

MILWAUKEE OVERDOSE RESPONSE INITIATIVE

Background

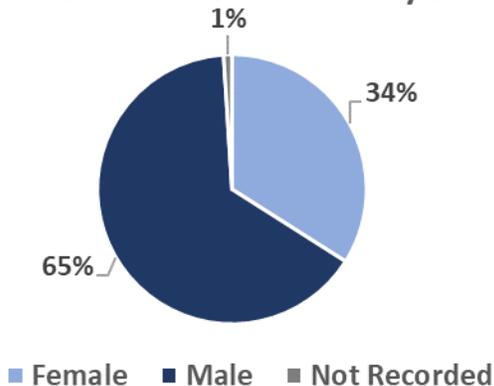
Fatal and non-fatal opioid-related overdoses continue to be a public health issue across Milwaukee County. In 2019, there were 343 opioid-related deaths; a 14% increase from 2018 to 2019. Based on year-to-date data from the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner, it is estimated that there will be 351 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2020.¹

In 2019, in response to the overdose crisis in Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) partnered with the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) and many other community organizations to form the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI). MORI utilizes opioid-related overdoses data from MFD to initiate a rapid response by a trained community paramedic and peer support specialist to engage clients in treatment and recovery services following an overdose.

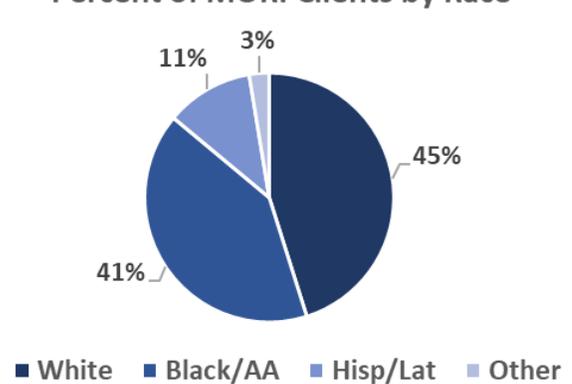
This initiative is a community-wide collaboration that consists of partners from treatment and recovery organizations, insurance companies, academic institutions, hospitals, health departments, and many others.

Client Demographics

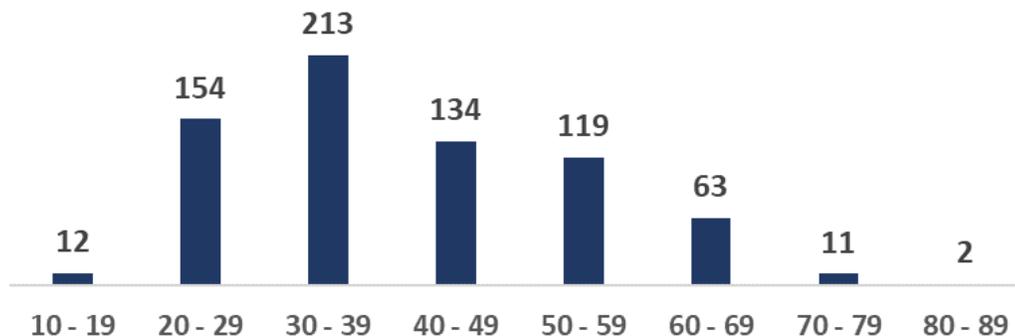
Percent of MORI Clients by Sex



Percent of MORI Clients by Race



Number of MORI Clients by Age Range

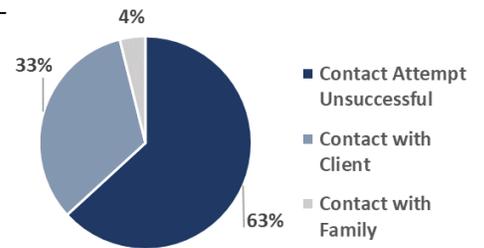


¹Milwaukee County Medical Examiner – Opioid-related overdose deaths.

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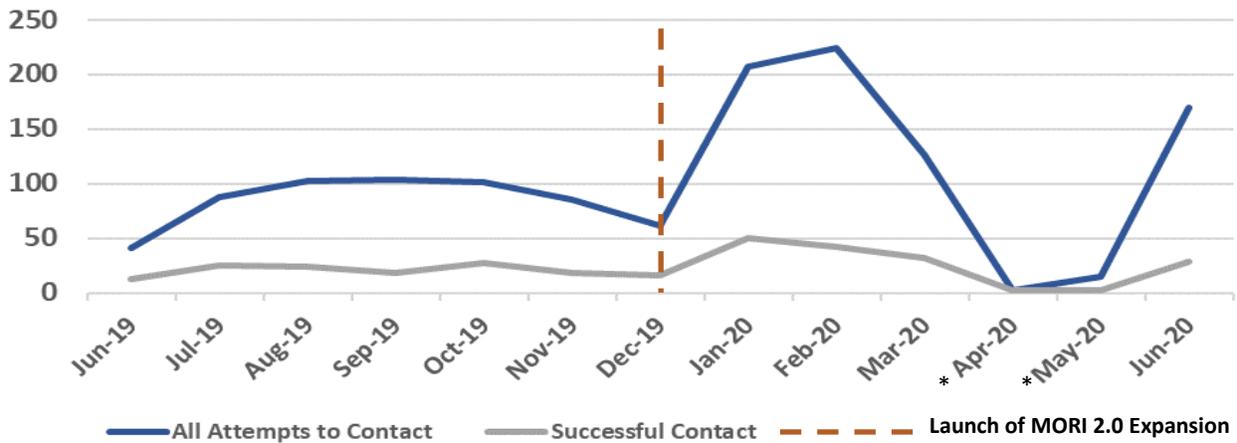
MORI Client Contact

Between June 17, 2019 and July 2, 2020 MORI attempted to contact 774 individuals following an overdose. In total, the MORI team made 1,338 attempts to contact over the course of the year. While many attempts were unsuccessful (63%), due to incorrect information or the individual being unavailable, 404 individuals (33%) were engaged. Additionally, 156 individuals (35%) that were able to be engaged completed at least one visit with the MORI team. The vast majority of clients (91%) reside in the City of Milwaukee.

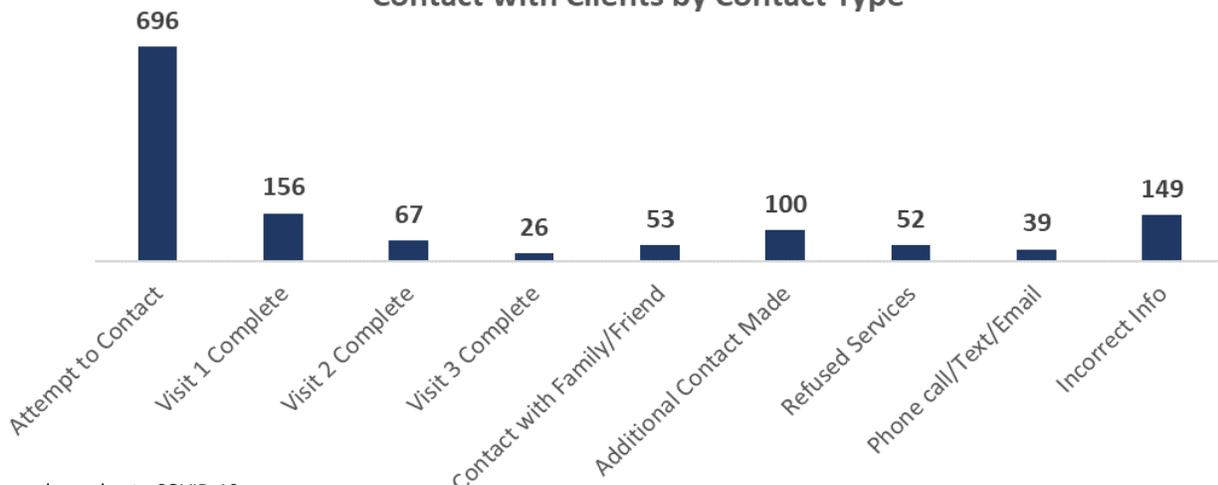


Due to the safer at home order enacted on March 25, 2020, the MORI team suspended in-person visits with clients. On May 26, 2020, the safer at home order was lifted and the MORI team began engaging with clients again. In total, there were 270 overdoses during this time period that were not able to be engaged in-person following the overdose.

Contact with Clients by Month



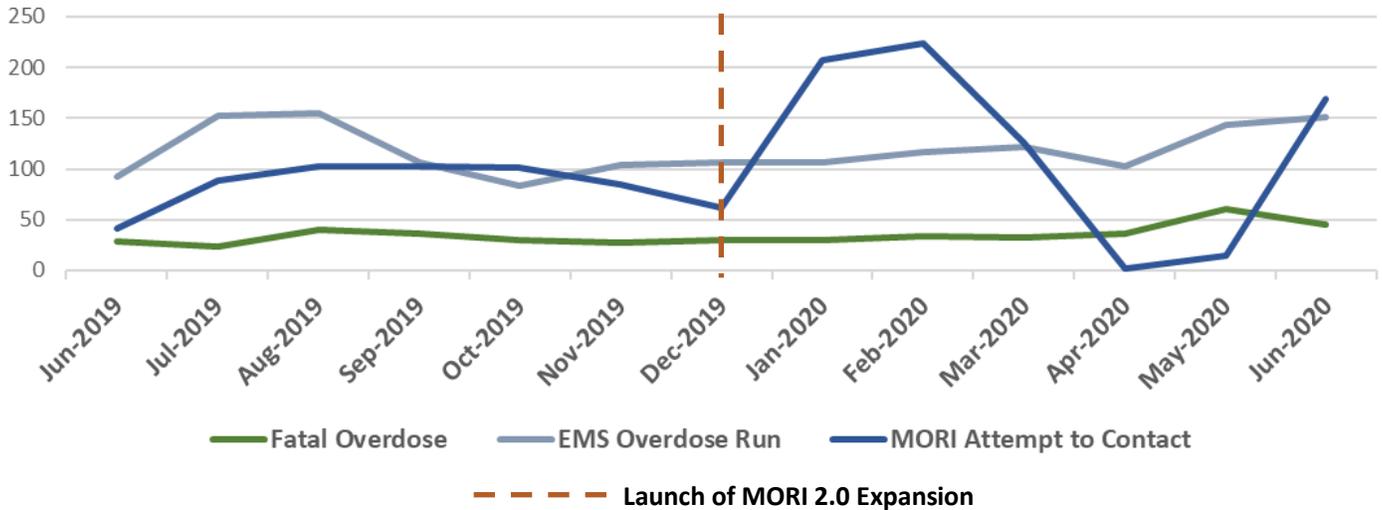
Contact with Clients by Contact Type



* Low volume due to COVID-19

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Fatal and Non-Fatal Opioid-Related Overdoses by Month and Year



Fatal and non-fatal opioid-related overdoses continue to increase in Milwaukee County. Fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives have increasingly contributed to the cause of death as noted by the toxicology results. In 2019, 71% of all opioid-related overdose deaths involved fentanyl alone or in combination with other drugs. This data is salient to the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative as it highlights the continued need for providing overdose survivors with comprehensive treatment resources immediately following an overdose.

Fatal Opioid-Related Overdoses Involving Fentanyl by Year

