



Impact of COVID-19 on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment & Services

**Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
Policy Forum Series
October 16, 2020**

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Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (CSHP) is a unit of the Institute for Health, Healthcare Policy and Aging Research within Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS)

Housekeeping Items

Default: All attendees' audio lines will be *muted* upon joining the event.

- Enter your question in the Q/A box.
- Forum will be recorded. Slides and recording will be posted.
- Please complete the online feedback survey after this webinar.

Acknowledgements

- Support for this event was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the Foundation.
- We acknowledge our colleagues, Oliver Lontok, Bram Poquette, Manisha Agrawal & John Palatucci for their efforts in planning & executing this virtual forum.
- We thank our panelists in advance for sharing their expertise and insights and all of you for participating in this discussion.

About the Center for State Health Policy

- Launched in 1999 with core support from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
- **Translational health policy** center with a mission to inform, support and stimulate **sound and creative health policy** in New Jersey and around the nation
- The Center's research and project portfolio focuses on:
 - Health System Performance Improvement
 - Access to Care and Coverage
 - Population Health
 - Health and Long-Term Care Workforce
 - Long-Term Services and Supports

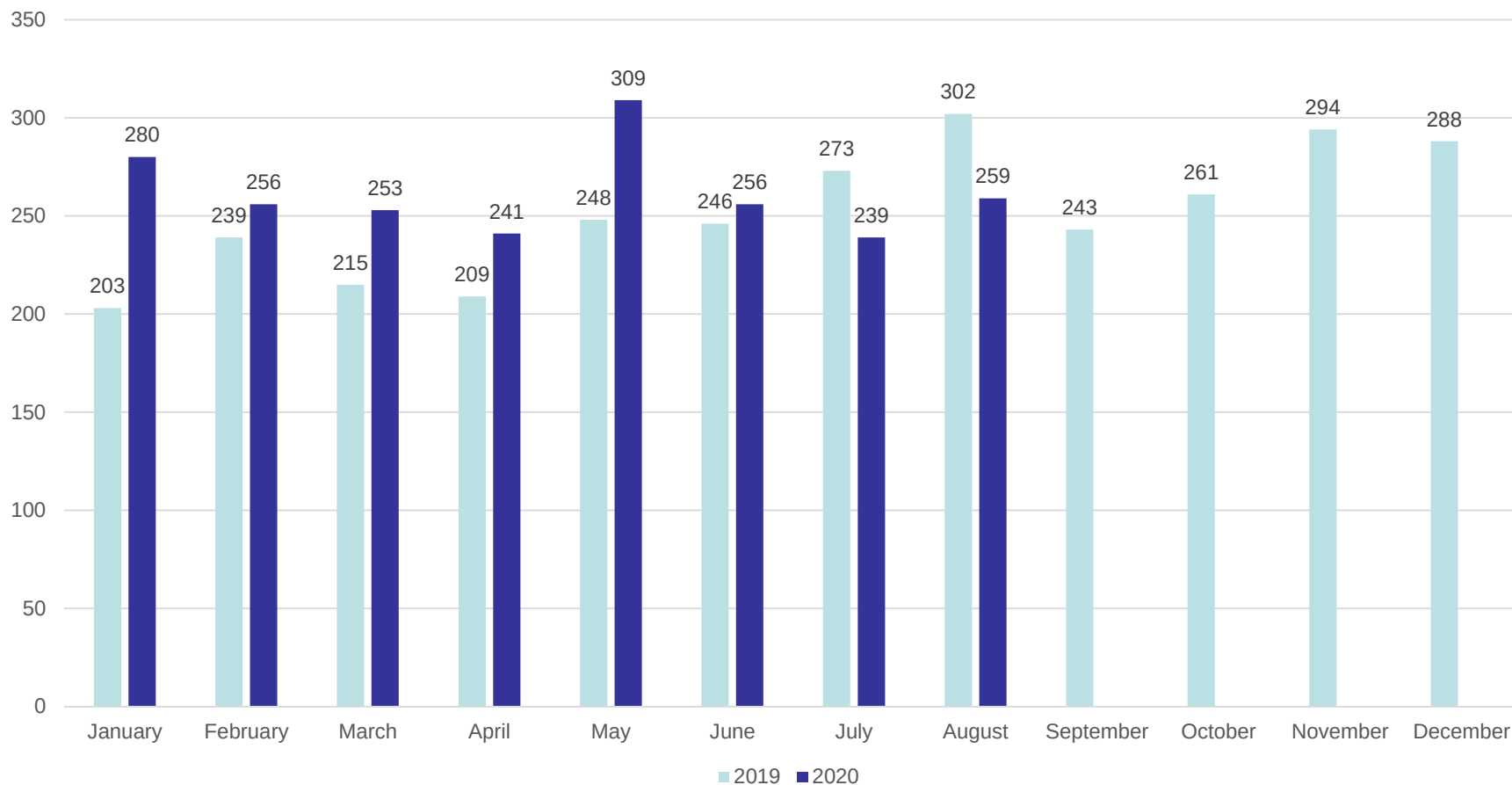
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Goal of the Policy Forum Series

- Address some of the most critical health and health care policy issues impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey
- Draw on timely and relevant data and expert discussion of policy strategies to address short- and long-term challenges
- Topics under consideration for future forums:
 - Continuity of Care for Complex Patients (January 2021)
 - Strategies to Address Barriers to Workforce and Program Licensure (February 2021)
 - Addressing health-related social needs such as food and housing insecurity (April 2021)

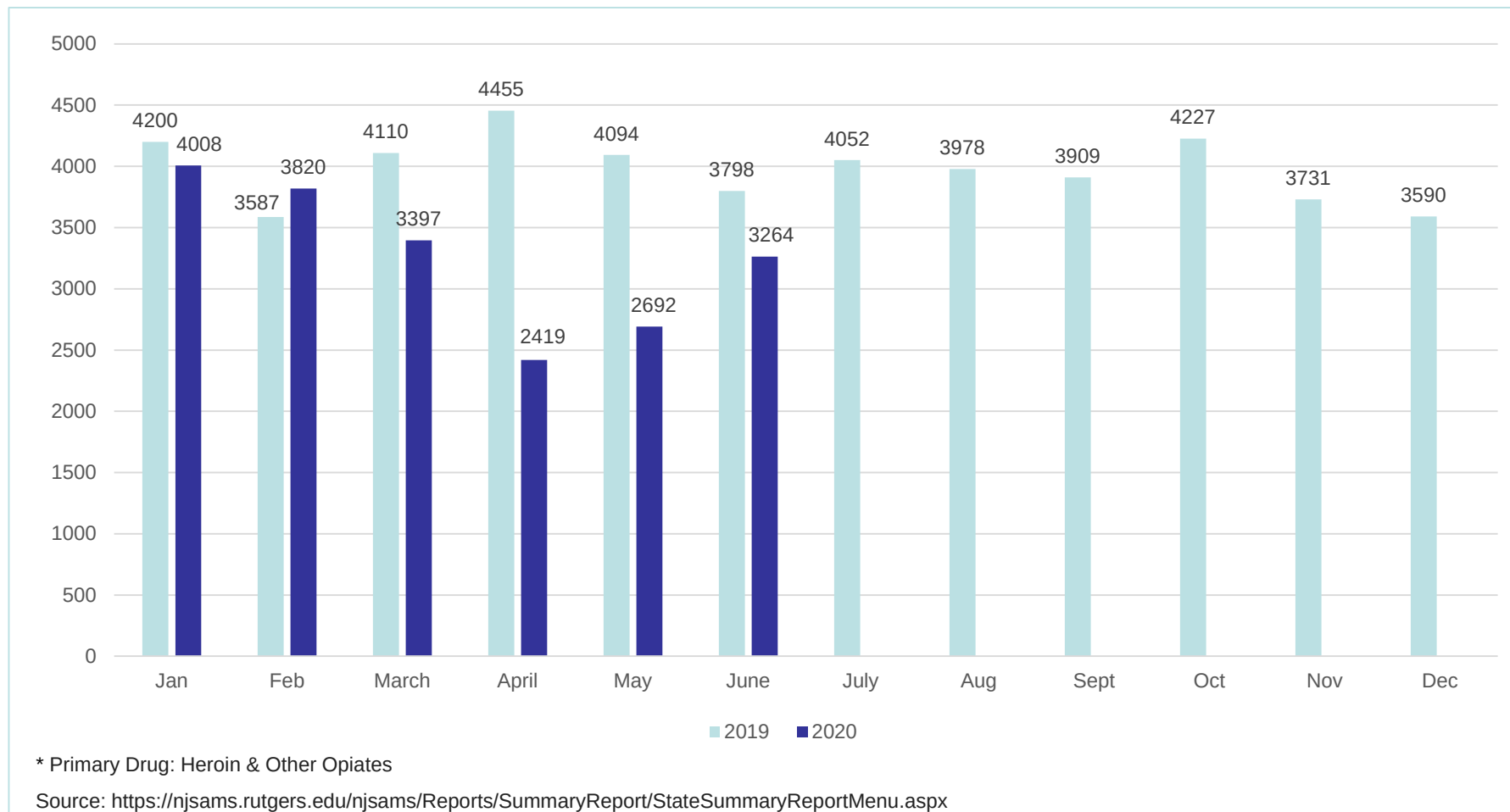
Select Data Trends

Suspected Drug-Related Deaths in New Jersey, 2019-August 2020



Source: <https://www.njcares.gov/>

Total Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions in New Jersey, 2019-June 2020*



Highlights of Amendments to Treatment/ Services Rules & Policies

Federal Policy Response to SUD Treatment & Service Needs*

Date	Policy Response
March 16, 2020	The DEA-registered practitioners can prescribe schedule II-V controlled substances to patients w/o in-person medical evaluation.
March 19, 2020	SAMHSA exempted opioid treatment programs (OTPs) from an in-person physical evaluation requirement for any patient who will be treated by the OTP with buprenorphine if adequate evaluation can be initiated virtually.
March 31, 2020	Additional flexibility provided to authorized practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine to new or existing patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) on the basis of a telephone evaluation.
April 07, 2020	OTPs were provided greater flexibility in how they deliver take-home doses of methadone to their patients for those already authorized.
April 10, 2020	Provided DEA-registered hospital/clinics with the flexibility to utilize alternate satellite hospital/clinic locations under their current registrations.
April 28, 2020	Extended the same flexibility to OTPs for take-home doses of buprenorphine.

*Issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division
 Source: <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/coronavirus.html>

