



Department
of Health



New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellowship Program

Capital District Regional Consortium

Alberto Guzman, MSW

Kirstin O'Sullivan

March 15, 2023

Welcome!

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Guest Speaker, Veronica Salvas, MPH
- Break
- Fellow Group Activity
- Closing/Evaluation/Program Updates
- Questions

Overview of the NYSPHC

NYS Public Health Corps helps expand public health capacity to support COVID-19 vaccination operations, as well as increase preparedness to respond to future public health emergencies across the State.

The goals of the NYS Public Health Corps are to:

1. Bolster the State's public health infrastructure by mobilizing up to 1,000 Public Health Fellows across the State to provide critical support and services to local health departments
2. Effectively communicate with and educate New Yorkers about key strategies that address public health efforts
3. Facilitate connections among the community level public health stakeholders required to strengthen and sustain public health learning and action partnerships

Consortia Participants

- Current NYS Public Health Corps Fellows
- Local Coordinators
- Program Mentors
- Local Health Departments
- Local Public Health Partners
- Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs)

Guest Speaker:

Veronica Salvas, MPH

Epidemiologist

CDC Foundation, Greene County Health
Department



Substance Use and Overdose-Related Data in Greene County

March 15, 2023

Veronica Salvas, MPH

CDC Foundation/Greene County Department of Health

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The current overdose epidemic is unparalleled.

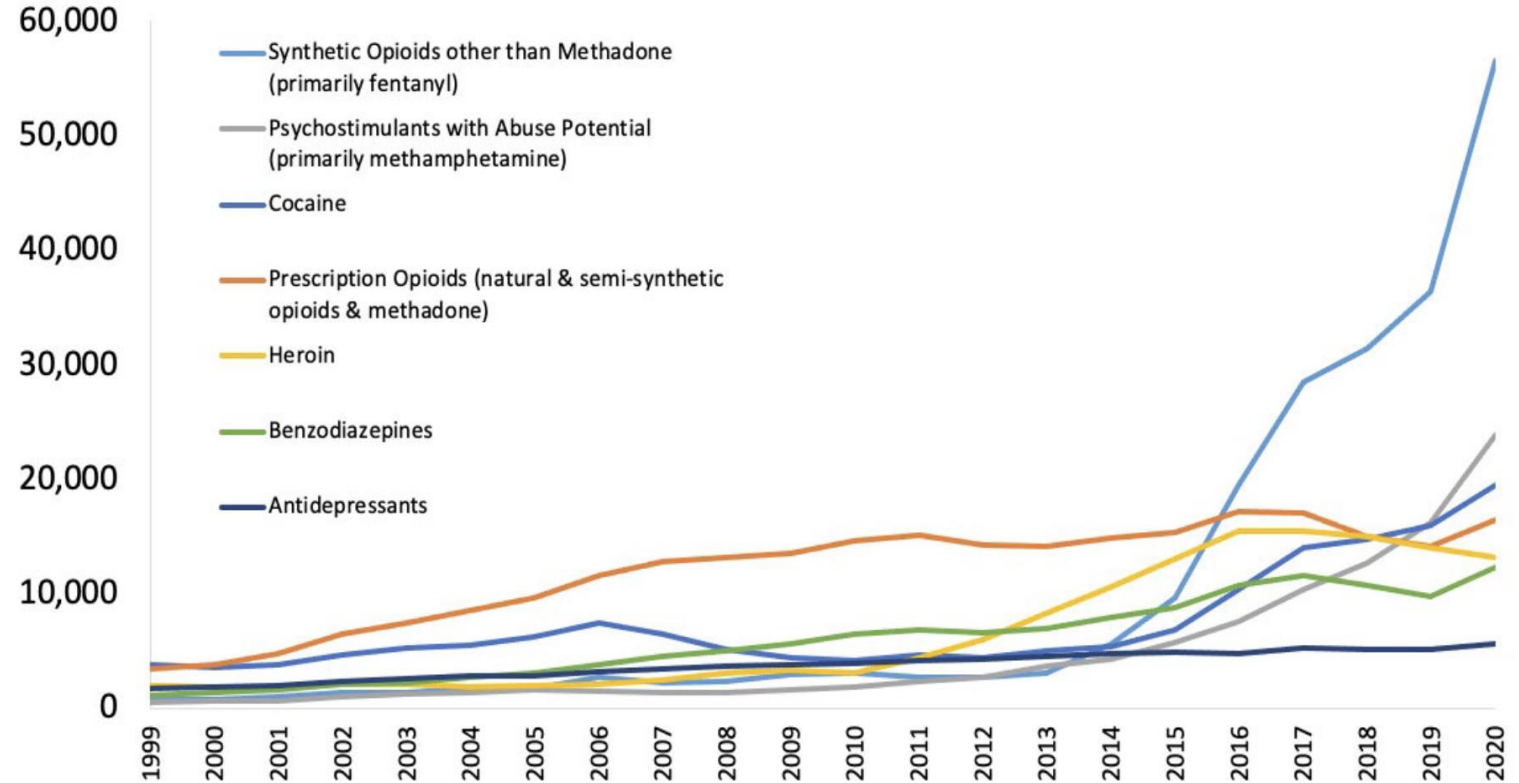
1979 was the peak year of the most recent American opioid epidemic; 3,000 people died that year. In 1988, at the height of the crack-cocaine epidemic, there were just under 5,000 overdose deaths.

