

# Promoting Community Mobilization for Harm Reduction

Webinar Series

Racial Equity in Overdose Prevention Part 1: Using Data  
Thursday November 5, 2020 | 2:00pm - 3:30pm

# Agenda

## Welcome and Introductions

**Marco Pugliese, MS**– Lead Technical Consultant, Community Health Initiatives  
University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, Program Evaluation and Research Unit

**Tracy Pugh, MHS** – Senior Manager, Overdose Prevention Program, Vital Strategies

## Racial Equity in Overdose Prevention Part 1: Using Data

**Dr. Eric Hulsey**– Senior Technical Advisor: Drug Use Epidemiology and Data, Vital Strategies

**Carrie Thomas Goetz, PhD**– Senior Epidemiologist, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Office,  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

## Upcoming Sessions

### Racial Equity in Overdose Prevention Part 2: Strategies and Practices

*December 3, 2020*

**Dr. David Saunders**, Director of the Office of Health Equity for Pennsylvania Department of Health

**Dr. Kima Taylor**, Founder of Anka Consulting

# Housekeeping



**Webinar is being recorded.**



**Please stay muted.**



**Questions? Please put them in the chat or Q&A Box.**



**Please fill out the evaluation.**

# Welcome and Introductions

Marco Pugliese, MS— Lead Technical Consultant, Community Health Initiatives, Pitt PERU

# Webinar Objectives

Objectives of this webinar are to learn and discuss:

1. The history of racism/racial bias in drug policy and the importance of a racial equity lens
2. General strategies for collecting and understanding data
3. Identifying and leveraging data sources across sectors
4. Using data to identify inequities and targeting interventions
5. Strategies for using data to drive action

# Four guiding principles for our work

- Harm reduction
- Support, don't punish
- Racial justice
- Health equity

# What are our goals and values?

- ❖ Prevent death
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Opportunity
- ❖ Justice
- ❖ Equity



*"Racial equity is about applying justice and a little bit of common sense to a system that's been out of balance. When a system is out of balance, people of color feel the impacts most acutely, but, to be clear, an imbalanced system makes all of us pay."*

*~ Center for Social Inclusion President Glenn Harris*

# HISTORY OF RACE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

- 1914 Harrison Narcotic Act
- 1924 Heroin Act
- 1937 Marijuana Tax Act
- 1951 Boggs Act
- 1956 Narcotics Control Act
- 1970 Controlled Substance Act
- 1971 President Nixon declares 'War on Drugs'
- 1973 NY Rockefeller Drug Laws
- 1986/88 Anti-Drug Abuse Act



"The use of cocaine by the negroes of the South is one of the most elusive and troublesome questions which confront the enforcement of the law in most of the Southern states". He went on that the drug "is often the direct incentive to the crime of rape by the negroes of the South and other sections of the country". (1910)

**-Hamilton Wright, appointed by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt as United States Opium Commissioner**



# HISTORY OF RACE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

- 1914 Harrison Narcotic Act
- 1924 Heroin Act
- **1930 Federal Bureau of Narcotics**
- 1937 Marijuana Tax Act
- 1951 Boggs Act
- 1956 Narcotics Control Act
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Narcotics Commissioner Harry J. Anslinger announces a series of raids in the nation's big cities aimed at crippling the narcotics traffic in New York on Jan. 4, 1958.

( AP Images )

# HISTORY OF RACE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

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“You want to know what this was really all about. The Nixon campaign in 1968, and **the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people.** You understand what I’m saying. We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.” -

<https://harpers.org/archive/2016/04/legalize-it-all/>

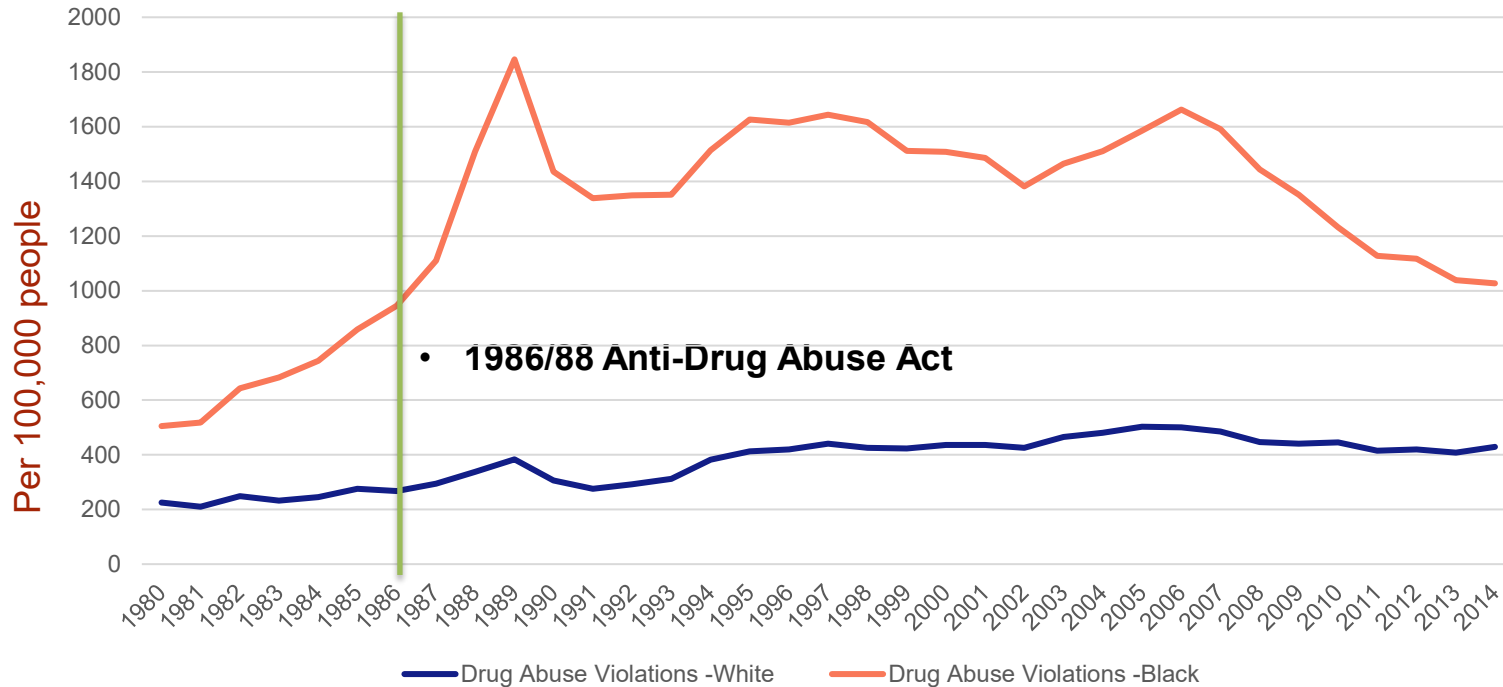
# HISTORY OF RACE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

