

Opioid Prevention Community Update Session

May 26, 2022



Introductions

- Sara Hollie, Director, Saint-Paul Ramsey County Public Health
- Jessie Saavedra, Interim Opioid Prevention Coordinator
- Sue Mitchell, Public Health Program Supervisor

Land Acknowledgement

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota People. We want to acknowledge the Ojibwe, the Ho Chunk and the other nations of people who also called this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the tribal nations that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

The acknowledgment given in the USDAC Honor Native Land Guide - edited to reflect Minnesota tribes.

In review with SIA and endorsed by Shannon Geshick, Executive Director Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Virtual Group Agreements

- Participate – Be engaged. Share your thoughts and ideas
- Respect the ideas and opinions of others
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," and "you")
- If you have a question, please ask it
- Be aware of your facial expressions --they can be perceived as disrespectful as words.
- Do not dominate the discussion, allow others to be heard. "Step Up and Step Back!"
- Turn your camera on if able, especially when speaking
- Mute your microphone when not speaking
- Add comment/questions in the chat if that is more comfortable

Session Objectives

- To provide an overview of the impact opioids in Minnesota and Ramsey County.
- To discuss Ramsey County's opioid prevention initiatives.
- To share information on the Opioid Settlement and legislative update.
- To discuss next steps gathering feedback on continued prioritization of opioid prevention activities in Ramsey County.

Opioid Crisis Background

- In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that people would not become addicted to opioid pain relievers; providers began to prescribe them at greater rates for all pain issues
- Increased prescriptions of opioid medications led to widespread misuse of both prescription and non-prescription opioids before it was affirmed that these medications could be highly addictive
- In 2017, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the opiate crisis to be a public health emergency

What are Opioids?

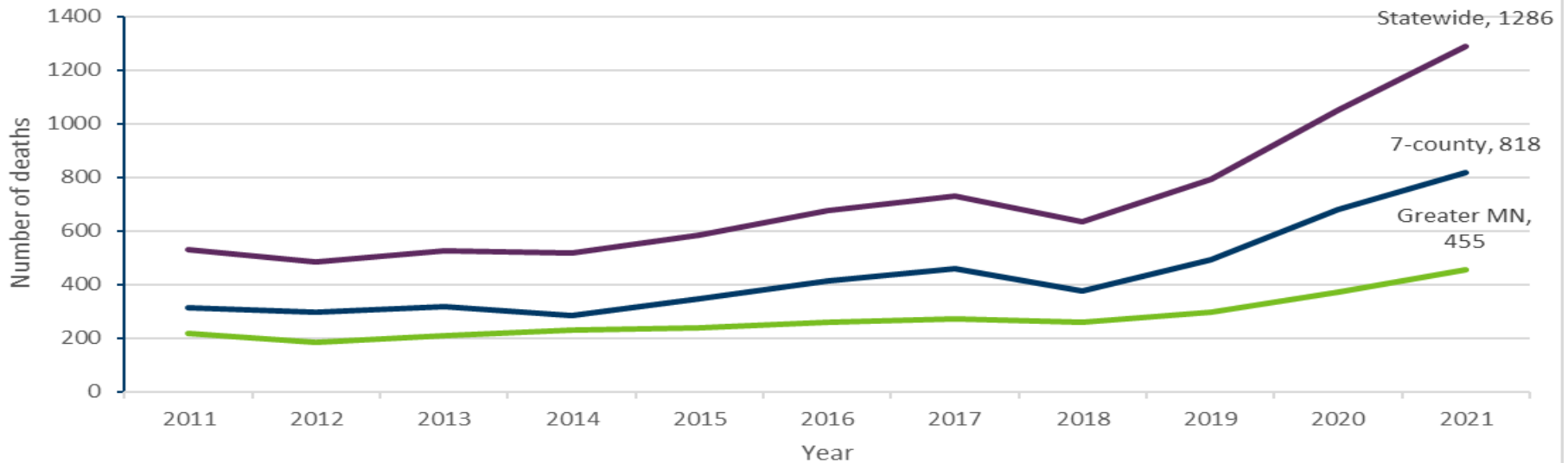
Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, and many others. The misuse of and addiction to opioids is a serious national crisis.

