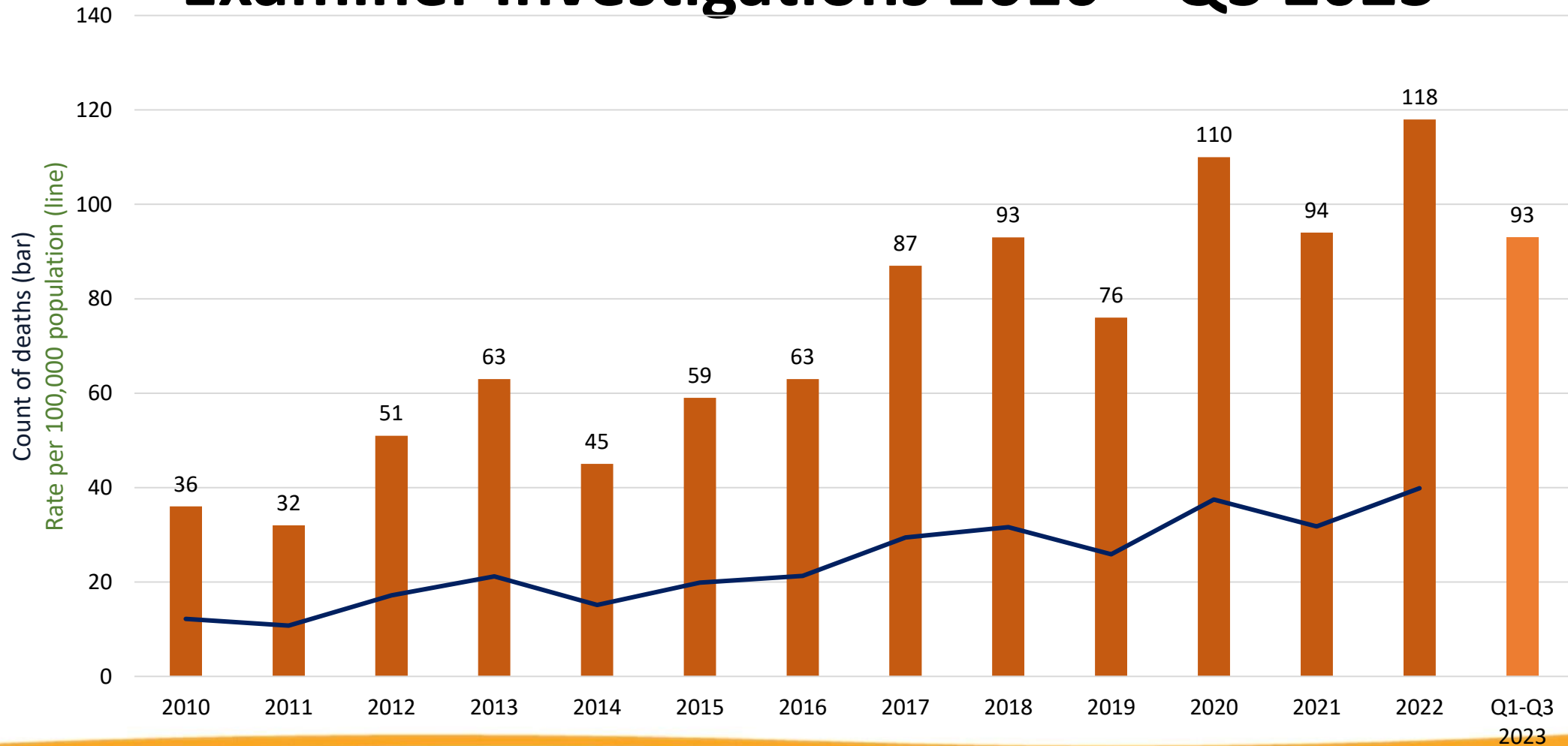
	Below 100 percent of the poverty level
City of Poughkeepsie	18.4%
Southwest	6.1%
Northwest	9.0%
East	9.6%
Dutchess County Total	9.0%



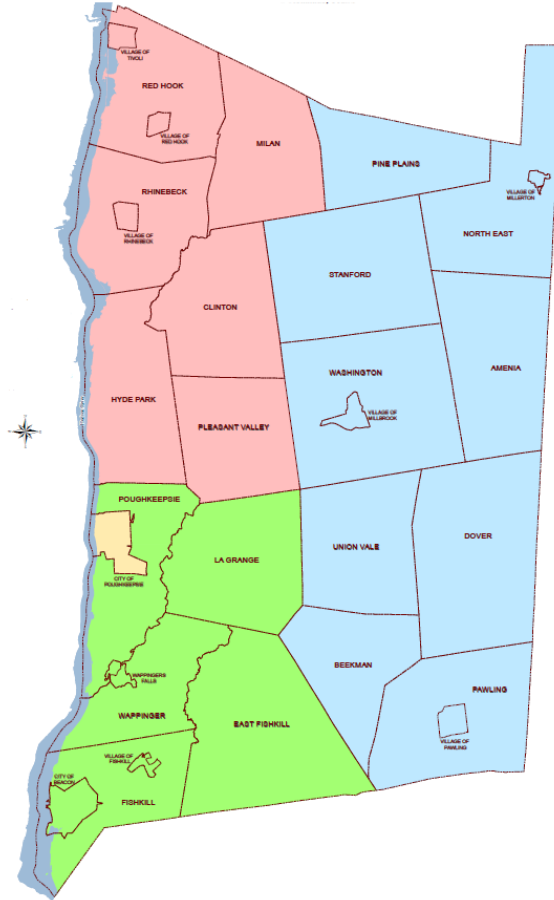
Population 2022 – 297,545 (U.S. Census)



