

# **Innovative Community-Based Responses to the Opioid Epidemic**

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**Brandeis**

THE HELLER SCHOOL  
FOR SOCIAL POLICY  
AND MANAGEMENT  
Institute for  
Behavioral Health

# OVERVIEW

Purpose and Features of the Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector

Types of Innovative Approaches

Comprehensive Community Responses and Coalition Building

Short Demo

**Purpose  
of the  
Brandeis  
Opioid  
Resource  
Connector**

**“Communities Informing  
Communities”**

- To assist communities in mounting a comprehensive response to the opioid crisis by helping them understand what interventions exist
- Help stakeholders choose, design, and implement essential interventions

# Features of the Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector

- More than 160 program models across the continuum of care, which can serve as models for initiatives and policies
  - Criteria – scientific rationale, evidence-informed approach, evaluation data, and publicly available material
- Community-focused tools:
  - inform a comprehensive approach
  - building and sustaining an effective coalition
- More than 600 additional resources such as toolkits, reports, peer-reviewed articles, and data and mapping tools, including numerous resources specific to COVID-19



# Brandeis Opioid Resource Connector

communities informing communities



About

Program Models

Community Response

Data and Mapping

Additional Resources

Prevention

Treatment

Recovery

Harm Reduction

Tools and program models to empower your community's response to the opioid crisis

Explore Program Models

Learn from community programs

Assess Your Community's Needs

Identify coverage gaps in your community

Build and Sustain an Effective Coalition

Community-wide, coordinated response is essential

# Program Models Launched by Communities: Prevention

- Cautious opioid prescribing and dispensing
  - Institutional prescribing guidelines
  - Screening by pharmacists
- Safe opioid disposal
  - Prescription drug take-back days
- Educational programs
  - Youth prevention
  - Provider and pharmacist education

# Program Models Launched by Communities: Harm Reduction

- Overdose prevention in unique settings
  - Jails and prisons
  - Bars and nightclubs
  - Public restrooms
  - Post-overdose by EMS
  - Emergency departments
- Active outreach to people who use drugs
  - Faith-based ministries
  - Rural
- Stigma campaigns



# Program Models Launched by Communities: Treatment

- Various settings for entry into treatment
  - Post-overdose response interventions
  - Police and fire departments
- Innovative ways to expand medications for opioid use disorder
  - Hub and spoke models (some using telehealth)
  - Mobile outreach
  - Low-threshold access
  - Criminal justice system
- Early intervention and comprehensive services for vulnerable populations
  - Pregnant individuals
  - Recently incarcerated

# Program Models Launched by Communities: Recovery

- Recovery coaching and other recovery support services (RSS)
  - Peer-led interventions
  - Hybrid recovery community organizations (RCOs)
  - Culturally competent recovery services
- Addressing the social determinants of health
  - RSS co-occurring with education
  - State-led and employer-led employment initiatives

# The Importance of Multi-Sector Collaboration

- Collaboration and coordination among a community's stakeholders are essential for mounting an effective and comprehensive response to opioid crisis
- Collaboration can be facilitated by forming coalitions and task forces



Launch the Brandeis  
Opioid Resource  
Connector