

WCHCS Fentanyl Operations Plan Update

Erika Lautenbach, Director
October 1, 2024



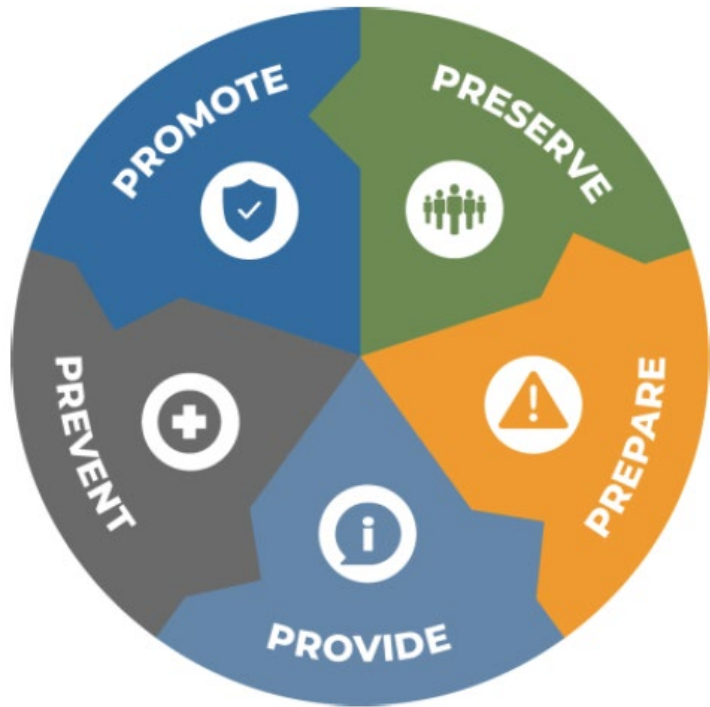
WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



WCHCS Purpose



We serve Whatcom County by advancing equity and partnering with our community to:



- promote health through policy and systems improvement
- prevent disease and injury
- provide accurate and reliable health communication, information and data
- prepare for and respond to emergencies
- preserve a healthy environment where everyone can thrive

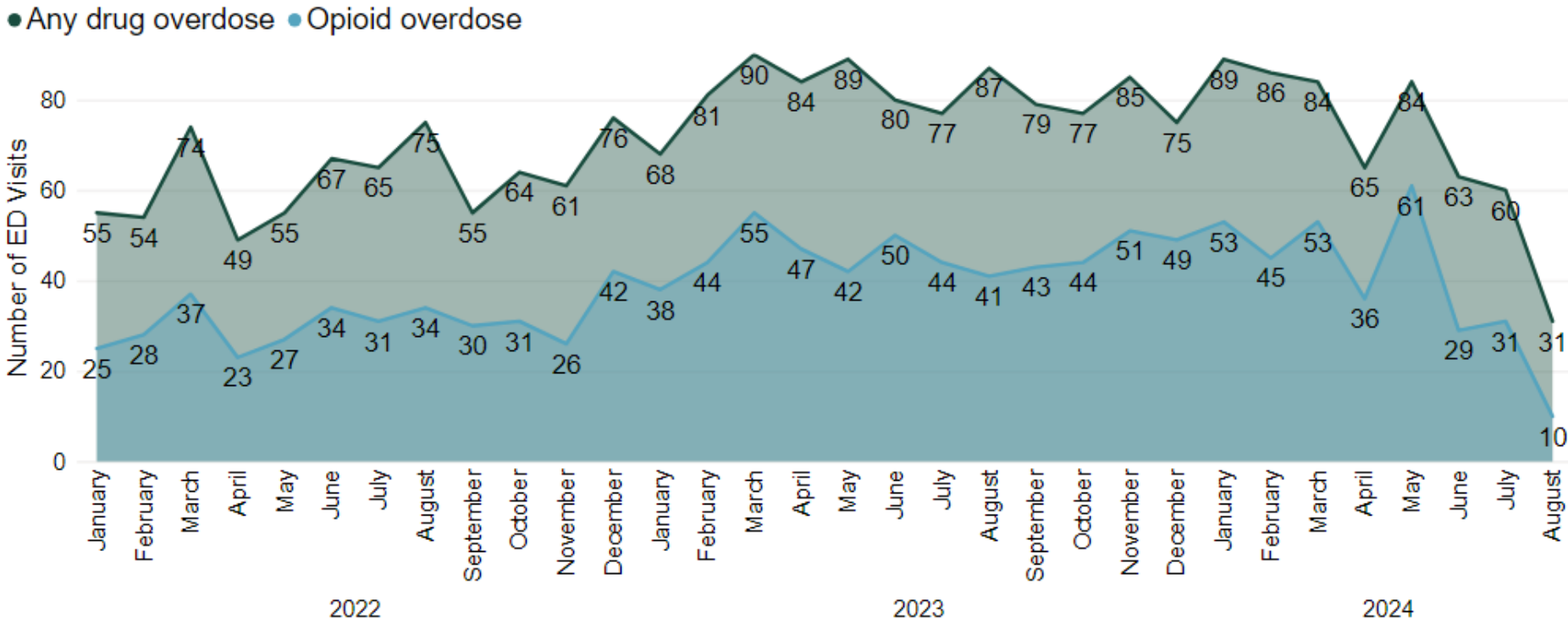
Where are we?