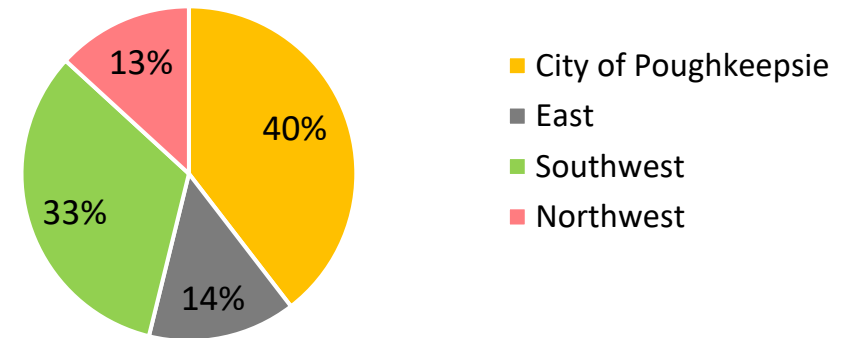
# Accidental Overdose Fatalities, Dutchess County Examiner Investigations 2010 – Q3 2023



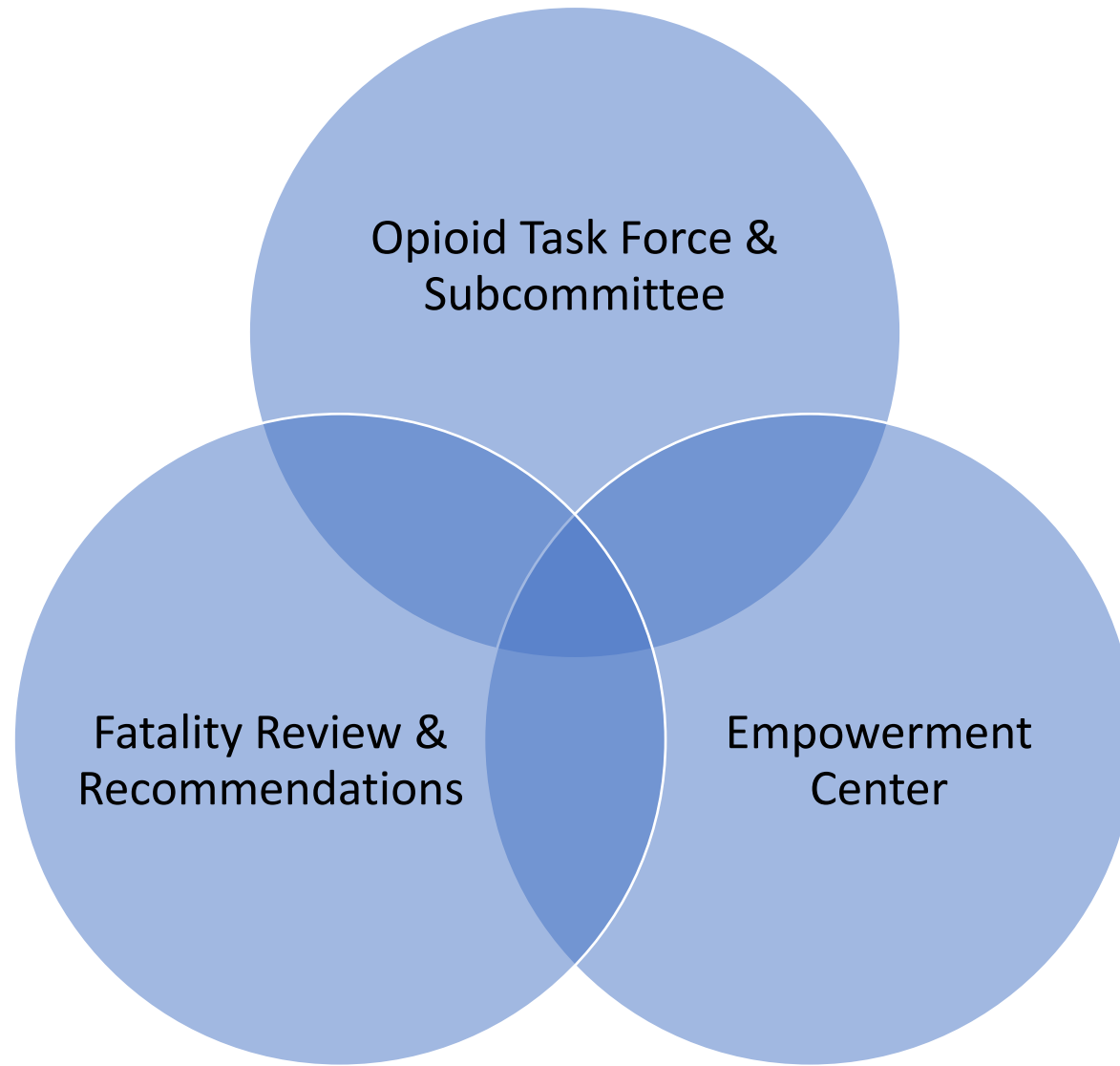
# Overdose Locations



**Volume of Accidental Overdose Deaths by Region,**  
Dutchess County Medical Examiner Investigations, Q1-Q3 2023  
n=91







# Dutchess County Opioid Task Force

- Cross-sectional, multi-stakeholder group focused on reducing the impact of substance use disorders among the population—It is also based on data collection: we use the data available to us to make decisions and always work to integrate the perspectives of the people whose lives have been directly impacted
- Resiliency & Empowerment Subcommittee—Interagency collaboration, outreach, harm reduction, information gathering, project-based (OD Spike Alert Outreach, Survey)



# Dutchess County Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Committee

- Developed in 2022, first orientation meeting October 2022
- 2023: 3 meetings, January, April, & October/2024: 1 meeting so far
- Average attendance of 30
- Representation from Medical Examiners, Dept. of Behavioral & Community Health, Vassar College, District Attorney, Recovery Centers of America, Probation, Public Defender, Council of Addiction Prevention & Education, Taconic Resources, Arms Acres Rehab, Dept. of Community & Family Services, Mental Health America Veterans, Mental Health America Mobile Crisis, Dept. of Emergency Response, FR Church, Spoken Word Outreach Ministries, Hudson Valley Community Services, Dutchess County Jail, Family Services Inc.



# Dutchess County Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Committee

- Recommendations Subcommittee – Impact Effort Matrix
