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# Opioid crisis and State response

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Senate Ways & Means

January 26, 2023

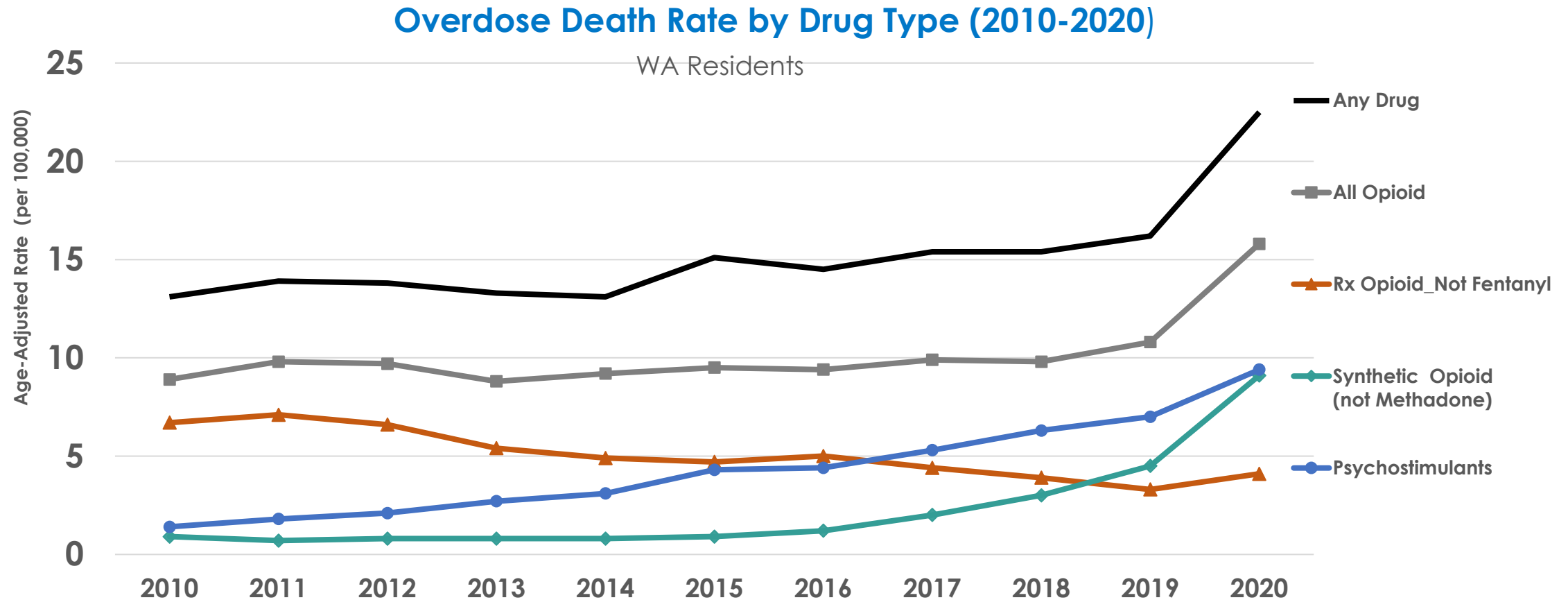


