

San Francisco's Drug & Homeless Crisis, & OD Epidemic

San Francisco In The News

San Francisco Braces for Epic Commercial Real Estate Crash

San Francisco Has Become a Dystopian Wasteland and Nobody Wants to Live There Anymore

Newsletters

The Atlantic

HOW SAN FRANCISCO BECAME A FAILED CITY

And how it could recover

Newsweek 90

San Francisco's Decline is a Warning to Other American Cities

Drug dealing, defecation, debris: SF street causing 'chaos' for homeowners, businesses

How fed up are San Franciscans with the city's problems? New S.F. Chronicle poll finds pervasive gloom

San Francisco's deadly failure on the drug crisis is unfolding inside its own housing program

'Tidal wave of fentanyl': Data shows S.F. drug overdoses in 2023 could surpass deadly 2020

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT IN VAIN: WHY IS SAN FRANCISCO UNABLE TO STOP ITS HOMELESSNESS PROBLEM

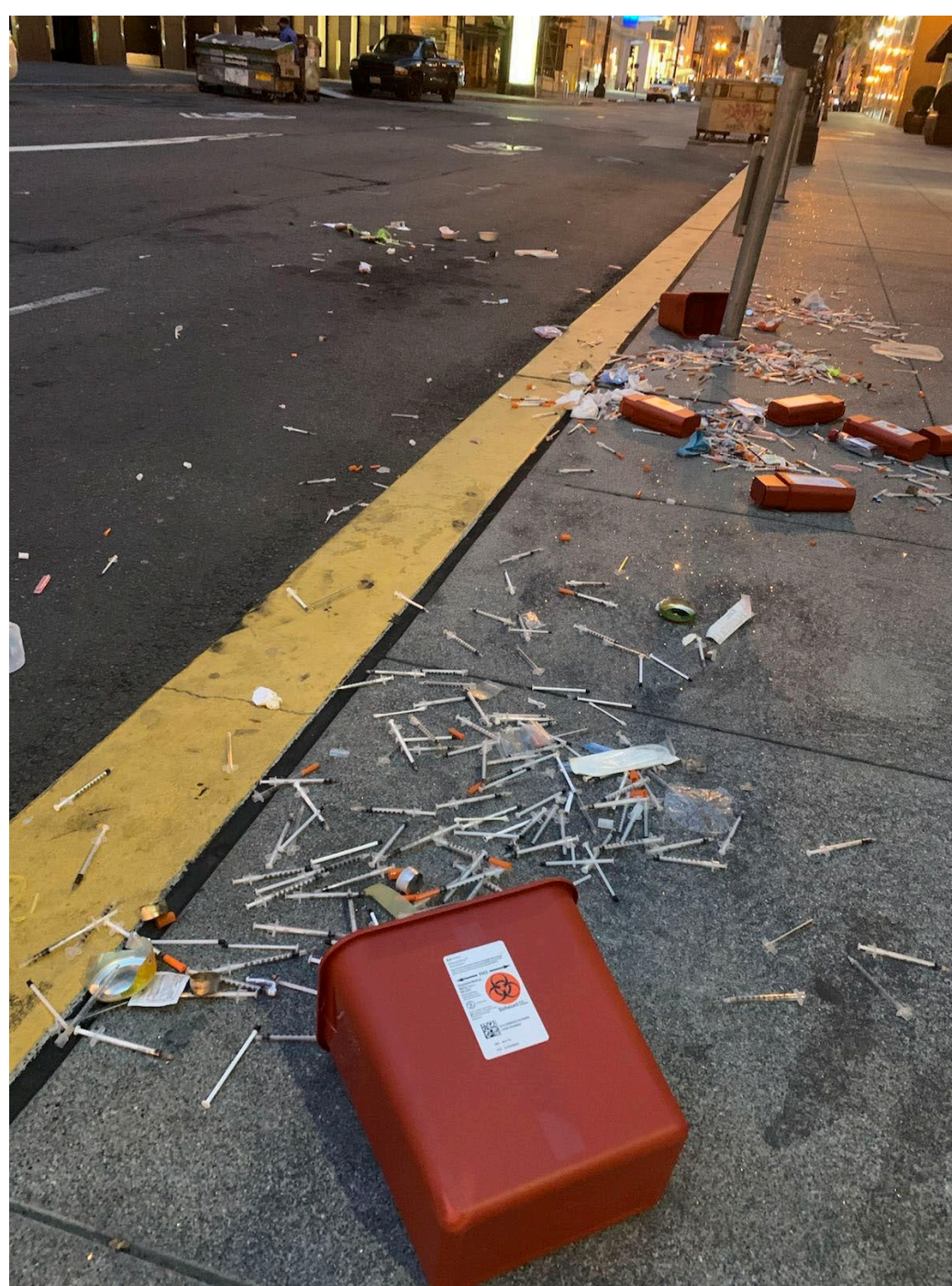
SAN FRANCISCO ENDANGERS TENDERLOIN RESIDENTS