- OD Spike Alert & Response, Outreach Spiritual Emotional Referral Program, Hudson Valley Clubhouse, DCJ MAT review, Narcan Leave Behind Kits, Recovery Coaches in the jail

High Impact/Low Resource

Low Impact/Low Resource

High Impact/High Resource

Low Impact/High Resource

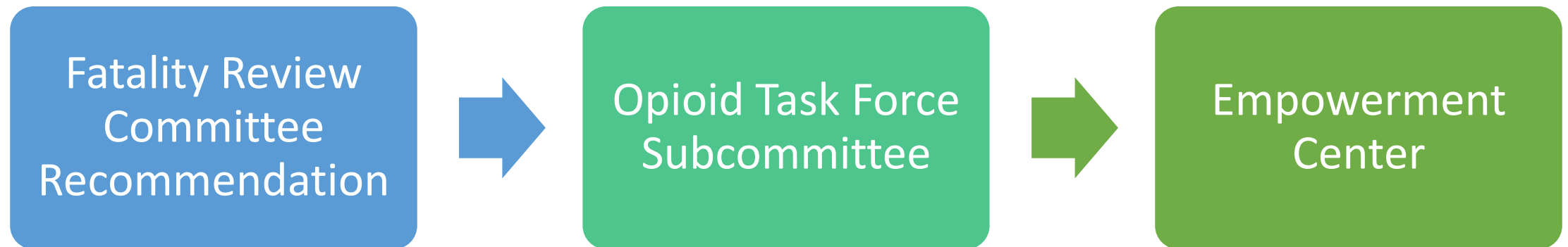


# Dutchess County Empowerment Center

- The mission of the Empowerment Center is to provide compassionate, respectful, and effective support, resources, services, and education to people living in any stage of self-defined recovery and their family and friends
- Specifically, the Empowerment Center Team provides:
  - Wellness activities and groups
  - Engaging, meaningful, side-by-side work
  - Connection to resources such as health care, housing, benefits, and employment
  - Recovery-oriented coaching to help individuals realize their own personal goals and fullest potential
  - Harm reduction training and supply distribution

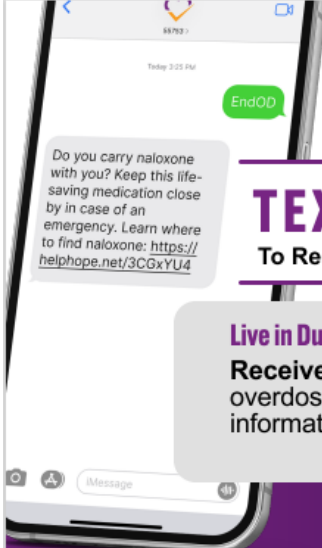



# “Promote in-person interagency collaboration and relationships that may have worsened during COVID-19”



# Overdose Spike Alerts

*Dutchess County has issued an overdose spike alert, meaning we have experienced an increase in overdose cases in a short period of time. Please click here to learn more: [Overdose Spike Alerts \(dutchessny.gov\)](https://dutchessny.gov)*



 Partnership to End Addiction

## TEXT ENDODNY TO 55753

To Receive Overdose Prevention Text Messages

**Live in Dutchess County?**  
Receive supportive messages, designed to provide overdose alerts in your community, educational information and life-saving tools via SMS.  
\*Message rates may apply.

### YOU CAN **SAVE LIVES** IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

**How does it work?**  
Text EndODNY to 55753. Once you are enrolled, you will receive overdose prevention messages for 30 days.