# Washington State opioid crisis overview

Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH

Department of Health

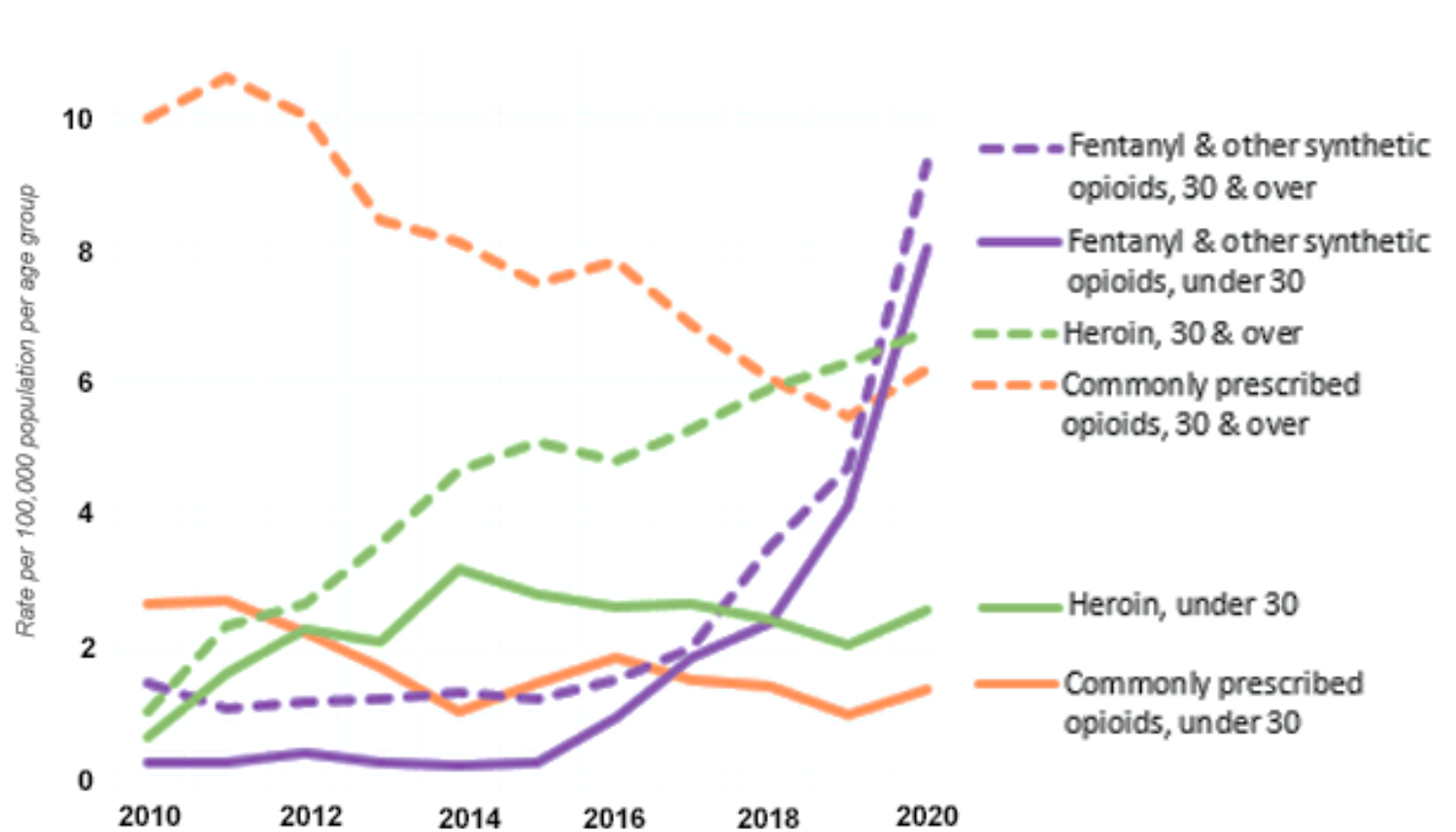
# The opioid and overdose crisis is worse than it has ever been



