Understanding ODMAP

What is ODMAP?

ODMAP is a simple, web-based system that allows local and state public safety and public health organizations to report suspected drug overdose events within their jurisdiction and to track the occurrence and approximate location of those events.

Why is ODMAP useful?

ODMAP provides near-real-time reporting and mapping of suspected drug overdose events across jurisdictions. This allows local communities to:

1) See when and where suspected drug overdoses occur in their community so they can allocate public health and public safety resources more effectively;
2) Receive alerts of sudden spikes in suspected drug overdose events in their community, allowing them to activate overdose outbreak response plans and rapid intervention teams; and
3) Monitor suspected drug overdose events in neighboring jurisdictions in order to predict potential spikes within their own community.

How much does it cost to become an ODMAP user?

There is no cost for agencies to enter data directly through the web-based system and to access data. If a public safety organization wishes to integrate the ODMAP software with their computer-assisted dispatch (CAD) software so that drug overdose events are automatically added to ODMAP when they are logged by dispatchers, the integration cost will be determined by the provider of the CAD software.

Who can access ODMAP?

To use ODMAP, an organization must be a public safety or public health organization and have a legitimate, official interest in drug overdose tracking. Public safety organizations include law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency medical services agencies, and rescue squads. Agencies with public health missions include public health departments and hospitals.

How do I get access to ODMAP?

To access ODMAP, your agency must first ask permission and be accepted as a user. As noted above, ODMAP is available only to public safety and public health agencies that have a vested interest in the information.

1. Go to this website to request access for your organization: http://www.ODMAP.org/AgencyAccess/Request-Form.
2. A person who is authorized to sign legal documents for your organization must fill out the form and sign the data sharing agreement. In general, the person signing the agreement must be the head of your organization and be authorized to commit the organization to following the agreement. Examples of authorized officials include local health department directors, police chiefs and sheriffs, fire chiefs, EMS agency directors, coroners, etc.
3. In counties with multiple organizations that each want individual organization access, each organization must complete the form. Part of completing the form includes naming an administrator (see item four, below) for the organization.

If ODMAP is being implemented on a coordinated, countywide basis and one organization is taking the lead role for an entire county, that organization will sign the user agreement and then serve as the administrator and vetting agency for all of the organizations in the county that use the system. If you are considering a county-wide ODMAP system, strongly consider bringing all organizational leads together to discuss the role and duties of each organization. For example, EMS may be responsible for entering all drug overdose event reports, while the local health department creates a weekly or monthly report for stakeholders.

4. Designate an administrator. After the designated administrator is vetted, he or she can nominate backup administrators. (The organization signatory may be an administrator.) Having two administrators is recommended so that agency access isn't interrupted if one administrator leaves an organization, becomes unavailable for an extended period, etc.

   Administrators are responsible for vetting users within their organization, deleting users who leave the organization, checking for duplicate entries—basically, for maintaining the "health" of the ODMAP system for the organization.

5. Once an organization is accepted, it will receive an organizational code. Individual users—those agency members who input data—will go to https://ODMAP.hidta.org/ to set up a new account using the organizational code. After they submit the account request, the administrator will receive an email to review and accept the user. Administrators are responsible for ensuring that all users they approve are legitimate members of the organization or a collaborating organization.

6. Once a user has been accepted, he or she can again go to https://ODMAP.hidta.org to log in and add drug overdose event reports. There is no actual app for ODMAP, but the website can be saved to the home screen of an iPhone, iPad, or Android device. A data connection—either cellular, Wi-Fi, or wired—is needed to add or update a drug overdose event report. This may require first responders in some areas to wait until they return from a call to enter an overdose event report.

ODMAP works best when it is implemented countywide in a coordinated way. As this may not be possible in all counties, it is better to have some organizations in a county reporting suspected drug overdose events than to have none at all. The best way to begin planning for countywide ODMAP use is to bring together interested parties (e.g., public health, law enforcement, EMS, and first responders) to determine the level of interest and potential role for each organization. A good place to begin is with an active local anti-drug or substance use prevention coalition or a community health and safety coalition.

For more detailed information about ODMAP, including an overview video and documentation, please visit http://www.ODMAP.org/.