Why it matters? Opioid Epidemic in Minnesota

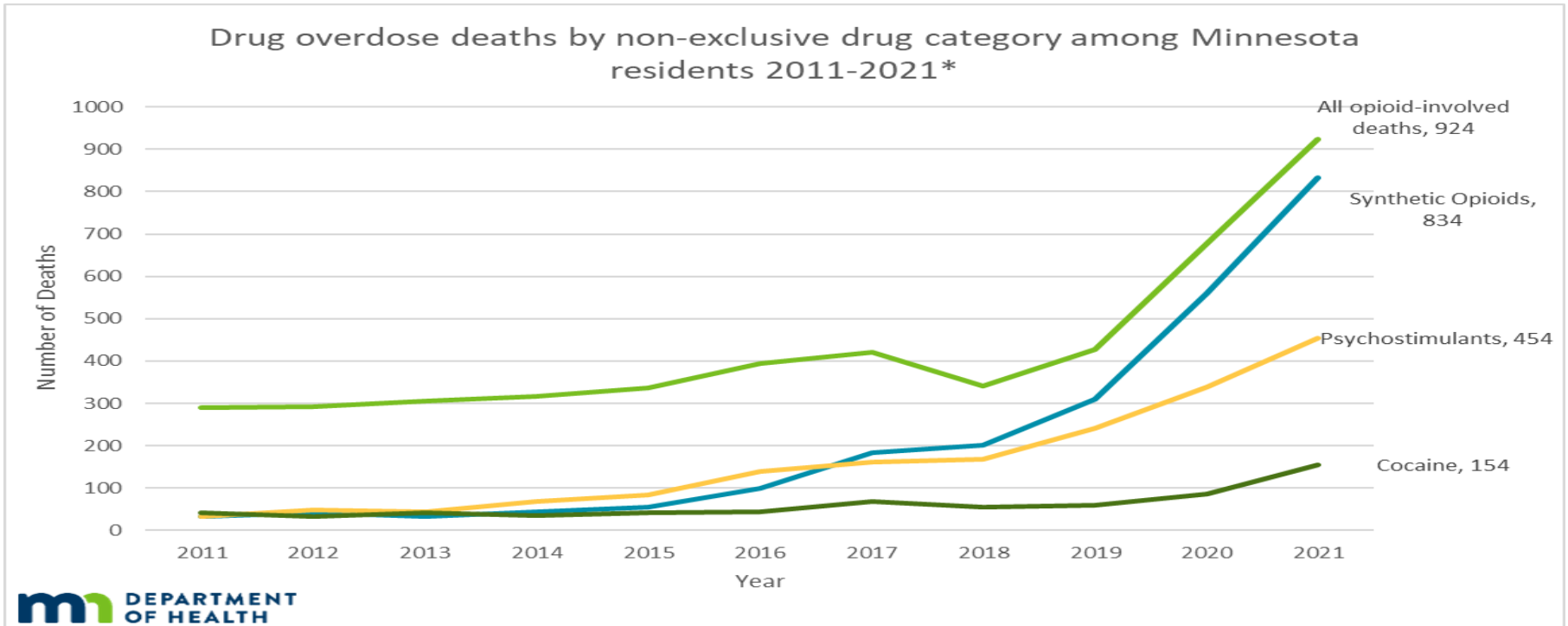
- More than 5,400 Minnesotans have died of opioid overdoses since 2000
- COVID-19 pandemic has caused a surge in both fatal and nonfatal overdose deaths.
- In 2021, overdose mortality became the leading cause of injury death in Minnesota, overtaking Fall mortality
- Drug overdose deaths increased 22% from 2020 to 2021, driven by synthetic opioids (i.e., fentanyl) and stimulants (i.e., cocaine and methamphetamine)
- Greater Minnesota saw a larger increase in overdose deaths when compared to the Metro area
- Statewide overdose mortality rate masks significant racial disparities, which are growing worse

