

# Concurrent Session 2: Health Equity in Action

Moderator: Laura Kollar, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Engaging LGBTQIA+ Youth for Community-level Change
  - Speaker: Carissa Miller, Scott County, Indiana
- Data-informed Overdose Prevention Efforts for the Latinx Population
  - Speaker: Wendy Hetherington, Riverside County, California

Engaging LGBTQIA+ Youth  
for Community-level Change

Carissa Miller, LCSW  
Coordinator  
CEASe of Scott County

# Introduction

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Carissa (she/her) received her LCSW certification from the University of Southern California in 2016

- Clinical practice, including SUD treatment since 2016
- CEASE of Scott County leadership since 2018
- SOFR Coordinator since 2022
- NASW Indiana Chapter President-elect

\*All comments in this presentation are the sole perspectives of the presenter and not necessarily the views of organizations with which she is affiliated

# Site Information

- County: Scott
- City, state: Scottsburg and Austin, Indiana
- Year started: 2022
- Estimated number of overdose deaths per year: 18
- Size of jurisdiction: 192.8 square miles, population 24,384 (2020)
- Funding sources: IN CAREs ECHO, Drug Free Communities, LCC, Seek Common Ground

# Recommendation

- The general recommendation identified was to create LGBTQIA+ supports for teens and young adults. At the time the recommendation was identified, we knew we needed more research to specify what that would look like, leading to listening sessions and implementation of the recommendations of those in attendance. GSAs within the school districts, changes to school policies, community support, and identification of LGBTQIA+ supportive resources and businesses were the recommendations.
- When recommendation was identified: December 2022
- When recommendation was implemented: December 2022

# Background

First SOFR year only overdose fatalities were reviewed because of funding

All fatalities are reviewed of residents and incidents within our county

## 2023 Year-end Report Data

50 percent of female decedents identified as LGBTQIA+

12.5 percent of total decedents identified as LGBTQIA+

The state percent of LGBTQIA+ adults is 4.5%

Next-of-kin (NOK) interviews indicated that disclosure of sexual identity was positively correlated with onset of substance use

# Listening Sessions

## “Nothing about us without us”

### Referral Sources

- Schools (counselors/teachers)
- Mental health providers
- Peers

\*We did not publicly advertise for safety reasons

### Space Considerations

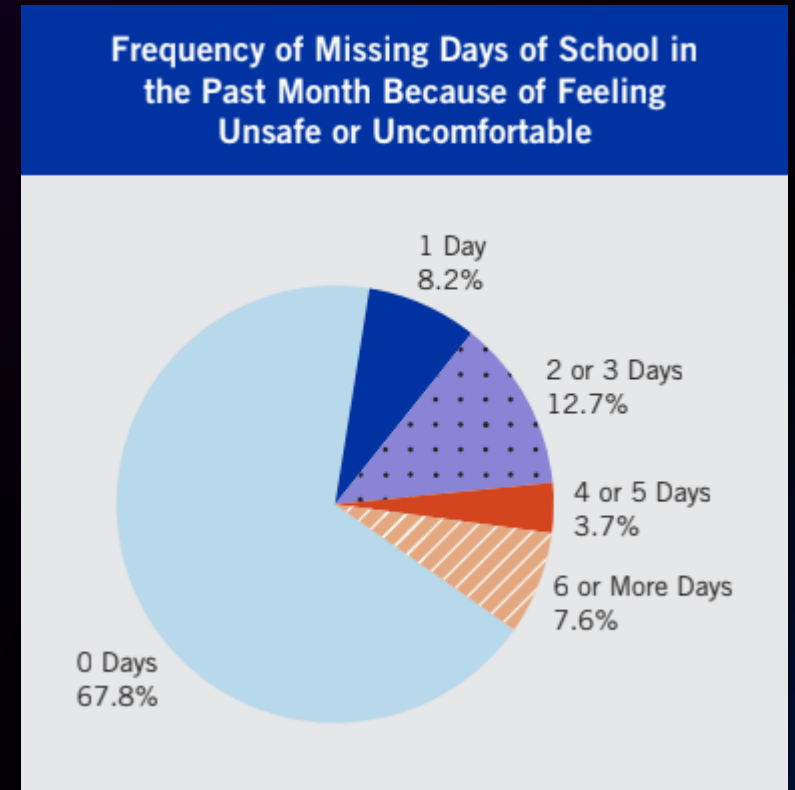
- Established attendee-led safe space expectations
- Held the sessions in a location known to be LGBTQIA+ youth-friendly
- Included openly LGBTQIA+ individuals to co-lead the discussion