Messages include:


- Naloxone
- Fentanyl Test Strips
- Never use alone
- What is fentanyl?
- Contaminated Pill Supply
- Where to get naloxone
- How to respond to an overdose
- How to speak to your loved one about their substance use


**Real-Time Overdose Alerts**  
For those who live in Dutchess County, you can also sign-up for SPIKE alerts by texting ALERT to 55753. This would notify you when there is a spike in overdoses in your area.


Having this information will help you and your loved ones make more informed decisions about your substance use, and allow you to stay safe.

The spike alert notice will become an **early warning signal that can help to save lives.**

## SCAN TO JOIN OUR PROGRAM



 Partnership to End Addiction



# Overdose Spike Alert – Webpage Content

## Top of page

### Overdose Spike Alerts in Dutchess County

Dutchess County tracks data from New York State, 911 overdose surveillance and other sources to look for unexpected increases, or spikes, in drug overdoses. If we see a spike, we send out an alert to inform people who use drugs, service providers and concerned citizens of the spike.

#### Current Overdose Spike Alert

*There is currently not a spike alert in Dutchess County.*

To sign up for Overdose Spike Alerts text “ENDOD” to 55753.

Jean Marie Niebuhr

Deputy Commissioner, DCBH

☎ 845.486.2700

✉ [HealthInfo@DutchessNY.gov](mailto:HealthInfo@DutchessNY.gov)

#### Resources

**Dutchess County HELPLINE**

Dial 988 or text 845.485.9700

**Empowerment Center**

845.486.2893

230 North Road, Poughkeepsie ([Map](#))

**Stabilization Center**

Open 24/7 at 230 North Road,

Poughkeepsie ([Map](#))

## Middle of page

### What can cause a spike?

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A change in the local drug supply may cause a spike.

Destabilizing events in the drug supply such as changes in distribution patterns and new inclusions of especially dangerous contaminants, such as Fentanyl and Xylazine.

### Who should sign up for Overdose Spike Alerts?

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- People who use drugs
- Friends and family of people who use drugs
- Service providers

### What should you do if there is an overdose spike?

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For people who use drugs:

- Test all drugs for Fentanyl and Xylazine before using.
- Carry Narcan® (naloxone)
- Get education and safer use supplies, including Fentanyl & Xylazine test strips and Narcan from our [Empowerment Center](#)
  - For people who use drugs and their friends and family, connect with a Recovery Coach by calling the Empowerment Center at 845 486 2893 or send them an email at [empowermentcenter@dutchessny.gov](mailto:empowermentcenter@dutchessny.gov)
- Avoid using street drugs alone; call [Never Use Alone](#) at (800) 484-3731
- Remember Dutchess County is here 24/7 with services such as our 988 Dutchess County HELPLINE available by dialing 9-8-8, texting 845-485-9700, or using our [HELPLINE app](#) and our [Stabilization Center](#) available for individuals with mental health and substance use needs.





# Overdose Spike Alert – Webpage Content

## Bottom of page

For everyone in our community:

- Recognize the signs of an overdose:
- Pale, sweaty or clammy skin
- Lips/fingertips turn blue
- Slow or irregular breathing: gasping, gurgling, or snoring
- Difficult or unable to wake
- Always call 911 if you suspect someone is overdosing
- Narcan training is available. Contact Lori Levine at 845.243.4428 or [llevine@dutchessny.gov](mailto:llevine@dutchessny.gov)
- Contact [Dutchess County's Empowerment Center](#) for treatment and recovery resources: 845-486-2893 or [empowermentcenter@dutchessny.gov](mailto:empowermentcenter@dutchessny.gov)

## Resources for Service Providers

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- [Dutchess County offers Narcan Training](#) for interested groups and organizations. Contact Lori Levine at 845-243-4428 or [llevine@dutchessny.gov](mailto:llevine@dutchessny.gov) to schedule.
- [New York State Opioid Overdose Prevention- Harm Reduction Saves lives](#)
- [Dutchess County HELPLINE APP](#). For resources and overdose spike information.
- [Partnership to End Addiction Flyer \(.pdf\)](#)



# Overdose Spike Response Collaboration

- 12/06/2023 at the Empowerment Center, **in person!**
- Result of relationships built and sustained through OTF Subcommittee
- Meeting was first of its kind
- 22 people in attendance
- Empowerment Center, Mental Health America of Dutchess County Peer Services, Council on Addiction Prevention & Education, Dutchess County Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, Dutchess County Dept. of Probation



# Overdose Spike Response Collaboration

- Relationship- and teamwork-building exercises
- Inventory of capacity
- Information sharing
- Planning
- Agreements
- Sustainability