Source: WA DOH death certificates

Fentanyl has been responsible for a growing number of deaths

Washington state opioid-overdose death rates

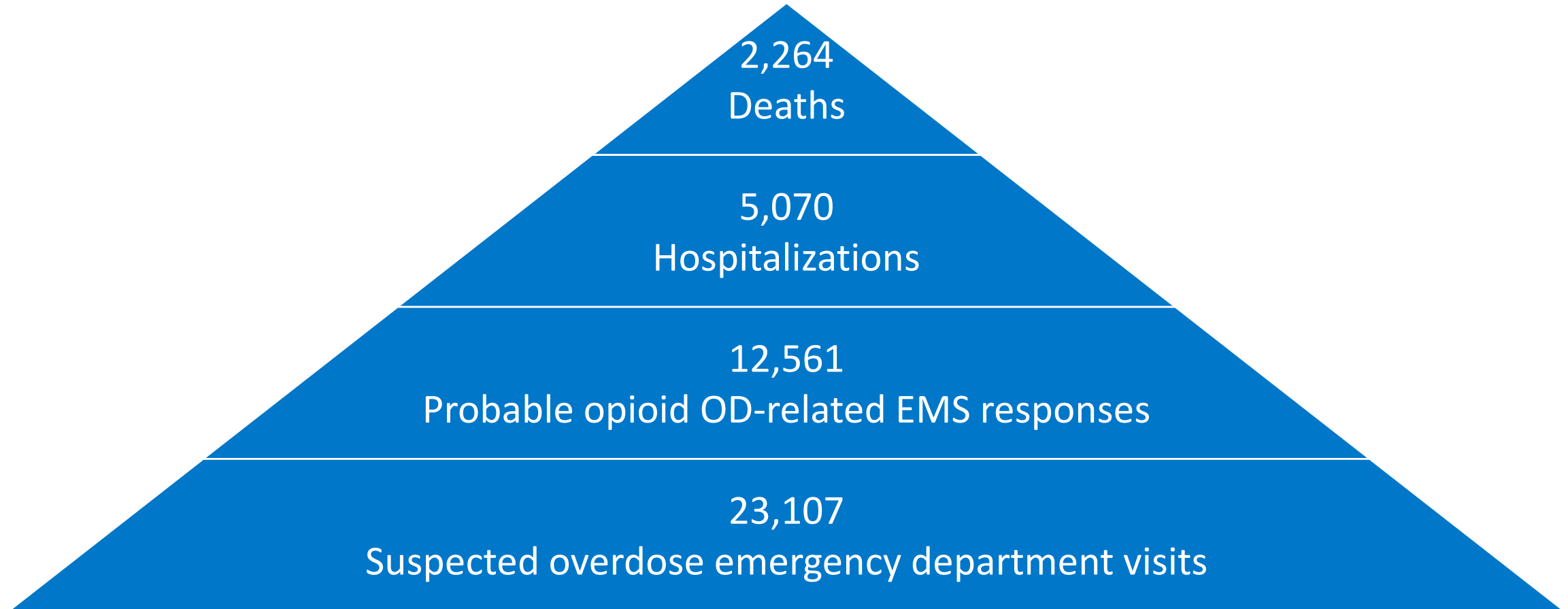


Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics

[New ADAI Report: Dramatic Increases in Opioid Overdose Deaths Due to Fentanyl Among Young People in WA | Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute \(uw.edu\)](#)

