

QUICK START TOOL 4

Understand the Local Picture

Community Snapshot & Data Map

Build the picture before choosing the strategy.

Use local data, community experience, and information about current services to describe what is happening, who is most affected, where attention is needed, and what is changing. The goal is a shared working picture - not a perfect data report.

Municipality

Planning Lead / Coordinator

Date

1. Map the questions that define your local picture

QUESTION / LENS	LOCAL SOURCE(S) TO USE	WHAT WE KNOW NOW	WHAT WE STILL NEED TO LEARN
What is happening? Overdose deaths, nonfatal overdoses, EMS/ED activity, naloxone use, substances involved.			
Who is most affected? Age and other available demographic or population characteristics; barriers and vulnerability.			
Where is attention needed? Neighborhoods, repeated incident locations, housing or public settings, schools, other places.			
What is changing? Substance mix, overdose patterns, service demand, referrals, treatment access, emerging concerns.			
What are people experiencing? Resident and partner observations about barriers, stigma, navigation, access, and unmet needs.			

2. Build the evidence mix - use more than one type of information

DATA SIGNALS

☐ Fatal and nonfatal overdoses

☐ EMS / fire / police response

☐ ED or urgent-care activity

☐ Naloxone use and distribution

☐ Substances involved / emerging trends

COMMUNITY VOICE

☐ People with lived experience

☐ Families and residents

☐ First responders and providers

☐ Schools / youth / prevention partners

☐ Community organizations and businesses

SERVICES & RESOURCES

☐ Prevention and public education

☐ Treatment / recovery / referrals

☐ Post-overdose outreach

☐ Mental health / social services

☐ Housing, transportation, other supports

Missing or hard-to-access information we should obtain:

3. Turn the information into a shared working picture

KEY FINDINGS

List the 2-3 facts or patterns the team agrees matter most.

WHO / WHERE NEEDS ATTENTION

Name priority populations, places, settings, or barriers to examine.

NEXT QUESTION / DATA ACTION

Name the most important information gap and who will follow up.

READY TO MOVE ON WHEN:

☐ Shared data reviewed

☐ Priority people / places identified

☐ Community voice included

☐ Current trends checked