Company Name	Contact Name	Outreach Services	Email Address	Outreach Locations	Outreach Frequency	Number of outreach workers	OD Spike Outreach Locations
Independent Living, Inc.	Anne Farrell	Narcan; Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS); SEP; Safer Use/Sex kits;	<a href="mailto:afarrell@myindependentliving.org">afarrell@myindependentliving.org</a>	Poughkeepsie	Varies per month Van twice a week; ad hoc	N/A	
Hudson Valley Community Services	Christina Paliotta-Southwell	HIV/HCV; Narcan; FTS; clean-ups	<a href="mailto:csouthwell@hudsonvallevcs.org">csouthwell@hudsonvallevcs.org</a>	Poughkeepsie		2 van; 4 total	
Sun River Health	Yvette Ramirez, outreach coordinator; Melissa Steinman; Kim Valentin MAT Manager	Wound Care; Narcan; FTS; Med/MAT Linkage; Vaccines; Detera Bags	<a href="mailto:vramirez@sunriver.org">vramirez@sunriver.org</a>	Hudson Valley (Poughkeepsie), Monticello	ad-hoc	a lot, 4-5	
Empowerment Center	Debbie Francisco; Gregory Gallo	Narcan Training; FTS; Wound Care Kits; Safer Use Kits; Connection to peer support	<a href="mailto:dfrancisco@dutchessny.gov">dfrancisco@dutchessny.gov</a> ; <a href="mailto:ggallo@dutchessny.gov">ggallo@dutchessny.gov</a>	Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie (Mansion Square, PODS, Main St. Fire house, HOAM, Spoken Word Outreach Ministries, Vassar College, Marist College, DCC, Recovery House, FPC)	weekly	6-Jan	Poughkeepsie - Mansion Square Park, Garden Street, Main St. Firehouse
Friends of Recovery	Christina Goebel - President	Narcan; FTS; Safer Sex kits	<a href="mailto:fordutchess@gmail.com">fordutchess@gmail.com</a>	City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County	paused	6	
CAPE (Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education)	Christina Goebel	Narcan, FTS hot food; clothing; pantry	<a href="mailto:cgoebel@capedc.org">cgoebel@capedc.org</a>	Beacon, Wappingers, Fishkill, East Fishkill, DCC, Adelphi, Bard, FPC, Turning Point, Local Firehouses, HOAM, Poughkeepsie	weekly	3	Town of Poughkeepsie near the mall, Wappingers area, Marshalls Mall, East Fishkill Rec, Bowdoin Park
Hope on a Mission	Kim Green		<a href="mailto:stampsoath@hotmail.com">stampsoath@hotmail.com</a>		4x week	varies, open to collaboration	
Spoken Word Outreach Ministries	Pastor Herman L. Shannon	hot food tables and open to collaboration	<a href="mailto:spokenwordoutreach51@yahoo.com">spokenwordoutreach51@yahoo.com</a>	Garden St., Poughkeepsie	every Wednesday & 3 Saturday	varies, open to collaboration	
MHA - Peer Services	Jim Ball, Jarkita Brown	Connection to treatment and other resources	<a href="mailto:jbball@mhadutchess.org">jbball@mhadutchess.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:jbrown@mhadutchess.org">jbrown@mhadutchess.org</a>	Recovery Houses, Turning Point, LCR	Daily	6	*MHA Community Residences (Bolger, Florence, Dowling), Housing Program,
DC Probation	Kathy McQuade		<a href="mailto:kmcquade@dutchessny.gov">kmcquade@dutchessny.gov</a>	Courts in Pk.	Daily	4	HOAM, Dutchess, Courts in Pk,
LEAD	Betsy Manzi, Ieshea Green		<a href="mailto:bmanzi@dutchessny.gov">bmanzi@dutchessny.gov</a>	Dutchess Outreach,	Daily	5	LEAD could cover Main Street and the local parks here in the city area.
DC OOP	Lori Levine		<a href="mailto:llevine@dutchessny.gov">llevine@dutchessny.gov</a>	MORE, Beacon,	Weekly	1	



# Outreach Meeting

**Background:** This location was brought to our attention by a [County](#) employee complaining of the location being unsafe due to IV drug use and drug sales.

**Date:** Friday 07/15/22

**Start time:** 2:30pm

**End time:** 3:30pm

**Location:** Garden Street entrance for Financial Plaza Parking lot and adjacent lot, Garden Street Lot.

**Objectives:** Syringe needle pick up wherever possible. Continue presence, make connections with potential participants. Follow up with (client name omitted). Identify location to post flyers (can't do drop bags).

**Team compositions (approach, communications, lookout):** Team 1 – Tony (Approach) & Lacey (Secondary approach) Debbie (communications/lookout); Team 2 Dana (Approach) & Greg (communications/lookout)

**Contact info for team members:** Greg (personal cell); Tony; [Dana](#); Debbie,

**Route description for each team:** Park in Garden Street Lot closest to Garden Street. If people are seen in Garden Street, approach them. After Garden Street Lot outreach, cross over Garden Street to Financial Plaza Garage entrance. Break up into two teams of two, Team 1 covers ramps and parking lot, the Team 2 covers both stairwells. Be sure to check bottoms of stairwells.

Map:



# Outreach Meeting, Cont'd

**Egress points in and out:** Entrance on both sides on street level of Garden Street, right side parking garage when face garage. Entrance on Civic Center Plaza side. Two stairwells, diagonal from each other.