Drug Overdose Deaths

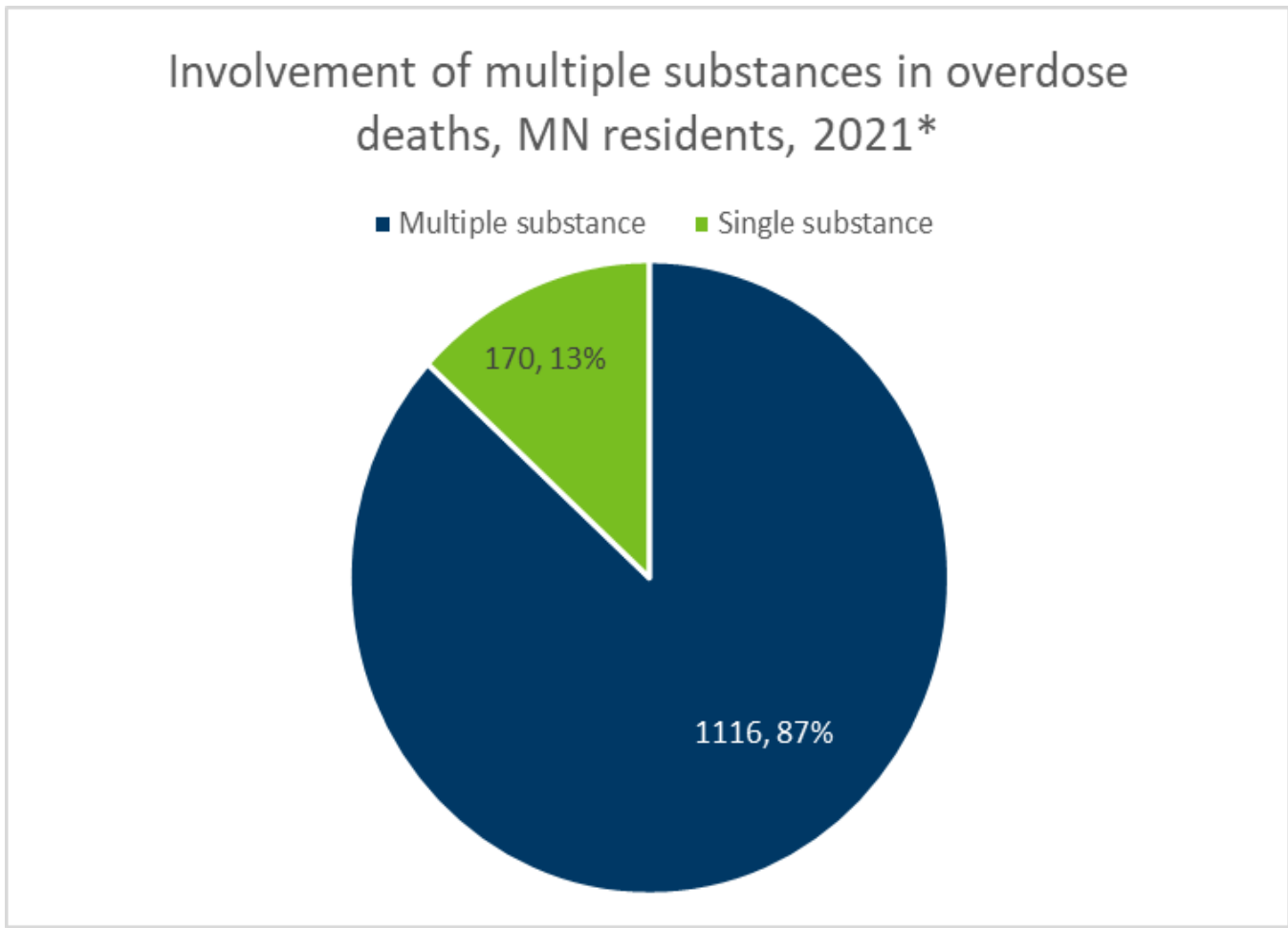
Number of drug overdose deaths,
7-county metro vs. Greater MN, MN residents, 2011-2021*



