



Our Vision:

To eliminate opioid overdose, stigma associated with OUD, and to ensure every patient with OUD has access to and support throughout treatment and recovery.



PERXU

Program Evaluation and Research Unit

Washington County

Overdose Reduction Data, January 2023



Community Health Initiatives



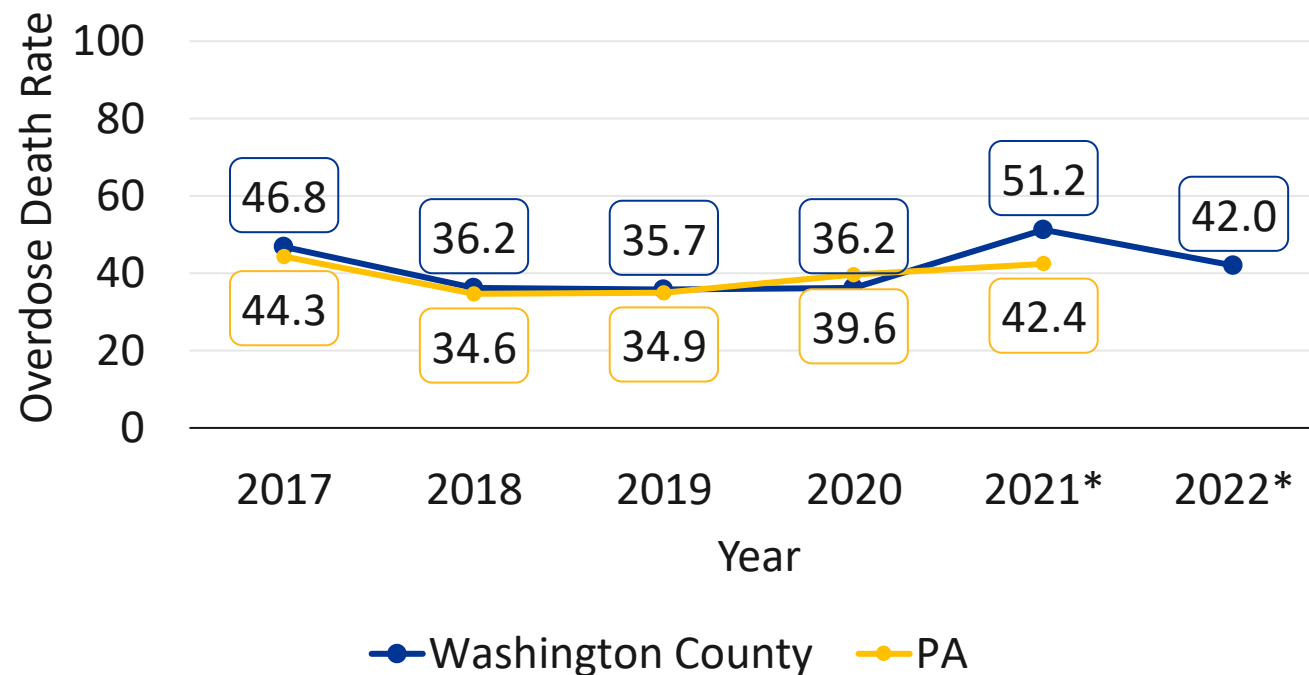
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Overview

- Washington County reported **100** accidental overdose deaths in **2020**
- **106** deaths reported for **2021**, as of January 18, 2023
- 2021 overdose death rate
 - Washington: **51.2 per 100,000**
 - Pennsylvania: **42.4 per 100,000**
- **87** deaths reported for **2022** as of January 18, 2023

Washington County Overdose Deaths
(N=514)



* Preliminary overdose death rate pending data acquisition

(Pennsylvania Department of Health [PA DoH], 2021a)

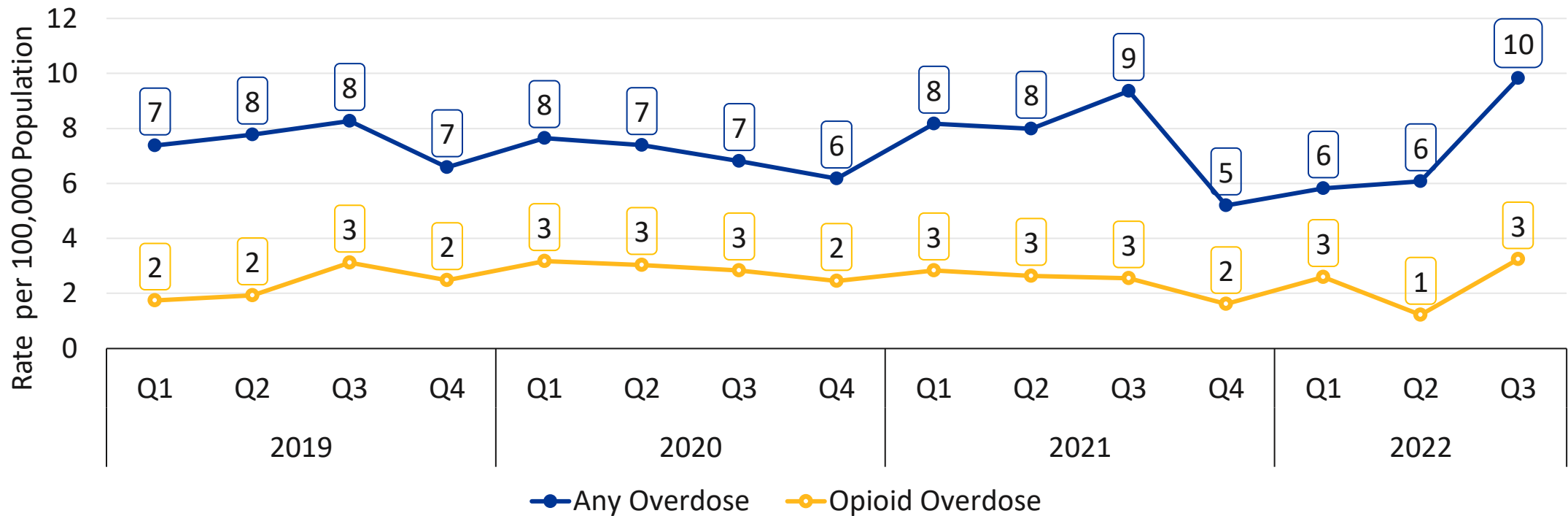


Emergency Department (ED) Overdose Admissions



Suspected Drug and Opioid Overdose, Washington County 2019-Sept 2022

Rate of Suspected Drug and Opioid Overdose ED Visits per 100,000 Population



(PA DoH, 2022b)