Rafael Mandelman @RafaelM... · 10/12/23 ...

It's too easy to get high & too difficult to get sober in SF, and we must do everything we can as a City to support those struggling with addiction.

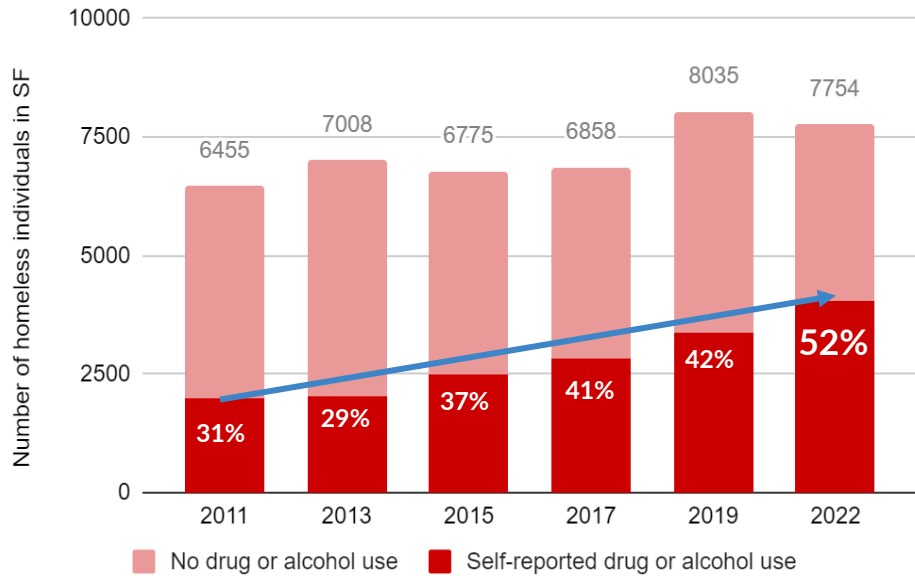
Thank you to [@TheWayOutSF](#) & [@salvationarmysf](#) for your work in ensuring that a pathway to recovery is possible.



Impact of Open-Air Drug Scenes

Dealers	Users	Community	Business	Government
Well organized	2,859 Lives Lost	Exposure	Businesses closing & relocating	Exposed flaws in public health & justice systems
Dominating public spaces	25,000 IV Drug Users	Feeling unsafe	Retail theft	Political backlash
Fentanyl in drug supply	4m Syringes Distributed	Helplessness	Blocked entrances	Public systems & public policy fail the community
Multiple arrests & releases	4,000 homeless experience comorbidities	Frustration	Employee safety	Large financial investment – Little Return
Thriving!	Health concerns	Lack of governance or city leadership	Impact on sales and foot traffic	
	Treatment decline			

San Francisco's homeless population is uniquely chronic and suffering from drug addiction



Drug and alcohol abuse data are frequently self-reported and **likely underrepresent actual rates and may actually be much higher.**

For example, at the Billie Holiday Center, a reentry center which serves the formerly incarcerated in San Francisco, **93% of clients struggled with addiction.**

San Francisco
35%
 Percent of homeless population which is chronic

National average
25%

“Chronic” homelessness refers to individuals who have a disabling condition and have been homeless for more than one year, or at least 12 months over four times in three years.

San Francisco
52%
 Percent of homeless population which is abusing drugs or alcohol

National average
26%

This number is **climbing rapidly**, with the raw number of individuals with substance use disorder (“SUD”) up 20% since 2019, and up by 102% since 2011.

