

CRAIN'S
Health Pulse

FDNY overdose mapping helps nurses with clinical intervention

Nurse practitioners' and nursing students' use of real-time maps of opioid overdoses improved their clinical work with adolescents in community health settings, according to a [new study](#) from the NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

Researchers said the nurse practitioners and students were able to improve their understanding of addiction by using geospatial information system, or GIS, maps of drug overdoses generated from data collected by the Fire Department of New York and its emergency medical services.

Specifically, researchers found analysis of the maps led to increased screening and interventions in adolescent populations, such as the use of the evidence-based model known as SBRIT: screening, brief intervention and referral to substance-use treatment. That included screening and intervention at school-based health centers, federally qualified health centers and other sites.

"Traditional and nontraditional health care professionals have a unique opportunity to use visual technologies, such as GIS mapping, to identify hot spots early and then assess, diagnose and treat those for whom opioid use, overdoses and deaths are major problems," said Donna Hallas, clinical professor and director of the pediatric nurse practitioner program at NYU Meyers, in a statement. "We recommend collaborations between traditional and nontraditional health care providers as a strategy that holds promise for combating the opioid epidemic in local communities."

Hallas was the lead author of the study, which was published in the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*. Research was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.