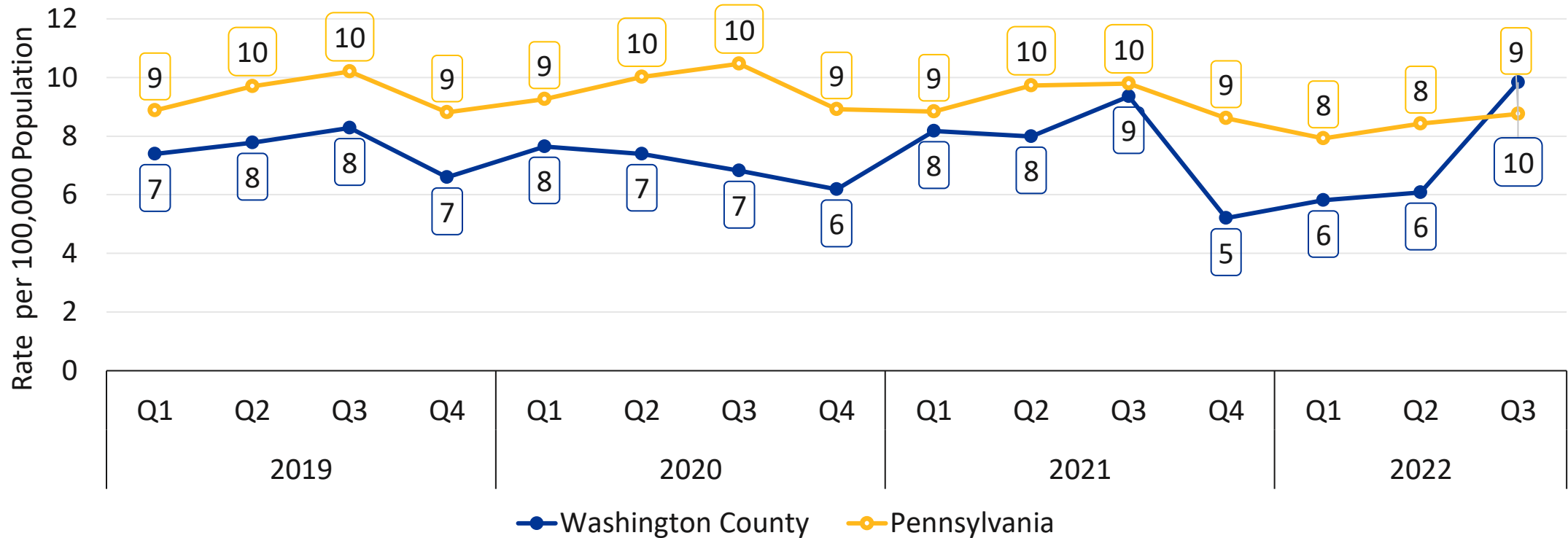
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Washington County vs. State Average 2019-Sept 2022

Rate of Suspected Drug Overdose ED Visits per 100,000 Population

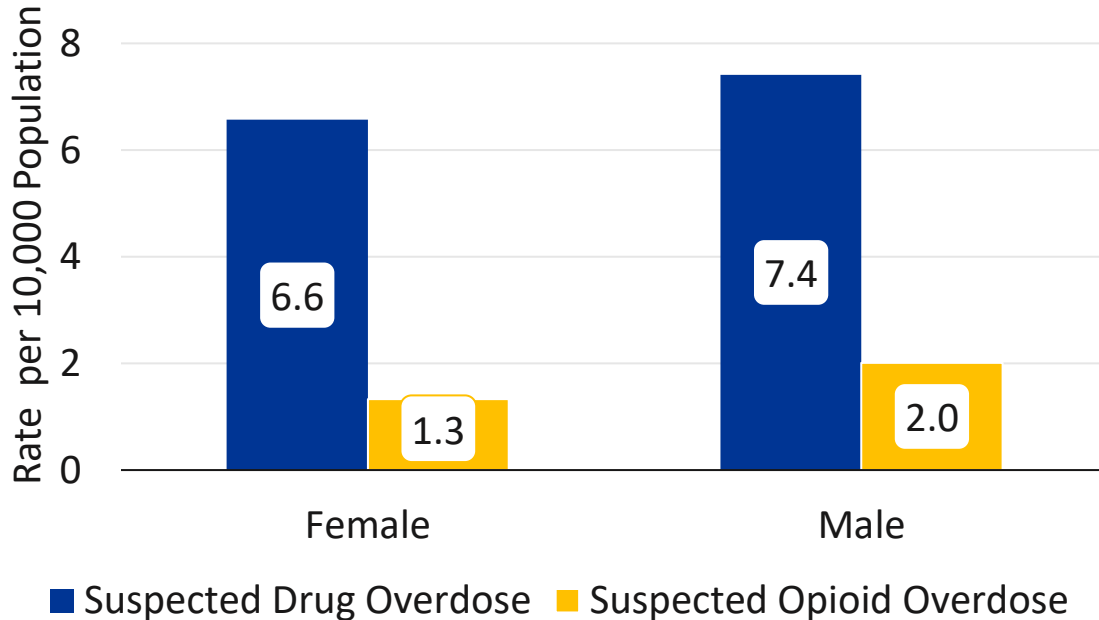


(PA DoH, 2022b)