# What We Heard

Our attendees identified the same struggles as identified in the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) 2021 National School Climate Survey

- Hearing biased remarks in school
- Feeling unsafe in school
- Chronic absenteeism due to safety reasons
- Experiencing harassment and assault in school
- Experiencing discriminatory practices and policies at school



Source: GLSEN 2021 National School Climate Survey

# Community Spread

Source: Wave3, *Lesbian married couple says street preacher harassed them for weeks*

"I love being in homosexual's pictures," the man said in one of his videos while someone apparently was taking a picture of him out of frame. "Okay kids, avert your eyes! Sexual perverts at work," he continued.

Source: Rainbow After the Storm Facebook post comments from local business owner with a business focus on youth

Courage RC is a faith-based program that looks at this societal discussion and social conversation in a way that doesn't judge either those for or against the idea of LGBTQIA+ Pride. I would hope and greatly appreciate it if Rainbow After the Storm might be willing to consider its position on same-sex attraction. If you would like to know more about that, please go to a search engine and look for them

Quote from a trans woman: "I can't find a primary care in this county to treat me. They all say they don't know how to deal with 'those issues.' I get a cold like anyone else."

Source: [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov)

2023 Legislative Session:

HEA 1608 – Schools must disclose sexual identity to parents

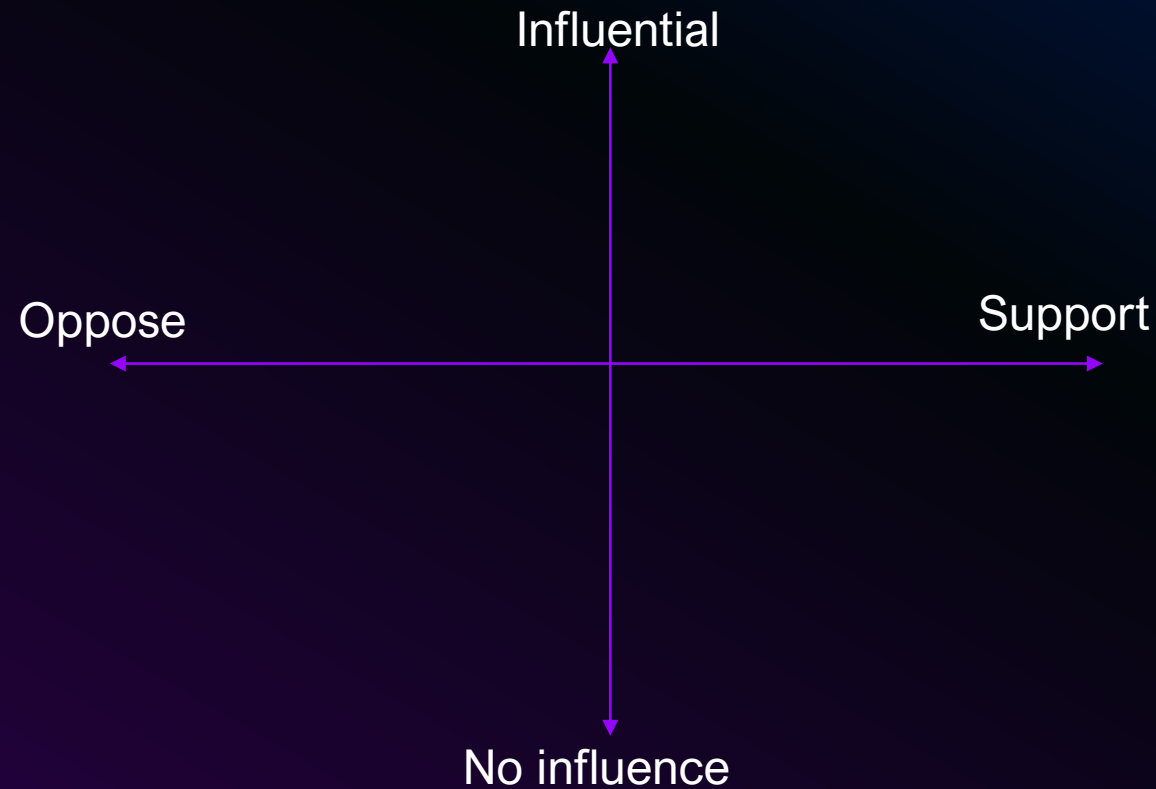
SEA 480 – Ban on gender-affirming care



# GLSEN Report Recommendations

- GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliances) or similar clubs
- LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in curriculums
- Supportive school staff
- Supportive and inclusive school policies
  - Anti-bullying policies
  - Harassment policies
  - Transgender and nonbinary student policies
    - Restrooms
    - Pronouns
    - Name preference

# Power Mapping: Identifying Champions



Learn more about power mapping on [The Commons Social Change Library](#)

# Outcomes



GSA in both school districts



Rainbow After the Storm group  
Teens and young adults



School policies  
changed for preferred  
name, restroom use for  
transgender and  
nonbinary students

Love Notes Camp



Connections to LGBTQIA+-inclusive  
resources, faith organizations, and  
community businesses at Pride

Ally Tips  
social media  
campaign



# Sources

- GLSEN: <https://www.glsen.org/research/reports-and-briefs>
- Rainbow After the Storm social media pages
- The Commons Social Change Library: <https://commonslibrary.org/guide-power-mapping-and-analysis/>
- Indiana General Assembly: [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov)
- <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=18#density>
- *Wave3, Lesbian married couple says street preacher harassed them for weeks*


# Thank you

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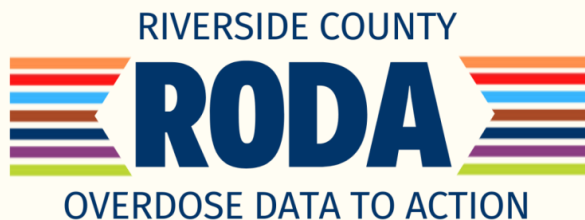
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# **Data-informed Overdose Prevention Efforts** *for the Latinx Population*

