

# Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach

A Guide for Policymakers for  
Implementing Evidence-Based Strategies  
that Address Opioid Overdose

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**ORCCA outlines the priority populations and 19 essential evidence-based interventions to reduce opioid overdose deaths:**

1 Prioritize delivery of services to those who need them most in criminal legal settings and other venues

2 Use evidence-based methods

3 Use data sources to target intervention to those who need services

4 Engage individuals with lived experience in

5

# Prioritize Individuals at Heightened Risk for Opioid Overdose

healthcare system in the preceding year. <sup>2</sup> Reducing overdose deaths requires getting overdose prevention to those who need them. Communities can focus on individuals who:

- Have had a prior opioid overdose
- Reside in a high-risk neighborhood
- Are in contact with someone who has had an opioid overdose
- Are in contact with someone who is using opioids
- Are in contact with someone who is injecting drugs
- Are in contact with someone who is using multiple substances
- Are in contact with someone who is using a high-potency opioid
- Are in contact with someone who is using a long-acting opioid
- Are in contact with someone who is using a combination of opioids and benzodiazepines
- Are in contact with someone who is using a combination of opioids and alcohol
- Are in contact with someone who is using a combination of opioids and stimulants
- Are in contact with someone who is using a combination of opioids and other substances





### Use data sources to target intervention to those who need services

Rapid and proactive use of existing data can help detect hot spots for opioid overdose. Communities can create new records systems or population detection programs using existing records systems. Useful data include:

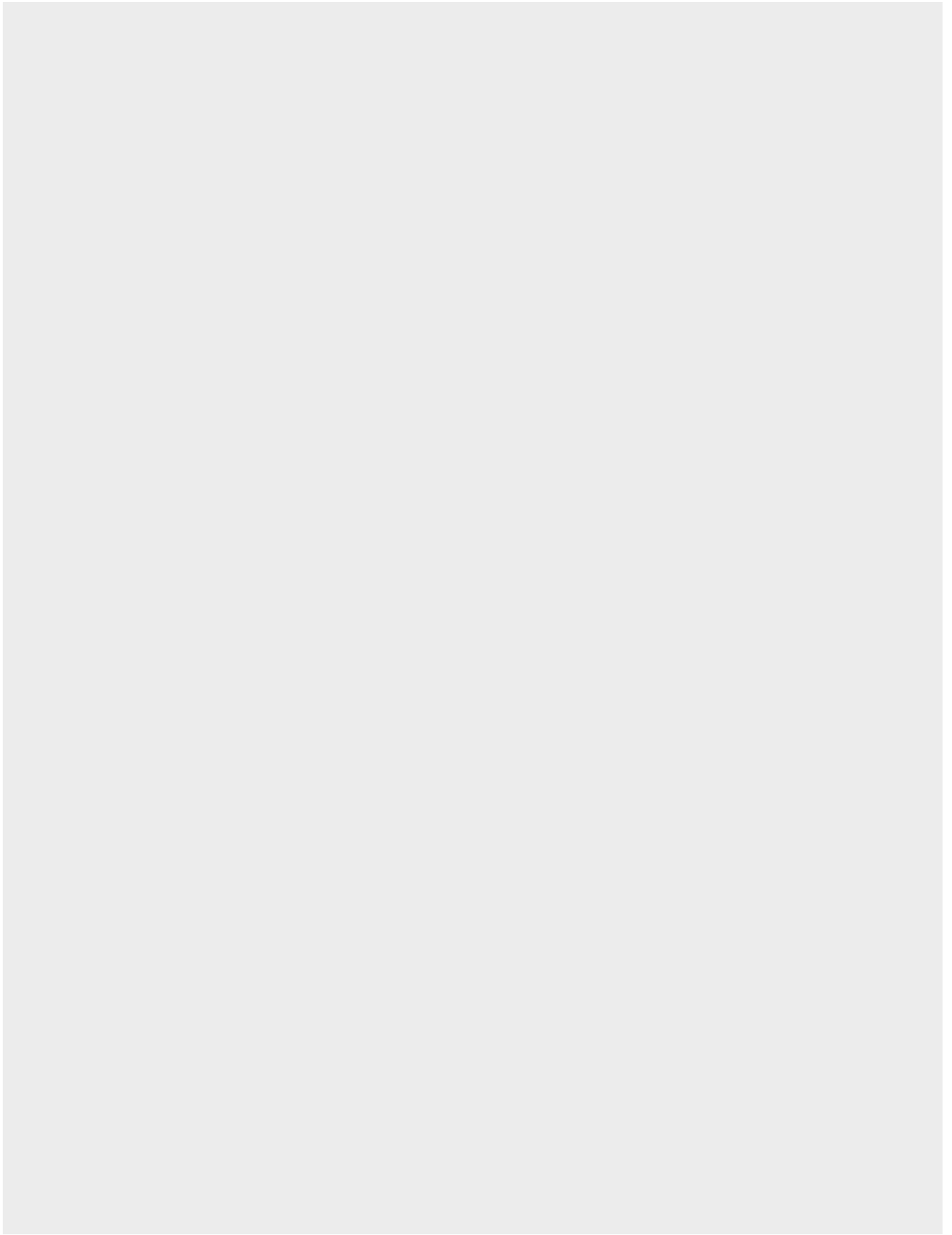
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- Z Records of individuals encountering law enforcement
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### Engage individuals with lived experience in the decision-making process