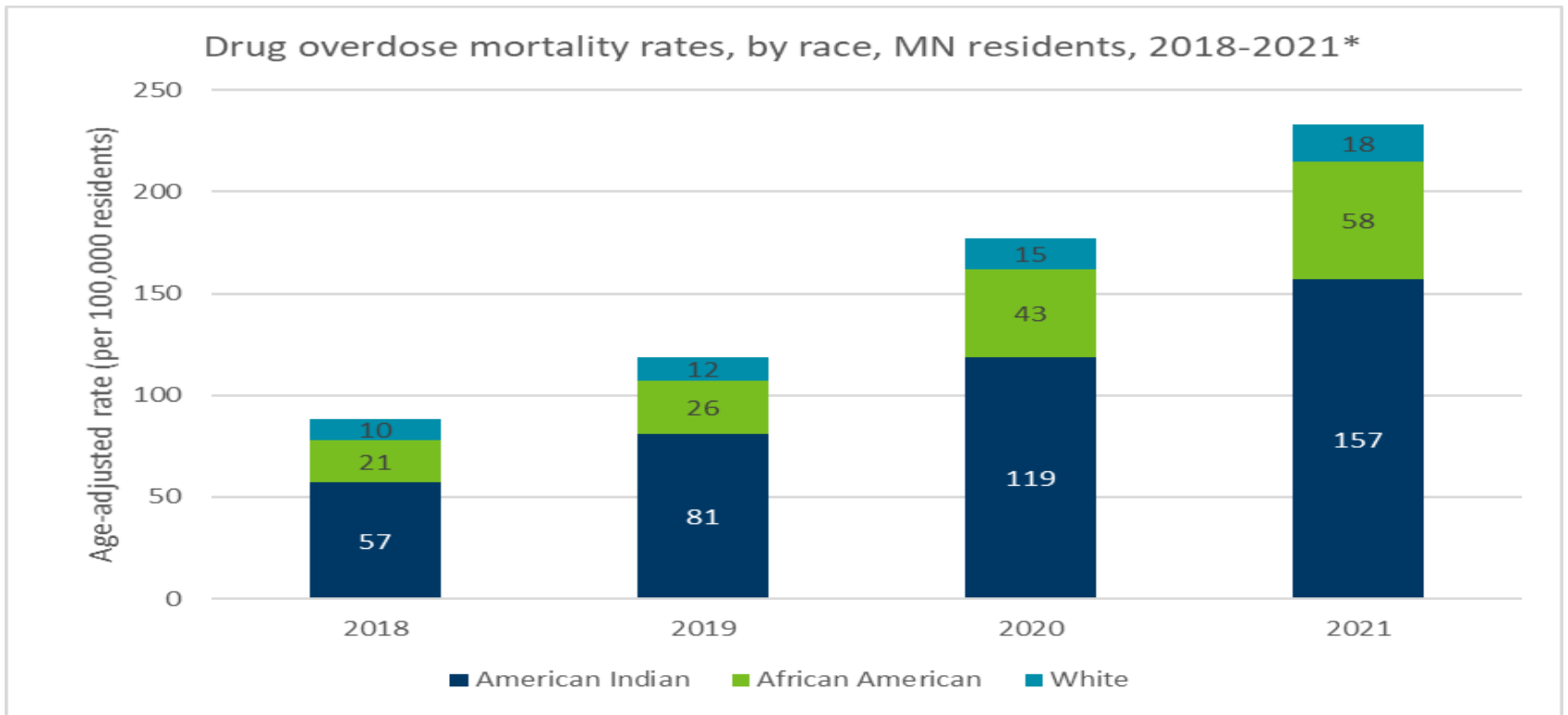
Increase in mortality is driven by fentanyl