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# HISTORY OF RACE IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

Rate of Drug Abuse Violations in the US by Race, 1980-2014



Snyder, Howard N.; Cooper, Alexia D.; and Mulako-Wangota, Joseph. Bureau of Justice Statistics. (Insert table title). Generated using the Arrest Data Analysis Tool at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov). Nov. 4, 2020

# Racial equity is both an outcome and a process.

As an outcome, we achieve racial equity when race no longer determines one's socioeconomic outcomes; when everyone has what they need to thrive, no matter where they live. As a process, we apply racial equity when those most impacted by structural racial inequity are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the institutional policies and practices that impact their lives.

When we achieve racial equity:

- People, including people of color, are **owners, planners, and decision-makers in the systems** that govern their lives.
- We acknowledge and account for past and current inequities, and provide all people, particularly those most impacted by racial inequities, **the infrastructure needed to thrive.**
- **Everyone benefits from a more just, equitable system.**

<https://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/our-work/what-is-racial-equity/>

# Better epidemiology – Better equity

Eric G Hulsey, DrPH, MA

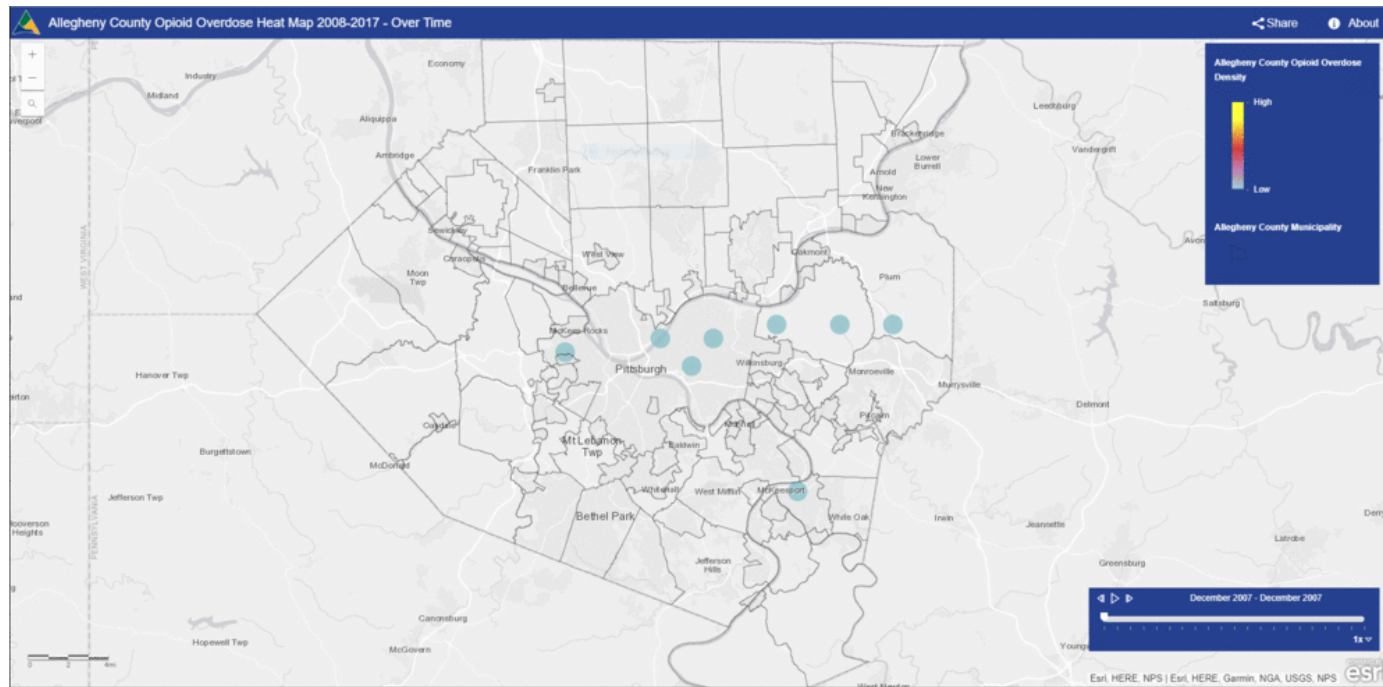
Senior Technical Advisor: Drug Use Epidemiology and Data

# Overview

- Why is it important to ask questions of your data?
- Data isn't something separate from the work
- Examples from Allegheny County