Individuals with lived experience are considered experts within their diagnosis or health condition.







# Hamilton County Justice Center: Innovations to Address Substance Use Disorders for Justice-Involved Populations

(continued from previous page)

provider at the HCJC who administer and monitor

within 48 hours of receiving the referral.

time registered nurse to oversee the medication

an additional 600 clients and induct an additional 138 clients per year.

## PEER MENTORS AND REENTRY SERVICES

HCJC pairs them with peer mentors who help with

appointments and provide support to the individuals

community.

agencies providing individualized care in the

and recovery housing programs. HCJC staff and peer

community provider to ensure continuity of care.

Addiction Services Council in Cincinnati.

## OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

as they pass through the system. Hamilton County

reported a 16% reduction in overdose deaths in

years.

comprehensive treatment program equates to

and improved outcomes for those struggling with

**"The Hamilton County Justice Center's comprehensive treatment program equates to expedited treatment, longer sustained recovery, and reduced recidivism rates.**

**The program is generating long-term cost savings for the county, safer communities, and improved outcomes for those struggling with substance use disorders."**

Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey,

# SPOTLIGHT

# Opioid Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)

Naloxone administration reverses an opioid overdose if administered in time. Overdose education and

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The best evidence for reducing overdose through OEND has been seen in communities that proactively make OEND accessible.

“In the battle against the overdose death crisis, overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) isn’t just a choice; it’s a necessity. It’s the bridge that connects every community and every family to the power to save lives. Naloxone can give people who use opioids the chance to live and potentially connect to recovery services when they are ready. Our HCS communities worked with New York’s already strong existing statewide naloxone distribution infrastructure to reach 100% saturation, battle stigma, and get naloxone in the hands of vulnerable populations and their social networks.”