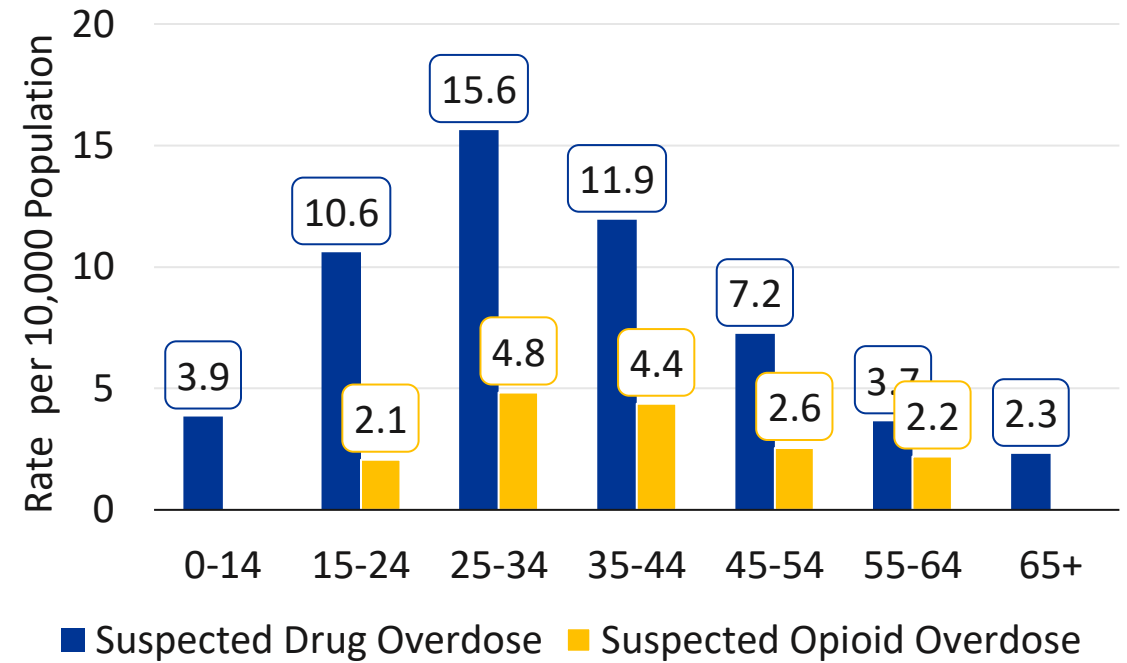


Suspected Drug and Opioid Overdose, Washington County 2019-Sept 2022

Overdose Rate per 10,000 Visits by Biological Sex

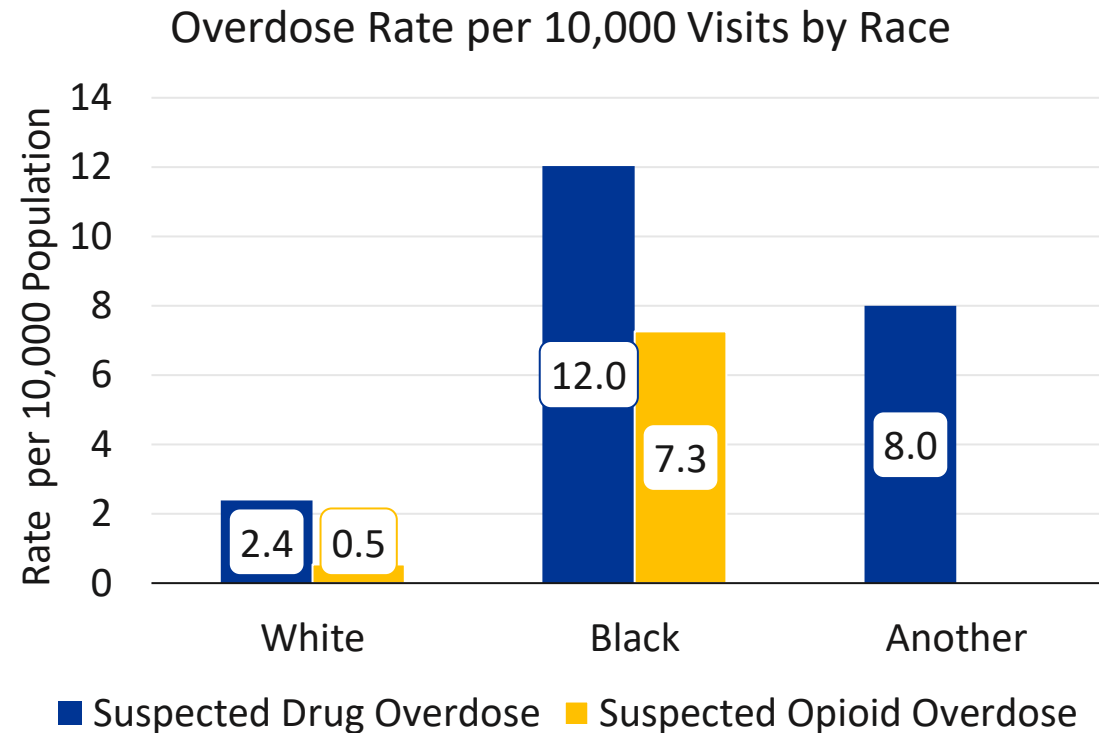


Overdose Rate per 10,000 Visits by Age Group



(PA DoH, 2022b)

Suspected Drug and Opioid Overdose, 2019-Sept 2022



(PA DoH, 2021b)



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Washington Ambulance and Chair

Project SCOPE (Strategies for Coordinating
Overdose Prevention Efforts)



Washington Ambulance and Chair: 2022 Overview*

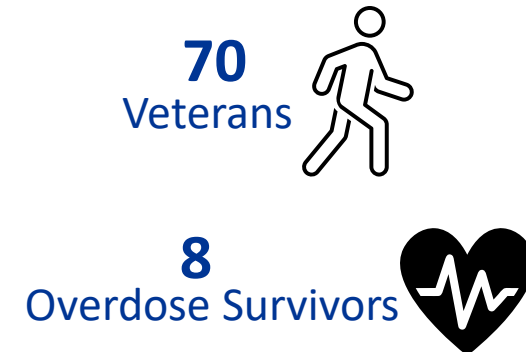
1,015 Total Completed Reports in 2021

- 935 NIDA Screens
- 85 people were eligible for referral
- 11 referrals were made

Drug & Alcohol Indicators



Special Populations



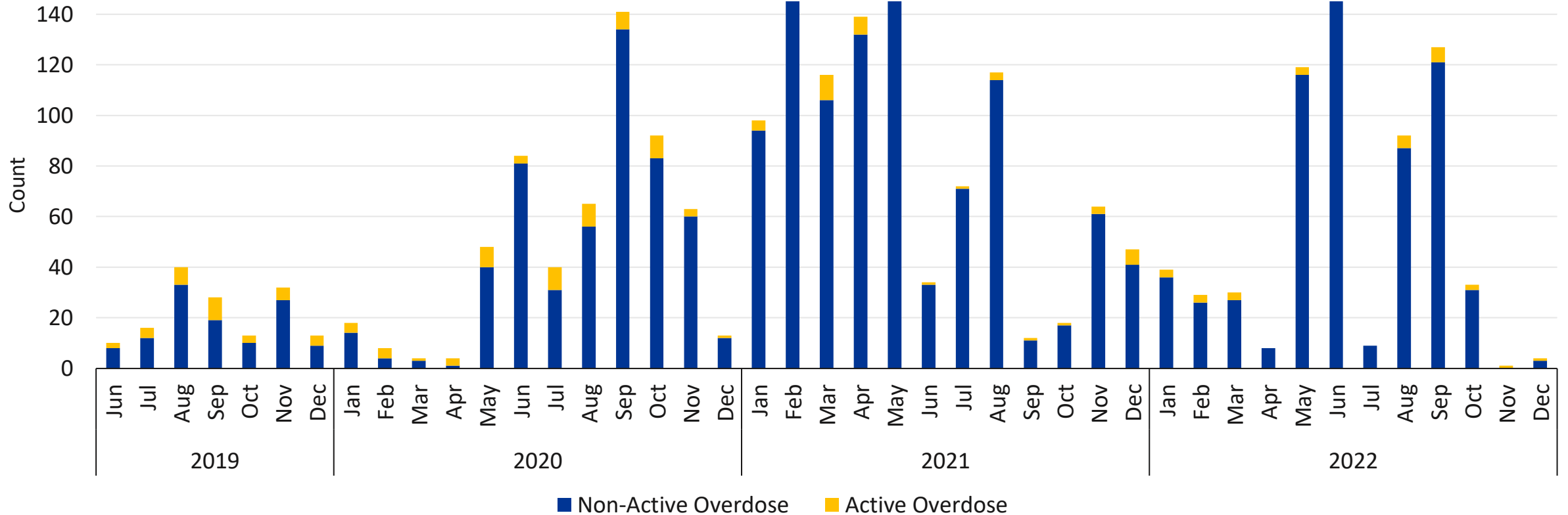
(PERU, 2022)

*The SCOPE First Responder project ended in September 2022 but WAC has continued to submit some data.



Washington Ambulance and Chair

Monthly Completed Reports



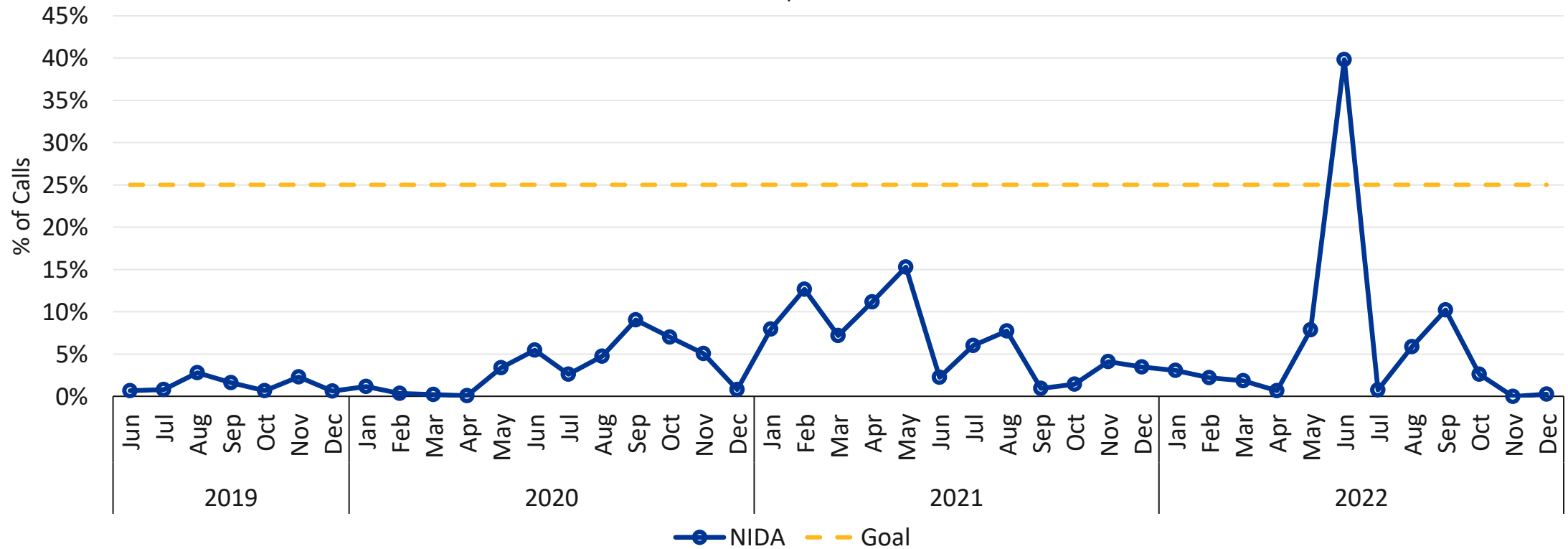
(PERU, 2022)



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NIDA Screens

N=2,583



(PERU, 2022)



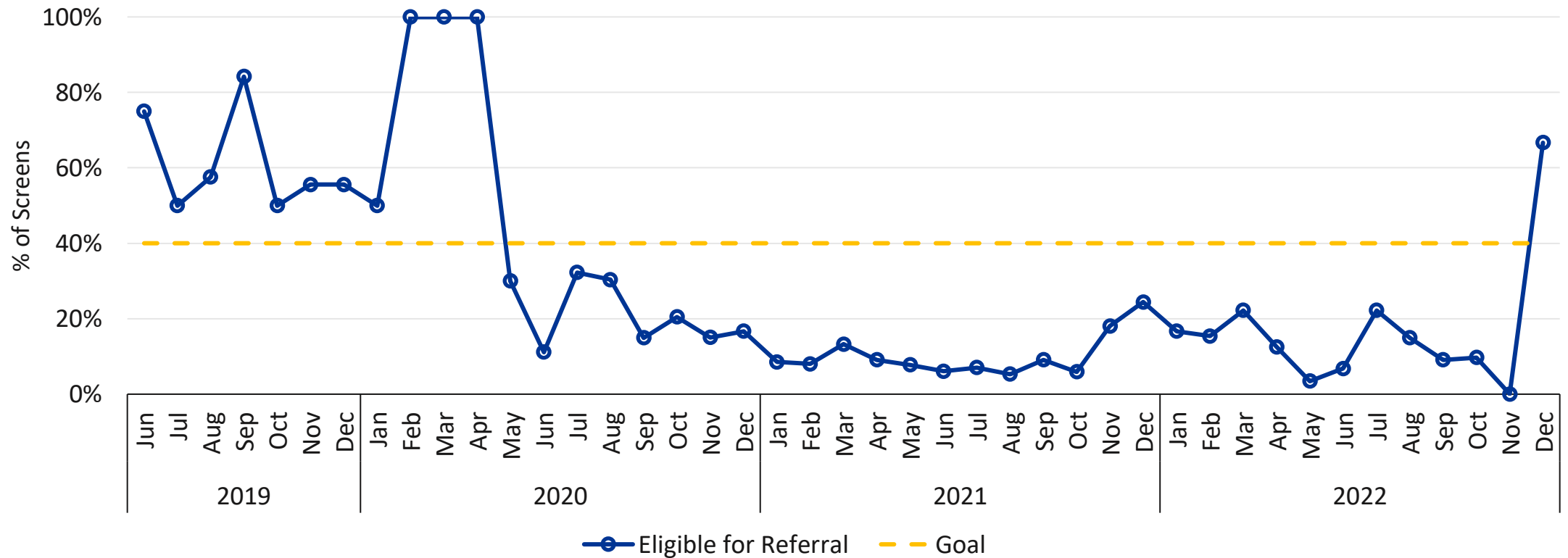
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Eligible for Referral
N=370

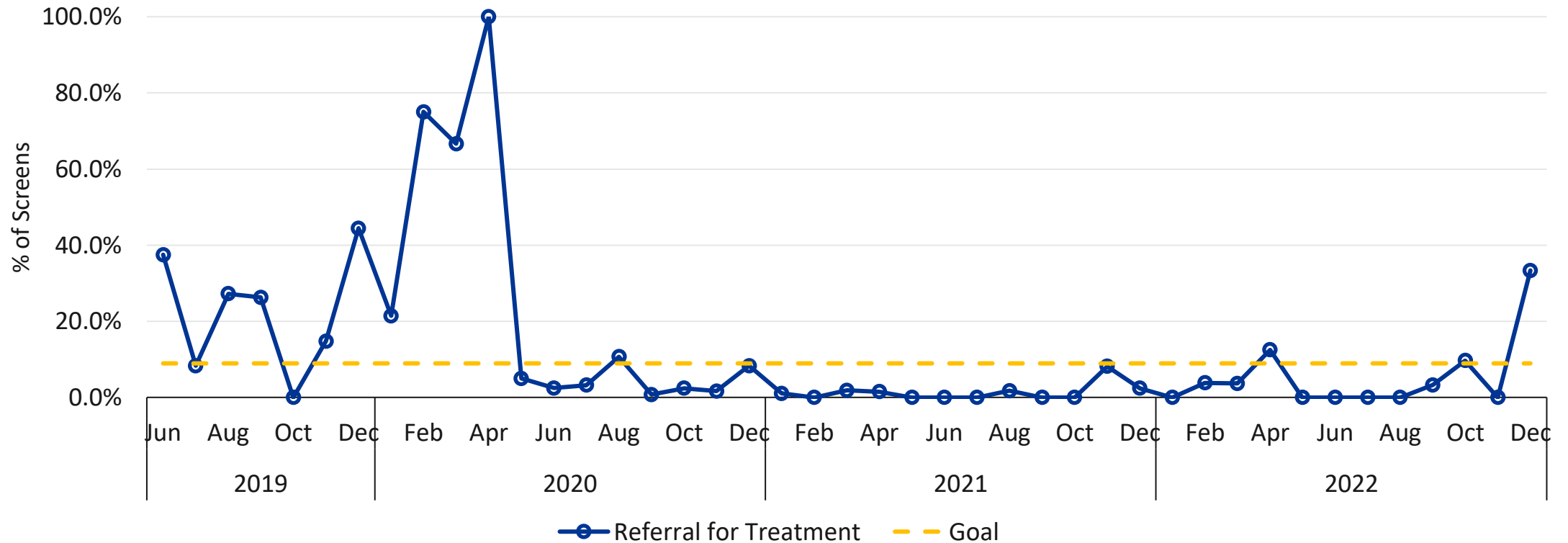


(PERU, 2022)



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Referral for Treatment
N=75



(PERU, 2022)

