

Opioid Response Plan 2024-25



September 2024

OVERVIEW

Opioid misuse is a serious public health threat. According to the National Institutes of Health, the number of U.S. drug overdose deaths has significantly increased over the past 20 years, primarily due to opioids.[1] Tempe is seeing the impact of the opioid crisis with the fatal overdose rate increasing by 25% between 2019 and 2023. In 2023, Tempe lost 90 people to fatal overdoses and there were 426 non-fatal overdoses[2]. Also in 2023, Tempe Fire Emergency Medical Services responded to 603 calls where opioid misuse was probable.[3]

Addressing opioid misuse has been a priority since 2016 when the City Council and City Manager convened Tempe's first working group on the issue that later transformed into a regional committee. Tempe has led nationally and regionally from being the first city in the U.S. to incorporate wastewater data to inform opioid services, to being the first city in Arizona to create a data dashboard to inform operational strategy, to developing the Tempe First-Responder Opioid Recovery Project which is saving lives and informing national best practices.

This document outlines the various opioid programs and activities already underway, funded by federal grants and other state and local sources. It also serves as a guide for new programming to be implemented in FY 24-25, funded by the [One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement](#) ("One Arizona Agreement"). Input from city departments, community-based organizations, education partners, and individuals with lived experience helped identify areas in the continuum of services that need enhancement to best serve the community.

The plan also presents data on local opioid trends, which will be continuously monitored throughout FY 24-25 to ensure that Tempe is responsive to emerging trends and needs, and to inform future plans.

Tempe's Opioid Response Plan is advanced by Opioid Crisis – Tempe Innovative Solutions (OCTIS). This multidisciplinary task force collaborates internally and alongside external partners and residents to utilize data and implement evidence-based strategies to end opioid misuse. The OCTIS Leadership team provides strategic guidance and is comprised of representatives from the City Manager's Office, Community Health and Human Services Department, Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department, Tempe Police Department, Strategic Management and Innovation Office, Information Technology Department, Tempe Community Council, and Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

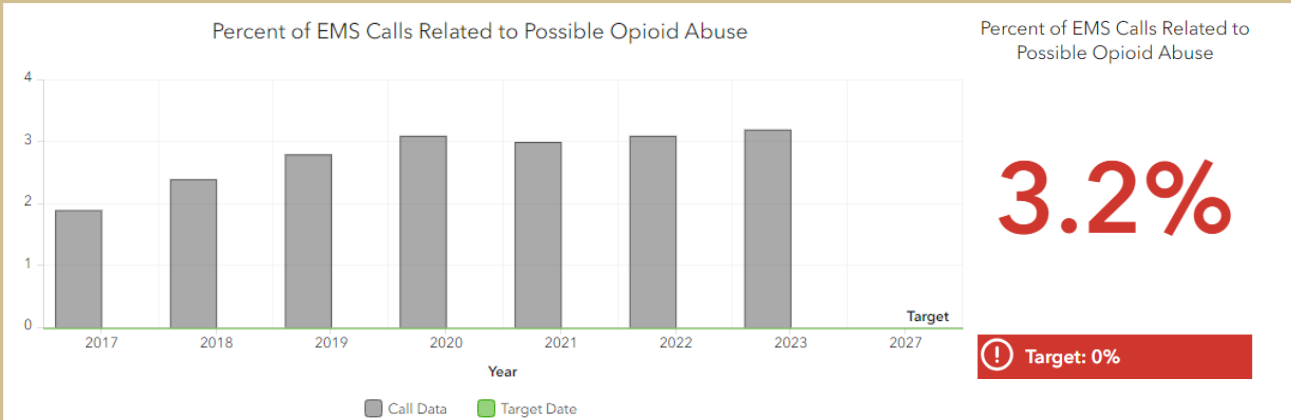
[1] (Jalal H, 2018)

[2] (Tempe Overdose Report, Maricopa County Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology September 2024- Preliminary Data)

[3] ([City of Tempe, 2021](#))

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN TEMPE

As part of Tempe's [citywide strategic plan](#), the Mayor and City Council have established a performance measure to track progress in addressing the opioid crisis.