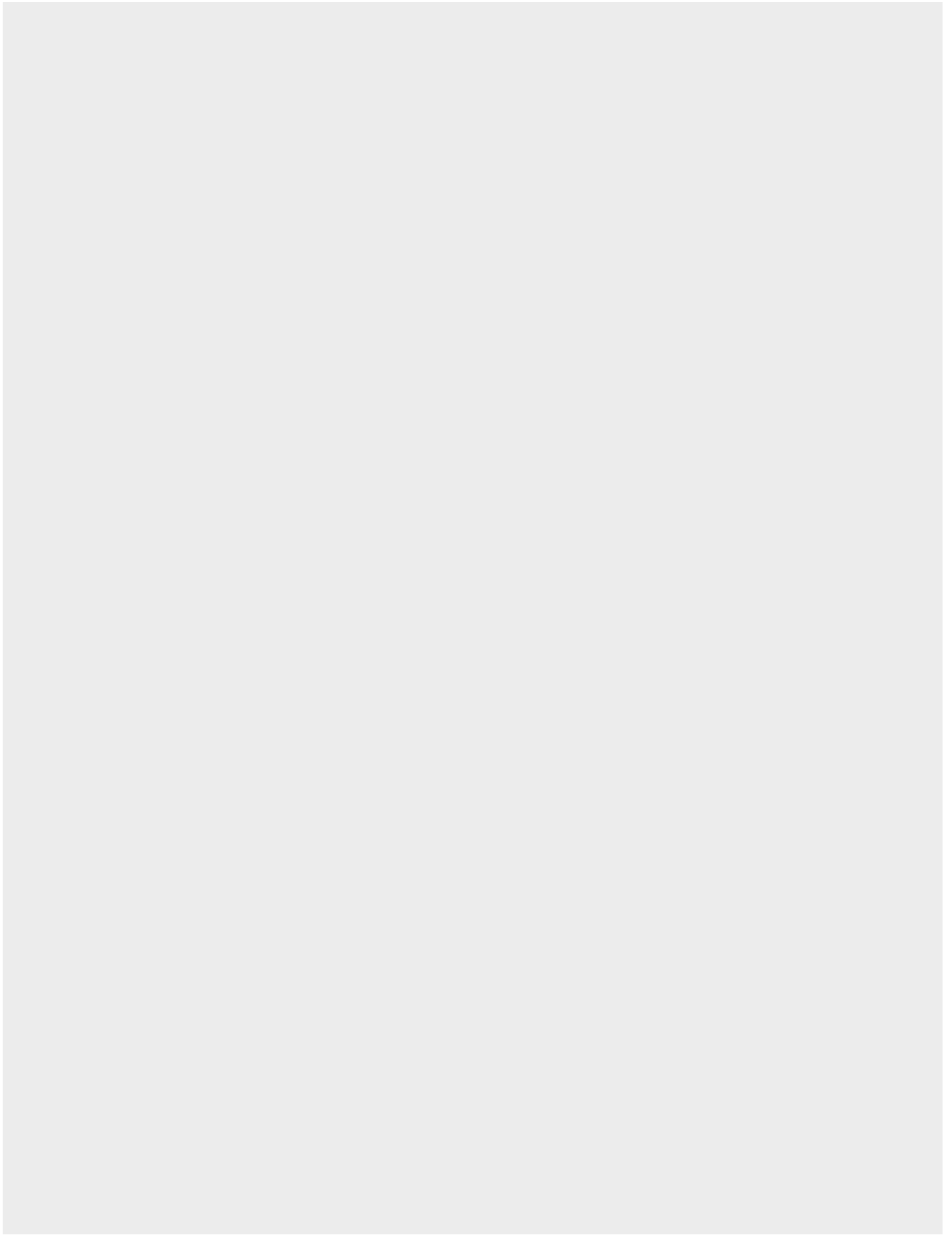


Nabila El-Bassel, PhD, Professor, Columbia University









# New York Peer Engaged Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) (continued from previous page)

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individuals towards recovery, through sharing lived  
experience and promoting community connections.

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# Enhance Delivery of Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorder

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# Expand MOUD capacity in healthcare and criminal legal settings, and through telemedicine

overdose fatalities and improves patient outcomes.

in overdoses at three months and a 59 percent reduction in overdoses at 12 months.

and poor treatment retention.