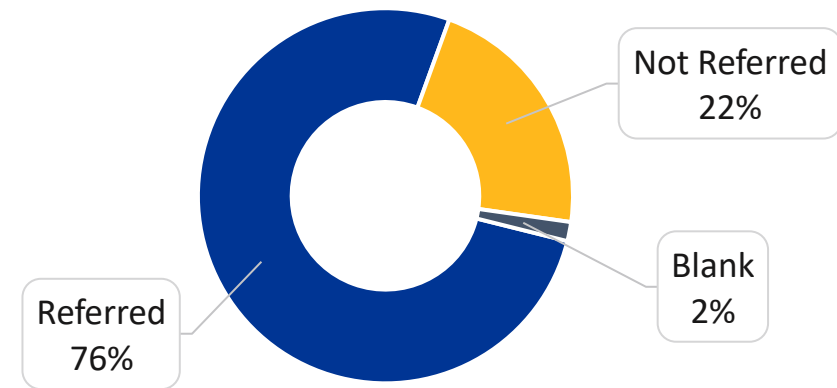
Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission (WDAC) Treatment Programs

*Washington County Correctional Facility
Allied Addiction Recovery*

Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission Treatment Referrals, 2021

- **WDAC** staff assessed 2,248 individuals during 2021, leading to **1,723 referrals to treatment**
- **488** individuals had **no treatment** recommended, with the assessment outcome field **left blank** for the remaining **37**

Assessed Individuals Referred to Treatment (N=2,248)



(WDAC, 2022b)



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Vivitrol Plus Program

Washington County Correctional Facility (WCCF)

Allied Addiction Recovery (AAR)

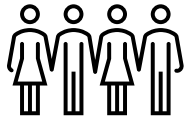


Community Health Initiatives

WCCF/AAR Vivitrol Plus Program, 2017 – present

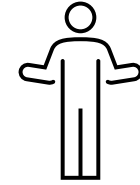


- **Total Injections: 567**
 - Women: 305
 - Men: 223



- **Total Participants: 289**
 - Women: 115
 - Men: 174

- **Program Completions: 45**
 - Women: 29
 - Men: 16
- **Program Completion Rate: 15%**



(WDAC, 2023a)

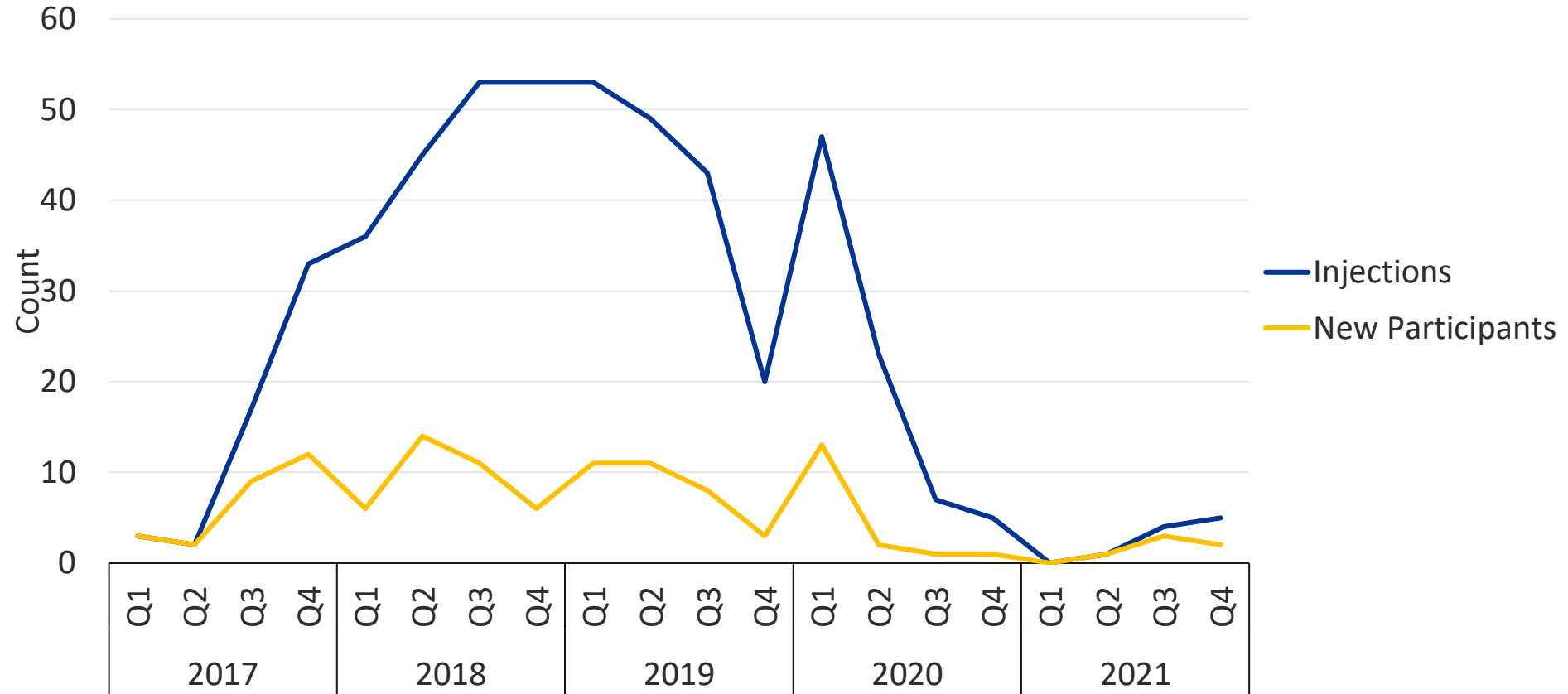


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Quarterly Vivitrol Services



(WDAC, 2022a)



