



# Director's Report

Patrick Dowd

Acting Director, Allegheny County Health Department

## Board of Health Meeting

July 12, 2023





## Today's Agenda

- Director's report
- Medical director's report
- Overdose prevention update



## Director's Report

- Environmental Health
  - Virtual plumbing inspections going well, up to nearly 10 percent of inspections
  - Air Quality's permitting section continues to finalize development of online permitting portal (Regulated Entities Portal). Residents should have access by the end of the year
  - Air Quality's monitoring section relocated the Avalon monitor a few hundred yards from the old location and is preparing to relocate the Lawrenceville monitor to Fulton Street
  - Air Quality's enforcement section has worked to reduce the amount of unpaid or overdue invoices from \$113,624.59 to \$9,2670.



## Director's Report

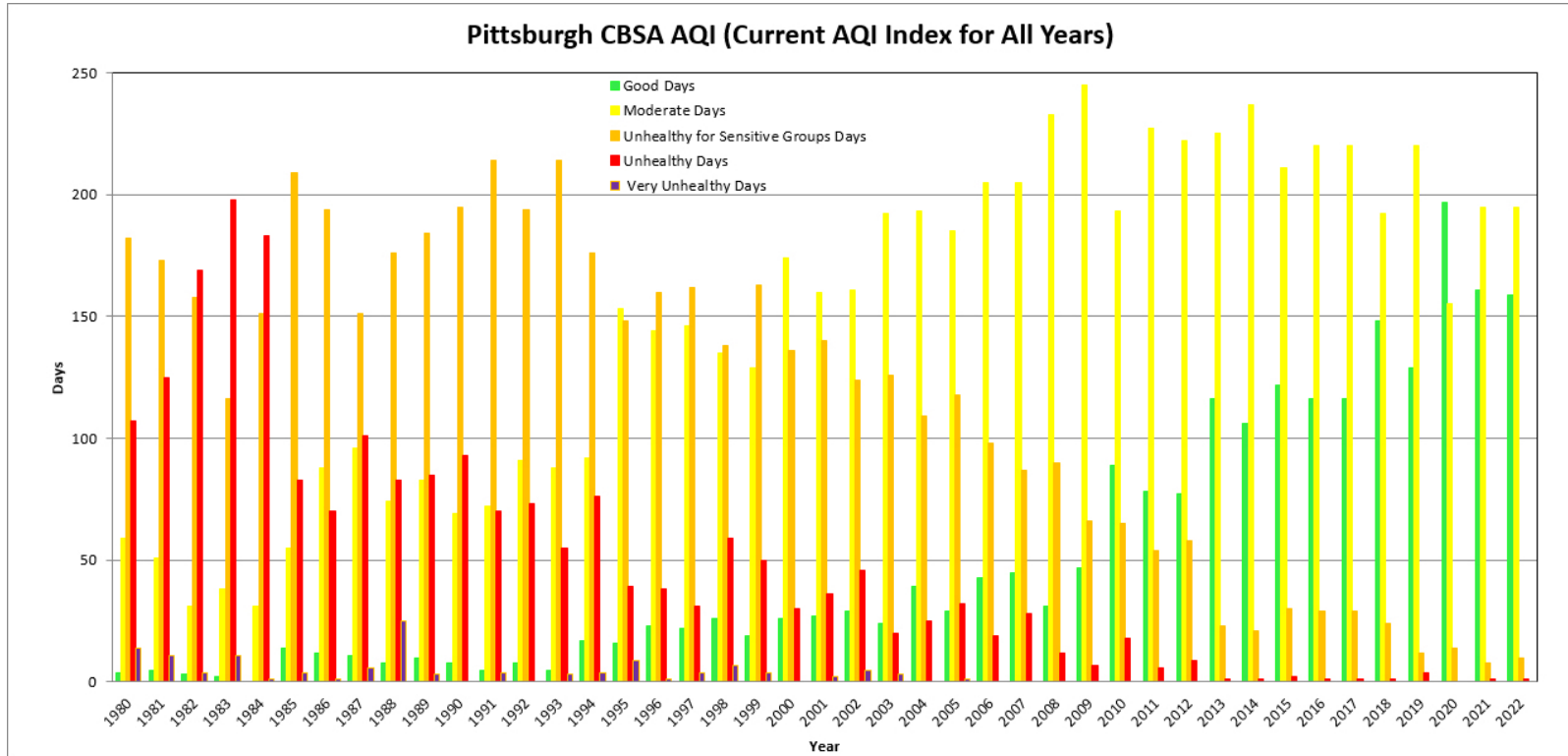
- Administration
- The budgeting process is wrapping up for 2024
- Submitted nine new grant applications over the last 3 months. Total grant applications totaling \$29 million with spending periods ranging from 3-5 years.
- Moving multiple programs from the Clack campus in Lawrenceville to Fulton Street, as well as relocating current programs into revamped spaces in their current leased facilities
- Public Health Laboratory
  - Work is underway in collaboration with County IT in developing process flows and specifications to identify and develop a new laboratory information system