**Rest areas/restrooms:** Dunkin Donuts on corner of Civic Center Plaza and Main, you must ask for a key.

**Rally point in case of emergency or getting lost:** Dunkin Donuts on Civic Center Plaza and Main

**Needed harm reduction supplies:** 1 box Nitrile Medical Exam Gloves (wear under utility gloves), Utility Gloves for each team member, 1 Large orange sharps container, 2 grabbers, business cards for each team member, 10 Narcan, 10 Fentanyl Test Kits, 10 Safe Use (add mouthpieces), 10 Wound Care Kits

**Needed safety supplies:** First Aid Kit

**Weather considerations:** TBD

**Safety Considerations:** Stick to the plan and your role as much as possible. Don't wear red, yellow, purple, blue. Don't wear jewelry. Wear closed toed shoes. Dress for the environment. When in pairs, one person needs to be a lookout. Keep cell phone on you, keep volume so you can hear it but not distracting.



# Future Plans

- Quarterly OD Spike Response Meetings
- Narcan administration heat mapping
- Debriefs



# “Promote in-person interagency collaboration and relationships that may have worsened during COVID-19”

## SMARTIE =)

- **STRATEGIC**—Concretizing commitments and strategies to leverage relationships in order to build capacity and increase impact in the event
- **MEASURABLE**—Meeting held with commitments from leadership in multiple agencies to work together to outreach during an Overdose Spike Alert
- **AMBITIOUS**—First-ever meeting of its kind in Dutchess County, where so many outreach workers came together and devised a coordinated plan to mitigate death and injury from accidental overdose
- **REALISTIC**—Meeting was held, planning and agreements for outreach were within the already existing scope and resource bounds of all agencies involved
- **TIME-BOUND**—Meeting was held, Overdose Spike Alert system is in place and active. Action to be executed in the event of a Spike Alert
- **INCLUSIVE**—There was significant variance in professional and paraprofessional backgrounds of those who attended the meeting, including law enforcement, master’s-level mental health providers, and peers. The outreach is designed to first address the most impacted community of overdose in Dutchess County, the city of Poughkeepsie, which is an urban environment and consists of marginalized persons
- **EQUITABLE**—Emphasis on outreaching unsheltered persons who use drugs in the city of Poughkeepsie





- *“The OD Spike Alert outreach plans allow for agencies to join forces in a unique manner to meet the needs of the community. What one organization may not offer the collaboration allows the unified coverage with the same mission of “Making a Difference.”*

—Ieshea Green, MSW, Dutchess County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Team

- *“During COVID-19, our agencies were siloed, there was not much ability for interagency collaboration. The OD Spike Alert outreach plan has brought diverse agencies together to build stronger relationships, where we can better assist the community and those who struggle with Substance Use Disorder. It has been an impressive experience to watch agencies join forces; I am pleased to be a part of it.”*

—Christina Goebel, CRPA/CARC/CASAC-T/VSR Peer, Assistant Director, The Council on Addiction Prevention and Education of Dutchess County, Inc.



- *“The OD Spike Alert outreach plan takes a proactive stance. By establishing preemptive coordination and fostering open lines of communication among agencies, the plan aims to facilitate quick responses, minimize duplication of efforts, and optimize the utilization of resources.”*

—Lori Levine, MSPH, Public Health Education Coordinator,  
Dutchess County Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

- *“Meeting in-person to develop and implement the OD Spike Alert outreach plan. Peers had time to get to know each other through introductions and icebreakers. The informal brainstorming setting gave everyone a voice and a face to go with that voice. Peers will be better able to recognize and support each other in the community.”*

—Jim Ball, Mental Health America, Director of Peer Services



# Feel free to reach out!

Gregory Gallo, LCSW

Community Engagement & Prevention Coordinator

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

845-486-2790 / [ggallo@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ggallo@dutchessny.gov)





# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

Tackling a Crisis Through Collaboration:  
Addressing the Overdose Epidemic in Cobb County, Georgia

# Site Information

- Cobb County
- Marietta, GA
- Year started: March 2019
- Estimated number of overdose deaths per year: 125 (2023-135)
- Size of jurisdiction: 780K
- Funding sources: Department of Justice \$1.2M



# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review



## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**U.S. Drug-Overdose Deaths  
Soared Nearly 30% in 2020,  
Driven by Synthetic Opioids**

July 14, 2021

**CNN**

**In 2021, US drug overdose deaths hit highest  
level on record, CDC data shows**

**May 11, 2022**

**The New York Times  
'It's Huge, It's Historic, It's Unheard-  
of': Drug Overdose Deaths Spike**

July 14, 2021

**NPR**

**For the first time, drug overdose deaths  
have surpassed 100,000 in a 12-month  
period**

November 17, 2021

**CNN**

**Middle-school children fall prey to  
fatal fentanyl overdoses**

February 18, 2022

**CNN**

**Teen overdose deaths are rapidly rising – but not  
because more of them are using drugs**

April 12, 2022

**CNN**

**Overdose deaths continue to rise in the  
US, reaching another record level,  
provisional data shows**

October 8, 2023



# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review



In 2023, our office reviewed 135 overdose fatalities:

Acworth- 8	Kennesaw- 12	Powder Springs- 8
Austell- 15	Mableton- 9	Smyrna/Vinings- 19
Kennesaw- 12	Marietta- 64	

