

Plymouth County Outreach

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Plymouth County Outreach 2021 Annual Report

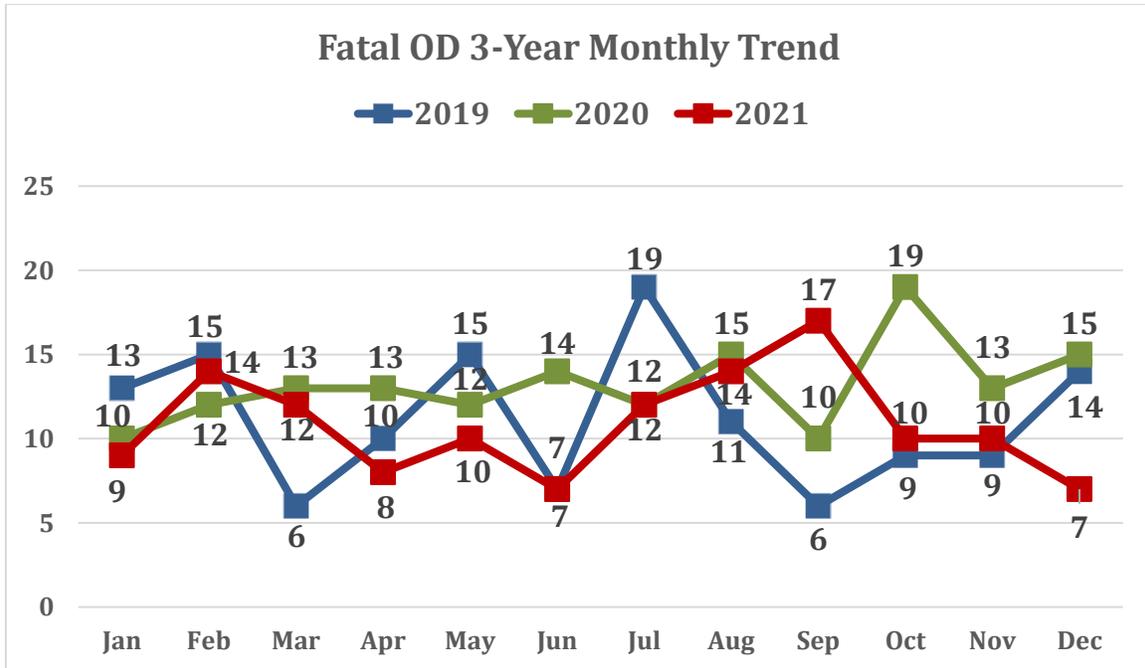
Part I: 2021 Overall Incident Data

Total Overdoses Reported

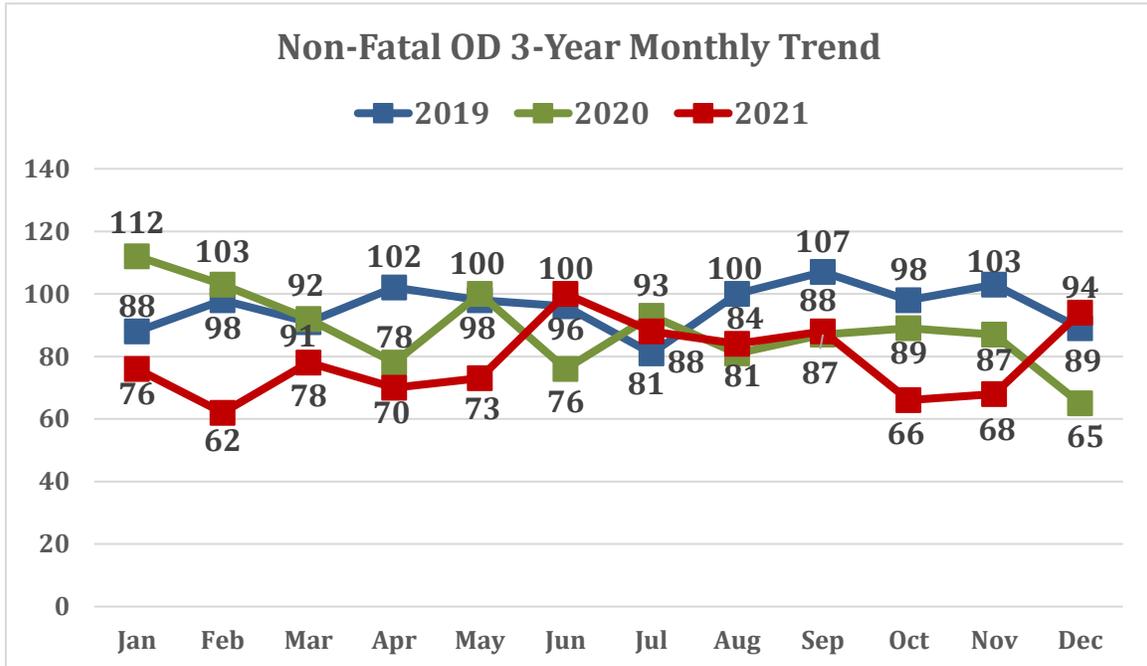
There were **1,496 total incidents** entered into the Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) for the time frame of 1/1/21 and 12/31/21. This represents a **5% increase** over the 2020 total of 1,420.