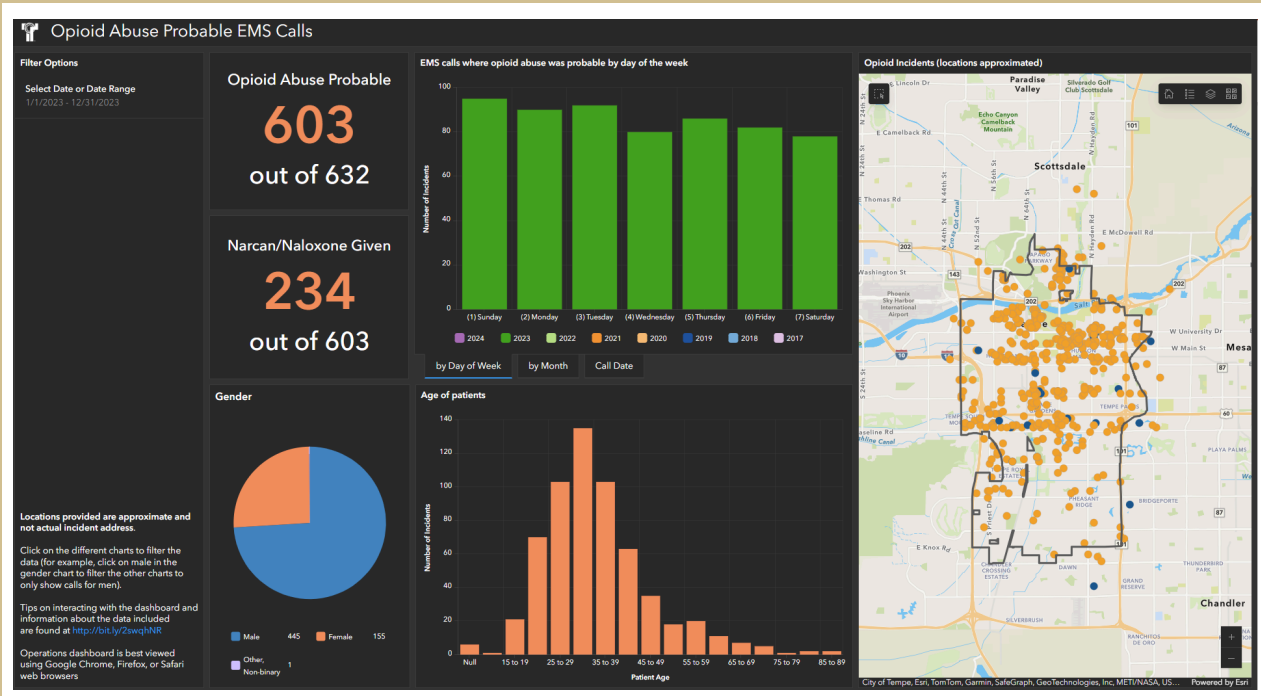
Performance Measure 1.31: Addressing Opioids

Measure: Achieve an end to opioid misuse and abuse as measured by the percentage of “opioid abuse probable” Emergency Medical Services calls.

Baseline: 1.7% (2017) **Current:** 3.2% (2023) **Target:** 0

Opioid Abuse Probable Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Calls Dashboard