## Canadian wildfire smoke

- Two periods of Canadian wildfire smoke blanketed Allegheny County in June 2023
- On June 29, the AQI for  $PM_{2.5}$  peaked at 212 at our Parkway East monitoring station
- This is the highest rolling AQI for  $PM_{2.5}$  recorded in Allegheny County
- An AQI of 212 falls in the “very unhealthy” range (Note:  $PM_{2.5}$  was not regulated until 1997 and AQI was not implemented until 1999, so that is how far data goes back)
- The highest AQI for  $PM_{2.5}$  recorded in the county until the recent Canadian wildfire event was about 175 and occurred in 2003
- ACHD kept residents apprised on changing air quality conditions and provided information on how they could remain healthy

# Air Quality Over the Years





## Environmental Health: Plan for Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027

- Overarching goal: More people live in safe and resilient communities
- Air quality improvement
  - Reduce the annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration by at least 12% (from 9.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2021 to 8.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2027, on a countywide average basis)
  - Reduce the number of days per year when sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) exceeds an AQI of 50 (from 36 in 2021 to 26 in 2027)
- Communities prepared to adapt to changes generated from climate change
- Housing stability and quality
- Violence reduction







# Medical Director's Report

Barbara Nightingale, MD

Deputy Director for Clinical Services

July 12, 2023





# Outline

- Mpox
- Syphilis
- Rabies/Animal Bites
- West Nile Virus
- COVID-19
- Air Quality Alerts/Canadian Wildfire Smoke



# Mpox

- Background
  - Virus mostly spread by intimate contact with mild symptoms, but can be severe
  - Antiviral treatment and vaccine available
- Impact in Allegheny County
  - Mpox first detected in Allegheny County in June 2022 (no cases since December 2022)
  - Concern for possible resurgence in summer 2023
- Steps residents can take
  - Learn about mpox symptoms and steps to prevent infection<sup>1</sup>
  - Get vaccinated, if high risk
- ACHD's role
  - Testing and vaccination at clinics
  - Investigation of all cases
  - Health care provider coordination, guidance and recommendations



# Syphilis

- Background
  - Treatable bacterial infection spread through sex or from mother to baby
  - Can cause severe disease if untreated or in babies (congenital syphilis)
- Impact in Allegheny County
  - 2022 - PA had highest early and congenital syphilis cases since 1990 (rise in reproductive age females)
  - 2021 - Allegheny County had 328 early syphilis cases (infection < 1 year)
- Steps residents can take
  - Learn about syphilis symptoms, risk of infection, and steps to prevent infection<sup>1</sup>
  - Talk to health care provider about testing (pregnant or people at risk for other STIs)
- ACHD's role
  - Testing and treatment at STI/HIV clinic
  - Investigation of all cases
  - Health care provider guidance and recommendations



# Rabies and Animal Bites

- Background
  - Fatal, but preventable, viral disease spread to people and pets if bitten/scratched by rabid animal
  - Mostly from wild animals like bats, raccoons, skunks and foxes
- Impact in Allegheny County
  - 1-2 human rabies cases per year in U.S. (no cases in Pennsylvania since 1984)
  - 2,258 animal bite reports in 2021
- Steps residents can take
  - Learn more about rabies<sup>1</sup>
- ACHD's role
  - Investigation of all reported animal bites
  - Rabies testing at Public Health Laboratory
  - Rabies baiting
  - Education and recommendations for residents and health care providers following possible exposure



# West Nile Virus

- Background
  - Leading mosquito-borne disease in U.S. and Pennsylvania
  - Mostly causes no symptoms, but can cause severe disease
  - Usually occurs July to Sept
- Impact in Allegheny County
  - First positive mosquitos of 2023 in PA were identified in May during routine monitoring
  - Three West Nile Virus cases in Allegheny County in 2021, one case in 2022
- Steps residents can take
  - Learn more about West Nile Virus<sup>1</sup>
  - Eliminate and treat mosquito breeding sites
- ACHD's role
  - Investigation of all cases
  - Treatment of stormwater basins to prevent mosquito breeding