Incident Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2020 v 2021
Non-Fatal	1,529 (87%)	1,338 (83%)	1,151 (79%)	1,063 (75%)	947 (63%)	-11%
Fatal	147 (8%)	121 (7%)	134 (9%)	158 (11%)	130 (9%)	-18%
At-Risk	80 (5%)	159 (10%)	175 (12%)	199 (14%)	419 (28%)	+110%
Total	1756 (100%)	1,618 (100%)	1,460 (100%)	1,420 (100%)	1,496 (100%)	+5%

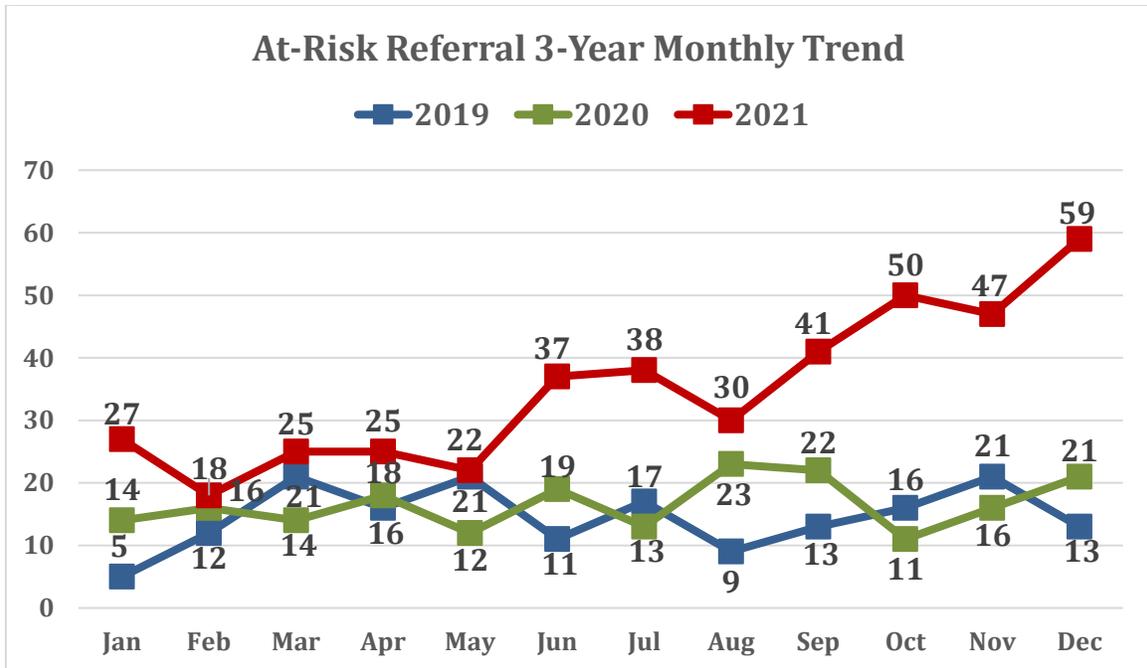
Trend Data



There was on average 10.8 fatal ODs per month, or 130 total, in the County in 2021. This is an **18% decrease** over the 2020 monthly average of 13.2, or 158 total. The highest monthly total in 2021 occurred in September (17) and the lowest monthly total in 2021 occurred in June (7) and December (7).



There was on average 78.9 non-fatal ODs per month, or 947 total, in the County in 2021. This is an **11% decrease** over the 2020 monthly average of 88.6 or 1,063. The highest monthly total in 2021 occurred in June (100) and the lowest monthly total in 2021 occurred in February (62).



There was on average 34.9 at-risk individuals identified per month, or 419 total, in the County in 2021. This is a **110% increase** over the 2020 monthly average of 16.6 or 199. The highest monthly totals in 2021 occurred in December (59) and the lowest monthly total occurred in February (18).

