

# THE MURPHY ADMINISTRATION: COMBATING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The opioid epidemic continues to devastate the lives of thousands of New Jersey residents, families, and communities. In 2019, we lost 3,021 New Jerseyans to suspected overdose deaths. While this number, or any number of overdoses, remains far too high, we hope that we are beginning to stem the tide of the epidemic. For the first time since the epidemic started, we are seeing a small decrease in the number of deaths.

The Murphy Administration remains committed to combating the opioid epidemic through a patient-centered, evidenced-based and data-driven approach. These efforts have been amplified through \$100 million in dedicated funding in Governor Murphy's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The comprehensive approach is laid out below with highlights from key programs.

## I. INCREASE ACCESS TO EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	LEAD AGENCY
ReachNJ	24/7 hotline that provides access to immediate help and referrals, from a live, New Jersey-based trained addiction counselor.	DHS
Trainings and education on opioids	Training and education efforts for hospital staff, physicians, student athletes, and other health professionals with prescribing authority (across several programs).	DHS, DOH, OAG
Opioid Reduction Options	Reduces opioid prescriptions to treat chronic pain in hospital emergency departments through training and education to health care providers on other pain relief options.	DHS, DOH
Office-based Addiction Treatment (OBAT)	Increases the number of providers prescribing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to patients through enhanced training, support, and reimbursement rates	DHS
Reduce insurance barriers to access MAT	Removal of the prior authorization requirements for MAT helps encourage increased access and timeliness of access to treatment	DHS
MAT in state prisons	Supports MAT access in state prisons	DOC
MAT in county jails	Increases all forms of MAT to treat opioid use disorder in county jails. Twenty county jails enrolled in grant program.	DOC, DHS, DOH
Naloxone distribution	Distribution of naloxone doses to members of the public, law enforcement, corrections officers, homeless shelters, and other stakeholders through numerous programs. On Naloxone Day in 2019, DHS distributed over 16,000 kits (32,000 doses) alone.	DOC, DHS, DOH
Operation Helping Hand (OHH)	Connects those with substance use disorder to treatment or recovery services. In 2019, OHH was operational in all 21 counties and connected 776 individuals to treatment or recovery services.	OAG
Harm reduction centers	Provides clean syringes to prevent the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other bloodborne pathogens; provide free naloxone, fentanyl testing, prevention education, and linkages to care. Seven centers throughout New Jersey.	DOH
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) linkages to care	Work includes efforts to improve EMS linkages to care for non-fatal opioid overdoses. In 2019, New Jersey became the first state to allow paramedics to carry buprenorphine to treat acute withdrawal symptoms after patients have been revived from an opioid overdose with naloxone.	DOH

## 2. SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR PATH TO AND MAINTENANCE OF RECOVERY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	LEAD AGENCY
Peer supports and navigators	Peer, case management and navigator support for children, families, and incarcerated individuals accessing treatment through several programs.	DCF, DOC, DHS, OAG
Employment supports program	More than 500 participants across six counties have receive coordinated case management, 172 have entered training programs, and 145 participants placed into employment (of which 128 have been in their place of employment for more than 90 days).	LWD
Connections to Housing	Several programs address housing as a component of the opioid epidemic and address the medical and social complexities of their clients. DCF, through Keeping Families Together, housed 611 families as of 2019. DHS supportive and recovery housing will reach more than 200 people.	DCF, DHS

### 3. SUPPORT DATA DRIVEN WORK AND STRENGTHEN SYSTEM-WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	LEAD AGENCY
NJCARES	Up-to-date dashboard of opioid related data including deaths, naloxone administrations by law enforcement and EMS, and opioid prescriptions.	OAG
DOH Overdose Data Dashboard	Interactive data dashboard that displays opioid and other drug-related overdose indicators for public health practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and the public.	DOH
New Jersey Prescription Drug Monitoring Program	Tracks information on prescription sales of narcotic painkillers and other habit-forming drugs, a critical tool to halt abuse and the diversion of drugs.	OAG
Health Information Technology Interoperability Project	Builds infrastructure among substance use disorder providers to improve the capacity of providers to better support connections to care	DOH, DHS

### 4. ROBUST LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STEM THE SUPPLY OF ILLICIT DRUGS

OAG EFFORT	DESCRIPTION
Criminal Enforcement	Criminal enforcement plays a critical role in curbing the supply of incredibly dangerous drugs and law enforcement has seized 571,000 doses of heroin, 64kg of heroin, and 14kg of fentanyl while dismantling illegal opioid mills.
Prescriber accountability	The Attorney General has protected New Jersey's patients by suspending, revoking, or limiting 26 professional licenses indiscriminately prescribing opioids to patients
Individual and corporate accountability	In May 2019, the Attorney General sued eight members of the Sackler family for their role in developing a marketing and sales strategy for Purdue Pharma that downplayed the risks of opioid addiction and abuse. The lawsuit followed a 2017 lawsuit against the company and sought to ensure that individuals would also be held accountable for their role in the fueling the opioid crisis.