

# ODMAP

## Spotlight Series:

### Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District, Virginia



*Keep your community aware and prepared*

### SPIKE ALERT FRAMEWORK

The Roanoke Valley is at the epicenter of the opioid epidemic. The city of Roanoke had a fatal overdose rate 4x higher than the state average in 2022. Roanoke City and Alleghany Health District (RCAHD) initiated their spike response framework in summer 2022 but was fueled by integration of local EMS data in the fall of 2022. In early 2023, RCAHD began meeting with a local coalition to draft an initial Spike Alert Response Plan. The RCAHD group worked together to set primary goals of the plan. This plan included reducing overdoses and fatalities by empowering people who use drugs with up-to-date information on trends and potent batches, collaborating across sectors, and sharing information easily and freely with those most able to use it.

The RCAHD Spike Alert Response rolled out in summer of 2023 and includes nine partners – two local harm reduction programs, one HIV testing/treatment center, two peer recovery specialist networks, two behavioral healthcare providers, one homelessness prevention team, and one EMS agency.

When overdoses surpass a set threshold or continue for multiple days, an email goes out to the RCAHD group via email/text from the city Community Health Epidemiologist. RCAHD encourages two-way communication among networks.

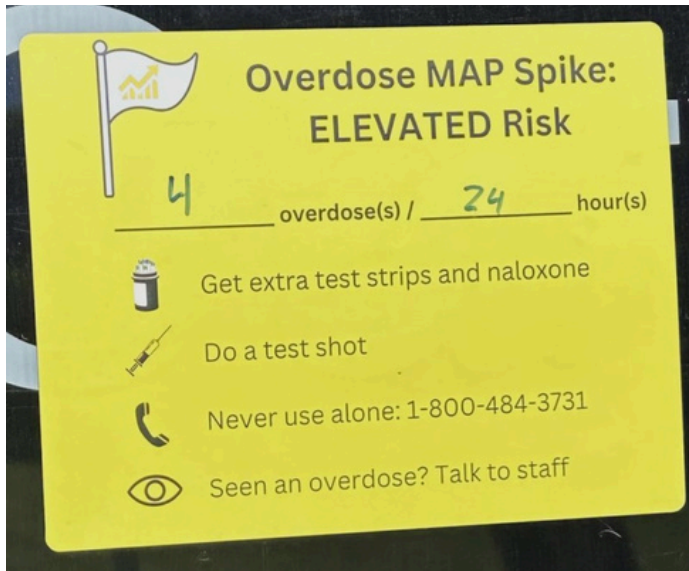
Harm reduction programs are able to provide feedback from their participants on what they are experiencing/observing. Early evaluation data showed largely positive responses from participants of local harm reduction programs. 74% of those respondents identified as people who use drugs (PWUD) and had a clearer understanding of when overdose spikes were occurring. All respondents said more informed choices would be made when knowing if a spike was occurring, including abstaining from use, not using alone, changing suppliers, and reducing use or going slow.



[ODMAP Spike Alert Explainer Video](#)

A color-coded system utilizing flags outside of offices and magnets on mobile outreach was established for RCAHD staff and clients due to a need for improvement in increased communication of risk levels. This color-coded system serves as an important tool in providing risk counseling for those in active use.

Early results of drug checking from Harm Reduction agencies have helped RCAHD Spike Alert network to mobilize around xylazine. Robust local programs make it possible to stay ahead of emerging drug trends to save lives. A proposal for these programs is tentatively being rolled out in 2025.



ODMAP data is also used by local groups that coordinate naloxone distribution to areas of need. RCAHD meets monthly and reviews trends to set priorities for the following month(s). RCAHD also incorporates ODMAP data into a large regional coalition and Roanoke Valley Collective Response in quarterly reports and an annual summit.

RCAHD has set goals and plans for the future, which include working with a data scientist at the Health Department's central office to incorporate ODMAP data into predictive modeling, and also working with local Harm Reduction agencies to incorporate data from their drug checking program into our Spike Alert Response. This allows for a better understanding of when and where spikes will occur, what is driving spikes, and how to prevent overdoses during the spike.



**If your agency is interested in joining ODMAP, use the QR code below to connect with the agency access request form or click here.**