

# Layered Protections & Transformational Change: CDC Perspective on Drug Overdose Prevention

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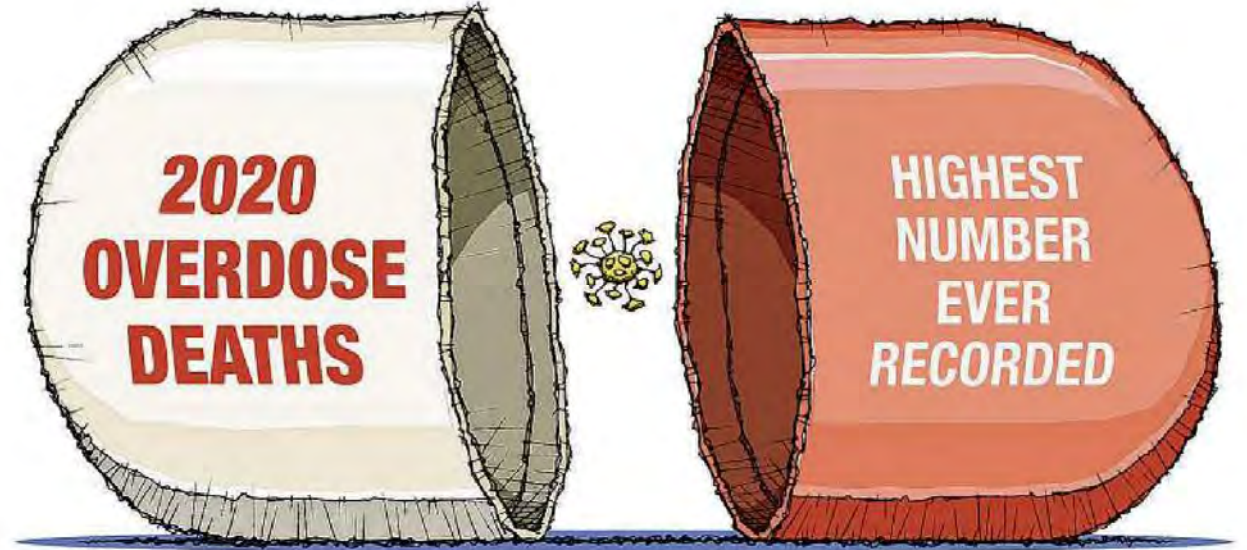


*The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

**COVID**  
CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE **19**

# Reflections on Drug Overdose Deaths in 2020

THE "NOT-SO-SECRET" INGREDIENT

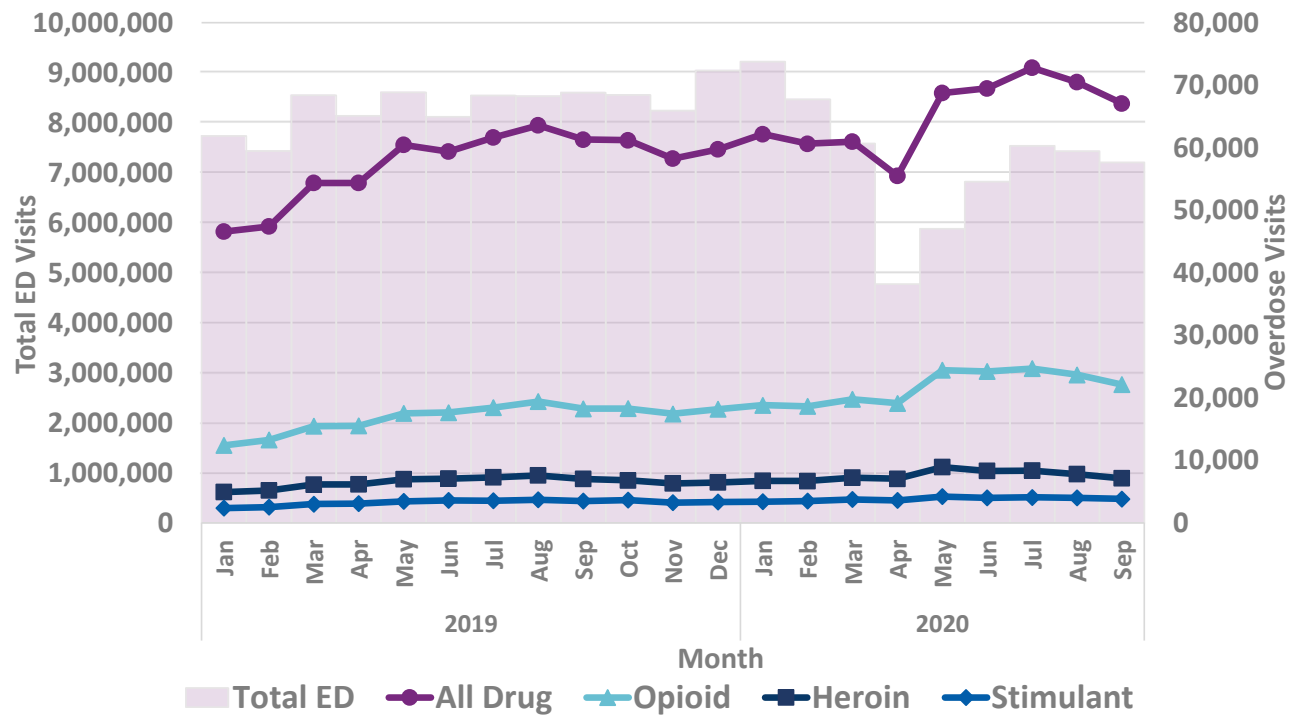


TIM CAMPBELL/WASHINGTON POST SYNDICATE

*Tim Campbell*  
Great Artwork and Illustrations  
Available by Multiple Artists and Studios



## Nonfatal Drug Overdoses Increased for All Drug, Opioid, Heroin, and Stimulants During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/nonfatal/states/covid-19.html>

## Current State of the U.S. Drug Overdose Crisis

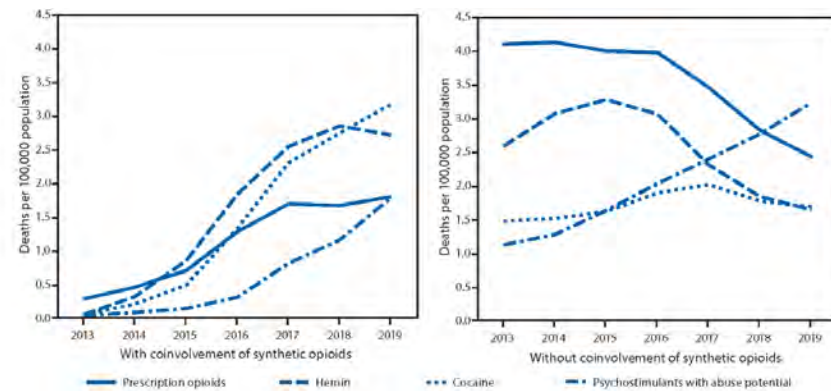
### DRIVERS

- Continued increase in burden caused by illicitly manufactured fentanyl
- Challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic
- Increasing co-involvement of substances in overdose deaths

