

# Local Health Department Approaches to Opioid Use Prevention and Response Featured in New NACCHO Survey

*Local Health Departments in 13 States Tell Their Stories*

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES, August 26, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Much of the day-to-day work of opioid prevention and response falls to local health departments. To better understand this critical role, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) staff conducted a survey and are releasing a

The logo for NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officials) features the acronym "NACCHO" in a large, bold, teal sans-serif font. Below the acronym is a thin teal horizontal line, followed by the full name "National Association of County & City Health Officials" in a smaller teal font. A second thin teal horizontal line is positioned below the full name.

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

new report, "Local Health Department Approaches to Opioid Use Prevention and Response: An Environmental Scan." The scan surveyed 198 local health departments in efforts to capture a foundational understanding of the roles local health departments play in opioid use prevention and response efforts in order to inform priorities at the local, state, and national levels. Topics covered in this report include opioid use prevention and response workforce, partnerships, programmatic and clinical services, policy, and data collection and evaluation.

## Key Findings

- Local health departments engage in a range of opioid use prevention and response activities. While 83% of respondents reported providing community education and outreach, only 50% engaged in naloxone distribution. Fentanyl and other drug testing protocols were least likely to be available by local health departments at 11%.
- Local health departments efforts are well connected in the community. More than 75% of respondents reported working with partner organizations to provide community education, outreach, and linkages to treatment.
- Local health department clinical responses are mostly focused on addressing the infectious disease consequences of opioid use. A total of 71% of respondents provide HIV/STI testing. However, other clinical opioid-related services are more likely to be provided by a partner organization than the health department in most of these areas.
- Syringe service programs were offered by 21% of local health department respondents. Syringe service policies were also the most reported as being under consideration by localities, which could lead to greater uptake of these programs. In addition, small local health departments have the highest rate of involvement in syringe services policies, compared to large- and medium-sized local health departments.
- Local health departments often inform local policies to help address opioid use. More than 70% of respondents reported having the following policies in their jurisdictions: first responder

naloxone distribution, increased access to naloxone, Good Samaritan immunity policies, or opioid prescribing guidelines. Syringe services was the policy most reported as “under consideration,” followed by opioid abuse reporting requirements and syringe decriminalization.

Local health departments around the country provided brief stories from the field outlining their opioid use program successes; these are included in the report. They are:

#### COLORADO

Comprehensive Data Collection Plan  
Tri-County Health Department

#### KENTUCKY

Cumberland Valley District Health Department, Kentucky  
Discarded Needle Program

#### MAINE

Portland Health Department, Maine  
Successful Inter-agency Partnerships

#### MARYLAND

Dorchester County Health Department, Maryland  
Opioid Coordinator and Peer Navigator Program

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Medford Health Department, Massachusetts, part of the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition  
Comprehensive Stigma Prevention Campaigns

#### MINNESOTA

Hennepin County Health Department,  
Minnesota Advocating for MAT Services in Jails and Correctional Facilities

#### MISSOURI

Ste. Genevieve County Health Department, Missouri  
Innovative Communications Methods: Local Pastoral Alliance

#### NEVADA

Southern Nevada Health District, Nevada  
Syringe Vending Machines

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services, New Hampshire  
Safe Stations and Syringe Service Program Evaluation

#### OHIO

Franklin County Health Department, Ohio  
Improving Naloxone Access and Linkages to Care in Jails

Montgomery County Health Department, Ohio  
Partnering to Learn from Experienced Coalitions

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Allegheny County Health Department, Pennsylvania  
Developing a Cadre of Diverse Opioid Policies

#### TENNESSEE

Metro Public Health Department, Tennessee  
Tracking Overdose Activity with ODMAP

Sevier County Health Department, Tennessee  
Evaluating the Impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Education

WISCONSIN  
Real-time Public and Private Overdose Mapping  
Public Health Madison and Dane County, Wisconsin

Wauwatosa Health Department, Wisconsin  
Comprehensive Social Media Campaign

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).

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