

OPIOID DATATHON

develop a **solution** with potential to **save lives**



www.vtrc.vt.edu/datathon

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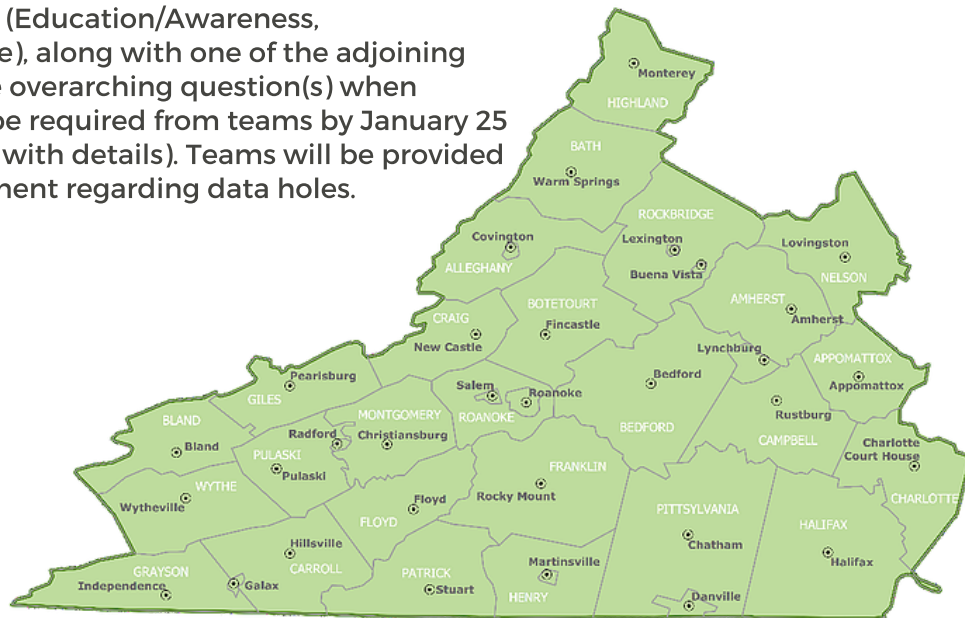
FOCUS

The desired focus of the 2019 Virginia Tech Roanoke Center Opioid Datathon is on leveraging current data available to suggest new, innovative, and potentially impactful ways to involve parents and community stakeholders in awareness and education surrounding youth/teenage (ages 12-18) opioid addiction at the regional level (Urgent Love 26-county service area which includes Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas).

Teams will choose one of the tracks below (Education/Awareness, Connection/Communication, Infrastructure), along with one of the adjoining challenges. They will take into account the overarching question(s) when addressing the challenges. Proposals will be required from teams by January 25 (teams will be contacted after registration with details). Teams will be provided with a mentor and an identification document regarding data holes.



The
**Urgent
LOVE**
Initiative
of southwest Virginia



EDUCATION/AWARENESS

Overarching Questions:

- How can we leverage data to suggest new programmatic and impact education surrounding opioid use in youth (12-18 years old)?
- How can we aid in the improvement of or reframing for current programs based on available data?
- How can we provide workable and accessible information for opioid addiction in the Roanoke Valley that is meaningful?

Challenges

1. One of the Urgent Love initiatives is to reach youth at numerous touchpoints. Individuals at these touchpoints need to be educated in order to make prevention as effective as possible in their daily lives. For instance, middle school and high school students in athletics are at a higher risk of opioid use due to injury; their coaches are a prevention touchpoint. Since injured athletes are at higher risks for opioid use, the challenge lies in finding the best way to mitigate opioid misuse by educating all parties involved in prevention tools and resources.

- **How could you develop better opioid education programs in order to leverage these human touchpoints?**

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2. Large portions of population of the region lack the knowledge in how to recognize individuals actively experiencing an overdose (OD). They are unaware of what to do if they experience a potential OD situation, what the proper response should be and/or how to correctly administer Naloxone (an opioid OD reversal drug, also known as Narcan or Evzio)

- **There's an existing program that provides overdose and Naloxone education called REVIVE! How can we increase support of this program to promote awareness of overdose identification and response?**

3. The stigma carried by addiction can make people feel ashamed, anxious and less dignified. They often fear the chance of facing serious legal repercussions which can prevent them from being open about their addiction. The stigma can deter individuals suffering with addiction from seeking options and resources they need for recovery.

- **How can we create a means of educating healthcare providers and the public (eg: public awareness campaign strategy) in order to create a culture shift and reduce the stigma surrounding addiction?**

CONNECTION/COMMUNICATION

Overarching Questions:

- How can we better connect stakeholders to to one another and to local resources?
- How can we connect opioid users to local resources and treatment?
- How can we enhance communication between drug users, their families and providers?

Challenges

4. There is a lack of communication between parents/guardians and youth regarding opioid awareness, and the risks associated with the stigma of addiction.

- **How can we create a means by which youth (12-18 years old), parents/guardians and community stakeholders can become engaged in opioid conversations surrounding awareness, risks and stigma?**

5. There is no single data source available to the public about the opioid crisis and potential resources. The information needs to be simple, trustworthy and readily available.

- **How can we better disseminate information about the opioid crisis and available resources to the public and other community stakeholders (eg: healthcare providers, schools, law enforcement, other relevant community providers)?**

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INFRASTRUCTURE (PHYSICAL & DIGITAL)

Overarching Question:

- How can we use data to help increase the region's (Urgent Love's 26-county area) prevention efforts and— with that—treatment infrastructure?

Challenges

6. There is no single, successful, up-to-date central repository for opioid-related data in our area. Organizations such as healthcare providers, law enforcement, treatment facilities and schools all have data that could be aggregated and shared.

- **What can be done to standardize data collection and aggregate the information being collected by all of the partners that are battling the opioid crisis?**

7. There are holes and gaps in resources for opioid users across our region. Some of these gaps include

- time duration between treatment and relapse
- available inpatient slots
- access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
- housing options after release from jail or treatment

- **How can we better identify resource gaps? How can we create a better system of identifying, updating and managing a directory of current opioid-related resources?**

8. Across the 26-county region, there is a lack of treatment infrastructure for opioid users.

- **What are ways we can dynamically identify funding resources and connect them to providers who need them, in a way that is easily accessible to community organizations, at little-to-no cost to them?**

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

