Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Stark County 2019 : Annual Report

This Report:

S TARK COUNTY **H EALTH** DEPARTMENT
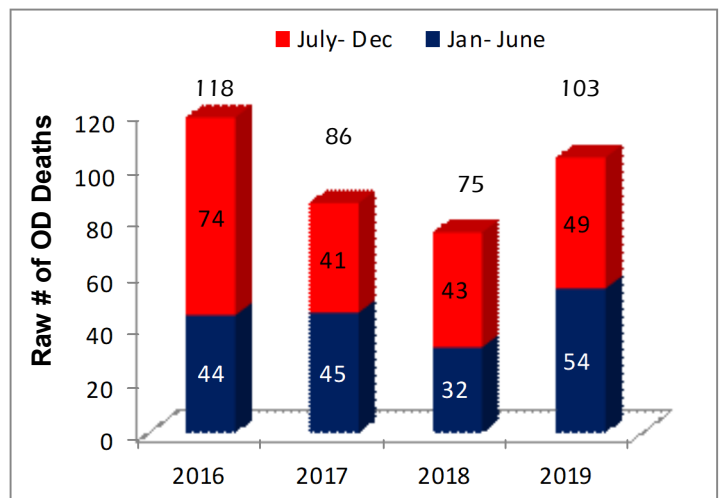
*"Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community."*

Unintentional Overdose Overview

In 2019, the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team met quarterly and reviewed all of the 2019 Unintentional Overdose deaths that occurred in Stark County. Data was collected from the Coroner's Reports, Death Certificates, police reports, and Stark Criminal Justice Information Services. All data is public record, and is reported aggregately due to confidentiality laws. There were 103 overdose deaths in Stark County in 2019. Since 2017, Stark County had seen a consistent decline in the number of overdose deaths, however in 2019 overdose deaths have increased by 27% from the previous year (See Figure 1).

The OFR team is comprised of members from Public Health, Mental Health, Addiction Services, Coroner's Office, Physicians, Hospitals, and Law Enforcement. The goal of this team is to decrease overdose deaths in the community. It is the hope that with a comprehensive review of available data that recommendations can be made to identify opportunities for reducing opiate related deaths and overdoses as well as help to increase community awareness surrounding this issue. The OFR committee developed and voted on the recommendations listed in Figure 10 on page 5 of this report.

The OFR team updated our local Community Response Plan to include an additional

Figure 1: Stark County 4 Year Comparison of OD Deaths

surveillance tool called HIDTA OD maps. If used throughout the county by first responders and other agencies, it would allow for near real time data to be displayed in map format. For more information regarding HIDTA OD maps, see figure 3 on page 2 of this report.

