

## **Southeast High Impact Area Project Descriptions**

Hamilton County and the Southeast Region (10 surrounding counties) have been deemed a High Impact Area (HIA) by the Tennessee Department of Health due to the number of overdoses the area experiences. The Southeast HIA program's goal is to prevent overdoses and save lives. The program has four primary projects to help reach this goal. The projects and their descriptions are listed below. If you are interested in joining a project workgroup or learning more, email Megan Revis at [mrevis@hamiltontn.gov](mailto:mrevis@hamiltontn.gov).

### **Regional Substance Misuse Task Force**

The SE Regional Substance Misuse Task Force is made up of stakeholders from Hamilton County and the Southeast Region. The task force meets quarterly and exists to propel the program's projects forward and provide input for project implementation.

### **Acute Overdose Response Plan**

Due to the nature of the substance misuse epidemic, the threat of an outbreak or spike in overdoses is a threat to any region, including Hamilton County. A contaminated drug supply could create a series of overdoses that could cause serious harm or death to individuals, as well as impact first responders, emergency departments, medical examiners, and the public at large.

The Acute Overdose Response Plan is a document that will inform Hamilton County Health Department's response in the instance of an overdose spike. The purpose of the plan is to describe the process in which drug overdoses are monitored and community partners are notified and mobilized during periods of increased activity related to suspected drug overdoses. The implementation of this plan is intended to aid community response and prevent additional injuries and fatalities.

### **Emergency Department Discharge Protocol for Patients with Substance Use Disorder**

The emergency department discharge protocol project is intended to reach individuals with a substance use disorder who have an interaction with the emergency department who may be at a higher risk of experiencing an overdose in the future. The protocol includes screening for a substance use disorder, providing the individual with Narcan to take home, initiating Suboxone if appropriate, and referring the patient to a Recovery Navigator. Recovery Navigators are people in long-term recovery who help patients who have recently overdosed get connected to the treatment and recovery services they need. Read more about the Tennessee Recovery Navigators [here](#).

### **Community Prevention Education**

Prevention education is a primary tool in the fight against the substance misuse epidemic. The Southeast HIA program is funding the Botvin LifeSkills Training Program in Marion County Middle Schools and High School PE classes that teach students personal self-management skills, social skills, drug resistance skills, and more. Additionally, a social media campaign to address substance misuse and overdose prevention will be held in Hamilton County in 2022.