

2022 MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE (MIH/Community Paramedics)

In 2022, the program engaged directly with nearly 2000 unique individuals across all outreach services offered.

COVID-19's impact on the overall health of the community continued, and MFD MIH was positioned to have an active community-wide presence, providing much needed supportive assistance to those requiring aid in navigating the healthcare system. Through continued collaborations and community outreach with medical insurance providers, the Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition, the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program, the Milwaukee Community Collective, and a multitude of other community partnerships, MFD MIH strived to meet the goal of addressing unmet social needs of health, and improving the overall well-being of the citizens of Milwaukee.

MFD MIH Community Paramedics continued to lead the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative (MORI) Program in conducting a peer-supported post-overdose outreach in response to the ever-increasing fatal and non-fatal opioid-related overdoses occurring within the community. In 2022, MORI made over 4000 attempts to contact those who had experienced a non-fatal overdose, resulting in contacting over 700 users of substances, and an additional 750 of their family and friends. MORI assisted 68 individuals into treatment programs where they could begin their journey to recovery. The MORI program continued to distribute harm reduction in the form of "Hope Kits" for substance use; each kit including Narcan and Fentanyl test strips. In March, this effort was expanded to include distribution of the kits by all MFD personnel while responding to emergency overdose incidents within the city. Additionally, "Hope Kits" were made available for distribution to the general public at any MFD fire station. A total of just over 2200 "Hope Kits" were distributed in 2022.

MFD MIH continued to receive grant funding; thereby, making the cost to Milwaukee taxpayers minimal compared to the value of specialized services being provided. In 2022, grant funding included an ongoing pilot program with Coverdell to address strokes, and three other grants to fund MORI and related initiatives. The MORI grants included an award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a *Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program* (COSSAP) Grant, an award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for an *Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level* (IOPSLL) Grant, and a contract was awarded by NACCHO to provide technical assistance education and support to other municipalities throughout the United States on how to approach implementing a similar fire department involved post-overdose outreach program within their communities.