# Impact of opioid and overdose crisis is more than deaths

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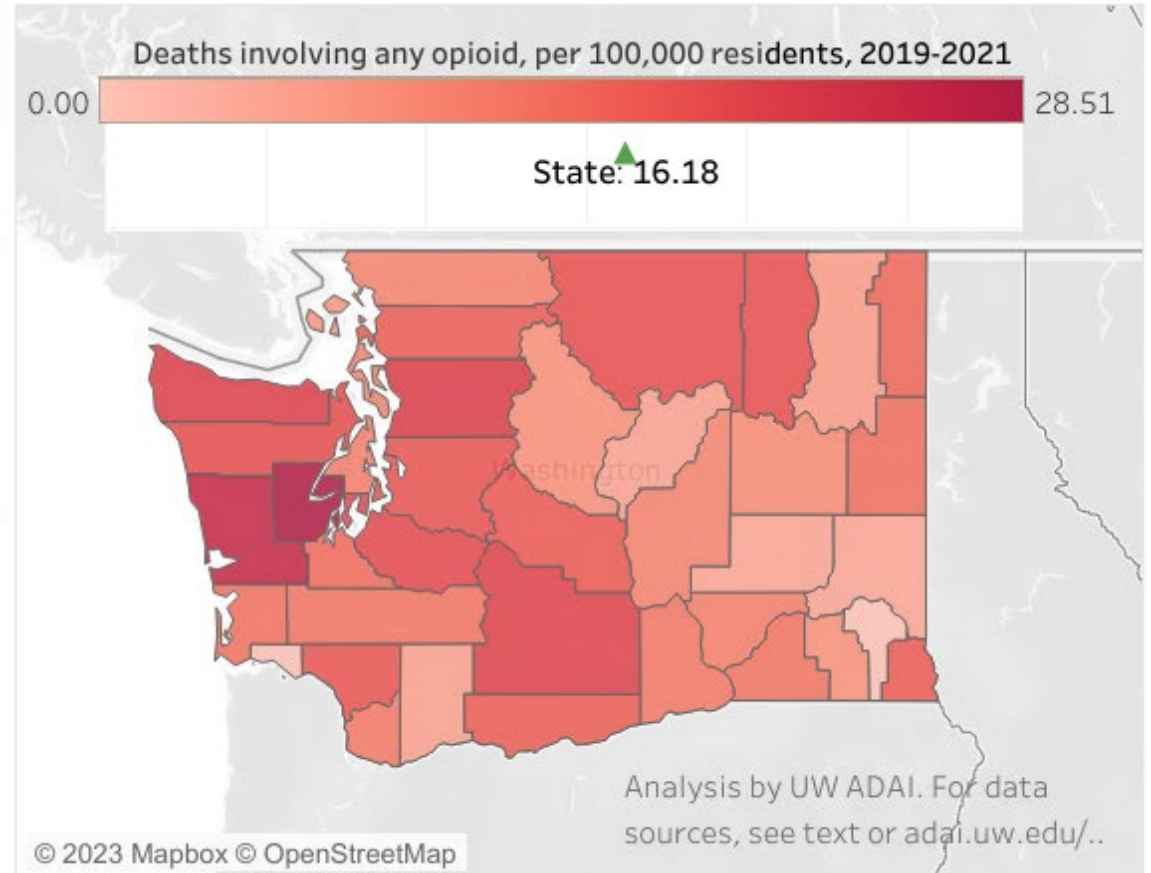
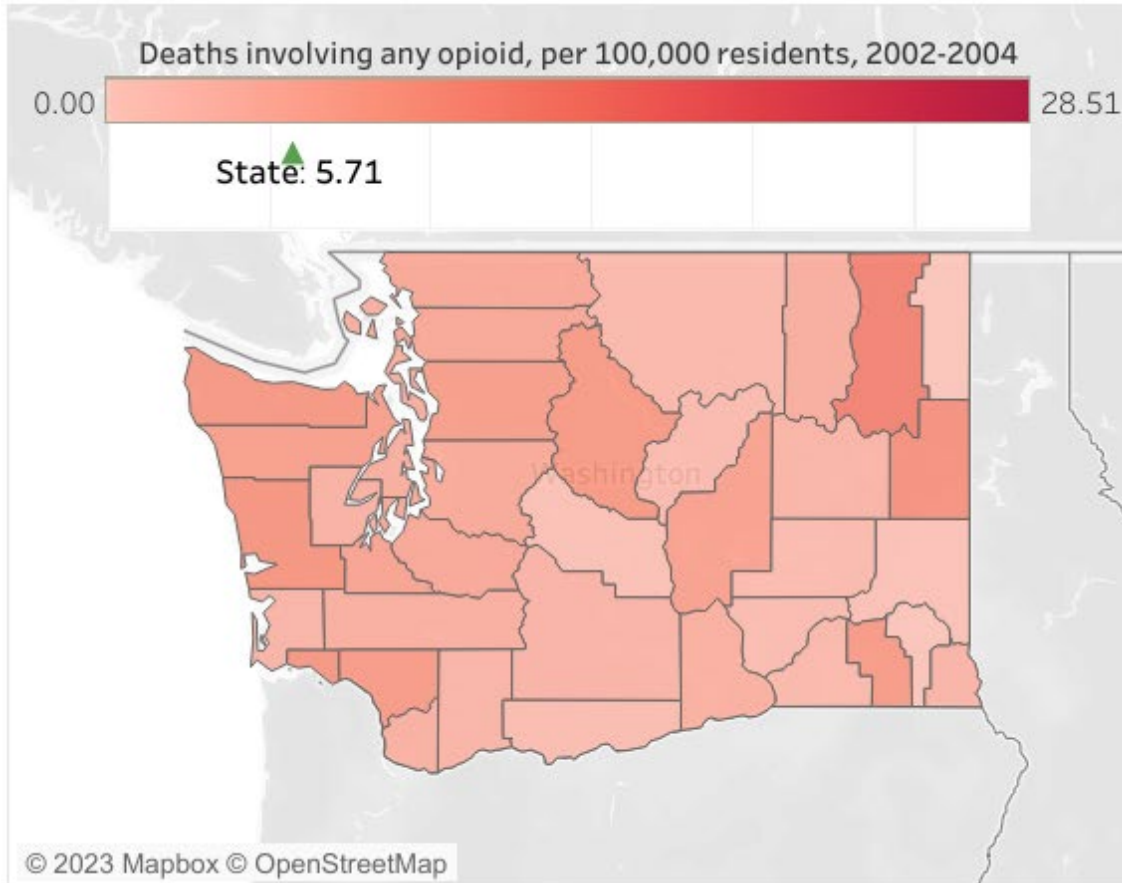