# COVID-19

- Background
  - Caused by contagious respiratory virus (SARS-CoV-2) with minor symptoms, but can be severe
  - Antiviral treatment and vaccine available
- Impact in Allegheny County
  - 370 deaths in PA in past three months due to COVID-19
  - Bivalent booster rate disparities in Allegheny County - White 21.4%, Black 13.4% (17% entire US)
- Steps residents can take
  - Stay up to date with COVID-19 recommendations<sup>1</sup>
  - Get a booster shot, if eligible
- ACHD's role
  - Vaccination at clinics
  - Testing at Public Health Laboratory
  - Investigation of cases in 65 years and older
  - Skilled nursing facility guidance, education and recommendations
  - CDC's Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) grant

# Canadian Wildfire Smoke/Air Quality Alerts

- Background
  - Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is the main component of concern from wildfire smoke
  - PM2.5 exposure can cause serious lung and heart effects
- Impact in Allegheny County
  - PA Health Alert Network released an air quality alert related to wildfires in Canada on June 7
  - Allegheny County reported two days of “unhealthy”/”very unhealthy” Air Quality Index (AQI) and five days of “unhealthy for sensitive groups” in June
  - AQI peaked at 212 at ACHD’s Parkway East monitoring station (highest rolling AQI for PM2.5 ever recorded in Allegheny County since AQI was implemented in 1999)
- Steps residents can take
  - Learn about the AQI and how to reduce exposure<sup>1</sup>
- ACHD’s role
  - Air quality monitors
  - Air quality alerts