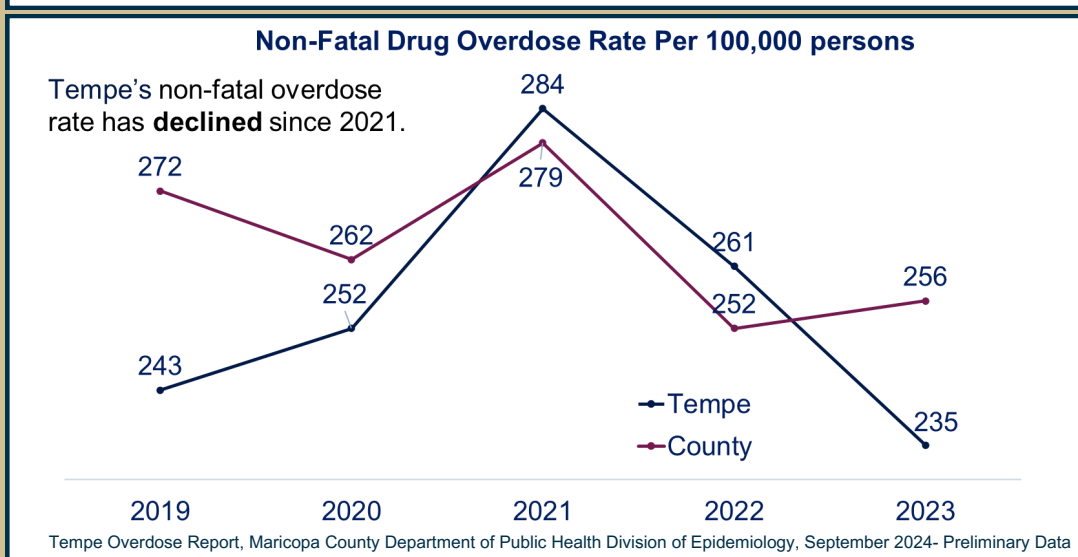
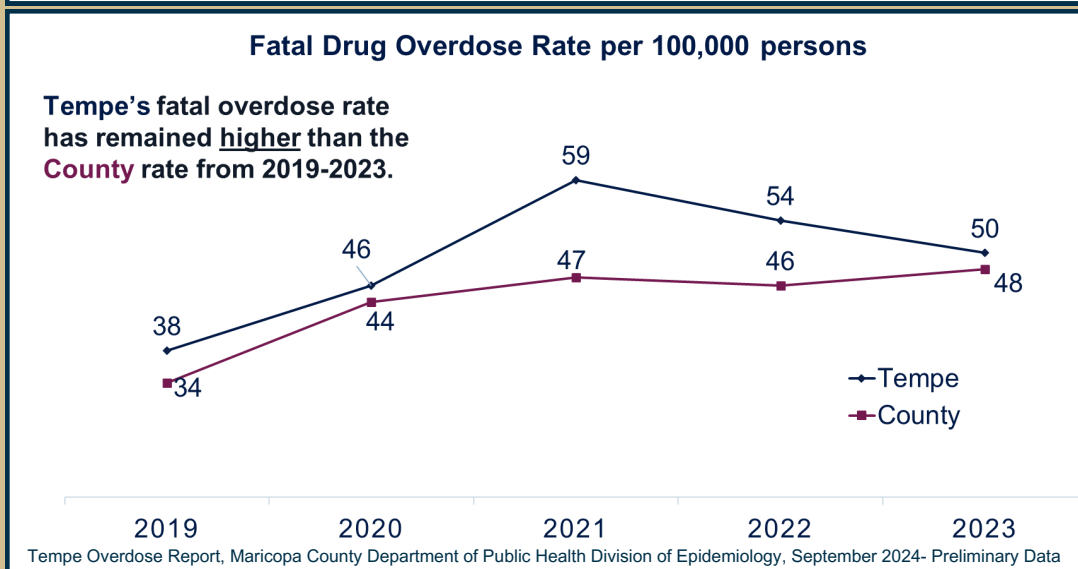
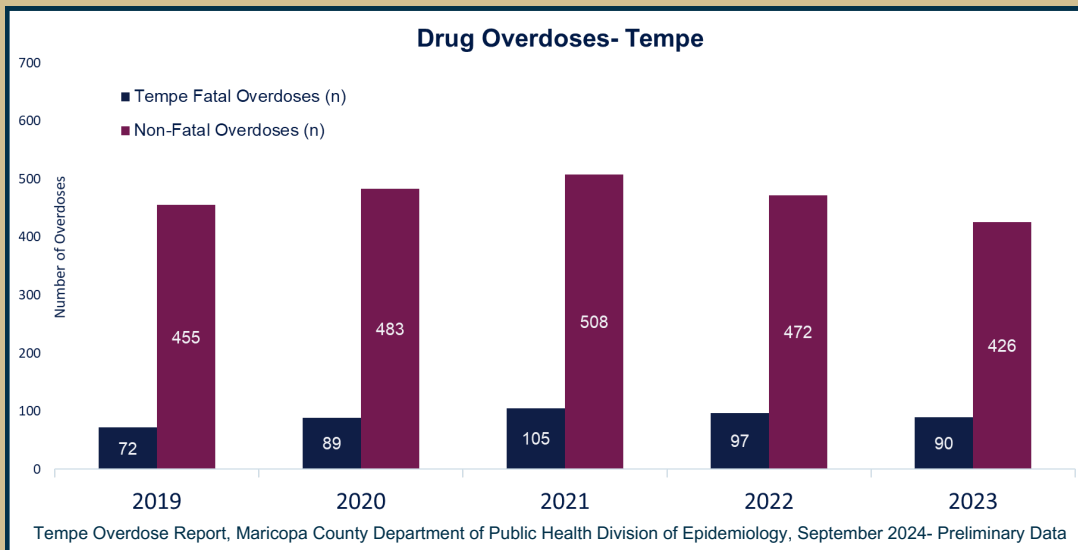
Tempe’s [Opioid Abuse Probable EMS Calls Dashboard](#) includes details on the demographics and locations of probable opioid abuse calls for service, the times they occur, and the administration of Narcan. This dashboard helps Tempe and its partners allocate public safety and health resources more effectively and informs decisions on current and future strategies. Data from 2017 to the current month is available. The illustration below highlights data from 2023.