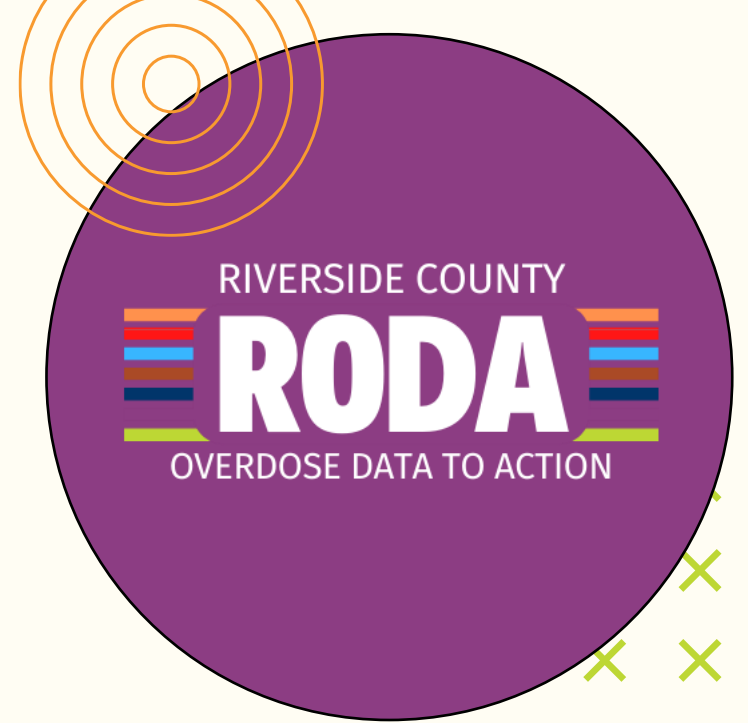


Wendy Hetherington, MPH, Principal Investigator



# About Us

- Riverside County
- Riverside, California
- 2.5 million residents
- 10th largest county in the nation
- Home to Palm Springs, California



# ABOUT

## *Riverside Overdose Data to Action (RODA)*

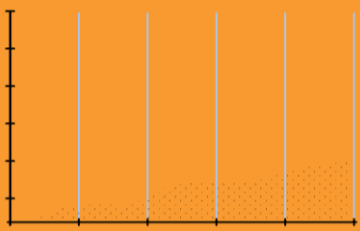
- Established in 2019 through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
- Sharp increase in overdose fatalities; trends depicted a 10-year increase in overdose deaths, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations

### **DEMONSTRATED A NEED FOR RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO**

- Enhance the surveillance of overdose morbidity and mortality in Riverside County
- Use data to guide overdose prevention efforts
- Create more responsive and collaborative prevention efforts to address the upstream causes of substance use disorders and overdose

SCAN FOR RODA WEBSITE






**Overdose  
Surveillance  
Infrastructure**



**Harm  
Reduction**



**Linkages to  
and  
Retention in  
Care**



**Clinician and  
Health  
System Best  
Practices**



**Stigma  
Reduction**

# **RODA** *Strategies*

# ACTIVITIES

- Case Management Services - Public Health Nursing/Healthy Families America
- Peer Recovery Support - Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance
- Hospital Peer Navigation – Riverside University Health System (RUHS) Behavioral Health
- School Training - RUHS Injury Prevention Services
- Academic Detailing - Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- Outbreak Protocol - RUHS Public Health, Riverside County Sheriff, Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Surveillance Reports - RUHS Public Health, Riverside County Sheriff, EMS