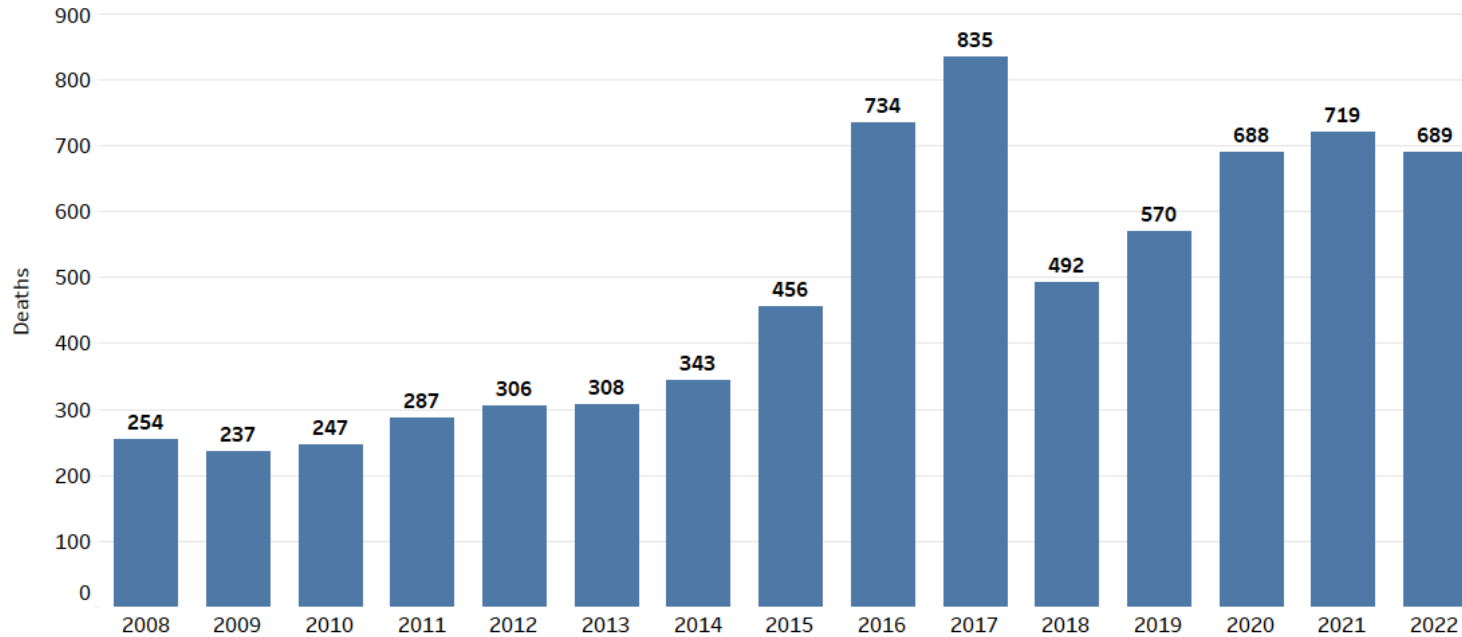


# Overdose Prevention Program Update

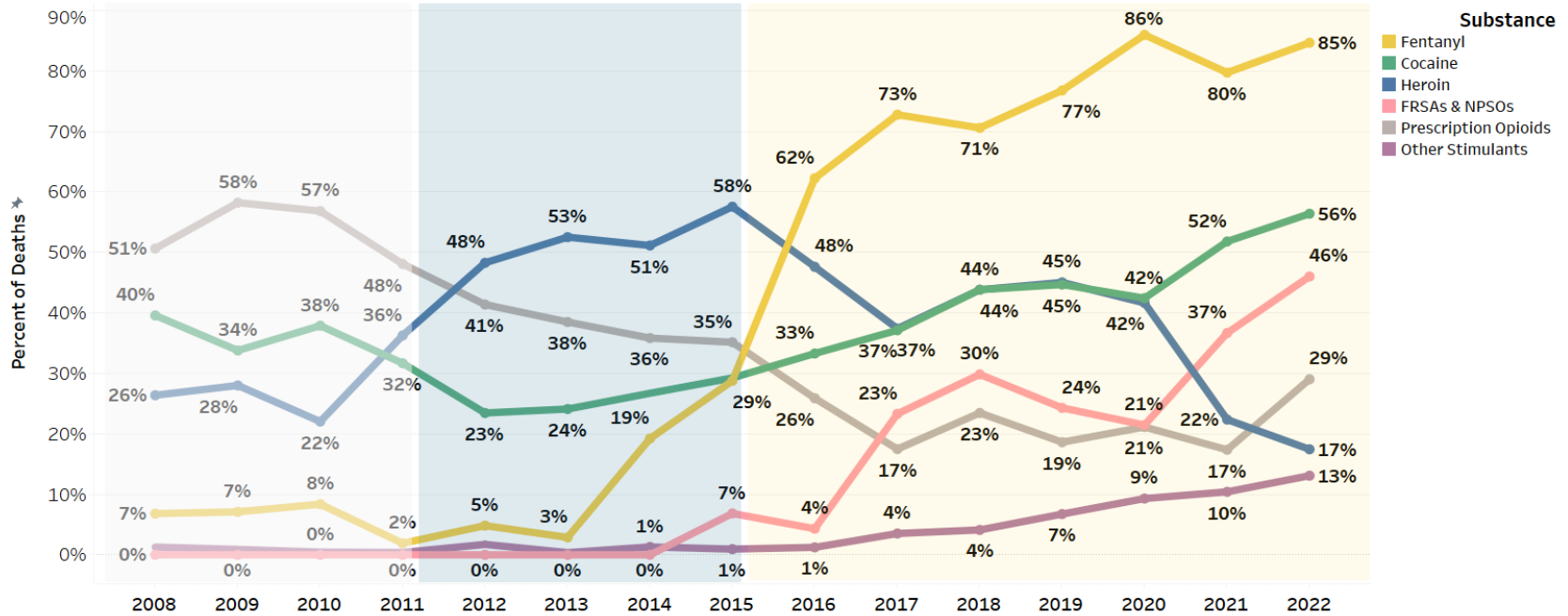
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## 2008-2022 Overdose Deaths



