

# Overdose Crisis and Public Health Response

San Francisco Department of Public Health

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**Department of Public Health**

# Overdose deaths remain a national public health crisis

**HEALTH CARE**

## Biden's drug czar: 165,000 lives might be lost annually to the overdose crisis by 2025

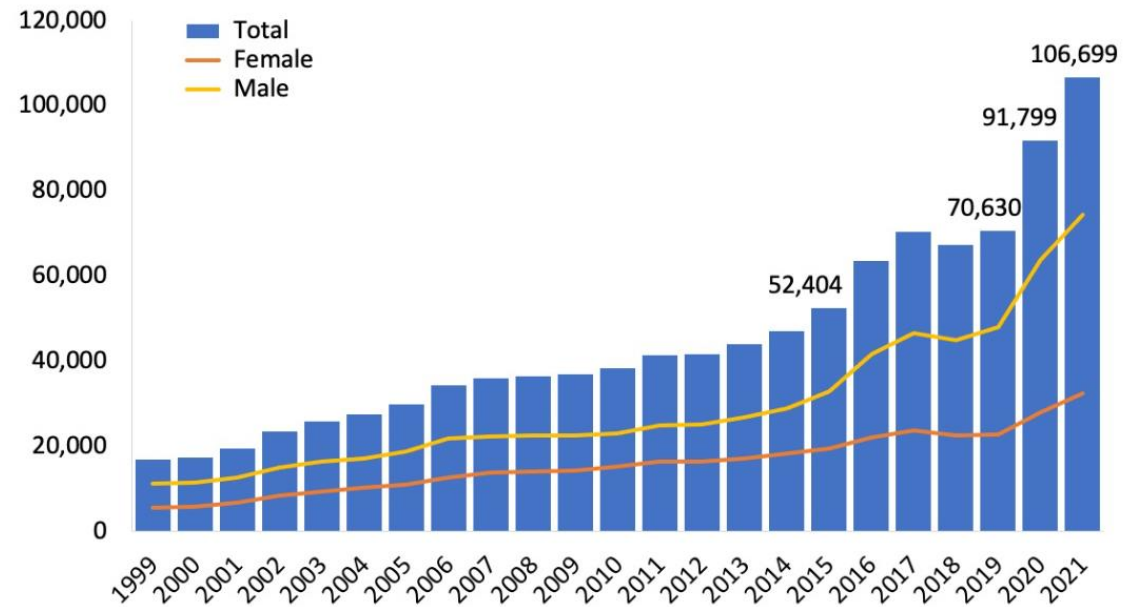
"There is almost no other area today, where it affects our public health, national security and economic prosperity, than the opioid crisis," said Rahul Gupta at POLITICO's Health Care Summit.

Drug czar: Stigma 'alive and well' in health care



By KELLY HOOPER  
06/07/2023 12:22 PM EDT  
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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.