In the current epidemic, there were nearly 1,200,000 dead between 1999 and 2021. That's more than all American casualties during both World Wars, the wars in Korea and Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, combined. It's more than all the US deaths to COVID.

It's over a million people.

106,699 people overdosed and died in 2021, alone. It was a 16% increase in overdose deaths over the prior year and the highest annual volume

National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths, Number Among All Ages, 1999-2020



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999–2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2021.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://nida.nih.gov/sites/default/files/images/fig2od2020.jpg>

Overdose rates are increasing because the drug supply is becoming increasingly poisoned.

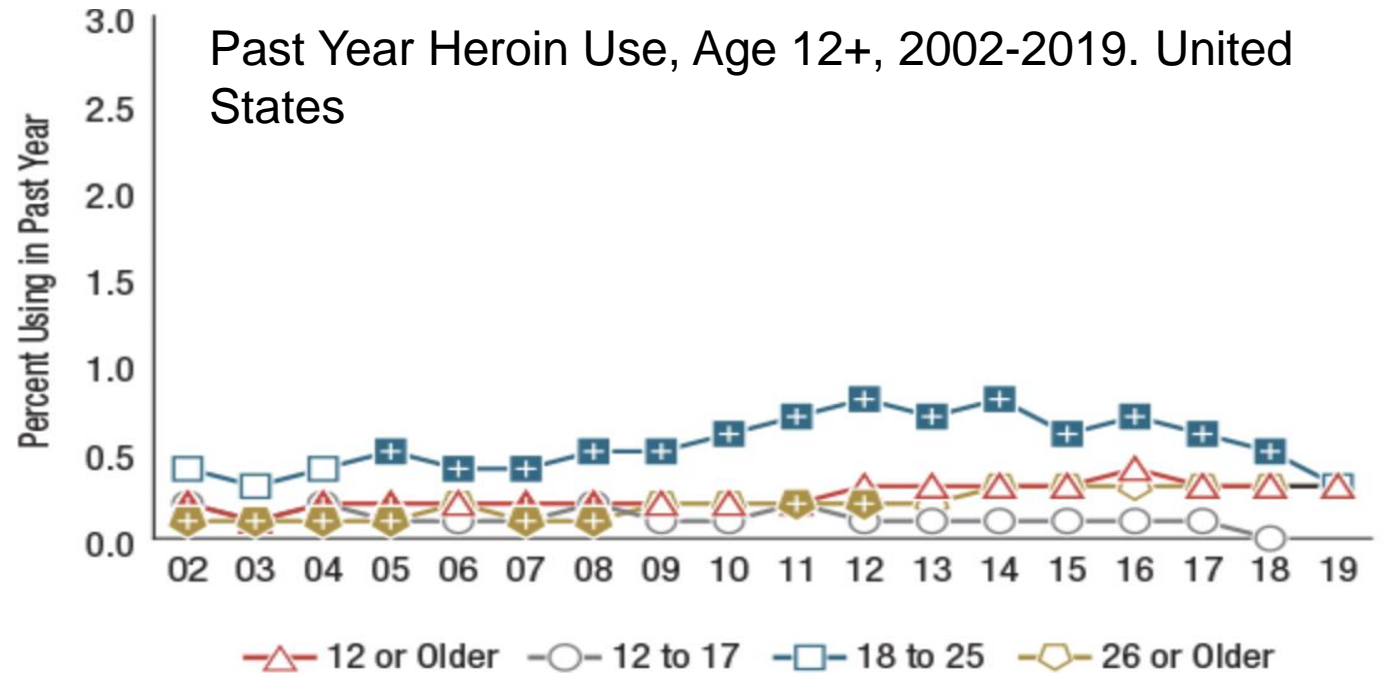
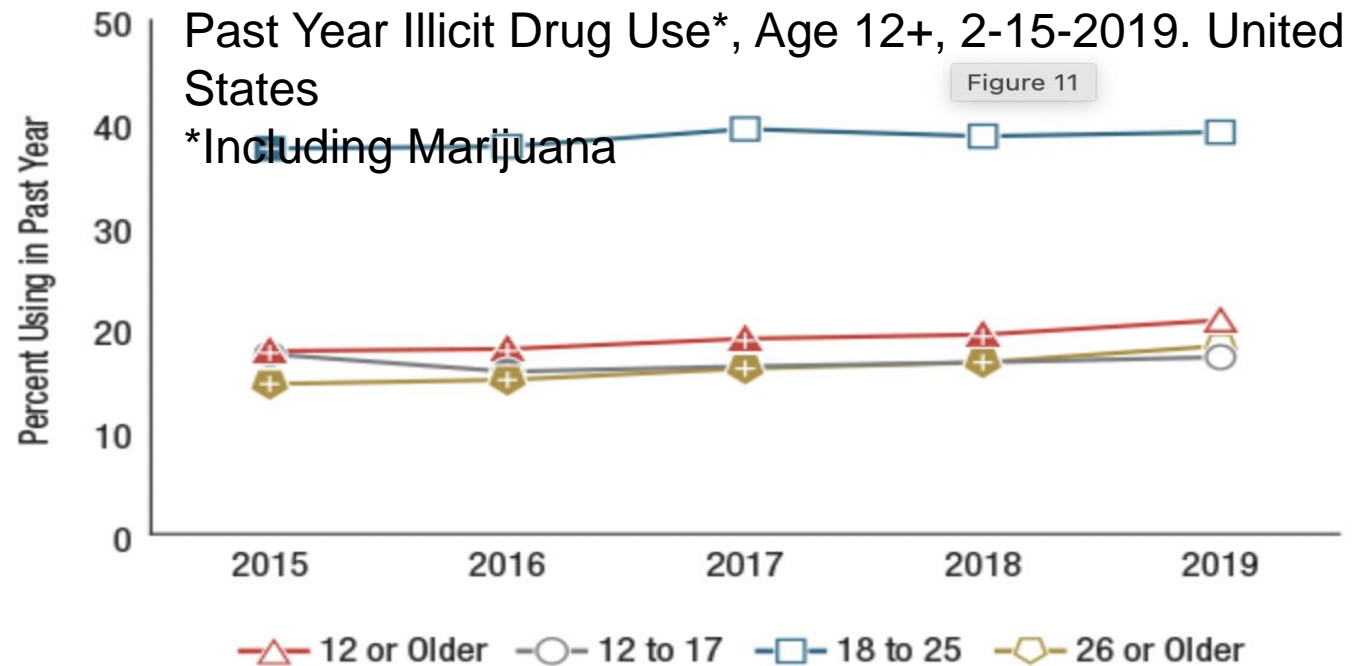
The increased rate of overdose death is not attributable to an increased rate of drug use.

The rate of illicit drug use has remained stable relative to the rate of overdose. In fact, the rate of heroin use, specifically, has been trending down.

Rather, increases in overdose deaths are attributable to drugs becoming more dangerous to use.

The drug supply itself is poisoned with fentanyl. At least 2/3 of overdose deaths in 2021 involved synthetic opioids—mostly fentanyl—alone or in combination with other substances like cocaine or methamphetamine.