Drug Overdose Prevention (DR20) Grant

The DR20 grant began in September 2019. This grant was awarded to the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) from Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The main strategies of the grant are:
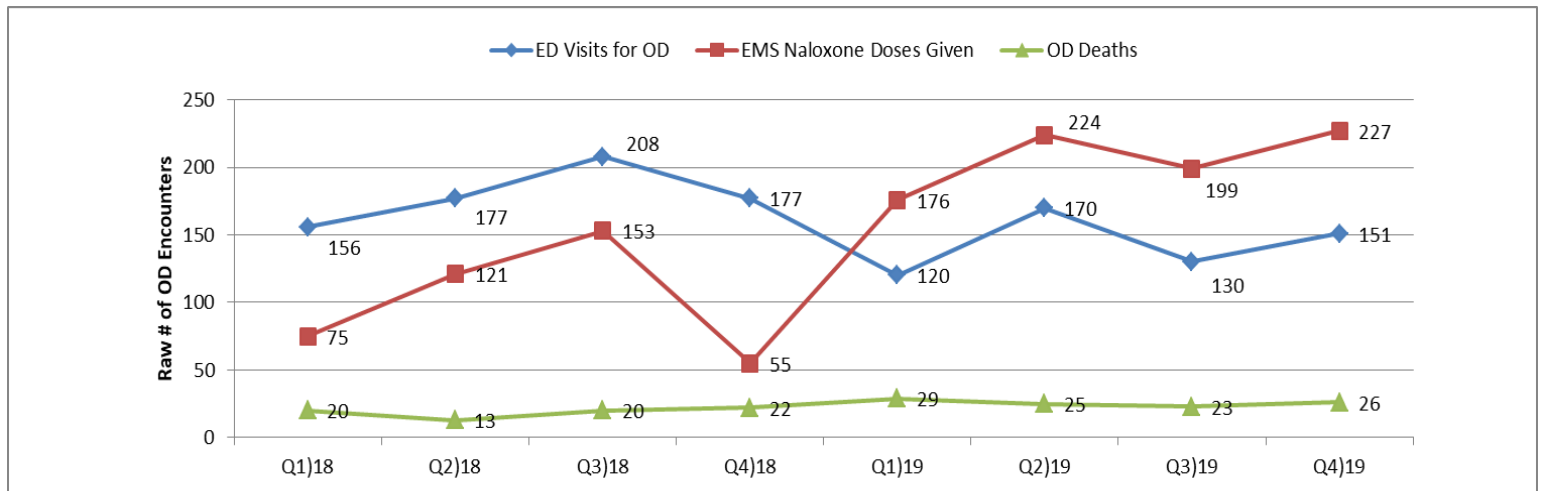
1. Participation in the Stark County Opiate and Addiction Task Force
2. Data and Information Gathering
3. Implementation of comprehensive and sustainable systems

Almost **70%** of the more than 67,000 drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved an **opioid.**

SCHD is currently working with Vital Core Health Strategies located at the Stark County Jail and with Mercy Medical Emergency Room. The goal of the grant in working within these settings is to create data collection plans, policies/procedures, and sustainable systems to reach an at-risk population and link them to community supports and appropriate services, including evidence based treatment and naloxone. This grant will continue until August 31, 2020 and has the potential to be renewed annually for the next two years.

Tracking Non– Fatal Opioid Overdoses

Figure 2 :Stark County Fatal vs, Non-Fatal Overdoses

Figure 2 :Stark County Fatal vs, Non-Fatal Overdoses

Tracking non fatal opioid overdoses has continued to be a focus of the OFR team. The data above in Figure 2 was collected from the following sources: Stark County Coroners Office, EMS Incident Reporting System, and Ohio's EpiCenter. This data provides a comparison of overdose deaths, EMS administration of naloxone, and emergency department visits.

Figure 2, When looking at data from quarter 1 in 2019, more naloxone was used with fewer visits to the emergency department. It is important to note that in the middle of 2019 the epicenter classifier which filters the ED visits at the state level changed to more specifically reflect OD visits in Ohio ED settings. SCHD monitors Epicenter ED visits on a weekly basis and these reports can be found using the link below. http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/nursing-services/overdose-prevention

HIDTA OD Map

HIDTA ODMAP was created by Washington-Baltimore HIDTA. This free mapping system is available to law enforcement, Fire/EMS, Coroners, Medical Examiners and Public Health officials to help counties better track the overdose incidents in near real time. When used throughout the county, it can be utilized as a useful surveillance tool to help monitor OD activity. The SCHD and a representative from HIDTA OD map attended local police and fire chiefs meetings to help educate agencies on the benefits of using the application. Please see the link below for more information.