2- Tempe Opioid Response Plan 2024-25

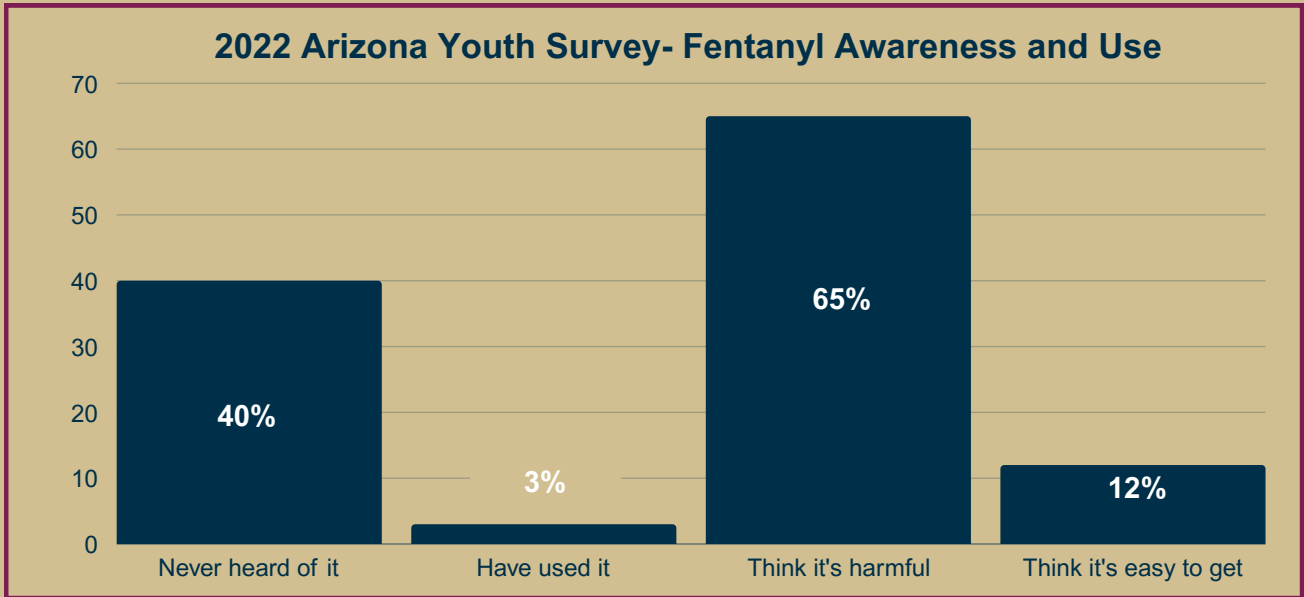
Tempe Overdose Data

Tempe receives drug overdose data from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). The data indicates that a significant number of fatal overdoses are associated with opioids, particularly fentanyl. Following increases from 2019 to 2021, there has been a notable decline in overdoses, marked by a 14% reduction in fatal overdoses and a 16% decrease in non-fatal cases.



Opioids and Tempe Youth

The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) is administered every two years to 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. In 2022, all Tempe schools participated. The survey includes questions to assess youth substance use including opioids.



2022 Arizona Youth Survey, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING

In 2021, Tempe, along with the State of Arizona and other cities, towns, and counties, signed the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement (“One Arizona Agreement”). This agreement allows Arizona to receive a portion of the \$50 billion allocated across 10 national opioid settlements over 18 years, with Arizona's share designated at \$1.12 billion. The administration of these funds for Maricopa County and its cities is under the authority of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. The City of Tempe is allocated 3.27% of the County's share, with an expected \$9.2 million from 7 active settlements. The One Arizona Agreement outlines approved purposes for the opioid settlement funds for counties, cities and towns to follow. These funds provide an extraordinary opportunity to save lives, reduce harms caused by opioid misuse, and combat illicit opioid distribution.

National Opioid Settlements

- \$50 billion across 10 settlements
- Funds distributed over 18 years

One Arizona Agreement

- AZ share: \$1.12 billion
- MCDPH administrator for County and cities' shares

Tempe

- Tempe share: 3.27% of County allotment
- \$9.2 million projected total based on 7 active settlements
- Funds distributed over 18 years

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Tempe uses the following guiding principles in its planning:



Spend Money to Save Lives

Expand needed programs and use funds to supplement rather than replace existing spending.



Use Evidence to Guide Spending

Implement evidence-based programs and gather data for ongoing program and policy evaluation.