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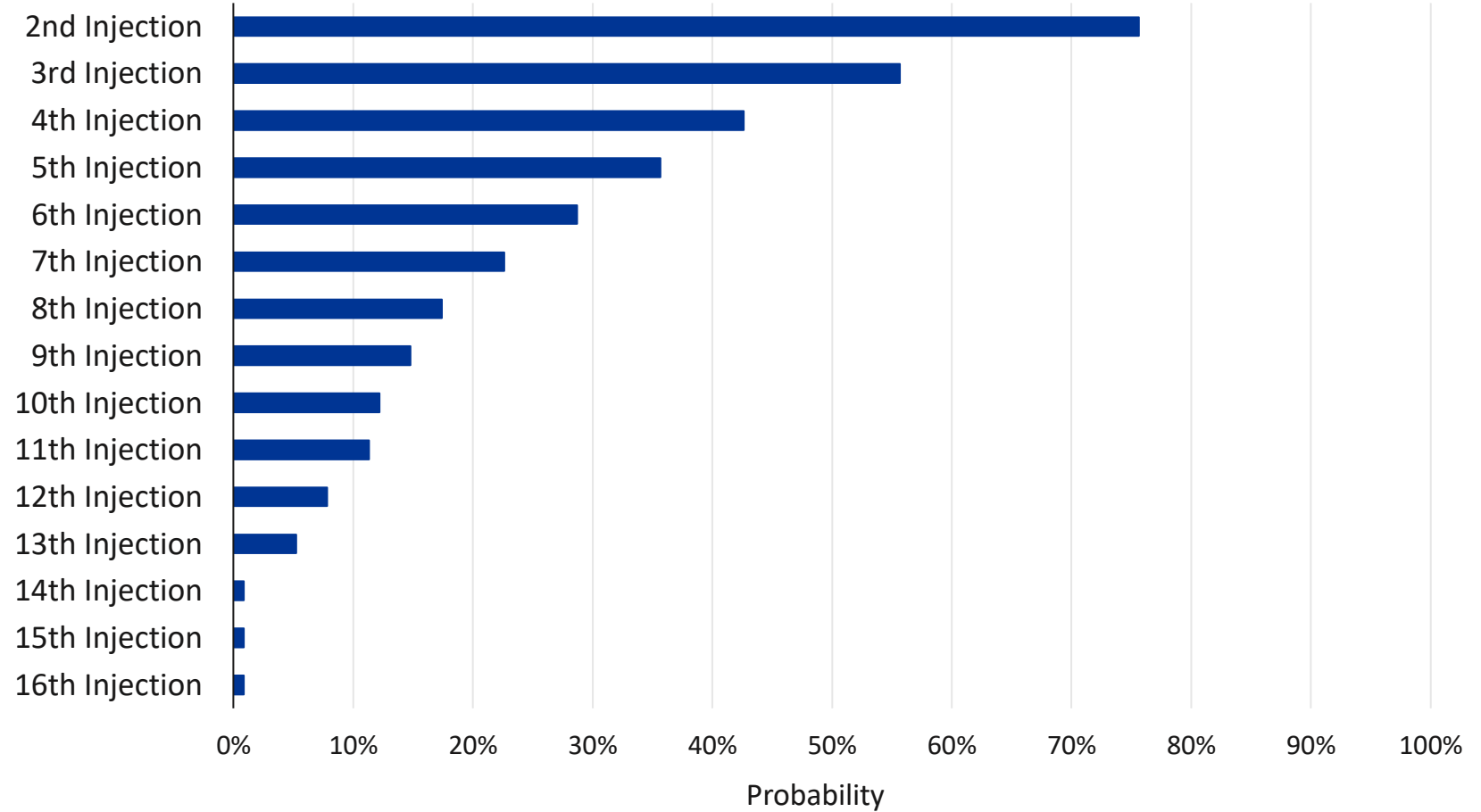
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Vivitrol Plus Participant Return

Probability of Subsequent Injections (N=115)

- **76%** (N=87) of participants returned for a **second** injection
- **43%** (N=49) returned for a **fourth** injection



(WDAC, 2022a)



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Brief Intro to Harm Reduction



Community Health Initiatives



Harm Reduction is Misunderstood

- **Materials or practices that reduce likelihood of harm** associated with engaging in an activity
- Harm reduction examples include:
 - Bike Helmets
 - Seat Belts
 - Fentanyl Test Strips
 - Naloxone



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The Goal of Harm Reduction

Keep individuals **alive** and **mitigate the physical and social issues** to provide the individual with the ability to make changes in the future if they so choose.

- In the lens of substance use disorder: protecting the health of people who use drugs



You Practice It!



Seat belts

Designated drivers, ride shares, etc.

Helmets



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Approaches

- Safe Use Strategies
- Overdose Prevention
- Overdose Reversal (Naloxone)
- Syringe Exchange/Access
- Safe Consumption Sites
- Peer Supports
- Advocacy
- Substance Test Strips (Fentanyl test strips)



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Overdose Prevention

- Use with **others** around
- Start **low**, go **slow**
- Know **high-risk** groups
- **Stagger** use
- Use **test strips**
- Carry **naloxone**



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Overdose Reversal

Know the signs

Carry naloxone

Signs of Opioid Overdose



CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
if you see these overdose signs



PA DOH

Call 911



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Syringe Exchange/Access



- ↓ Disease transmission (HIV/hepatitis C)
- ↑ Interaction with service providers
- ↓ Skin and soft tissue infections
- ↑ Access to treatment referrals
- ↓ Harmful disposal of syringes



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Peer Supports



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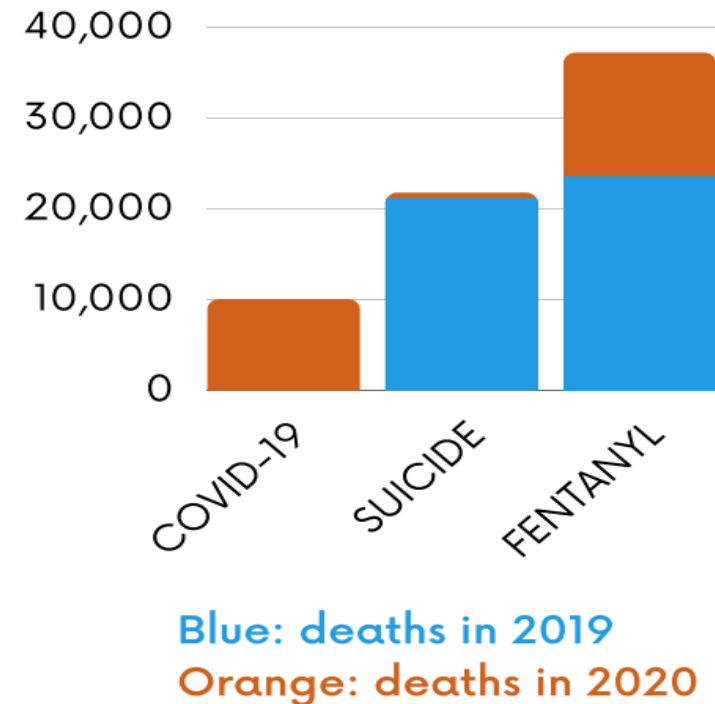
Advocacy

- **Fight discrimination** based on an individual's substance use, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, choice of work, or economic status
- **Eliminate barriers** to services
- **End stigma**
- **Adjust drug policies** and laws
- Bring the voices and opinions of **individuals who use substances** into the discussion
- Respect individuality



Fentanyl and Overdoses

- Current leading cause of death ages 18-45 in the US
- Responsible for 80% of overdoses
- Increasingly present in illicit street drugs, most commonly in opiates



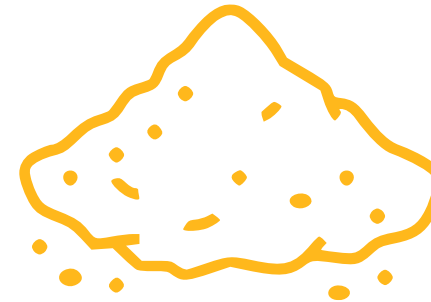
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Misconception: Skin Fentanyl Exposure

- Fentanyl absorption through skin is **very low**
 - Use gloves when handling any chemicals
- Presence of **undisturbed fentanyl powder** on surfaces **does not pose a threat**
 - Powder does not become airborne on its own
- Washing with **soap and water** after contact is adequate



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Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS)

- **Effective life-saving** harm reduction tools
- Detect **presence or absence** of fentanyl in diluted drug supply or urine
 - Similar to a COVID-19 test, FTS give only a positive or negative response



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Fentanyl Test Strips Data & Resources

- “43% [of 125 people who use injectable drugs] reported a **change in drug use behavior** and 77% indicated **increased perceived overdose safety** by using FTS.”
- Provider in Pittsburgh: ~9/10 people given FTS altered use behaviors after positive test result



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New Test Strip Technology

- **Specifically designed** for harm reduction purposes (rather than urine testing)
- Manufacturer claims it does not produce false positives
- **Higher sensitivity** to fentanyl
- Prices are **usually less than \$1** per test strip; some manufacturers offer nonprofit pricing



