



# Overdose Response Strategy

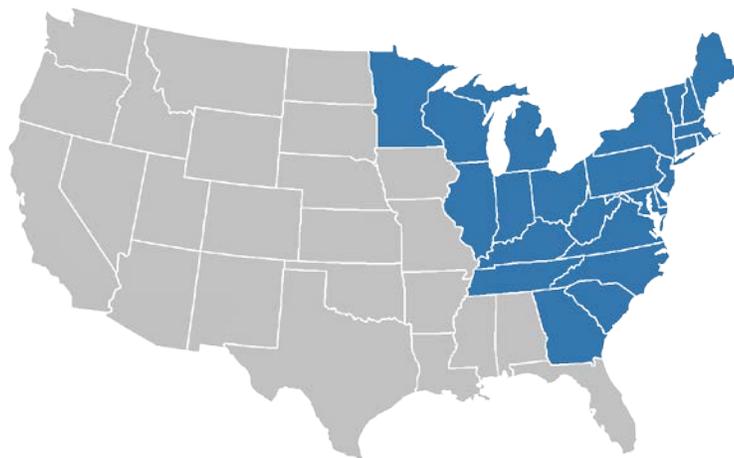
*Investing in partnerships to build safe and healthy communities*

## Overview

The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) is an initiative designed to enhance public health-public safety collaboration and to strengthen and improve efforts to reduce drug overdose deaths across 11 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs).

With support from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the ORS initiative supports innovation at the local, state, and regional level.

The mission of the ORS is to reduce fatal and non-fatal drug overdose rates by improved information sharing across agencies and supporting evidence-based interventions. The four strategic directions that shape the boundaries of the ORS are: law enforcement, response, treatment and recovery, and prevention.



*The ORS currently spans the District of Columbia and 24 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.*

## State Teams

ORS State Teams are comprised of one Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO) and one Public Health Analyst (PHA). These teams form the foundation of the ORS and operate in each ORS state. In this capacity, DIOs and PHAs are responsible for helping to increase communication, data flow, and intelligence sharing between public safety and public health sectors within and across ORS states.

## Local Pilot Projects

In an effort to build the evidence base for promising practices in opioid overdose prevention, CDC is working with five ORS states to develop and implement local projects designed to reduce overdose death. CDC is providing technical support to these high-need areas and working with HIDTA Directors and ORS State Teams to ensure that the pilot projects are smoothly implemented and that their progress and impact are monitored effectively.

## Cornerstone Projects

Each year, the ORS conducts an initiative-wide Cornerstone Project. These projects mobilize the entire ORS to answer common questions or address shared informational needs that affect the ORS region as a whole. These projects focus on a different priority topic each year and build upon evidence-based practices to reduce overdose. ORS Cornerstone Projects so far have examined: the presence and status of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in ORS states (2016); law enforcement knowledge, understanding and perceptions of 911 Good Samaritan laws (2017); and promising strategies for implementing linkages to care at the nexus of public health and public safety (2018).