Opioid Use Community Needs Assessment

Washoe County Human Services Agency

The Purpose of the Needs Assessment

- To identify trends, gaps, and needs pertaining to opioid use in Washoe Count to provide recommendations and propose an action plan for the allocation of opioid litigation funds to ameliorate harms of opioid use.

Guiding Principles for Opioid Litigation Funding

- In 2021, the Nevada Legislature passed Senate Bill 390 (SB390).
- SB390 was developed using the following guiding principles identified by Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg School of Public Health's Principles for the Use of Funds from Opioid Litigation:

Spend money to save lives	Use evidence to guide spending	Invest in youth prevention	Focus on racial equity	Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funding

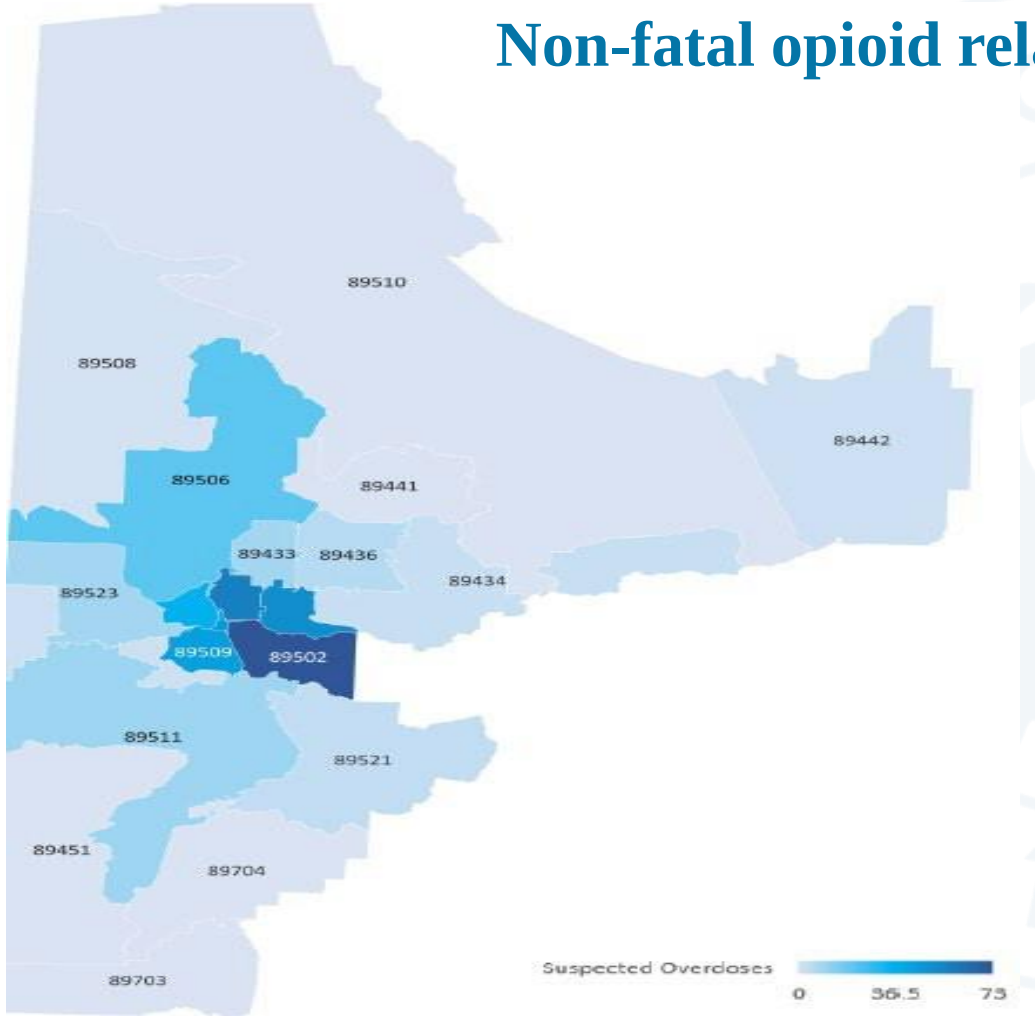
Community-Based Participatory Practice (CBPP)

- Washoe County used the CBPP method for this assessment. It is a type of analysis that is done with communities, by inviting community members and stakeholders into the research process as equal partners and contributors. CBPB/CBPP has been linked to reducing health disparities and empowering communities.

Acknowledgments and Thank you for your participation!