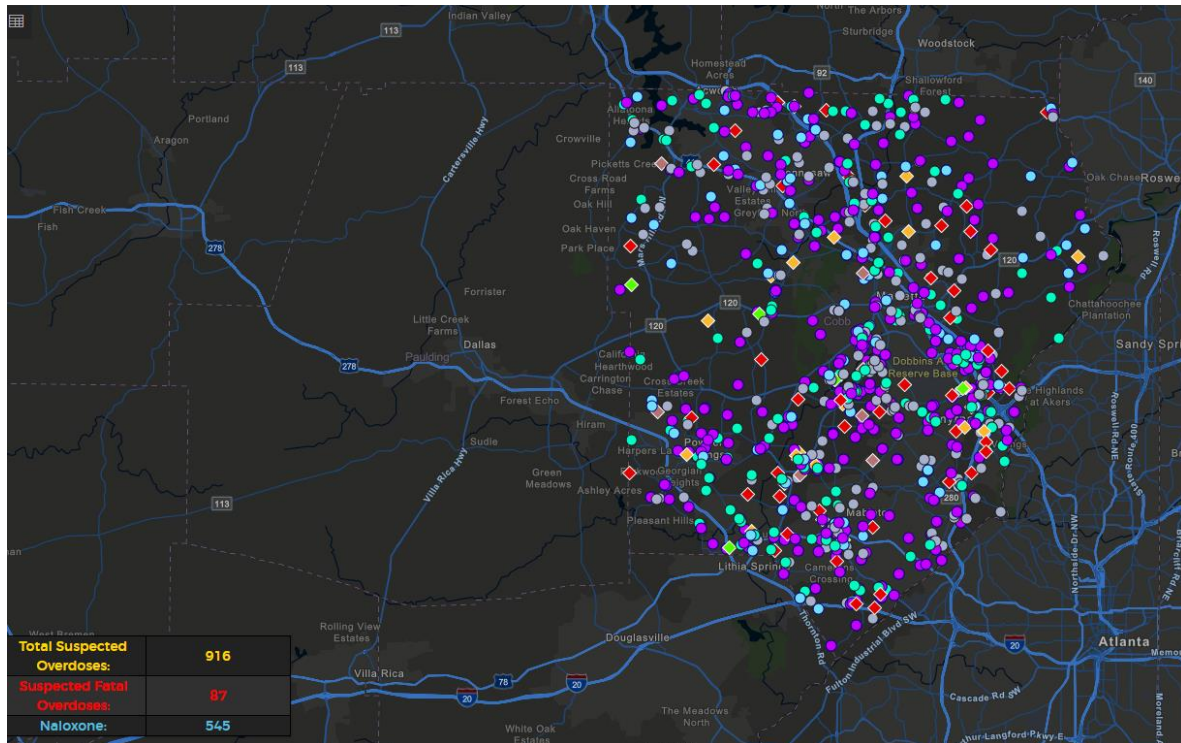
**Totals for Cause of Death from our Opioid Spreadsheet (missing 10 autopsy reports from 2023):**

Cocaine: 8	Heroin: 4	Prescriptions: 5
Cocaine/Fentanyl: 3	Meth: 8	Xylazine (involved): 12
Fentanyl: 63	Meth/Fentanyl: 19	

Multi-drug (typically combination of fentanyl, meth, cocaine, etc.): 11  
 Natural causes/other than OD: 5

**All but one (Acworth case) of our known overdoses involving xylazine (11 confirmed so far) have occurred in the South Cobb area:**

Austell- 1	Marietta- 5
Mableton- 2	Smyrna/Vinings- 2



# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review





# Recommendations



*Save the Date*

**MOBILIZE RECOVERY  
BUS TOUR BLOCK PARTY**

*At The Zone*

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14 2PM - 6:30PM**

Tom Farley (SNL's Chris Farley's Brother) tells his Story  
Live Music  
Cook Out  
National Recovery Advocates  
Free Narcan and Narcan Training



Mableton Improvement Coalition - Austell Community Taskforce - Powder Springs Community Taskforce

**COMMUNITY  
TOWN HALL** featuring

**Cobb District Attorney  
Flynn Broady**

Learn about the District Attorney's Office, The Family Advocacy Center, Accountability Courts and partnership to combat opioid epidemic in Cobb County.



**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

7 - 8:30 pm  
Destiny World Church  
7400 Factory Shoals Road, Austell GA 30168



# Recommendations



- This 2-day strategic planning workshop provides an opportunity for participants to visualize how mental health, substance use, and criminal justice systems intersect in serving this target population.
- The workshop brings together key stakeholders to tap into the specific local expertise necessary to develop a local map of services.
- During the Sequential Intercept Mapping Exercise (SIM), opportunities are identified for diverting people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use out of a costly system and connecting them with appropriate treatment and support services.
- The SIM Exercise helps to identify gaps in services, duplication of services, or areas where different providers are working at cross purposes.