Currently the Stark County Health Department has gained access to utilize this system, and continues to promote use throughout the county.
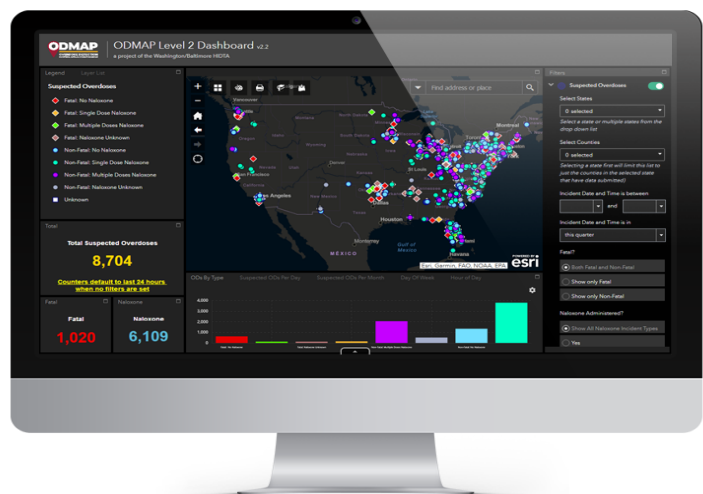
http://www.odmap.org/

Figure 3 – ODMAP (Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program)

Stark County Demographics

Of the overdose deaths that occurred in Stark County, the majority continue to be non Hispanic white males. The age group with the highest rate in previous years has been 25-34. However, in 2019 this age group shifted to be 35-44, with 25-34 being close behind. There has also been an increase in deaths in 2019 in the 65 and over age group when compared to previous years.

Another area discussed and tracked is race data.   Figure 5, shows the percentage of total deaths by race, as well as the rate of death by race per 100,000 population. Although the highest percentage of deaths fall into the white category when looking at rate per 100,000 population the black rates are significantly higher and have doubled since 2016. Hispanic/Latinx and multiracial decedents make up 1% of the deaths.