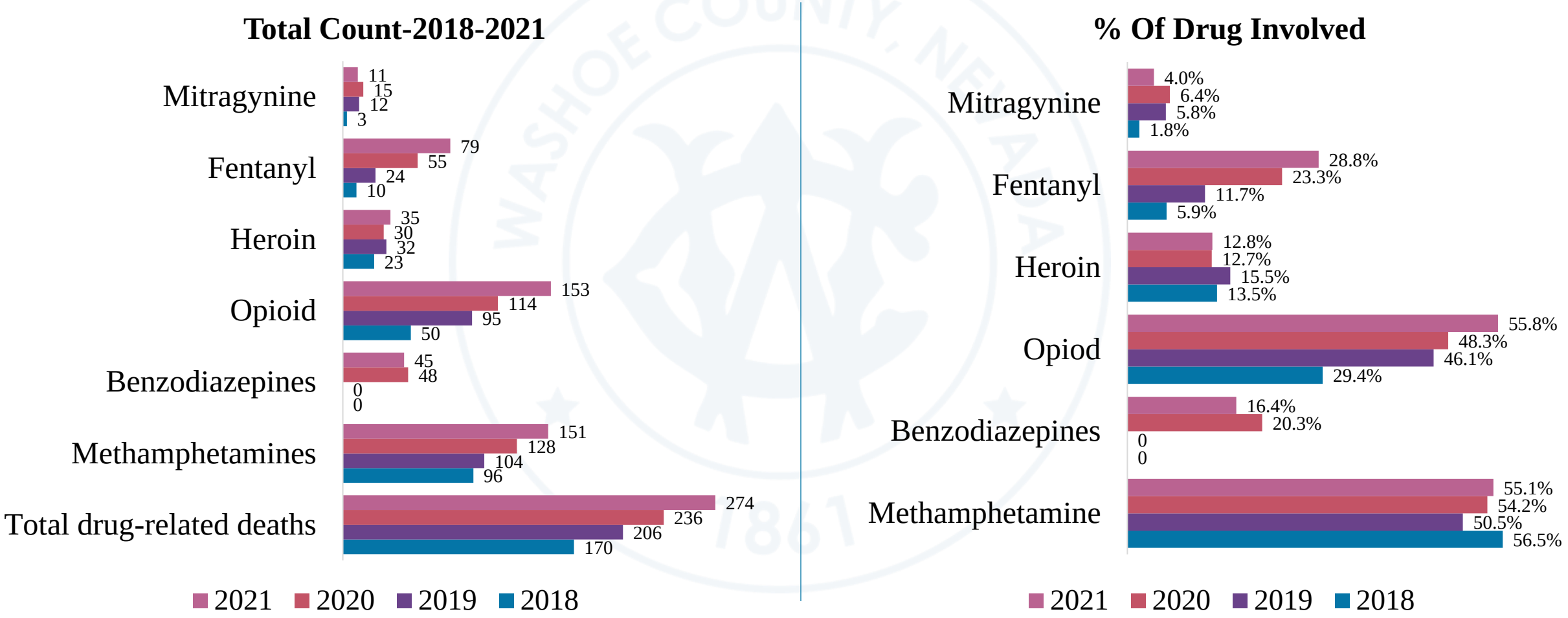
- Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN)
- The Life Change Center
- Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing
- Washoe Regional Medical Examiner's Office
- Washoe County Public Defender's Office
- Washoe County Public Guardian
- SilverSummit HealthPlan
- Groups Recover Together
- Washoe County Health District
- Washoe County Sheriff's Office
- Washoe County Human Services Agency
- Washoe Co Manager's Office
- Reno Justice Court
- Washoe county School District
- Women/Men/families Crossroads
- Anthem
- Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Nevada Association of Counties
- Second Judicial District Court
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)
- Black Wall Street Reno
- Nevada's Recovery & Prevention Community (NRAP)
- Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality
- University of Nevada Reno, School of Public Health, Dr. Wagner
- Renown Regional Medical Center
- Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA)
- Our Place
- Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)
- Bristlecone

Non-fatal opioid related EMS incidents, Jan-Dec 2021

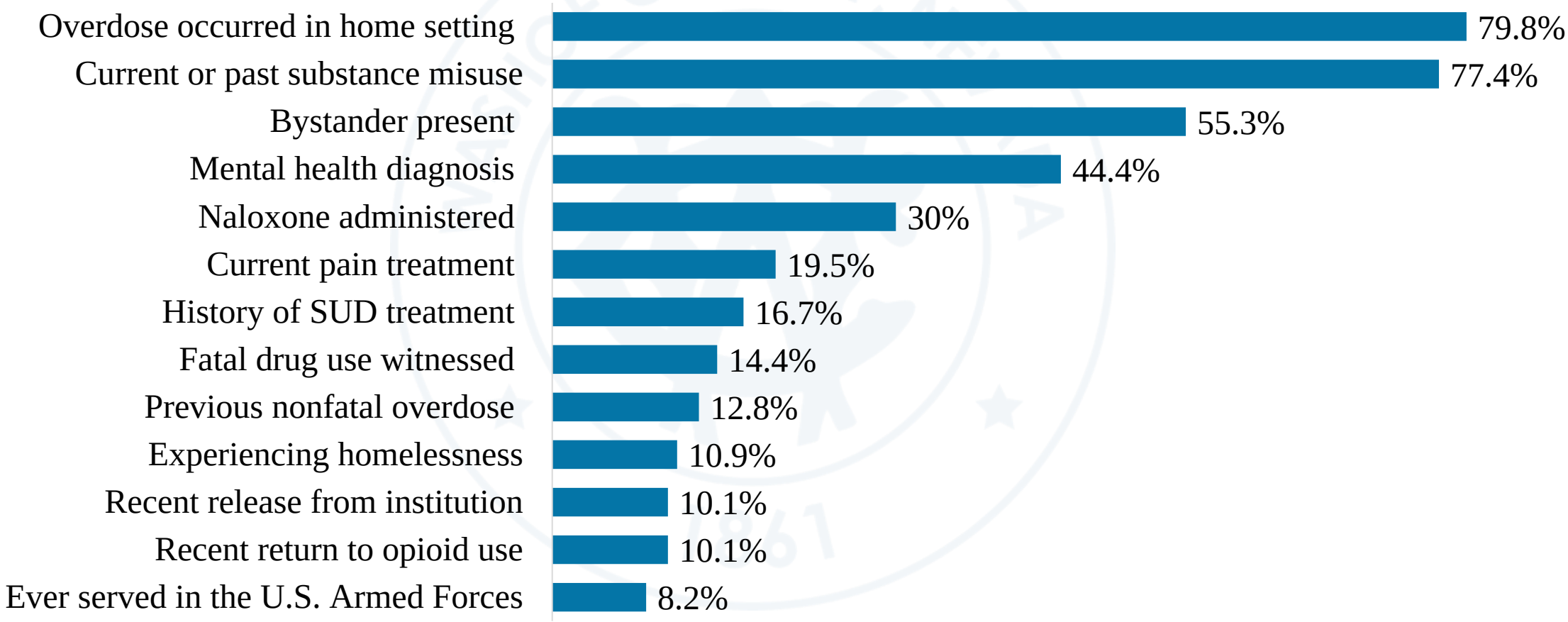


- There were 375 EMS incidents in Washoe County in 2021 related to suspected non-fatal opioid overdose.
- The top five zip codes with the highest EMS incidents for non-fatal overdose were:
  - 89502 (19.5%)
  - 89512 (15%)
  - 89431 (13.4%)
  - 89501 (12.3%)
  - 89509 (11.5%)

