

**M E M O R A N D U M**

February 22, 2023

TO: Education and Culture Committee  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Public Safety Committee

FROM: Tara Clemons Johnson, Legislative Analyst  
Susan Farag, Legislative Analyst  
Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis with our Youth

PURPOSE: To receive an overview of the County's current Opioid and Fentanyl response

**Expected for this session:**

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

Dr. Kisha Davis, Health Officer

Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Director

Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services

Mark Hodge, Senior Administrator, School Health Services

Sara Rose, Operations Manager, Local Behavioral Health Authority

Ben Stevenson II, Prevention and Harm Reduction Manager

Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD):

Chief Marcus Jones

Assistant Chief Nick Augustine

Captain Nick Picerno, Special Investigations Division

Captain Jordan Satinsky, Director, Community Engagement Division

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service:

Battalion Chief Ben Kaufman

Avital Graves, Program Manager, Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS):

Dr. Patricia Kapunan, School System Medical Officer

Dana Edwards, Chief, Districtwide Services and Supports

Brian Hull, Chief Operating Officer

Stephanie R. Iszard, Executive Assistant, Office of the School System Medical Officer

Kyle Potter, PhD, School Psychologist

## Montgomery Goes Purple

Laura Mitchell

Councilmembers called for this worksession of the Education and Culture, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety Committees to discuss the opioid and fentanyl crisis affecting youth in Montgomery County. Today's briefing will be a broad discussion on the strategies among County agencies toward reducing and eliminating opioid and fentanyl exposure and overdoses for youth in the County. By working together, educators, emergency responders, health experts, community partners, government and families can provide the critical supports to help keep our children informed, healthy and safe.

### **A. Background of Opioids and Fentanyl**

Fentanyl is increasingly being found in the illicit drug supply across the country, where it is often added to or sometimes replaces other opioids such as heroin. It is commonly pressed into counterfeit pills and sold as prescription medications (e.g., oxycodone or Xanax) to people who may believe they are buying authentic pharmaceutical drugs. Even in small doses, fentanyl exposure can cause a life-threatening overdose.

Fentanyl usage and overdoses have become a growing problem among youth in the County in the last two years. Data shared by MCPD shows youth overdoses (residents 21 and under) spiked in 2022, rising 77%. There were 48 youth overdoses last year, 11 of which were fatal. In 2021, there were 27 reported youth overdoses; five were fatal.

### **B. County Departments and Montgomery County Public Schools**

DHHS, MCPD, and MCPS prepared information for this worksession to provide an overview of the data and trends regarding youth opioid use and overdose; programs and efforts responding to this crisis; and how the agencies are working together to provide coordinated prevention and response. All materials are attached for reference. Highlights of the presentation materials and some additional background resources are outlined below.

#### **Department of Health and Human Services**

DHHS provided a detailed report at ©1-31 highlighting trends of substance abuse, utilization of Narcan and the public health approach to preventing opioid deaths. Along with prevention, education, awareness and treatment are key strategies to working toward a permanent solution that will support children and families. DHHS provided the following recommendations to help address the opioid crisis for youth in the County:

- Increase capacity in current programming
- Expand more resources to Middle Schools
- Encourage state to open treatment and recovery facility for youth
- Better incorporate behavioral health screening into primary care.

## **Montgomery County Public Schools**

MCPS has prioritized educating and sharing information with the community on fentanyl usage and overdoses affecting youth. They have been on the forefront of hosting forums, educating the community and working with partners such as Montgomery Goes Purple, DHHS and MCPD. Below is a link to several forums and community messages that have occurred over the last six months.

- [MCPS Community Message - Dec 2022](#)
- [MCPS - Video Message on Dangers of Fentanyl](#)
- [Montgomery Goes Purple: Family Forum on Fentanyl](#)
- [MCPS - Narcan Demonstration](#)

MCPS recently launched the [MCPS Stronger Student](#) app, which was created and designed by MCPS students. The app provides access to crisis support resources or other mental and physical health and wellness needs, including reporting incidents of discrimination. It is available in English and Spanish and is anonymous and confidential.

## **Montgomery County Police Department**

MCPD shared the following details of their current programs and efforts to address the opioid crisis among youth. A detail review of their report is at ©38. Items to note:

- MCPD has had a robust overdose investigation strategy for several years. They remain one of the last major jurisdictions in the country that still have investigative notification and response to all overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal. Although this is labor intensive, this response has provided significant intelligence on opiate matters in the County.
- There are several MCPD detectives who are deputized as task force officers with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who can take fentanyl distribution cases involving death directly to the US Attorney's office for federal prosecution. MCPD is one of the few major city jurisdictions with a robust and comprehensive enforcement strategy for opiates, and several of our partner jurisdictions have approached us to gather information and best practices on our program.

The MCPD Community Engagement Division utilizes the Community Opioid Prevention and Education (COPE) trailer to educate parents and family members of the dangers of opioids, signs their loved one may be using and how to safely handle suspected drugs if located. Per the MCPD website, the mobile trailer is made to look like a bedroom and bathroom on the inside. People who walk through the trailer can get a hands-on education and discuss with officers that investigate drug-related crimes. Visitors will also learn more about the warning signs of opioid abuse and be able to identify potential risks in their own homes. A video of the trailer is available online [COPE Trailer](#).

MCPD supports and enforces the Good Samaritan Law, which protects those who assist with an emergency alcohol or drug related overdose. The purpose of the law is to encourage any person, regardless of age, who experiences or observes a medical emergency caused by the

ingestion or use of alcohol or other drugs to seek medical assistance without fear of arrest or prosecution for any related violations.

### **C. State and Local Engagement**

The Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) serves as the primary coordinating office for the State's response to the opioid and overdose crisis. In order to support the health of residents, the OOCC has promoted programs and strategies that prevent opioid use. The OOCC has identified primary and secondary prevention strategies which are detailed below. The strategies aren't specific to youth but can have an impact on all community members with the focus on prevention and education.

- Primary prevention strategies aim to reduce individual and environmental risk factors while increasing protective factors to prevent or delay the onset of drug use. Examples of primary prevention strategies include public health messaging campaigns, school curricula that address the risks associated with substance use and initiatives that support the safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs.
- Secondary prevention strategies, including harm reduction efforts, aim to meet people who use drugs where they are by offering a spectrum of services, including targeted naloxone and fentanyl test strip distribution. Strategies that reduce harm related to drug use provide an opportunity for individuals who use drugs to engage with systems of care in a dignified manner.

During the most recent meeting of the State's Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council, members discussed the following priorities which will be tied to the distribution of funding:

1. Promote Comprehensive Care Coordination
2. Support Recovery Communities
3. Improve Statewide Infrastructure of Opioid Initiatives
4. Increase Awareness of Substance Use Disorder
5. Promote Youth Resiliency
6. Expand Harm Reduction Services
7. Expand Access to Evidence-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
8. Expand Maryland's Crisis Response System

In 2017, the Montgomery County Opioid Intervention Team (OIT) was founded to help coordinate between local and state partners on the collective response to the opioid crisis. Led by the County Executive's office, the team consisted of the Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, the Department of Health & Human Services, Fire & Rescue Services (MCFRS), the Police Department, the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, the Sheriff's Office (SO), the State's Attorney's Office (SAO), Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland Treatment Centers, the hospitals and other local advocates. The MC OIT goal was to streamline the County response to the opioid crisis by ensuring unity of effort, efficient allocation of resources and strategic thinking. The team developed a set of objectives that are detailed at ©49. Below is a summary of the expected outcomes:

### Montgomery County OIT Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness/education about opioids/opioid addiction and understanding of how prescription opioid abuse can lead to heroin use,
- Improved awareness of safe storage methods by MC residents,
- Expanded the utilization of lock box/drop off locations by MC residents,
- Increased public and private access to Naloxone,
- Enhanced awareness and education about opioids, opioid addiction and its link to heroin by middle and high school youth and parents,
- Increased awareness and education about the dangers of prescription opioids and its link to heroin use by MC residents,
- Enhanced metrics for assessment of the epidemic and improved decision-making, and
- Increased access to and knowledge of treatment options, including Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT), public and private payer beds and supportive services (counseling, crisis services).

### **Discussion Issues**

1. How is the County coordinating with the State to increase support for enhanced health education, naloxone and medication assisted treatment?
2. Would it be beneficial to relaunch the County's OIT to support an ongoing and unified strategy to reduce non-fatal and fatal overdoses among youth in the community?