# 93,331

## Provisional Estimate of Overdose Deaths in 2020

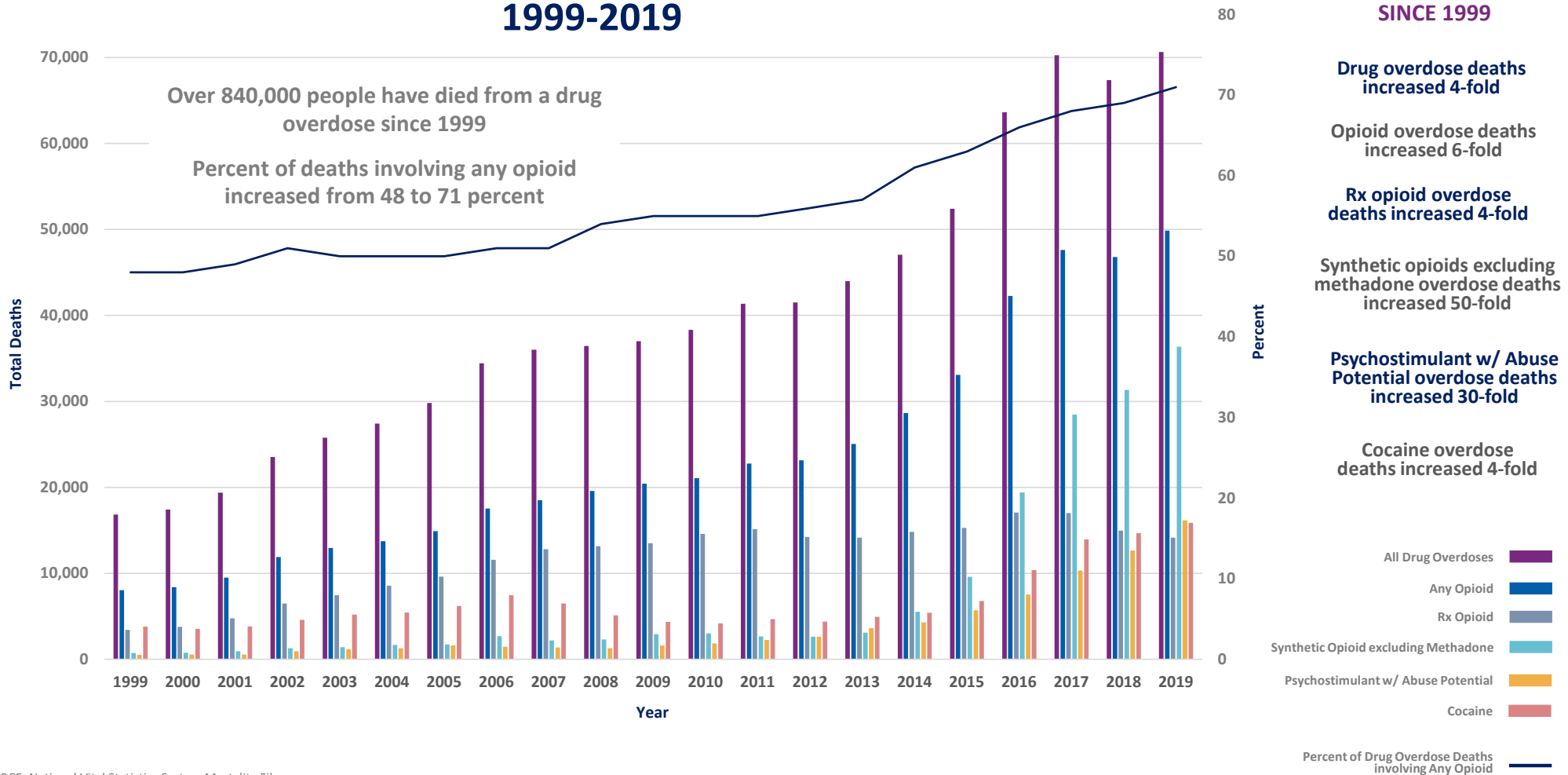
A growing proportion of ALL drug overdose deaths in the U.S. involve synthetic opioids from 2013-2019



Source: Mattson, Tanz, Quinn, Kariisa, Patel, and Davis (2021). MMWR. 70(6), 202

SOURCES: Ahmad FB, Rossen LM, Sutton P. Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics. 2021. Mattson, Tanz, Quinn, Kariisa, Patel, and Davis (2021). MMWR. 70(6), 202

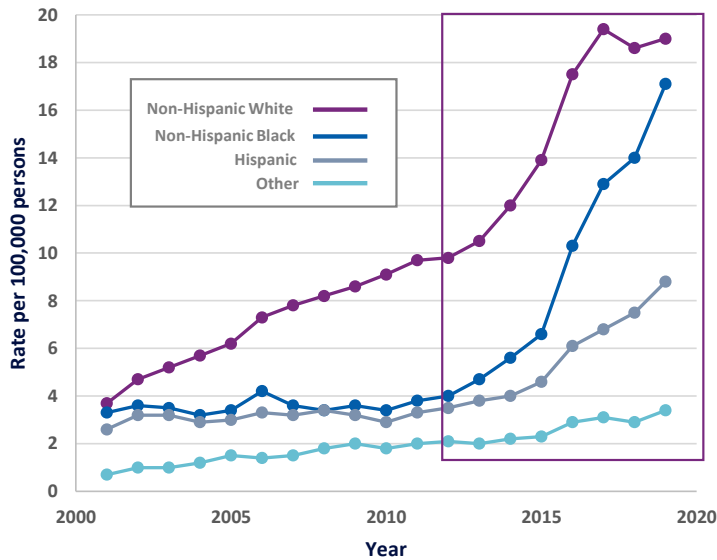
# Historical Trends in U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths 1999-2019