- Emergency Department Overdose Visits
- Reported Deaths (2022-2024)
- Finalized Deaths (2012-2022)
- Overdose deaths - Subpopulations
- Data Notes

Whatcom County Overdose Emergency Department Visits

Number of Emergency Department visits



*Any drug overdose includes opioid overdoses.

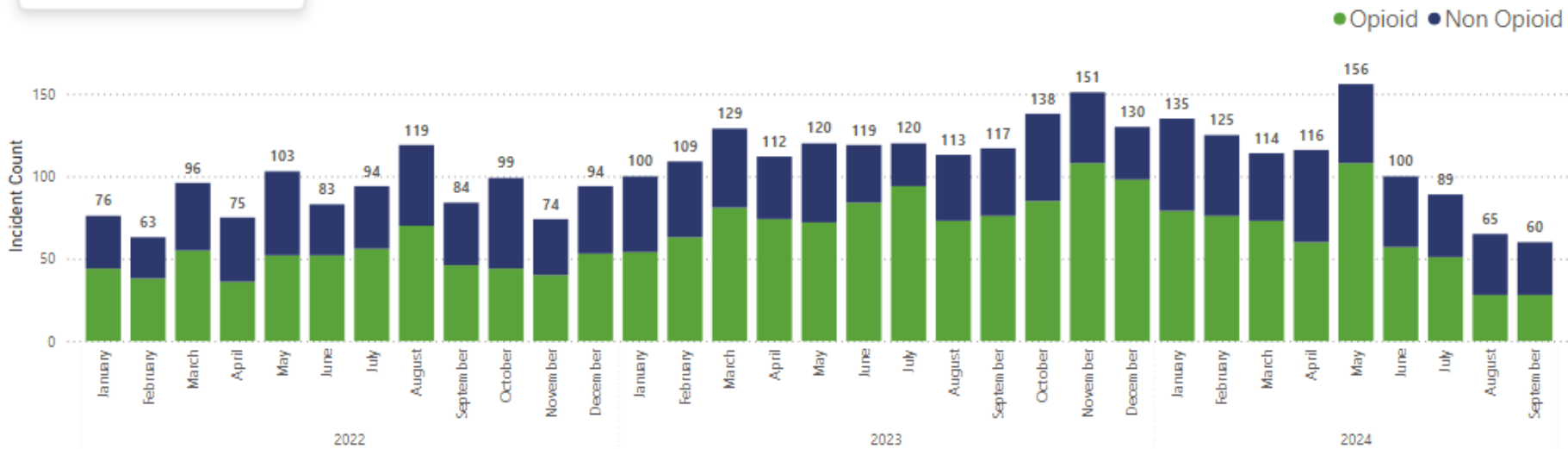
Where are we?



