



## NASCIO State IT Recognition Awards Nomination Form

Title: Integrated Drug Awareness Dashboard (“IDAD”)

Category: Emerging & Innovative Technologies

State: New Jersey

Contact: Christopher Rein, Chief Technology Officer, State of New Jersey

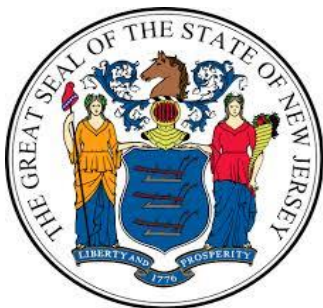
Kelly Levy, Deputy Attorney General, IDAD Project Manager, NJ CARES, Department of Law & Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, State of New Jersey

### Project Initiation:

- The New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety submitted an application for the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 2017 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program: Category 6 – Information Sharing Electronic Dashboard Grant on April 25, 2017. The grant application proposed that the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety would collaborate with state agencies to develop a computerized, data-sharing “dashboard” known as the IDAD. The proposed start date was January 1, 2018 and the proposed end date was December 31, 2020. The funding amount requested was \$600,000.
- The New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety was notified around the fall of 2017 that it received the federal grant funding for the project.
- The New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety signed an Agreement with its software vendor, SAS, to build and develop the IDAD system for the department on December 22, 2017.
- A kickoff meeting for the IDAD project was held with all the project stakeholders to discuss the project and define its goals around April 2018.

### Project Completion:

- Phase I of the IDAD went live on March 7, 2019.