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File

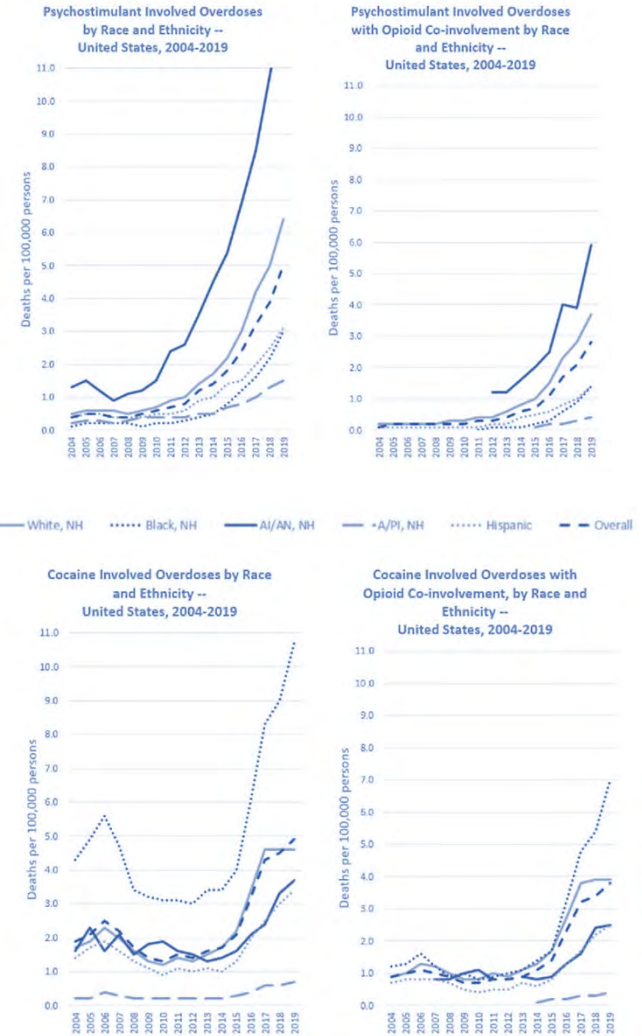
# Racial and Ethnic Disparities in U.S. Drug Overdose Death Rates

**Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths 2001-2019**




**From 2004-2019**  
Cocaine and psychostimulant-involved death rates were higher for non-Hispanic Black and Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native persons than other ethnic groups.

**From 2013-2019**  
Opioid overdose death rates increased over 80 percent among Non-Hispanic Whites and 264 percent among Non-Hispanic Blacks



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File; and Kariisa et al – 2021 - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.109001>.


An elephant is shown in profile, standing in a dark, industrial-style room. A single spotlight hangs from the ceiling, casting a bright, circular pool of light on the wall behind the elephant. The elephant's trunk is visible, and its tusks are slightly illuminated. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

**83 percent of opioid overdose deaths &  
63 percent of all drug overdose deaths involved  
synthetic opioids excluding methadone**

**March 2020 - February 2021 – Provisional Drug Overdose Deaths**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

# Fentanyl

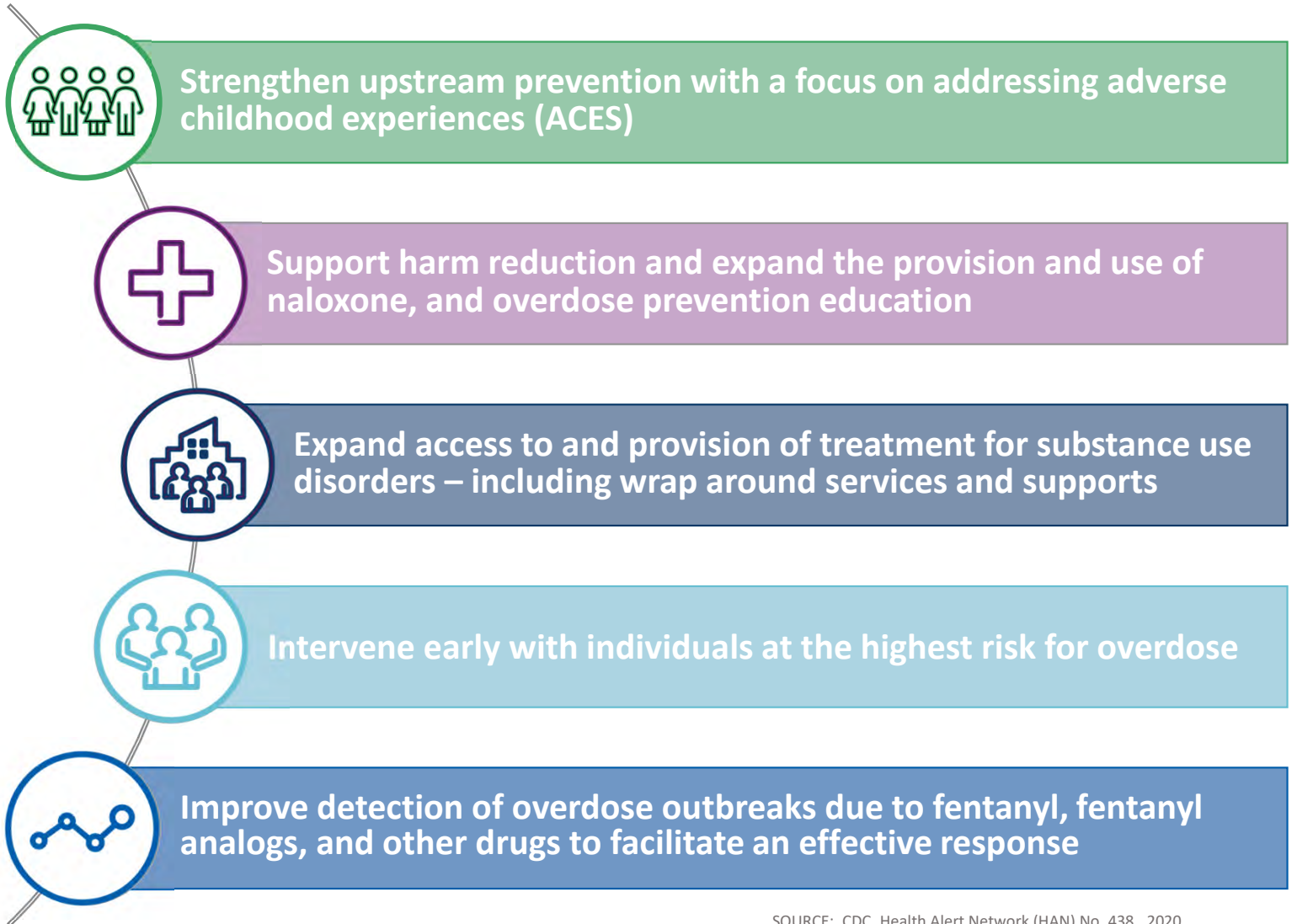
A photograph of three hikers standing on a rocky mountain peak at sunset. The hikers are silhouetted against the bright, golden light of the setting sun. They are wearing colorful gear and have their arms raised in celebration. The background shows a vast, hazy mountain range under a sky with scattered clouds. The overall mood is one of achievement and triumph.

