

Overdose Data Quality Improvement Project

A briefing to the EMS Advisory Committee

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April 17, 2026



Overdose Data Quality Improvement Project

Drug overdose remains a significant cause of death and disability in the State of Hawaii. For the most recent calendar year with full statistics (2024), the State reports:

- **360 unintentional or undetermined overdose deaths**
- **7,102 non-fatal emergency department discharges related to overdose**

Source: HDOH Behavioral Health Dashboard, accessed 04/11/2026: Unintentional and undetermined intent drug overdose death data sourced from the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Overdose death data sourced from the CDC Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER).

Numerous strategic initiatives are underway in our state to address this ongoing public health crisis, including (but not limited to):

- Hawaii Opioid Settlement Program
- Hawaii Overdose Initiative (formerly Hawaii Opioid Initiative) <https://osp.hawaii.gov/hoi/>
- Hawaii State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants (SAMHSA)
- Overdose Data to Action Grants (OD2A) (CDC)
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAMHSA)
- Hawaii Coordinated Access Resource Entry System (CARES)
- Crisis Intervention Team Program (HPD)
- Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program (CORE) (Honolulu EMS)

Overdose Data Quality Improvement Project

Project Goal: The goal of the HDOH-EMSIPB Overdose Data Quality Improvement Project is to **ensure that the State of Hawaii is fully leveraging its EMS data in order to support its ongoing strategic efforts to reduce death and disability due to drug overdose.**

The project will do this by:

- Reviewing current EMS documentation to **ensure that overdoses and suspected overdoses are being captured accurately**, and that documentation is sufficiently detailed and accurate to support early identification of new overdose surges; post-overdose response (PORT) for overdose survivors; coordination of care with hospitals and community health organizations; fatality reviews; and calculation and reporting of summary statistics by HDOH.
- Identifying areas where the data needed to support statewide response and prevention efforts is being siloed and working to improve data-sharing. **Reviewing existing data-sharing agreements for utility and sufficiency; facilitating the drafting and approval of new data-sharing agreements if needed.**
- **Researching national and international best practices for EMS involvement in overdose prevention initiatives**, such as: Post-Overdose Response (PORT); alternative pathways; field outreach and demand reduction for at-risk and/or high-volume system users; coordinated case conferencing with health system partners; buprenorphine induction; rural health access; community paramedicine and Mobile Integrated Health Care.
- **Supporting and ensuring continued state-level participation of EMS in the Hawaii Overdose Initiative** and related workgroups.

Selected References and Resources:

Hawaii Overdose Initiative: <https://osp.hawaii.gov/hoi/>

State of Hawai'i Department of Health Dashboard, Substance Use Statistics: <https://bh808.hawaii.gov/substance-use/>

PRONTO: Partnerships for Post-Overdose Research: <https://prontopostoverdose.org>

Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector: <https://opioid-resource-connector.org/>

NACo: Post-Overdose Response Teams: <https://www.naco.org/resource/osc-port>

CA Bridge Program: <https://bridgetotreatment.org/addiction-treatment/ca-bridge/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). *Evidence-based strategies for preventing opioid overdose: What's working in the United States*. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf>

SAMHSA: Evidence Based Practices Resource Center: <https://www.samhsa.gov/libraries/evidence-based-practices-resource-center>

Overdose Response Strategy (HIDTA/CDC Foundation): <https://orsprogram.org/program-overview/>

OD2A Case Studies: Public Safety-Led Post-Overdose Outreach Programs: <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/media/pdfs/OD2A-Case-Studies-Public-Safety-Led-Post-Overdose-Outreach-Programs-508.pdf>