Invest in Prevention

Ensure response efforts include evidence-based primary prevention strategies designed to stop substance misuse before it starts.



Focus on Equity

Implement strategies to address the needs of populations with rising overdoses and impacted by historical discrimination.



Localize Data and Approaches

Ensure programs and strategies specifically reflect and meet the needs of Tempe.



Develop a Fair and Transparent Process for Spending the Funding

Engage with diverse community stakeholders to determine areas of need and develop ongoing plans.

[Principles for the Use of Funds From the Opioid Litigation, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2022](#)

OPIOID RESPONSE PLAN GOALS

1. Reduce opioid deaths in Tempe.
2. Improve the quality of life for those impacted by opioid use disorder.
3. Decrease the presence of opioids in Tempe.

STRATEGIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES

Addressing the opioid epidemic requires a multi-pronged approach that includes activities aimed at preventing opioid misuse from starting to those that support individuals in recovery and everything in between. The many opioid-related activities and programs underway and planned for the future are categorized into four strategy areas: Prevention, Recovery and Resiliency, Enforcement, and Capacity Building.

Before determining new strategies, the OCTIS Leadership Team reviewed local data, such as [needs assessments from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health](#), and compiled a comprehensive inventory of current programs. OCTIS also held work group meetings with

internal and external stakeholders to gather input on prioritizing strategies from the One Arizona Agreement in the areas of Prevention, Recovery and Resiliency, and Enforcement

Tempe's Opioid Strategy Areas

Prevention
Recovery and Resiliency
Enforcement
Capacity Building

to best address Tempe's needs. After work groups prioritized strategies, the OCTIS Leadership Team further evaluated and prioritized the recommended strategies, focusing on those most important and urgent to implement in FY24-25. As Tempe implements programs and activities during FY24-25, staff will develop sustainability plans to ensure that programs can continue with alternative funding sources. This approach will ensure the long-term sustainability of the programs and enable the implementation of additional strategies using future years' settlement funds.