**We don't need to find common ground. We need to find higher ground that addresses common interests.**

**Adapted from Leana Wen  
Lifeline - 2021**



# Where do we go from here?



SOURCE: CDC. Health Alert Network (HAN) No. 438. 2020.

# CDC Approach to Prevent Overdoses and Substance Use-Related Harms

## STRATEGIC PILLARS



Draft and Pre-Decisional – Updated 2021



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention





# CDC Approach to Prevent Overdoses and Substance Use-Related Harms



# Parallels between the COVID-19 Pandemic and the US Drug Overdose Crisis



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# A Well Developed and Vibrant Public Health System is Required to Deliver the 10 Essential Services





# Timely, Comprehensive, Localized, Integrated, and Actionable Data are Essential

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

## COVID Data Tracker

United States  
At a Glance

Cases Total 33,341,986  
Last 30 Days

Deaths Total 598,713  
Last 30 Days

65.3% of Adults with At Least  
One Vaccination

Community  
Transmission Moderate

- Data Tracker Home
- COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review
- Your Community +
- Health Equity Data
- Vaccinations +
- Cases, Deaths, and Testing +
- Demographic Trends +
- Health Care Settings +
- Genomic Surveillance +
- Seroprevalence +


### COVID Data Tracker

Find maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States, updated daily by 8 pm ET


#### Recent updates:

- The County View tab now includes Expanded Vaccination coverage maps with the addition of percent of each population of interest who has received at least one dose of vaccine
- The stats bar at the top of the site now includes level of community transmission and enhanced visualizations
- Users can now stratify Trends in Emergency Department Visits by age group

[COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#)  
An interpretive summary of this week's data




[How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine?](#)



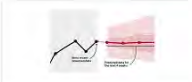
### Your Community

Stay up to date on the latest data in your community at the state and county level.

[County View](#)  
Track cases, deaths, hospitalizations, and more for your community



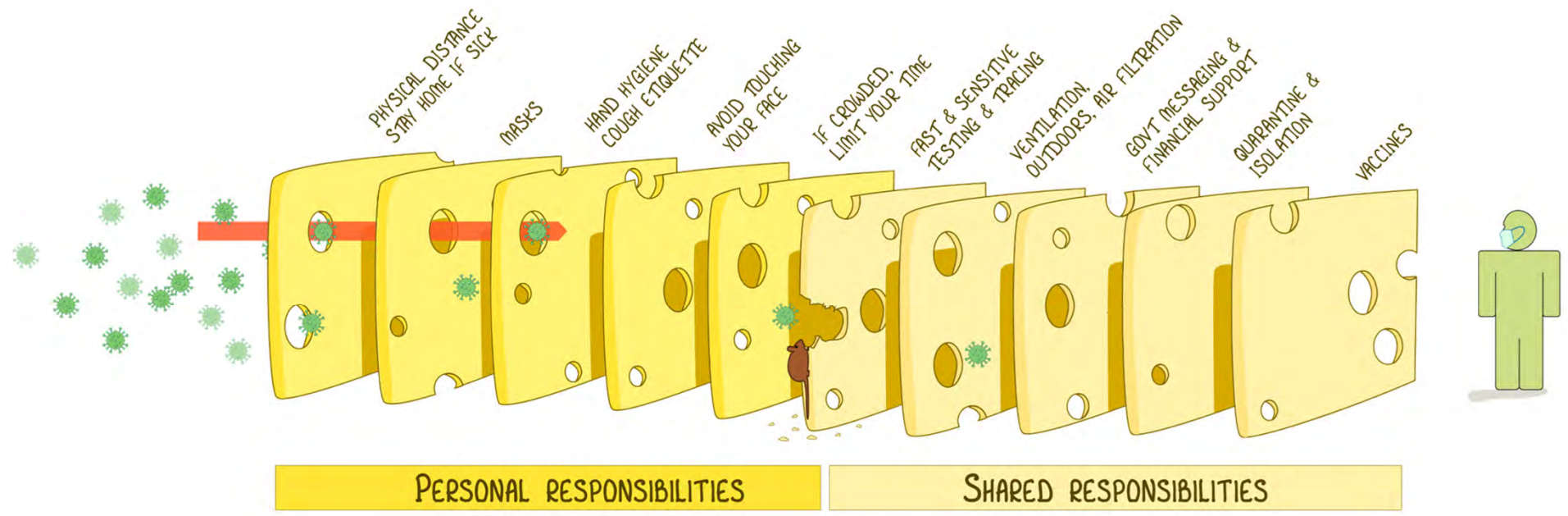
[Forecasting](#)  
See expectations for case increases or decreases for your state and across the US



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

# Multi-Layered Protections are Critical and Need to be Universally Adopted

## Swiss Cheese Model



EACH INTERVENTION (LAYER) HAS IMPERFECTIONS (HOLES).  
MULTIPLE LAYERS IMPROVE SUCCESS.

# Some Racial and Ethnic Groups are Disproportionately Impacted

When policies, programs, and systems that support health are equitable, poor health outcomes can be reduced

Social Determinants of Health: Know What Affects Health



[Social determinants of health \(SDOH\)](#) are conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life risks and outcomes. [Learn more about social determinants of health.](#)

This website connects you to CDC resources for SDOH data, research, tools for action, programs, and policy. They may be used by people in public health, community organizations, research organizations, and health care systems to assess SDOH and improve community well-being. Information and tools available on this website were generated or funded by CDC within the last 10 years.