NJ's Policy Response to SUD Treatment & Service Needs

Date	Policy Response
March 24, 2020	The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) provided specific directions to OTPs for: • Providing additional take-home medications (up to 28 days) to individuals in efforts to reduce patient and staff exposure. • Allowing a surrogate/designated other to pick up medication for patients at the OTP. • Offering “doorstep” delivery option if no one is available to come to the OTP to pick-up medications. • Use of telehealth whenever possible and medically/clinically appropriate. • Allowing practitioners to issue prescriptions for buprenorphine and other controlled substances (with the exception of methadone) w/o in person visit.
May 21, 2020	The Division of Consumer Affairs issued administrative order mandating physicians, dentists, and other healthcare practitioners prescribing opioids for the management of chronic pain to also prescribe naloxone to certain at-risk patients during the COVID-19 crisis.
Sources: https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/information/stakeholder/OTP%20Preparedness%20Guidelines%20March%2024%202020.pdf https://www.nj.gov/oag/news.htm	

NJ's Policy Response to SUD Treatment & Service Needs

Date	Policy Response
July 15, 2020	The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) announced new measures for expanding workforce to promote access to mental health and substance use disorder services and treatment by removing barriers for practicing professionals and making it easier for recent graduates of social work and counseling programs to start practicing.
August 11, 2020	DCA expanded the availability of telemedicine for the treatment of patients, including those with chronic pain and those qualifying for medical marijuana.
September 3, 2020	DHS and DOH announced plans for shipping 11,352 free doses of naloxone to 179 Emergency Medical Services throughout New Jersey.
September 9, 2020	DHS and DOH announced availability of naloxone for free to residents at participating pharmacies from September 24 th -26 th .

