

Mayor's Opioid Task Force - Data Subcommittee

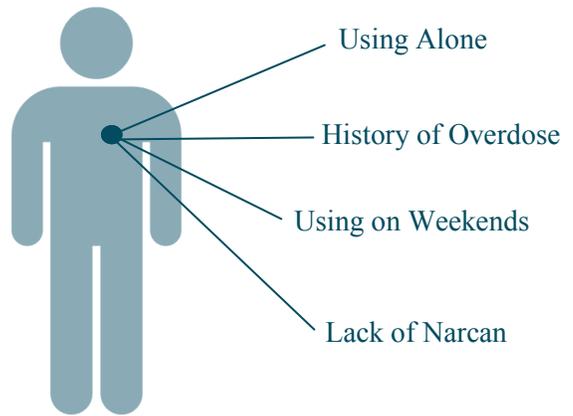
Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA

The Mayor's Opioid Task Force Data Subcommittee analyzed various data sets relevant to the opioid epidemic in Lowell. The following observations and recommendations are tailored for community providers to inform their work. A more detailed report is available upon request.

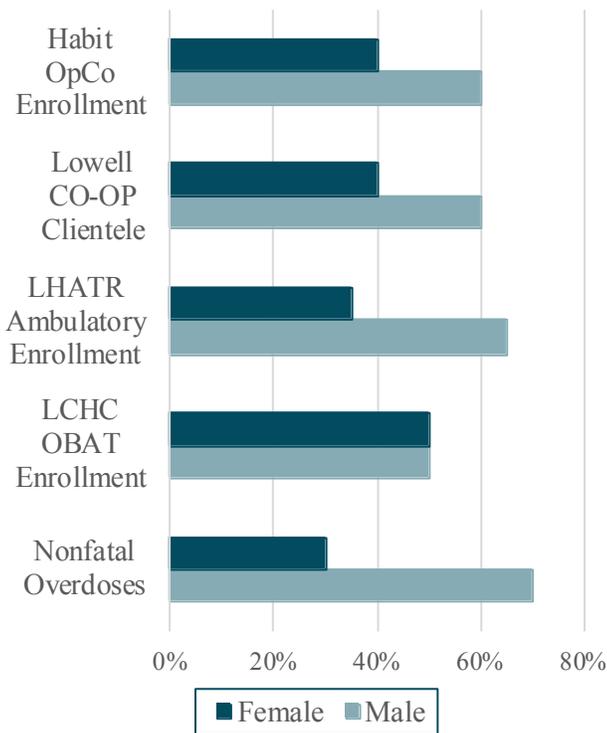
Key Observations

- ◇ More than twice as many males have died of a fatal overdose than females during 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- ◇ Preliminary results for 2018 show that males are dying of an opioid overdose three times more often than females. Preliminary results for 2019 show that males are dying four times more often than females.
- ◇ Fatal overdose rates increased on the weekends during 2015, 2016, and 2017. Nonfatal overdoses rates increased on the weekends during 2016, 2017, and 2018.
- ◇ Since June 2018, more females have had training on and access to Narcan.

Risk Factors for Males in Lowell



Gender Breakdown 2018



Recommendations for Community

Gender

- ◇ Promote ways for men who use alone to be safer.
- ◇ Improve Narcan distribution towards high-risk men.

Treatment

- ◇ Tailor group therapy, prevention efforts, and harm reduction to meet the different gender needs.

Weekend Preparedness

- ◇ Hold conveniently located Narcan trainings and overdose prevention education on Thursdays and Fridays.
- ◇ Broadcast information to providers about "weekend preparedness".

Families & Loved Ones

- ◇ Increase dissemination of information to families as to where they can access and be trained on Narcan.
- ◇ Find new ways to target parents re: overdose signs, such as hanging posters in pediatrician offices.

Engagement

- ◇ Initiate more daytime opportunities for people to build upon life skills, wellness, and recovery.

Have a suggestion for a topic to be reviewed? Want to share your agency's HIPAA compliant data with the Data Subcommittee? Email Lainnie Emond at LEmond@lowellma.gov.