# RIVCO

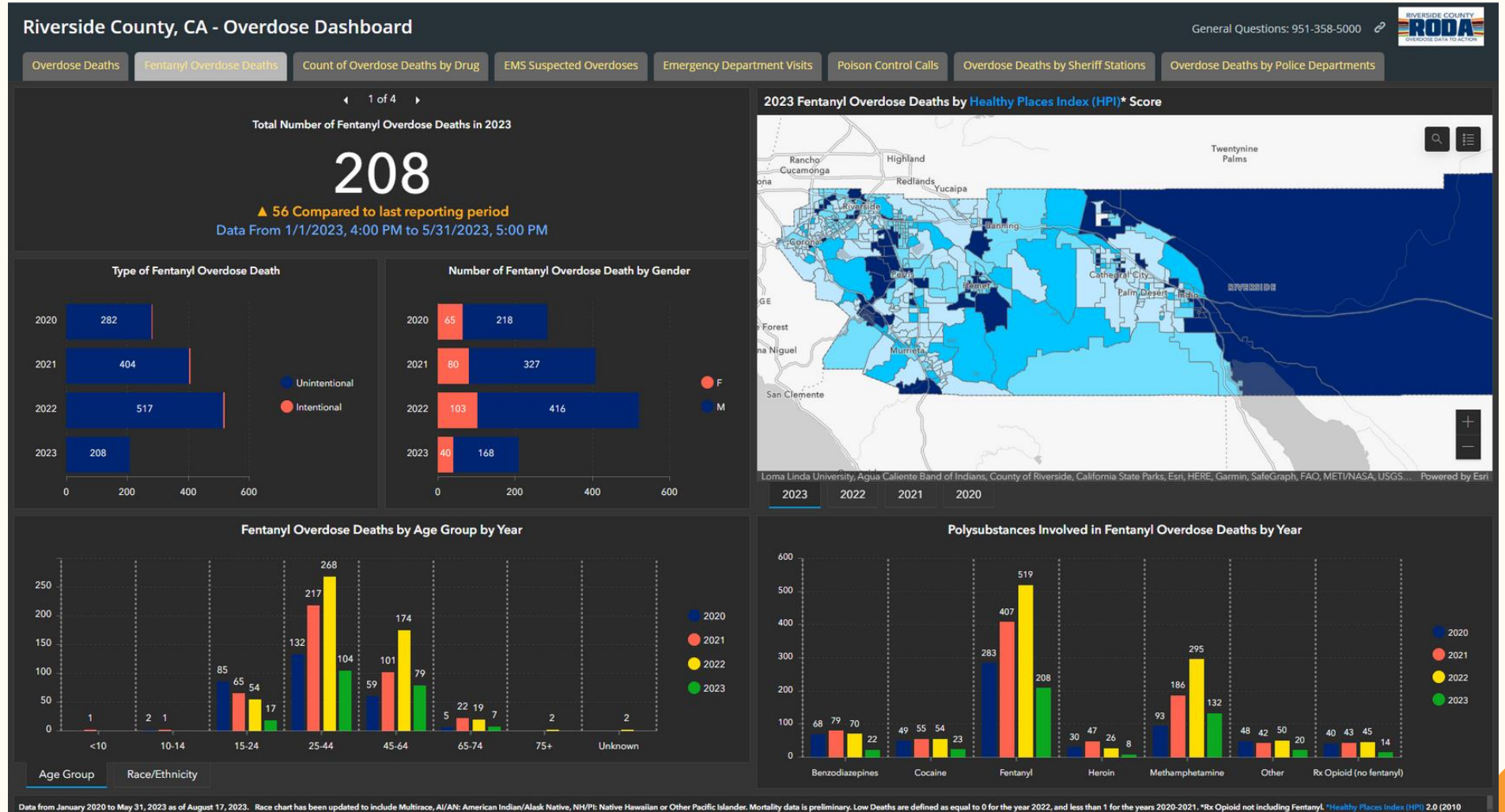
## Overdose Data Dashboard

OVERDOSE DEATHS

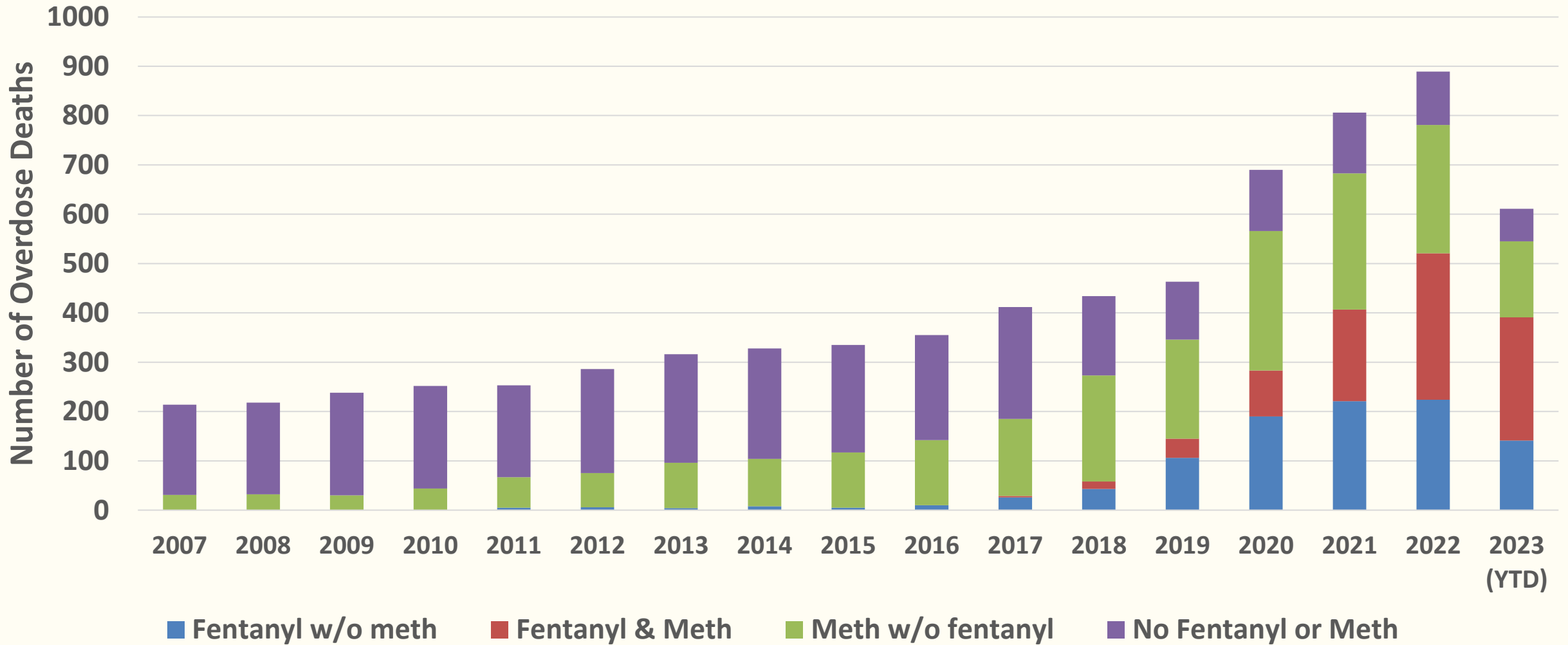
EMS SUSPECTED OVERDOSES

POISON CONTROL

SCAN FOR DASHBOARD



# WHERE ARE WE NOW?



**FENTANYL AND/OR METHAMPHETAMINE ACCOUNT FOR  
~90% OF OVERDOSE DEATHS**



# OFR

## *Recommendation*

- Decrease overdose fatalities among the Latinx/Spanish-speaking population

## *Identified*

- Late 2022

## *Implemented*

- Late 2022 up to August 2023

# Data-informed

## *OFR Meetings*

- Monthly meetings
- Pre-identified focus area
  - Informed through monthly surveillance data trends
- During each OFR meeting
  - Data trends are presented and utilized to facilitate discussions

## Previous Focus Areas

- African-American/Black women
- In-custody deaths
- Youth (<18)
- Injected drug use
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Benzodiazepine use