Drug-related Deaths in Washoe County--Medical Examiner's Office



Documented Characteristics of Deaths in Washoe County, 2021



Opioid-Related Deaths in Washoe County, 2010-2021

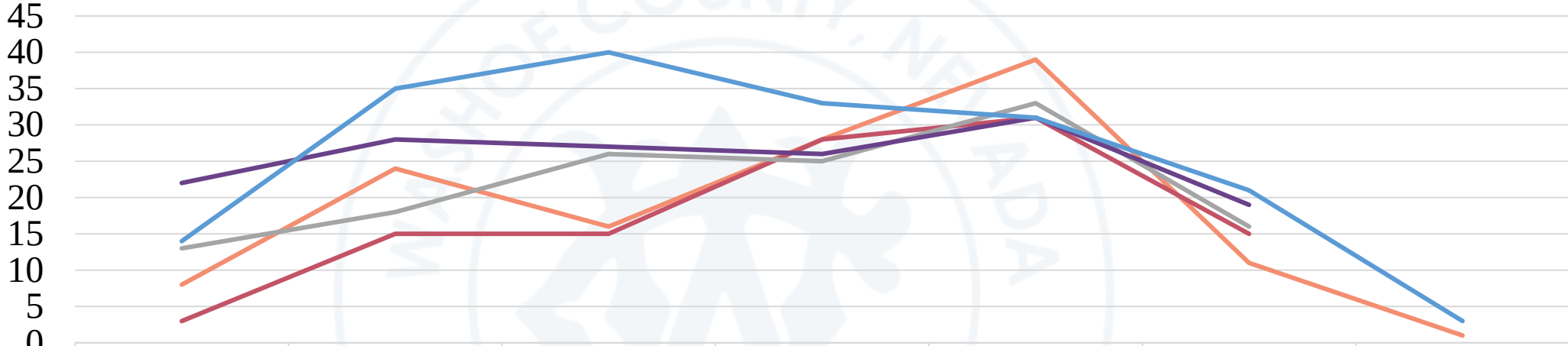
Deaths by Intent

Type of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Deaths
Accidents	1,180	82.3%
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	169	11.8%
Events of undetermined intent	83	5.8%
Assault (homicide)	2	0.1%
Grand Total	1,434	100.0%

Deaths by Race/Ethnicity

Race/ Ethnicity	Percent By Year				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Asian	2.3%	2.0%	2.3%	0.9%	0.8%
Black	4.6%	5.2%	6.9%	2.8%	3.1%
Hispanic	13.2%	15.7%	9.9%	3.7%	5.5%
Native American	3.4%	1.3%	3.1%	1.9%	1.6%
White	76.4%	75.8%	76.3%	90.7%	82.7%
Unknown			1.5%		6.3%

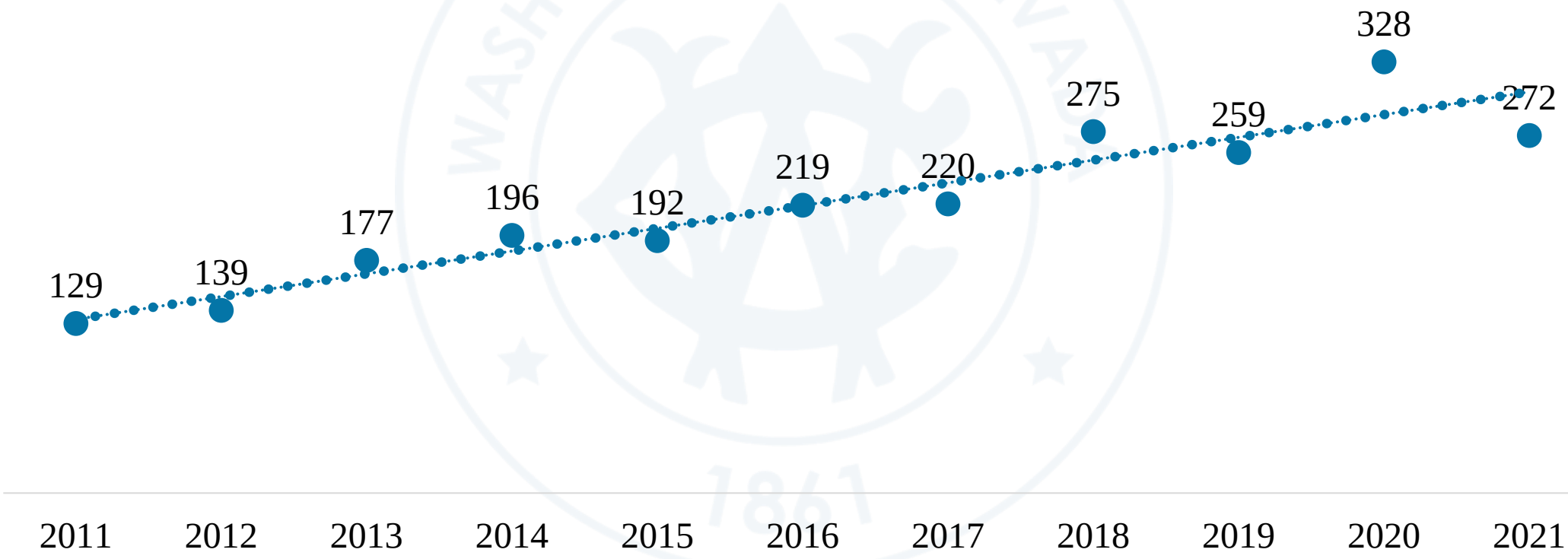
Opioid Related Deaths in Washoe County by Age



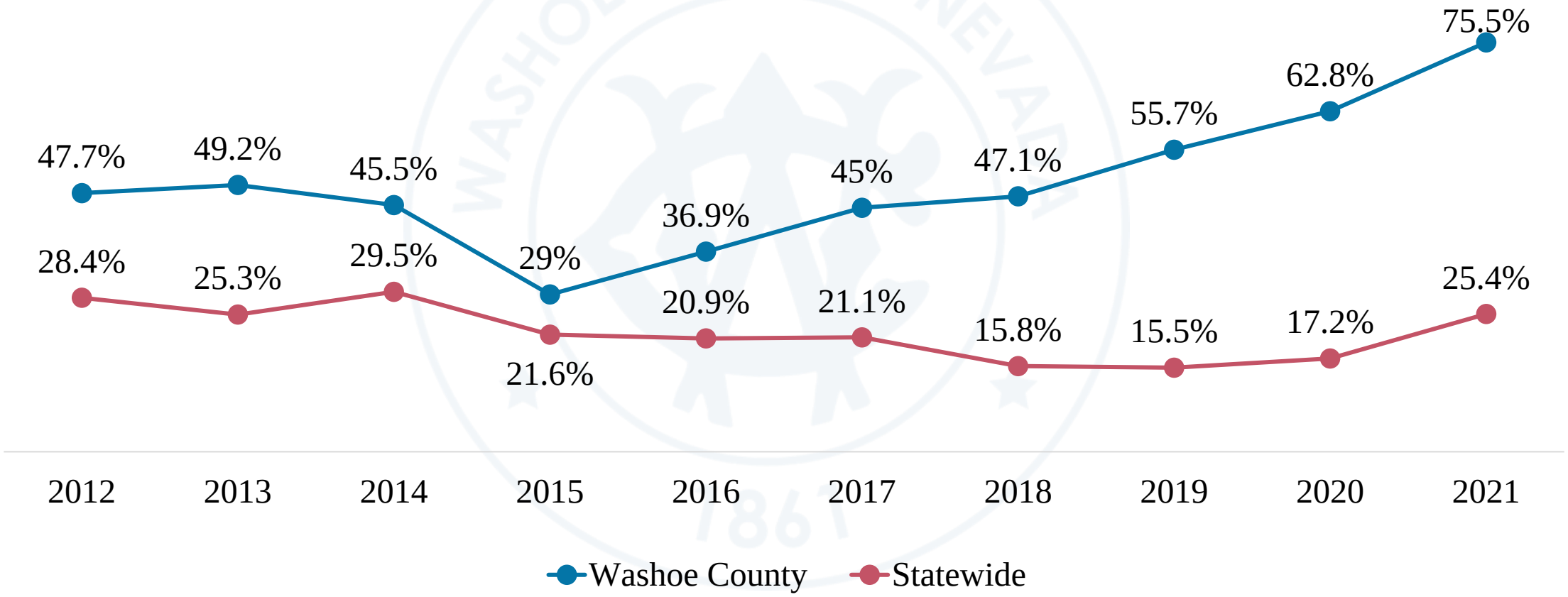
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown
2017	8	24	16	28	39	11	1
2018	3	15	15	28	31	15	
2019	13	18	26	25	33	16	
2020*	22	28	27	26	31	19	
2021*	14	35	40	33	31	21	3

2017 2018 2019 2020* 2021*

Unique Count of Substance Exposed Infants Associated with Child Protective Services (CPS) Referrals Received by Calendar Year in Washoe County



Percent of Children Under Age 1 Removed to Foster Care due to Parental Substance Use in Washoe County by Calendar Year



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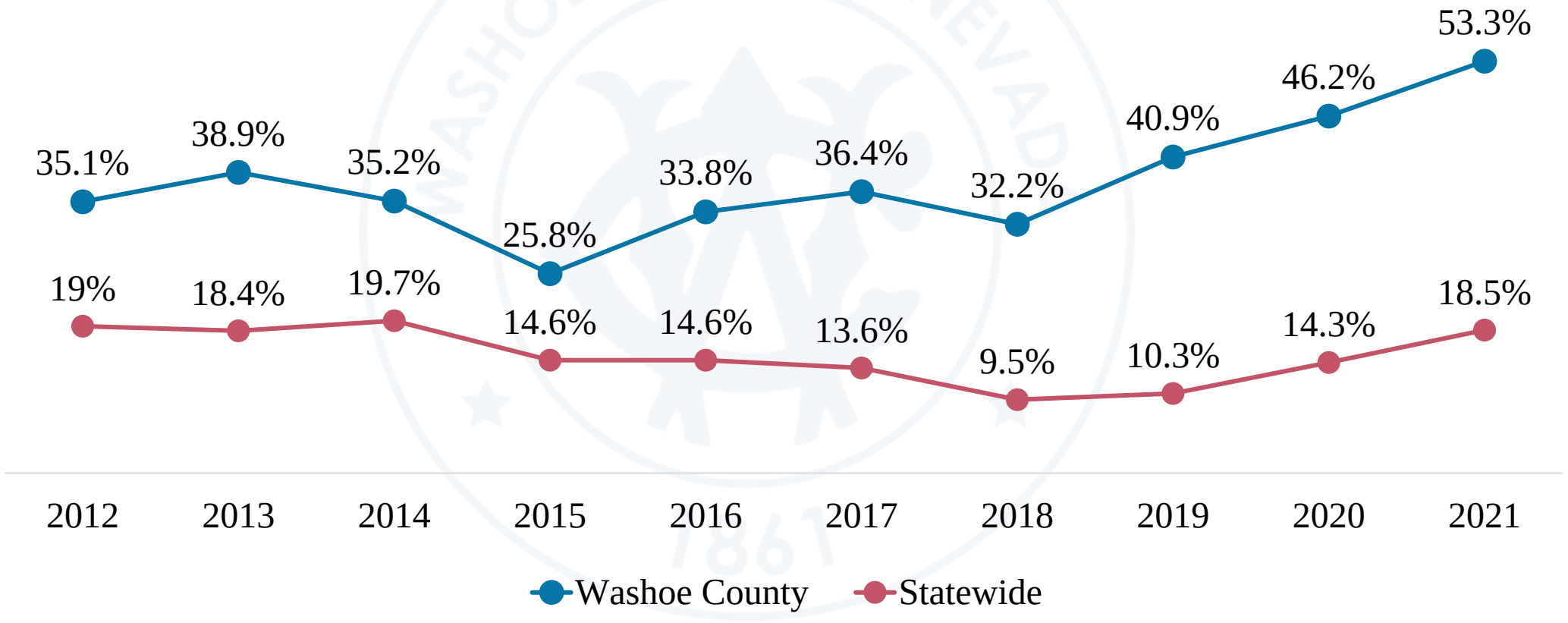


Key Strengths

- State level surveillance, technical assistance, behavioral health and SUD treatment providers, drug supply control (enforcement), collaboration, media.
- Changes in the justice system to become more understanding of recovery, rather than a punitive approach.
- Individuals receiving MAT transition back to the community without interruptions to their treatment.
- Law enforcement is more educated about substance use disorder
- Suboxone and methadone are helpful for a lot of people—MAT is an effective tool for treating OUD.
- Narcan, fentanyl test strips (FTS), one on one outreach and support.
- Having people with lived experience increases compassion in the field to support recovery.
- Improvement with insurance companies, federal money, and state grants to pay for treatment.
- Prevention and service efforts for youth are growing with a focus on positive choices.
- Increase in telehealth
- Person-centered approach that allows the individual to “drive their own recovery.”

Gaps

- Lack of coordinated real-time data shared amongst providers to alert the community of potential drug trends or overdose spikes.
- Lack of specialized programs to address adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) of children in Washoe County or robust ACEs screening programs which creates additional trauma and personal, social and educational challenges.
- Lack of ample specialized programming to address parental substance use within the child welfare system.
- Lack of accurate treatment data entered into the Treatment Episode Data Set Admissions/Discharges (TEDS-A/TEDS-D)

Trends

- Fentanyl is an emergent threat in Washoe County.
- Psychostimulant and polysubstance use continue to be an issue in Washoe County.
- Opioid pain medication misuse has decreased from 2013-2019 among high school students in Washoe County. There was a slight increase from 2017-2019.
- Lifetime use of heroin among Washoe County high school students has shown a steady decline from 2013-2019.
- Among participants monitored through the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS), prescription opioid positivity has been relatively stable, while heroin and fentanyl positivity has increased.
- Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) use has increased for participants of DAS.
- Prenatal substance exposure has increased over time.
- Increase in removals due to parental substance use for children of all ages in Washoe County
- Increase in fatal drug poisonings in Washoe County, especially with methamphetamine, opioid, and fentanyl involvement.

Services and Resources in Washoe County currently

- Information was gathered from community members that there appears to be a stigma of a substance users who need, help at the hospital or who needs surgeries and their inability to have access to have pain relief on a temporary bases and don't have a trend of the DEA dashboard.
- Criminalization versus treatment
- Stigma and lack of understanding of who a person who uses drugs is versus imagined. "Public perception identifies with a stereotype that isn't necessarily true.
- Detox centers do not meet needs of patients who need MAT. Only detox closed this month.
- Distrust of 12-step groups and group members.
- Poor quality treatment services.
- High workforce turnover in counselors reinforces childhood abandonment and trust issues.
- Inability (even for pregnant person) to get timely access to Subutex or Suboxone in the community. In addition to treatment centers that will allow MAT to be in their program.
- Lack of services that adequately address trauma.

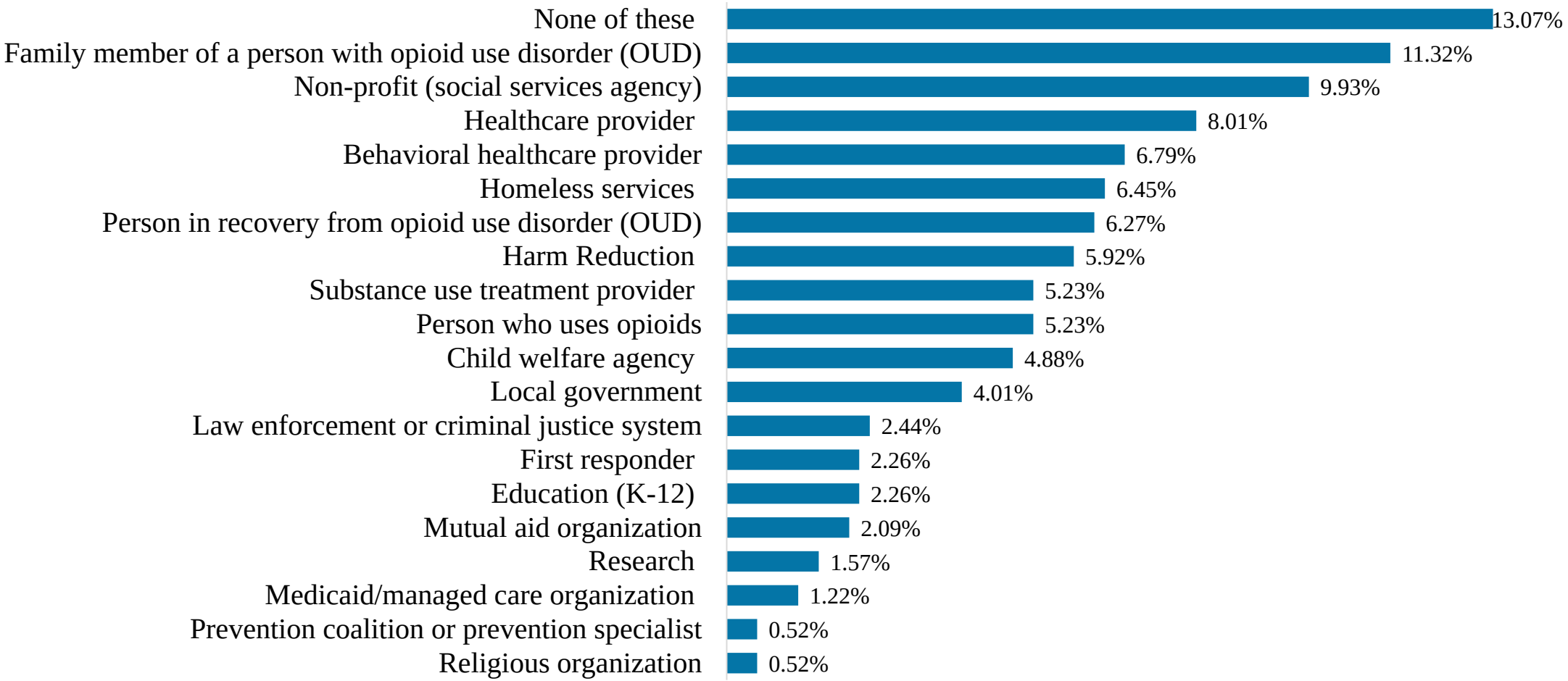
Feedback of Future Solutions Expressed by Providers and Users

Providers	People Who Use Opioids (PWUO)
• A multifaceted approach & Upstream Interventions	• Non-judgmental spaces that treat PWUOs as equals
• Law enforcement diversion programs	• Safe consumption site with drop-in center services
• Post-overdose follow-up for overdoses reversals	• Housing First and building relationships
• Holistic, integrated care for adults. For children, early childhood learning programs, and many more supports in K-12 to build protective factors to create resilience	• A person-centered , non-judgmental, hub where individuals seeking services can be connected to what they need.
• Trauma-informed & robust harm reduction services	• The importance of community as necessary to healing
• A center with broad service array	• Robust service provisions with people with lived experience.

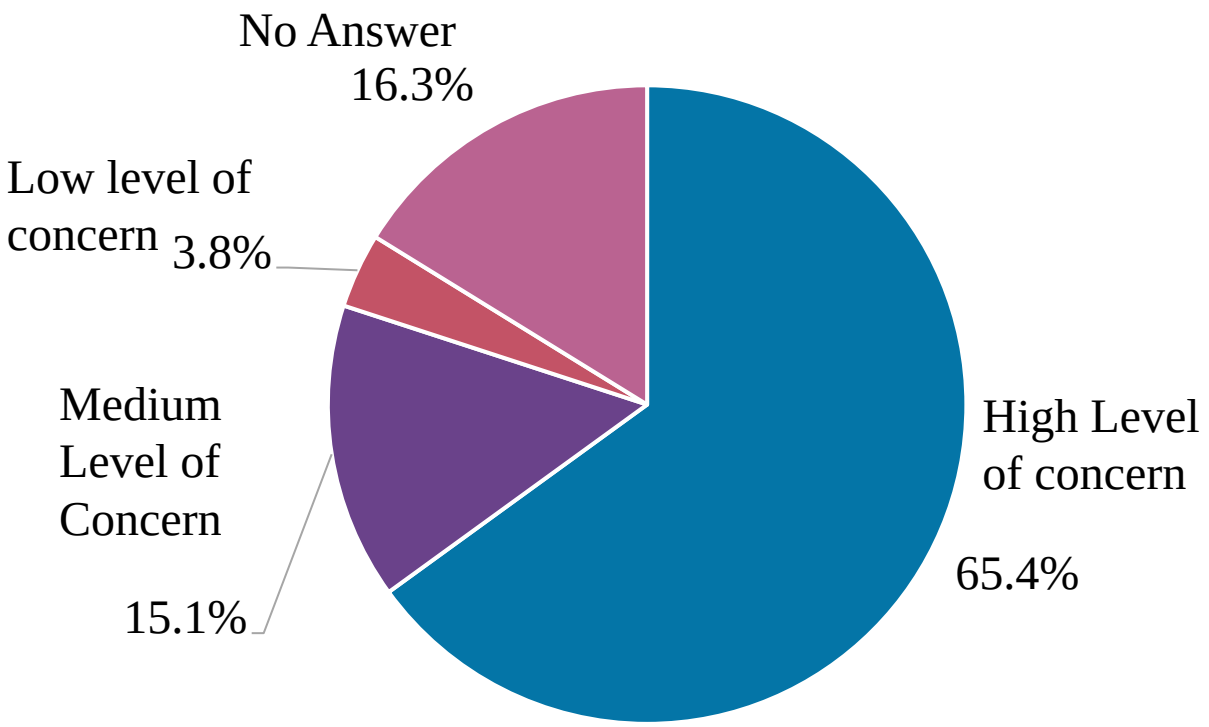
Survey

- An online survey was created and distributed through a network of stakeholders, in-person events, and through social media.
- The survey opened on August 17 and closed on September 19, 2022.
  - Out of 376 responses, 366 confirmed consent to participate and met the inclusion criteria of being 18 or over and living in Washoe County.
  - There were 25 incomplete surveys, leaving a total of 336 respondents (N=336).
  - Respondents ranged in age from 18-80 years old with a mean age of 44.
- In addition to basic demographic information, community members were asked about their personal impacts of opioids in their lives, their perceptions on fentanyl and other drugs of concern, existing initiatives to address the opioid epidemic in Washoe County, the source of their information about opioid use in the community, disproportionately affected populations, and questions about strengths, gaps, barriers, and challenges.

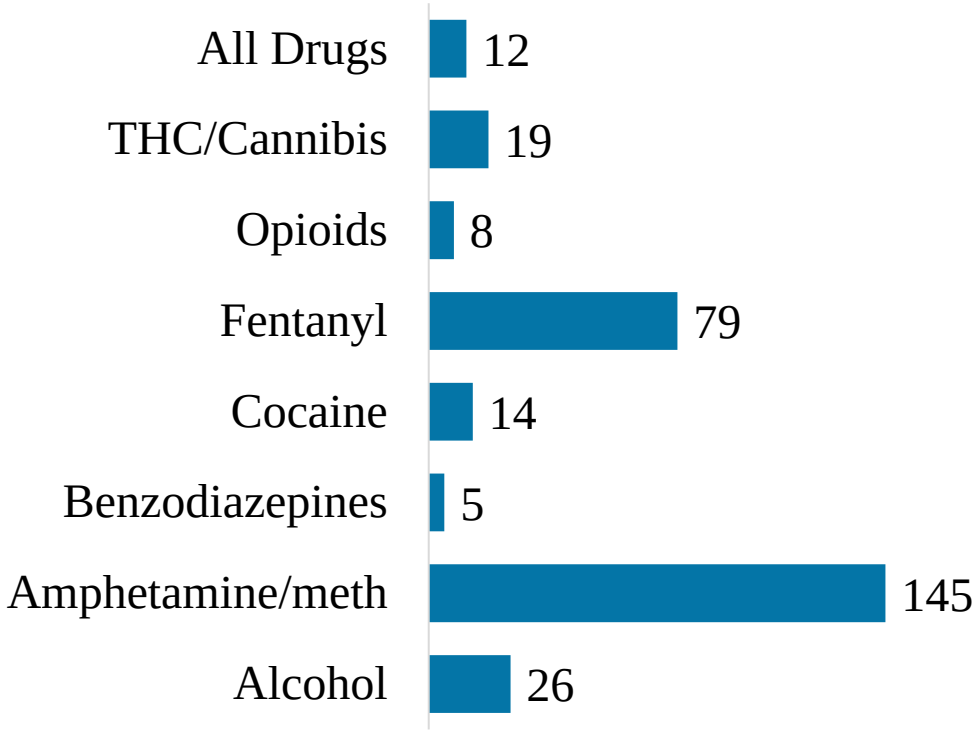
Identities of Survey Respondents



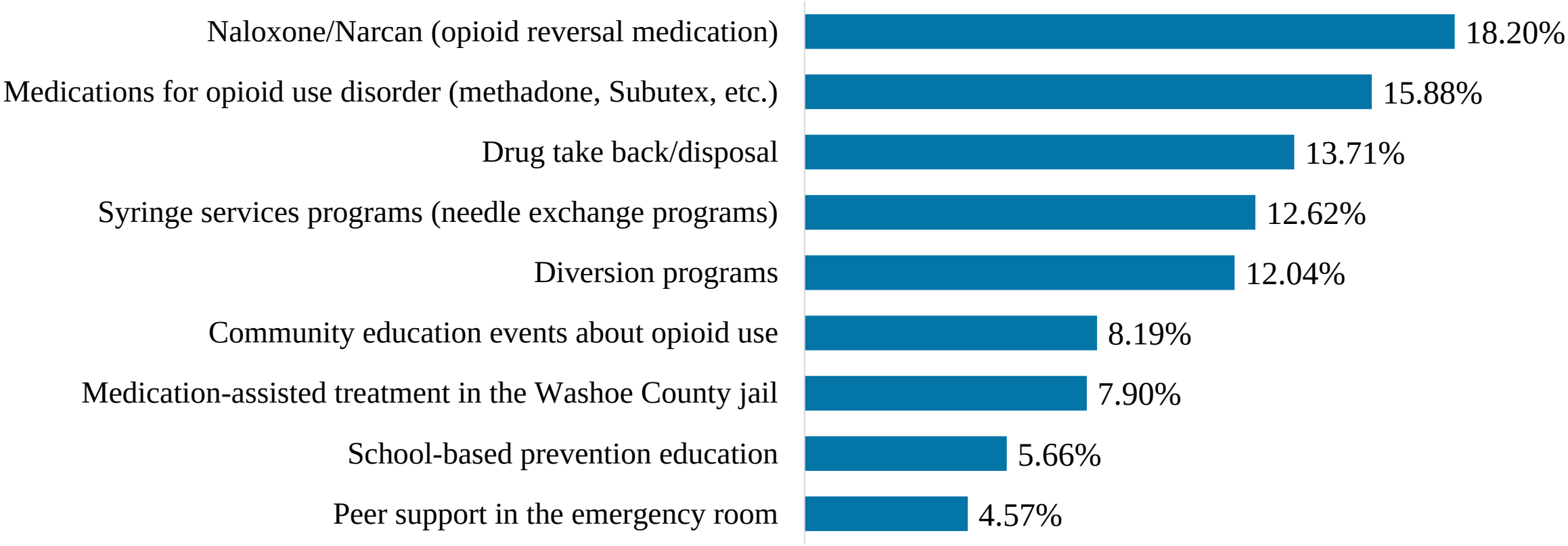
Respondents' Perception of Fentanyl in Washoe County