# 2008 - 2022 Overdose Death Substance Trends

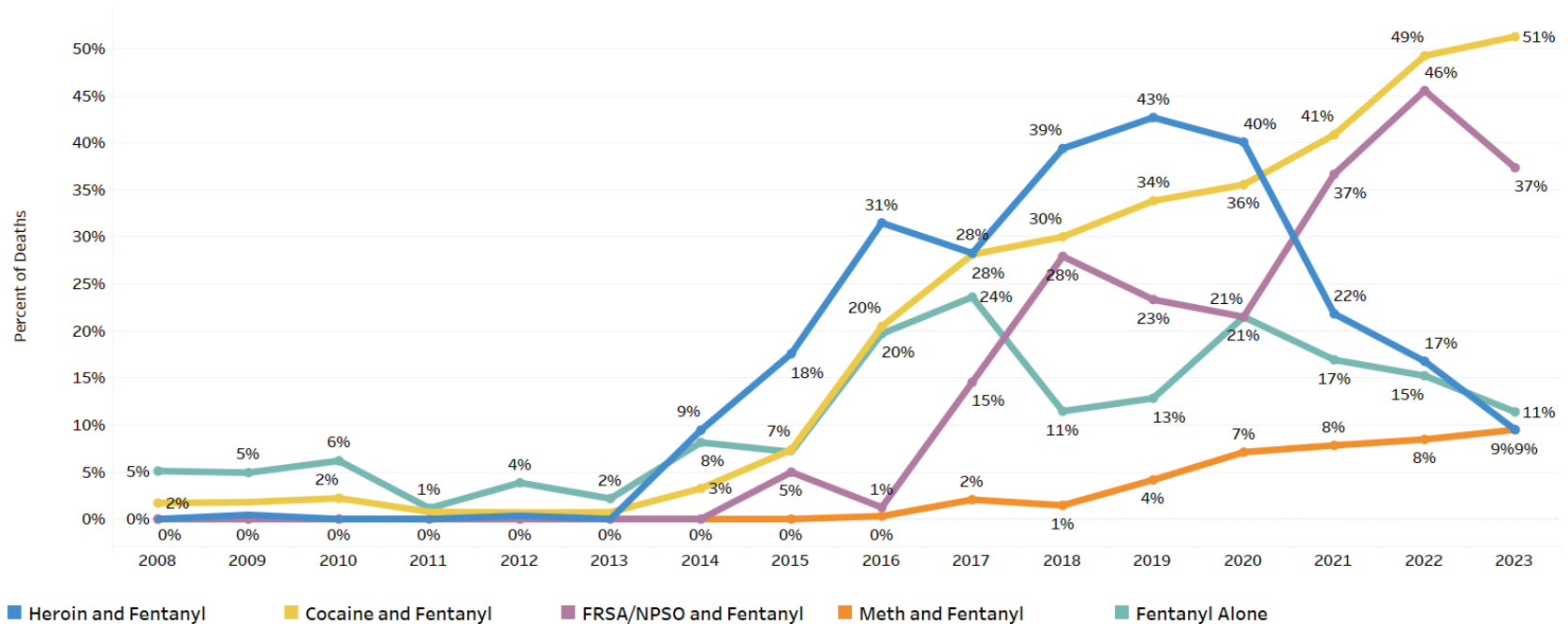


## Current Trends in Illicit Drug Supply

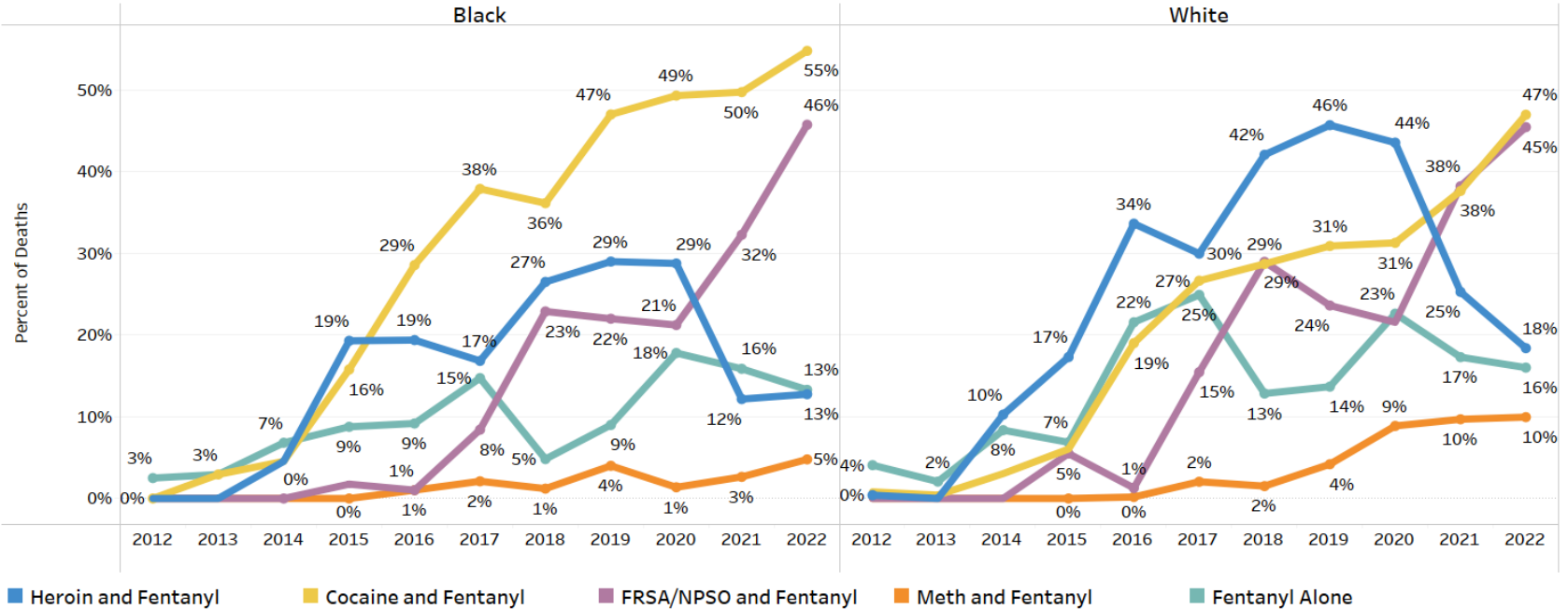
- Fentanyl is still the primary driver of the overdose epidemic
  - Most common analogues: acetyl fentanyl, para-fluorofentanyl and furanyl fentanyl
- Emerging threat of Xylazine
  - A study in Philadelphia in 2021 showed 90 percent of opioid samples contained Xylazine
  - The ACHD has begun distribution of Xylazine test strips



