



Franklin County Public Health
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Prescription Drug Overdose Grant

Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) has been awarded the Prescription Drug Overdose grant from the Ohio Department of Health to mitigate the opioid crisis in Franklin County. FCPH works in partnership with the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan, collaborating with community partners in prevention, harm reduction, emergency response, and treatment. As part of this initiative, FCPH is collecting and utilizing responses from an evaluation survey for the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan. Responses to this survey will assist us in identifying any areas that need more attention, such as the addition of a new stakeholders or the identification of barriers preventing continued collaboration.

Furthermore, FCPH is identifying and collecting data to be used in the development and implementation of a dashboard. This dashboard will house data relating to the opioid crisis in Franklin County, updating community members on overdose reversals, overdose deaths, and other pertinent data related to the opioid crisis.

FCPH also participates in the Opiate Overdose Surge Notification Process, a partnership called to action when a spike in overdoses occurs. This partnership is a collection of emergency, law enforcement, and healthcare representatives that discuss the current surge in opioid overdoses and how to respond effectively.

Additionally, an objective of this grant is the participation in an Opiate Fatality Review Committee. The purpose of this group is to meet and discuss opioid deaths that have occurred in Franklin County to identify emerging trends. This data is valuable when targeting populations for preventative care, treatment, and education. Also, FCPH aims to engage local healthcare systems or healthcare providers to integrate the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). The goal of this objective is to increase the use of OARRS in order for healthcare providers to report opioid prescribing and observe evolving trends.

FCPH is also working in collaboration with the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs to establish a treatment and education program for recently released prisoners as they re-enter society. FCPH and the Franklin County OJPP is targeting this vulnerable population to decrease overdose deaths and provide additional support for treatment services. Participants will receive medication assisted treatment and will be linked to a Certified Peer Specialist upon release. Program participants will be educated on opioid overdose and how to use naloxone, and will receive a naloxone kit upon completion of this training.

Also, FCPH is implementing four drug drop boxes across Franklin County at law enforcement agencies or pharmacies. These boxes will be utilized by residents to dispose of medication in a safe and secure manner to reduce the development of opioid addiction from prescription drugs.

Finally, FCPH is working with the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan to create a curriculum for high school athletes to understand the dangers of prescription drugs and how to handle such drugs after an injury, with an emphasis on non-opioid pain relief alternatives. This education is for the athletes as well as parents, coaches, and athletic trainers.

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