February 6-7, 2023



## SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL (SIM) MAPPING WORKSHOP

**FEBRUARY 6**  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**FEBRUARY 7**  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**COBB COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY**  
2435 EAST-WEST CONNECTOR  
AUSTELL, GA

Please use the  
QR Code to register



Please Join Us For The


### COBB OPIOID STRATEGY COALITION MEETING

FRIDAY, 11/16/2023

Cobb Senior Services Dinner Theater  
1150 Powder Springs Street  
Marietta, GA 30064

TIME : 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

RSVP TO [LORI.JOUTY@DPH.GA.GOV](mailto:LORI.JOUTY@DPH.GA.GOV) BY 11/10



# Recommendations

- ❖ **Providing crisis stabilization once someone with an addiction disorder is released from hospitals**
  - Identified June 2022, implemented August 2022, services provided by The Zone
- ❖ **Conducting a preliminary assessment for no-drug arrest (jail)**
  - Crisis team responds to call instead of jail; depending on nature of call
  - Identified June 2022, no action on implementation
- ❖ **Provide Narcan to SUD (substance use disorder) inpatient facilities and local hotels to reduce opioid fatalities**
  - Due to recent death reports, fatal overdoses occur at some local inpatient facilities and hotel/motels in the Cobb area
  - Identified June 22, 2022, implemented February 2023, services provided by Cobb/Douglas Public Health



# Recommendations

- ❖ **Provide a Vivitrol injection before release from jail (Vivitrol—blocks the effects of opioids, such as heroin or opioid pain medication)**
  - Identified June 2022, implemented 2023, services provided by Cobb Co. jail in the event a defendant has a current MAT program prior to intake
- ❖ **Provide more information to the public regarding the GA Amnesty Law**
  - Identified January 2023, implemented November 2023, PSA provided by Cobb District Attorney's Office
- ❖ **Incorporate motivational interviewing for first responders**
  - Identified December 2023, no action on implementation
- ❖ **Limited women-only SUD providers (Cobb Co.); more dual diagnosis facilities for women with children**
  - Identified January 2024, no action on implementation



# Recommendations

- ❖ **Provide Narcan to families after a call to home for an overdose**
  - Identified September 2021, implemented January 2023, services provided by Cobb District Attorney's Office with distribution of leave-behind kits
  
- ❖ **Educating the public regarding stigma; stigma related to cops & drugs**
  - Identified January 2023, implemented at town hall November 2023, services provided by Cobb District Attorney's Office with discussion to public and law enforcement of the understanding of stigma
  
- ❖ **Add information to pamphlets regarding tolerance levels once an inmate is released from custody (after a period of being sober)**
  - Suggested to add pamphlets to reentry kits (harm reduction)
  - Identified June 2023, implemented August 2023, services provided by Cobb & Douglas Public Health with pamphlets & Narcan when released from CCADC



# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

**SAVE A LIFE**

**GEORGIA'S  
AMNESTY LAW  
PROTECTS YOU**

**DON'T RUN\*CALL 9-1-1**

Provides immunity from drug  
possession charges



**Scan for  
Information**

@CobbCountyDA.Org  
<https://www.cobbcounty.org/courts/district-attorney/opioid-project>





# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

QUESTIONS?



# Additional Support Available!



## OFR Email Exchange

- Great way to network with your peers!



## OFR Message Exchange Sign-Up

The OFR message exchange is a platform for those involved in Overdose Fatality Reviews to engage with one another. Enrollment in this message exchange is by permission only, and the [terms of use](#) apply.

The fields marked with the \* are required.

First Name\*

Last Name\*



## Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Request

- Expertise is available to support your OFR efforts
- We are here to help you troubleshoot day-to-day challenges as they arise



## Training and Technical Assistance Request

Regardless of funding source, anyone can request OFR training and technical assistance. Expertise is available to support the expansion and development of overdose fatality review (teams) through a variety of formats, including but not limited to:

- Host one-on-one calls to troubleshoot day-to-day challenges
- Identify available resources and materials
- Connect TTA requestor to peers in the field
- Present to team or meeting attendees
- Convene professionals to address a need
- Facilitate virtual meetings and workshops





# OFR Mentor Site Opportunities



- The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR promising practices while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers
- Interested sites can apply here

A flyer titled "Overdose Fatality Review Peer Mentor Site Opportunities". It includes a description of the program's purpose, a list of activities in a typical mentee experience, and a QR code for application. The flyer also features the OFR logo and the BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program logo.

**Overdose Fatality Review**

**Peer Mentor Site Opportunities**

The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Peer Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR best promising practices, while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Peer Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers.

**OFR Peer Mentee Application**

OFR peer mentor participants are matched to an experienced mentor site program that provides consultation and support through direct communication and a virtual\* OFR site visit, to see first-hand how OFRs work in practice.

A typical OFR mentee experience will include:

- One-hour introductory call at least one week before the OFR virtual site visit
- Two-hour OFR observation
- One-hour post review discussion call at least one week after the OFR virtual site visit
- Facilitated discussions with one or two OFR members as requested by peer mentee
- Feedback to IIR by both mentor and mentee about their experience

(\*Note: In-person virtual site visits are on hold during the COVID-19 response.)

Request a virtual site visit by completing this online form. ([http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite\\_Visit](http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite_Visit))

**OFR**  
Overdose Fatality Review

BJA's  
**Comprehensive**  
Opioid, Stimulant,  
and Substance Abuse  
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# Questions?