Unique Perspectives and Innovative Partnerships – What AmeriCorps Members Bring to Public Health

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11 AM – 12 PM Pacific
2 PM – 3 PM Eastern

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Community Need

- Ohio led nation in opiate abuse in 2017
- Hamilton County had daily average of 7.0 ER visits for overdoses, 3/2018 – 3/2019
- 347 overdose deaths in Hamilton County in 2018

Data Retrieved From:
Community Need

- 88% of deaths were by Fentanyl and analogs—more present than ever in 2018
- 80% of deaths involved fentanyl; 26% involved heroin
- Most deaths involving cocaine involved fentanyl (77%)
- 37% of deaths were people aged 35-49; 75% were Non-Hispanic White; 70% were male

Data Retrieved From:
Our Niche

• Members serve directly in an Emergency Department, working alongside nurses and providers to provide the highest quality care for patients with substance abuse disorders.

• Members identify and address barriers to treatment, work with the patient to find treatment options, and provide emotional support to patients.
Our Niche

- Mercy Serves AmeriCorps addiction navigators seek to reach these individuals at risk of developing substance abuse related health issues or disorders by:
  - integrating SBIRT techniques, and motivational interviewing throughout the ED
  - Providing more time, individual attention, and an empathetic ear
Unique Perspective

• I am more adaptive than I previously thought

• I have learned a new definition of what it means to be successful – it is not always about getting a patient directly into treatment

• Getting out of my comfort zone was really challenging at first, but I am thankful for those who encouraged me to step out. It has helped me grow personally and professionally

• I sought out this position for more experience inside a healthcare system and to work in an emergency room, particularly, with an at risk population I was interested in better understanding

• I am a more compassionate person than I was before
  • I come from a family of addicts where I previously held some negative views of the disease
Moving Forward

- Through the professional development and leadership courses, I am more confident in my abilities to become a healthcare leader.
- My knowledge on substance abuse has expanded and this experience has increased my desire to work with at risk populations.
- Our program provides me with a unique insight into the organization of healthcare systems, thus, helping me realize I want to pursue graduate education in healthcare administration.
Q&A Feature

1. At the bottom of your screen, click to open the Q&A panel.

2. Type your question in the Q&A box.

3. Select Ask: All Panelists.

4. Click Send.
For more information on AmeriCorps and other National Service Programs visit: https://www.nationalservice.gov
Thank you to today’s moderator & presenters!

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Nicole Vavro

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The Recording and Slides will be available by next week at Dialogue4Health.org

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