### Learn More About SDOH



About Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)



CDC Research on SDOH

### Take Action with SDOH Tools



Policy Resources to Support SDOH



Tools for Putting SDOH into Action

### CDC's Commitment to Addressing Racism



Racism, both interpersonal and structural,



# Thriving Together In Communities Across the Country Means Investing in These 7 Areas



## THRIVING NATURAL WORLD

*Sustainable resources, contact with nature, freedom from hazards*  
Clean air, water, soil; healthy ecosystems able to sustainably provide necessary resources; accessible natural spaces; freedom from the extreme heat, flooding, wind, radiation, earthquakes, pathogens

## BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH + SAFETY

*Basic requirements for health and safety*  
Nutritious food, safe drinking water; fresh air; sufficient sleep; routine physical activity; safe, satisfying sexuality and reproduction; freedom from trauma, violence, addiction and crime; routine care for physical and behavioral health

## HUMANE HOUSING

*Humane, consistent housing*  
Adequate space per person; safe structures; affordable costs; diverse neighborhoods (without gentrification, segregation, concentrated poverty); close to work, school, food, recreation, and nature

## MEANINGFUL WORK + WEALTH

*Rewarding work, careers, and standards of living*  
Job training/retraining; good-paying and fulfilling jobs; family and community wealth; savings and limited debt

## LIFELONG LEARNING

*Continuous learning, education, and literacy*  
Continuous development of cognitive, social, emotional abilities; early childhood experiences; elementary, high school, and higher education; career and adult education

## RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

*Reliable, safe, and accessible transportation*  
Close to work, school, food, leisure; safe transport; active transport; efficient energy use; few environmental hazards

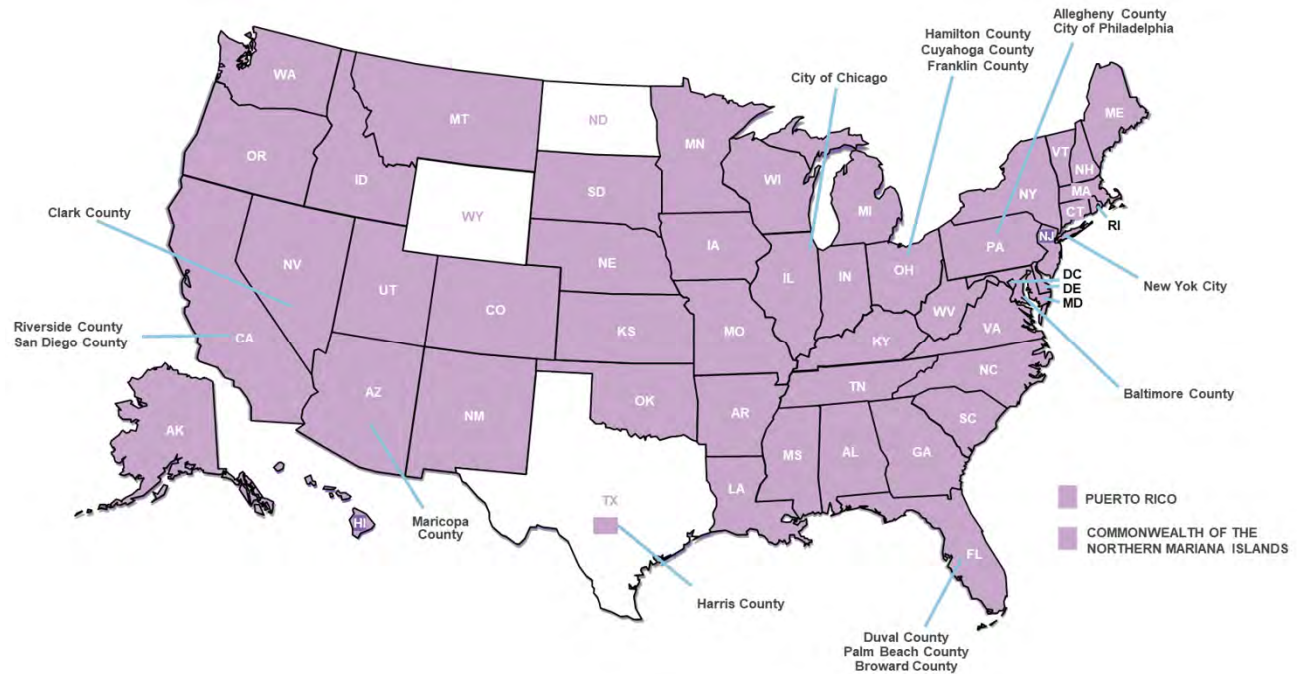
## BELONGING + CIVIC MUSCLE

*Sense of belonging and power to shape a common world*  
Social support; civic association; freedom from stigma, discrimination, oppression; support for civil rights, human rights; civic agency; collective efficacy; vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life; equitable access to information; many opportunities for civic engagement (voting, volunteering, public work)



# Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

- \$300M per year for 3 years
- Seamless integration of data and prevention programs
- 66 jurisdictions funded including 47 states, DC, 2 territories, and 16 hard hit cities and counties
- At least twenty percent of state funds go to the local level as well to spur innovation and multisector collaboration.



Surveillance



PDMPs



Health System



Public Safety



Linkage to Care



Empower Consumers



Local Response



# Adapting OD2A to Meet the Moment

## CHALLENGE

- COVID-19 has impacted the ability of states and localities to execute activities and expend program fund in OD2A.
- The drug overdose crisis has evolved and demands novel approaches.

## SOLUTION

- Extend the current state, local, and territorial program by one additional year.
- Offer jurisdictions flexibility to strengthen their response by expanding the scope of OD2A prevention activities to include polysubstance use and prescription and illicit stimulants.
- Leverage partnership cooperative agreements to provide additional support to recipients - including to fill critical health department positions and expanding investments in additional localities via offsets.

## Updating the CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline

- Areas updated in the CDC Guideline include:
  - Additional detail on non-pharmacologic and non- opioid pharmacologic therapies for chronic pain;
  - Updated information on benefits and risks of nonpharmacologic, nonopioid pharmacologic, and opioid therapies for chronic pain;
  - Expanded guidance on acute pain;
  - Expanded guidance on opioid tapering.
- CDC Injury Center established and requested observations from the Opioid Workgroup under its Board of Scientific Counselors. The OWG Report was presented in July 2021 BSC meeting.
- Input from patients, providers, and the public is being sought via several avenues including opportunities for public comment in federal register notices (FRN).
- Draft update to the Guideline is anticipated to be posted in FRN for public comment in late 2021/early 2022.
- Anticipated that update to the Guideline will be released in 2022.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

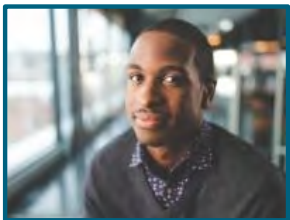
# CDC RX Awareness Campaign

There is hope.  
Recovery is possible.