### **This report contains:**

DHHS - Report to on the Opioid Fentanyl Crisis in Youth	©1-31
DHHS - Montgomery County SUD Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategies	©32-37
MCPD – Response to Council staff questions	©38-41
MCPS - Opioid Overdoses in Youth: MCPS Prevention and Response	©42-48
Montgomery County Opioid Intervention Team – Executive Summary	©49-50

# Report to Montgomery County Council on the Opioid Fentanyl Crisis in Youth

February 27, 2023

Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief of Behavioral Health

Dr. Kisha Davis, Chief Medical Officer



# Opioids

- Opioids are a class of drugs often used as pain killers
- They include prescription medication such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, codeine, methadone, fentanyl, and the illicit drug heroin
- Opioids work by binding to opioid receptors, which are found in areas of the brain that control pain, pleasure, and emotions, in addition to the regulation of breathing

# Effects of Opioids

- Euphoria
- Pain Relief
- Relaxation
- Confusion
- Sedation
- Drowsiness



- Pupillary Constriction
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Slowed breathing



# Fentanyl

- Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and **100 times stronger than morphine**
- Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is available in different forms including **powder and liquid**
- Fentanyl does **not** have a distinct smell or taste and may be added to heroin, other street drugs, and counterfeit pills
- The high potency of fentanyl greatly increases risk of **overdose and death**, especially if a person who uses substances is not aware that they are consuming fentanyl

# Lethal Dose of Fentanyl





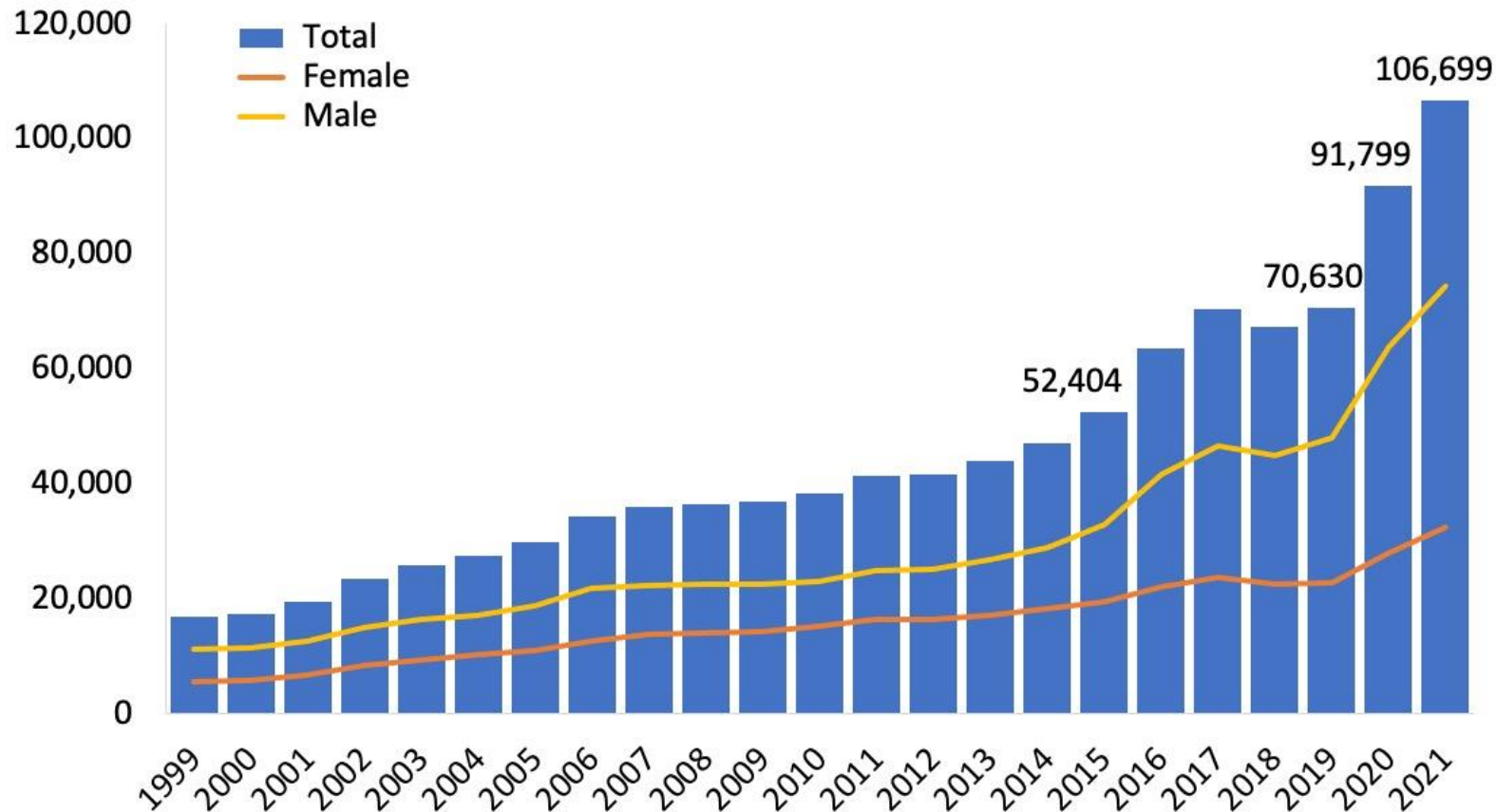


# Rainbow Fentanyl

- Brightly-colored fentanyl
- Pills, powder, and blocks that resembles sidewalk chalk
- In August 2022, DEA and our law enforcement partners seized brightly-colored fentanyl and fentanyl pills in 18 states, including Maryland

# Current Data Trends

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths\*,  
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021

