Overdose Data to Action Learning Community Session: Overdose Data Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2020

Project Introduction

Under the Overdose Data to Action Cooperative Agreement, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded funds to 47 states, Washington D.C., 16 localities, and two territories to increase the timeliness and comprehensiveness of data and to help inform public health response and prevention activities. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) provides technical assistance and capacity building support to jurisdictions that have received the OD2A funding. As part of ASTHO's support to OD2A Recipients, ASTHO facilitates a virtual learning community designed to allow peer-to-peer sharing and content delivery from subject matter experts.

This FAQ document serves as a complementary resource to ASTHO's OD2A learning community [webinar](#) on June 11, 2020 on the trends in ODMAP overdose data during COVID-19, featuring speakers Aliese Alter, senior program manager, and Christopher Yeager, ODMAP Data and Research Analyst, from the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (W/B HIDTA).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is ODMAP?

The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), developed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (W/B HIDTA), provides near real-time suspected overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions to support public safety and public health efforts. The program was piloted in areas of West Virginia and Maryland in January 2017 and became available nationally in April 2017. Participation in ODMAP is available free of cost to relevant stakeholders serving the interests of public safety and public health.

How is ODMAP working to address opioid overdoses?

ODMAP facilitates inter-agency collaboration via information and data sharing. ODMAP connects first responders, hospitals, medical examiners/coroners, and public health agencies to real-time mapping capabilities, to initiate a real-time response to a spike in overdoses, as well as strategically deploy resources to areas most impacted.

How is ODMAP accessed?

ODMAP can be accessed via a mobile device or data terminal connected to the agency's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The W/B HIDTA has a created an Application Programming Interface (API) to allow an agency to connect and transfer information between its Record Management Software (RMS) and the ODMAP.

How was law enforcement buy-in encouraged in utilizing ODMAP while mitigating complaints that entering data is another cumbersome step that they may not have time to complete?

It is important to have a law enforcement champion within the police department who views substance use disorder as a human element and recognizes the value of community-based interventions. Entering data into ODMAP is a streamlined process that takes less than 30 seconds and can be handled on-site or at the station.

Are there any specific measures that the jurisdictions have taken to prevent ODMAP from being utilized beyond its intended use?

In terms of an overarching or legally binding agreement, the attorney general states that ODMAP should not be used for prosecutorial or enforcement efforts. Therefore, when implementing ODMAP in a particular jurisdiction, you may consider supplemental measures that come from your city or county attorney to help allay concerns and ensure that users feel comfortable with ODMAP.

Who championed the efforts of ODMAP – public health on the state or local level?

ODMAP has been championed by diverse representation and sectors across state and local levels. These efforts have involved law enforcement, public health, politicians, governors, and more. If you are interested in expanding the implementation of ODMAP within your county or state, you may want to consider a pilot program to demonstrate the value and identify best practices or coordinate a meeting with various partners to brainstorm and develop a framework for implementation.

Given that several users may be accessing the information, were there any barriers with state EMS sharing directly in ODMAP?

Below are a few examples of how states worked with their state's attorney general and legislature to mandate the use of ODMAP for EMS.

- Nevada – State attorney general awarded grant to help map locations of overdoses.
- Maryland – Passed legislation mandating the use of EMS data on a statewide scale.

Additional information regarding ODMAP under HIPAA can be found in this guidance document.

What type of agreement is needed to use ODMAP?

In order to use ODMAP, agencies have to request access by filling out a registration form. Participants are required to review and agree with the ODMAP Operating Policies and Procedures and the ODMAP Participation Agreement. Once HIDTA receives the form, they vet the submission to ensure that the agency is an approved entity and the person signing the document has the appropriate authority. If the submission is approved, you are entered into an official electronic agreement with HIDTA's ODMAP, which states that the data entered into the system aligns with your jurisdiction's data and that the ODMAP Program Office are the data stewards.

How does ODMAP track overdose spike alerts in counties?

Administrators may set spike alerts for their own jurisdiction, as well as any jurisdiction using ODMAP. Spike alerts can be set up to notify an agency by email if the total overdoses in an area exceed a pre-determined threshold within a 24-hour period. Spike alerts can be established for an agency's own jurisdiction, as well as nearby or neighboring jurisdictions. By establishing spike alerts for nearby jurisdictions, the program can serve as an early warning feature. If a spike in overdoses occurs in a neighboring area, officials can anticipate a spike in their area and prepare. A spike threshold can be set to any desired number. ODMAP will provide a recommendation for the spike threshold, utilizing a formula of two standard deviations above the mean based on 90 days' worth of data. If a county has not entered data yet, the default recommendation is three. Additional information regarding spike alert management can be found here.

How does ODMAP capture data if someone refuses transport to the emergency department (for example: due to fears of being exposed to COVID-19)?

There is a field in ODMAP to indicate a patient received transport to the hospital. However, there is currently no defined method or dedicated field to capture the data if someone refuses transport to the emergency department (unless supplemental reports are provided).

Was there a significant correlation between the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and increases in overdose numbers?

While this was an initial finding, the program staff is looking into a follow-up assessment. The numbers were found to be higher than usual, but there was not a dramatic increase. However, there is not yet enough reliable data that is statistically significant to generate a conclusive analysis.

Will the current definition of spike alerts be expanded to incorporate an increase in overdose cases beyond single-county bounds?

The definition of spike alerts is being modified to incorporate an increase in overdose cases beyond single-county bounds. However, in the current spike alert system, any administrative user with an account may set spike alerts for surrounding counties, which will notify the user of spikes in neighboring counties to help anticipate, make arrangements, and prepare for a possible spike in the user's area. Please reference this document for additional information on ODMAP's use of SaTScan software, which is used to detect emerging geographic case patterns.

Can peer-to-peer mentorship programs help in gaining law-enforcement support and buy-in?

Peer-to-peer mentorship has proven to be beneficial in the past to foster law enforcement support. Talking to a peer in law enforcement and understanding their experiences is valuable to increasing awareness and maintaining buy-in.

Additional information regarding ODMAP can be found here. Please contact Aliese Alter (aalter@wb.hidta.org) or Christopher Yeager (cyeager@wb.hidta.org), if you have any questions regarding ODMAP. Please direct any questions concerning the OD2A project to your assigned project officer.