



PIMA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

REGIONAL GAPS ANALYSIS:

**Comparative Findings on Opioid
Response Recommendations**

February 2026



Purpose & Scope

- Review identified local documents (over 20) from city, county, and regional partners that addressed and/or outlined plans and strategies addressing the opioid response in Pima County.
- Compare recommendations through a public health framework (Policy, Assessment, and Assurance)
- Identify cross document key strengths, gaps, and opportunities to inform and guide coordinated improvement.

10 Thematic Areas Identified

1. Treatment Access & Continuity
2. Cross-Sector Collaboration & Governance
3. Social Determinants of Health & Wraparound Supports
4. Workforce Development & Capacity Building
5. Harm Reduction & Overdose Prevention
6. Stigma Reduction & Public Education
7. Policy & Legislative Advocacy
8. Data Integration & Surveillance
9. Technology & Innovation
10. Youth Prevention & School-Based Strategies



Strengths

1. Field-based harm-reduction and outreach efforts are scaled and consistent.
2. Coordinated engagement between partners and jurisdictions is gathering momentum.
3. Governance and investment commitments are helping drive sustainable change.

Gaps

1. Work to identify and establish transition points and continuity of care have yet to be started or have been initiated but aren't yet stable.
2. Structural integration and shared infrastructure are not yet started or early-stage.
3. Capacity for stabilization and step-down care are not yet started or early-stage.
4. Youth prevention work and coverage are not uniformly implemented.
5. Workforce sustainability efforts are initiated but dependent on short-cycle funding.
6. Policy and reimbursement alignment are initiated or not yet started, slowing normalization of best practices.



Opportunities

Governance and Policy

1. Develop and implement a unified Regional Opioid Response Plan.
2. Formalize governance structures to strengthen and inform efforts.
3. Advance enabling policy actions such as AHCCCS rule changes.



Opportunities

Assessment

1. Accelerate data interoperability and shared analytics.
2. Develop and utilized a shared evaluation framework.

Opportunities *Assurance*

1. Develop and support an interim shared referral system.
2. Pilot transport and step-down capacity linked to sobering and reentry.
3. Stabilize and standardize youth prevention.
4. Strengthen workforce pipelines and trainings.





PIMA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

Jennifer Allen, *Chair*, District 3
Dr. Matt Heinz, *Vice Chair*, District 2
Rex Scott, District 1
Steve Christy, District 4
Andrés Cano, District 5

Pima County Administrator

Jan Leshner

Deputy County Administrators

Carmine DeBonis, Jr.
Steve Holmes
Chad Kasmar

Health Department Director

Dr. Theresa Cullen