*Credit: United States Drug Enforcement Administration*

Fentanyl often comes in counterfeit prescription medications

# The crisis impacts both rural and urban communities

## Opioid death rates 2002-2004 compared to 2019-2021

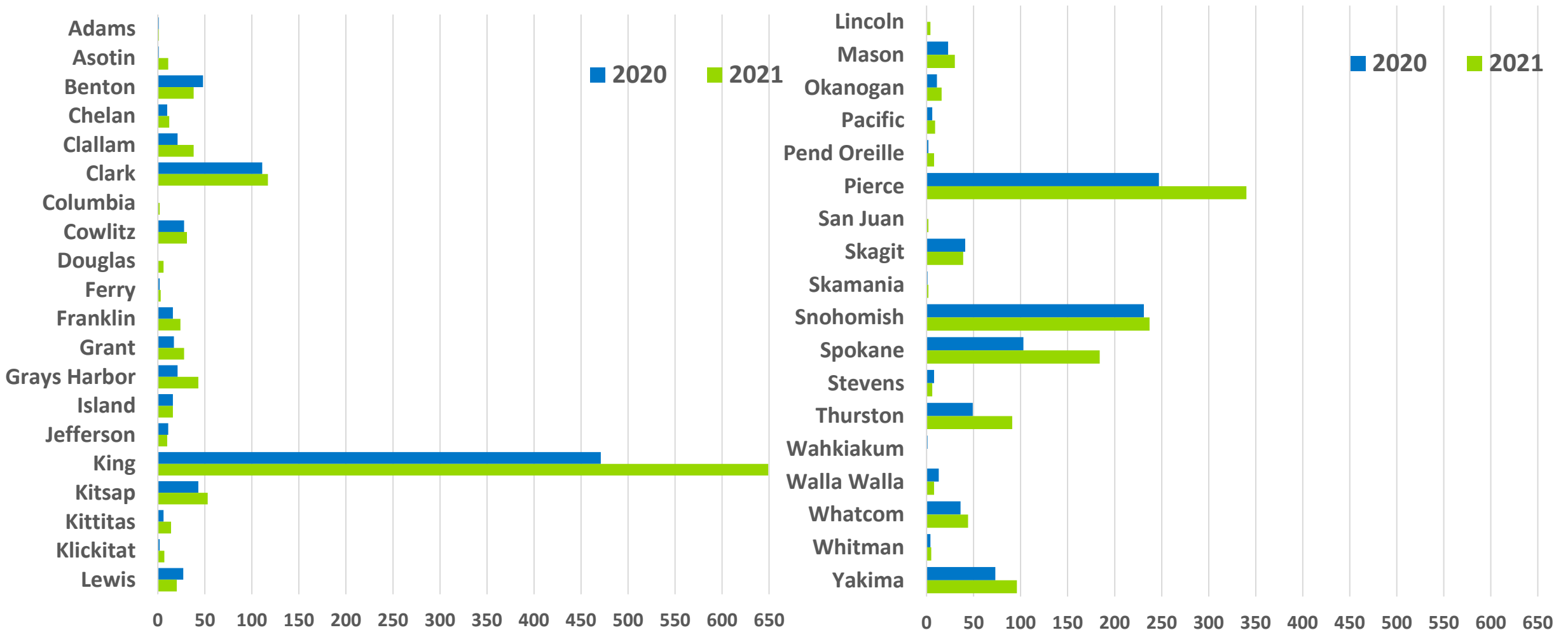


### Washington state opioid trends: Deaths

Source: WA DOH death certificates

# Increases in drug overdose deaths are not equal across WA

## Overdose death counts by county 2020 and 2021

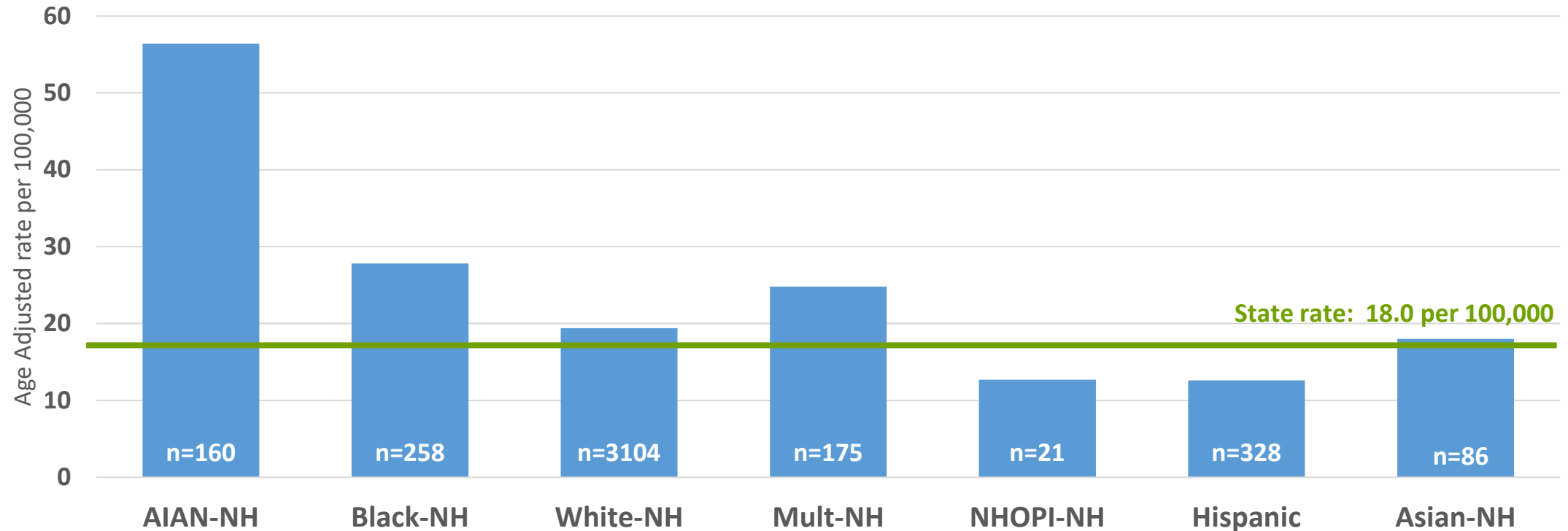