Sources:

https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2020/approved/news_archives.html

<https://www.nj.gov/oag/news.htm>

Funding to Support SUD Treatment & Services*

- Gov. Murphy's Opioid Initiative FY2020 Awards:
 - **\$7.8 million to county correctional facilities** for medication-assisted opioid treatment
 - **\$1.67 million to 12 counties** to implement innovative local projects targeting OUD
 - **\$4 million for public awareness** campaign to connect people in need of assistance to addiction treatment through **1-844-ReachNJ** addiction treatment hotline
- DHS unveiled **\$25 million** plan to support eligible mental health and substance use disorder service providers with **COVID-related expenses** such as:
 - Personal protection equipment & COVID testing
 - COVID-related emergency fees for in-person direct care personnel performing work involving COVID risks
 - HIPAA compliant technology to facilitate telehealth
- OAG and DCA announced availability of **\$1.2 million**, federal Medicaid funding obtained in partnership with DHS, to **integrate electronic health records** and pharmacy management systems statewide with the NJPMP database.

*Announced/received in 2020

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Funding to Support SUD Treatment & Services Cont'd*

- DOH received **\$7.1 million through the CDC's Overdose Data to Action Award** to connect residents to recovery resources, expand efforts to improve the health and care of those who use drugs and examine root causes of overdose to inform prevention efforts.
- DMHAS received **State Opioid Response (SOR) grant of \$66 million** annually for two years from SAMHSA to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities. This grant will also support evidence-based services to address stimulant use disorders, including cocaine and methamphetamine.
- For **FY2021, Gov. Murphy allocated \$100 million**, across eight state agencies, to continue fighting the opioid epidemic through carefully designed programs and thoughtful, data-driven analysis.

*Announced/received in 2020

Resources

- <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/home/index.html>
- <https://integrityhouse.org/>
- <https://ifh.rutgers.edu/health-service/>
- <https://ncaddnj.nationbuilder.com/>
- http://njms.rutgers.edu/departments/psychiatry/nc_mission.cfm
- **NJ CARES: Suspected Overdose Deaths**
Department of Law and Public Safety: Office of the Attorney General
<https://www.njcares.gov/>
- **New Jersey Substance Abuse Monitoring System(NJSAMS): State Summary Report**
Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
<https://njsams.rutgers.edu/njsams/Reports/SummaryReport/StateSummaryReportMenu.aspx>
- **Prescriber Perspectives on Opioid Prescribing in New Jersey and Impact of 2017 State Legislation**
Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
<http://www.cshp.rutgers.edu/publications/prescriber-perspectives-on-opioid-prescribing-in-new-jersey-and-impact-of-2017-state-legislation>
- **Trends in Medicaid-Reimbursed Outpatient Opioid Prescriptions following New Jersey P.L. 2017, c.28**
Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
<http://www.cshp.rutgers.edu/publications/trends-in-medicaidreimbursed-outpatient-opioid-prescriptions-following-new-jersey-pl-2017-c28>
- **Trends in Medicaid-Reimbursed Outpatient Buprenorphine, Naltrexone, and Naloxone Prescriptions following New Jersey P.L. 2017, c.28**
Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
<http://www.cshp.rutgers.edu/publications/trends-in-medicaidreimbursed-outpatient-buprenorphine-naltrexone-and-naloxone-prescriptions-following-new-jersey-pl-2017-c28>

Resources

- Acute Care, Prescription Opioid Use, and Overdose Following Discontinuation of Long-Term Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
The American Journal of Psychiatric; 2020 February 01; 177(2): 117–124.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7002204/>
- Impact Of Long-Term Buprenorphine Treatment On Adverse Health Care Outcomes In Medicaid
Health Affairs; 2020 May; 39(5): 747-755.
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.01085>
- Risk factors for discontinuation of buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorders in a multi-state sample of Medicaid enrollees
Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment; 2018 December; 95: 9-17.
[https://www.journalofsubstanceabusetreatment.com/article/S0740-5472\(18\)30134-X/fulltext](https://www.journalofsubstanceabusetreatment.com/article/S0740-5472(18)30134-X/fulltext)

Panelists



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Thank you!

Questions?

Please return the post forum survey.

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