

MUSKEGON OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW

Findings and recommendations from three pilot Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs) in Muskegon County, Michigan from September – December, 2021.

1ST CASE REVIEWED

White Male
Age: 20s
Employed
Cause of death:
Methamphetamine and fentanyl
Mental health comorbidities.
Significant familial death prior to fatal event.

Naloxone administration was delayed, as EMS arrived on scene after law enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION

Train law enforcement agencies to carry and administer Naloxone.

This decedent had a recent major cosmetic surgery and returned to active use due to pain in surgical site the week of the fatal event.

2ND CASE REVIEWED

White Female
Age: 20s
Unemployed
Cause of death:
Fentanyl and cocaine
Mental health comorbidities
Recent major cosmetic surgery.
Recent incarceration for possession.

RECOMMENDATION

Ensure providers, such as plastic surgeons, pharmacists, and dentists, are connected with the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS) and are properly screening for substance use and previous surgeries.

3RD CASE REVIEWED

Black Male
Age: 60s
Retired Correctional Officer.
Cause of death: fentanyl, heroin, and acetyl-fentanyl
10+ years of heroin use.

This review demonstrated the need for a consistent, systematic provision of support to the decedents' loved ones.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide recovery support to family and friends of a decedent and leave behind resources at the location of the fatal event.

It is unknown whether the decedent was aware that there was fentanyl in the heroin used during the time leading up to the fatal event.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Advocate and provide fentanyl testing kits for all substances.

HEALTH EQUITY

While black and white decedents had PCPs at similar rates (57% and 58%, respectively), **91% of white decedents had medical records available, while only 71% of black decedents had medical records available.** This indicates a lack of access or desire to receive medical treatment. Additionally, there was **no record of black decedents receiving SUD treatment, while 27% of white decedents had some form of SUD treatment.**

FINDINGS

Potential Target Populations for Preventing Future Overdoses:

1. Those re-entering society from institutions such as the jail or hospital
2. Those with a history of overdose
3. Family and friends that witnessed an overdose event

THE TEAM

The Muskegon County OFR team has representation from the following agencies: Law enforcement, Muskegon County Health Department, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Examiner's Office, Health West, The Red Project, and Fresh Coast Alliance.