## Real stories from real people

Phase 2 - Launched July 2020



Tele



Jeni



David



Britton



Tessa





# OPIOID RESOURCE EXCHANGE

Ready-Made Tools  
for Action ▶▶▶



Search Resources

Communication resources  Healthcare provider resources  All resources

## About ORE

Opioid Resource Exchange (ORE) is a central collection of CDC-reviewed communication materials and educational resources about opioid misuse, addiction, treatment, and overdose prevention for state, territorial, and local health departments, tribal organizations, nonprofit and community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and public health professionals.

SOURCE: <https://ore.cdc.gov/>

Launched August 2021



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
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Control and Prevention

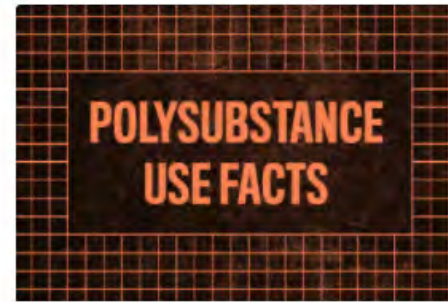
# STOP OVERDOSE



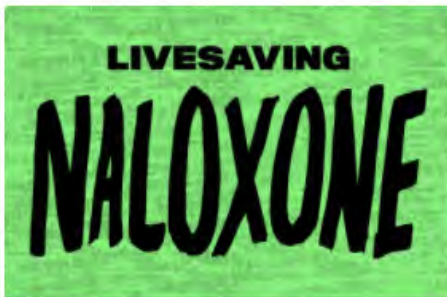
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Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention



Fentanyl is up to 50x more potent than heroin and 100x more potent than morphine. **Learn more about the dangers of fentanyl and how it has taken over the drug supply.**



Polysubstance use occurs when two or more drugs are taken together, either intentionally or unintentionally. **Learn more about the risks and consequences of mixing different types of drugs.**



Naloxone is a safe medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids, including heroin and fentanyl. **Learn more about where to get naloxone and how to use it.**



Addiction is a disease, not a character flaw. There are many ways to treat substance use disorders. **Learn more about what options are available and how to support loved ones on their recovery journey.**

SOURCE: <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose>

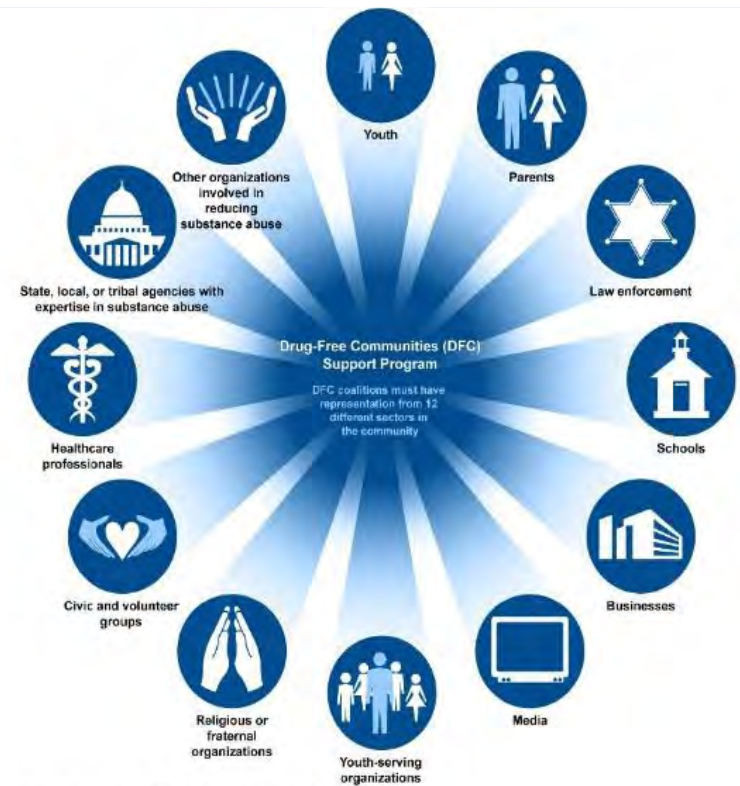
The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with numerous out-of-focus light spots in shades of cyan, blue, and magenta, creating a bokeh effect. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

**Rita K. Noonan, PhD, MPH**



# 700+ COMMUNITY COALITIONS

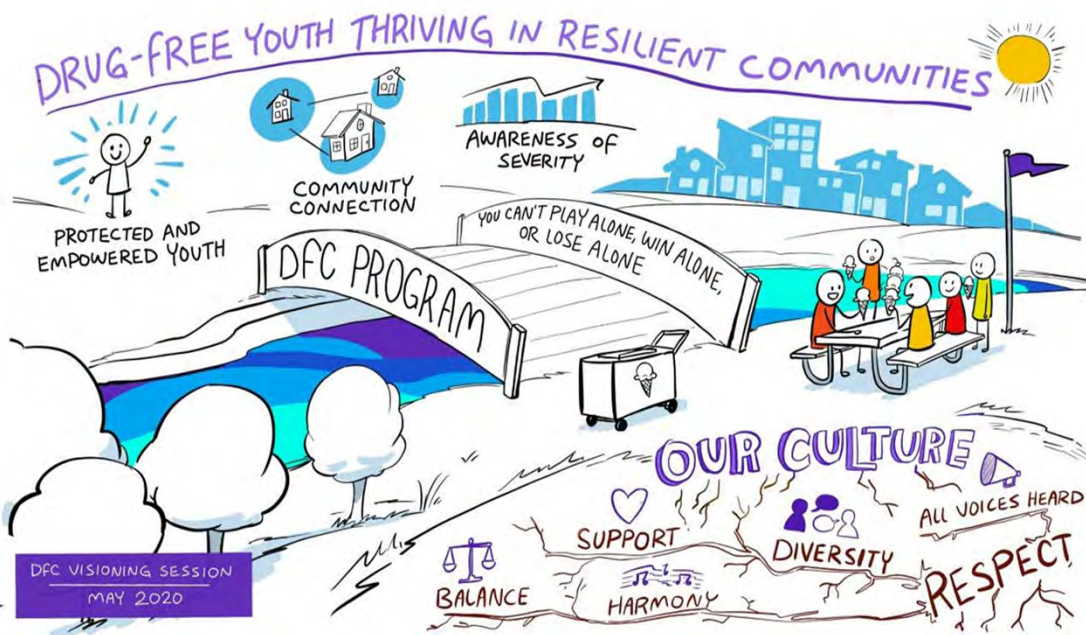
## PARTNERSHIP



Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Art Explosion (slip art) | GAO-17-120



*Preventing and reducing substance use among youth 18 and younger*



## CDC Drug Free Communities Branch

Provide grant awards, subject matter expertise, and partner connections to diverse community coalitions to reduce and prevent substance use among youth leading to drug-free lives now and through adulthood.