The majority of OD deaths have been Male however, in recent years we have seen an increase in Female deaths. The female death rate in 2018 was 13.5 as compared to 2019 the rate increased to 20.4.
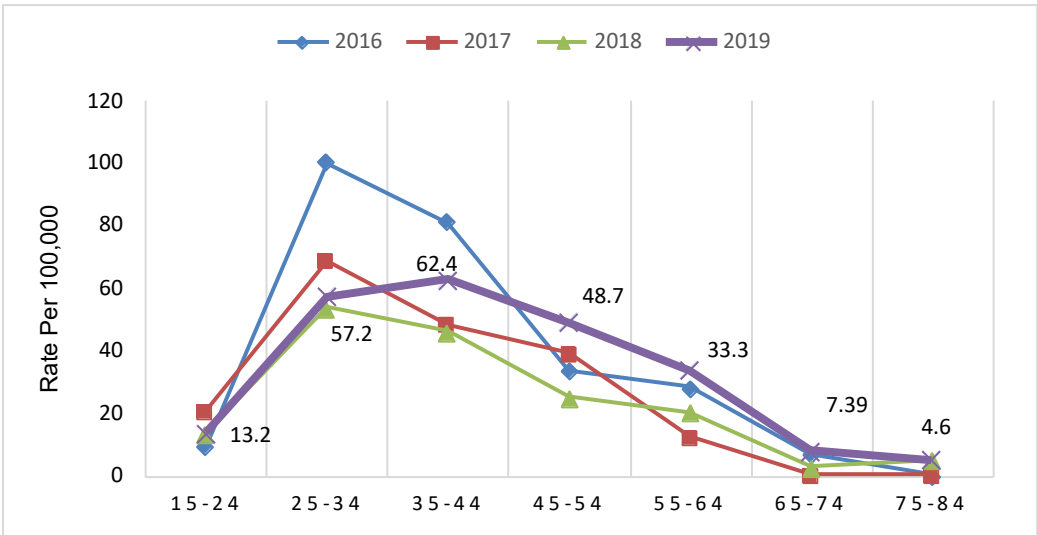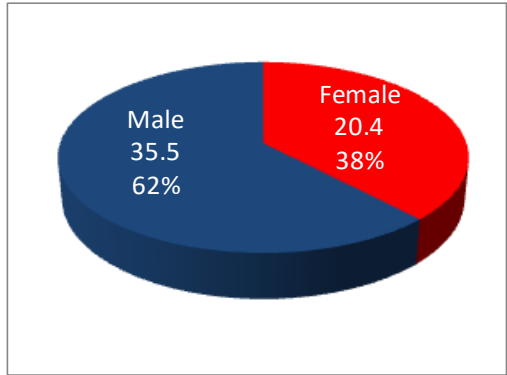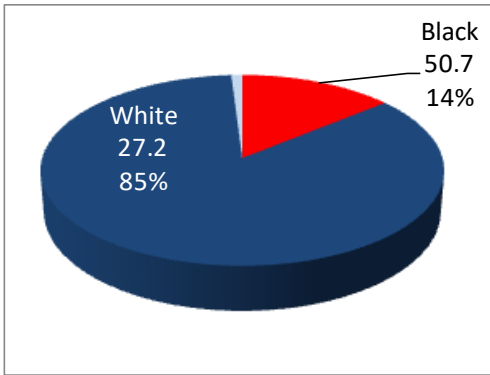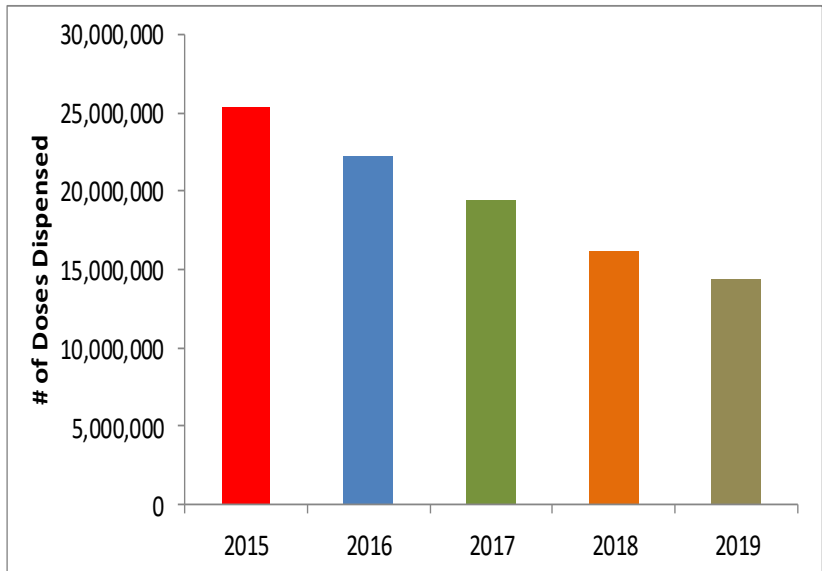

Figure 5: Race Rate per 100,000 and Percentages

Figure 6: Gender Rate per 100,000 and Percentages

Continued Decrease in Opioid Prescribing

Figure 7: Stark County 5 Year Comparison of Opiate Doses Dispensed

Stark County continues to see a decrease in the amount of prescription opioids being prescribed. Thanks to providers utilizing the Ohio Automated Prescription Reporting System (OARRS) which allows prescribers to see the patients prescribing history prior to prescribing opiates.   OARRS data reports show that there has been nearly 11 million less doses dispensed in 2019 when compared to 2015. The SCHD continue to participate in drug awareness programs through out the county. Most recently they developed a Facebook ad media campaign focused on prevention which targeted at risk populations. This campaign ran from May 2020 to July 2020 with the goal of connecting at risk populations to resources and provide education regarding prevention of overdoses. The "learn more" icon within the ad takes the person to the overdose prevention page within the Stark County Health Department website which provides information about naloxone, treatment and warning signs of addiction.