[Source: Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMSHA](#)



Changes in the drug supply parallel increases in overdose deaths

Over the last two decades, the substances most implicated in overdose deaths had been prescription opioids (Wave 1), followed by increasing deaths to heroin or heroin in combination with benzodiazepines (Wave 2). Then came fentanyl; first mixed with heroin, or sold as counterfeit pills, and then *many* fentanyl analogues (Wave 3).

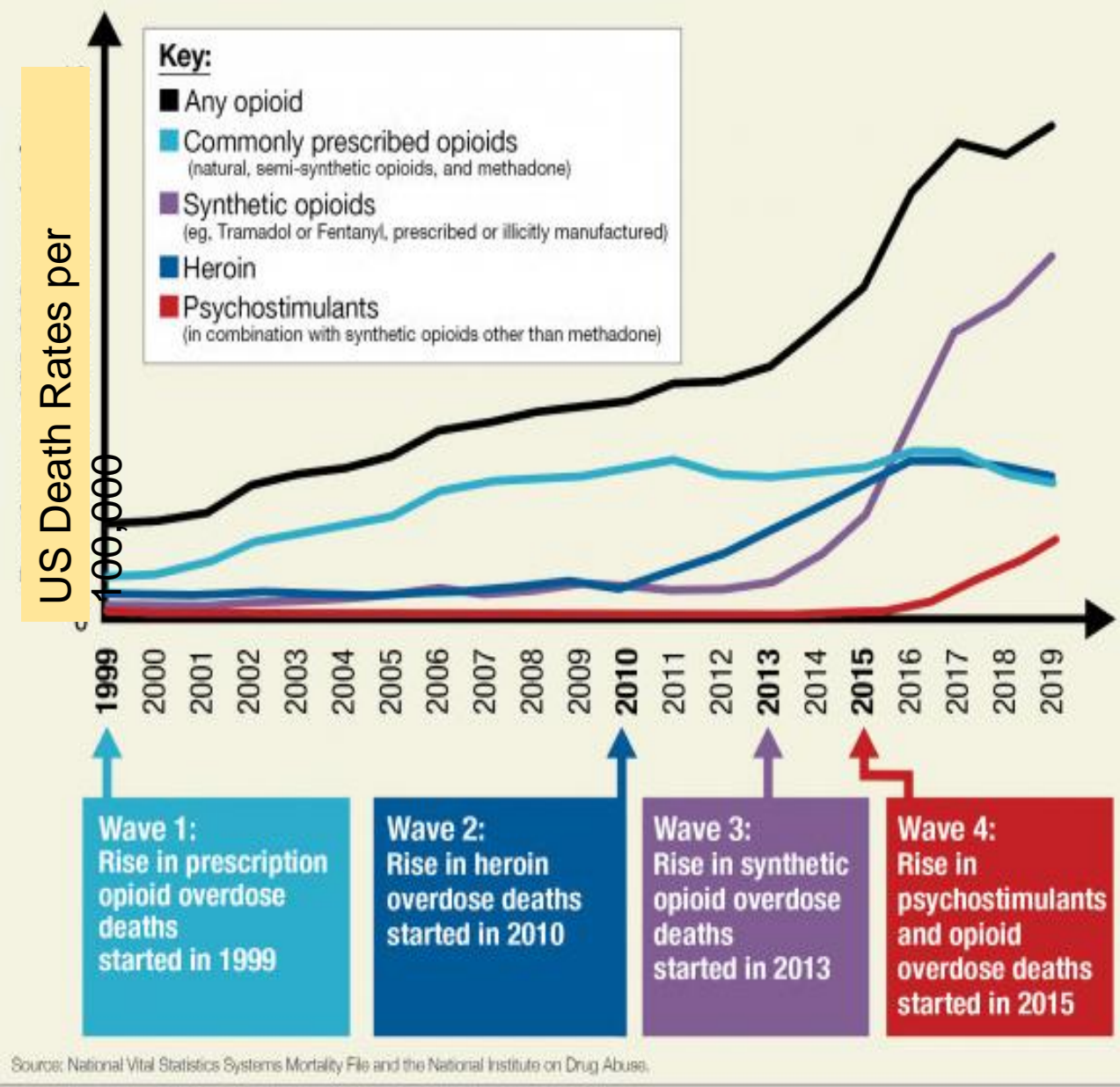
Wave 4, is an era characterized by **polysubstance use** and deaths involving fentanyl mixed with stimulants including cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine.