An increase in the at-risk category is never determined to be a negative program outcome as it indicates the proactive efforts of the PCO partners in identifying individuals needing assistance prior to an overdose occurring. In addition, in 2021 some communities began using the At-Risk referral category to identify individuals with Alcohol Use Disorder which was a contributing factor to the significant increase in the number of at-risk referrals during the year.

2021 Overdose Incident Information

The following analysis involved the 1,077 non-fatal and fatal overdose incidents only.

Top Five Communities

Seventy-six percent (819) of the total fatal and non-fatal overdoses (1,077) reported in the County occurred in the following five communities:

- Brockton 444 (41%)
- Plymouth 156 (15%)
- Wareham 105 (10%)
- Middleborough 79 (7%)
- Marshfield 35 (3%)

Jurisdiction Information

- Same Jurisdiction 760 (71%)
- Different Jurisdiction 317 (29%)

Over one-quarter of the overdose incidents (29%, n=317) were multi-jurisdictional events, meaning the person overdosed in a different town than where they reside.

Opiate Involvement

- Suspected Opiate Involvement 746 (69%)
- Known Opiate Involvement 220 (21%)
- No Opiate Involvement 111 (10%)

The vast majority, 90% (966), of the 2021 overdose incidents involved a known or suspected opiate. Only 10% (111) of the overdose incidents recorded in CIMS involved some other type of drug. Ninety-seven percent (126) of the 130 fatal overdoses involved a known or suspected opiate. There were only four fatal overdoses that did not involve an opiate.

Naloxone Administration

- Yes 720 (67%)
- No 357 (33%)

In over two-thirds of the overdose incidents, 67% (720), Naloxone was administered at the scene. Of those 720 known administrations:

- EMS/Fire Administered 358 (50%)
- Police Administered 257 (36%)
- 3rd Party Administered 185 (26%)

As a note, this data can add to more than 100% since multiple agencies/individuals can administer Naloxone at one incident. Police administered Naloxone at 36% (257) of the overdose incidents where it was necessary, and Fire or EMS administered Naloxone at 50% (358) of the overdose incidents. Some other 3rd Party (friend/family/passers-by) administered Naloxone in 26% (185) of the overdose incidents prior to EMS, Fire, or Police arrival.

Of the 720 incidents where Naloxone was administered, 94% (677) of the individuals survived the overdose. The remaining 43 incidents (6%) resulted in a fatality.

Hospital Transports

- Yes 988 (92%)
- No 89 (8%)

Individuals were transported to the hospital in 92% (988) of the overdose incidents recorded in CIMS.

The 988 individuals were transported to the following hospitals:

- Brockton Hospital 285 (29%)
- Good Samaritan 209 (21%)
- BID Plymouth 196 (20%)
- Tobey Hospital 115 (12%)
- South Shore Hospital 110 (11%)
- Morton Hospital 71 (7%)
- St. Luke's Hospital 2 (<1%)

Children Involved

Forty-four overdose incidents (4%) occurred with children present at the scene and 44 (100%) of those overdose incidents involving children resulted in a 51A being filed. Fifty-nine (6%) of the individuals that overdosed were reported to have children associated with them, whether they were present at the scene or not.

Part II. Demographic Data

The following analysis includes information on all individuals involved in overdose incidents and at-risk referrals (1,496).

Total Individuals Involved (ODs and At-Risk)

The 1,496 total overdoses and at-risk referrals involved 1,259 unique individuals.

- 1,098 (87%) individuals had one event recorded in CIMS in 2021
- 114 (9%) individuals had two events recorded in CIMS in 2021
- 31 (2%) individuals had three events recorded in CIMS in 2021
- 11 (1%) individuals had four events recorded in CIMS in 2021
- 3 (<1%) individuals had five events recorded in CIMS in 2021
- 1 (<1%) individual had seven events recorded in CIMS in 2021
- 1 (<1%) individual had eleven events recorded in CIMS in 2021

The 161 individuals with multiple events recorded in 2021 were involved in 398 (27%) of the reported overdose or at-risk referrals.

Unique Individual Demographic Information (1,259 Individuals)

Gender

- Male 836 (66%)
- Female 423 (34%)

The majority of individuals (66%, n=836) involved in overdose or at-risk referrals reported in 2021 were male. The distribution of approximately two-thirds male to one-third female has remained consistent since 2017.

Incident Category & Gender

	Male	Female
Fatal	100 (12%)	29 (7%)
Non-Fatal	511 (61%)	274 (65%)
At-Risk	225 (27%)	120 (28%)
Total	836 (100%)	423 (100%)

Twelve percent (100) of the males died as a result of the overdose event while only 7% (29) of the females died following the overdose. Of note, the percentage of females that died as a result of their overdose decreased from 13% (51) in 2020 to this 7% (29) in 2021.