Figure 8: Percent of Decedents Positive for Opiates

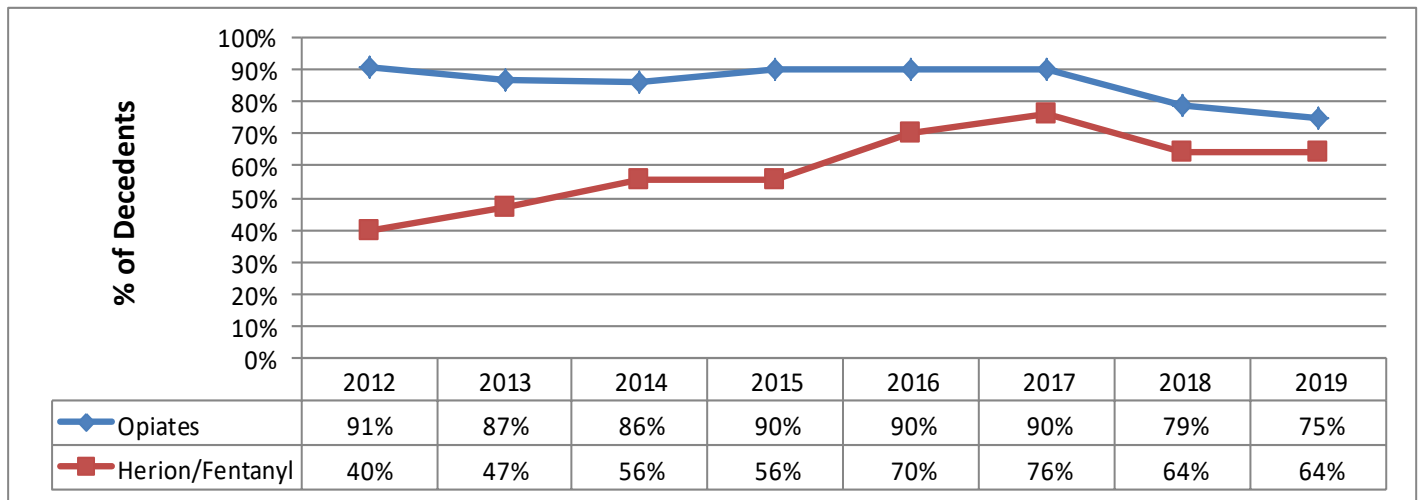|	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Opiates	91%	87%	86%	90%	90%	90%	79%	75%
Herion/Fentanyl	40%	47%	56%	56%	70%	76%	64%	64%

Figure 8, shows a 8 year comparison of Stark County Overdose decedents. From 2012 all the way to 2018 the percentage of opiates present in the toxicology screens has remained consistently high with a decrease in 2018 and 2019. The percentage of those decedents with Heroin/Fentanyl present has increased each year from 40% in 2012 to 76% in 2017 with a decrease in 2018 and the percentage remaining the same in 2019. This is likely due to an increase of other drugs and drug combinations being abused in the area, such as cocaine and methamphetamine (see Figure 9 below).