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Fentanyl Test Strip Providers and Manufacturers

FENTANYL



NO FENTANYL



Manufacturer	BTNX Inc.	WHPM Inc.
Brand Name	(varies)	DanceSafe/FentCheck
Location	Ontario, Canada	California, USA
Sensitivity (ng/mL)	10, 20, or 200	20
Technology	Immunoassay	Immunoassay
Noteworthy Properties	Traditional sensitivity and specificity	Higher specificity for fentanyl Fewer false positives if MDMA, cocaine, and/or methadone present



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Developments in Pennsylvania

- **August 2021:** Decriminalized in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh
- **November 2022:** House Bill 1393 from Rep. Struzzi was signed into law by Gov. Wolf on the 3rd
- **January 2023:** Law became effective Jan 3, 2023
 - Amended the Controlled Substances Act
 - Legalized all drug checking tools: FTS & reagent tests
 - Permits third-party distribution
- **14 other states** have similar legislation



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Harm Reduction Discussion

Stigma Survey Shows:

28.4% of respondents indicated that needle exchange/syringe access programs should not be available in Pennsylvania.

22.1% of respondents indicated that fentanyl test strips should not be available in Pennsylvania.

How can we decrease stigma about substance use disorder and harm reduction in Washington County?



Naloxone Administration

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Program Evaluation and Research Unit

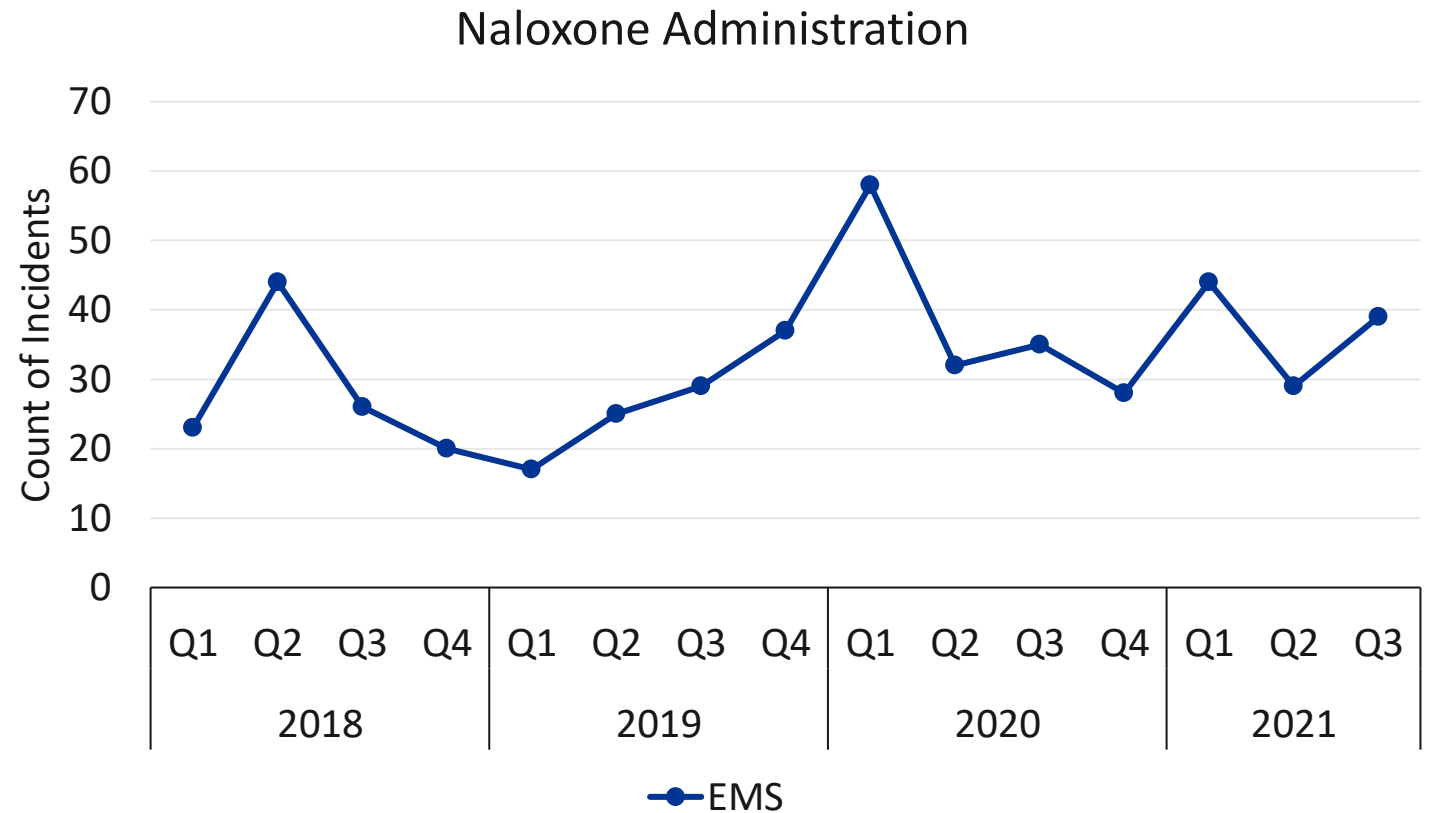


Community Health Initiatives



Naloxone Administration by Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

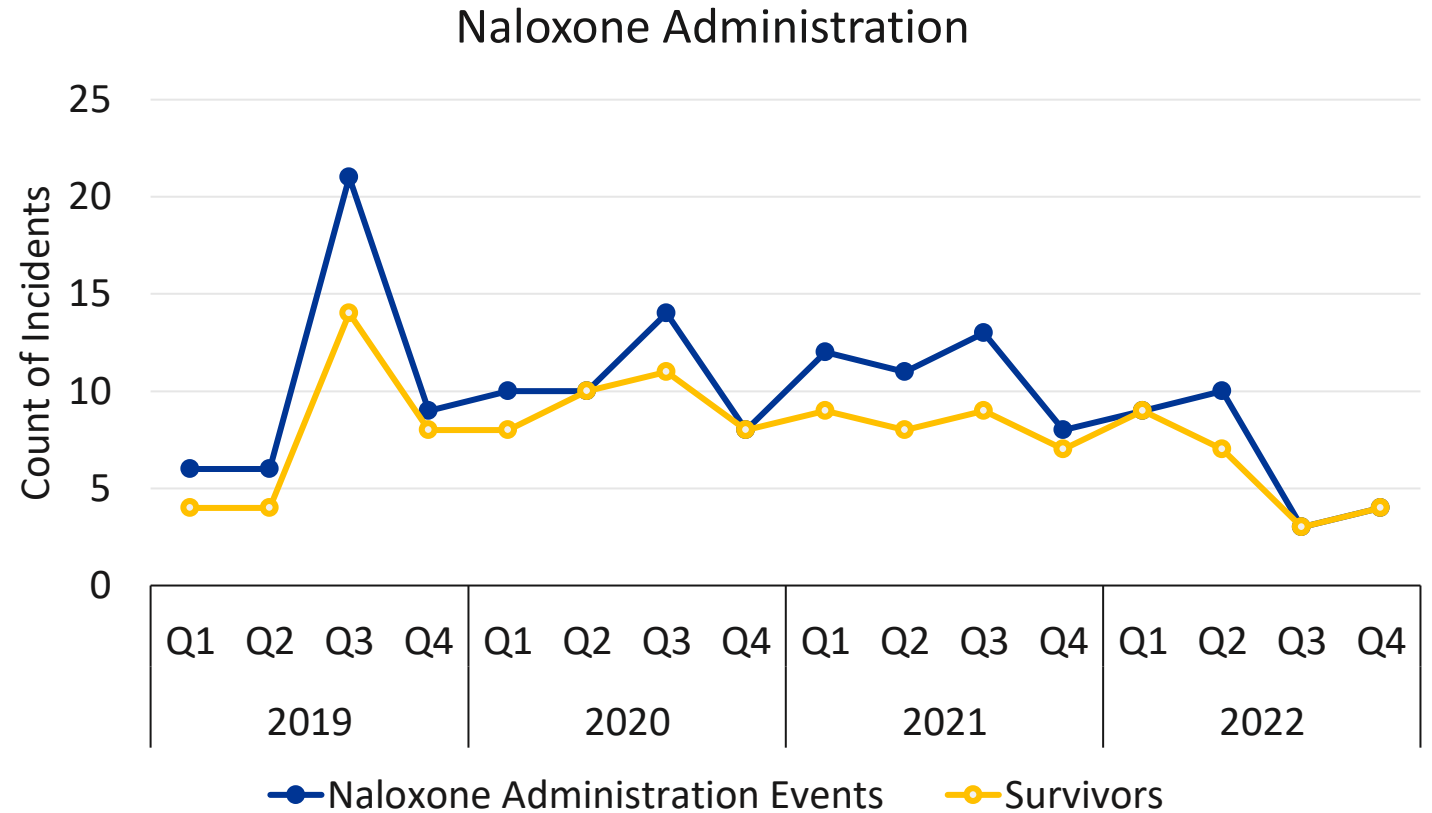
- **487** naloxone **administration** events from 2018 to October 2021
- Includes **all EMS** events