PREVENTION

Prevention strategies include programs and activities focused on preventing opioid misuse from starting, increasing education and awareness of opioid use disorders, and providing information on how to access services.

Programs and Activities in Progress

Strategy	Program/Activity	Departments/Organizations
Evidenced-informed community and school-based education programs and campaigns.	<u>#ShatterStigmaAZ campaign</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue • Tempe Police Department
	<u>No Second Chances Campaign</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Tempe Union High School District • Drug Enforcement Administration
	<u>RISE in Fentanyl/Killer Among Us Educational Presentations</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • MATFORCE • Drug Enforcement Administration • Substance Awareness Coalition Leaders of Arizona • Arizona State University
	<u>Opioid Awareness Training for Middle and High School Students and Parents</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department
School-based or youth-focused programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing drug misuse.	<u>Botvin LifeSkills program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • NotMyKid • Tempe Union High School District • Kyrene School District
	<u>Triple P Teen program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Tempe Union High School District

PREVENTION

Programs and Activities in Progress

Strategy	Program/Activity	Departments/Organizations
Drug take-back, disposal or destruction programs.	<u>National Drug Take Back Day Events</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Tempe Police Department • Drug Enforcement Administration
	<u>MedReturn Drug Disposal</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Arizona Attorney General's Office
Training and education regarding naloxone (Narcan).	<u>Narcan Administration Training/ShattertheStigmaAZ</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Drug Enforcement Administration • Substance Awareness Coalition Leaders of Arizona
Distribution of naloxone (Narcan).	<u>Naloxone Leave Behind Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue
	<u>Narcan Administration Training/ShattertheStigmaAZ</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Community Council/Tempe Coalition • Drug Enforcement Administration • Substance Awareness Coalition Leaders of Arizona
Mental health services and supports for young people to address mental health needs in young people that (when not properly addressed) increase the risk of opioid or other drug misuse.	<u>Care 7 Youth Specialist Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health and Human Services Department • Tempe Union High School District • Tempe Elementary School District

NEW FY24-25 Programs and Activities

School-based or youth-focused programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing drug misuse.	<u>Botvin LifeSkills Training</u>	Expand in Tempe schools and youth-serving organizations. Locations and grades to be determined in collaboration with education and youth-serving partners.
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RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

Recovery is a journey towards wellness. Strategies include treatment, peer and social support, counseling, human services, and activities that reduce stigma related to substance use.

Programs and Activities in Progress

Strategy	Program/Activity	Departments/Organizations
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Officer intervention / “Naloxone Plus” strategies, which work to ensure that individuals who have received naloxone to reverse the effects of an overdose are then linked to treatment programs or other appropriate services.	<u>Tempe First-Responder Opioid Recovery Project</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department • EMPACT • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue • Arizona State University • California State University, Long Beach
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Centralized hotline services that provide information and connections to appropriate services and supports.	<u>Care 7 Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health and Human Services Department
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NEW FY24-25 Programs and Activities

Support or expand peer-recovery, which may include support groups, social events, computer access, or other services for persons with Opioid Use Disorder and any co-occurring Substance Use/Mental Health conditions, co-usage, and/or co-addiction.	<u>Recovery peer navigators, recovery coaches and case management services.</u>	Contract services to be determined through request for proposals process.
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Support pre-trial services that connect individuals with Opioid Use Disorder and any co-occurring Substance Use/Mental Health conditions, co-usage, and/or co-addiction to evidence-informed treatment and related services.	<u>Tempe Community Supervision-Recovery Navigator Program</u>	Customize navigator service to connect individuals to treatment and recovery services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health and Human Services Department • Tempe Municipal Court
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ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement strategies include targeting the supply and distribution of opioids and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, and supporting public safety personnel in program administration.