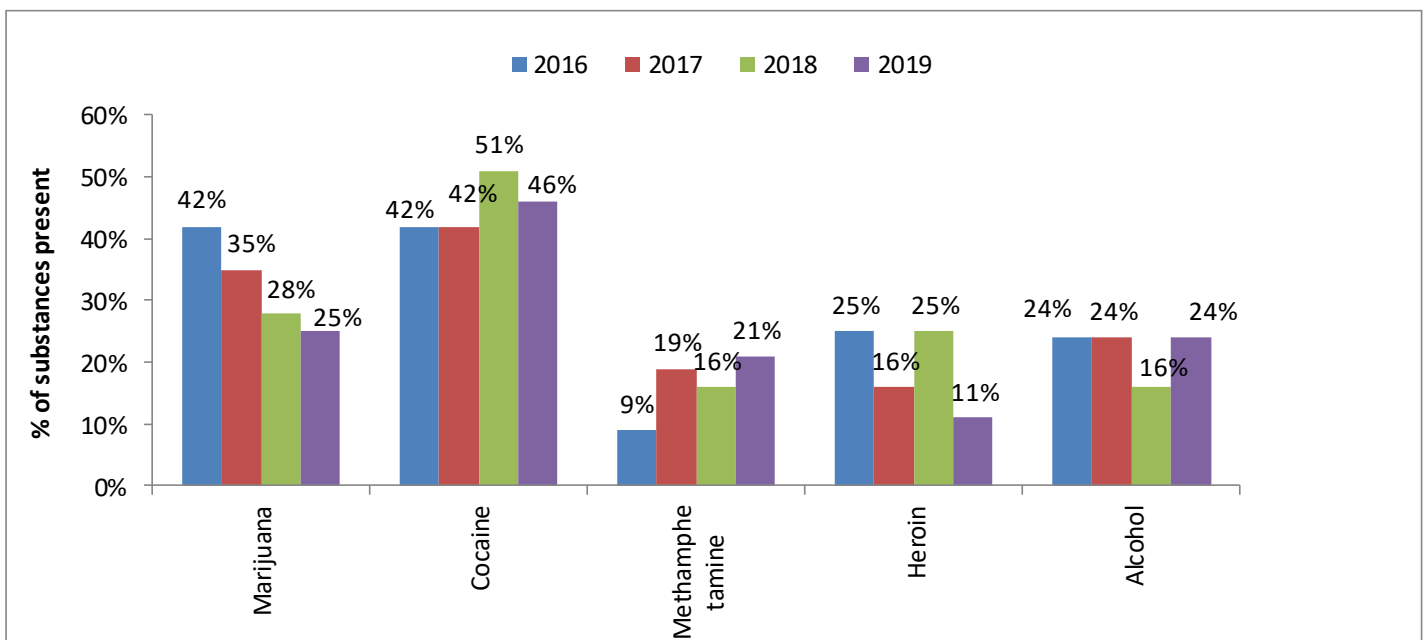### Figure 9: Illicit Drugs and Alcohol

Figure 9, above illustrates the percentage of illicit substances and alcohol present in the 2019 unintentional overdose decedents. Cocaine and Alcohol continue to be present in toxicology screens similar to previous years. Marijuana has decreased steadily over the past several years. Methamphetamine use has more than doubled since 2016. Cocaine continues to remain high with over 40% of decedents testing positive over the past several years. Drug combinations continue to be a high risk factor for overdose, of the 103 decedents in 2019, 45% of them were positive for an opiate/stimulant with opiate/sedative being 29% and opiate/marijuana being 20%.

Recommendations

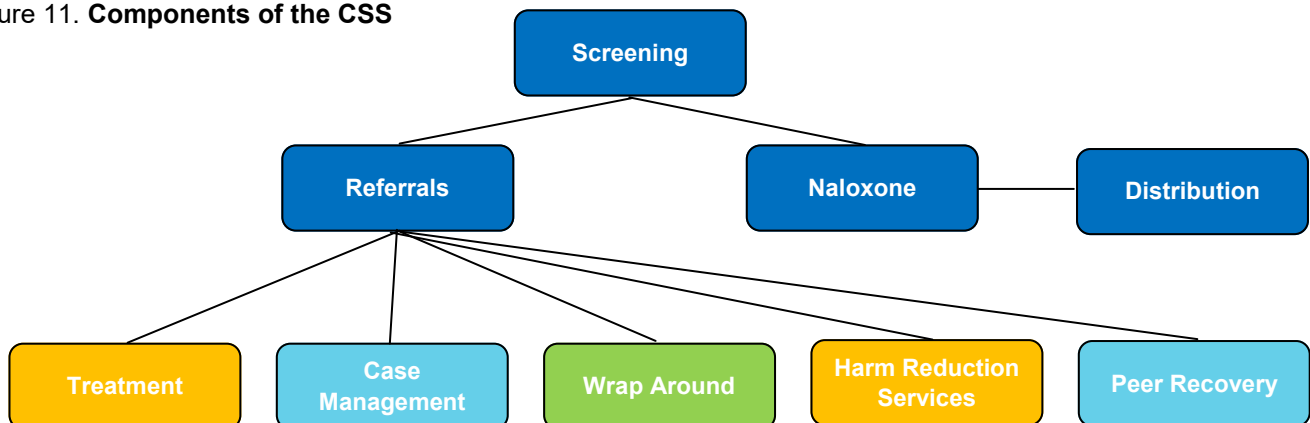### Figure 10: OFR Recommendations

1. The OFR committee encourages and supports the innovated distribution of naloxone through law enforcement, project dawn sites, jails, emergency departments, leave behind programs and mail in order.

