



System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance (S.O.S.)

Since 2011, deaths from opioid prescription painkillers have sustained epidemic levels, surpassing deaths from heroin and cocaine combined.¹ In Michigan, opiate abuse and overdose continues to increase and includes many deaths due to illegally obtained drugs, in addition to prescribed ones.

Goal of Project

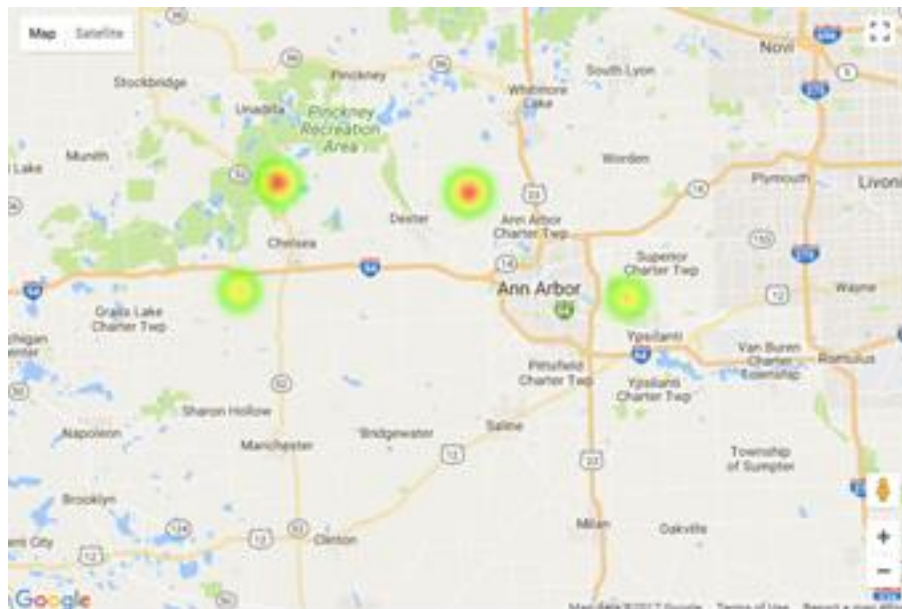
The goal of this project is to create a real-time surveillance system of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Washtenaw County, MI. This system will link data from emergency departments, EMS, and medical examiners. There is currently no coordinated system in place to track real-time overdoses that are occurring. Real-time data such as this, could be used to:

- Understand the scope of the opioid epidemic more clearly
- Provide quick law enforcement and public health action on “hotspots”
- Evaluate points of contact with the healthcare system over time

Task Force and Partnership

- The Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA): a coalition of public safety agencies across the nation working on state-specific drug control issues
- The University of Michigan Injury Center
- The University of Michigan Acute Care Research Unit (ACRU)

Screenshot of “Hotspot” Mapping



References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011, November). *Prescription Painkiller Overdoses in the US, CDC Vital Signs*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/PainkillerOverdoses/index.html>