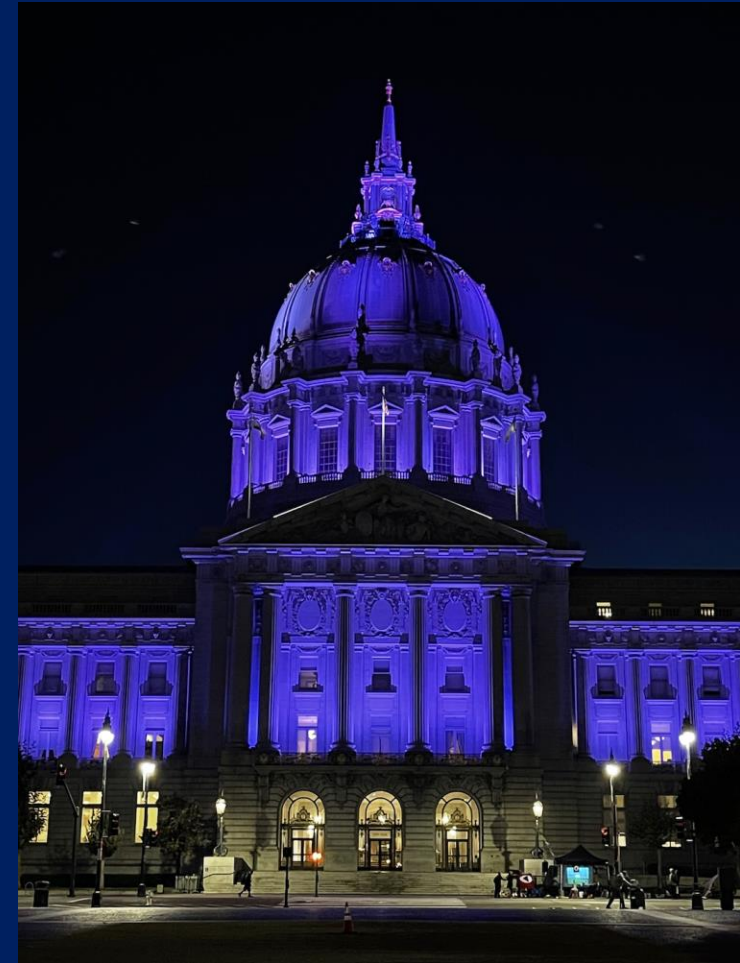


# Recognizing lives lost to overdose

**These deaths are not just statistics.**

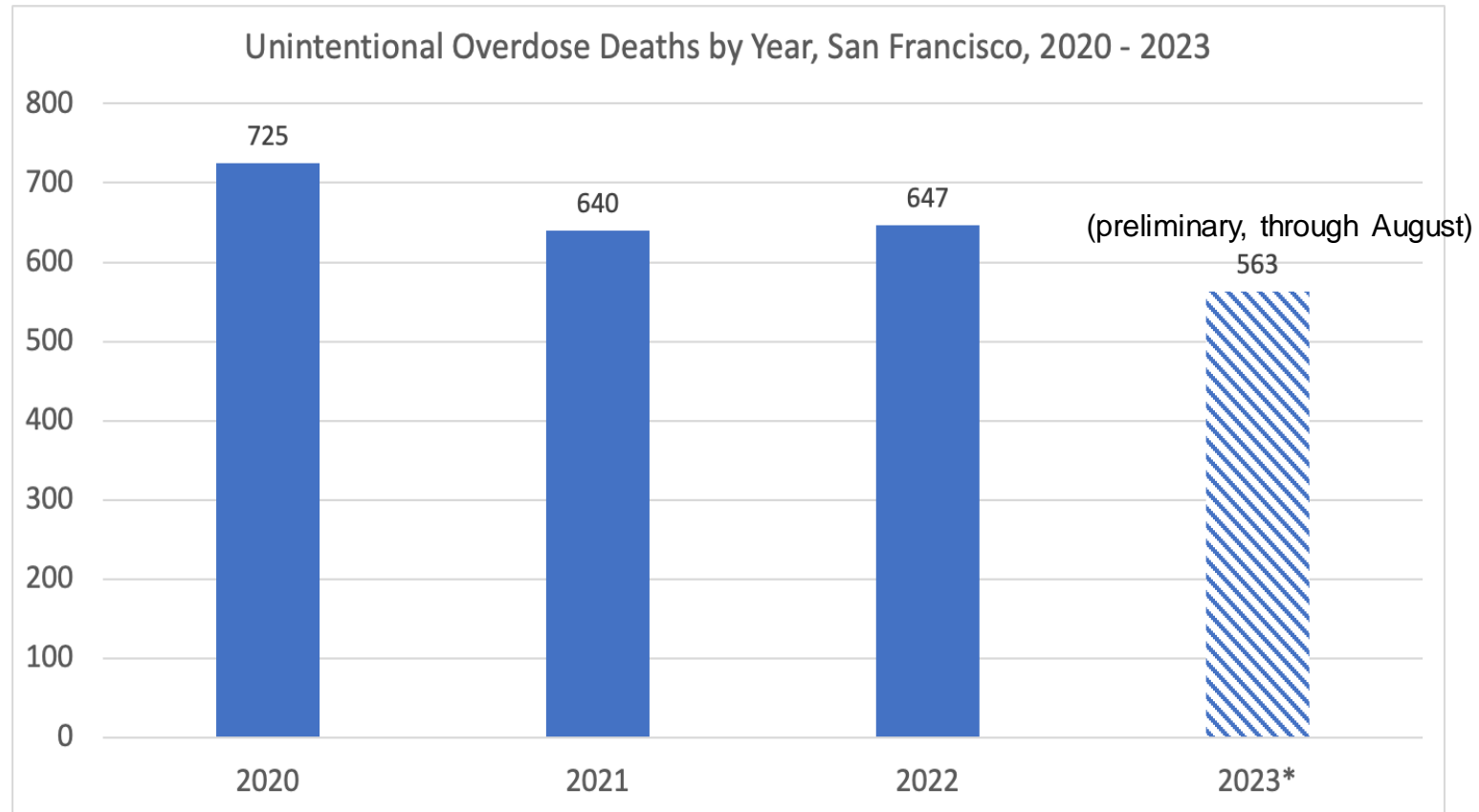
**Thousands of San Franciscans have died from drug overdoses and every one of these deaths is a tragedy.**

**We mourn the loss of the members of our community and remain committed to aggressively approaching drug overdoses as a public health crisis.**



San Francisco City Hall lit purple in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day, August 2022

# Overdose deaths are increasing in San Francisco in 2023 compared to 2022

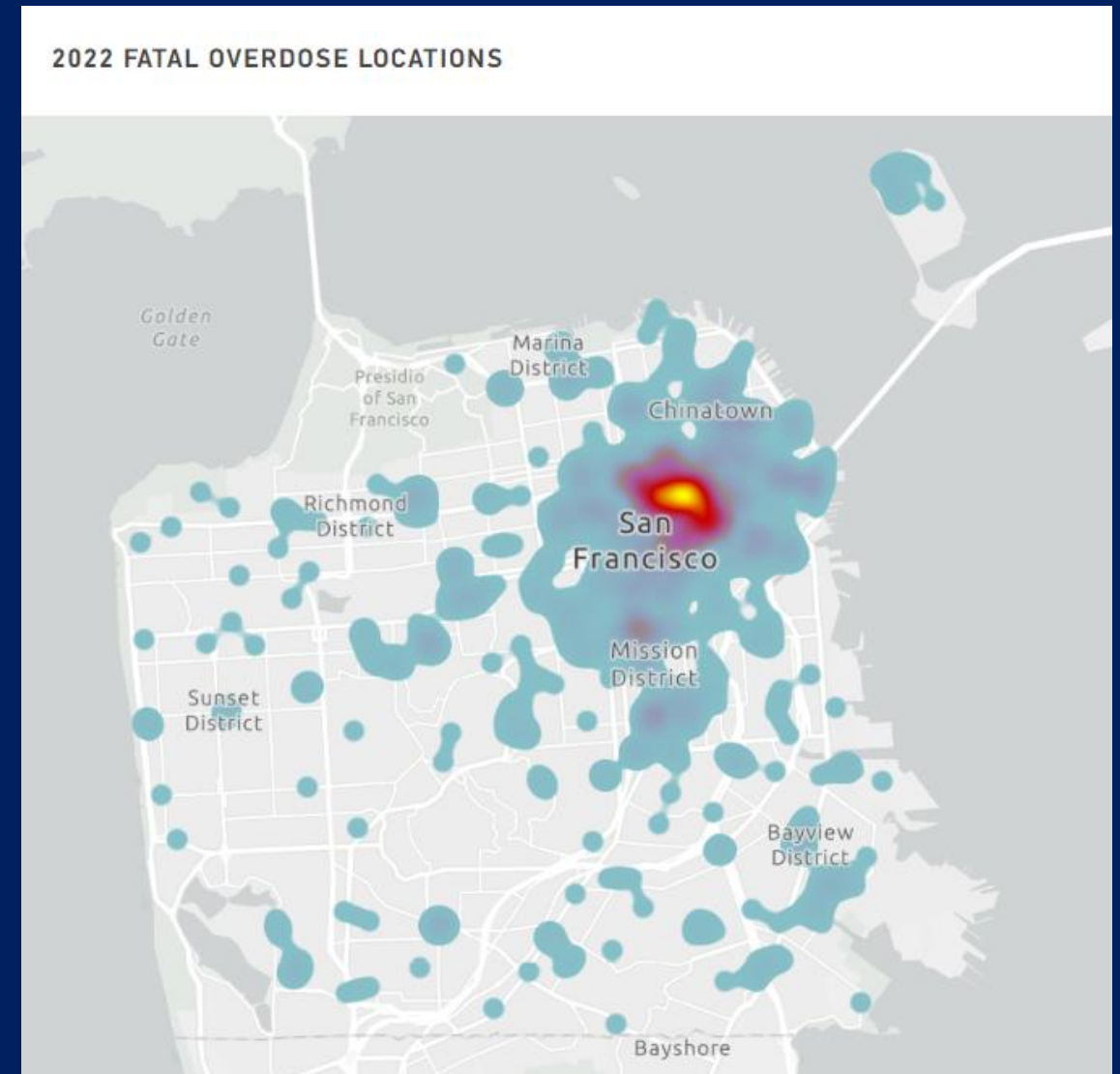


**81%** of preliminary fatal overdoses in 2023 involve **fentanyl**

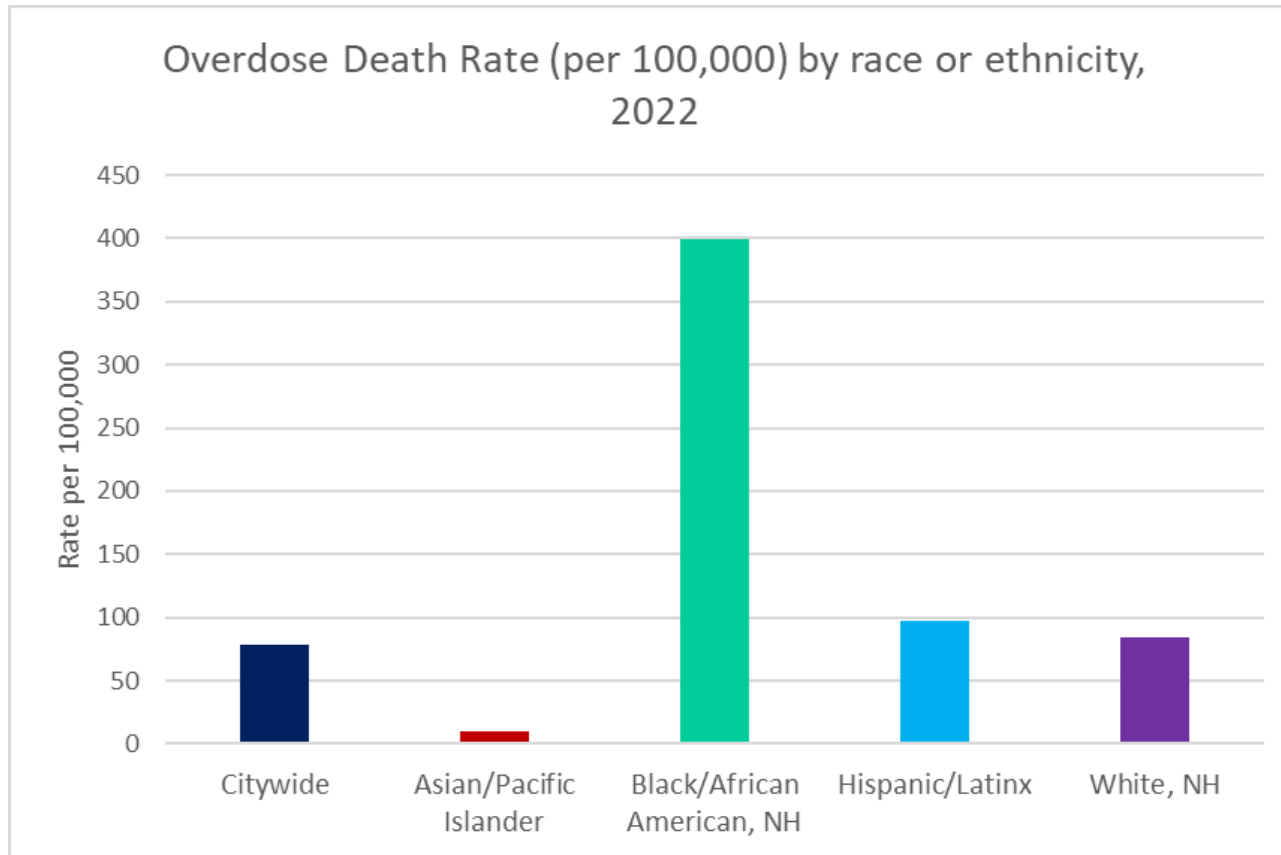


# The majority of overdose deaths occur in a residence

- **25-35%** of overdose deaths occur among people **without a fixed address**
- Deaths occur **citywide** and disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness



# Overdose death rates are higher among Black/African Americans



- Black/African Americans represent just **6%** of the **population in SF**, but **32%** of **preliminary overdose deaths** in 2023 to date
- The overdose death rate among Black/African Americans is **5X higher** than the citywide rate



# Our strategic approach to overdose prevention and response

## Prevention: Education, Engagement, and Support

Saturate high-risk settings with naloxone and overdose response training and connections to care. Strengthen community engagement and social support for people at high risk for overdose.

## Strengthen Treatment and Other Substance Use Services

Expand access and availability

## Collaborate with Partners

Implement a “whole City” approach to overdose prevention

## Reduce Racial Disparities

City is working closely with Black-led and Black-serving organizations to address the profound racial disparities seen among our overdose decedents.

## Data-informed Response

Track overdose trends and related drug use metrics to measure success and inform program development and change



# Engaging the community on overdose response and prevention

- **Trainings on overdose prevention and connections to care:**
  - community members
  - community-based organizations
  - syringe access and disposal sites
  - high-risk housing settings
  - entertainment venues
  - faith-based organizations
  - City staff
- **Street-based care and outreach**
  - Outreach post-overdose and for those at high-risk of overdose



DPH Office of Overdose Prevention staff member leads an overdose prevention training with leaders from Black-led and Black-serving community-based organizations.





# Distributing naloxone and overdose prevention training

**72,000+ naloxone doses**

distributed by DPH and the DOPE Project in 2023

**5,000 people**

completed DPH Overdose Recognition and Response training online since October 2022

**1,000+ members of the public**

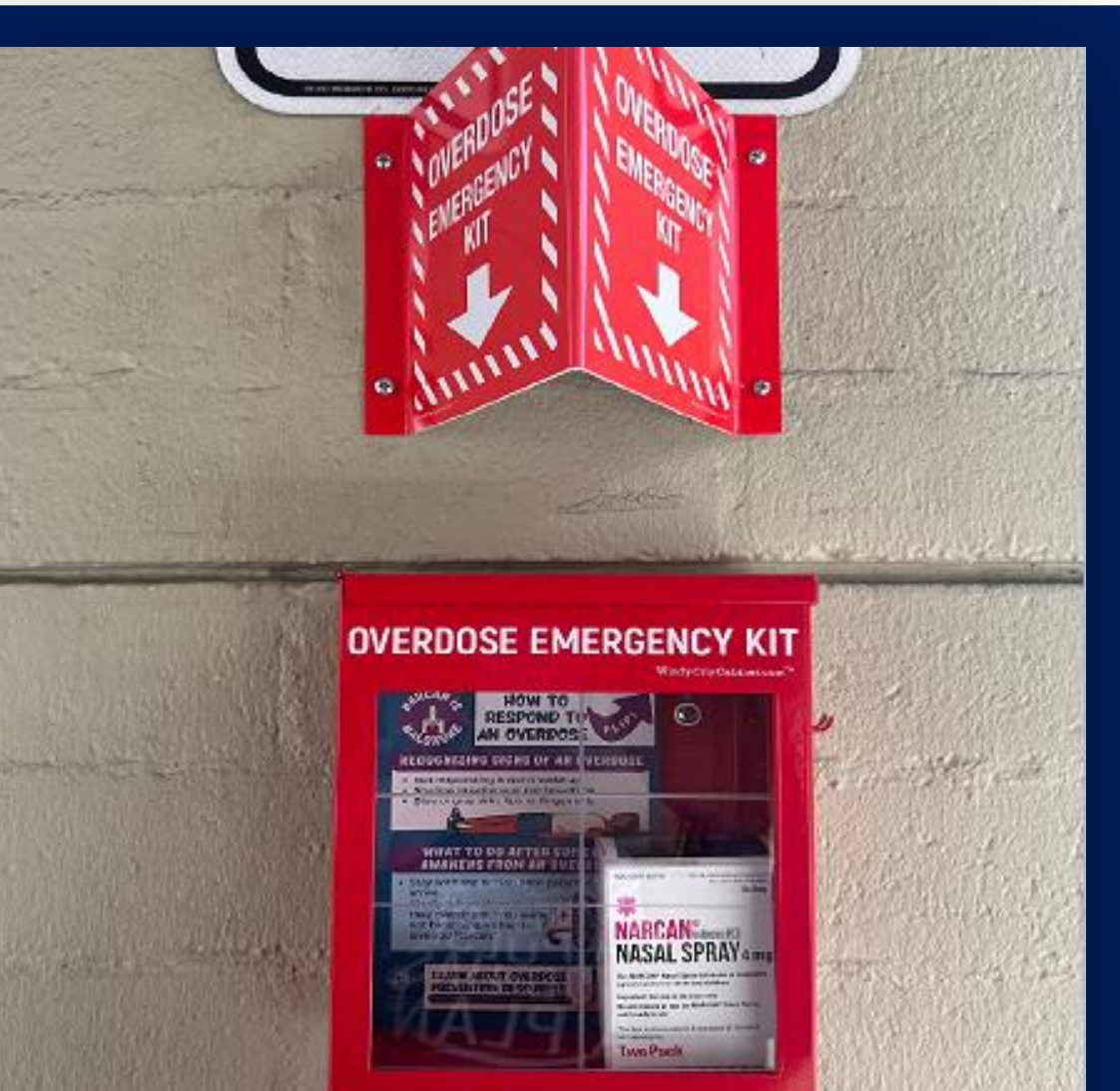
received DPH Overdose Recognition and Response training in-person since February 2023

## Other activities include:

- Strengthening collaboration with the Entertainment Commission (<https://sf.gov/information/overdose-prevention-resources-nightlife>)
- Information about care and treatment in all overdose prevention trainings
- Request-by-mail naloxone program
- Free naloxone at DPH pharmacy, community events, lobby of county jail and upon request
- Supporting legislation that requires all retail pharmacies in San Francisco to stock naloxone and post signs about its availability



# Supportive housing, overdose prevention, and delivery of treatment



- 100+ emergency overdose response cabinets installed in supportive housing facilities
- Collaborating with HSH and the SF Supportive Housing Network (SFHSN) to coordinate overdose prevention in housing sites
- Training supportive housing residents and staff in overdose recognition and response
- Buprenorphine delivered by BHS pharmacist to 80+ residents in 25 housing sites

# Overdose prevention and response is a critical part of street response



## Neighborhood-based Behavioral Health Care

Regular and consistent engagement with high-priority unhoused people with serious behavioral health conditions located in Tenderloin, SoMa, Mission, Castro, Park, and other neighborhoods.

## Overdose Response & Follow-up (SORT & POET)

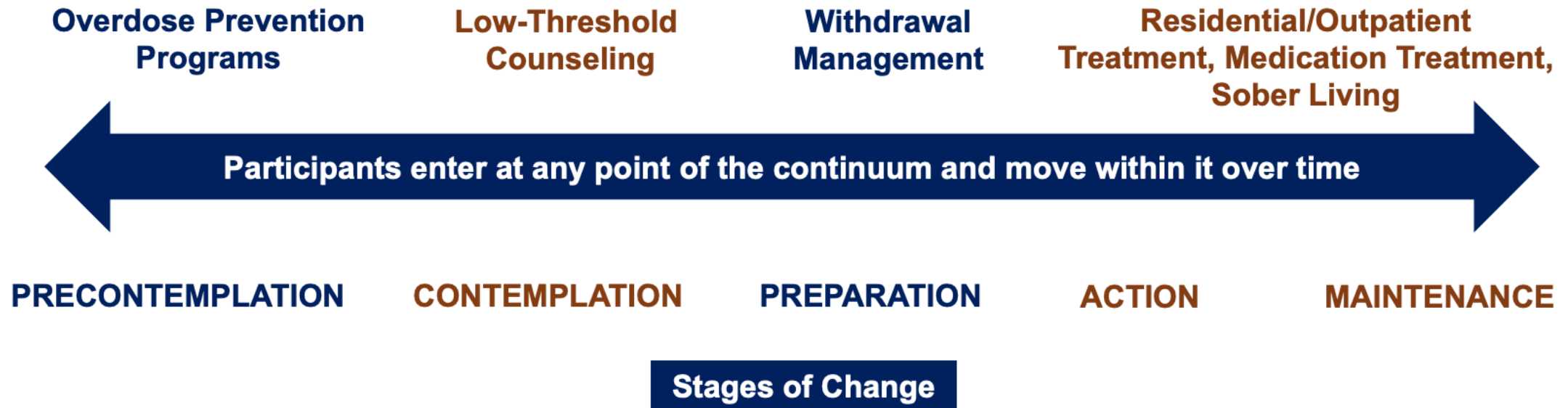
The Street Overdose Response Team provides an emergency response to people experiencing an overdose in the community. Within 72 hours of overdose event, the Post Overdose Engagement Team outreaches to draw individual into treatment and/or teach skills to prevent future overdoses.

## Street Medicine

Street-based health workers served **3,000** people experiencing homelessness.



# Strengthening the continuum of evidence-based services will save lives



# Community partners provide low-barrier holistic care to people who use drugs

DPH funds community organizations to provide syringe access and disposal. While sterile supplies are available, the services are comprehensive and aim to improve the health of people who use drugs holistically:

- Naloxone to reverse overdose
- Access to test strips for fentanyl testing
- HIV/HCV testing, linkage, and treatment
- Medications for treating opioid use disorder
- Linkage to drug treatment programs
- Linkage to medical, dental, and mental health services
- Case management, counseling, and referral
- Referral and linkage to housing services
- Community building



# Treatment is more than beds

## **Most people with substance use disorders stabilize in outpatient care**

- Often lack of stable housing brings people experiencing homelessness into residential treatment.

## **The most effective form of treatment for opioid addiction and to prevent overdose includes the medications, methadone or buprenorphine; these can be provided in an outpatient setting**

- Methadone is highly regulated and can only be provided in licensed opioid treatment programs.
- Buprenorphine more flexible and can be given in primary care and specialized drug treatment settings.

## **People exiting residential treatment need access to ongoing care and housing**

- Need sufficient outpatient care to maintain stability and prevent future residential care.