2. The OFR committee recommends the use of screening tools in both medical/dental provider's offices and emergency department's to screen for individuals who are at risk of or currently suffering from substance use disorders.

3. The OFR committee recommends implementation of a comprehensive referral system in the emergency department's which includes (peer support/harm reduction services).

4. The OFR committee recommends Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) availability through Emergency Department settings within Stark County and continue MAT through jail settings.

5. The OFR committee supports the development/implementation of real time data tracking software/systems focused on overdose information such as HIDTA OD map and local dashboards.

6. The OFR committee encourages more access to treatment efforts and awareness programs related to addiction resources, educational materials and harm reduction services such as expansion of innovated treatment programs.

7. The OFR committee recommends community based programs to address the racial and gender disparities among overdose victims.

8. The OFR committee supports the efforts and initiatives of the Opiate and Addiction Task Force hosted by StarkMHAR.

Figure 10 above outlines the recommendations developed by the OFR committee. The recommendations were developed utilizing a variety of surveys, OFR data/trends identified from coroners reports, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention evidence-based strategies for preventing opioid overdose.

Comprehensive Sustainable System at the Stark County Jail

The Stark County Jail was one of two settings selected for the 2019 Drug Overdose Prevention grant. This program expanded on the naloxone education and distribution previously implemented by Vital Core Health Strategies, the healthcare provider contracted with the Stark County Sheriff. To establish a Comprehensive Sustainable System (CSS) a data collection plan, policies and procedures, and sustainability measures were identified and developed. Several partners were instrumental in linking this CSS, including; StarkMHAR, Coleman Professional Services, CommQuest, TASC and Vital Core Health Strategies.

Figure 11. **Components of the CSS**

The impact of COVID19 stalled the progress of the grant, and innovative methods for naloxone distribution were identified to increase harm reduction during the pandemic. The Canton Municipal Re-Entry Court was selected as a distribution site and four trainings are planned for July and August 2020.

Stark County Resources
Opiate Hotline: 330-454-HELP (4357)
Community information, education, support and connection to services anytime.
Project SWAP (Needle Exchange Program)
Canton City Health Department- 330-489-3322

Treatment
Coleman Behavioral Health – Crisis Hotline- 330-452-6000

CommQuest Services– 330- 455-0374
Alliance Detox and Recovery Unit – 330-821-8503
Canton Detox and Recovery Unit - 330- 830-3393

Project DAWN Sites
Alliance City Health Department– 537 E. Market St. **330-821-7373 ext. 13**
Coleman Behavioral Health/Crisis Center– 242113th St. NW Canton **330-452-6000**
CommQuest Services– 1341 Market Ave. N. Canton **330-453-8252**
(Available at all Commquest locations)

Helpful Websites
Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR): https://starkmhar.org/
Stark County Health Department:
www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/nursing-services/overdose-prevention
Take Charge Ohio: takechargeohio.org

ASSESS. MANAGE. MONITOR.
www.cdc.gov GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN

References:

1. Death Statistics were from the Stark County Coroners Office, data was pulled from the Ohio Department of Heath's EpiCenter database Gender and Population data was taken from the 2018 U.S. Census Bureau data.

2. Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services, EMS Incident Reporting System

3. Ohio Automated Prescription Reporting System (OARRS) Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Opioid overdose deaths were **6x** higher in 2018 than in 1999.
www.cdc.gov