Most overdose deaths involve multiple substances



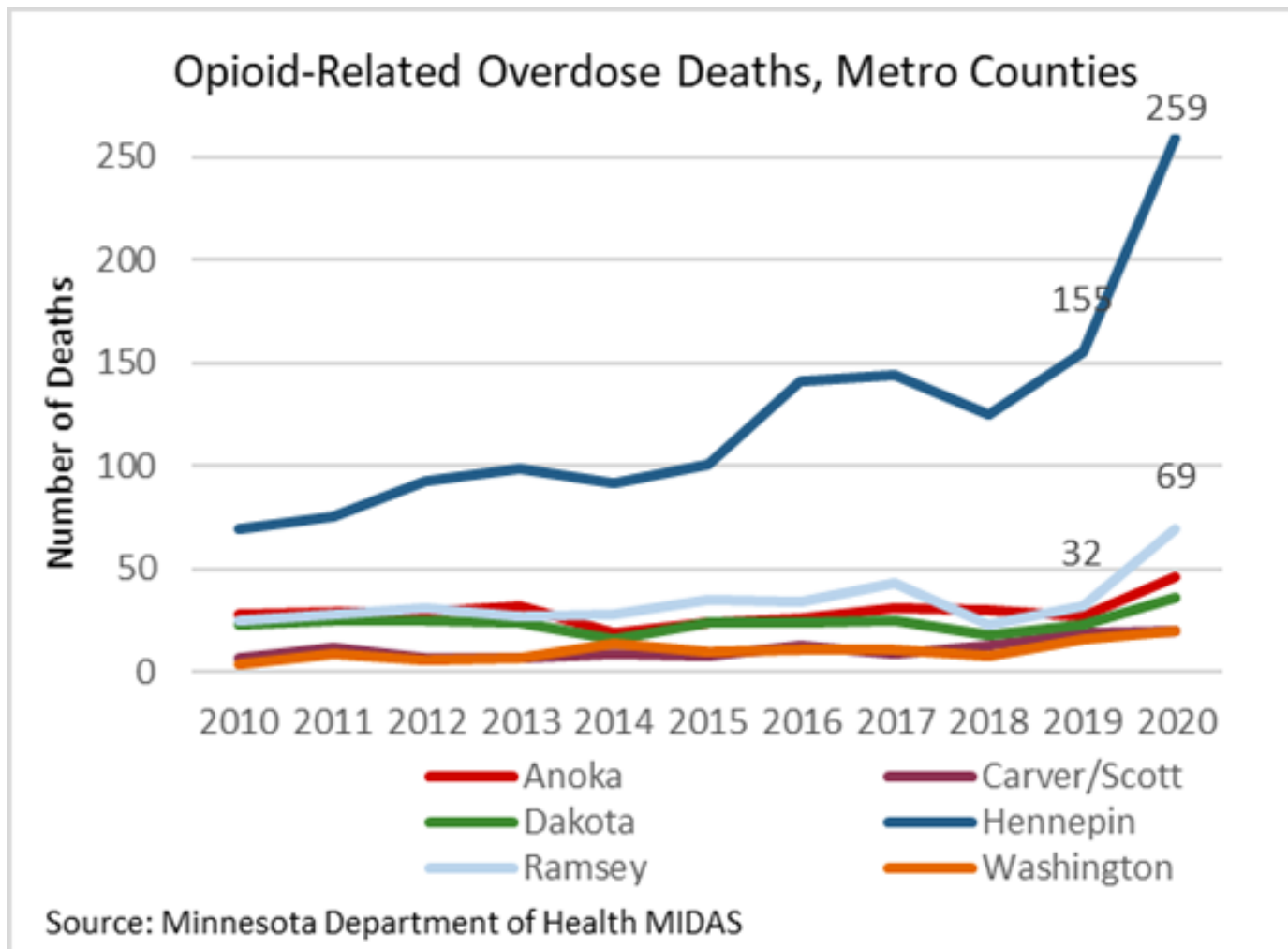
In 2021 the drug overdose mortality rates increased dramatically for American Indian and African American Minnesotans, widening the disparity in drug overdose mortality rates by race