Source: WA DOH death certificates



# Drug overdose deaths disproportionately affect American Indian and Alaskan Native communities

WA residents (2018-2020)



NH: Non-Hispanic

AIAN: American Indian/Alaskan Native

NHOPI: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Multi: Multi-racial

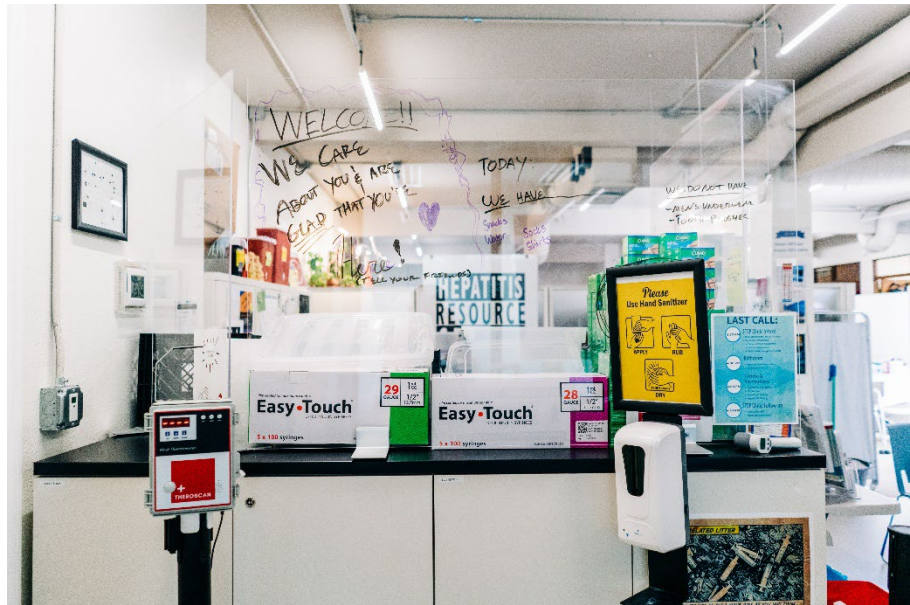
# Demand for services has rapidly outgrown capacity and we need to urgently build upon what we have

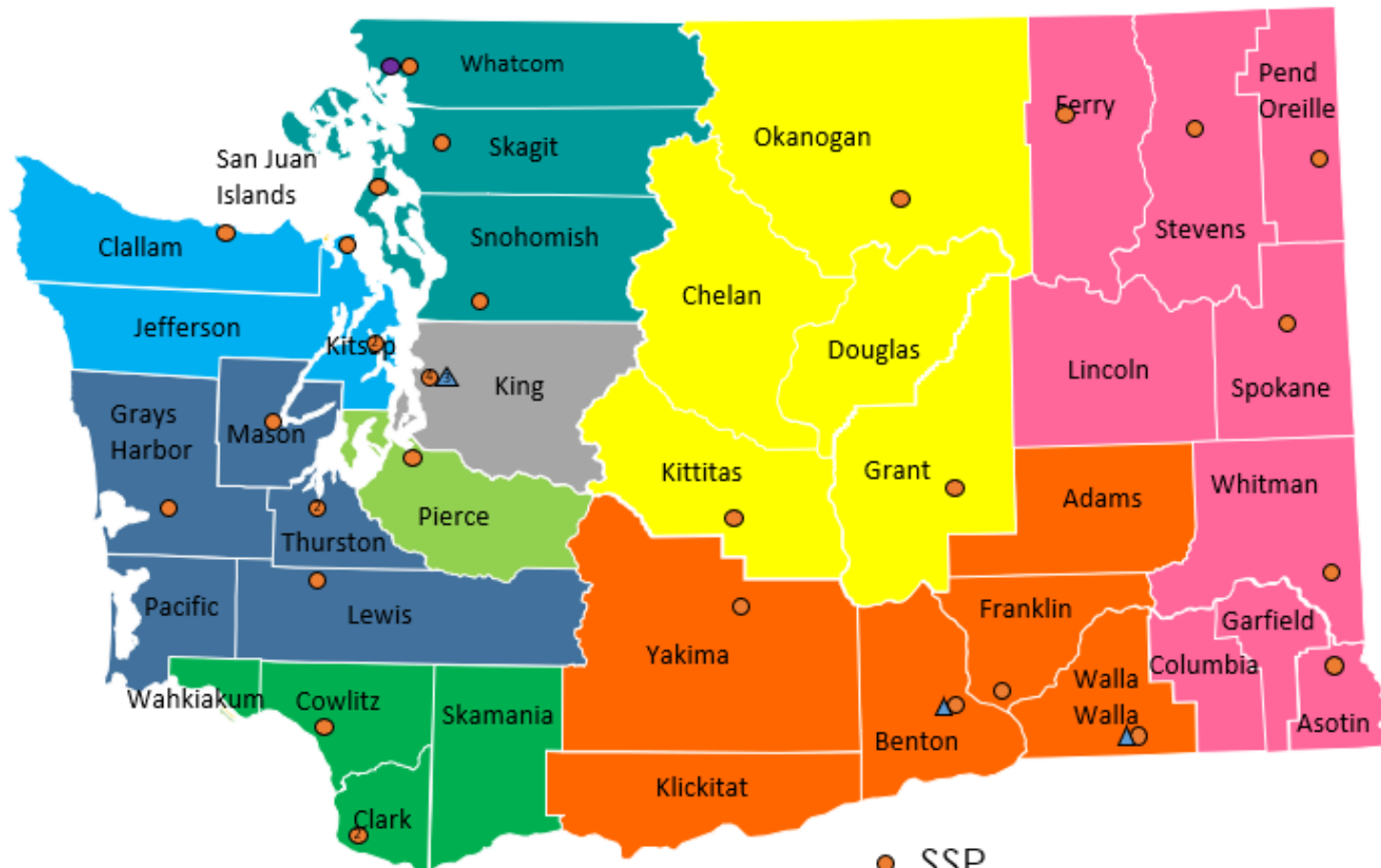
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- ▶ A community-based system of care with greater capacity than the existing specialty addiction treatment system
- ▶ Low barrier access to opioid treatment programs and recovery support
- ▶ Health hubs across the state with integrated harm reduction services to engage people who use drugs to prevent death and infectious diseases

# Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

- ▶ Community-based public health programs that provide critical services in nonjudgmental environments to people who use substances.





- SSP
- Tribal SSP
- ▲ Low-barrier buprenorphine program partnered with SSP



# The opioid and overdose crisis is an emergency that demands that we do things differently

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- ▶ **Expand** the prevention and treatment workforce, particularly with people from the communities hardest hit by the crisis
- ▶ **Increase** prevention in children, including increased access to behavioral health care for children, teens, and adults
- ▶ **Decrease** stigma – approach the opioid and overdose crisis as the manifestations of a disease that needs better treatment and prevention

# State Opioid Response Plan and Opioid Response investments

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# Overview

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- ▶ Has served as the state's collaborative framework for addressing opioid and Substance use disorder related issues for many years.
- ▶ Workgroups are organized around 5 goals—
  1. **Prevent** opioid misuse
  2. **Detect** and treat opioid use disorders
  3. **Ensure** health and wellness of people who use drugs (PWUD)
  4. **Use data** to inform process
  5. **Support** people in Recovery
- ▶ Population workgroups: AI/AN, criminal justice, pregnant and parenting
- ▶ Support workgroups – Communications, Data



# HCA investing across the continuum (cont.)

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## ▶ **Prevention:**

- ▶ Starts With One campaign,
- ▶ Tribal Opioid Solutions,
- ▶ Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative.

## ▶ **Outreach and Engagement:**

- ▶ Recovery Navigator Program
- ▶ Other homeless outreach and engagement programs

## ▶ **Treatment:**

- ▶ Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- ▶ Opioid Treatment Networks / Hub and Spoke
- ▶ Opioid Treatment Programs,
- ▶ jail-based treatment,
- ▶ Withdrawal management, outpatient, residential.

# HCA investments (cont.)

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## ▶ Recovery Support Services:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Peers

## ▶ Harm Reduction:

- ▶ Saving lives by expanding access and availability of naloxone at the point of care and across the state through Department of Health programming.
- ▶ Comprehensive drug checking services

# Recommendation process

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- ▶ State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan identified as a collaborative framework by which recommendations would be made
  - ▶ Workgroups submitted 3 proposals each, sponsors reviewed and approved recommendations
  - ▶ Process included 2 tribal roundtables and a Formal Consultation
  - ▶ Allowable uses limited to those in the settlement agreement approved strategies and uses

# Governors budget – opioid settlements

Line Item	Amount
<b>Opioid Settlement Tribal Funds</b> – approximately 20% of funds are being sent directly to Tribes	\$12,362,000
<b>Workforce SUDP Scholarships</b> – supports establish a substance use disorder (SUD) professional/peer scholarship program in BIPOC communities	\$1,076,000
<b>Housing Supports</b> - Supports expansion of Housing First supports that include master leasing, and access to housing first services	\$2,692,000
<b>Emergency Department Bridge Program</b> – Clinical consultation for SUD, and linkage to recovery support services and services following acute SUD events.	\$3,014,000

# Governors budget – opioid settlements

Line Item	Amount
<b>Fentanyl Public Education</b> - development of the health promotion and education campaign, with a focus on synthetic drug supplies (including fentanyl) and harm reduction messaging	\$3,768,000
<b>Prevention Capacity Expansion</b> - grants to new communities, schools and Tribes for prevention services for youth, young adults and families	\$2,692,000
<b>Prescription Opioid Education</b> - Funding is provided to educate providers and prevent inappropriate opioid prescribing.	\$1,077,000
<b>Legal Training and Support</b> - fentanyl technical assistance and training for law enforcement organizations, courts, and corrections settings	1,076,000
<b>MOUD in Jails Technical Support</b> - technical support for medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) to assist Jails with complex regulatory processes	\$538,000

# Governors budget – opioid settlements

Line Item	Amount
<b>SUD Maternity Support</b> - Funding is provided to create a program that would allow for extended post-delivery hospital care for persons with SUD at the time of delivery.	\$3,756,000
<b>Opioid Tx Program Expansion</b> - expand opioid treatment program facilities with opportunities available to any applicant, with priority given to rural, frontier, and Tribal locations	\$3,738,000
<b>Community Based Partnership for Success Grants</b> - provides services that address the state's top substance use disorder (SUD) prevention priorities	\$3,955,000

# Governors budget – opioid settlements

<b>Data and Evaluation</b> - This funding will create an overdose public health dashboard that includes the metrics in the State Opioid and Overdose Response Plan	\$1,346,000
<b>Syringe Service Programs Stabilization Support</b> – Supports SSPs with operational costs such as rent, insurance, supplies, etc.	\$3,768,000
<b>Drug User Health Hubs</b> - Funding is provided to support the establishment of health engagement hubs to provide health care and social services for people who use drugs.	\$6,730,000
<b>Maternal Health</b> – Improvements in perinatal, dyadic SUD care for parent and child	\$2,692,000

# Department of Health

Investments in addressing the epidemic

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# DOH investments in addressing the epidemic

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## ▶ Surveillance and tracking the crisis with data

- ▶ Piloting an opioid dashboard (leveraging COVID capacity building)
- ▶ RHINO system – tracking and communicating opioid clusters in real time
- ▶ Emergency Department, EMS and Death reporting data
- ▶ Prescription Monitoring Program

## ▶ Outreach and Engagement:

- ▶ Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution Program
- ▶ Syringe Services Programs
- ▶ Overdose to Action Grant: making data driven investments in communities

# DOH investments (cont.)

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## ▶ Maternal Infant Health and Birth Equity

- ▶ Providing optimal clinical and wrap around support to pregnant and postpartum individuals experiencing substance use disorder. Facilitating infant/parent bonding through trauma informed treatment and care.

## ▶ Education and Awareness

- ▶ State Fentanyl Awareness Campaign
- ▶ Latinx community specific awareness campaigns

# Contact us

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