The number of At-Risk referrals increased significantly (+111%) in 2021 which means the percentage of male and female at-risk referrals is also at an all-time high. For example, the percentage of males recorded as at-risk individuals has steadily increased over time from 8% (69) in 2018 to 11% (87) in 2019 to 15% (111) in 2020, and now 27% (225) in 2021. The percentage of females recorded as at-risk had remained consistent until 2021 at approximately 15% until this significant increase to 28% (120) in 2021. Again, this increase in part was an outcome of some communities using this referral category in 2021 to identify individuals with Alcohol Use Disorder and provide services to this population as well. As stated earlier, an increase in the at-risk category is never determined to be a negative program outcome as it indicates the proactive efforts of the PCO partners in identifying individuals that need assistance and resource information.

Age

➤ 19 or younger	51 (4%)
➤ 20 – 29	216 (17%)
➤ 30 – 39	430 (34%)
➤ 40 – 49	247 (20%)
➤ 50 – 59	199 (16%)
➤ 60+	108 (8%)
➤ Unknown	8 (1%)

Fifty-four percent (677) of the individuals involved in an overdose or at-risk referral in 2021 were between the ages of 30 and 49. Only 4% (51) of the individuals were 19 or younger. The youngest individual recorded was 13 years old and the oldest individual was 87 years old. The youngest fatal overdose involved a 19 year-old and the oldest fatal overdose involved a 72 year-old.

There was an interesting shift in age range between 2020 and 2021 with individuals experiencing overdose events or being the subject of at-risk referrals being older than the population of individuals in 2020. For example, the percentage of individuals between the ages of 20 and 29 decreased from 23% in 2020 to only 17% in 2021 while the percentage of 60 years old and older rose from only 4% in 2020 to 8% in 2021. Analyzing the number of individuals in both of these categories, finds a 17% decrease in 20–29 individuals (261 to 216) and a 104% increase in 60+ individuals (53 to 108).

Race

➤ White	1,085 (86%)
➤ Black/ AA	154 (12%)
➤ Other	20 (2%)

The vast majority (86%, n=1,085) of individuals involved in overdose or at-risk referral were categorized as White in CIMS.

Homelessness

Twelve percent (154) of the unique individuals involved in an overdose or at-risk referral in 2021 were homeless at the time of the last recorded event for the year. Of those 154 individuals, 59% (91) overdosed or were identified as at-risk in the City of Brockton and 15% (23) in the Town of Plymouth. The other 40 individuals were recorded as homeless by twelve other towns in Plymouth County.

Part III. Follow-Up Visit Data

Of the 1,496 overdose incidents and at-risk referrals in 2021, 72% (1,070) of the events warranted a follow-up visit and in 70% (750) of those 1,070 cases a follow-up visit was also intended. A follow-up visit is warranted if hospital partners indicate this during the PCO notification process, or for most of the at-risk entries that do not involve a hospital partner. This would indicate to the team that the individual that overdosed or was referred needed additional services. A follow-up visit is intended if the town where the individual resides intends to visit the individual's home with the outreach team. Some reasons why a follow-up would be warranted but not intended would include: the person is homeless so there is no address to visit; the person lives out of the program jurisdiction; or the person has a warrant, or a Section 35 has been requested.

There were 1,255 attempted home visits throughout 2021. Of these 1,255 attempted home visits, the teams were successful in contacting someone in 61% (762) of these visits. Successful contact was made with:

- Contact with Individual that Overdosed/Referred 395 (52%)
- Contact with Family/Friend 304 (40%)
- Contact with BOTH (F/F and Individual) 63 (8%)

In 458 (60%) of the successful follow-up visits (762) the Outreach team had contact with the individual who had overdosed or was referred. The outcomes of these 458 visits include:

- Individual Accepted Services 340 (74%)
- Individual was Already Seeking Services 55 (12%)
- Individual Declined Services 63 (14%)

Seventy-four percent (340) of the 458 successful visits where the individual who overdosed was contacted, resulted in that person accepting resource and service options from the Outreach Team. Another 12% (55) of these individuals were already seeking services by the time the Outreach Team conducted the home visit. Fourteen percent (63) of the individuals contacted by the team declined assistance at that time.

In 367 (48%) of the successful follow-up visits (762) the Outreach team had contact with a family member or friend of the individual who had overdosed. The outcomes of all 367 successful family follow-up visits include:

- Family/Friend Accepted Services 290 (79%)
- Family/Friend Declined Services 77 (21%)

Similar to the successful visits with the individual that overdoses, 79% (290) of the 367 successful visits where a family/friend was contacted, resulted in that family/friend accepting support services from the Outreach Team. The other 21% (77) of the family/friends contacted by the team declined support services at that time.