# STRATEGIC VISION

### Advancing Coalition Collaboration

Foster coalition connections across youth substance use prevention networks by increasing cohesion with state and local partners, sharing CDC expertise and resources, and maximizing national and federal partnerships.

### Advancing Community Health

Champion public health by tailoring expertise and promoting evidence-based prevention strategies to coalitions and communities, enabling them to further health equity and address root causes and risk factors of youth substance use.

### Advancing Coalition Capacity

Provide grants management and programmatic support to ensure compliance and enhance alignment between strategies and outcomes.

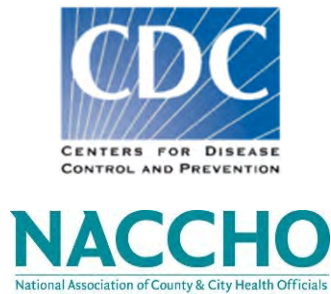


## Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level

Mirrors Overdose Data to Action activities in local communities.

Funds high capacity, high burden counties to conduct overdose surveillance, prevention, and response work.

Total of \$6.7 Million in Funding



**ROUND 1**  
December 2019 – July 2021

Los Angeles County, CA  
Marion County, IN

Seattle and King County, WA  
City of Milwaukee, WI

**ROUND 2**  
December 2020 – July 2022

Jefferson County, AL  
Seminole County, FL  
Volusia County, FL  
Camden County, NJ

Ocean County, NJ  
Ulster County, NY  
Dayton and Montgomery County, OH  
Lorain County, OH



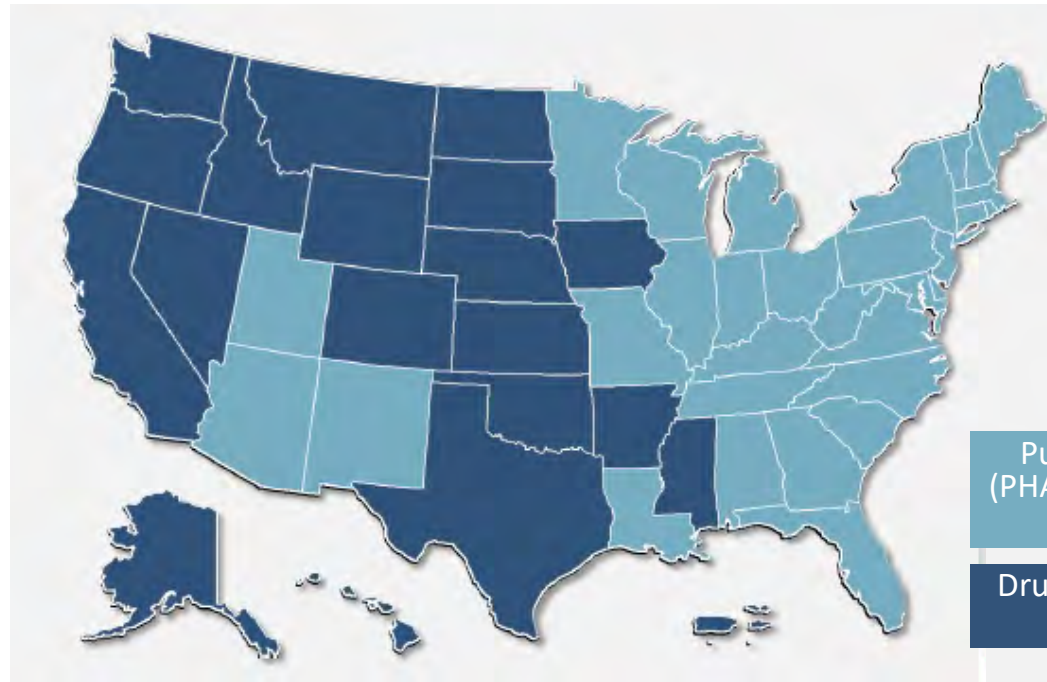
CDC is supporting tribes to address the opioid overdose epidemic





Connect with Your ORS State Team:  
[www.hidtaprogram.org/ors](http://www.hidtaprogram.org/ors)

# Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)



Public Health Analyst  
(PHA) & Drug Intelligence  
Officer (DIO)

Drug Intelligence Officer  
ONLY

**Today:** ONDCP funding DIOs in every state and HIDTA; CDC funding PHAs in 30 states

**Goal:** DIO and PHA positions in every state by end of 2021



## Promoting What Works In Communities

- CDC reference document showcasing 10 best practices to prevent opioid overdose.

### Harm Reduction Strategies:

- Targeted Naloxone Distribution
- 911 Good Samaritan Laws
- Syringe Services Programs

### Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT):

- MAT Prior-Authorization
- MAT in Criminal Justice Settings and Upon Release
- ED Buprenorphine Initiation

### Academic Detailing

### Fentanyl Toxicology Screening



## Promoting Use of Fentanyl Test Strips



- Created in 2011 and distributed mainly at harm reduction sites. Greater distribution needed across other settings.
- Single line indicates a positive AND double line indicates a negative. Does not detect all analogs like carfentanyl.
- Inexpensive (~\$1 each), easy to use, and can be carried in a wallet or purse.
- Does not provide information about amount of fentanyl but can inform use decisions.
- Use of FTS associated with using more slowly, using less, throwing the batch away, or using with another person around.
- As of April 2021, CDC and SAMHSA funding can be used to purchase FTS to support drug checking and surveillance.

SOURCE: Fentanyl Test Strips Empower People And Save Lives—So Why Aren't They More Widespread? – Health Affairs Blog - Appel, Farmer, and Avery – June 2021

## Combatting Opioid Overdose through Community Level Intervention (COOCLI)

### Example COOCLIs

- Warm hand offs and targeted re-entry care coordination prior to release from incarceration in Philadelphia, PA.
- Providing outreach and engagement to individuals and families with same-day supportive services in New York NY.
- Addressing the needs of mother and baby through a Plan of Safe Care in Houston, TX
- Leverage bilingual and bicultural behavioral health support for case management, recovery support services, and outreach in Boston, MA.
- Using AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) to implement prevention strategies in Colorado.