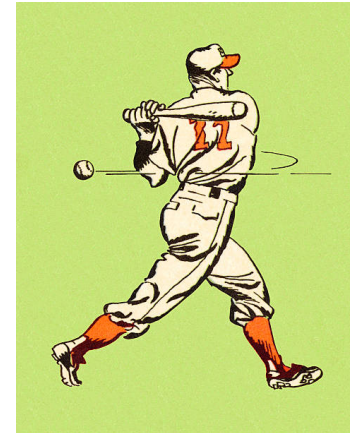


# Overdose Epidemic in Allegheny County





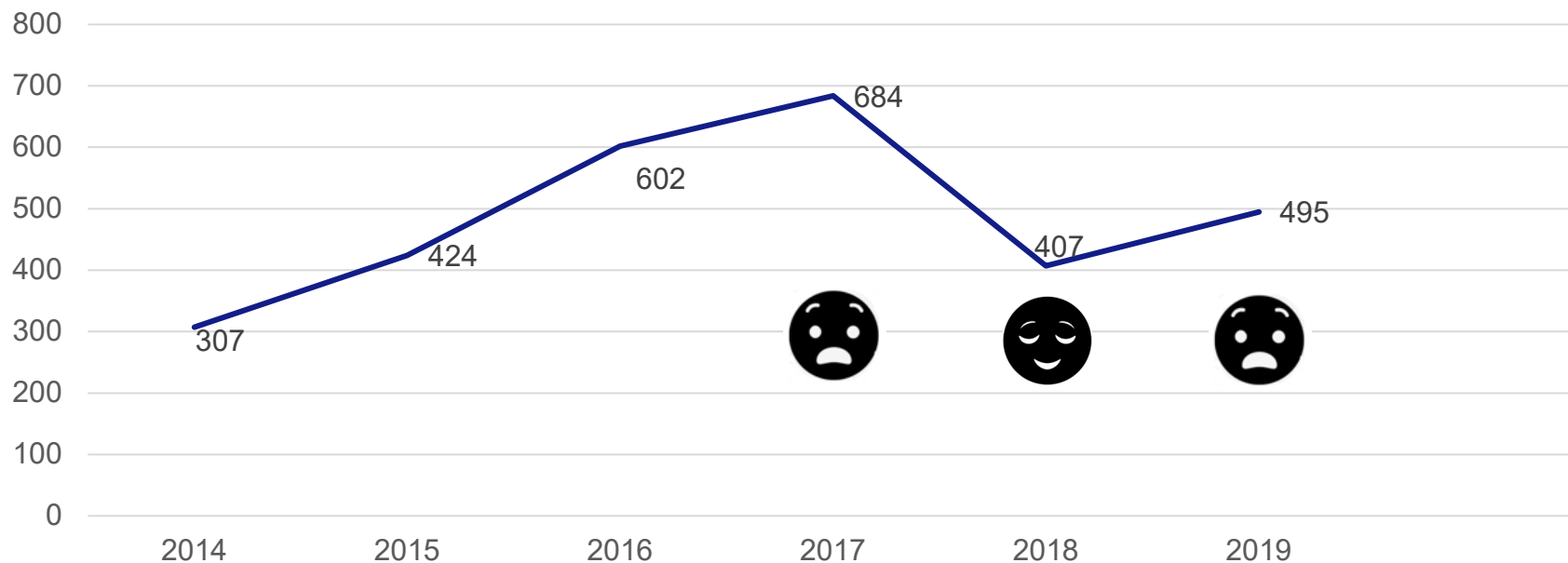
# Use your data to help you target your efforts!



# Who is dying?

# “Up/Down” Epidemiology

# Opioid-related Overdose Deaths in Allegheny County



Source: Allegheny County Fatal Overdose Surveillance Dashboard:

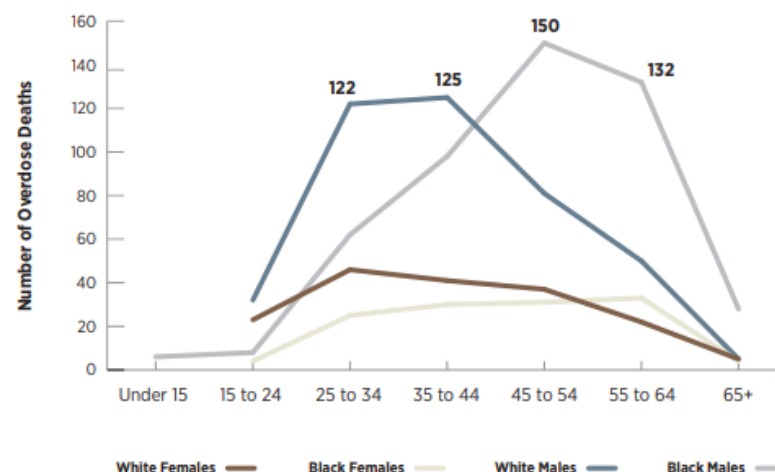
[https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard\\_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance](https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance)

# Fatal overdoses: counts vs rates

TABLE 1: Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths by Age, Race and Legal Sex: 2015–2016 (n=910)

AGE GROUP	FEMALE				MALE				GRAND TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	TOTAL	
Under 15						2		2	2
15 to 24	27	1		28	38	2		40	68
25 to 34 years	64	6		70	177	12	3	192	262
35 to 44 years	46	6		52	143	16		159	211
45 to 54 years	55	7	1	63	115	27	1	143	206
55 to 64	34	7	1	42	73	22	1	96	138
65+	10	1		11	8	4		12	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>910</b>

FIGURE 4: Average Annual Age-, Race-, and Sex-Specific Death Rates for Opioid-Related Overdoses: 2015–2016 (n=903)<sup>8</sup>