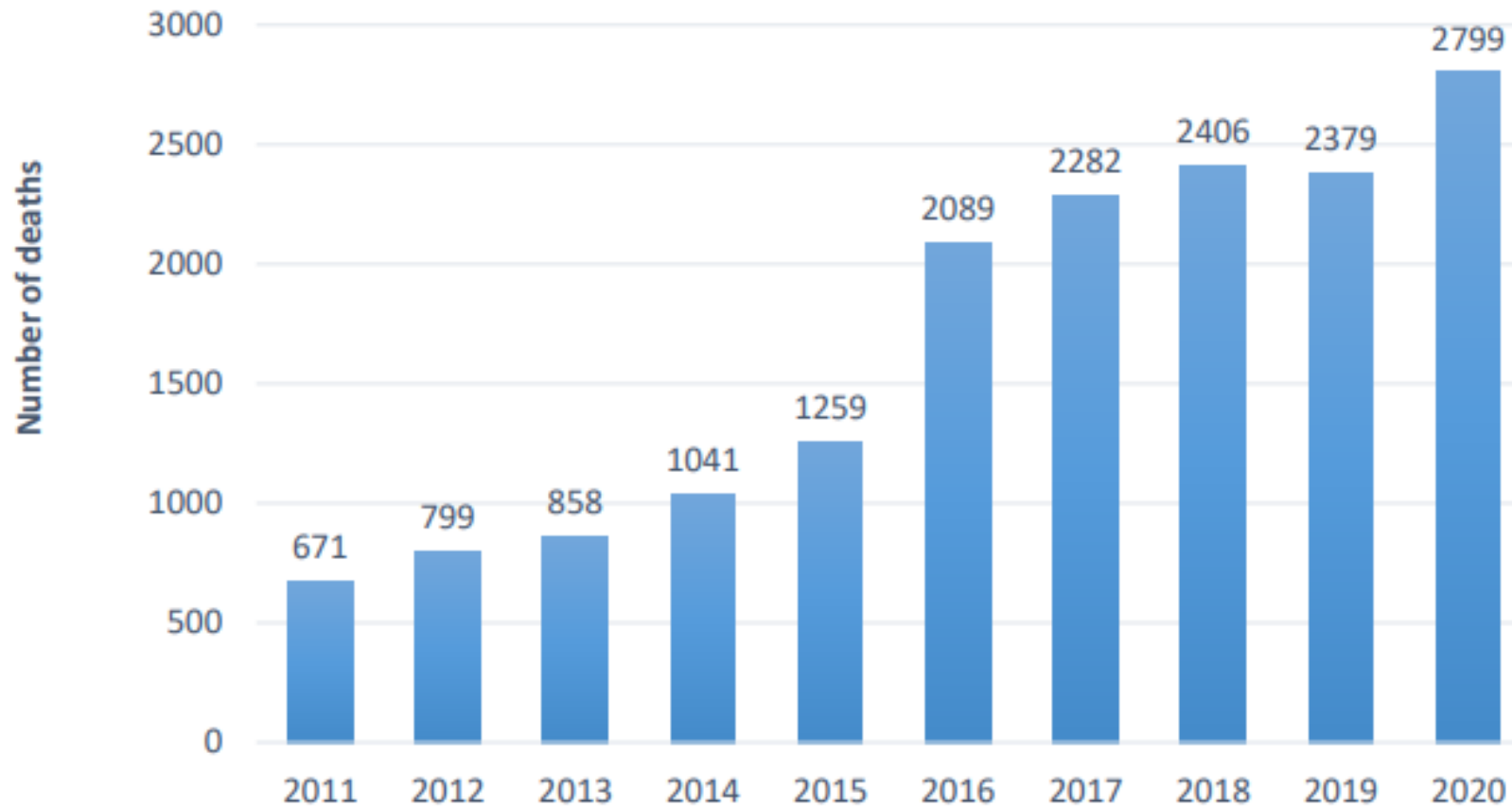


\*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 1/2023.

Overdose Deaths  
Continue to  
Increase in the  
United States

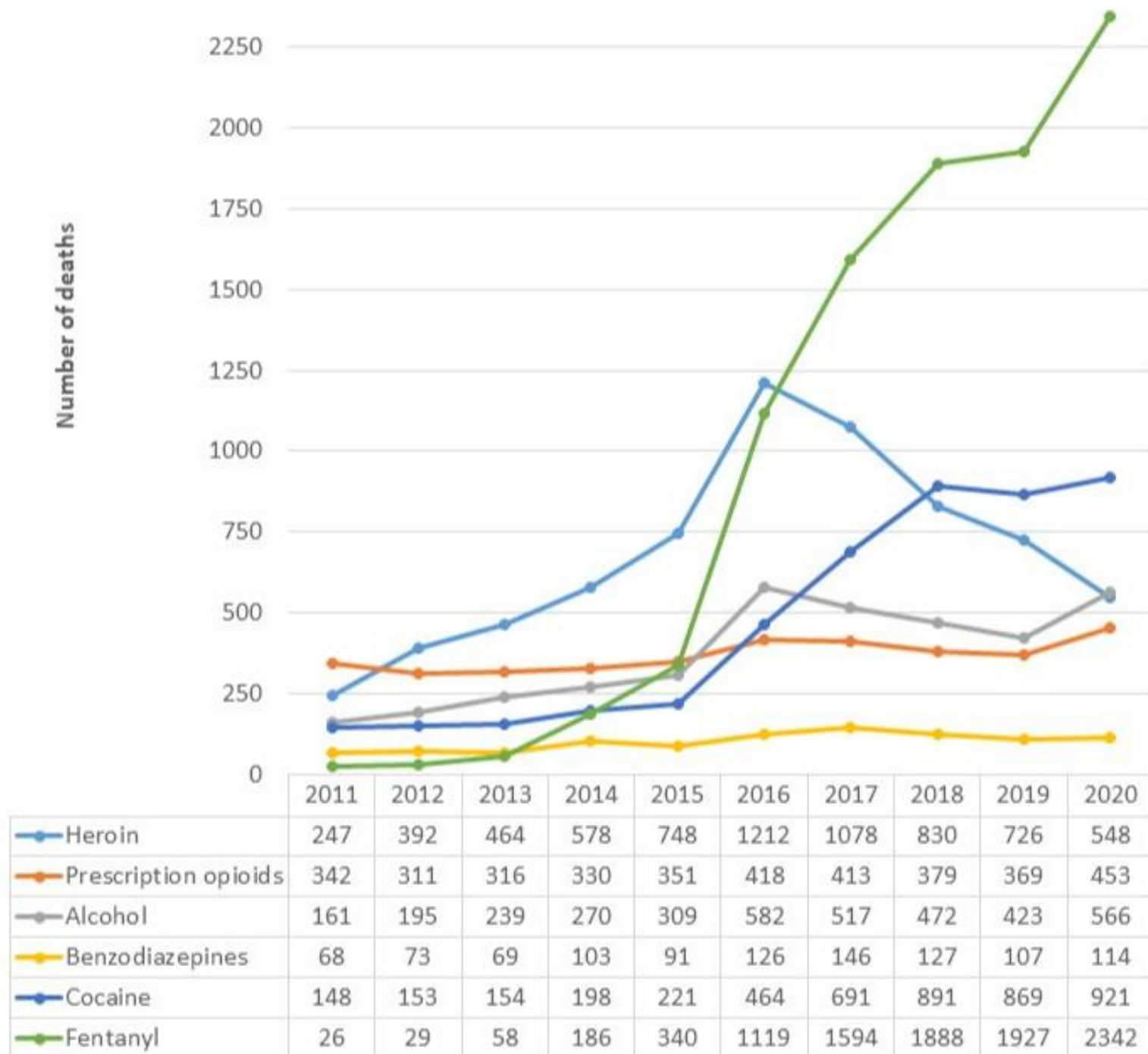
[Drug Overdose Death Rates |  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
\(NIDA\) \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nida.nih.gov/publications/drug-overdose-death-rates)

# Total Number of Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths Occurring in Maryland, 2011-2020



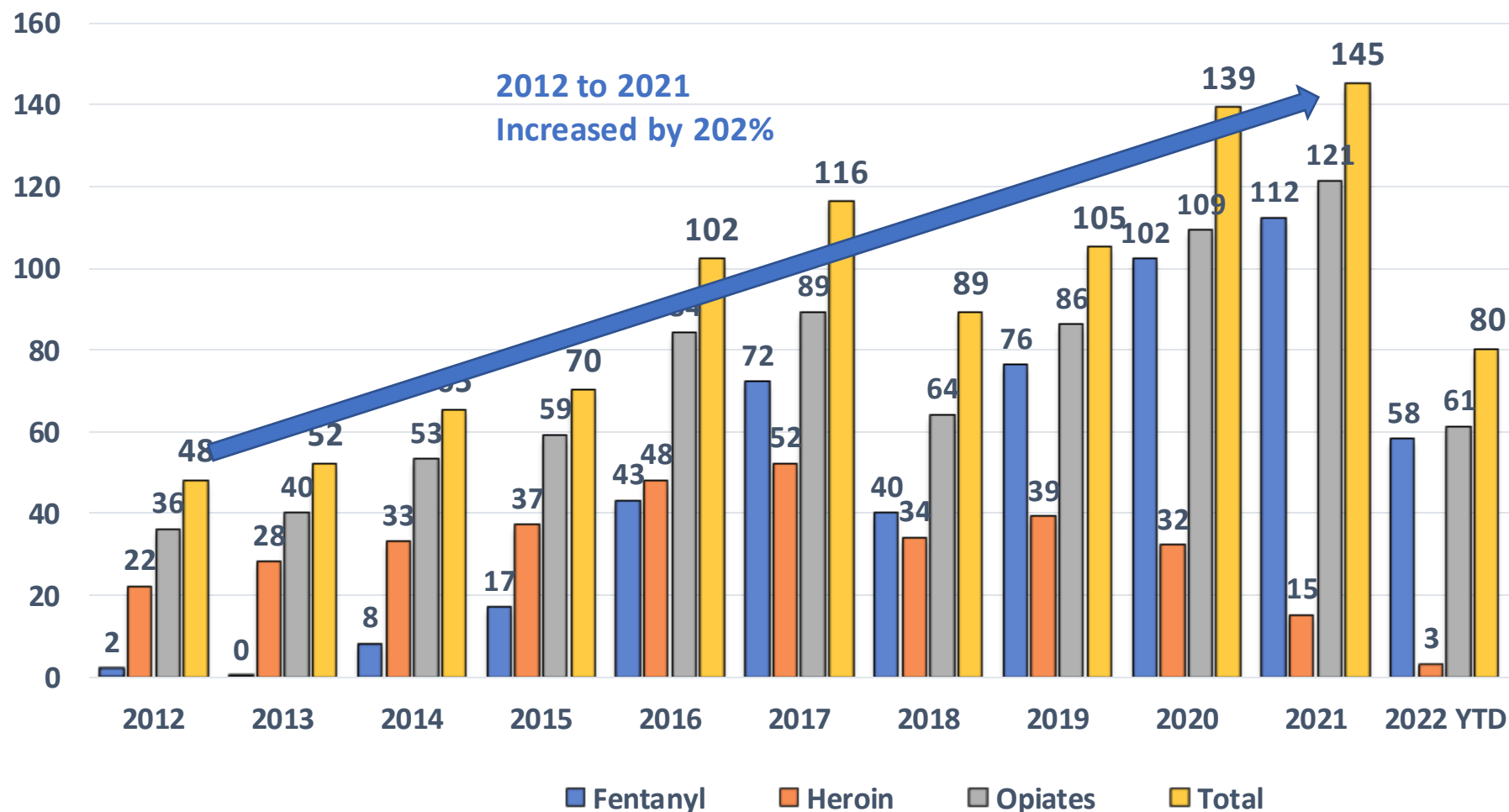
## Number of Unintentional Drug-and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths by Selected Substances, Maryland, 2011-2020