In addition to regular contact with a family member during a normal home visit, there are two distinct family focused outreach visits being conducted including visits by a Family Support Specialist (44 in 2021) and visits by the Family Grief Counselor (54 in 2021). These visits are included in the family/friend visits reported on above. The Family Support Specialist is an individual with lived experience helping a loved one with Substance Use Disorder. This staff person visits homes where a family member has specifically requested additional assistance beyond just a resource packet. The Family Grief Counselor visits families following a fatal overdose of a loved one.

Records from 223 follow-up visits noted that Naloxone was distributed during the follow-up visit. In 98 of these visits, the Naloxone was distributed to the individual that overdosed, in 109 visits the Naloxone was distributed to a family member or friend, and in 16 visits Naloxone was distributed to both the individual that overdosed and a family/friend. A total of 448 units/224 boxes were distributed during these 223 home visits according to data entered in CIMS. Of note, Naloxone distribution increased by 100% from just 112 boxes in 2020 to 224 boxes in 2021.

Additional assistance provided at the follow-up visits include providing information about community resources for the family and the individual with substance use disorder. Of the 762 successful follow-up visits, 94% (715) of these visits involved the individuals being advised of other resources in the community including:

- EB/Plymouth HOPE 52% (369)
- Champion Plan 51% (365)
- Wareham Drop-In 29% (209)
- Other Resources 54% (388)*

*can add to more than 100% since individuals can be referred to multiple locations.

In addition, while on these home visits, 354 resource packets were provided to the individuals with substance use disorder, 233 family/friend resource packets were provided to the families, and 36 fatal resource packets were provided for families who had experienced the death of a loved one.

A new PCO initiative in 2021 involves the distribution of Harm Reduction Kits which include Naloxone, Fentanyl test strips, first aid supplies, a sharps container, and resource information. Harm reduction kits were created in the spring of 2021 and distribution began in May. A total of 80 harm reduction kits were distributed during successful follow-up home visits between May and December 2021. It should be noted the Naloxone contained in these kits is included in number of Naloxone units reported above. It is not in addition to those numbers.

Finally, 38 follow-up records indicated a Section 35 had been filed, this is a significant 123% increase from the 2020 total of 17. The majority of these were initiated by family members rather than police. Record keeping for this data point was also improved in 2021 with PCO staff updating records when they learned a section 35 had been initiated by a family member. This distinction of police or non-police initiation will be added to CIMS in 2022 to further clarify this important data point. To date, the number of reports of Section 35 has been decreasing steadily since a high of 52 in 2017 to 32 in 2018 to 16 in 2019. Then in 2020 the number remained consistent at 17 before experiencing this increase in 2021 to 38.

The 1,255 attempted follow-up visits by the Outreach Teams were conducted in conjunction with the following towns:

Town	Follow-Ups Attempted	Town	Follow-Ups Attempted
Abington	42 (3%)	Marshfield	72 (6%)
Bridgewater	37 (3%)	Mattapoissett	8 (1%)
Brockton	161 (13%)	Middleborough	113 (9%)
Carver	52 (4%)	Norwell	20 (2%)
Duxbury	29 (2%)	Pembroke	47 (4%)
East Bridgewater	74 (6%)	Plymouth	269 (21%)
Halifax	15 (1%)	Plympton	11 (1%)
Hanover	3 (<1%)	Rochester	3 (<1%)
Hanson	18 (1%)	Rockland	37 (3%)
Hingham	5 (<1%)	Scituate	10 (1%)
Hull	48 (4%)	Wareham	68 (6%)
Kingston	27 (2%)	West Bridgewater	14 (1%)
Lakeville	12 (1%)	Whitman	59 (5%)
Marion	1 (<1%)		

Part IV. Overall Repeat Overdose Analysis

Analysis of the data between January 2016 and December 2021 indicate 9,301 overdose incidents or at-risk referrals have been recorded in CIMS. These 9,301 total overdoses and at-risk referrals involved 6,021 unique individuals. Of these 6,021 unique individuals:

- 4,418 (73%) had only one overdose/referral between 2016 - 2021
- 911 (15%) had two overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021
- 333 (6%) had three overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021
- 167 (3%) had four overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021
- 192 (3%) had **five or more** overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021

Twenty-seven percent (1,603) of the unique individuals experienced two or more events in the six-year time frame. The person with the most records in CIMS was involved in 37 non-fatal overdose incidents or at-risk referrals between 2016 and 2021. The 692 individuals with three or more overdose/referrals were involved in 33% (3,061) of the events recorded in CIMS during this time frame.