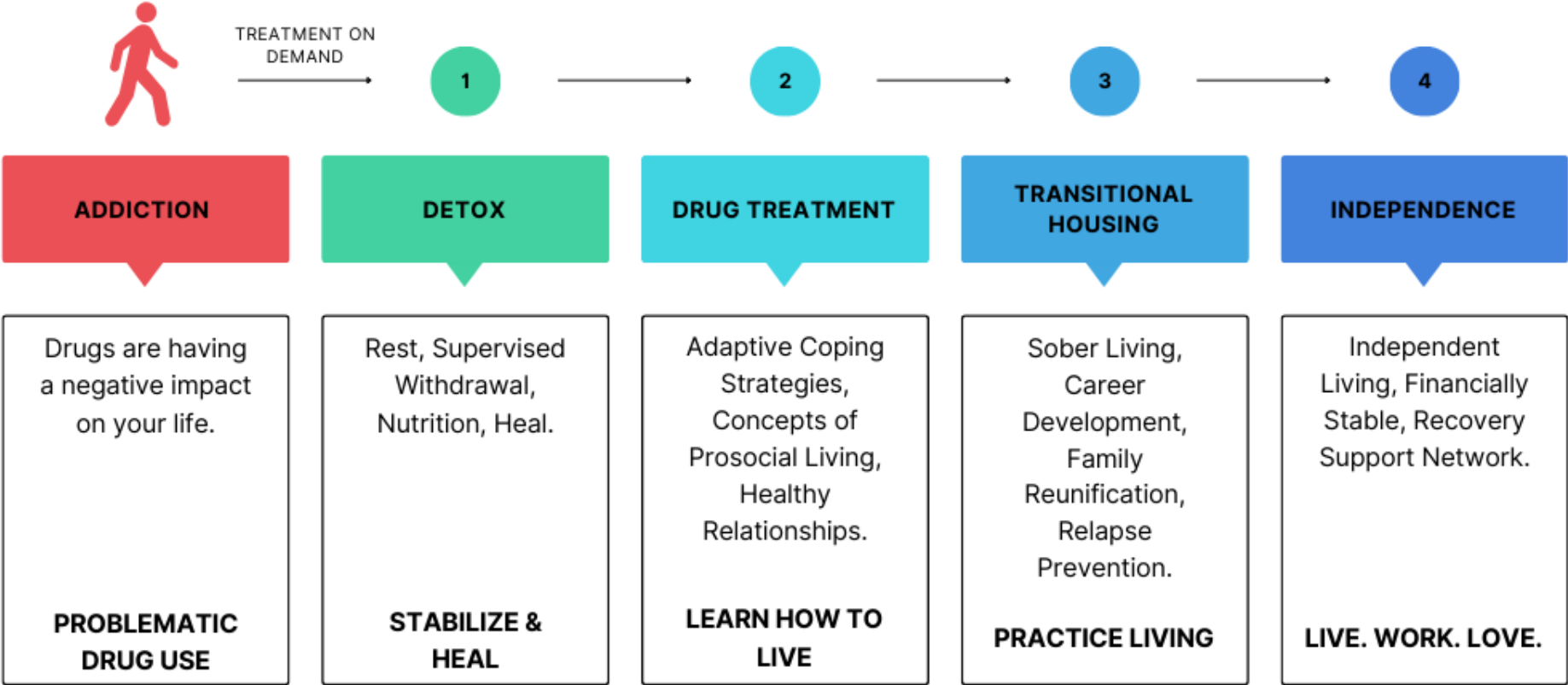
Drug Treatment Enrollment Decreased

2015
10,273

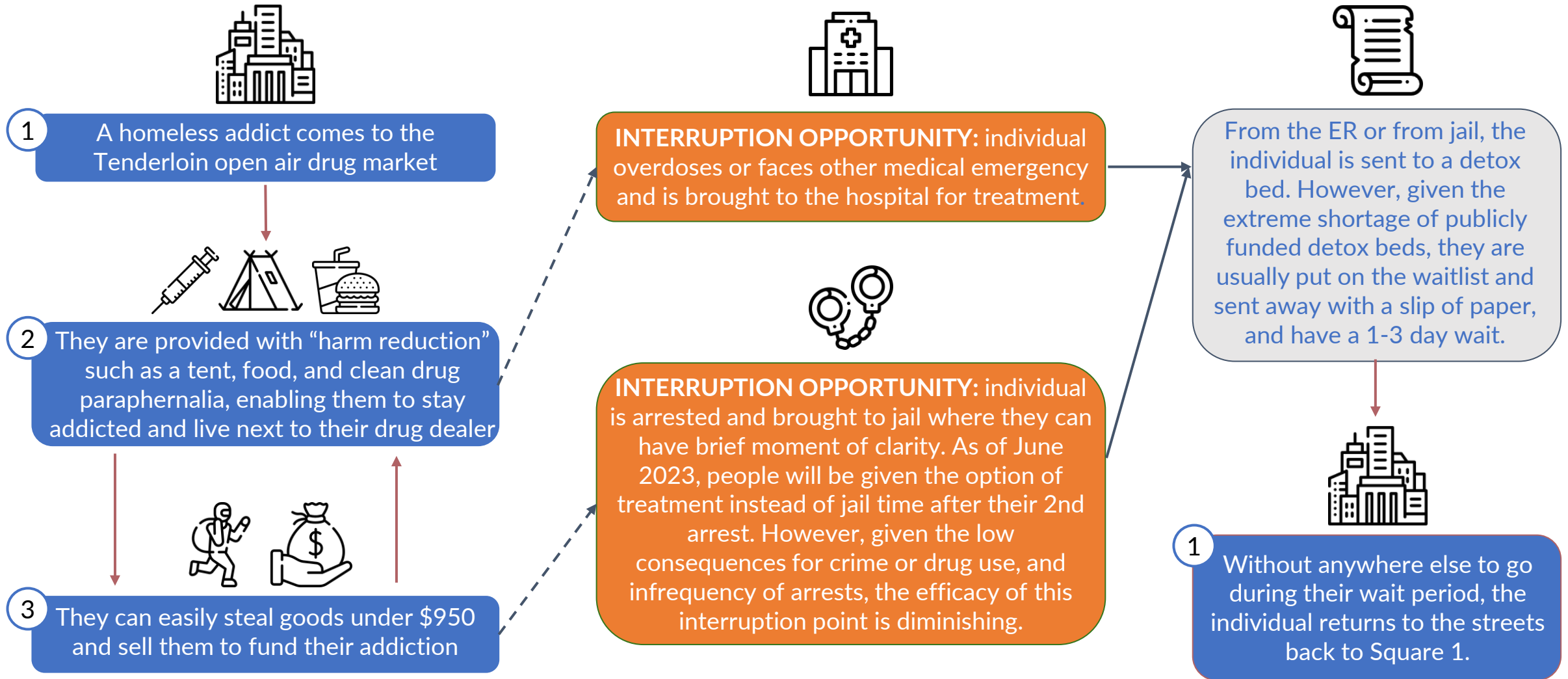
2022
6,440

10 Days to Get Into Treatment

Addiction to Independence



Impact of Public Policy: Harm reduction, theft, and homelessness are intertwined in an uninterrupted cycle



A photograph of a person sitting on a sidewalk, wrapped in a bright blue blanket. They are wearing a brown jacket and orange pants. A clear plastic bag with a red cup inside is on the ground next to them. The background shows a city street with buildings and cars.