Year	Suspected Opioid	Total Suspected Overdoses	Opioid Incident %
2022	586	1060	55%
2023	962	1458	66%
2024	560	960	58%

EMS Dispatch Calls for Suspected Overdoses by Month
Whatcom County EMS System

Show as a table
⊕ Drill up



Suspected Overdose: Identified by EMS personnel based on vitals/scene indicators. Actual overdoses can only be confirmed by toxicology results performed by a licensed healthcare provider.

Opioid Related: Suspected Overdoses are identified as opioid related based on evidence on scene and/or improvement after Narcan was given.

Data Through:
9/18/2024

Where are we?



Emergency Department
Overdose Visits

Reported Deaths
(2022-2024)

Finalized Deaths
(2012-2022)

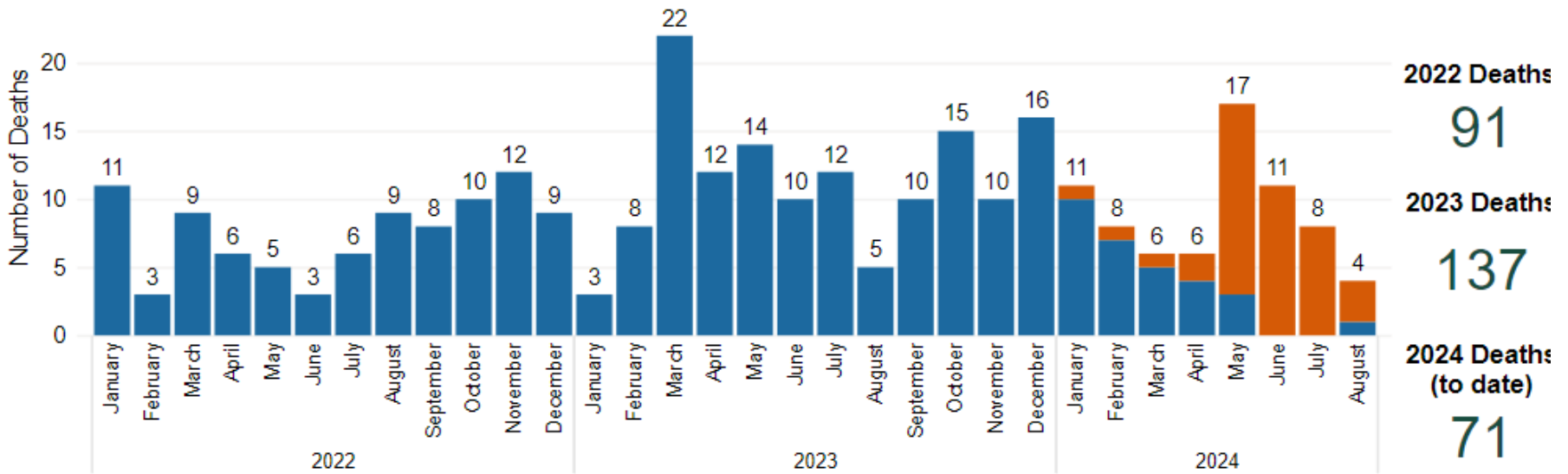
Overdose deaths -
Subpopulations

Data Notes

Whatcom County Overdose-Related Deaths, 2022-2024

Number of overdose-related deaths (all drugs)