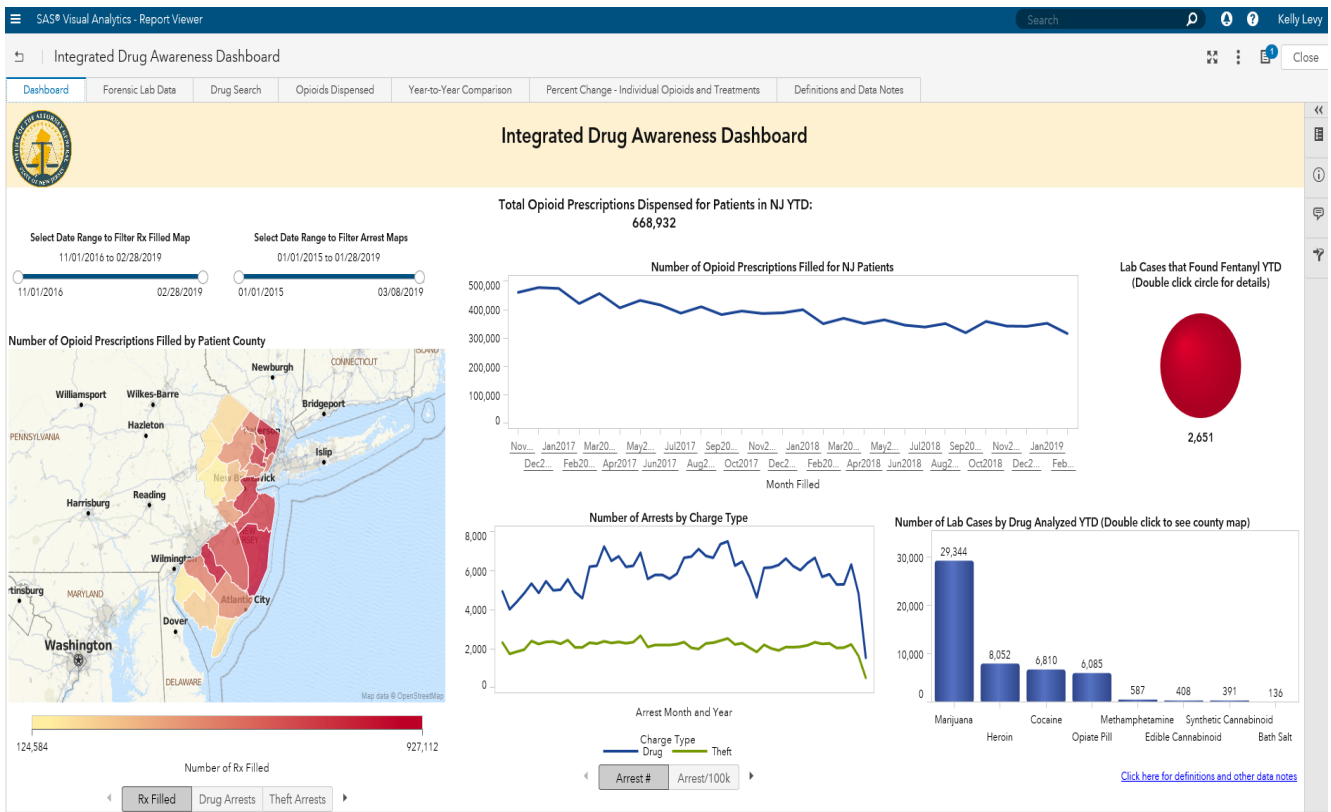
## Executive Summary

New Jersey, which has a population over 9 million, is a northeastern U.S. state with 21 counties that are each distinct in its size, demographics, and landscape. The New Jersey Attorney General serves as both the state's chief law enforcement officer and its chief legal officer. The Attorney General serves as the head of the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety ("DL&PS"), which includes the New Jersey State Police ("NJSP"), which oversees the Regional Operations Intelligence Center, Drug Monitoring Initiative ("DMI"), and the Division of Consumer Affairs, which oversees the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program ("PMP"). NJSP maintains daily arrest records related to drugs and evidence seized at overdose or arrest that are submitted to the lab, tested, and stored. DMI uses this data to establish a multi-jurisdictional, multi-state drug-incident information-sharing environment that supports law enforcement and public health experts in better understanding trends, implications, and threats from illicit drug activity that have an impact within their jurisdictions. PMP, which is one of the State's most important tools in the fight against the diversion of prescription drugs, keeps detailed data on prescriptions filled in New Jersey for Human Growth Hormone and controlled dangerous substances — the category of drugs that includes potentially addictive opiate painkillers, including data on more than 67.85 million prescriptions written since September 2011.

In recognition of the opioid crisis affecting the lives of hundreds of New Jerseyans and the various divisions within DL&PS dealing with the epidemic on different levels, in February 2018, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced the creation of the Office of the NJ Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies ("NJ CARES"). NJ CARES was created to be responsible for overseeing addiction-fighting efforts across DL&PS and creating partnerships with other agencies and groups committed to identifying and implementing solutions to the opioid crisis and drug addiction. One of the initial projects assigned to NJ CARES was the implementation and management of the IDAD. Indeed, the centralized nature of DL&PS in New Jersey offers unique opportunities to pursue data collaborations across different state agencies, and New Jersey is aware that leveraging available data is one of the key ways to combat the epidemic most efficiently and strategically.

About a year after NJ CARES was announced, DL&PS built the IDAD system platform and integrated identified and de-identified datasets from NJSP and PMP into the dashboard. To date, designated users within DL&PS are using the system to enhance the work of DL&PS. This includes being better able to target overprescribers, mapping opioid hotspots, and using real-time data to direct policy and grant decisions.

Remarkably, for about a year and a half, the IDAD project has been a collaborative effort and partnership between different agencies within DL&PS, including NJSP, PMP, OAG IT and grant management, and NJ CARES, and its contracted software vendor, SAS. Additionally, DL&PS has partnered with the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services ("CREEHS") at Montclair State University, and CREEHS has been helpful in documenting the journey of the project and facilitating an Action Research component with its stakeholders.



## Project Narrative

### Concept

The IDAD is a computerized information-sharing platform with advanced analytics capabilities that enables officials from across DL&PS to exchange and analyze important opioid-related data that previously has been kept in separate silos within each agency. The initial version of the IDAD integrates opioid-related data from NJSP and PMP into one centralized platform accessible to authorized users from different divisions. Data now available through the IDAD includes the number and types of prescription opioids being dispensed and the locations of heroin, fentanyl, and other drug-related arrests and seizures throughout the state.

