

2021 MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE (MIH/Community Paramedics)

In 2021, the program engaged directly with nearly 1000 unique individuals across all outreach services offered.

As COVID-19 impacted the overall health of the community, MIH was in a unique position to help those in need to navigate the healthcare system throughout the pandemic. Through partnerships with local pharmacies and the Milwaukee Health Department, MIH was able to assist patients schedule in-home vaccinations, and provided education on when to use hospital emergency department services vs. another more appropriate facility, such as an urgent care. These measures helped to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

MFD community paramedics involved with the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI) are comprised of a specialized team trained in providing outreach to those experiencing substance use disorder, with the goal of reducing fatal and non-fatal overdoses by providing guidance to services and treatment for this devastating disease. In 2021, MORI made thousands of outreach responses to those experiencing a non-fatal overdose in the city, resulting in contacting over 800 unique individuals. MORI assisted over 60 individuals into a treatment program where they could begin their journey to recovery. Additionally, In July, MORI began distribution of harm reduction in the form of Narcan, with this progressing in November in the form of "Hope Kits." These potentially life-saving kits include a box with two doses of Narcan and several other harm reduction items; 154 of these potentially life-saving kits were distributed in 2021, with expected expansion in 2022.

Through grant work with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NAACHO) in 2021, MFD MIH was approached by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assist with providing technical assistance to other municipalities around the country on how to implement a "MORI-style" program in their communities.

MFD MIH continues to receive grant funding; thereby, making the cost to Milwaukee taxpayers minimal compared to the value of specialized services being provided. In 2021, MFD MIH received grant funding that will carry through into 2022 and beyond, including an ongoing pilot program with Coverdell to address strokes, and two separate grants to fund MORI including a Bureau of Justice Assistance COSSAP (*Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program*) grant, and a second award from NACCHO for an IOPSLL (*Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level*). MFD MIH, through strong community partnerships, continues to strive to meet the goal of increasing patient satisfaction, and improving community-wide health at a reduced per-capita cost.