## Healthcare settings

settings and recovery programs. Expansion increases from general medical and mental healthcare settings

## Criminal legal settings

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## On-site MOUD initiation in community-based settings

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# Massachusetts Bridge Clinics

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interdisciplinary teams that may include addiction

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# Massachusetts Bridge Clinics

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## Remove barriers to housing services

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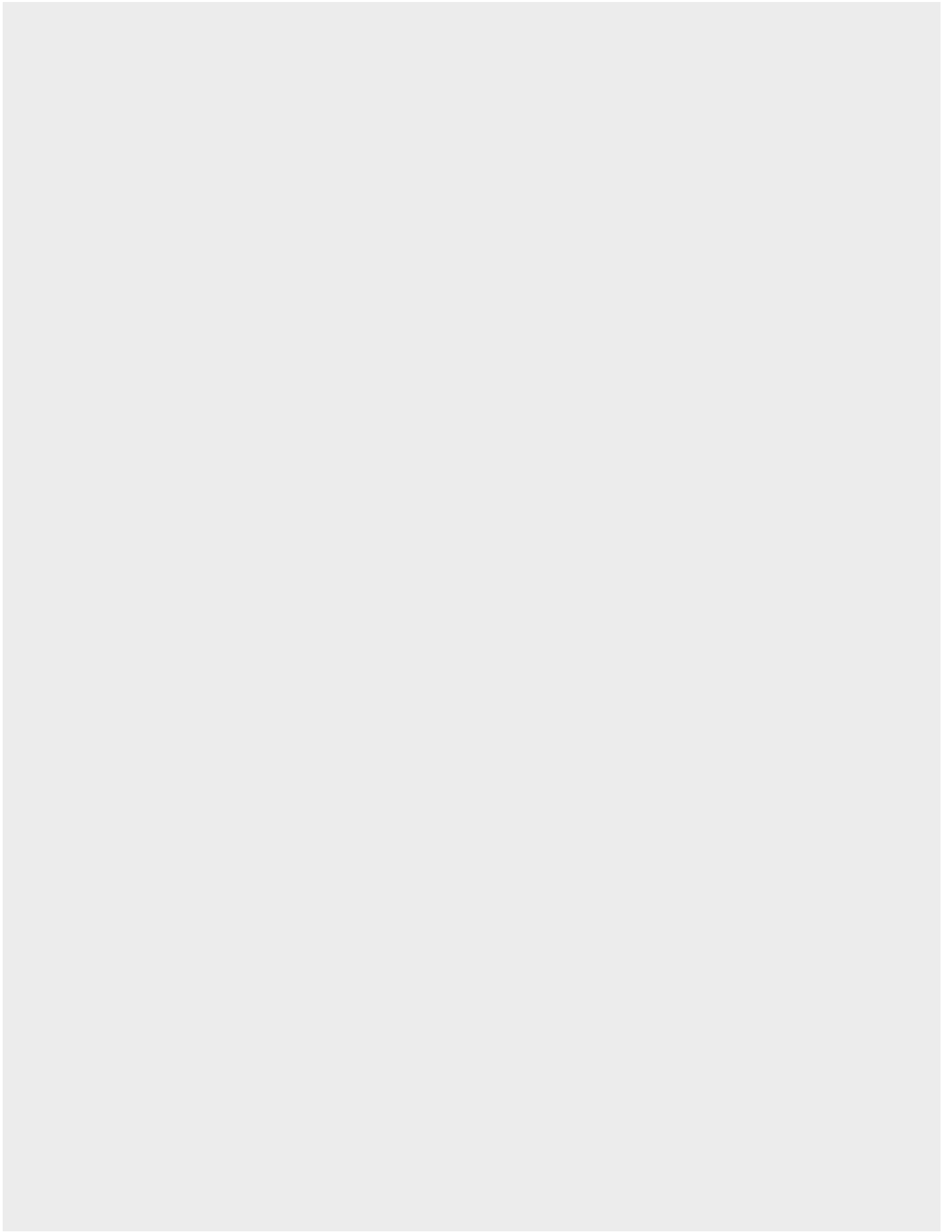


