



San Diego CReDO

San Diego CReDO Committee Overview

CReDO Mission

The San Diego Community Response to Overdoses (CReDO) is a Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (PDATF) subcommittee. The mission of CReDO is to unite the 3 Ps - public health, public safety, and prevention, to save lives by preventing drug overdoses.

Fentanyl-related deaths in San Diego County have tripled from 152 in 2019 to 457 for 2020. If the current trajectory continues, there could be a total of 700 overdose deaths in 2021. It is time to connect our professions in a collaborative approach to do everything in our power to stop this tragedy.

Contract Tracing for Overdoses using ODMAP

The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) is a federally approved national near real-time overdose tracking system that supports public health efforts to rapidly respond to overdose clusters. Minimal data entry provides early warning spike alerts of overdose clusters and can support contract tracing for overdoses. Overdose spikes or cluster data can identify locations of at-risk populations for focused interventions that can include strategic drug education, Naloxone deployment, and timely treatment intervention.

We are all familiar with contact tracing for COVID. We need contact tracing for overdose clusters.

Why this is Important - Save 1 Life or More?

Police at a scene administered CPR to John Doe. Paramedics arrived and administered naloxone and he awoke combative. There was report that the night before he used alcohol and a Percocet tablet that was not his. John Doe came to the emergency department by ambulance with agitation.

In the emergency department his oxygen level was critically low, and he received additional naloxone to no effect. A sedation cocktail of Benadryl, Haldol and Ativan, known as "B52" was given with minimal effect and he remained thrashing on the gurney while his oxygen level continued to decrease, and his lungs filled with fluid. Doctors diagnosed him with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), intubated, and placed him on life support. In addition, his blood pressure was dropping, and he was verging on cardiac collapse. Doctors eventually stabilized him and admitted him to the intensive care unit. His urine drug screen was positive for cocaine, marijuana, and fentanyl. He is fortunate that he survived.

The San Diego Narcotics Team, also known as Team 10 was alerted to possible illicit fentanyl pills. They were able to identify John Doe and connect him with his family who were frantically looking for him. Friends at the scene readily shared the fake Percocet tablets they had which also tested positive for fentanyl. Three other people reported chest pain and were directed for emergency care. The deadly fentanyl pills were removed from circulation. Prevention and treatment resources were shared with this focus group.

This case illustrates how breaking the silos between public health, public safety, and prevention can and will save lives. The physician could have moved on after stabilizing the patient. However, by reaching out, in a contact tracing-like method, additional victims were found, and further victims were prevented.



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2021 CReDO Committee Goals

1. Increase automatic and universal fentanyl testing in hospitals whenever a rapid drug screen is ordered.
2. Initiate near real time data of overdose tracking for the purpose of targeted drug prevention and treatment.
3. Grant application to establish a best practice in responding to overdose clusters that unites public health, public safety, and prevention.

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