- Young adults (15–24)
- Older adults (>65)
- Methamphetamine use
- Methamphetamine and fentanyl use
- LGBTQ+ community
- Multiple ODs at the same location
- Previous OD



# Overdose Death Trends

	2020	2022	Difference
Overdose Fatalities	690	889	<b>+199</b>
<b>Fentanyl</b> -related Overdose Fatalities	283	528	<b>+245</b>
<b>Methamphetamine</b> -related Overdose Fatalities	376	558	<b>+182</b>
Polysubstance: <b>Fentanyl</b> and <b>Methamphetamine</b>	93	297	<b>+204</b>
Latinx	212	331	<b>+119</b>

# *Latinx* Overdose Death Trends

Drug Type	2020	2022	Percent
Cocaine	24	40	<b>67%</b>
Fentanyl	104	228	<b>119%</b>
Methamphetamine	111	188	<b>69%</b>
Rx Opioid (no fentanyl)	19	20	<b>5%</b>
Fentanyl and Methamphetamine	30	107	<b>257%</b>
Total	212	331	<b>56%</b>



# *Identifying the* Recommendation



- Getting families to meet loved ones where they're at!
  - **Stigma reduction**
  - Education
  - Awareness

## RECOMMENDATION

- Increase outreach efforts among the Latinx/Spanish-speaking population by August 2023 to decrease overdose fatalities among this population through the use of Promotores
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# *Implementing the* Recommendation



- Developed partnerships with organizations with well-established Community Health Worker, or Promotores, programs



- Promotores – conduct community outreach and deliver substance use prevention and harm reduction education

# Why Promotores?

- Leaders from the communities that we wanted to reach – Latinx
- Amazing ability to connect
  - Shared language, culture, and experiences of their communities
- Trusted members of their community
  - Reduce barriers to health education and services
- Resulting in better health for more individuals, families, and communities!