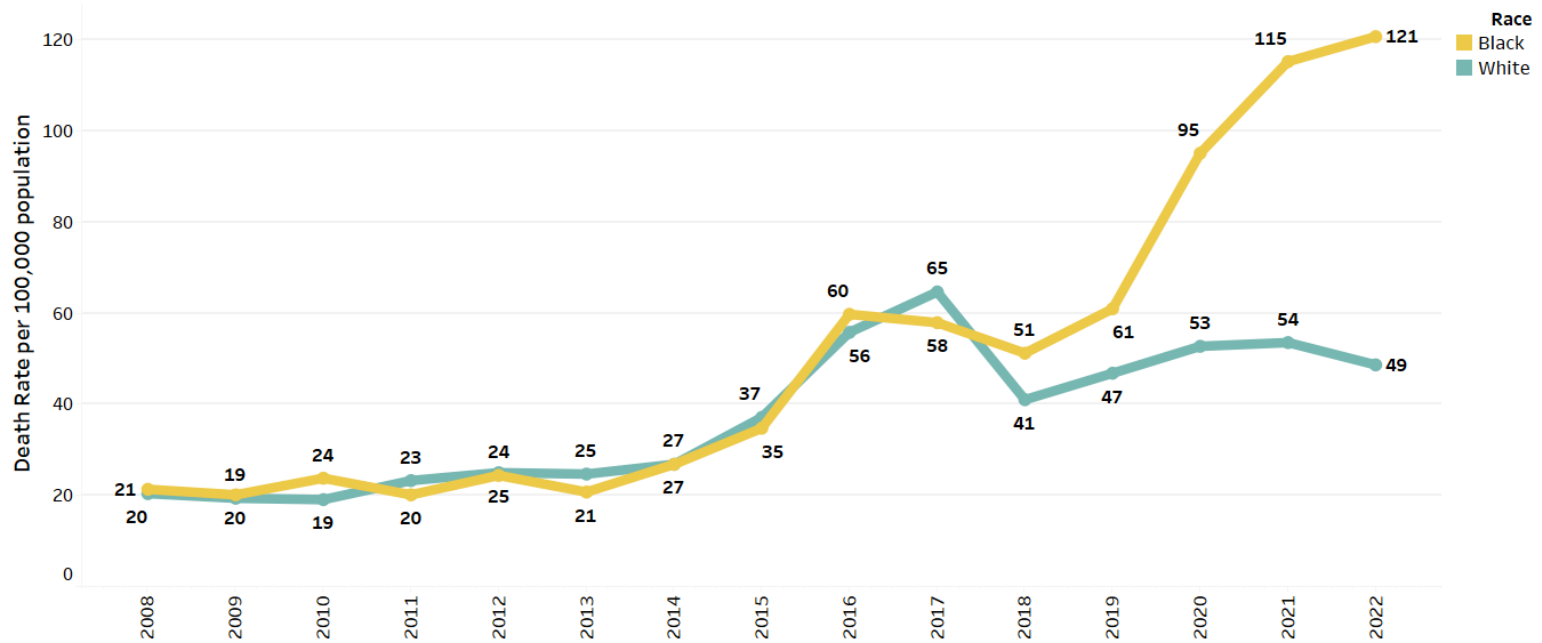
# 2008-2022 Drug Combinations in Overdose Deaths