# Substance Use Treatment in DPH and Citywide in 2022

**5,000 people treated for substance use disorders in DPH programs**

**2,500**

people in SF received buprenorphine for opioid use disorder

**~575**

residential treatment admissions

**2,300**

people received methadone for opioid use disorder

**~1,100**

people used withdrawal management services



# Expanding Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) and other high-impact treatments

**DPH expanded access to these medications at key sites by increasing hours of operation, staff, and in-community treatment such as:**

- Increased hours at Opioid Treatment Programs
- Increased hours at Office-Based Buprenorphine Clinic and Behavioral Health Access Center
- Initiated delivery of medication to people in supportive housing
- Scaling up contingency management



# Successes from expansions in high-impact treatments

- In 2022, the Office-based Buprenorphine Induction Clinic treated **575 patients** with buprenorphine in 2022, a **164% increase** from 2021
- The Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program at ZSFG, serving **~700 annually**, has more intakes through the summer 2023 than it did in all of 2022
- Increase visits at Maria X Martinez Health Resource Center, seeing up to **300 more visits/month**; has **treated 600+ patients** with MAT.
- Delivered buprenorphine medication to promote retention in care to more than **80 patients in 32 supportive housing facilities**
- Established **contingency management in 4 programs**; more to come



# Expanded substance use disorder residential treatment and care

**Residential setting, including residential treatment and transitional housing for people who need support.**

- Approximately 2,550 beds, including:
  - **563 substance use beds** (withdrawal management; residential treatment; residential step-down)
  - **350/400 new Mental Health SF** beds added since 2020
- **~5%** average vacancy rate of substance use disorder beds
- Newly opened facilities include: **70 residential step-down beds** on Treasure Island; **20 beds at the SoMa Rise** Drug Sobering; and **75 beds at the Minna Project for justice-involved adults** with a history of mental illness and/or substance use issues.



# Treatment is not enough: Added support to reach and engage people with complex needs

Expanded case management services to reach people disconnected from care and help people remain in treatment.

## Office of Coordinated Care

- Goal: Don't lose anyone from care. Priority populations are people experiencing homelessness, leaving hospitals, leaving jail, and after having an involuntary psychiatric hold (5150).

## Expanded Intensive Case Management in Treatment

- Expanding services that offer treatment and wrap-around case management by the same provider.

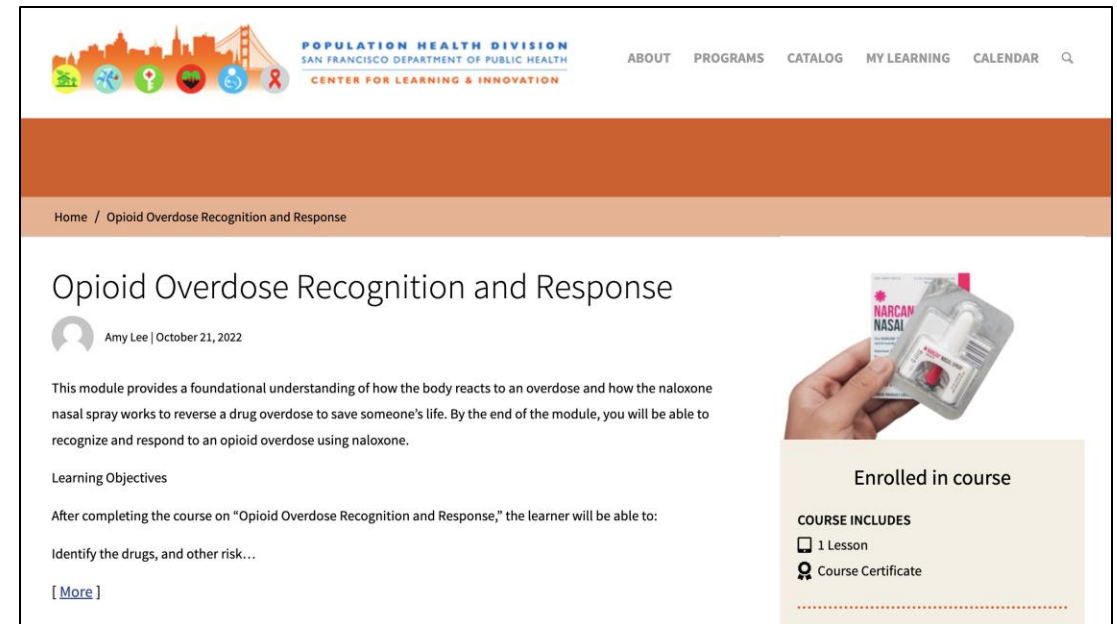
## Street Team Follow-up

- Dedicated teams that follow up with people who engage with street teams.