# *Implementing the* Recommendation



- Partnered with Desert Healthcare District & Foundation to conduct outreach in the desert region
  - Large Spanish-speaking population
  - High number of overdoses



# Community Impact Highlights

## *Visión y Compromiso*

- Reached **3,584 people** via outreach
- **566 participants** in their harm reduction workshops

## *El Sol*

- **51 participants** trained on harm reduction

## *Desert Healthcare District & Foundation*

- Trained **154 community members** on harm reduction
- **181 community members reached** via outreach events, where **144 Narcan** boxes were distributed

## **FACES OF FENTANYL**

- Riverside County Fentanyl Task Force
- Spanish commercials during the World Cup

# Latinx Overdose Death Trends

	Jan – Sep 2022	Jan – Sep 2023*	Difference
Overdose Fatalities	264	232	-32
<b>Fentanyl</b> -related Overdose Fatalities	177	164	-13
<b>Methamphetamine</b> -related Overdose Fatalities	149	145	-4
Polysubstance: <b>Fentanyl</b> and <b>Methamphetamine</b>	79	98	+19

\*1/15/2024 PRELIMINARY DATA





THANK YOU!



*Wendy Hetherington*

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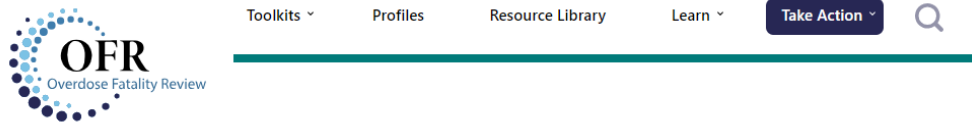


# Additional Support Available!



## OFR Email Exchange

- Great way to network with your peers!



## OFR Message Exchange Sign-Up

The OFR message exchange is a platform for those involved in Overdose Fatality Reviews to engage with one another. Enrollment in this message exchange is by permission only, and the [terms of use](#) apply.

The fields marked with the \* are required.

First Name\*

Last Name\*



## Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Request

- Expertise is available to support your OFR efforts
- We are here to help you troubleshoot day-to-day challenges as they arise



## Training and Technical Assistance Request

Regardless of funding source, anyone can request OFR training and technical assistance. Expertise is available to support the expansion and development of overdose fatality review (teams) through a variety of formats, including but not limited to:

- Host one-on-one calls to troubleshoot day-to-day challenges
- Identify available resources and materials
- Connect TTA requestor to peers in the field
- Present to team or meeting attendees
- Convene professionals to address a need
- Facilitate virtual meetings and workshops



# OFR Mentor Site Opportunities



- The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR promising practices while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers
- Interested sites can apply here

A flyer titled "Overdose Fatality Review Peer Mentor Site Opportunities". The flyer includes a photograph of a diverse group of people standing in a circle with their hands raised. The text on the flyer describes the purpose of the OFR Peer Mentor Program, which is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR best practices. It also details the "OFR Peer Mentee Application" process, which includes a one-hour introductory call, a two-hour OFR observation, a one-hour post-review discussion call, facilitated discussions with OFR members, and feedback to the IR by both mentor and mentee. A note states that in-person virtual site visits are on hold during the COVID-19 response. At the bottom, there is a link to request a virtual site visit: [http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite\\_Visit](http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite_Visit). The flyer also features the OFR logo and the BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program logo.

# Questions?