Number of deaths



[Maryland Department of Health](#)  
[overdose](#)

# Montgomery County Trend of Intoxication Deaths by Selected Substances 2012-2022 YTD (up to Oct. 2022)



Source: MDH BHA Reports on Drug and Alcohol Intoxication Deaths 2012- 2020, Maryland OOC Reports on 2021 full year, and 2022 YTD up to end of Oct.



# Montgomery County Stats

- In 2020
  - Narcan administrations = 521
  - Lives saved by administering naloxone = 492
- In 2021
  - Narcan administrations = 624
  - Lives saved by administering naloxone = 605

# Montgomery County Stats

Calendar Year	Number trained or received a Naloxone Kit	Number of doses dispensed
2019	1288	2485
2020 (COVID Year)	175	810
2021	1210	3738
2022	2916	5394
2023 (January and February)	1400	2800

# Montgomery County Fire & Rescue EMS “High Confidence” Narcan Administration

**Time Frame: 7/1/2021– 1/14/2023 Number of Narcan Administered by EMS: 900**

## FY22-FY23 YTD Total Narcan Administration

Total Narcan Administration  
900

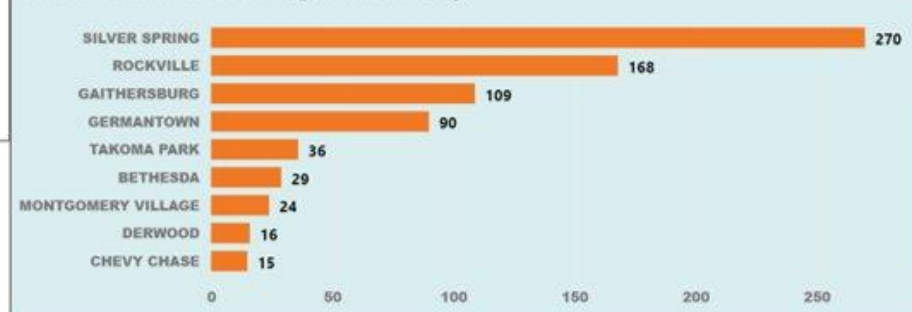
### Narcan Admin for Top Zip Codes (with 20+ cases)

Zip Code	Narcan Administration
20910	83
20850	72
20874	65
20906	60
20852	52
20902	46
20877	44
20878	40
20904	40
20901	35
20912	34
20853	28
20876	26
20879	25
20886	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>

### Narcan Adm by Month

MonthInCalendar	Narcan Admin
Jul 2021	64
Aug 2021	57
Sep 2021	50
Oct 2021	42
Nov 2021	42
Dec 2021	45
Jan 2022	44
Feb 2022	45
Mar 2022	38
Apr 2022	35
May 2022	61
Jun 2022	49
Jul 2022	48
Aug 2022	42
Sep 2022	63
Oct 2022	53
Nov 2022	58
Dec 2022	38
Jan 2023	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>

## Narcan Administration by Incident City



## Map of Incidents by Zip Code



# Montgomery County Fire & Rescue EMS “High Confidence” Narcan Administration

Time Frame: 7/1/2021– 1/14/2023 Number of Narcan Administered by EMS: 900

## FY22-FY23 YTD Total Narcan Administration

Total Narcan Administration

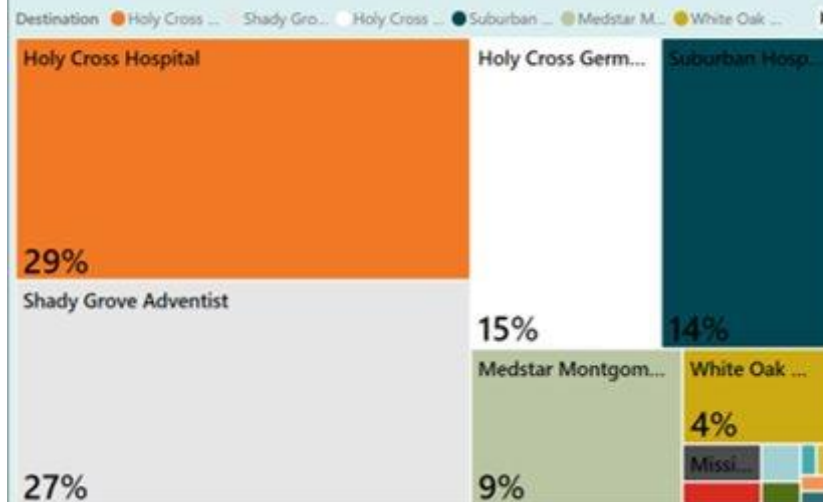
900

## Disposition of Clients

Patient Disposition	Percent of Total
Patient Treated and Transported	85.33%
Patient Refused Transport	10.78%
Patient Expired	1.78%
Operational Support Provided	1.44%
No Treatment Required	0.44%
Treated, Transferred Care to Other EMS Unit	0.11%
Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle (Refusal Form Required)	0.11%