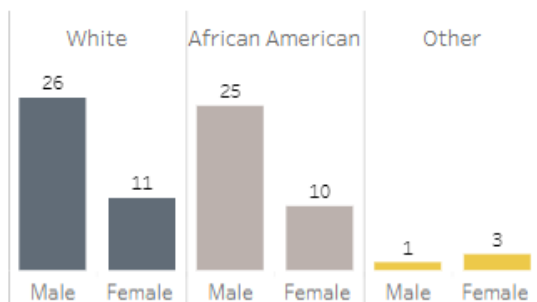


Source: Hulsey et al (2018). Opioid-related overdose deaths in Allegheny County, 2015-16 Update. Allegheny Department of Human Services and Allegheny County Health Department.  
[https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/17-ACDHS-22\\_Opioid\\_Overdose\\_082018.pdf](https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/17-ACDHS-22_Opioid_Overdose_082018.pdf)

# Disproportional death rates

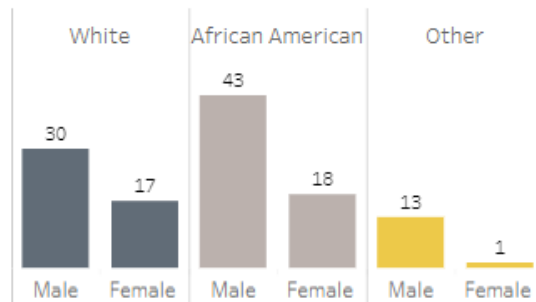
**2015**

Rate per 100,000 by Race and Legal Sex



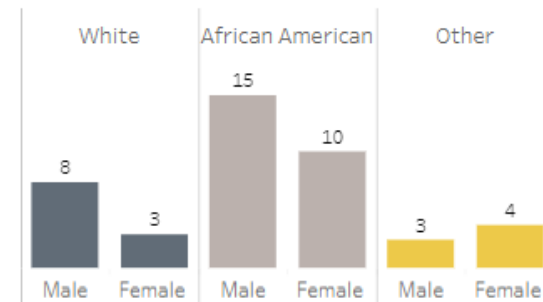
**2019**

Rate per 100,000 by Race and Legal Sex



**2020\***

Rate per 100,000 by Race and Legal Sex



\* Partial year

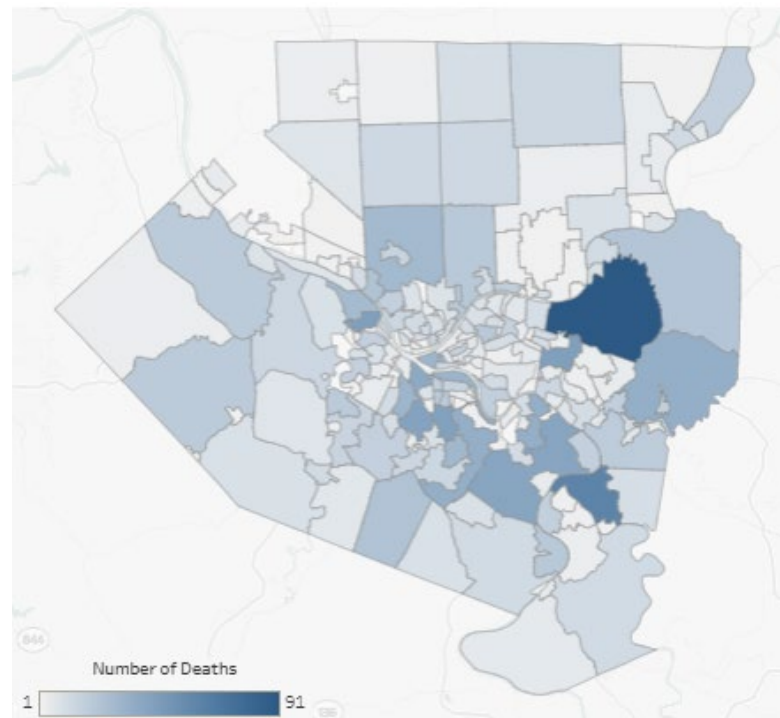
Source: Allegheny County Fatal Overdose Surveillance Dashboard:

[https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard\\_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance](https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance)

# Where are overdoses happening?

# Fatal overdoses by municipality: 2016-2020\*

\* Partial year for 2020



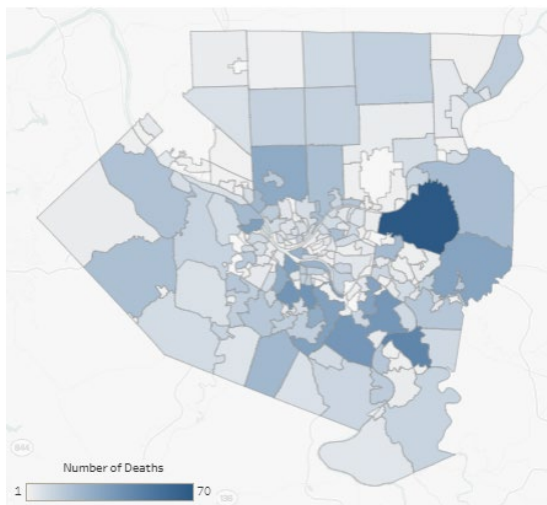
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# Different groups affected in different areas

