

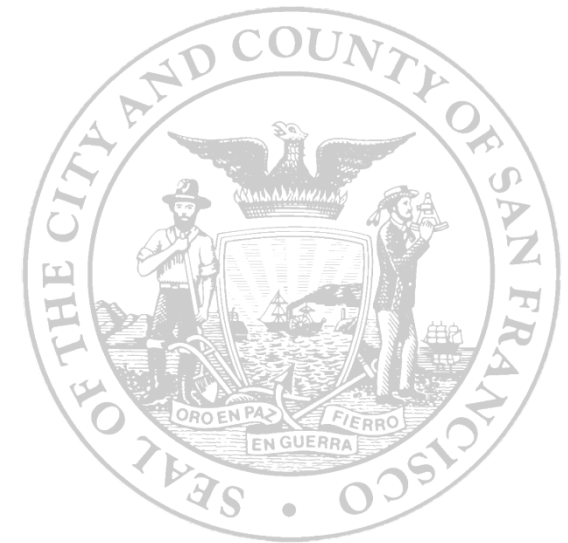
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

CDPH Enhanced Forensic Toxicology Program, FY 23-28

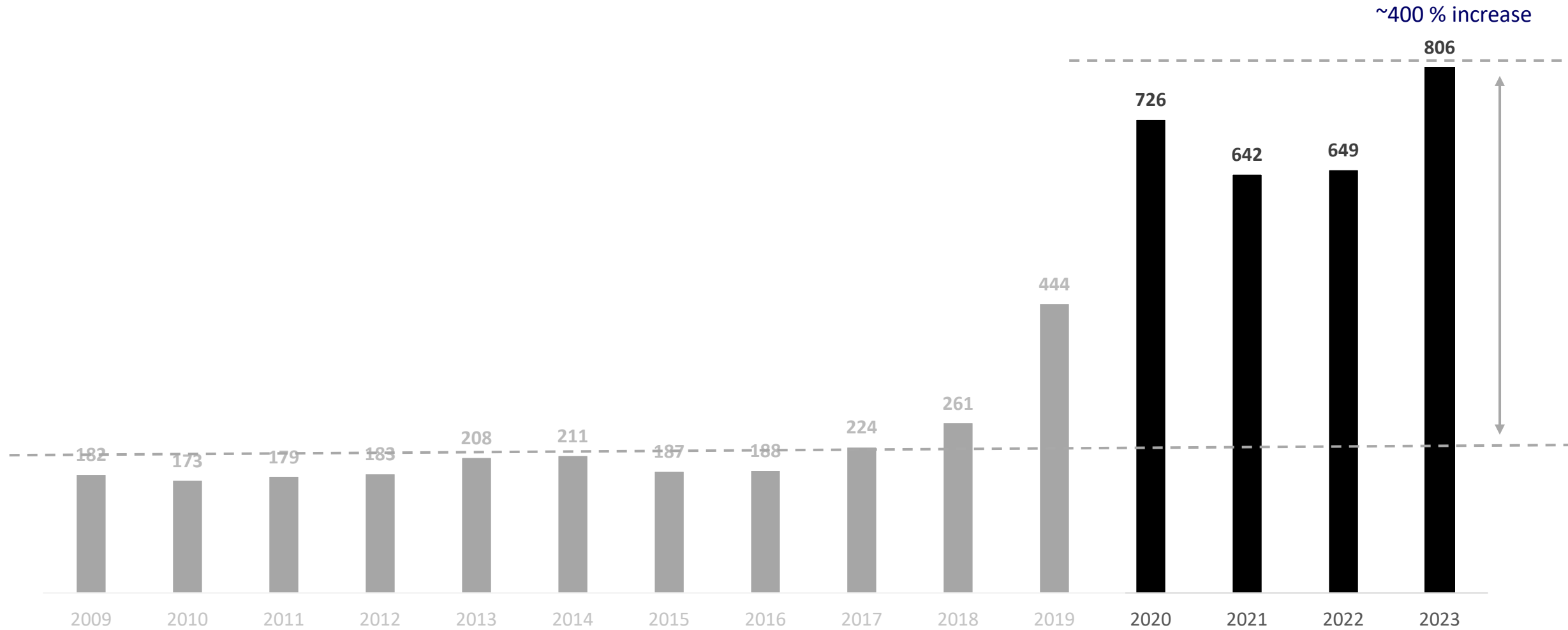
Dr. Luke N. Rodda
Chief Forensic Toxicologist
Director, Forensic Laboratory Division

David Serrano Sewell
Executive Director

Budget and Finance Committee Hearing | January 17, 2024



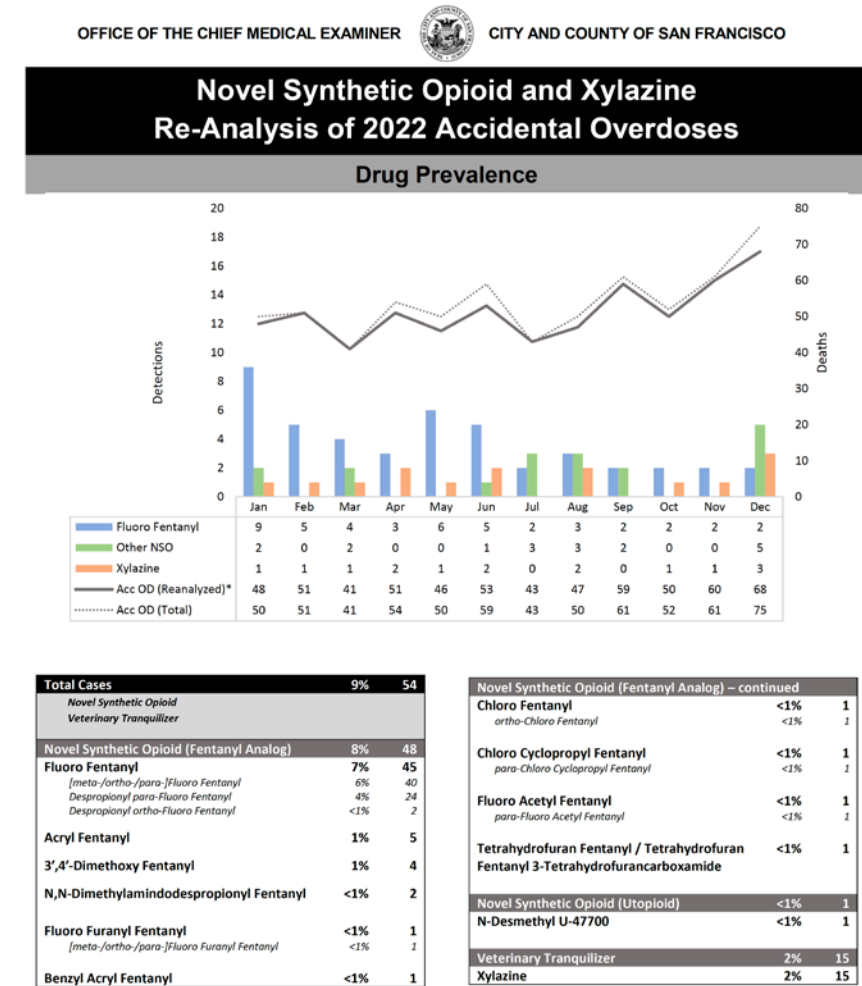
Annual Accidental Overdoses



CDPH 22-23 Grant

Re-analysis of 2022 Accidental Overdoses

- Received grant from CDPH for staff from Aug 22 - Aug 23
- Method development and validation
 - > 250 Novel Synthetic Opioids (NSO), and Xylazine
 - Re-analyzed 617 Accidental Overdoses (of 649 from 2022)
- Identified NSO and/or Xylazine in 54 cases
 - Fluoro Fentanyl (an NSO) in 45 cases
 - 10 different other NSOs (Fentanyl Analogs) in 12 cases
 - Xylazine in 15 cases
- Issued 27-page report
 - Demonstrate potent opioid use in conjunction with fentanyl epidemic
 - Provided accurate Cause of Death findings to families and community



CDPH 23-28 Grant

Develop a system for routine testing of Novel Drugs

Challenges

- 4x increase in drug related deaths
 - more cases
- Novel drug availability within the community in recent years
 - more drugs to test
- Multiple drug/polysubstance use increase
 - more complex cases

Aims

- Create and Validate an Automated and efficient system for routine testing of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
- Provide accurate Cause of Deaths Certifications for families and Public Health data
- Maintain national turnaround time standard

CDPH 23-28 Grant

Funding Needs

- 1 Forensic Toxicologist (2456)
- Allows flexibility to hire additional positions as needed
 - a. Forensic Toxicologist (2456)
 - b. Forensic Laboratory Analyst (2403)
 - c. Forensic Toxicologist Supervisor (2457)