DRUG ADDICTION IS A PROGRESSIVE DISORDER THAT ENDS IN DEATH

Dr. Drew Pinsky

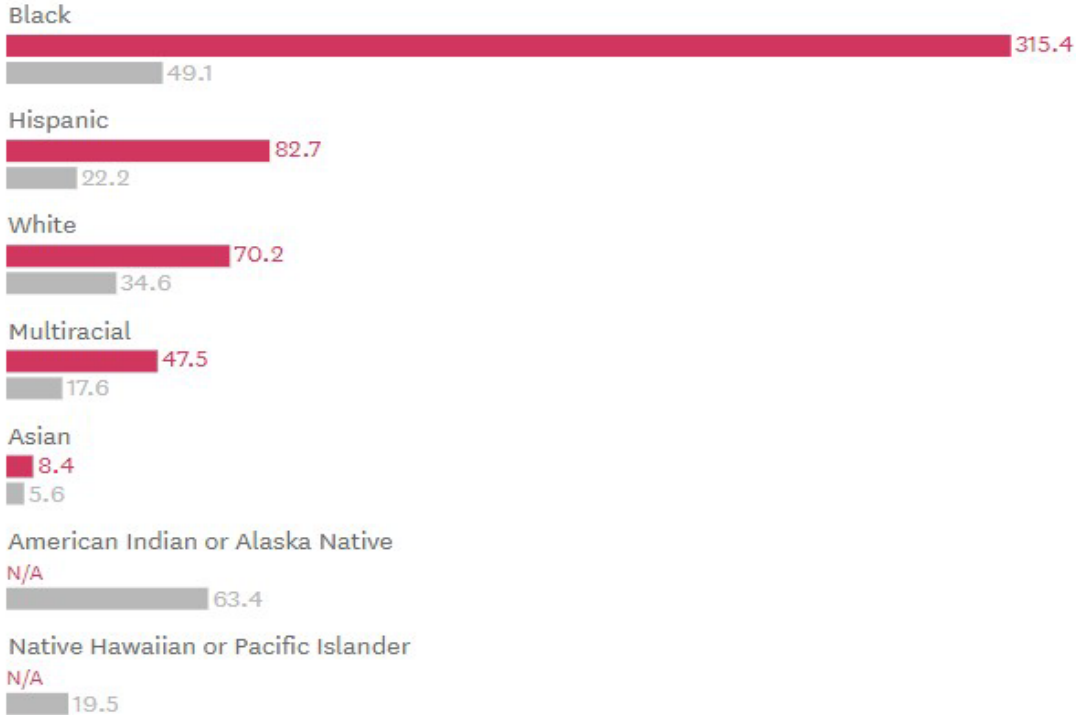
San Francisco and Fatal Overdoses

- **2018-2022:** SF Monthly OD rate was 8.8 per 100,000 (3x national average)
- **2022:** 69% of the Fatal OD's contained Fentanyl
- Fatalities between 1/1/2020-3/31/2023
 - COVID: 1,187
 - Drug OD: 2,274

Table 2. Total SUD Funding by Specialty Service Type (Fiscal Year 2020-2022)

Service	Fiscal Year 20-21	Fiscal Year 21-22
Residential Treatment & Residential Step-Down	\$22,589,760	\$21,865,056
Withdrawal Management	\$7,037,480	\$10,884,407
Outpatient	\$9,690,967	\$9,791,645
Opioid Treatment Programs	\$20,635,517	\$23,283,856
Additional Outpatient Treatment, Engagement, and Prevention	\$11,070,238	\$9,432,012
HIV Health Services	\$43,603	\$0
HIV Prevention Services	\$304,224	\$307,115
Total	\$71,371,789	\$75,564,091

Death rate per 100,000 people by race in San Francisco County and nationally

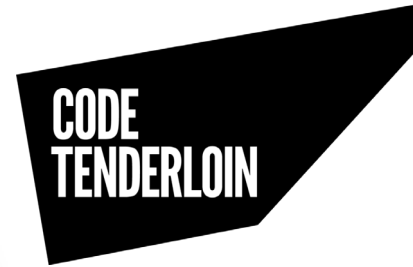


Data from Jan. 2022 - Dec. 2022.

Recommendations

- Revise San Francisco's Public Health Policies to be more inclusive of options that address the needs of **ALL** San Franciscans including abstinence-based, faith-based, and culturally specific programs.
- Equal investment for recovery and residential treatment options.
- Wage Parity Between Government Employees and Non-Profit Staff.
- Every city funded outreach team should include a recovery advocate, and all team members should be trained on how to connect people to treatment.
- Fund a Stabilization Center, a pre-treatment program.
- Remove all barriers to drug treatment. Those seeking treatment should have direct access to all city funded services.
- Fully fund Drug Treatment on Demand.
- Fund a therapeutic community in the jail to begin to teach people how to live and connect clients to community programs.

Change is Possible!



Together We Find Hope
& Inspire Change

THE WAY OUT THE SALVATION ARMY
LIVE. WORK. LOVE.