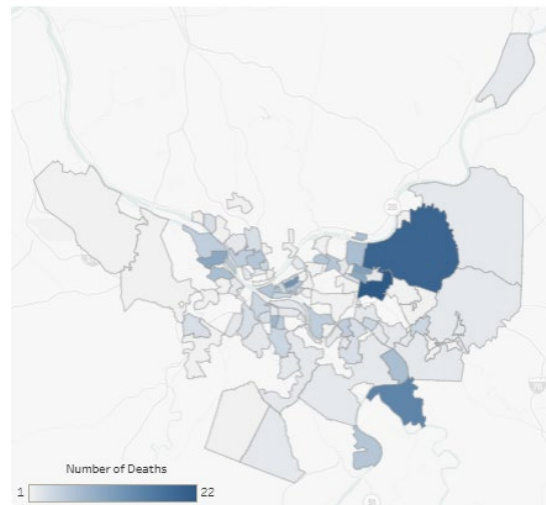
Fatal overdoses by municipality: 2016-2020\*

\* Partial year for 2020

**White**



**African American**



Source: Allegheny County Fatal Overdose Surveillance Dashboard:

[https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard\\_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance](https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance)

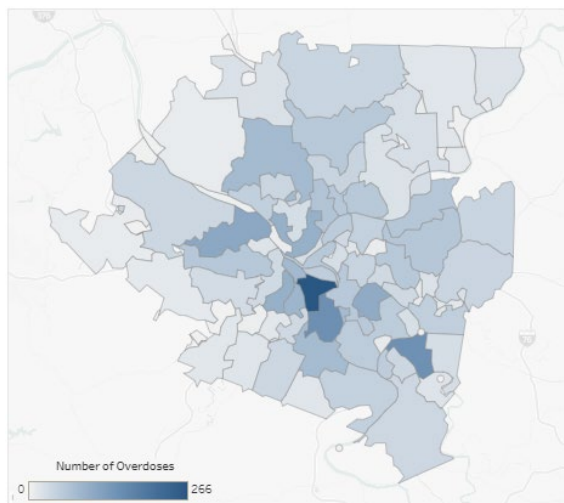


# Different groups affected in different areas

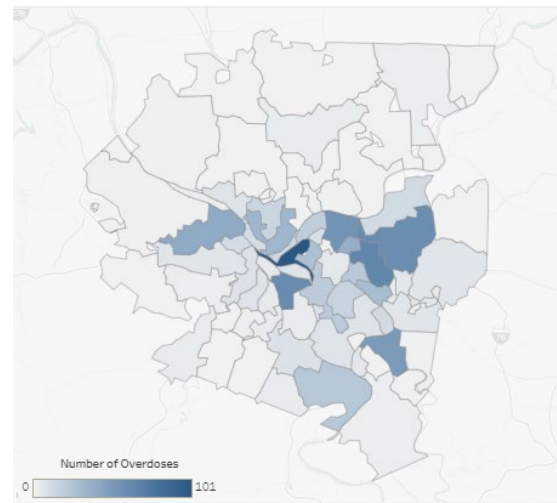
## Overdose ED visits by patient zip code: 2016-2020\*

\* Partial year for 2020

**White**



**African American**



Source: Allegheny County Fatal Overdose Surveillance Dashboard:

[https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard\\_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance](https://public.tableau.com/profile/earl.hord#!/vizhome/RFPDashboard_15839432593890/FatalOverdoseSurveillance)

# What drugs are involved in overdoses?

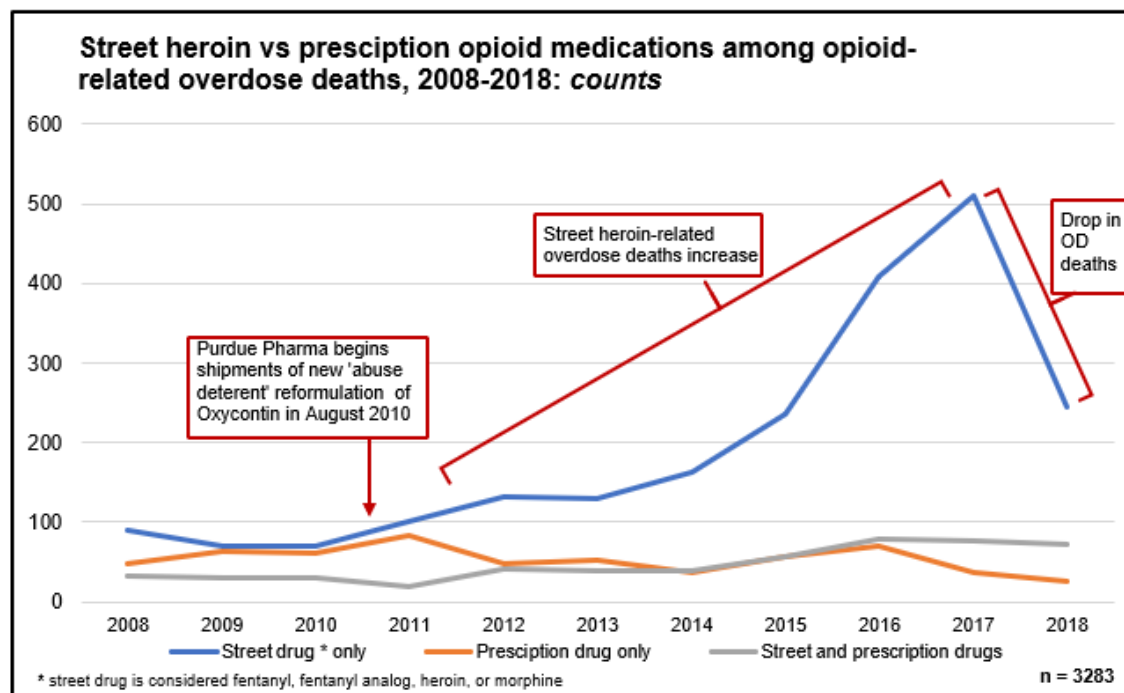
# Toxicology from Medical Examiner

TABLE 2: Fentanyl, Fentanyl-Analog and Cocaine Involvement Among Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths: 2015-16 (n=910)<sup>9</sup>

