CareZONE Program

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2016 Boston Area Narcotic Related Incidents:

• Nearly every Boston neighborhood affected by the opioid epidemic.
• Fentanyl present in the majority of deaths.
• A significant number of OUD victims were homeless.
• Increasing availability of office-based addiction treatment (OBAT) programs but:
  - Few buprenorphine-waivered clinicians & OBAT programs in community-based health centers;
  - Few OBAT programs offering the full range of harm reduction services.

Substantial need for access to low-threshold treatment & harm reduction services for the most marginalized populations
CareZONE uses data driven hotspotting to bring low-threshold, on-demand addiction care & harm reduction services to populations at highest risk of near-term death.

Clinical Partners
Community Health Centers

Harm Reduction Partners
Needle Exchange Programs, Nonprofits

Mobility
Customized Medical Vans

Hotspotting
Target areas with largest number of opioid overdose deaths
A Day on the Van

• Currently staff 4 sessions/week;
• Van parked in same spot each week; team disperse by foot to engage potential patients
• Offer new syringes, collect used syringes, and distribute naloxone
• Interested patients brought back to the van to meet clinicians
• Can receive primary care or MAT
• Outreach workers walk patients to nearby pharmacy to fill MAT prescription immediately
• Facilitate access to OBAT program; weekly follow up on van until warm handoff made

Weekly Clinical Sites
- **Downtown** – West End on Haverhill Street and the other in Downtown Crossing on Chauncy Street.
- **Roxbury** – The van holds clinics in Dudley Square.
- **Fenway** – The van holds clinics in The Fens.
**Number of Contacts**
Van staff made 3,457 contacts with people who inject drugs. Our expert outreach team from AHOPE engages with individuals known to have opioid use disorder as well as those exhibiting signs of addiction.

**Patient Encounters**
Van clinicians had 248 total patient encounters. Some patients have accessed clinical services multiple times. Follow-up visits from patients represented 57% of the total encounters on the van.

**Buprenorphine Prescriptions**
Van clinicians provided 131 buprenorphine prescriptions. 69% of these prescriptions represent patients returning for refills.

**Syringe Exchange**
Van staff distributed 36,510 syringes and collected an estimated 40,891*. Syringe exchange is an important harm reduction practice to reduce the spread of HIV & Hepatitis, reduce the risk of soft tissue infection, encourage safe disposal, and provide risk reduction counseling.

**Naloxone Kits Distributed**
Van staff distributed 1,257 overdose reversing naloxone kits. Kits are distributed to those coping with opioid addiction as well as family and friends of those with addiction.

*Note: AHOPE, the mobile health program’s harm reduction team from the Boston Public Health Commission, on average takes 112 syringes off the street for every 100 syringes distributed, meaning their syringe exchange program results in fewer needles in circulation.