Part V. Overall Fatal Overdose Analysis

An overall fatal overdose analysis (2016 – 2021) was conducted to determine if individuals involved in a fatal overdose in 2021 were involved in prior non-fatal events or at-risk referrals, or if that fatal event was their first event recorded in CIMS. The analysis was then compared to the results from this analysis completed in 2020.

There were 130 fatal overdoses recorded in 2021. Sixty-four percent (83) of those individuals involved in a 2021 fatal event had no prior records in CIMS. Therefore, 36% (47) of the involved individuals had at least one prior event including:

- 27 (58%) had one prior overdose/referral between 2016 - 2021
- 8 (17%) had two prior overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021
- 3 (6%) had three prior overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021
- 9 (19%) had **four or more** prior overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2021

The individual with the most prior incidents in 2021 had ten prior non-fatal overdose events entered between 6/24/16 and the day of the fatal event, 2/3/21.

There were 158 fatal overdoses in 2020. Fifty-nine percent (94) of those individuals involved in a 2020 fatal event had no prior records in CIMS. Therefore, 41% (64) of the involved individuals had at least one prior event including:

- 28 (44%) had one prior overdose/referral between 2016 - 2020
- 16 (25%) had two prior overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2020
- 12 (19%) had three prior overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2020
- 8 (12%) had **four or more** prior overdoses/referrals between 2016 - 2020

The individual with the most prior incidents in 2020 had fifteen prior non-fatal overdose events and one at-risk referral entered between 1/28/16 and the day of the fatal event, 12/30/20.

In summary, a higher percentage of fatal overdoses were first time events in 2021 (64%) vs. 2020 (59%).

Part VI. Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program BJA Grant Activity

Plymouth County Outreach was awarded a second Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program (COSSAP) grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the time frame of 10/1/20 through 9/30/23. The goals of this grant project are below.

- **Goal 1:** Continue the Tier 2 intervention strategy to provide outreach and intensive case management services to those individuals experiencing three or more overdose incidents or at-risk referrals in six months, modified to also include two or more overdose events or at-risk referrals in one month.
- **Goal 2:** Expand outreach efforts to overdose hot spot locations as identified through mapping fatal and non-fatal incidents entered in CIMS.
- **Goal 3:** Develop a Re-Entry Initiative through a partnership with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department to identify those individuals being released from the House of Correction with a history of substance use disorder that would benefit from outreach efforts upon their arrival back in the community.
- **Goal 4:** Expand the supplies available in the Harm Reduction Kits distributed at home visits, during outreach efforts, and during community events.

Goal 1: Tier 2 Strategy Update

The initial Tier 2 list was created on April 1, 2019 and included nine individuals with three or more overdose incidents/at-risk referrals between 10/1/18 and 3/31/19. The criteria for inclusion on the Tier 2 list was expanded in October 2020 to include individuals with two or more overdose or at-risk referrals in a one-month time frame. This additional criterion was added in response to the trend of individuals experiencing multiple overdoses in a very short time frame resulting in a Fatal overdose before they were able to be identified as a Tier 2 client. This trend first appeared in the summer of 2020 and as it continued into the fall this addition was made to the Tier 2 criteria.

As of December 31, 2021, a total of 196 individuals have met the requirements for inclusion on the Tier 2 client list. At the close of 2021, there were 72 active individuals who are identified as Tier 2 clients including:

- 35 who met the criteria of 3+ ODs or referrals in six months,
- 33 who met the criteria of 2+ ODs or referrals in one month, and
- 4 who were identified by the Tier 2 team as high-risk and appropriate for intensive case management.

The 72 active Tier 2 clients at the close of 2021 were involved in:

- 110 overdose incidents or at-risk referrals within the past six months
- 353 total overdose/referrals recorded in CIMS between 2016 – 2021, an average of 4.9 overdose/referrals per Tier 2 client.

In addition, there were also 124 Tier 2 clients who had been moved to “Inactive” status. The reasons for moving an individual to Inactive status can include:

- Successful program completion -1 yr+ of recovery (6 clients)
- Inability to locate the person/moved/ no contact for 6+ months (65 clients)
- Deceased (26 clients),
- Transfer to the Re-Entry Initiative (8)
- Transfer to the Champion Plan COSSAP Project (7 clients),
- Individual requested the end of contacts; refused to sign contact waiver (6 clients),
- Incarceration or long-term treatment/medical placement for 6+ months (2 clients),
- Other: dangerousness, warrant, mental health reasons, staff removal (4 clients)

The number of Tier 2 clients increased by 66% throughout 2021 from 118 total clients at the close of 2020 to 196 total clients by the end of 2021.