Programs and Activities in Progress

Strategy	Program/Activity	Departments/Organizations
Drug Enforcement and Suppression.	<u>Local and regional investigations and drug seizure operations.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department • Arizona Attorney General's Office • Drug Enforcement Administration • Maricopa County Drug Suppression Taskforce
	<u>High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department • Transportation and Sustainability Department • Information and Technology Department
	<u>Real Time Operations Center</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department

NEW FY24-25 Programs and Activities

Training on best practices for addressing the needs of criminal-justice involved persons with Opioid Use Disorder and any co-occurring Substance Use/Mental Health conditions to law enforcement, correctional, or judicial personnel or to providers of treatment, recovery, case management, or other services.	Opioid and Substance Use Related Trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department • Tempe Municipal Court • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue • Community Health and Human Services • Other organizations to be determined
Drug Enforcement and Suppression.	OCTIS Hot Spot Strategy Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Police Department • Strategic Management and Innovation Office • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department • Community Development Office • Neighborhood Services Office • City Attorney's Office

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building strategies are focused on enhancing Tempe’s response to the opioid crisis through investing in infrastructure and staffing for improved collaboration, providing resources for effective oversight of opioid abatement programs, and tracking and analyzing key opioid-related indicators and supports to inform strategy and services.

Programs and Activities in Progress

Strategy	Program/Activity	Departments/Organizations
Maintain government dashboards to track key opioid-related indicators and supports.	<u>Wastewater BioIntel Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Management and Innovation Office • Public Works Department • Centers for Disease Control • Arizona Department of Health Services • Maricopa County Department of Public Health • Information and Technology Department
	<u>Opioid Abuse Probable EMS Calls Dashboard</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department • Information Technology Department
Community planning to identify goals for reducing harms related to the opioid epidemic.	Opioid Crisis – Tempe Innovative Solutions (OCTIS) Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Manager’s Office • Strategic Management and Innovation Office • Community Health and Human Services Department • Tempe Fire and Medical Rescue Department • Tempe Police Department • Information and Technology Department • Tempe Community Council • Maricopa County Department of Public Health

NEW FY24-25 Programs and Activities

Invest in infrastructure and staff to support collaborative, cross-system coordination with the purpose of opioid misuse, opioid overdoses, and treating those with Opioid Use Disorder.	<p>Recruit, select and onboard staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Manager (1 FTE) • Community Health Workers (2 FTE). <p>Administrative and operational support for opioid programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health and Human Services Department • Human Resources Department
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Arizona Department of Health Services Opioid Assistance and Referral Line

The Arizona Opioid Assistance and Referral (OAR) Line offers opioid information, resources, and referrals for providers and the public.

Center for Disease Control: Treatment of Substance Use Disorders Overdose Prevention

Information on substance use disorder (SUD) and treatment and recovery options.

City of Tempe Opioid Abuse Probable EMS Calls Dashboard

Tempe data dashboard that provides information on local opioid-related calls for service and the administration of Narcan.

Wastewater BioIntel Program Dashboard

Tempe data dashboard analyzing the presence of opioids in wastewater.

Maricopa County Department of Public Health: Overdose Data

Overdose data reporting provided by Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

Maricopa County Department of Public Health: Opioid and Substance Use Needs Assessment Report July 2023

Report presents findings about the response to opioid and other substance use in Maricopa County. This assessment informed Tempe's strategy selection.

Maricopa County Department of Public Health: People Who Use Drugs Report

Report highlights experiences of people who use drugs with service utilization, unmet needs, and suggested service improvements. This report informed Tempe's strategy selection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tempe would like to thank the following city departments and partners for their continued collaboration and dedication in advancing its efforts to respond to the opioid crisis.

Arizona State University
City Attorney's Office
City Manager's Office
Community Health and Human Services Department
Community Services Department
Information Technology Department
Kyrene School District
La Frontera Arizona / EMPACT
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
The Pathway Program
Strategic Management and Innovation Office
Tempe Coalition
Tempe Community Council
Tempe Elementary School District
Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department
Tempe Police Department
Tempe Union High School District

Contact

tempe.gov/opioids

City of Tempe
Community Health and Human Services Department
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Tempe, Arizona 85282
480-350-5400