The IDAD system is a role-based system and takes into consideration privacy and confidentiality laws in each of its datasets by placing limitations on each account user's access. Consequently, each user is permitted access to identified and/or de-identified data based upon his/her role in his/her department. For example, identified PMP data is limited to PMP employees, and the remaining users only have access to de-identified PMP data. Likewise, identified NJSP data is limited to NJSP employees, and those without authorized NJSP access only have access to de-identified NJSP data. Additionally, the credentials provided to each user are "non-transferable".

DL&PS has plans underway to enhance the IDAD to include other state agencies and to expand the types of data included in the system, including public health data. DL&PS applied for and received a FY 2018 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program: Category 6 grant to be able to make enhancements to the IDAD system between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2021. These enhancements would include opening up the system to different state agencies and integrating more datasets.

### *Significance and impact*

As prescription medication abuse, misuse, and diversion, and the presence of illicit substances continue to be a national public health concern, New Jersey has been especially impacted by the opioid epidemic and, in January 2017, New Jersey's governor declared the abuse of, and addiction to, opioid drugs a public health crisis. Between 2014 and 2015, drug overdose deaths increased by nearly 22%, and nearly 1,600 people lost their lives to overdoses in New Jersey. Unfortunately, in 2016, the number of individuals who died because of drug overdoses escalated to over 2,221, an increase of almost 40% from the previous year. Similarly, although less of an incremental increase, in 2017 and 2018, the number of drug-related deaths in New Jersey continued to rise; 2,737 drug-related deaths occurred in 2017, while 3,118 are suspected to have occurred in 2018. As of April 15, 2019, there have been about 668 suspected overdose deaths reported in New Jersey for 2019.

When NJ CARES was announced in early 2018, the Attorney General indicated that one of the initiatives the office would roll out to combat the opioid crisis was the IDAD, which was proposed to be a computerized, information-sharing “dashboard” to exchange opioid-related data between state agencies, including data from the PMP and NJSP. The goal of the IDAD was to create a holistic picture of New Jersey’s opioid environment, help develop targeted interventions and investigations, develop analytical opioid “hot spot” data, and make responses to opioid-related incidents more efficient and timely.

About a year after NJ CARES and the IDAD was first announced, the IDAD went live within DL&PS. As such, DL&PS now has a platform for multiple state agencies within the department to proactively monitor and target the opioid epidemic. Information gleaned from the IDAD is currently helping create a holistic picture of New Jersey’s opioid environment that is aiding state agencies in developing and analyzing data that may be used to target intervention initiatives and civil and criminal enforcement actions, enhance public outreach and education efforts, and develop other data-driven solutions to the opioid epidemic.