(PA DoH, 2022c)

Naloxone Administration by Law Enforcement

- **154 naloxone administration** events from 2018 thru 2022
- Includes voluntary Law Enforcement reporting*
- **80% (123)** of patients who were administered naloxone **survived**



*LE reporting is voluntary and therefore may not reflect all administration events

(ODIN, 2023)



Naloxone Administration by Law Enforcement

Agency Name	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Pennsylvania State Police	14	13	15	6	48
North Strabane Township Police	3	3	5	5	16
Cecil Township Police	5	3	4	2	14
Peters Township Police	3	5	3	3	14
McDonald Borough Police	1	6	3	3	13
California Borough Police	4	4	2	1	11
Chartiers Township Police		3	4		7
Smith Township Police	2	1	2		5
South Strabane Police		1	1	3	5
Canonsburg Borough Police	3		1	1	5
Monongahela City Police	3		2		5
Charleoi Regional Police Department	3	1			4
California University Campus Police	1		2		3
City of Washington Police				2	2
Donora Borough Police		2			2
Total	42	42	44	26	154

(ODIN, 2023)

*LE reporting is voluntary and therefore may not reflect all administration events



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WDAC Naloxone Distribution

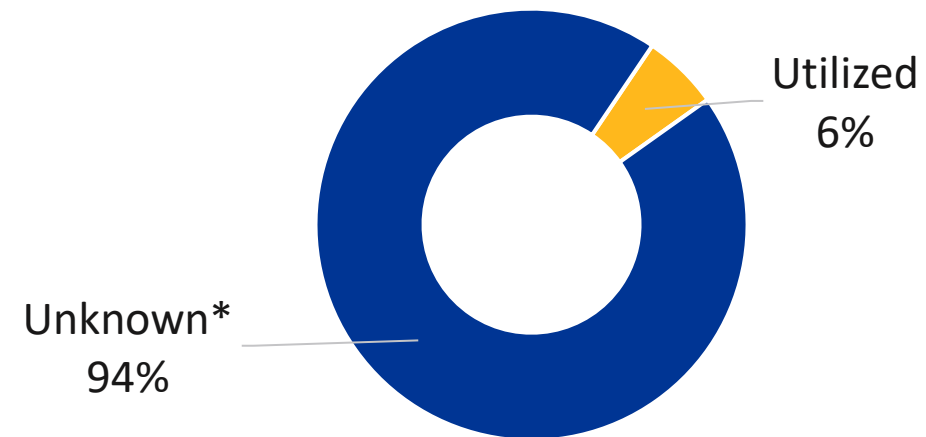


WDAC Naloxone Kit Distribution



- **7,265** naloxone kits distributed from 2015 to 2021
- **1,228** kits distributed since Nov 2021
- **316** kits mailed
- **93** Naloxone cabinets given out

Naloxone Dose Utilization (N=6,373)



*Dose utilization reporting is not required, only those utilization reports received by WDAC are reflected here
(WDAC, 2022c)



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Naloxone Discussion

Stigma Survey Shows:

11.9% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the statement, **“I would willingly administer naloxone (Narcan) to someone who has overdosed.”**

24.7% of respondents of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the statement, **“Increasing the use of naloxone (Narcan) just gives people with a substance use disorder an excuse to continue using.”**

How can we better connect with individuals who feel this way about naloxone?



Questions & Discussion



Our Vision:

To eliminate opioid overdose, stigma associated with OUD, and to ensure every patient with OUD has access to and support throughout treatment and recovery.



If you are interested in joining the coalition, please reach out to express interest.

Kiandra Foster (K.Foster@Pitt.edu) or Rachel Carpenter (RCarpenter@Pitt.edu)



Data Sources

Overdose Death Data

Pennsylvania Department of Health. 2022a. Washington County quarterly overdose death report. Retrieved via electronic communication from Craig Costigan, MPA.

Washington County Demographic Data

U.S. Census Bureau. 2020. American community survey 5-year estimates, 2020. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>.

Emergency Department Admissions

Pennsylvania Department of Health. 2022b. Quarterly report on overdose-related emergency department visits for Washington County residents. Retrieved from <https://data.pa.gov/Opioid-Related/Chart-Emergency-Department-ED-Visits-for-Overdose-/ujcy-vv2b>

Law Enforcement Naloxone Administration

Overdose Information Network (ODIN). 2022. ODIN reported naloxone doses administered by law enforcement. Retrieved via electronic communication from Julie Koehler.

EMS Naloxone Administration

Pennsylvania Department of Health. 2022c. Emergency medical services (EMS) naloxone dose administered CY 2018 - current quarterly county health. Retrieved from <https://data.pa.gov/Opioid-Related/Emergency-Medical-Services-EMS-Naloxone-Dose-Admin/wst4-3int>.

Washington Ambulance & Chair Data

University of Pittsburgh Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU). 2022. Strategies to coordinate overdose prevention efforts (SCOPE) screening data, Washington Ambulance & Chair. Retrieved via electronic communication from Lara Konefal-Shaer, MS.

Vivitrol Plus Program

Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission (WDAC). 2022a. Washington vivitrol plus program data. Retrieved via electronic communication from WDAC.

Treatment Referrals

Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission (WDAC). 2022b. Treatment assessment and referral data. Retrieved via electronic communication from WDAC.

Naloxone Distribution

Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission (WDAC). 2022c. Naloxone kit distribution data. Retrieved via electronic communication from WDAC.

COMMIT GPRA

University of Pittsburgh Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU). 2021. Commonwealth opioid medical MAT integration & training (COMMIT) program data, Washington County. Retrieved via electronic communication from Alli Clevenger, MPH.



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