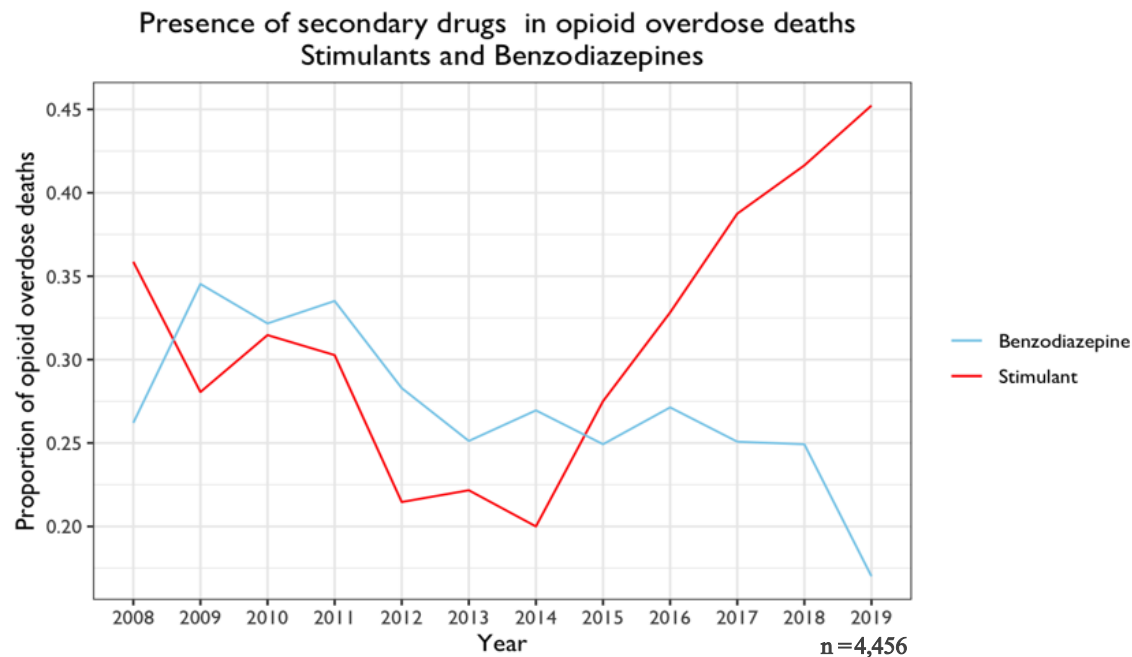
	2015		2016		GRAND TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>597</b>		<b>986</b>	
Opioids	352	90.5%	558	93.5%	910	92.3%
Fentanyl	127	36.1%	391	70.1%	518	56.9%
Fentanyl Analogues	28	8.0%	28	5.0%	56	6.2%
Benzodiazepines	92	26.1%	157	28.1%	249	27.4%
Cocaine	93	26.4%	175	31.4%	268	29.5%

Source: Hulsey et al (2018). Opioid-related overdose deaths in Allegheny County, 2015-16 Update. Allegheny Department of Human Services and Allegheny County Health Department.  
[https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/17-ACDHS-22\\_Opioid\\_Overdose\\_082018.pdf](https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/17-ACDHS-22_Opioid_Overdose_082018.pdf)

# Is it really prescription opioids?



# Opioid-related overdoses involve more than just opioids



Source: Adamson, Kayleigh (2020) A Gaussian-Mixture Model Analysis of Polysubstance Drug Use in Opioid Overdose Deaths. Master's Thesis, University of Pittsburgh. <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/38923/>

# Different folks used drugs differently

Among opioid-related overdoses 2008-2019.....

		Stimulant	Benzodiazapine	Stimulant and Benzodiazapine	Overall Deaths
White	Female	270 (30%)	306 (34%)	76 (8.5%)	900
	Male	588 (29%)	527 (26%)	143 (7.1%)	2027
Black	Female	71 (60%)	18 (15%)	11 (9.2%)	119
	Male	145 (52%)	28 (10%)	15 (5.4%)	278

Source: Adamson, Kayleigh (2020) A Gaussian-Mixture Model Analysis of Polysubstance Drug Use in Opioid Overdose Deaths. Master's Thesis, University of Pittsburgh. <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/38923/>

# Different intervention approaches

## White females

- Ages 35-44
- Benzodiazepines

## African American Males

- Ages 55-64
- Illicit opioids and stimulants

## White Males

- Ages 35-44
- Illicit opioids and prescription opioids

## Consider

- Suburban areas
- Behavioral therapy
- SSRIs
- Education
- Naloxone kits

- Greater Pittsburgh
- Education
- Opioid-naïve
- “Speedballing”
- Naloxone kits

- Risks of starting OUD treatment
- Resources for SUD treatment
- Naloxone kits

Source: Adamson, Kayleigh (2020) A Gaussian-Mixture Model Analysis of Polysubstance Drug Use in Opioid Overdose Deaths. Master's Thesis, University of Pittsburgh. <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/38923/>

# A few take-aways.....



# Targeting interventions

- Use your data to help you plan your activities (whatever you can access)
- Ask critical questions of it.
- Is your coalition:
  - basing decisions on rates or counts?
  - considering how different groups may be using drugs differently?
  - targeting efforts to those experiencing disproportional risks?