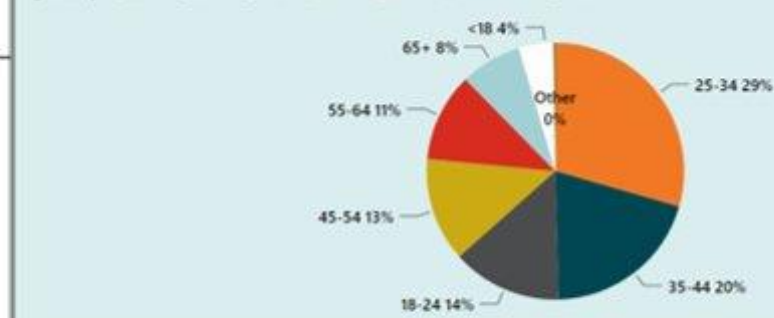
**Total** 100.00%

## Narcan Administration by Hospital Name

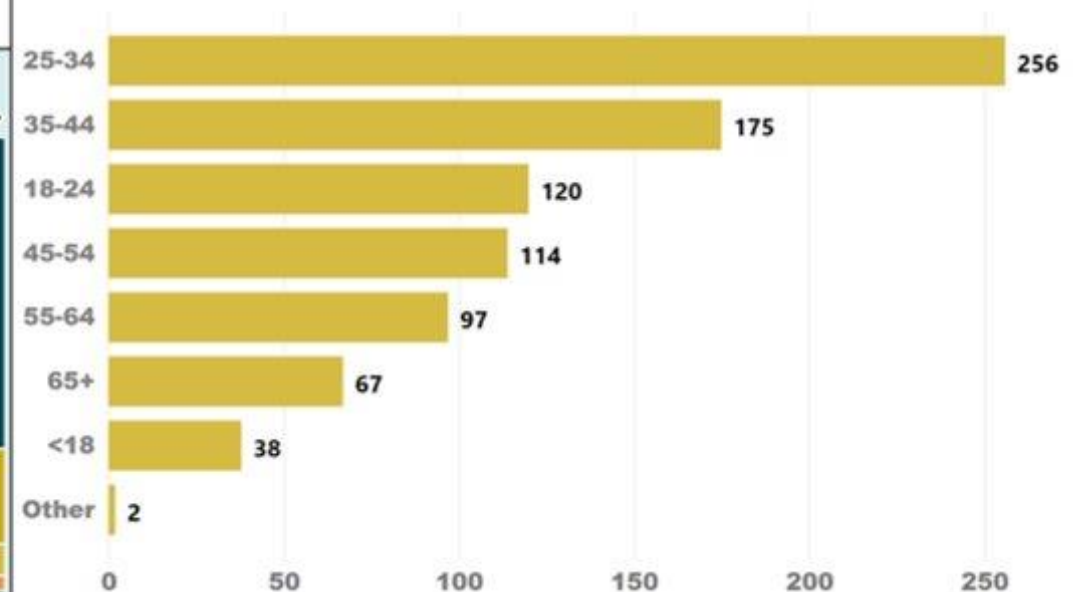


## Narcan Administration by Age Group

Age Group



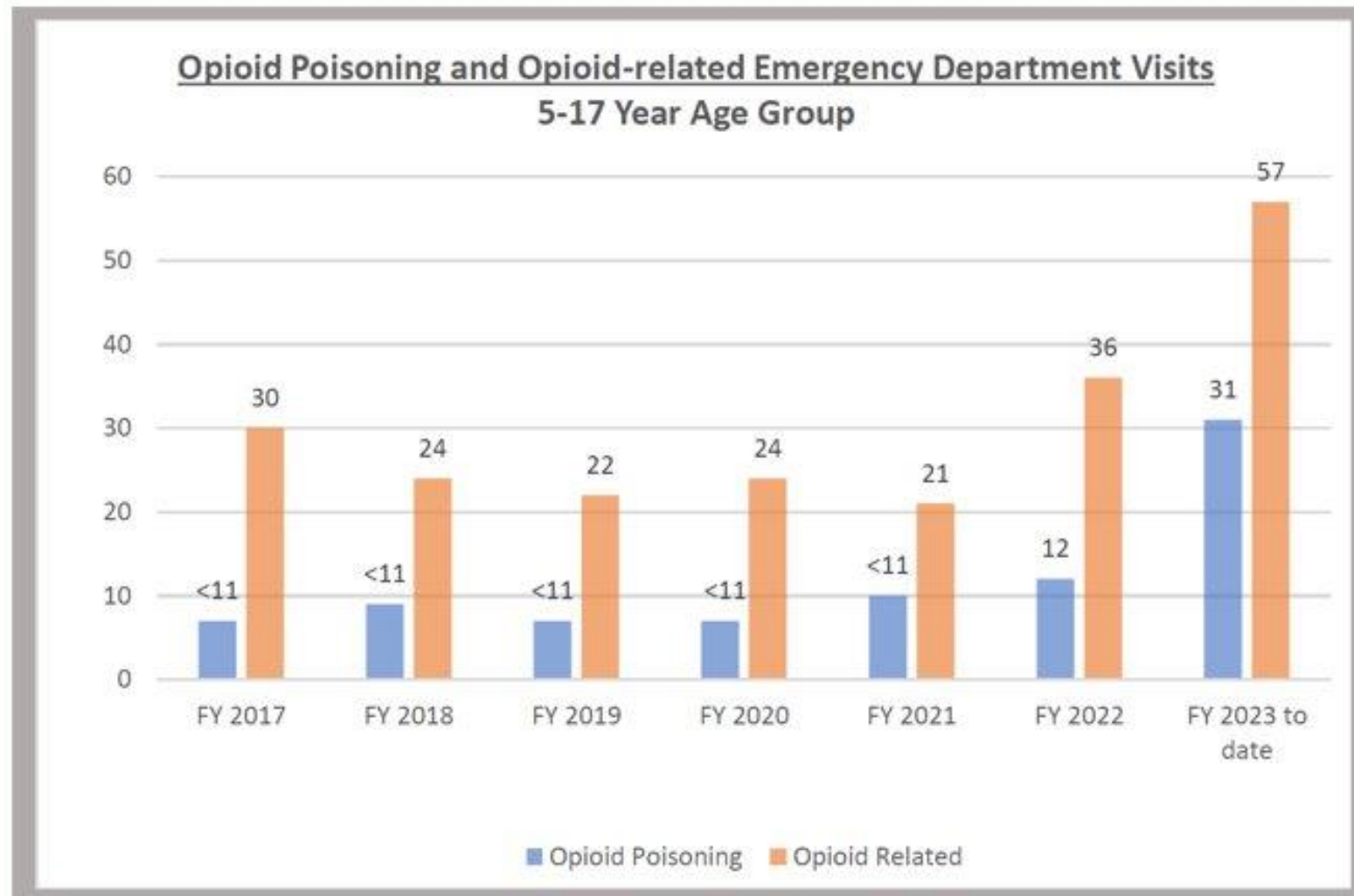
## Narcan Administration by Age Group



[illegible]

# Montgomery County Maryland Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program

## Syndromic Behavioral Health Surveillance

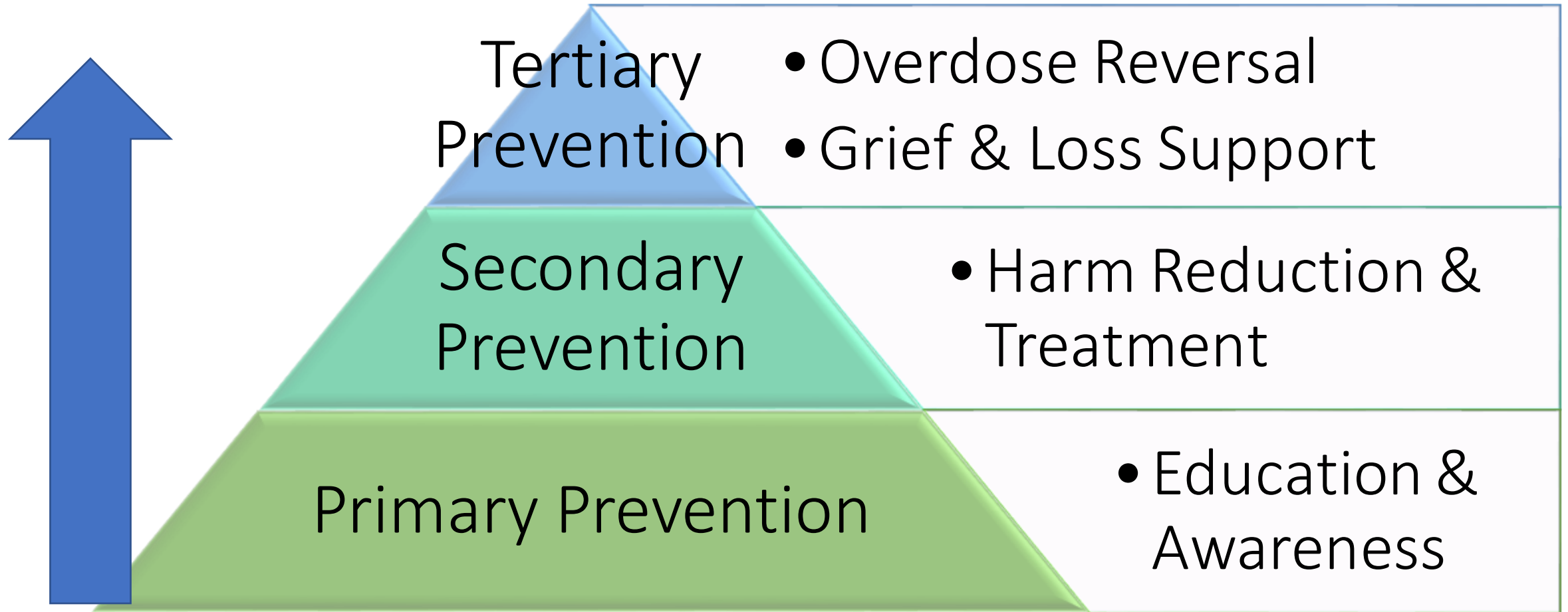






# Framing the Bigger Problem

# Public Health Approach to Preventing Opioid Deaths





# Primary Prevention

Addressing Mental Health and Resilience

Education & Awareness

# School & Community Services

- School Nursing
  - All HS, MS, large ES, and Community Schools staffed with an RN
  - Health tech in all schools
  - All nurses trained in Narcan administration, and it is available in all high schools
- School Health and Wellness Centers
  - 15 Schools (6 HS, 9 ES)
  - Provides primary and acute care, sports physicals
- Bridge to Wellness/School & Community Youth Services
  - Mental Health, Care Management, and Youth Development services in 19 high schools
  - Working toward Wellness Centers in every high school
- Positive Youth Development Program
  - Build social and emotional skills
  - Gang prevention

