

# “BAD BATCH” APP

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# Disclosures

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# Introduction

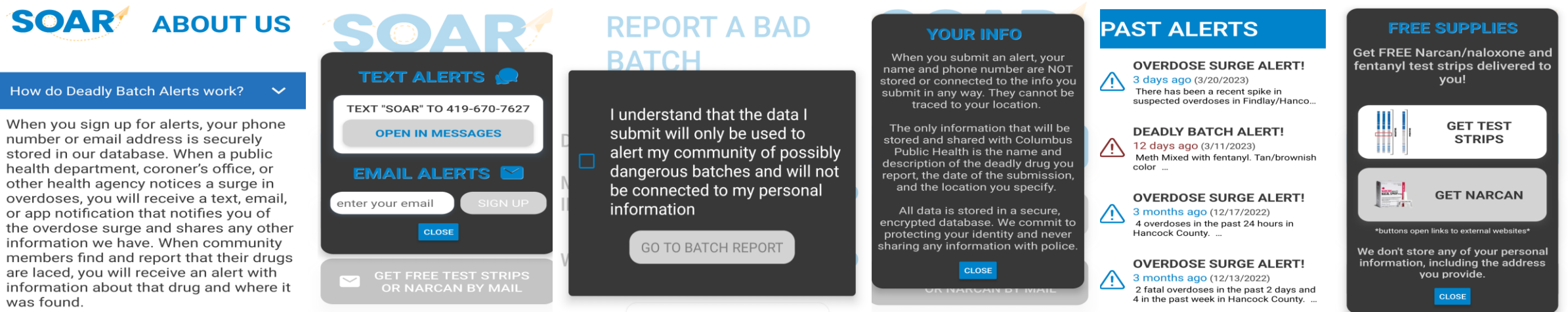
- Jurisdictions are using “spike alerts,” to address drug overdoses in communities
- Targeted messages notify recipients that there is an unexpected increase in drug-related overdoses in a specific area.
- The messages can be shared via email, social media, or even direct SMS text messaging, and all are free to the users.
- The purpose of these notifications is to reduce injury or death from opioid overdoses during spike events

# Issues

- *Increasing adulteration of the illicit drug supply with fentanyl*
- *Drug checking is a harm reduction strategy that provides individuals with information about substances they plan to consume averting unintentional overdoses*
- *Incorporating this information into an app can help alert others about real-time changes to the drug supply*

# Current Practice

- *“Bad Batch” Apps exist in multiple communities with multiple input sources for alert app subscribers to changes to the drug supply (ex: Baltimore, Ohio, etc.)*
- *NNHRA is proposing to use the Safety Outreach System (SOS) be a mobile application that aims to inform its users of drug batches that are correlated to overdoses or fentanyl test strip positivity*



# Gaps

- *Gap - Rigorous evaluation of utilization, implementation, and impact of “Bad Batch Apps”*
- *Evaluation studies of fentanyl test strips report that most people informed of their drug contents report a change in drug use behavior (Peiper et al, 2019)*

# Populations Impacted

- *Primary: People who use or inject drugs (PWUD/PWID)*
- *Secondary:*
  - *PWUD/PWID Social Networks (friends, family)*
  - *Outreach workers/peer navigators*
  - *Other populations disproportionately impacted by substance use disorders*

# Recommendation(s)

- *Pilot and evaluate the use of the “Bad Batch” App services in one behavioral health region (i.e., support implementation of NNHRA’s SOS app launch)*
- *Rigorously evaluate the impact and reach of the app to determine effectiveness and next steps for potential expansion.*



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