# Thank you!

# How to Find and Use Data to Track Trends

Carrie Thomas Goetz, PhD

Senior Epidemiologist

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

November 5, 2020

# ▶ Calculating Proportion

## ▣ Percent

$$\left( \frac{\text{Number of Events in Category of Interest}}{\text{Total Number of Events}} \right) \times 100$$

- Example: 2018 Drug overdose deaths

- ▣ Total = 4422
- ▣ White = 3575
- ▣ Black = 591
- ▣ Other/Unknown Race = 256

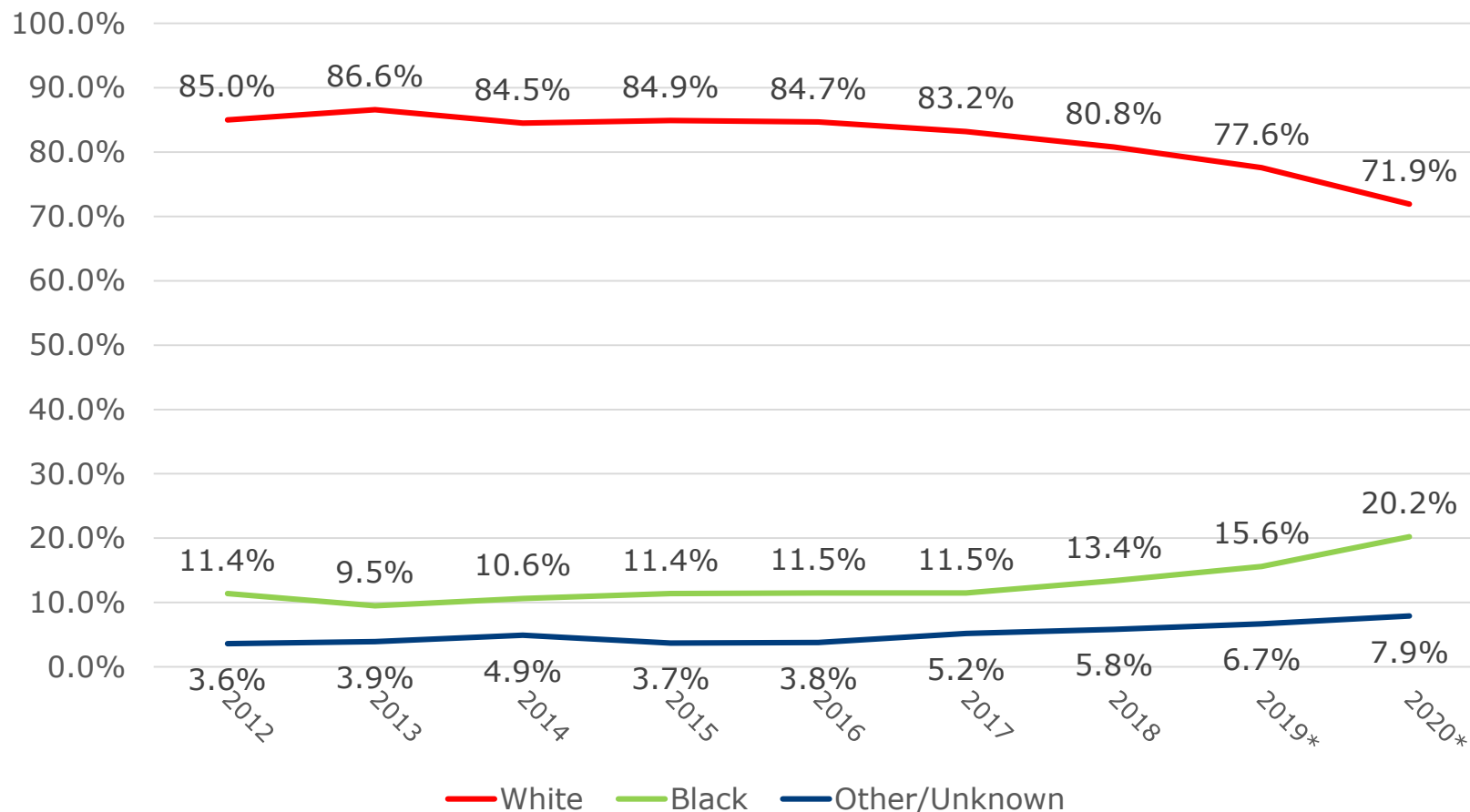
White:  $(3575/4422) \times 100 = 80.8\%$

Black:  $(591/4422) \times 100 = 13.4\%$

Other/Unknown:  $(256/4422) \times 100 = 5.8\%$

# Proportion of Events – Looking at Data Over Time

## Percent of Drug Overdose Deaths by Race, Pennsylvania, 2012-2020\*



\*preliminary estimates

# ▶ Calculating Rates

## ▣ Rate per 10,000 Population

$$\left( \frac{\text{Number of Events in Category of Interest}}{\text{Total Population in Category of Interest}} \right) \times 10,000$$