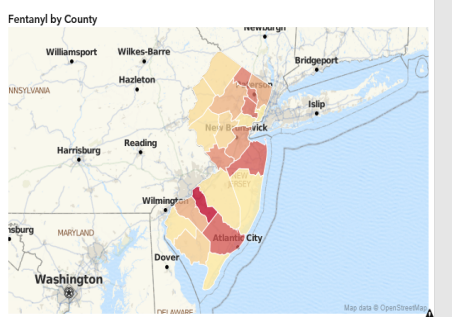
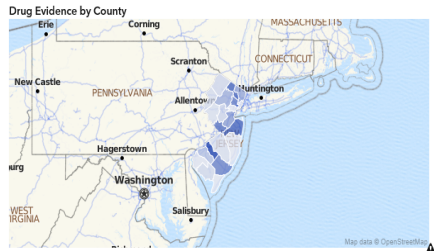
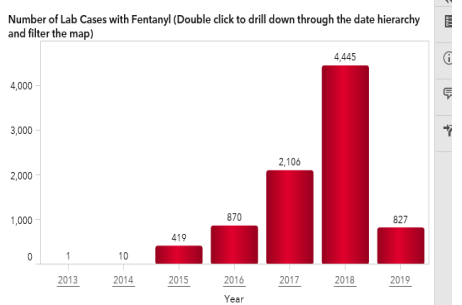
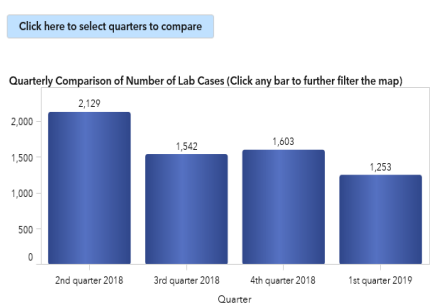
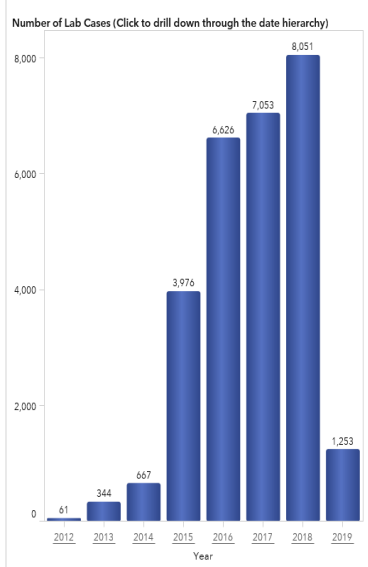
In 2019, CREEHS submitted its Year 1 (FY 2018) Evaluation Report to NJ CARES. CREEHS documented the following accomplishments in Year 1: (1) identifying and retaining a technology vendor to develop the dashboard and establishing a collaborative relationship with the vendor, (2) engaging a diverse group of stakeholders across agencies to support this work, and (3) initiating the development of a dashboard that will serve multiple users. Three key challenges that were noted in the first year were: (1) transition in state administration, key staff and leadership on the project; (2) communicating and meeting the needs of a diverse group of stakeholders and potential users of the system; and (3) working through data access, quality, and integration challenges, which included confidentiality concerns due to privacy rules.

Undoubtedly, in addition to showing how important data is to addressing the opioid crisis and the difficulties in integrating different datasets into one system, the IDAD is a vital example of the importance of divisions across a state working together and collaborating for the greater good. New Jersey recognizes that the opioid crisis is not just a public safety or a public health crisis; it requires a coordinated effort between all those tasked with preserving the safety and well-being of citizens. New Jersey has thus built the foundation to tackle and address the crisis through a multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional approach. New Jersey will only continue its progress on this front.

Integrated Drug Awareness Dashboard

Dashboard Forensic Lab Data Drug Search Opioids Dispensed Year-to-Year Comparison Percent Change - Individual Opioids and Treatments Definitions and Data Notes

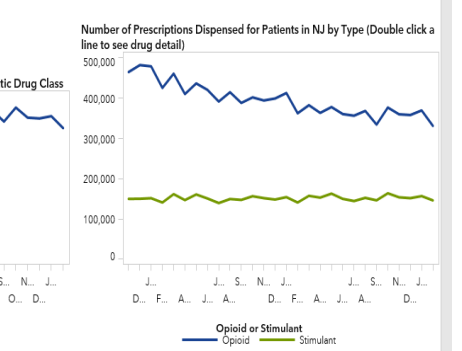
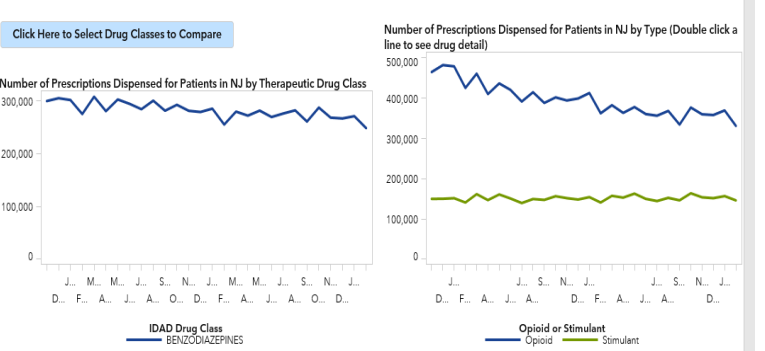
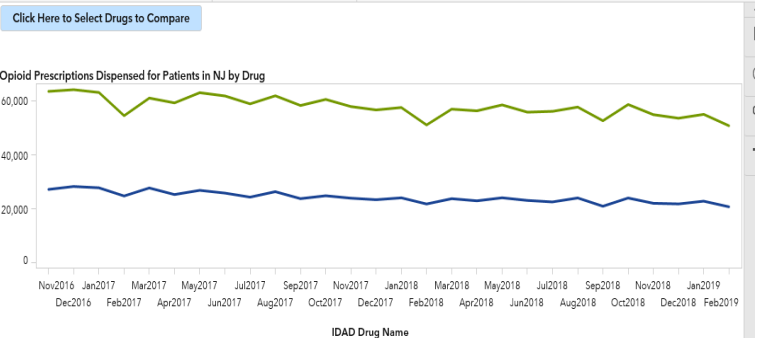
Select a drug to filter the graphs and the map Bath Salt Cocaine Edible Cannabinoid **Heroin** Marijuana Methamphetamine Opiate Pill Synthetic Cannabinoid