Address barriers to and capacity for needed resources, including insurance coverage, food security, childcare, and employment

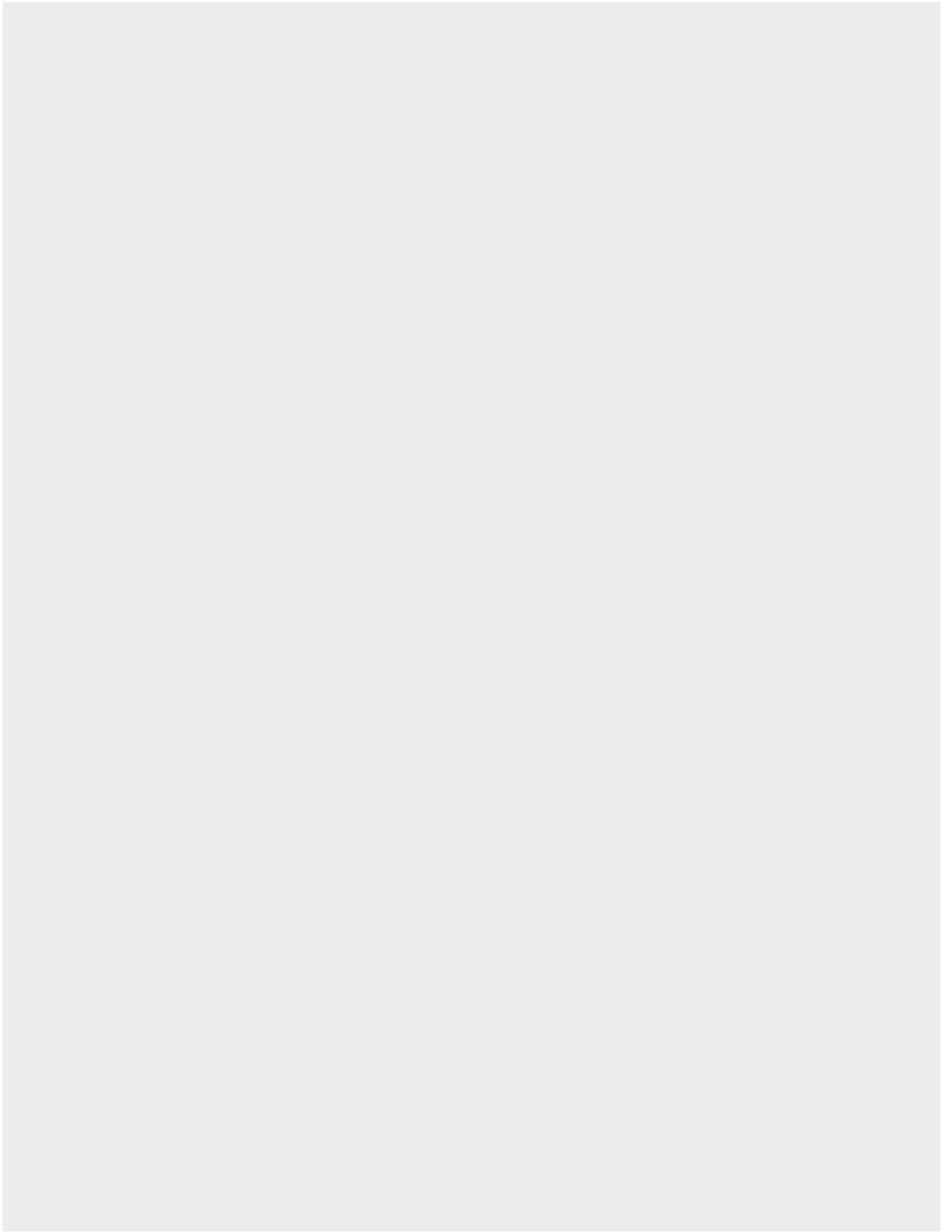
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address gaps in these services include determining  
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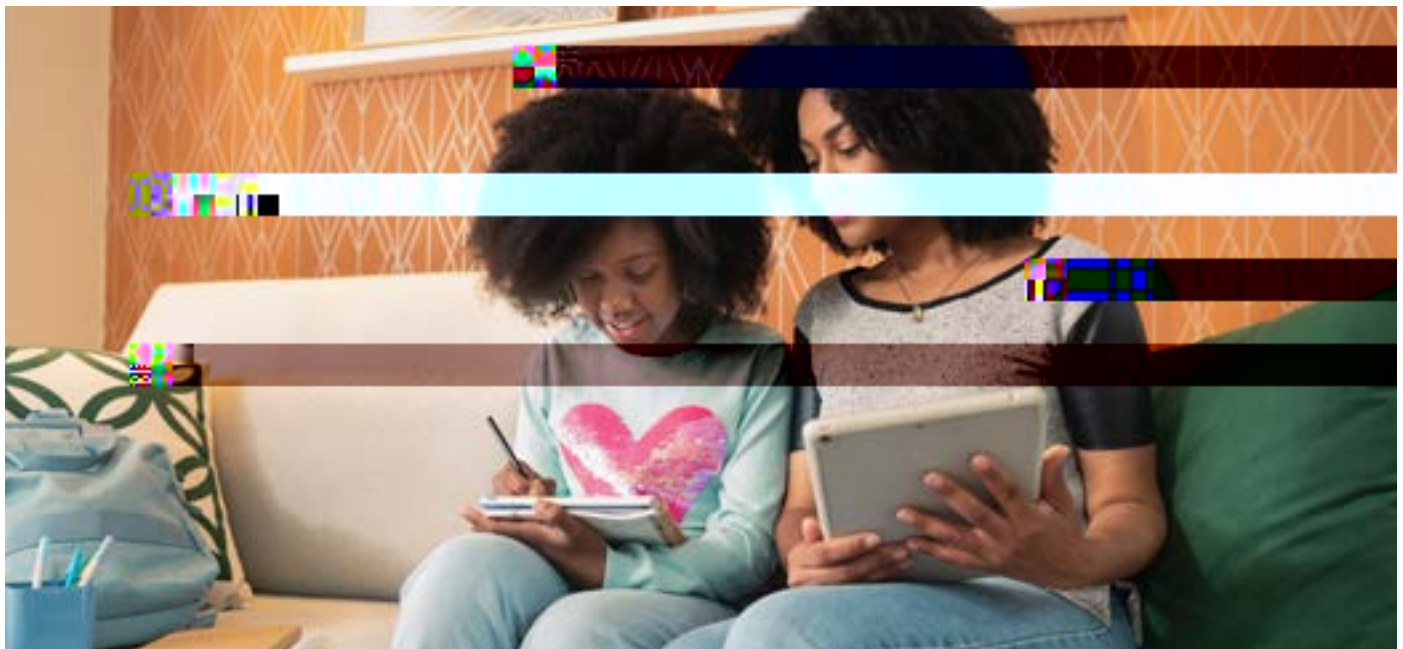
# Kentucky Transportation Program Opens the Road to Treatment (continued from previous page)



# Safer Opioid Prescribing, Dispensing, and Disposal Practices

Over 9 million Americans ages 12 and older misused prescription opioids in 2021, according to SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the CDC reports that nearly 17% of all overdose deaths involved a prescription opioid in that same year.

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## Ensure safer opioid prescribing for acute pain across healthcare settings

continuing education improves healthcare

appropriate ways to dispose unused prescription opioids can reduce excess opioid supply in

## Implement safe and effective opioid disposal

appropriate ways to dispose unused prescription opioids can reduce excess opioid supply in

# Resources

Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA)  
Practice Guide 2023

## MOUD Expansion

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an expert committee that examined the evidence

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## Safer Prescribing

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# Spotlight references: Hamilton County

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## Acknowledgments

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