

Mayor's Opioid Task Force - Data Subcommittee

Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA

The Mayor's Opioid Task Force Data Subcommittee analyzes data sets relevant to the opioid epidemic in Lowell. The following observations and recommendations are tailored for community providers to inform their work.



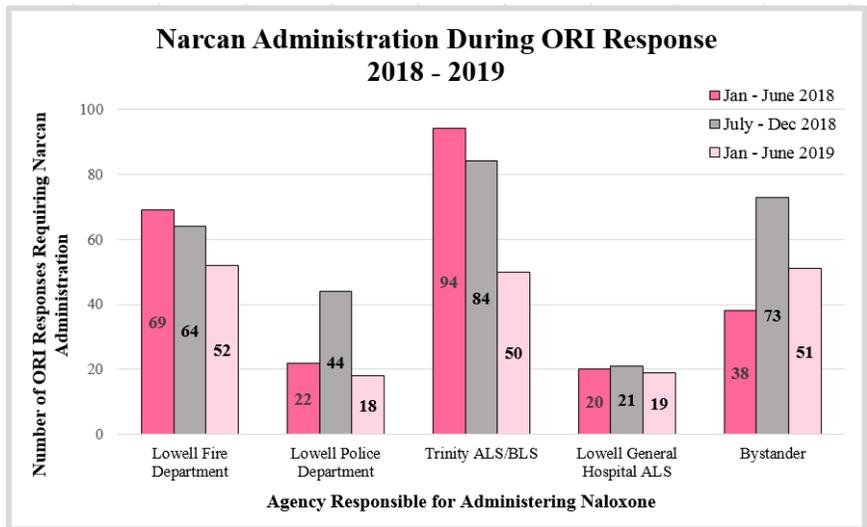
Narcan is easy to administer and could save a life



Calling 911 ASAP after administering Narcan is critical

Key Observations

- ◇ High risk individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) are reporting that medical attention is not always being sought after Narcan is administered for an opioid overdose.
- ◇ In the first six months of 2019 (January - June), there were just 271 opioid related illness (ORI) emergency service calls as compared to 372 in the first six months of 2018.
- ◇ Local health professionals believe that an increase in Narcan administration by general public, without medical action, could be a reason for the low number of ORI calls in 2019, thus far.



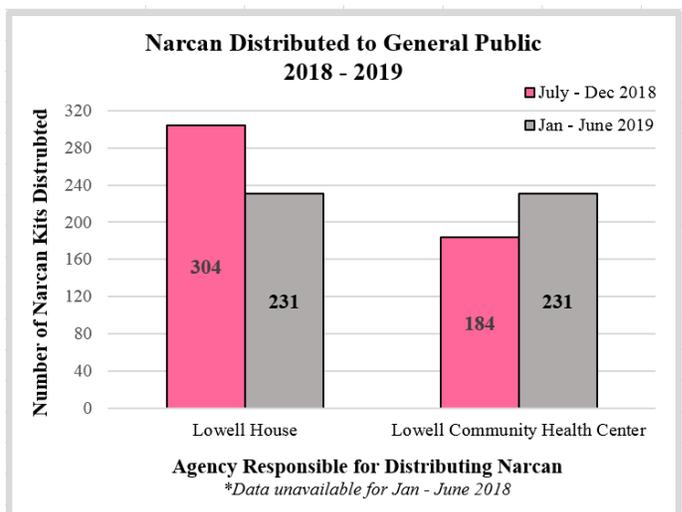
Recommendations for Community

Providers

- ◇ Encourage individuals to call 911 if they administer Narcan to someone or if they are administered Narcan.
- ◇ Educate individuals with OUD and their loved ones about the Good Samaritan ("Sam") Law.
- ◇ Educate individuals with OUD of the risks associated with not seeking medical attention immediately after being administered Narcan.

Family and Loved Ones

- ◇ Obtain Narcan and be trained on how to use it. You can receive a Narcan kit and training by calling Lowell Community Health Center (978-221-6767) or Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery (978-459-8656). You can also receive Narcan without a prescription at most pharmacies.
- ◇ Remember, if you administer Narcan, the Good Sam Law gives you legal protection when providing reasonable assistance to someone in need.
- ◇ Call 911 ASAP after administering Narcan to ensure individuals receive proper medical attention. Narcan has a short half-life and overdose symptoms may return, including respiratory depression, vomiting, and cardiac arrest.



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.