

## Mayor's Opioid Task Force - Data Subcommittee

# Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA

The Mayor's Opioid Task Force Data Subcommittee analyzes data sets relevant to the opioid epidemic in Lowell. The following observations and recommendations are tailored for community providers to inform their work.

## Key Observations

- ◇ Non-fatal Opioid Related Illness (ORI) data from 2013-2018 shows that 30% of all calls in Lowell have occurred during the summer months (June, July, and August).
- ◇ In 2014, 36% of all ORI calls occurred in the summer.
- ◇ In 2018, 29% of all ORI calls occurred during the summer.
- ◇ Data from 2016-2018 shows that there was an increase in ORI calls on days when the high temperature was above 85 and the relative humidity was above 75%.

## Recommendations

### Community Organizations

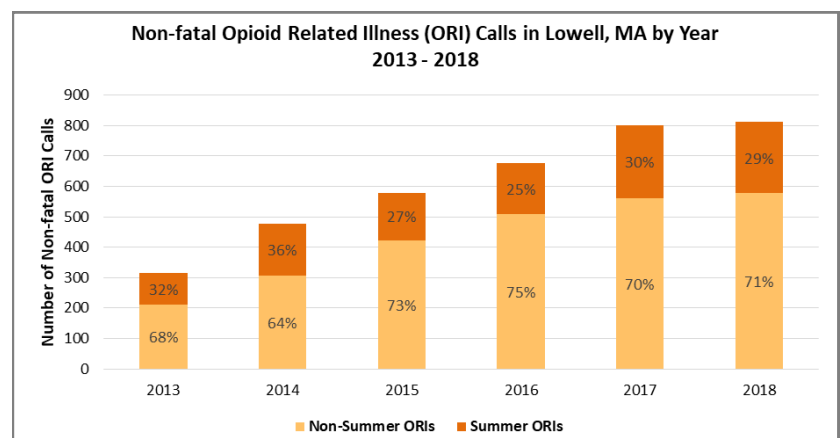
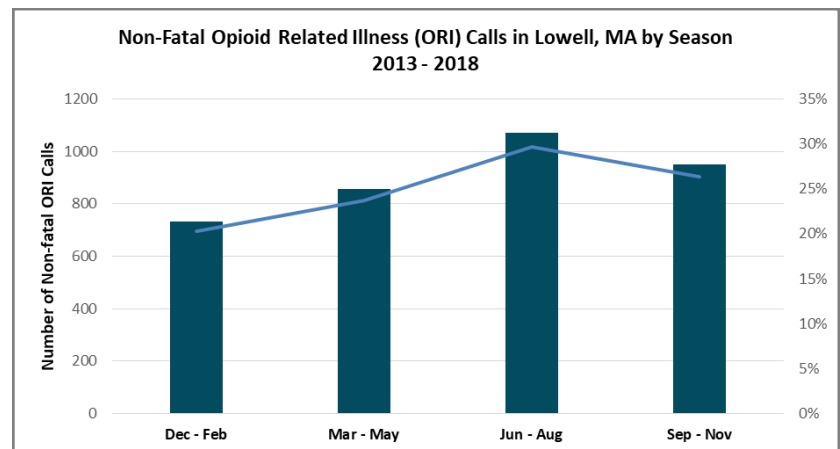
- ◇ Increase Narcan training and distribution to individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and their loved ones.
- ◇ Initiate more indoor, daytime opportunities for people to build upon life skills, wellness, and recovery.
- ◇ Provide ways for individuals with OUD to stay hydrated, limit sun exposure, and take advantage of community cooling stations (if applicable).
- ◇ Utilize a system to identify days that individuals with OUD may be at an even higher risk for overdose due to oppressive heat and humidity, such as the system for monitoring high ozone days.

### Providers

- ◇ Educate high risk individuals with OUD as to why they could be at an even higher risk of overdose during the summer months.
- ◇ Take advantage of conversations with clients to talk about how heat and humidity can impact many health conditions.

### Family and Friends of Individuals with OUD

- ◇ Get trained on how to use Narcan, have Narcan available, and learn the symptoms of an overdose.
- ◇ Let individuals with OUD know they could be at higher risk for overdose due to the impacts of heat and humidity.



Have a suggestion for a topic to be reviewed? Want to share your agency's HIPAA compliant data with the Data Subcommittee? Email Lainnie Emond at [LEmond@lowellma.gov](mailto:LEmond@lowellma.gov).