$$\text{White: } (3575/10,476,085) \times 10,000 = 3.4$$

$$\text{Black: } (591/1,531,457) \times 10,000 = 3.9$$

$$\text{Other/Unknown: } (256/799,518) \times 10,000 = 3.2$$

- Example: 2018 Drug overdose deaths

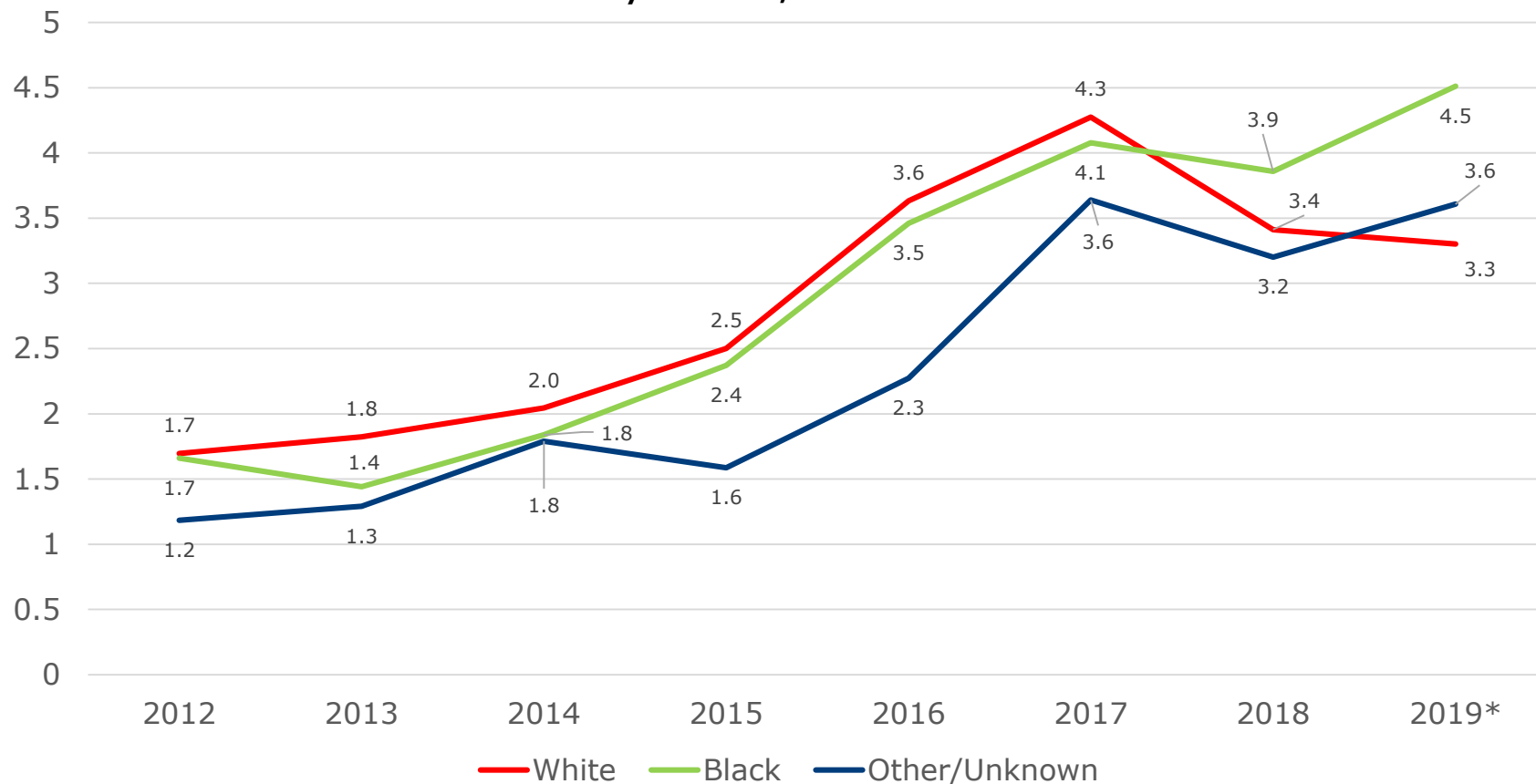
- ▣ Total = 4422
- ▣ White = 3575
- ▣ Black = 591
- ▣ Other/Unknown Race = 256

- Total Population

- ▣ PA = 12,807,060
- ▣ White = 10,476,085
- ▣ Black = 1,531,457
- ▣ Other = 799,518

## Rate of Events – Looking at Data Over Time

Rate of Drug Overdose Deaths per 10,000 Population by Race, Pennsylvania, 2012-2019\*



\*preliminary estimates

# ▶ Calculating Percent Change

$$\left( \frac{\text{New Value} - \text{Old Value}}{\text{Old Value}} \right) \times 100$$

Total:  $(4422 - 5396 / 5396) \times 100 = -18.1\%$

White:  $(3575 - 4492 / 4492) \times 100 = -20.4\%$

Black:  $(591 - 620 / 620) \times 100 = -4.7\%$

Other/Unknown:  $(256 - 283 / 283) \times 100 = -9.5\%$

- Example: 2018 Drug overdose deaths

- ▣ Total = 4422
- ▣ White = 3575
- ▣ Black = 591
- ▣ Other/Unknown Race = 256

- 2017 Drug Overdose Deaths

- ▣ Total = 5396
- ▣ White = 4492
- ▣ Black = 620
- ▣ Other/Unknown = 283



# Where to get Data

- Census
  - QuickFacts <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>
  - County Datasets <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-counties-detail.html>
- EDDIE <https://www.phaim1.health.pa.gov/EDD/Default.aspx>
- Governor's Opioid Data Dashboard <https://data.pa.gov/stories/s/Pennsylvania-Opioids/9q45-nckt/>
- PDMP Interactive Data Report <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/PDMP/Pages/Data.aspx>
- OverdoseFreePA <https://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu/>

# Contact Info

Carrie Thomas Goetz, PhD  
Senior Epidemiologist  
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
[cthomasgoe@pa.gov](mailto:cthomasgoe@pa.gov)

# Upcoming Webinar Series



## Racial Equity in Overdose Prevention Part 2: Strategies and Practices

*December 3, 2020, 2pm-3:30pm*

**Dr. David Saunders**, Director of the Office of Health Equity for  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

**Dr. Kima Taylor**, Founder of Anka Consulting



## Syringe Service Programs

*January 2021*

# Reminders



**Please fill out the evaluation.**



**Webinar Recordings are Available on  
*OverdoseFreePA.pitt.edu***