Tier 2 Active Clients: Demographic Information (72 Individuals)

Gender

- Male 42 (58%)
- Female 30 (42%)

Over half, 58% (42), of the Tier 2 clients are males while 42% (30) are females.

Age

➤ 19 or younger	5 (7%)
➤ 20 – 29	16 (22%)
➤ 30 – 39	24 (33%)
➤ 40 – 49	16 (22%)
➤ 50 – 59	7 (10%)
➤ 60+	4 (6%)

Fifty-five percent (40) of the Tier 2 clients are between the ages of 20 and 39. The youngest Tier 2 client is 16 years old and the oldest client is 67 years old.

Race

➤ White	66 (92%)
➤ Black/ AA	6 (8%)

The vast majority of Tier 2 clients, 92% (66), are categorized as White in CIMS.

Residency

Tier 2 clients reside in 17 different towns in Plymouth County. The majority, 21% (15), are residents of Brockton with 53% (8) of these individuals listed as homeless in the City of Brockton. Another 21% (15) are residents of Plymouth with 20% (3) of these individuals listed as homeless within the Town of Plymouth. Ten percent (7) of the clients are from Wareham followed by 7% (5) from Pembroke, 7% (5) from Middleborough, 7% (5) from East Bridgewater, and 6% (4) from Marshfield. The other 21 clients are from 10 different towns in Plymouth County.

Tier 2 Follow-Up Visit Information

There were 1,214 attempted home visits by the Tier 2 team between 1/1/21 and 12/31/21. Of these 1,214 attempted home visits, the team was successful in contacting someone in 54% (657) of these visits. The 657 successful contacts were made with:

➤ Contact with the Tier 2 client	520 (79%)
➤ Contact with Family/Friend	118 (18%)
➤ Contact with BOTH (F/F and Individual)	19 (3%)

In 539 (82%) of the successful follow-up visits (657) the Outreach team had contact with the Tier 2 client. The outcomes of the 539 visits include:

➤ Individual Accepted Services	347 (64%)
➤ Individual was Already Seeking Services	178 (33%)
➤ Individual Declined Services	14 (3%)

The majority of the 539 successful visits where the Tier 2 client was contacted, 64% (347), the individual accepted the offer of services from the outreach team. Another 33% (178) of the visits resulted in the individual already seeking services which is consistent with the intensive case management model since most of these visits are repeat visits to the same individuals who have already been connected to services. Only 3% (14) of the visits resulted in the individual declining outreach support.

In 137 (21%) of these follow-up visits the Outreach team also had contact with a family member or friend of the individual who overdosed. In 55% (76) of these contacts the family member or friend also accepted services from the Outreach team.

Records from 35 follow-up visits noted that Naloxone was distributed during the follow-up visit. In 23 of these visits, the Naloxone was distributed to the Tier 2 client, in 11 visits the Naloxone was distributed to a family member or friend and in one visit the Naloxone was distributed to both the Tier 2 client and a family member or friend. A total of 74 units were distributed during these 35 home visits according to data entered in CIMS.

Additional assistance provided at the follow-up visits include providing information about community resources for the family and the individual with substance use disorder. Of the 657 successful follow-up visits, 32% (212) of these visits involved the individuals being advised of other resources in the community including:

- EB/Plymouth HOPE 25% (54)
- Champion Plan 20% (43)
- Wareham Drop-In 14% (30)
- Other Resources 80% (169)*

*can add to more than 100% since individuals can be referred to multiple locations.

In addition, while on these home visits, sixteen resource packets were provided to the Tier 2 clients and fourteen Family/Friend resource packets were provided to the families. Twelve Harm Reduction Kits were distributed while conducting these home visits as well. Finally, six follow-up records indicated a Section 35 had been filed.

Goal 2: Hot-Spot Outreach Strategy Update

Hot spot areas were mapped during the 1st quarter of 2021 using the 2020 fatal and non-fatal overdose incident location data. Following the mapping project, the “hot spot” outreach efforts were developed around those areas identified as hot spot areas for overdose incidents. The Tier 2 Case Manager also serves as the Hot Spot Outreach Coordinator and began visiting three specific hot spot areas in 2021.