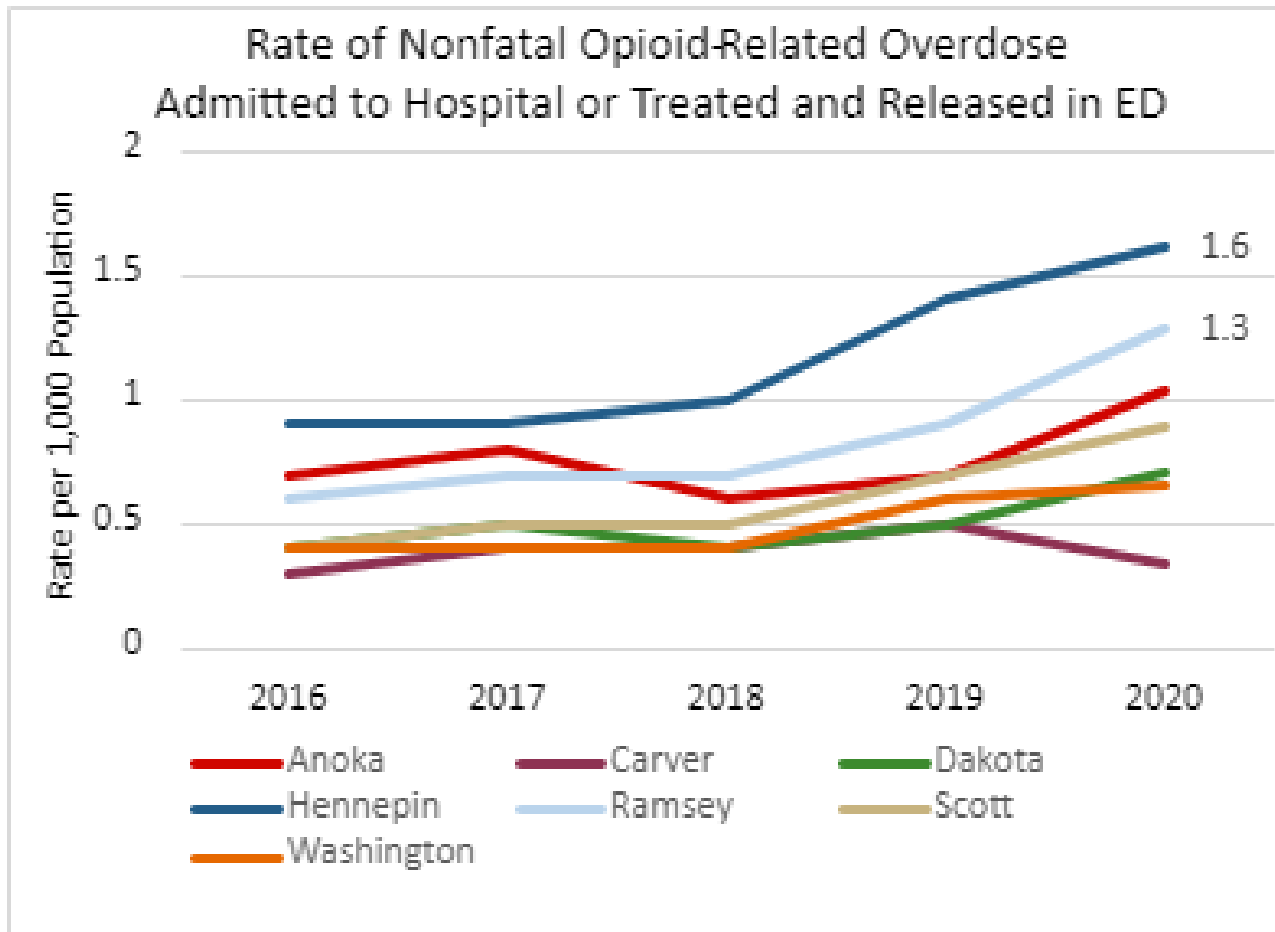
MN Overdose Mortality Key findings recap

- Drug overdose deaths continue to reach historic highs in 2021
- Deaths are driven by:
 - Synthetic opioids (i.e., fentanyl)
 - Psychostimulants (i.e., methamphetamine)
- Polysubstance is growing and commonly involves synthetic opioids
- Low state overdose mortality rate masks significant racial disparities, which are growing worse