Integrated Drug Awareness Dashboard

Dashboard Forensic Lab Data Drug Search **Opioids Dispensed** Year-to-Year Comparison Percent Change - Individual Opioids and Treatments Definitions and Data Notes

Top 100 Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed for Patients in NJ YTD (Double click any drug to view trend)



Integrated Drug Awareness Dashboard

Dashboard Forensic Lab Data **Drug Search** Opioids Dispensed Year-to-Year Comparison Percent Change - Individual Opioids and Treatments Definitions and Data Notes

Select date range to filter forensic lab results 01/02/2015 to 03/08/2019

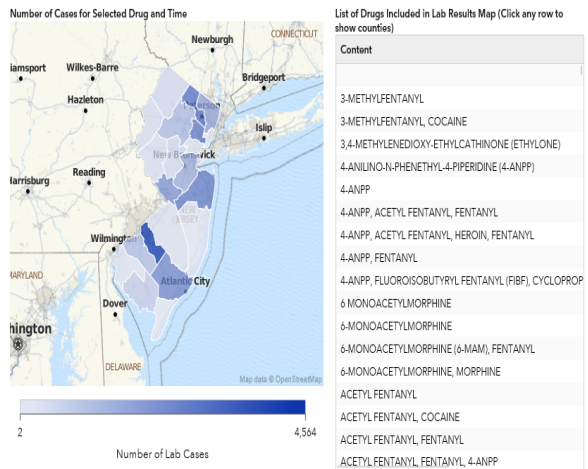


Select a drug to filter detailed content table

Bath Salt Cocaine Edible Cannabinoid **Heroin** Marijuana Methamphetamine Opiate Pill Synthetic Cannabinoid

Enter a full or partial drug name to filter map

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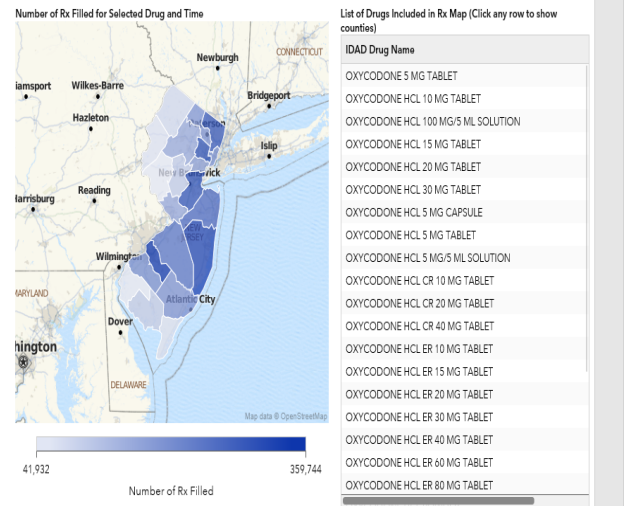


Select date range to filter prescription drug map 11/01/2016 to 02/28/2019



Enter a full or partial drug name to filter map

oxycod



Integrated Drug Awareness Dashboard

Dashboard Forensic Lab Data Drug Search **Opioids Dispensed** Year-to-Year Comparison Percent Change - Individual Opioids and Treatments Definitions and Data Notes