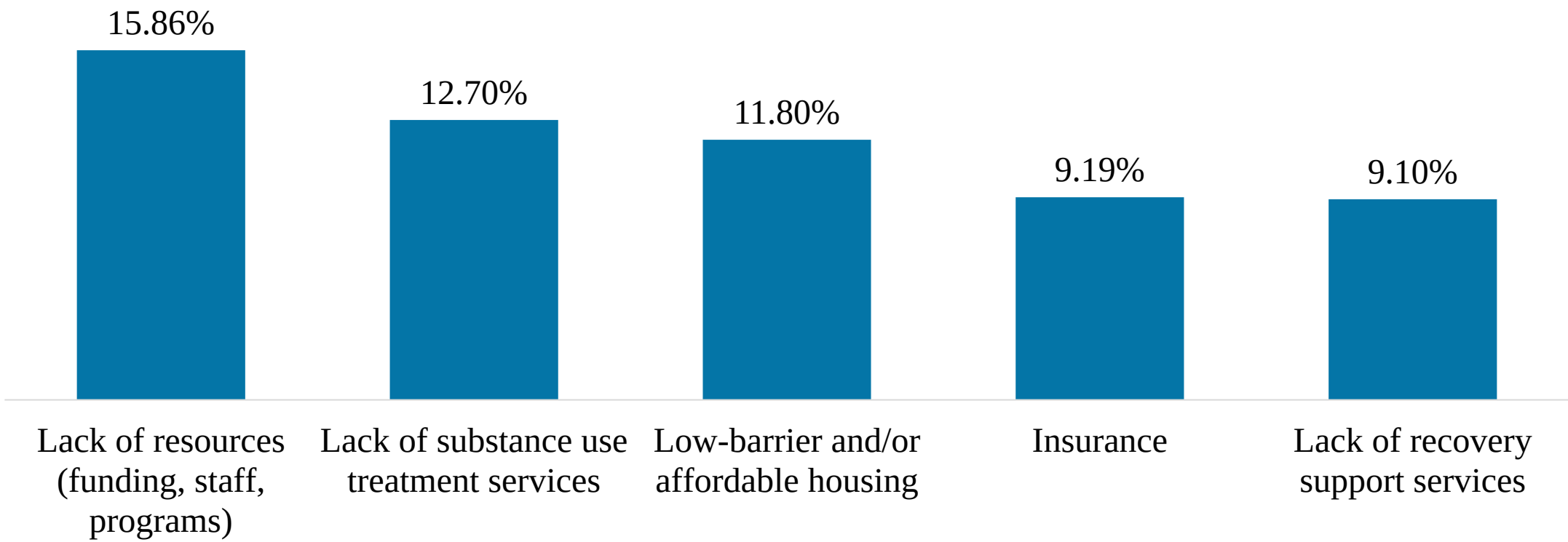
Other Drugs of Concern in Washoe County



Knowledge of Opioid-Related Initiatives



Top 5 Gaps, Barriers & Challenges to Addressing Opioid Use in Washoe County



Top 5 Priorities Overall by Respondent Identity

- Low-barrier substance use treatment services
- Low-barrier, walk-in availability (on-demand) of medication-assisted treatment
- Services that address underlying trauma
- Harm reduction services such as syringe services programs, outreach, drug checking Low-barrier and/or affordable housing

People who use opioids	People in recovery from OUD	Service providers	Education K-12	Family members of persons with OUD
• Low-barrier substance use treatment • Low-barrier, walk-in availability (on-demand) of medication-assisted treatment • Services that address underlying trauma • Prevention programming in schools • Harm reduction services	• Low-barrier substance use treatment (tied #1) • Low-barrier, walk-in availability (on-demand) of MAT (tied #1) • Harm reduction services (tied #2) • Services that address underlying trauma (tied #2) • Naloxone distribution and the number of community members trained in • reversing overdoses	• Low-barrier substance use treatment • Low-barrier, walk-in availability (on-demand) of MAT • Harm reduction services • Services that address underlying trauma • Low-barrier and/or affordable housing	• Low-barrier substance use treatment (tied #1) • Low-barrier, walk-in availability (on-demand) of MAT (tied #1) • Services that address • underlying trauma (tied #1) • Harm reduction services • Low-barrier and/or affordable housing	• Low-barrier substance use treatment • Low-barrier, walk-in availability (on-demand) of MAT • Harm reduction services (tied #3) • Services that address • underlying trauma (tied #3) • Prevention programming in schools

Top 5 Recommendations for Washoe County

1. Ensure funding for the array of OUD services for uninsured and underinsured Washoe County residents.

2. Incentivize providers to initiate buprenorphine in the emergency department (ED), as well as during inpatient hospital stays. All EDs and hospitals should have providers that will provide buprenorphine induction as well as involve care navigators to assist with setting up outpatient resources for continued care and management.

3. Use a multidisciplinary approach to providing overdose prevention outreach and education to BIPOC communities in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner

4. Implement Child Welfare best practices for supporting families impacted by substance use.

5. Increase detoxification and short-term rehabilitation program capacity.

In Conclusion…

- To date, the first allocation payment from the settlement of Johnson & Johnson was deposited in July with Washoe County in the amount of **$1,845,569.45**.

- Note:
  - The full comprehensive report will be made available for further in-depth information not supplied with this overview presentation.

Thank you

ANY QUESTIONS??