ODMAP Spotlight Series:

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Drug Control Policy

Keep your community aware and prepared

BACKGROUND

The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), developed and managed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (W/B HIDTA), has emerged as a crucial tool in the battle against the opioid crisis in West Virginia.

As of September 2023, there are 126 agencies and 443 users actively partnering with ODMAP in West Virginia. ODMAP is designed for real-time overdose data collection, visualization, and analysis. It plays a pivotal role in identifying overdose hotspots and proactively responding to emerging drug trends. ODMAP's Spike Alert feature empowers law enforcement personnel, health officials, and policymakers by providing timely information to address the opioid epidemic effectively.

ODMAP INTEGRATION

Currently, overdose events are entered manually at the scene of an overdose and by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). EMS data is uploaded every 24-hours through the ODMAP Application Programming Interface (API). The goal is to continue to use ODMAP and its near-realtime reporting capabilities to better inform both law enforcement and public health personnel of suspected overdose activity, sudden increases, or particularly lethal changes in the illicit drug supply.

In addition, ODMAP instruction and overview has been added to the West Virginia State Police (WVSP) Academy curriculum, where both basic officers and WVSP cadets receive comprehensive training on operations. This ensures that law enforcement personnel across the state are well-equipped to harness the power of Spike Alerts and other ODMAP features effectively.

Implementation of ODMAP in West Virginia is a collaboration among Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), Department of Health and Human Resources's Office of Management and Information Services (MIS), the West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (WB HIDTA).

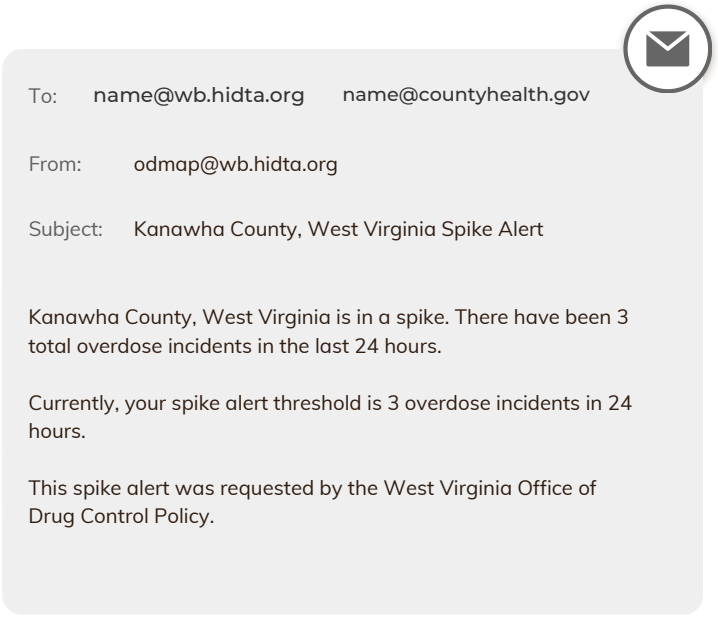
SPIKE ALERT FRAMEWORK

A spike alert is the notification received from ODMAP when a specific area meets or exceeds a number of overdoses within a 24-hour period. The ODMAP Spike Alert feature has garnered significant attention for its role in ensuring timely response to overdose surges. This real-time notification system is engineered to provide critical information to key stakeholders by sending email notifications directly to partners. Notably, these alerts can be tailored to cover individual counties, adjacent counties, and even counties in neighboring states.

In West Virginia, this Spike Alert mechanism is a game-changer. According to the WV DHHR ODCP, it ensures that Quick Response Team (QRT) personnel, ODCP regional coordinators, and state-level public health and law enforcement leaders are promptly informed of noteworthy increases in overdoses within their jurisdiction. This proactive approach facilitates swift and coordinated responses to the opioid crisis.

"The Spike Alert feature of ODMAP has become an indispensable tool in our efforts to combat overdose incidents," said Justin Smith, Data Program Manager for DHHR's Office of Drug Control Policy. "It not only enhances our ability to respond rapidly, but also fosters collaboration among stakeholders, ultimately saving lives."

QRTs, regional coordinators, and public health officers receive notifications of suspected overdose spikes statewide while select personnel receive notifications as granular as overdose alerts for their respective areas of operation. Each county in West Virginia has an overdose alert set to notify stakeholders of ongoing suspected overdose activity.



ODMAP Spike Alert Explainer Video

Visit http://www.odmap.org/ to learn more about ODMAP or please email odmap@wb.hidta.org. For more information on efforts form DHHR's ODCP, please visit https://dhhr.wv.gov/office-of-drug-control-policy/about/Pages/default.aspx.