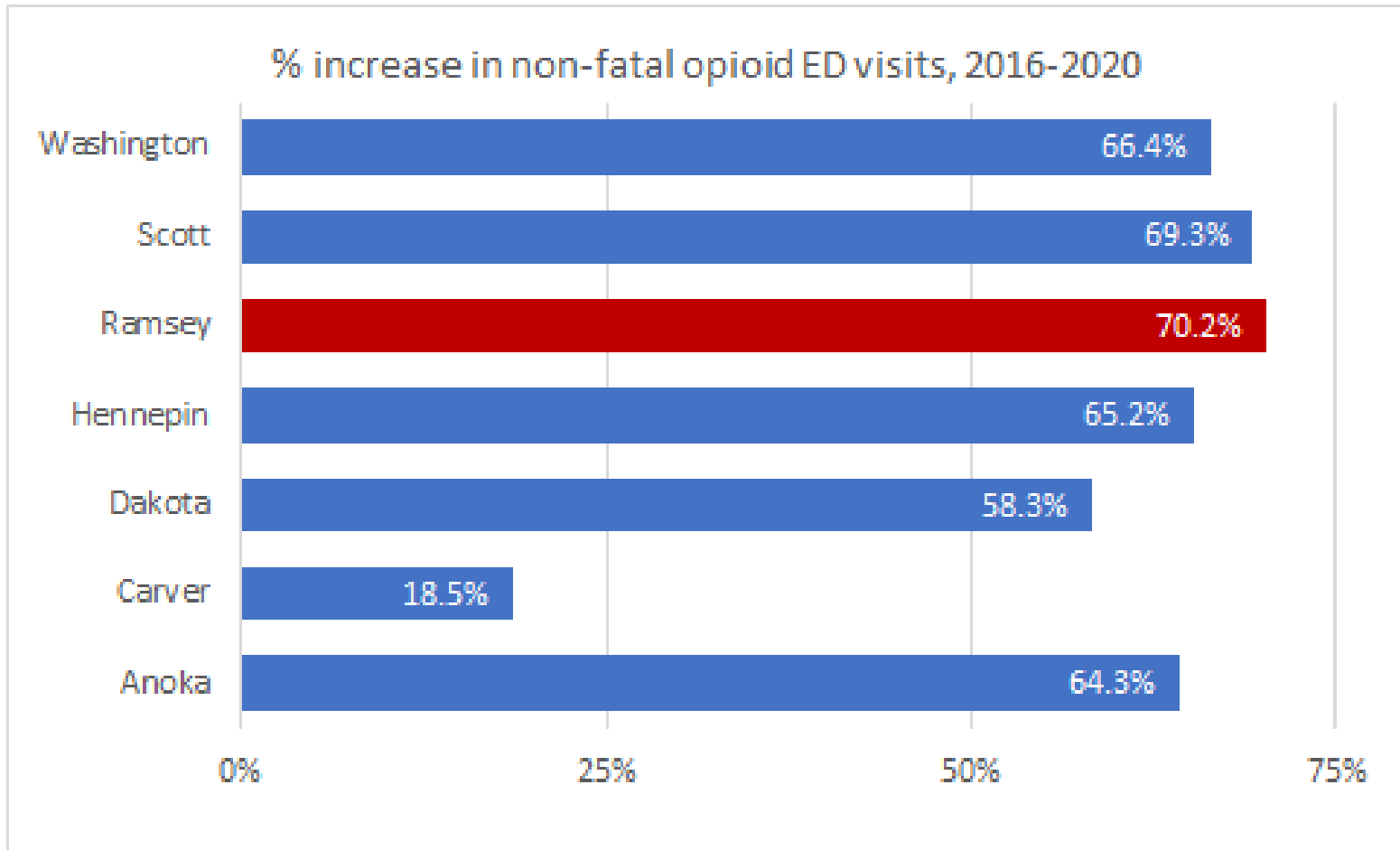
Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths - Ramsey County



Nonfatal Opioid Overdose – Ramsey County



Nonfatal Opioid-Related ED Visits - Ramsey County



Addressing Opioid Use/Abuse in Ramsey County

- Opioids has been identified as a priority Public Health issue based on input from the Community Health Services Advisory Committee in 2019, reaffirmed in 2021, and through community input sessions on budget priorities in 2021.
- A partnership between Correctional Health in concert with Clinical Services and Social Services, to implement Medical Assistance Therapy (MAT) program. To design the program, collect data, collaborate with health care professionals, get community resources and care for people to continue care from jails to community. Principle of harm reduction.
- Syringe exchange program: Narcan distribution and training on how to respond and how to apply Narcan in community.

Addressing Opioid Use/Abuse in Ramsey County (cont.)

- Detox is now dually licensed
- Licensed to provide Detox Services under Chapter 9530 as well as to provide Withdrawal Management Services under 245 F.
- Withdrawal management program able to provide assessments
- Intervention and referral to after care services that can meet the unique medical and cultural needs of each client.
- Looking holistically at the client 1st model of services

Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

- In 2019, Governor Tim Walz signed the Opiate Epidemic Response bill into law, which raises funds from prescribers, drug manufacturers and distributors to fight the opioid crisis, while creating the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) to oversee the funding.

The Opiate Epidemic Response Fund

- The Opiate Epidemic Response law is expected to raise \$20 million annually through fees from prescribers, drug manufacturers and distributors. The fees collected will go into an opiate epidemic response account established in the state government special revenue fund. This means there will be sustainable funding to fight the opioid epidemic and therefore more sustainable treatment and recovery services across the state.

The purpose of the council

- The Opiate Epidemic Response bill establishes the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council to develop and implement a comprehensive and effective statewide effort to address the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic in Minnesota.