# City and community partnerships strengthen a "Whole-City" approach

- **DPH online Overdose Recognition & Response training taken 5K+ times since October 2022, including by staff from 12 City departments**
- Daily coordination with SFPD, DEM, SFFD and HSH on street engagement and response
- Weekly case management and coordination with HSH, HAS, DEM on high-priority individuals
- Collaborate with HSH on MAT access and naloxone training and access
- Collaborate with SFFD on follow up for people seen by SCRT and POET teams and linkage to care
- Ensure implementation of the citywide Overdose Prevention Policy legislation (084-21) in partnership with HSH, HSA and DEM
- Supported legislation that requires all SF retail pharmacies to stock and advertise naloxone.



The screenshot displays the website for the Population Health Division of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. The header includes the organization's name and navigation links: ABOUT, PROGRAMS, CATALOG, MY LEARNING, and CALENDAR. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home / Opioid Overdose Recognition and Response. The course title is 'Opioid Overdose Recognition and Response', authored by Amy Lee on October 21, 2022. A description states: 'This module provides a foundational understanding of how the body reacts to an overdose and how the naloxone nasal spray works to reverse a drug overdose to save someone's life. By the end of the module, you will be able to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose using naloxone.' Learning objectives include: 'After completing the course on "Opioid Overdose Recognition and Response," the learner will be able to: Identify the drugs, and other risk...'. A 'More' link is provided. On the right, a hand holds a box of Narcan Nasal spray. Below this, a box indicates 'Enrolled in course' and lists 'COURSE INCLUDES' as '1 Lesson' and 'Course Certificate'.





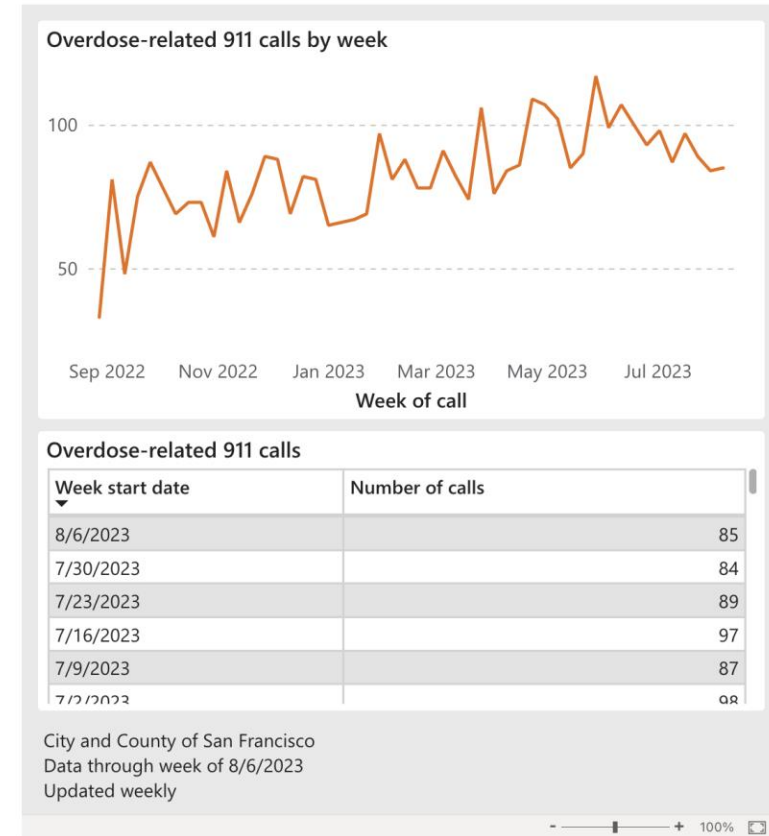
# Addressing racial disparities in overdose deaths in the Black/African American community

- Establishing meaningful engagement and partnership with new community organizations and leaders in Black-led and predominantly Black-serving organizations around overdose prevention.
- Working with Faith-Based Coalition, Bayview YMCA, Collective Impact, Success Centers, Booker T. Washington, and ~20 other organizations serving the Black/African American community
  - **Connected with 25 Black-led organizations**
  - **Trained 270+ people**
- Working to ensure all messaging on overdose prevention and the continuum of treatment services align with equity goals and are tailored to specific communities.
- Investing in programs and services specific to the Black/African American community.



# Track overdose trends and related treatment metrics

- Goal: Measure success and inform program development and change
- Centralize data collection on drug-related metrics, including fatal and non-fatal overdose
- **Launched a publicly-available dashboard on overdose and treatment trends (September 2023)**
- Bi-weekly meetings with community members and frontline staff of service organizations to review data and discuss findings



**Thank you**