

Safer Inside, a Community Coalition Supporting Safer Consumption Services 2014 – Present

**By Paul Harkin
&
Daniela Wotke**

Safer Inside: Brief History

- In 2014 Some members of “The Golden Gate Safety Committee” 100 Block in the Tenderloin were very concerned about discarded syringes on the streets and the sheer scale of public drug consumption and drug sales.



Kids from Demarillac Academy and other locals attend a 4 Corners Friday Event in the TL, organized by the Golden Gate Safety Committee.

Safer Inside: Brief History

- **Question:** Who do the Department of Public Health usually turn to, when the community is criticizing their programs?
- **Answer:** The community programs.



SFDPH staff, Tracy Packer and Eileen Loughran, brought in some members of the Syringe Access Collaborative to attend meetings with Golden Gate Safety Group to address community concerns. These meeting evolved into a partnership of community stakeholders, which included significant support from Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership.

Safer Inside: Brief History

- What is the Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership (TLHIP) ?

tenderloinhip

health improvement partnership



saintfrancisfoundation.org/tenderloinhip

TLHIP is a multi-sector collective impact partnership committed to improving health and well-being in the Tenderloin by aligning priorities, resources and activities to create pathways to health for residents.

In 2015, TLHIP convened local stakeholders to explore community concerns about environmental trauma and persistent traumatic stress arising from **public injection drug use and improperly discarded syringes** in the Tenderloin.

Safer Inside: Brief History

- Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership (TLHIP) took a leadership role and **Safer Inside Coalition was created with the goal of establishing Safe Consumption Sites.**

Dataway Systems
DeMarillac Academy

People who use Injection Drugs
Homeless Youth Alliance

Drug Policy Alliance
Episcopal Community Services

Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development
RTI, San Francisco

Glide
Gubbio Project
Healthright 360

San Francisco Dept. of Public Health
San Francisco Dept. of Public Works
San Francisco Drug Users Union

Hospitality House
St. Anthony Foundation

San Francisco Planning Dept.
San Francisco Police Dept.

Saint Francis Foundation
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

San Francisco District Attorney's Office

Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
Urban Survivors Union

University of California San Francisco

Safer Inside: Brief History

What are the goals of *Safer Inside*?

Implementing legally sanctioned SCS in the Tenderloin will:

- Reduce environmental trauma from public injecting
- Reduce the incidence of improperly disposed drug paraphernalia in the neighborhood
- Improve individual drug user health
- Reduce the impacts of stigma
- Reduce OD mortality
- Improve the health of the Tenderloin community

Safer Inside: Brief History

- Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership (TLHIP) took a leadership role and **Safer Inside Coalition** was created with the goal of establishing **Safe Consumption Sites**.



Safer Inside held Community Forum on SCS at Boeddeker Park Community Space



Barbara Garcia, at Task Force meeting

Safer Inside: Brief History

- “You don’t want to see me use drugs, and I don’t want you to see me use drugs. A SIF will meet both our needs” - Seven



Holly, Executive Director, SFDUU gives a powerful presentation to the Board of Supervisors Committee Hearing October 25, 2017

Safer Inside: Brief History

- “I don’t want to use drugs in public,
- especially in front of children” - Kyle



PWUD from the community give compelling speeches to Supervisors,
San Francisco Health Commission Hearing – Nov 7, 2017

Safer Inside: Brief History

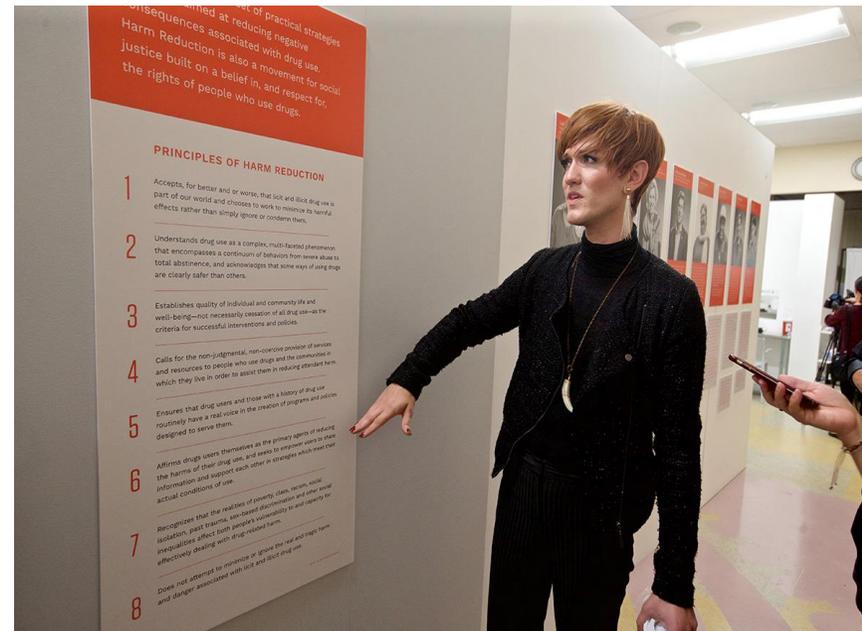
“I don’t want to die of an overdose alone”
- Johnny



San Francisco Health Commission Hearing – Nov 7, 2017

Safer Inside: Brief History

The Safer Inside 4-day exhibition of an SCS, hosted by Glide during August 2018. This action generated massive favorable media coverage, including glowing praise from the now Mayor, London Breed



Mayor London at Safer Inside Exhibition, Glide Foundation, on Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018.

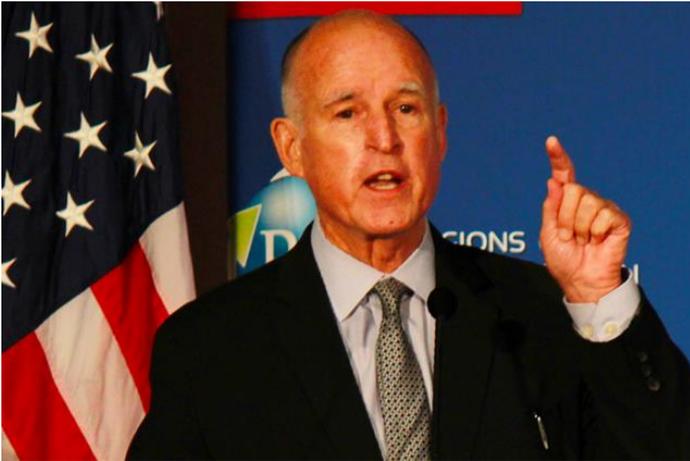
Miss Ian, SFDUU Executive Director, giving a tour of Safer Inside Exhibition at Glide. August 2018.

Safer Inside: Brief History

The Brown Veto! A severe blow to the Safer Inside Coalition, a major setback that results in diminished participation with the group, which continues to meet monthly.

Jerry Brown vetoes bill to allow nation's first safe injection site.

October 5, 2018



California Gov. Jerry Brown's veto of a bill that would have allowed San Francisco to open the nation's first sanctioned safe injection site disappointed advocates and paused one experimental effort to fight the opioid epidemic.

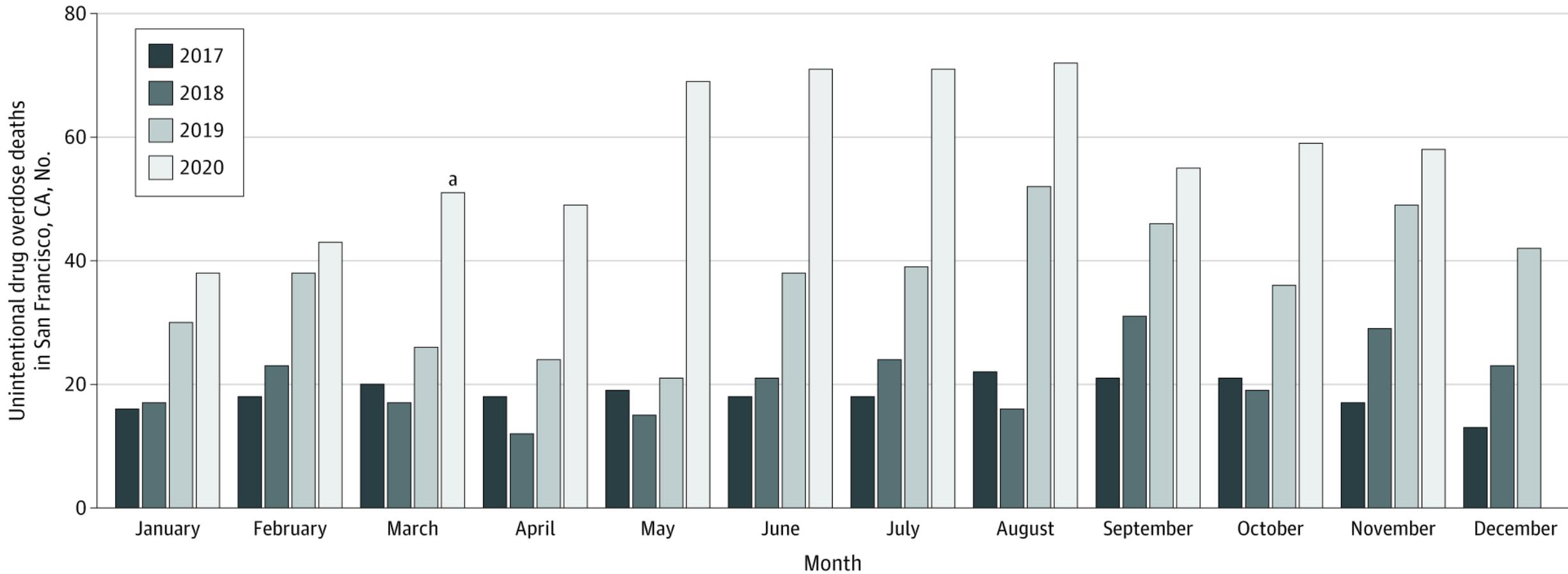
Daniela Wotke, Safer Inside Member & Overdose Survivor

Why are We Still Waiting?

Safe Consumption Sites benefit the whole community.

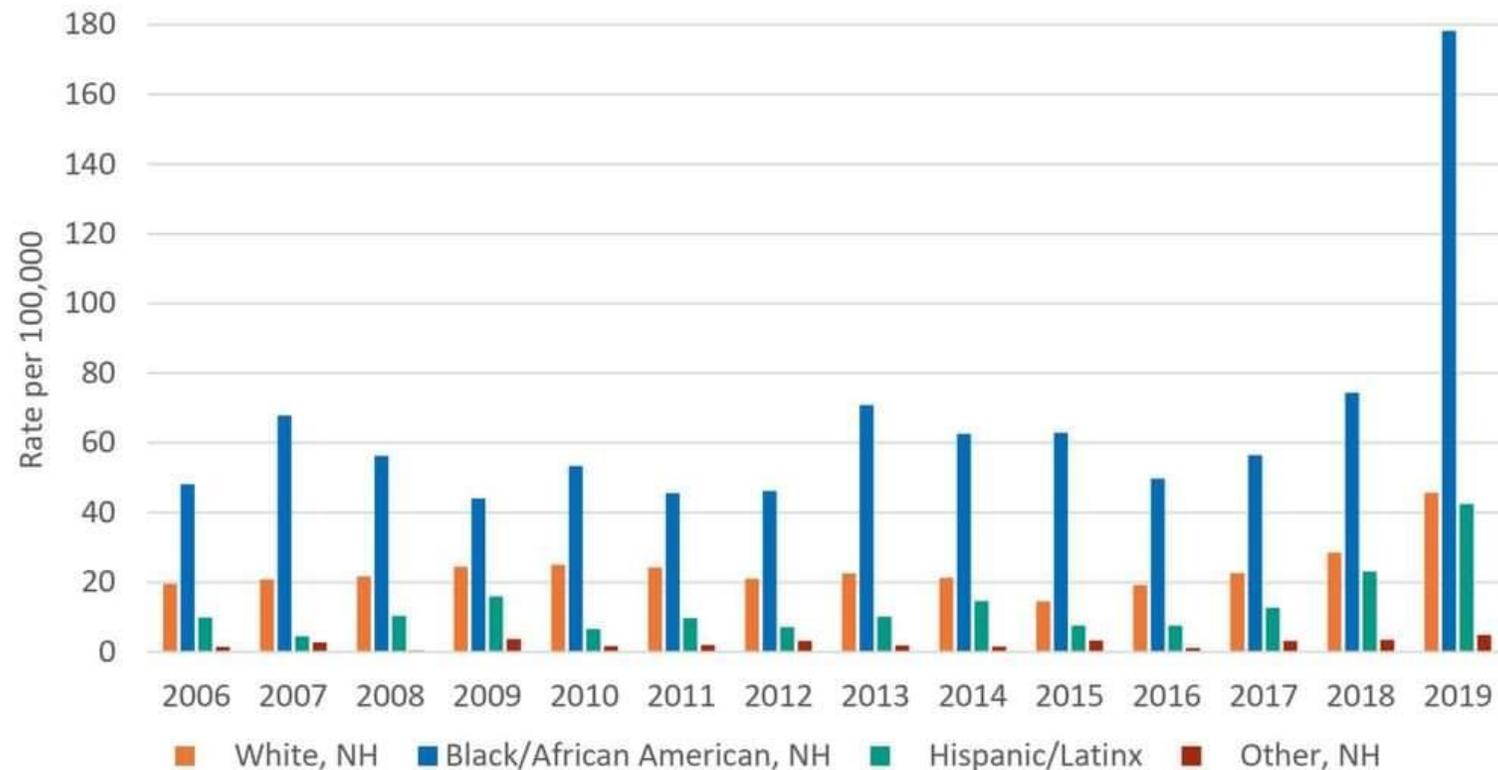
- Promote safer drug using practices + healthy behaviors
- Attract marginalized populations
- Reduce morbidity and mortality
- Reduce public drug use
- Reduce discarded syringes and drug paraphernalia
- Help to reduce the stigma experienced by PWUD
- Act as a bridge to other health services, including SUD Treatment
- Improve public spaces in areas surrounding urban drug markets
- Sends a powerful message of treating PWUD with compassion

Urgency of San Francisco Overdose Crisis



Racial disparities in overdose deaths

Figure 10: Rate of Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity in CCSF, 2006–2019



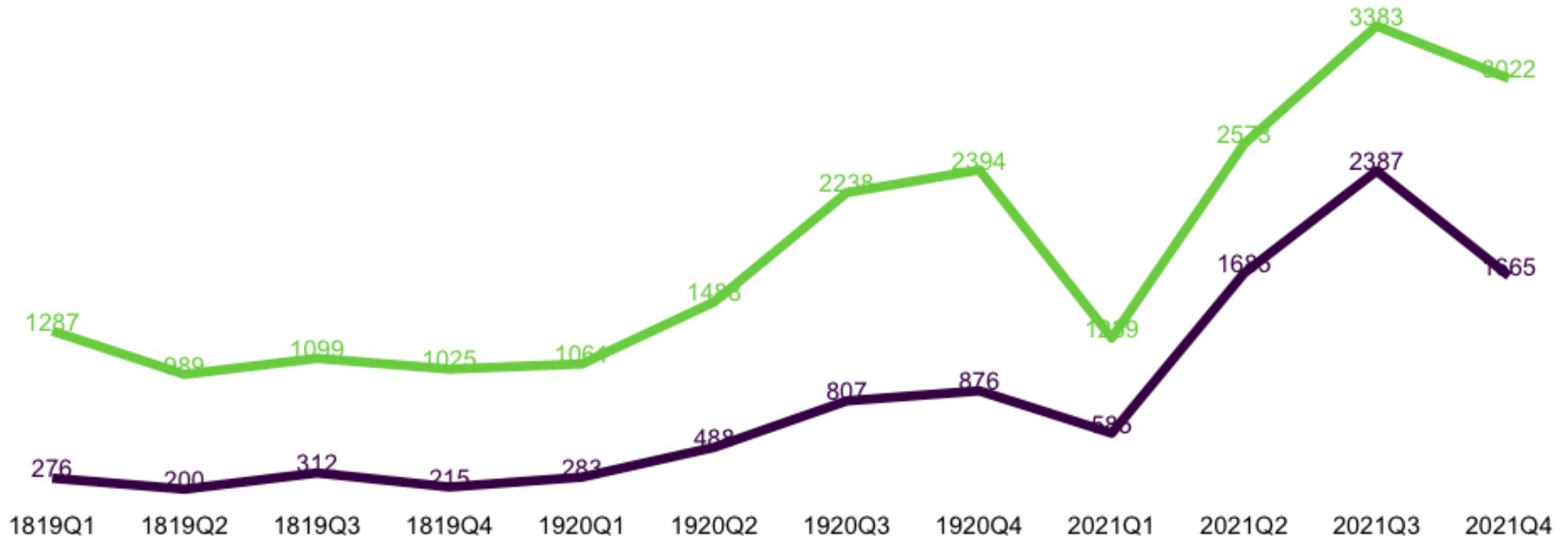
Rate is calculated per 100,000 CCSF population. Substance-related overdose deaths were identified using textual cause of death fields. Homicides and suicides were excluded. NH=non-Hispanic.

Sources: Overdose mortality obtained from the California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS) via the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Overdose reversals have more than tripled in the last few years

Figure 17: Naloxone trainings and OD Reversals

■ # of overdose reversals reported ■ # of people trained to administer Naloxone



Overdose Awareness Day, Call to Action