The council will:

- Review of local, state, and federal initiatives and activities related to education, prevention, treatment and services for individuals and families experiencing and affected by opioid use disorder
- Recommend to the commissioner of human services specific projects and initiatives to be funded
- Develop recommendations for an administrative and organizational framework for the allocation, on a sustainable and ongoing basis, of any money collected from the Opiate Epidemic Response

Ramsey County OERAC Grant Activities

- MN-DHS Expansion and Enhancement of a Continuum of Care for Opioid-related Substance Use Disorders Grant
- \$509,684 awarded through June 30, 2023
- **Goal:** To ensure that pre-sentence clients are offered assessment, access to culturally appropriate and responsive care and information about community services to navigate through treatment options regardless of health insurance status.

Opioid Settlement Overview

- Minnesota was recently part of \$26 billion multistate winning lawsuit against multiple opioid pharmaceutical companies and an opioid manufacturer.
- Settlement money will be divided between states, counties and cities over the next several years.
- Ramsey County will be awarded approximately \$15.7 million along with other counties and cities (<https://www.ag.state.mn.us/opioids/>)
- No settlement payments to the State, Counties or Cities until August 1, 2022
- Public health departments will serve as Chief Strategists of these funds.

Opioid Remediation Uses

“Opioid Remediation.” Care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures (including reimbursement for past such programs or expenditures¹ except where this Agreement restricts the use of funds solely to future Opioid Remediation) designed to (1) address the misuse and abuse of opioid products, (2) treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or (3) mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.

List of Opioid Remediation Uses - Categories

I. Treatment

Support treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (“SUD/MH”) conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies

II. Prevention

Support efforts to prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids; efforts that support opioid misuse from occurring; and efforts that reduce harm through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies

III. Other Strategies

First responders, leadership, planning and coordination, training, research, and post-mortem (i.e., toxicology, etc.)

Legislative Update

Recent Minnesota legislation codifies Governor Walz’s order creating the Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction Subcabinet (Executive Order 22-07) and the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction and requires the governor to appoint an addiction and recovery director.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 22-07

Establishing the Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction Subcabinet and the Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Opioid overdose deaths, along other substance-related deaths, have increased significantly in Minnesota and across the country over the past two decades—and they continue to increase year after year. Although Minnesota has one of the lowest drug overdose mortality rates in the country, we have seen that rate trend upward. Since 2000, nearly 5,400 Minnesotans have lost their lives due to opioids. The Minnesota Department of Health reported 54 overdose deaths in 2000, and 678 in 2020. Increases in Minnesota's overdose mortality rates have been especially dramatic among people of color and Native Americans, leading to some of the worst racial disparities in drug overdose mortality in the nation. In Minnesota, Native Americans are seven times more likely, and African Americans are twice as likely, to die from opioid-related overdoses than white people.

There are many reasons for the tragic rise in opioid-related deaths. To start, opioids can be easy to obtain. Most common prescription opioid painkillers are Schedule II drugs. This means that any physician may prescribe an opioid painkiller in the course of pain treatment. Opioids are also highly addictive. They activate the brain's reward systems that trigger the release of dopamine, leading to feelings of intense pleasure. The early stages of opioid abuse are primarily driven by this stimulation of the brain's reward systems.

Fentanyl—a synthetic opioid—has also fueled the opioid crisis. Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Since fentanyl is so potent, even a very small amount can be lethal. It is widely available and often mixed intentionally or unintentionally with other drugs. People who use drugs are often unaware that they are taking fentanyl, leading to deadly results. Synthetic opioids were responsible for more than 80 percent of the opioid-related overdose deaths in 2020.

In addition to increased overdoses from opioids and other drugs, we have also witnessed an increase in alcohol sales and excessive consumption. This increase is concerning, because alcohol is the third-leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Alcohol is the

Timeline

June/July 2022

- Hire an Opioid Prevention Coordinator and Peer Specialist

June-August 2022

- Gathering input on key opioid prevention strategies
- Ongoing updates with community

September 2022 and beyond

- Develop strategy based on feedback
- Determine funding and resources overtime

Stay Connected to the Opioid Prevention Efforts

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WLPWSMC>

Ramsey County Community Feedback Survey on Opioid Priorities

All surveys that are completed by **June 30, 2022**, will be eligible to receive a **one-time \$25 gift card**

Gift cards will be available on first come, first serve; limited quantities available

Survey will close on **August 31, 2022**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2M2BV6H>

NEW! Opioid Prevention Initiative Website

www.ramseycounty.us/opioids

Website live by tomorrow @ 12 p.m. CST

Contact Information

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