Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative



The opioid epidemic in the United States continues to rise and the State of Wisconsin mirrors this human tragedy. The Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI) is a community-wide approach aimed to address this ever-increasing overdose crisis. The goal is to focus on decreasing fatalities by utilizing diverse databases to uncover trends, streamline access to treatment and provide education. This goal has been initiated with an interdisciplinary team of professionals committed to affect those struggling with a substance use disorder. Both public and private entities have come together to jointly develop a strategy to comprehensively respond to overdoses.

Overdose Response Team

The Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI) responds to those individuals and their families who have experienced an overdose. This effort involves Response Teams that consist of MFD Community Paramedics and peer recovery/support coaches. The teams provide overdose victims with guided access to appropriate treatment, counseling services, and harm reduction. Follow-up visits from the MORI team ensures victims and families are supported in their chosen treatment, including long-term recovery. The primary goal of MORI is to decrease the number of repeated overdoses per victim through relationship building and guided access to available resources and treatment.

Identify Patient • Patients are identified using a data tool administered by the MFD, which captures overdose incidences that occur daily in the City of Milwaukee. *MFD Mobile Integrated Health (MIH)* evaluates the data and compiles appropriate information and materials to disseminate.

Rapid Response • <u>First Visit</u>: *MFD Community Paramedics* respond to the overdose, alongside a peer recovery support specialist. The Response Team provides an appropriate interaction. Access to treatment and harm reduction items are offered, including Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strip education and distribution, in the form of a Hope Kit.

Schedule

•<u>Second Visit</u>: The Response Team engages the patient during a scheduled visit, where support, including addressing social determinents of health, can be integrated into the services provided. For long-term services, patients are referred to a treatment provider including services offered by the *Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division*.

Treatment Ready •When the patient indicates readiness to receive treatment, at any time during engagement with the MORI team, transportation will be secured for destination to appropriate treatment services, including those offered by the partnering agencies of *Clean Slate*, *Community Medical Services*, and *WisHope*.

Client Seeks Response •If a patient or patient's family member initiates an overdose response prior to the Response Team's scheduled visit, the **MFD Community Paramedics** will assist in guiding the patient to an appropriate service for treatment.

The Numbers: June 2019 – December 2023

	Attempted Contacts	Successful Contacts	Sought Treatment
Client Totals	14,724	3,367	336

Harm Reduction/Hope Kits: March 2022 – December 2023





Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative

