

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

JULIE KOTCHEVAR, Ph.D.
Administrator

RICHARD WHITLEY, MS
Director

IHSAN AZZAM, M.D., MPH
Chief Medical Officer



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
4150 Technology Way
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Telephone (775) 684-4200 • Fax (775) 687-7570
<http://dpbh.nv.gov>

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Topic: Reporting to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas' (HIDTA) Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)
Contact: Ihsan Azzam, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer at iazzam@health.nv.gov
Date: May 29, 2018

To: Nevada's Emergency Medical Service Providers and Law Enforcement Agencies

Opioid misuse and overdose is a serious public health threat in Nevada that affects the health and well-being of our citizens. Timely data is imperative to allow public health, health care providers, and first responders to combat this issue in Nevada. On May 16, 2018, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) filed the regulations with the Secretary of State to comply with the Controlled Substance Abuse Prevention Act, Assembly Bill 474. The regulations provide the structure for health care providers to report overdose or suspected overdose cases to assist with the comprehensive response needed to save Nevadans' lives. This has been a step in the right direction to quickly investigate the causes of overdose and direct interventions and resources to address this issue. These reports will come to DPBH 7-days after patient discharge, so will complement the current reporting through syndromic surveillance from emergency rooms and urgent care centers in Nevada.

However, one data gap that remains is to collect and operationalize overdose reports from Nevada's first responders. Therefore, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health is requesting that Nevada's Emergency Medical Service Providers and Law Enforcement Agencies enter suspected drug overdoses effective immediately into the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas' (HIDTA) Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). ODMAP, assists public health, fire, emergency medical service and law enforcement agencies to track known and suspected overdose incidents.

ODMAP provides real-time overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions to support public safety and health efforts to mobilize an immediate response to an overdose spike. It links first responders on scene to a mapping tool to track overdoses to stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions. It is a mobile tool, capable of being used in the field on any mobile device or data terminal connected to an agency Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The DPBH understands the many reporting responsibilities in addition to the clinical responsibilities of first responders and has chosen ODMAP as a viable reporting tool, as it collects 3 data indicators that can be entered in a matter of minutes from a mobile device.

Per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 453C.130, the Department of Health and Human Services has the authority to study drug overdoses in the state, which includes engaging in efforts to ascertain and document the number, trends, patterns and risk factors related to fatalities caused by unintentional opioid-related drug overdoses and other drug overdoses.

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ODMAP, like syndromic surveillance, is an early warning system that can be used to give an initial alert to public health to elicit further investigation. It is better to be notified of a false alarm and investigate than to learn about an issue that is causing disease and death in our citizens too late to intervene. ODMAP, when used by all jurisdictions also allows public health to identify an issue that is occurring across jurisdictions where it might not be evident by a single county or responding agency because it is happening across county lines.

The DPBH, in partnership with many community partners and fellow agencies is supporting the use of ODMAP immediately and appreciates the local efforts to implement this tool.

For additional information on ODMAP and how to join the system, please contact:

Terry Kerns, PhD
Substance Abuse/Law Enforcement Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General
555 E Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702 486-0978
tkerns@ag.nv.gov

Signed: 
Ihsan Azzam, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Division of Public and Behavioral Health

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