Denver, CO



\$8M in FY18 and FY19 from CDC



# Bureau of Justice Assistance Partnerships

Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic

Overdose Detection Mapping Application Pilot States & Tribes

Building Bridges Between Jails and Community Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

Harm Reduction Training and Education for Law Enforcement

Overdose Fatality Review Project



# Cornerstone Projects



**2016** **Fentanyl**  
Presence and status of fentanyl analogs in ORS states



**2017** **911 Good Samaritan Laws**  
Law enforcement knowledge, understanding, and experience implementing Good Samaritan Laws



**2018** **Linkage to Care**  
Prearrest diversion, drug courts, linkage upon release from incarceration, post-overdose outreach, and safe stations.



**2019** **Overdose Prevention in Jails**  
Correctional staff knowledge of jail-based overdose prevention strategies available



**2021** **Stimulants**  
Effective response to people who use stimulants





# Grady's Mobile Integrated Health Post-overdose Outreach Program ORS PILOT PROJECT

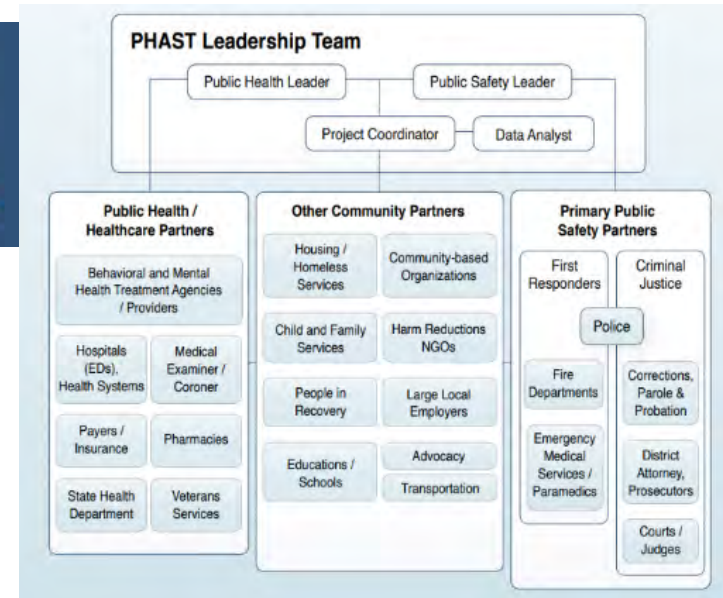
## Other Pilot Projects cover:

- Jail-based overdose prevention education
- Re-entry wrap around services
- Support and services for next of kin after fatal overdose

Atlanta, GA

# Guidance for Data-driven Overdose Response Coordination Among Public Health, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and First Responders

York County, PA



Ten Pilots Planned

## Data-driven strategies to optimize capacity to reduce overdose deaths

	<b>Collaboratively Problem-Solve/Intervene</b> Leverage cross-sector data, ideas, resources, and capabilities
	<b>Improve Data Collection and Use</b> Identify and address data gaps and limitations that compromise shared understanding
	<b>Enhance/Expand Response Strategies and Programs</b> (E.g., targeted naloxone distribution, linkage to care programs, harm-reduction education/service provision, pre-arrest diversion, safe stations)
	<b>Coordinate Crisis Intervention and Response Efforts</b> Identify the types of events that trigger the need for coordinated investigations across agencies and conduct "Tabletop exercises" to learn from and improve coordination

Bloomberg Philanthropies

NACCHO  
National Association of County & City Health Officials



## An innovative and holistic police-school-community partnership

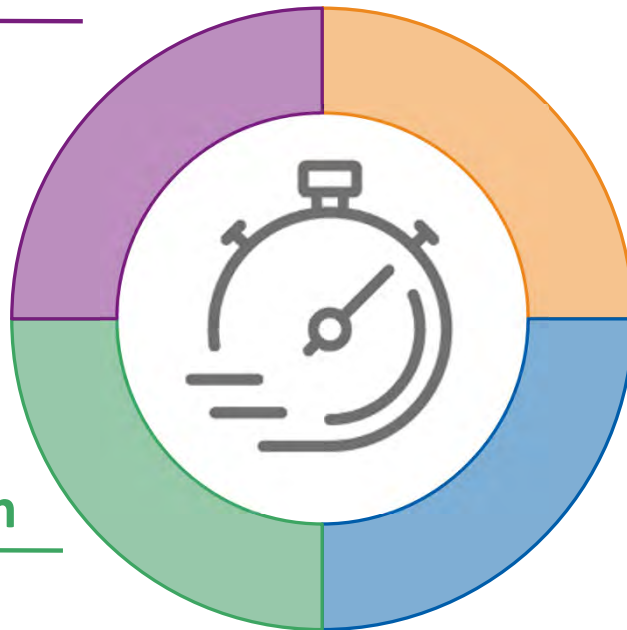
- Focuses on ACEs to create a trauma informed community working to build resilience in children.
- Partnership between Berkeley County Schools, Martinsburg Police Department, Shepherd University and community organizations including The Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle.
- Program advocates for children with high ACE scores and connect individuals and their families with the services they need to succeed.
- Program is tiered and provides school supports, prevention programs, and wrap-around services for children and families in need.



# Opioid Rapid Response Program

## Training

Increase Workforce Capacity



## Preparedness

Build State Capabilities

## Communication

Establish Trusted Contacts

## Deploy Resources

Enhance State and Local Capacity





# PAVING THE ROAD TO HEALTH EQUITY

## Health Equity

is when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible



### Programs

Successful health equity strategies



### Measurement

Data practices to support the advancement of health equity



### Policy

Laws, regulations, and rules to improve population health



### Infrastructure

Organizational structures and functions that support health equity

## Addressing Health Equity in Drug Overdose Prevention

# CDC Drug Overdose Prevention – Areas for Further Investment

## Injury Center Perspective

Increase support for local communities

Strengthen post-overdose outreach – via peer recovery specialists or navigators

Expand Overdose Response Strategy

Increase investments in laboratory and clinical data sources

Address stimulants and polysubstance use

Focus on strategies that can save more lives right now – like naloxone distribution

Strengthen linkage to and retention in care and track outcomes

Update and expand the CDC opioid prescribing guideline

Scale up the Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) approach for collaboration

Implement programs to strengthen families, support effective life skills, & foster supportive communities

Broaden awareness of illicit opioids and decrease stigma

Implement “Adoption Accelerator” model of evidence-based programs

Support innovative approaches to surveillance, modelling, and data linkage

Increase education & training to decrease stigma among clinicians

Fortify efforts to address the highest risk populations and circumstances

Expand locations for overdose prevention education and mobile outreach

Expand efforts to collect data on suspected overdose deaths within one month of death

## BRAINSTORM



What are Your Ideas?



Learn from  
the Past

Think of  
the Future

**QUESTIONS**