Overdose Death Status ● Confirmed ● Probable



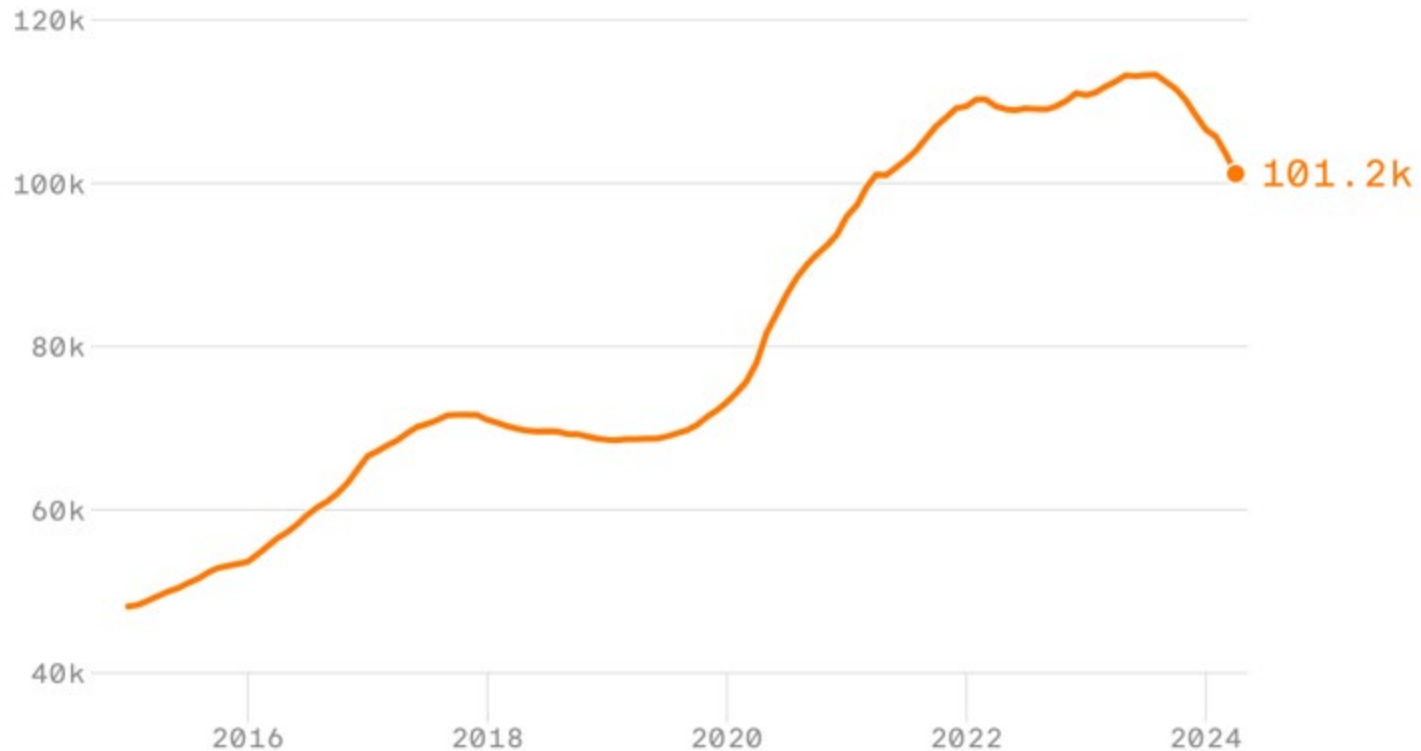
Overdose-related death data for 2022-2023 are provided by the Whatcom County Medical Examiner's Office. These data represent deaths that have occurred in Whatcom County but do not include Whatcom County residents who died outside the county. **Probable** indicates a positive result from a drug screening test during death investigation; laboratory analysis has not yet been completed. **Confirmed** overdose-related deaths have been confirmed by laboratory analysis. These deaths may not have drug overdose listed as the primary, underlying cause of death. **These data are updated monthly.**

Where are we?



Rolling 12-month U.S. drug overdose deaths

Provisional predicted rolling 12-month total; January 2015 to April 2024



Data: CDC Axios Visuals



Fentanyl Operations Plan

WHATCOM COUNTY
HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

PITA Model

PHASE OF CONTINUUM	PURPOSE
PREVENTION	Programs that prevent onset or curtail before regular use occurs, including Universal (targets general population with community-wide strategies), Selective (targets groups at risk or a sub-set of population), and Indicated (targets individuals who are exhibiting early signs of opioid use disorder)
INTERVENTION	Programs that reduce the risk of harm and decrease negative health outcomes associated with opioid use disorder, ranging from early intervention to ongoing support for chronic and sustained opioid use disorder
TREATMENT	Programs that improve social functioning, quality of life, and life expectancy through diagnosis and the use of intentional intervention in the physical health, behavior, and substance use of an individual
AFTERCARE/ RECOVERY	Programs that support stability, recovery, and relapse prevention