# 2008-2022 Drug Combinations in Overdose Deaths by Race



## 2008-2022 Overdose Rate Trends





# Overdose Deaths (2022)

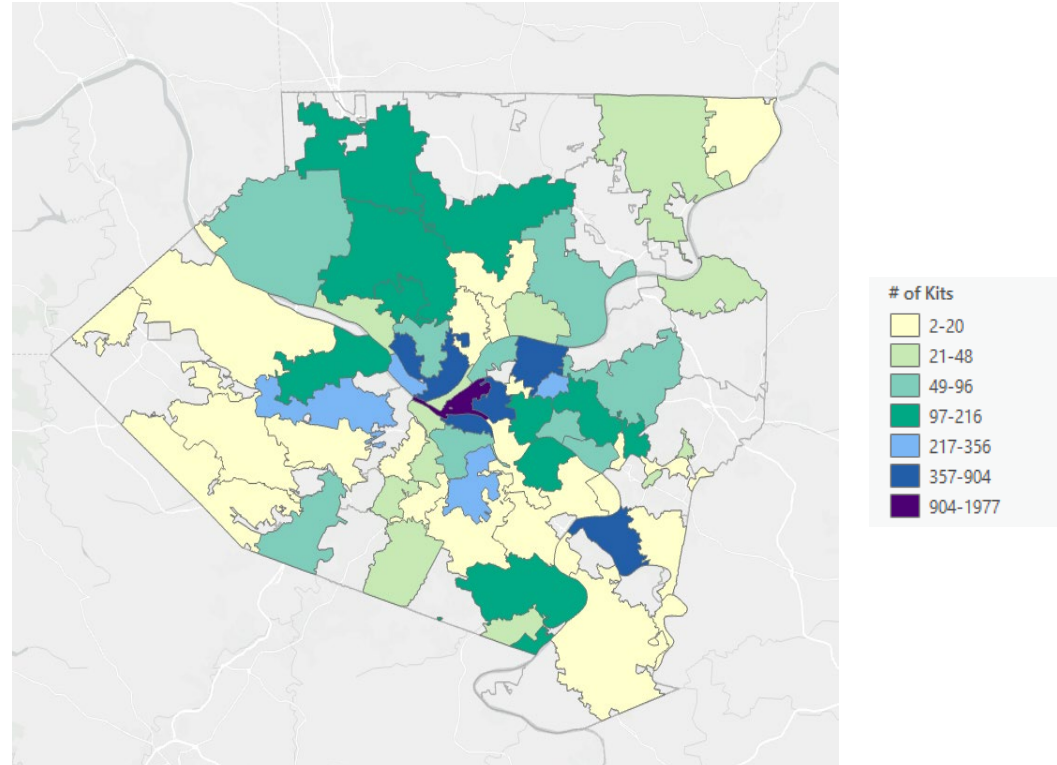
Allegheny County Municipalities	
Overdose Deaths	Overdose Death Rate (per 1,000)
Pittsburgh - 233	Pittsburgh (per 10,000) 7.8
McKeesport - 33	Wall - 3.45
Penn Hills - 24	McKees Rocks - 2.79
Monroeville - 14	East Pittsburgh - 2.74
West Mifflin - 11	Wilmerding - 2.74
Duquesne - 10	Mount Oliver - 2.64
Stowe - 9	Sharpsburg - 2.32
Mount Oliver - 9	Braddock - 2.32
Sharpsburg - 8	Versailles - 1.98
Kennedy - 8	West Elizabeth - 1.93

Pittsburgh Neighborhoods	
Overdose Deaths	Overdose Death Rate (per 1,000)
Downtown - 14	North Shore - 6.6
Carrick - 13	West End - 3.94
Beechview - 11	Downtown - 3.86
Marshall-Shadeland - 10	Middle Hill - 3.51
Brookline - 10	Bedford Dwellings - 3.33
Sheraden - 9	Esplen - 3.32
Mount Washington - 8	Homewood South - 2.99
Perry South - 7	Manchester - 2.82
Homewood South - 7	Arlington - 2.68
Bloomfield - 7	California Kirkbride - 2.63



## Naloxone distribution (2022)

- Naloxone distributed to 264 different organizations
- 13,991 kits distributed
  - More than 65% distributed to target areas identified by hot-spot analysis
  - 6,118 to treatment/recovery and harm reduction organizations
  - 831 to social service agencies
  - 1,292 to non-traditional first responders, such as schools, churches, small businesses and non-profits
  - 2,293 to traditional first responders