# Education & Awareness



- BTheOne.org
  - Substance use prevention and Suicide prevention campaign targeted towards Montgomery County youth
- BTheOne Youth Ambassadors Program
  - Gives a voice to County youth to develop leadership skills and increase knowledge about prevention and the dangers of substance use
  - The youth ambassadors use these skills to educate their peers and local community about these dangers and the importance of prevention.
- Adolescent Substance Use Prevention Program (LifeSkills Curriculum)
  - Evidence-based prevention education groups for at-risk students
  - Presentations and community outreach

# Education & Awareness



- Community Awareness Campaigns
  - Social media
  - PSAs
  - Printed flyers, posters, stickers
- Safe Storage and Disposal
  - Detera Drug Deactivation System
- Montgomery County Prevention Alliance
  - Coalition to address substance misuse prevention

# Secondary Prevention

Harm Reduction & Treatment

# BHCS Substance Use Screenings and Referrals

- **Child and Adolescent Assessment Services 240-777-4000**
  - Licensed clinicians screen and provide recommendations and referrals for treatment and support services for youth with mental health and substance use concerns
  - Free for all youth in Montgomery County

# Contracts with Community Partners for Substance-Related Services

The LBHA provides oversight of a variety of contracted providers for treatment and recovery programs for youth in the County

- Treatment:
  - Outpatient treatment for youth (level 1)
    - Suburban Addiction Treatment
  - Intensive Outpatient treatment for youth (level 2)
    - Journeys for Adolescents
- Recovery:
  - Adolescent Clubhouse
    - Sheppard Pratt

# Tertiary Prevention

Overdose reversal

Grief & Loss Support



# Overdose Reversal

- Narcan training and distribution 240-777-1836
  - Recurring monthly trainings and within the community as requested
  - Narcan kits distributed, and includes 2 doses of Narcan
- Syringe Services Program
  - Distribution of harm reduction supplies, wound care services, HIV testing
  - Connection with harm reduction specialists for education and encouragement to connect to treatment services when ready
- Fentanyl test strips distribution
  - Test strips can be used to help detect if fentanyl is present in substances that were obtained and intended to be used

# Grief and Loss Support

- Montgomery County Overdose Grief Support 240-566-3246
  - Provides support and resources to friends and families after a loved one has passed from overdose death (whether recent or years ago)
  - Up to 3 sessions of private grief counseling
  - Biweekly grief support groups
  - Information about ongoing support and resources
  - Referrals to treatment, recovery, and/or harm reduction resources
  - Referrals to long-term peer-based local grief support

# Partnerships in Addressing Youth Opioid Use

- MCPD
  - ◦Cope Trailer
  - ◦STEER
- MCFRS
  - ◦Narcan distribution
  - ◦Leave Behind Program
- MCPS
  - ◦Prevention groups
  - ◦Community presentations
- Montgomery Goes Purple
  - ◦Community awareness & events
- Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT)
  - Reviews circumstances of individual fatal overdose cases, to identify safeguards to implement in systems of care to prevent future fatalities.
- AODAAC
  - ◦Planning and Coordination
- Collaboration Council
  - ◦Montgomery County Prevention Alliance
- Sheppard Pratt
  - Dare to be You program
  - The Landing- Adolescent Clubhouse
  - Recovery Academic Program
- Family Peer Support Programs
  - ◦MC Federation of Families
  - ◦Maryland Coalition of Families
- SUD Treatment Providers
- Maryland State Partnerships

# Recommendations

- Increase capacity in current programming
- Expand more resources to Middle Schools
- Encourage state to open treatment and recovery facility for youth
- Better incorporate behavioral health screening into primary care

## Montgomery County SUD Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategies

### Prevention

Strategy Name	Type/Description	Who's Responsible	Funding Source
Social Marketing/Media Intervention targeting youth	Information Dissemination/ NMUPD and underage drinking Social Marketing/Media Intervention targeting youth	Collaboration Council	SABG, OMPP
DARE to be You	Prevention Education/ DARE to be You (DTBY) is a multilevel prevention program aimed at high-risk families with children ages 2–5. The program is designed to lower children's risk of future substance abuse and other high-risk activities by improving aspects of parenting that contribute to children's resiliency.	Sheppard Pratt formerly known as Family Services, Inc.	SABG
Youth Advocacy and Prevention Coalition- Youth Ambassadors Program	Environmental Strategy/ The <b>BtheOne Youth Ambassadors Program</b> is a youth led, but adult guided program for Montgomery County youth to increase awareness about the dangers of substance use and suicide awareness. This initiative seeks to work with youth to increase leadership skills, develop advocacy skills and prepare youth to make a difference in the community on social and public health issues. For more information, please email <a href="mailto:YAP@montgomerycountymd.gov">YAP@montgomerycountymd.gov</a> .	HHS, Collaboration Council, Sheppard Pratt	SABG, STOP, COVID 19 Supplement
Montgomery County Prevention Alliance	Community Based Process/ This coalition seeks to mobilize community stakeholders to address community norms around the lack of awareness of community risk factors related to substance use.	Collaboration Council, HHS	SABG
Social Access Intervention	Environmental/ This strategy seeks to bring awareness to the dangers of prescription medications and promote safe disposal. Increase awareness of ways to safely dispose of unwanted or expired medications.	Collaboration Council, HHS	OMPP, OIT
Prescriber Education Collaborative	Prevention Education/ This learning collaborative targeting prescribers and dispensers of opioid medications to	HHS, OIT, AODAAC	OIT

	increase the use of evidence-based strategies when treating patients.	Prevention Committee	
KnowtheRiskMC Community Forums Series	Information Dissemination/ These are community educational opportunities to learn more about the dangers of opioids, Narcan, and other topics related to OUD. Forums are either face to face or pre-recorded virtually.	Collaboration Council	OIT

### **Harm Reduction**

<b>Strategy Name</b>	<b>Type/Description</b>	<b>Who's Responsible</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Opioid Response Program- Narcan/Naloxone	This strategy seeks to educate anyone in a position to save a life from opioid overdose by educating on the signs and symptoms of an overdose, steps to save a life, and how to administer Narcan. We also distribute Narcan to training partners and other community partners.	HHS	ACCESS HR
Syringe Services Program/ HIV Testing and Sexual Health	The MC SSP location provides access to sterile injection equipment (e.g., syringes, needles, cookers, cottons, tourniquets, and sterile water) and other harm reduction supplies (e.g., naloxone, condoms) for persons who inject drugs (PWID) in addition to a venue for proper disposal of used syringes. At initial enrollment into the program, participants can receive HIV and HCV testing alongside a demographic and brief assessment of current substance use, injection practices, and sexual behaviors. Participants are counseled on proper injection practices (e.g., cleaning site before injection, importance of not reusing syringes) and harm reduction strategies for reducing risk of drug-related overdose. Harm reduction Specialists are onsite to engage with participants who access SSP services to support and help connect them with additional resources (e.g., housing, mental health and substance use treatment services,	HHS	ACCESS HR, SHIR, County

	<p>clothing, food, etc.). Participants receive their HIV/HCV test results and are provided active linkage to HIV or HCV care if a participant is identified as reactive and not in care.</p> <p>Participants receive an initial installment of injection supplies and naloxone during the enrollment visit. After enrollment, participants can access the SSP services to exchange and receive injection supplies, additional naloxone doses, linkage to substance use treatment, and onsite wound care services.</p>		
Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution	<p>Distribution of fentanyl test strips have been consistent within HHS and community partners providing them in program such as: Drug Court, recovery housing programs, MC Coalition for the homeless, and other SUD community providers.</p>	HHS and community partners	ACCESS HR
STEER	<p>is a program, developed in response to the prevalence of individuals with substance use disorders and the need to use an alternative approach to connect them to services. STEER is a team of peer specialists who respond 24/7/365 to opioid overdoses and provider referrals for high risk Substance Use Disorder clients. The collaboration between the STEER team, Fire &amp; Rescue, Law enforcement, HHS, hospitals, and treatment providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals engage STEER through MC Crisis Center</li> <li>• Crisis Center then calls the on-call Peer to respond</li> <li>• Referrals are usually placed by Charge Nurses and Case Managers (In some cases Doctors)</li> <li>• Peer goes to ER to engage and possibly screen for treatment (usually within the hour)</li> <li>• EMS sends STEER alerts whenever Narcan is used on a subject</li> <li>• Referral emails triggered by Narcan induction</li> </ul>	Maryland Treatment Centers	County, OIT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the narrative, STEER responds to the ER subject was taken</li> <li>• Peers respond within the hour</li> <li>• Self-referral</li> <li>• Anyone who has ever been a STEER referral and always self-refer themselves back into the program</li> <li>• Peers work 24/7 on-call for one week a month</li> <li>• Peers can provide Narcan to clients and families.</li> <li>• Peers initiate Self Directed Wellness Plans for willing recoverees (goal setting)</li> <li>• Peers make weekly contact to help initiate change talk or recovery support</li> <li>• Peers introduce multiple recovery pathways to help recoveree make their best choice</li> <li>• Peers introduce needed resources for the recoveree while teaching how to self-advocate and engage</li> <li>• After 6 months of engagement and wellness, case is closed successfully.</li> </ul>		
Go Slow Campaign	is a fentanyl risk campaign to educate the community about the dangers of fentanyl as over 70% of our overdoses have been fentanyl related? The campaign will include television ads; bus ads; and print literature.	HHS	OD2A
Using Technology for linkages to care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulated a small planning group to discuss and work towards the development of a online system that provide a referral system that connected clients to services in real time;</li> <li>• For instance, a client who is seeking services from one provider; that provider can access this system to connect that client to additional support services in real time knowing</li> </ul>	HHS	OD2A



	<p>which providers have openings, waitlist and any other pertinent information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The idea is close the loop on referral to ensure clients are receiving the supports they need</li> <li>o It also seeks to streamline the referral process as well as assist with follow up</li> </ul>		
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### Workgroups

Strategy Name	Type/Description	Who's Responsible	Funding Source
OIT Overdose intervention Team	Multi-agency coordination bodies that coordinate with the community, and complement and integrate with the statewide opioid response effort; led by the health officers and emergency managers, and are fully engaged in our prevention and protection efforts	Collaborative Agency Partnership	OOCC (Opioid Operational Command Center)
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council	<p>AODAAC is comprised of experts and representatives in the areas of prevention, treatment, legal, business, and medical communities, as well as members of the general public.</p> <p>The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC) meets monthly to discuss and continue learning about substance use issues facing our community. AODAAC provides guidance to the County Executive and County Council to identify alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment needs in Montgomery County and reviews the County's efforts to address those needs.</p>		County
Montgomery County Prevention Alliance	alignment with the Substance Abuse Prevention Framework for Montgomery County, our goals are to: Change the social environment by promoting community norms to decrease the use of alcohol, tobacco,	Collaboration Council funded by DHHS	SABG (Substance Abuse Block Grant), OMPP (Opioid Misuse Prevention Program)

	and other drugs. Build the capacity of substance abuse prevention programs and services. Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors among county youth and families by providing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention, education, outreach programs and services.		
Montgomery Goes Purple	We are all people with lived experience working to celebrate, support and sustain stigma free recovery year-round. "Each September, Recovery Month works to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation who make recovery in all its forms possible.	????	????



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Marcus G. Jones  
*Chief of Police*

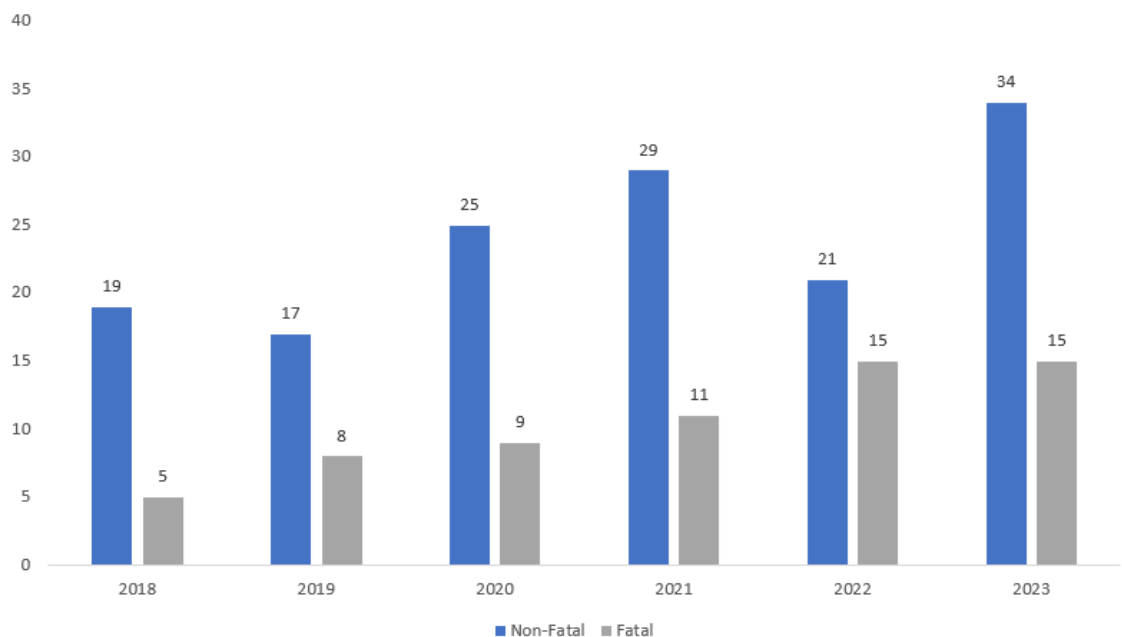
**Council Joint Committee Worksession on Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis with Our Youth  
(February 27, 20223)**

1. What are your agencies' and departments' current programs and efforts to address opioids and overdoses among youth? How are these approaches being augmented or adjusted to meet the current crisis?
  - Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) has had a robust overdose investigation strategy for several years. We remain one of the last major jurisdiction in the country that still have investigative notification and response to all overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal. Although this is labor intensive, this response has provided significant intelligence on opiate matters in the county.
  - Investigators are able to gather valuable intelligence. Through this intelligence, we have been able to have several successful prosecutions involving fentanyl distribution, including with youth. One example can be found here: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/silver-spring-maryland-man-faces-federal-charges-distribution-fentanyl-resulting-death>.
  - We have several detectives who are deputized as task force officers with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who can take fentanyl distribution cases involving death directly to the US Attorney's office for federal prosecution. MCPD is one of the few major city jurisdictions with a robust and comprehensive enforcement strategy for opiates, and several of our partner jurisdictions have approached us to gather information and best practices on our program.
  - MCPD Community Engagement Division (CED) utilizes the Community Opioid Prevention and Education (COPE) trailer to educate parents and family members of the dangers of opioids, signs their loved one may be using, how to safely handle suspected drugs if located. They are also offered information on county resources available to them.
  - District police stations have a prescription drug turn in box for families to dispose of medication to limit the availability in the home when not needed by the prescribed patient.

Chief J. Thomas Manger Public Safety Headquarters - 100 Edison Park Drive Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) - [www.mymcpnews.com](http://www.mymcpnews.com) - [ChiefMCPD@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ChiefMCPD@montgomerycountymd.gov)

- MCPD has expanded access of naloxone training to officers by offering the training in an online format through the Public Safety Training Academy. Trained officers can be issued naloxone from the Department's Supply Section. Currently there are over 260 officers issued naloxone.
2. Please share any data and/or trends regarding youth opioid usage including overdoses, access to naloxone, and trends if available.

- *Numbers are YTD as of 2/14/2023. Non-fatal overdoses are up 62% from 2022.*



\*\*\* Youth Overdose data includes those under the age of 21.

**Youth Overdoses:**

Youth Overdoses	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
Fatal	1	2	2	---
Non-Fatal	3	1	16	1500%
Grand Total	4	3	18	500%

47% of 2023 non-fatal overdoses victims have been under the age of 21

- The traditional intelligence suggested that individuals, both youth and adults, who take counterfeit fentanyl pills (83% of all oxycodone pills tested in our lab are counterfeit fentanyl) take it thinking it is a pharmaceutical grade

drug. However, over the last year or so, new intelligence suggested that adults were actively seeking these pills knowing, even hoping, that these pills were actually counterfeit fentanyl. More recently, we have learned that youth as young as 13 have taken these pills, knowing that they are fentanyl. The pills are not just being ingested my mouth. The drugs are being crushed and snorted, or even smoked.

- Although overall overdose was down in 2022 compared to 2021, the availability of naloxone certainly had significant effect on the reported overdose within the adult cohort. The real number of overdoses, not just reported, is likely consistent with recent year trends. However, the different factors and experiences driving overdose amongst youth, and the fact that naloxone may not be as widely available for them, certainly is part of the reason for the increase in youth overdose.
3. How is your agency or department coordinating and collaborating with other departments and agencies on opioid prevention and response?
- We have partnered with MCPS to better educate senior leaders on the latest fentanyl usage trends.
  - Narcotics detectives are providing training on fentanyl trends to MCPD Community Engagement Officers (CEOs), so that they can work with their school based partners on drug issues to include opioid awareness and overdose prevention.
  - The Montgomery County States Attorney's office has a team of dedicated prosecutors who handle overdose cases, and we work together to ensure a collaborative relationship and attend joint training whenever necessary and appropriate.
  - We have also been a partner with Frederick Hospice and HHS to refer the families of all fatal overdose victims to bereavement counseling services.
  - Both the MCPD Community Engagement Division (CED) and MCPD Special Investigations Division (SID) are participating in the MCPS Family Forums on Fentanyl to increase awareness and education in the community.

- MCPD collaborates with MCPS, HHS and Fire Rescue to help provide families with services and services. Fire Rescue utilizes a program to leave behind a naloxone kit with families following an incident.

# Opioid Overdoses in Youth: MCPS Prevention and Response

## Opioid Overdoses in Youth: What are we seeing in schools?

- **Opioid-related overdose in youth is a national public health crisis.**
  - In December 2022, the CDC published data indicating an increase in deaths among persons 10-19 years old by 182% from 2019-2021\*
  - 84% of deaths involved illicitly manufactured fentanyl
- **What data do we collect in schools?**
  - MCPS relies on public health and public safety partners for local data and trends regarding overdose-related incidents in county youth

\*Tanz LJ, Dinwiddie AT, Mattson CL, O'Donnell J, Davis NL. Drug Overdose Deaths Among Persons Aged 10–19 Years — United States, July 2019–December 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:1576–1582.



## Opioid Overdoses in Youth: What is MCPS doing?

- **MCPS works with the Montgomery Goes Purple community coalition to coordinate prevention and support around substance use and overdose by:**
  - Coordinating district wide health promotion about the dangers of illicit fentanyl and resources for prevention and support
  - Connecting schools with community resources, including youth support and programming
  - Engaging with youth and families to empower them to address substance use and act if they are concerned
  - Maintaining a safe and drug-free school environment
  - Increasing awareness of and access to the emergency overdose medication naloxone (Narcan)

\*For more information, see our 12/9/22 [Community Message](#) about illicit fentanyl



# Opioid Overdoses in Youth: What is MCPS doing?

- **Health Promotion**

- Risks of illicit fentanyl, substance use and mental health crisis resources, youth- and caregiver-focused resources for support and prevention of substance use

- **Community Collaborations:**

- Montgomery Goes Purple
- Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations
- Montgomery County DHHS – Prevention & Harm Reduction Services
  - School-based youth outreach
  - Adolescent Substance Use Prevention groups
- Sheppard Pratt, The Landing - Adolescent Recovery Program
  - Recovery and Academic Program (RAP)
- Montgomery County Police Department



## Opioid Overdoses in Youth: What is MCPS doing?

- **Health Education**

- In addition to content on medication safety and substance use prevention, more detailed curriculum content on opioid overdose and fentanyl has been added
- Additional health information and resources are provided to students, families and staff through dedicated community engagement (e.g., town hall meetings, PTSA events, staff meetings)

- **Safety and Security**

- MCPS Regulation COF-RA prohibits tobacco or other smoking products, alcohol, or illegal drugs of any kind on MCPS property.
- School safety procedures including measures for school restrooms are currently being reviewed with input from students, staff and parents
- *For more information, see our [2/13/23 community message](#) on Safety and Security in Our Schools .*

# Community Engagement

## Parents/Caregivers

- Parent outreach through the MCCPTA and NAACP Parent Council
- Access to parent training opportunities (e.g., Parent CRAFT)

## Students

- School-based community conversations
- Adolescent Substance Use Prevention groups
- Engagement of student leadership and youth media
- Youth-centered health promotion

## Everyone

- District wide events: Family Forum on Fentanyl
- Community messages
- Video PSAs - Fentanyl awareness
- Education about crisis resources
- Access to naloxone (Narcan) training and supplies

# Naloxone for suspected opioid overdose

**Naloxone (Narcan) is an easy-to-use, safe and potentially life-saving medication that temporarily reverses the effect of opioids and is already available in all MCPS schools**

- Naloxone has been available in every MCPS school since the 2018-2019 school year per MD Educ Code § 7-426.5 (2017)
  - School community health nurses (SCHNs) and a minimum of three designated staff members must complete hands-on training on how to administer naloxone
  - All staff members are required to complete the online professional development course, Opioid Awareness and Response (PDO Course Number 91182)
- Naloxone training and access to supplies are included in community-wide engagement
- Ongoing efforts to optimize access in schools includes increasing stock at the secondary school level and identifying additional personnel for hands-on training and carry
- A specific and updated naloxone policy is being developed

# Montgomery County Opioid Intervention Team (OIT)

## Executive Summary of 2018-2019 Objectives & Expected Outcomes

### Background

The Montgomery County OIT was formed in March 2017 at the recommendation of Governor Hogan to help coordinate between local and state partners on the collective response to the opioid crisis. In Montgomery County, the OIT is comprised of both governmental and non-governmental partners and includes representatives from the County Executive's Office, the Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (OEMHS), the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Fire & Rescue Services (MCFRS), the Police Department (MCPD), the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (DOCR), the Sheriff's Office (SO), the State's Attorney's Office (SAO), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Maryland Treatment Centers, the hospitals, and other local advocates. The MC OIT aims to streamline the County response to the opioid crisis by ensuring unity of effort, efficient allocation of resources, and strategic thinking.

### Objectives

#### Prevention & Harm Reduction

- Ensuring broad distribution and availability of Naloxone and its associated training.
- Supporting efforts to reduce abuse of prescribed opioids through communications with doctors and pharmacies and collection or destruction of unused prescription opioids.
- Assessing various harm reduction models (i.e., needle exchange, safe houses, etc) for acceptability and efficacy in Montgomery County.

#### Access to Treatment

- Promoting easy access to and enrollment in treatment options regardless of insurance status or point of presentation (law enforcement, EMS, hospitals, corrections, etc).
- Identifying gaps in Countywide treatment services and promotion of expanded access to treatment for all insurance categories.

#### Public Awareness and Education

- Conduct of Speak Up, Save a Life community forums to educate and engage with members of the community.
- Work with MCPS to identify opportunities for educating young people on self-harming behaviors and development of programs for students with addiction challenges.
- Provide information for the peer recovery community to engage with their clients.

#### Data Integration and Coordination

- Development of dashboards to support opioid response decision-making
- Construction of triggers for real time notification and action.
- Analysis of opioid epidemic trends for longer term strategic planning.

## Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness/education about opioids/opioid addiction and understanding of how prescription opioid abuse can lead to heroin use.
- Improved awareness of safe storage methods by MC residents,
- Expanded the utilization of lock box/drop off locations by MC residents,
- Increased public and private access to Naloxone
- Enhanced awareness and education about opioids, opioid addiction and its link to heroin by middle and high school youth and parents
- Increased awareness and education about the dangers of prescription opioids and its link to heroin use by MC residents,
- Enhanced metrics for assessment of the epidemic and improved decision-making, and
- Increased access to and knowledge of treatment options, including Medically-Assisted Treatment (MAT), public and private payer beds, and supportive services (counseling, crisis services).