Prevention Highlights



- Applied for and was recommended for a nearly \$8M Trueblood Housing grant
- Planning for winter/severe weather shelter
- Installed a healthcare vending machine and four community-based free naloxone kit boxes
- Co-organized and presented to healthcare providers, community on prevention and MOUD; creating opportunities for more field-based initiation of MOUD

Intervention Highlights



- Way Station
- Didgwalic Wellness Center partnership
- LEAD Expansion
- Substance Use Professional at Emergency Department
- Overdose Response Behavioral Health Specialist
- Distributed 5,218 doses of naloxone (so far) in 2024; this doesn't include EMS trainings and distribution

Treatment Highlights



- 23 hour facility is in active planning and fundraising; plan to break ground summer of 2025
- Consultant making recommendations on enhancing and expanding existing health and supports in jail; report will be complete in early 2025
- Consultant making recommendations for improving permanent supportive housing; report will be complete in early 2025

Aftercare/Recovery Highlights



- \$1M in funding for expanded recovery and supported housing
- Recovery Coalition opened a Café/drop in center in September for people to connect and build community*

*This is not county sponsored or operated; these are great community members who saw a need and made the effort to meet it!



Opioid Settlement Funds

WHATCOM COUNTY
HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

Opioid Settlement Funds



- Settlements are ongoing and variable
- Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden and Whatcom County are only jurisdictions large enough to qualify for payments
- Currently funds are reflected in the general fund
- Defined allowable expenses and rigorous reporting requirements

Opioid Settlement Funds - Current



Jurisdiction	Site Totals
*City of Bellingham	\$1,299,145
*City of Ferndale	\$93,487
*City of Lynden	\$119,678
Whatcom County	\$2,007,849
Totals	\$3,520,159

*These numbers are estimates and do not reflect the latest McKinsey settlement distributed on 9/11/24

Settlement Fund Allowable Uses



1. Prevent opioid misuse

Opioid Task Force Top Priorities

- Substance use focus in schools
- Evidence based programs like Strengthening Families, Nurse Family Partnership, etc.
- Pro-social events for youth

Additional Service priorities related to goal 1

- Mental health counseling
- Public education
- Training in youth mental health first aid, resilience and coping, etc.
- Suicide prevention expansion

Settlement Fund Allowable Uses



2. Identify and treat substance use disorder

Opioid Task Force Top Priorities

- SUD treatment
- Medication assisted treatment
- Workforce development
- Suboxone bridge to treatment
- Jail and re-entry assessments
- Navigator/Peer support

Settlement Fund Allowable Uses



3. Ensure and improve the health and wellness of individuals that use drugs

Opioid Task Force Top Priorities

- Naloxone distribution
- EMS response support
- Pregnancy services
- Street medicine program
- Training for physicians, responders, and trauma-informed care for providers

Settlement Fund Allowable Uses



4. Support individuals in recovery

Opioid Task Force Top Priorities

- Recovery housing
- Jail transition support
- School-based services
- Resource directory
- Access to interventions like recovery court or mental health court

Settlement Fund Spending - one-time



Whatcom County Projects	Cost
23 hour crisis facility	\$1,000,000
Priority projects consistent with state opioid plan	\$1,007,849
Totals	\$2,007,849

Priority projects will be presented during the budget process for Council policy discussion and decision-making

Settlement Fund Spending – ongoing



Whatcom County Examples	Cost
*Lock bags	\$20,000
*Supported Employment Services	\$35,000
*+ ^ Whatcom Resource Information Collaborative	\$65,000
*+Communities the Care Prevention Model	\$75,000
*+ ^ Overdose response staff	\$85,000
Totals	\$280,000

*In Fentanyl Operations Plan +Priority of Opioid Task Force ^ Already started/Council approved

There will likely be \$300k-\$350k available per year, tapering at intervals as settlements reach their conclusion



Questions?

WHATCOM COUNTY
HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES