

Appendix A

Opioid Settlement Distribution Steering Committee Data Collection

2023

Executive Summary

Title: Opioid and Substance Use Collective Data for Review for Allegan County, Michigan: A Summary Overview of Prevention, Services, Access to Care, and Harm Reduction

Introduction: This executive summary examines opioid and substance use prevention, treatment, and community access to care within Allegan County, with a focus on current data and barriers that hinder prevention efforts, access to services and care, and harm reduction strategies. The information presented is based on the Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the Allegan County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), data from the Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE), the Opioid Settlement Distribution for the State of Michigan, data from Allegan County Fire/EMS, and Western Michigan University's Medical Examiner's (ME) annual report.

This summary aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges associated with opioid and substance use in Allegan County, including the prevalence of opioid use and overdoses, the number of emergency room (ER) visits, the current number of substance use prevention and treatment providers, while also highlighting the barriers to effective prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. This summary also highlights the impact of opioid and substance use on physical and mental overall health.

Overview of Opioid and Substance Use in Allegan County: Allegan County, a rural county located in Michigan, has a current population of 123,229 people, with a recent average growth rate of 0.74% annually. The Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment identifies substance abuse and mental health as high-priority health issues across the county, citing them among the top three concerns (Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2021). Within Allegan County in 2022, the rate of mental health providers (to include substance use treatment) was reported at 1,030:1, meaning for every 1,030 adult residents there is one provider. In comparison, the Michigan rate is 320:1 and the national rate is 340:1 (County Health Rankings, 2023). In essence, Allegan County residents have access to approximately 60% fewer providers than those in the state and nation on average.

On the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Opioid Dashboard, the reported 5-Year Average Fatal Overdose Rate per 100,000 (2016-2020) across Allegan County is 13.6, with the highest rate per township recorded as Cheshire Township, with a significantly higher rate of 45.2 (2023). Within the Dashboard, Allegan County is cited as having a 0.0% accessibility rate for Percent of Population within 15-minute drive of syringe service program in 2021, with no syringe service program established as of 2023 (MDHHS, 2023).

Based on Allegan Opioid Overdose Deaths reported by MDHHS over the following years, the county has seen a steady increase in overdose deaths annually – reflected by 6 (2017), 7 (2018),

9 (2019), 13 (2020), and 10 (2021). The following chart illustrates this visually across State and county.

Overdose Deaths Reported Per County and Year

State	County	Month Date	Provisional Drug Overdose Deaths	Percentage Of Records Pending Investigation
Michigan	Allegan	September 2022	20	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	August 2022	21	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	July 2022	21	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	June 2022	18	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	May 2022	18	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	April 2022	20	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	March 2022	17	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	February 2022	16	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	January 2022	17	0.0
Michigan	Allegan	December 2021	16	0.0

Allegan County Corrections Center provided the following data illustrating identified opioid use/withdrawal present in individuals incarcerated within the facility.

Allegan County Corrections Center Individuals Coming into the Facility on Opioids/Withdrawing

Month/Year	Number of Individuals
October 2022	4
November 2022	4
December 2022	7
January 2023	12
February 2023	6
March 2023	5
April 2023	1
May 2023	14
Total:	53

Emergency room (ER) visits for nonfatal opioid poisonings reported by MDHHS for Allegan County, indicates an increase between 2018 and 2020 of 7 individuals. Below is a table illustrating this increase, as well as annualized ER visits.

Number of ED Visits Due to Nonfatal Opioid Poisoning

County, Year	ER Visits
Allegan County, 2018	58
Allegan County, 2019	57
Allegan County, 2020	65

Information below outlines the crude rate of reported drug poisonings/overdose deaths per 100,000 people within Allegan County. This data is gathered through CDC information provided to the County Health Rankings.

Crude Rate of Drug Poisoning/Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Population

Year	Death Rate per 100,000 Allegan	Death Rate per 100,000 Michigan
2017	12.0	27.0
2018	8.5	26.0
2019	11.9	23.6
2020	14.3	27.5

Prevention, Treatment Services, and Access to Care: Current status of prevention, treatment services, and access to care through in-county as well as out-of-county resources.

Specific prevention targets for youth prevention and education is provided through Allegan County school systems to include Allegan, Hopkins, Saugatuck, Fennville, Wayland, and Plainwell. This specific youth prevention includes education, cessation, and harm reduction efforts for substances as well as behavioral health supports. Adult substance use prevention efforts are centered around Allegan County community events, as well as adult education courses on a referral basis. This is supported through Federal block grant funding allocated regionally to OnPoint.

There are currently two county-based publicly funded substance use treatment providers, the Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) OnPoint and the contracted non-profit provider Arbor Circle Corporation. Presently, OnPoint provides Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient level of care services, and Arbor Circle provides Outpatient level of care services across active programming. All levels of care, including withdrawal management, detoxification, short-term residential treatment, and long-term residential treatment are contracted with out-of-county service providers. Withdrawal management and medication-assisted treatment can be supported through an individual's primary care physician within the county if they are able and willing to provide the prescription. The Grand Rapids Red Project also supports Allegan County with grant-funded suboxone distribution through their Mobile Unit site that is in the downtown Allegan location, as well as recovery coaching services. These CMHSP and contracted services are supported through Federal block grant funding, Medicaid/Healthy Michigan Plan billing, and additional MDHHS grant funding.

Harm Reduction and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT): Harm reduction strategies, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), face significant barriers in Allegan County. MAT, which combines the use of medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone with counseling and behavioral therapies, is an effective treatment for opioid use disorders (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2020).

An identified barrier to treatment is the limited availability of MAT providers and treatment facilities in the region, with only one MAT-specific provider within the county. This scarcity results in longer drive-times for individuals receiving MAT. Data from the Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE) also reflects a consistent wait-time for MAT induction with Allegan reflecting at 8.3 days to service from service request date (2023). With the recent changes to the requirements for SAMHSA-waivered practitioners to prescribe and induct MAT, the medications can be more easily accessed through primary care physicians local to the patient if the physician is willing to prescribe (SAMHSA, 2023). Limited data exists at this time in relation to primary care physicians within Allegan County willing and able to prescribe MAT.

Conclusion: Allegan County has a significant prevalence of opioid and substance use, as reflected in numerous data sources. Specific overdose counts, the number of ER admissions, and the availability of substance use prevention and treatment providers highlight the significance of the issue. Specific programs in existence continue to support the efforts for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. Current availability of treatment providers is limited within Allegan County, leading to transportation barriers and accessibility concerns. With expanded capability for primary care MAT administration, access has increased pending individual practitioner prescription. Allegan County continues to have a lower opioid use disorder and overdose report than Michigan and the United States.

Sources Cited:

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Allegan County Medical Examiner's Office – WMed, (2023). [Kalamazoo Annual DROOD Report 2021.pdf \(mimedicalexaminer.com\)](#)

Allegan County Correctional Center, (2023). Unpublished raw data.

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