First, in March 2021, outreach efforts began at the Wareham Community Outreach Drop-in in Wareham, MA every Monday evening for two hours. At the drop-in center, the Hot Spot Coordinator would interact with members of the community and provide them with Narcan, harm reduction kits, and other resources. This PCO staff member would actively post on her PCO social media about her involvement with Wareham Community Outreach and encourage community members to attend. The Outreach Coordinator also began holding an all-inclusive peer recovery support group that she facilitated during the drop-in hours at the Wareham Community Outreach Drop-In location to provide an in-person option for community members. Unfortunately, as of December 20, 2021 the Wareham Community Outreach Drop-In program was suspended so the Outreach Coordinator will be developing new methods of continuing outreach efforts in this area in 2022.

Second, in April 2021, the Hot Spot Outreach Coordinator began working at the Algonquin Community Garden in Plymouth, MA in an effort to engage with some of the high-risk individuals who reside there. The outreach effort at this location involved the PCO staff member attending regular garden meetings with community members once a week for an hour each time. The Outreach Coordinator would invite individuals to meet with her while she gardened by posting her garden hours on Algonquin’s social media and in their newsletter. This strategy was aimed at making people feel more comfortable engaging with the Outreach Coordinator while she was gardening as opposed to standing behind a resource table. The Outreach Coordinator continued this strategy until the garden closed for the fall/winter season. At that time, she transitioned to hosting a more traditional resource table once a month at the Food Pantry which is located on the same property and serves the same community members.

In May 2021 hot spot outreach efforts began at the Homeless Improvement Project in Brockton, MA every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00pm. The Outreach Coordinator built trust with the community members who were present at this location. By making herself available in-person on a weekly basis at a consistent time she was able to locate several Tier 2 individuals who were homeless, and the team had been unable to locate for several months. The Outreach Coordinator continued these efforts throughout 2021 building trust within the community and providing assistance with things like securing bed placement and transportation, emergency phone applications, MOUD induction, and shelter placement, and more.

The Outreach Coordinator also partnered with the Stairway to Recovery (Recovery Center) in Brockton to hold a city clean-up event where she interacted with community members and supplied backpacks, harm reduction kits, and resources. She also attended the Stairway to Recovery Anniversary event where she hosted a traditional resource table and distributed harm reduction and homeless assistance supplies to the community.

The Outreach Coordinator along with other PCO staff members also hosted resource tables at a variety of locations throughout Plymouth County. At these events, the Outreach Coordinator interacts with the members of the community and provides Naloxone, harm reductions kits, and other resources.

Goal 3: Re-Entry Initiative Update

The Re-Entry Case Management Client List was established on April 25, 2021 and included seven clients. Six of these clients were existing active or inactive Tier 2 clients with known prior incarcerations and one was a staff request of an individual known to the outreach team with substance use disorder and prior incarceration history. At the close of 2021, the Re-Entry Client List had expanded to ten individuals. Nine of these clients remained active as of December 31, 2021, and one client had been moved to Inactive Status following a fatal overdose event. All the re-entry clients identified in 2021 were active or inactive Tier 2 clients or staff requests.

The policies and procedures for the cooperative referral program between PCO and the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department were finalized in the Fall of 2021 and re-entry referrals from the House of Correction are scheduled to begin in January 2022. Providing case management support to re-entry clients prior to their release from the Plymouth County House of Correction will also begin in 2022 as Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and PCO staff are able to enter the House of Correction to meet with clients and provide in-house case management services.

Goal 4: Harm Reduction Supplies Update

Harm reduction kits were created and included Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strips, first aid supplies, a sharps container, and resource information. These Harm Reduction kits were distributed by the Outreach Teams as they conducted post-overdose and Tier 2 follow-up home visits, by the Outreach Coordinator during the hot-spot outreach efforts, and by PCO staff at community events. A total of 190 Harm Reduction Kits were distributed in 2021 including 92 that were distributed during post-overdose home visits and another 98 distributed at outreach and community events.

As part of this same strategy, PCO has also created a Homeless Improvement Kit which was separate from the harm reduction kit and was used as an additional engagement tool especially with the homeless population. These kits were actually a backpack and included toiletries, first aid supplies, sunblock, socks, blankets, and hats & gloves for colder weather. A total of 80 Homeless Improvement Kits were distributed in 2021 during outreach efforts and community events.

Approximately 2,500 Fentanyl Test Strips were distributed between the packages located within the Harm Reduction Kits and other strips distributed at community events in 2021.

Finally, PCO staff also distributes boxes of Naloxone at outreach and community events. In addition to the 261 boxes of Naloxone distributed at post-overdose home visits or included in the Harm Reduction Kits, PCO staff distributed 204 boxes of Naloxone at outreach and community events in 2021. Meaning a total of 465 boxes or 930 units of Naloxone was distributed to the community by PCO staff in 2021.