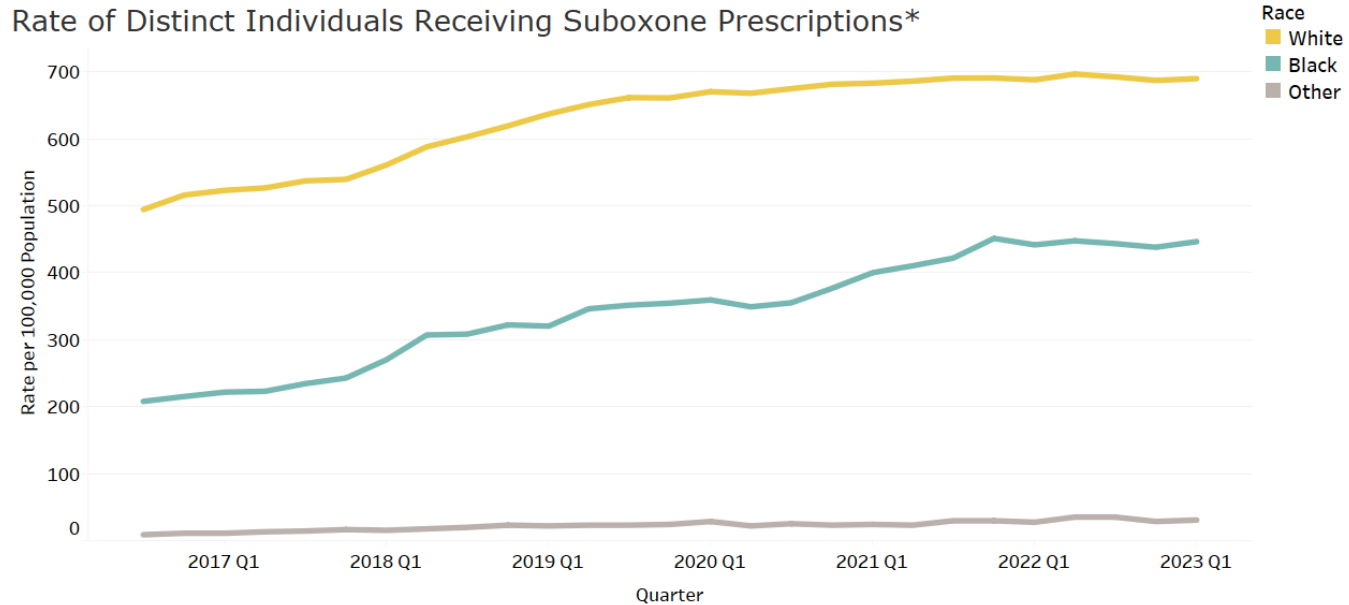


## Naloxone Distribution and Connection to Care

- In 2022, hosted more than 200 trainings/events and distributed almost 14,000 kits of Narcan
- Trained more than 7,092 people to administer Narcan
- Will receive 22,000 kits from PCCD over the next year
- Supported more than 425 referrals for connection to treatment (MOUD) in 2022
- Partners include Team PSBG, Bridge Outreach, HSAO, Squirrel Hill Health Center and others



## 2016-2023 Q1 Suboxone Prescribing



\*Suboxone prescriptions only include those dispensed at a pharmacy



# Recap of Communications Campaign

Allegheny County  
Health Department

“I carry  
naloxone  
because  
overdose  
can happen  
to anyone.”

HARMREDUCTIONALLEGHENY.ORG

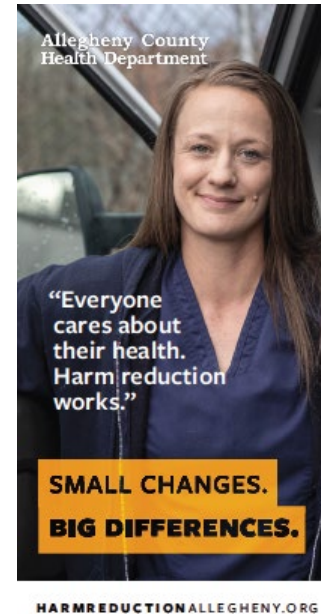


Allegheny County  
Health Department

“Everyone  
cares about  
their health.  
Harm reduction  
works.”

**SMALL CHANGES.  
BIG DIFFERENCES.**

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# Questions?







# Request Permission To Go To Public Comment





# Public Comments

- Commenters will be allowed 3 minutes each to address the Board