

Staten Island's new strategy to combat opioid crisis

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo announced a new data strategy Monday to address the ongoing opioid epidemic.

It focuses on [15 priority measures](#) developed through insight from the public and an expert panel. They include tracking the proportion of first opioid prescriptions that are for more than three days and those for more than seven days, the number of patients started on buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction in the emergency department and the number of patients engaged in treatment 30 days later. The number of available supportive housing units funded by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services will be looked at as well.

The state is also providing \$1 million to implement prevention education in all K-12 public and private schools on Staten Island.

"Though it is a technical effort, this is also a grass roots effort," said Isaac Gorodetski, director of public policy at the office of the Borough President. "Every single data point represents a person and a family."

The goal is to have all 15 measures "publicly available in a de-identified way," he said.

Staten Island's rate of overdose deaths proportionate to the population is 27.3 per 100,000.

The experts on the panel were Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, professor and associate chief of general internal medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Anthony Ferreri, former CEO of Staten Island University Hospital and senior adviser to the borough president at the start of the initiative; Dr. Marc Gourevitch, professor and chair of the Department of Population Health at the NYU School of Medicine; Jonathan Morgenstern, assistant vice president for addiction services at Northwell Health and professor of psychiatry at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell; and Nora Santiago, urban policy analyst and GIS specialist at CUNY College of Staten Island.