Now, polysubstance use prevails and more and more often, additives like **xylazine*** are mixed in to adjust the fentanyl high, making it more similar to heroin.

*Stat News published an article describing xylazine on March 11, 2022.

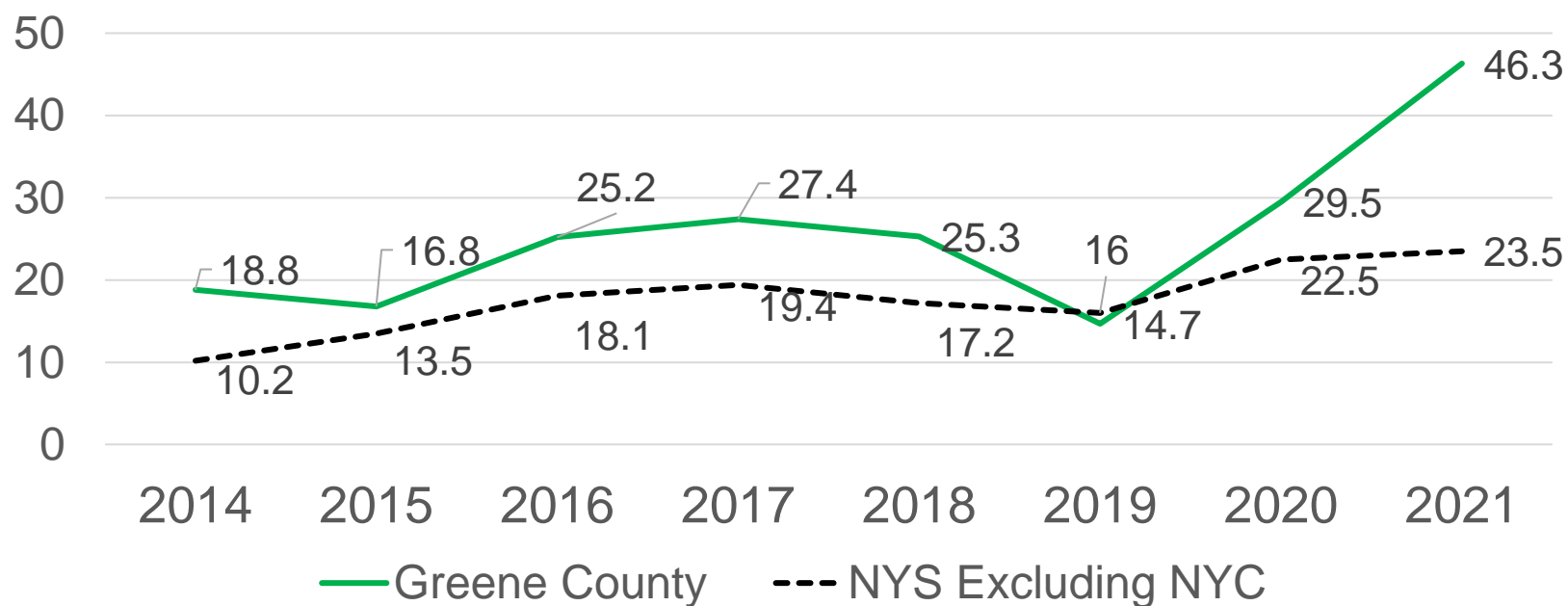
HEALTH
With overdoses at record highs, a veterinary tranquilizer spreading through the U.S. drug supply poses new threats

https://www.statnews.com/2022/03/11/overdoses-opioid-xylazine-philadelphia/?fbclid=IwAR1eUIMFellgDwIBFjdrmnTITkGmcWvMmoKyI-ID_5h111M1X...



Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, Crude Rates/100,000

Greene County vs. NYS Excluding NYC, 2014-2021



Source: NYSDOH Opioid Data Dashboard

https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=/EBI/PHIG/apps/opioi_d_dashboard/op_dashboard&p=ch

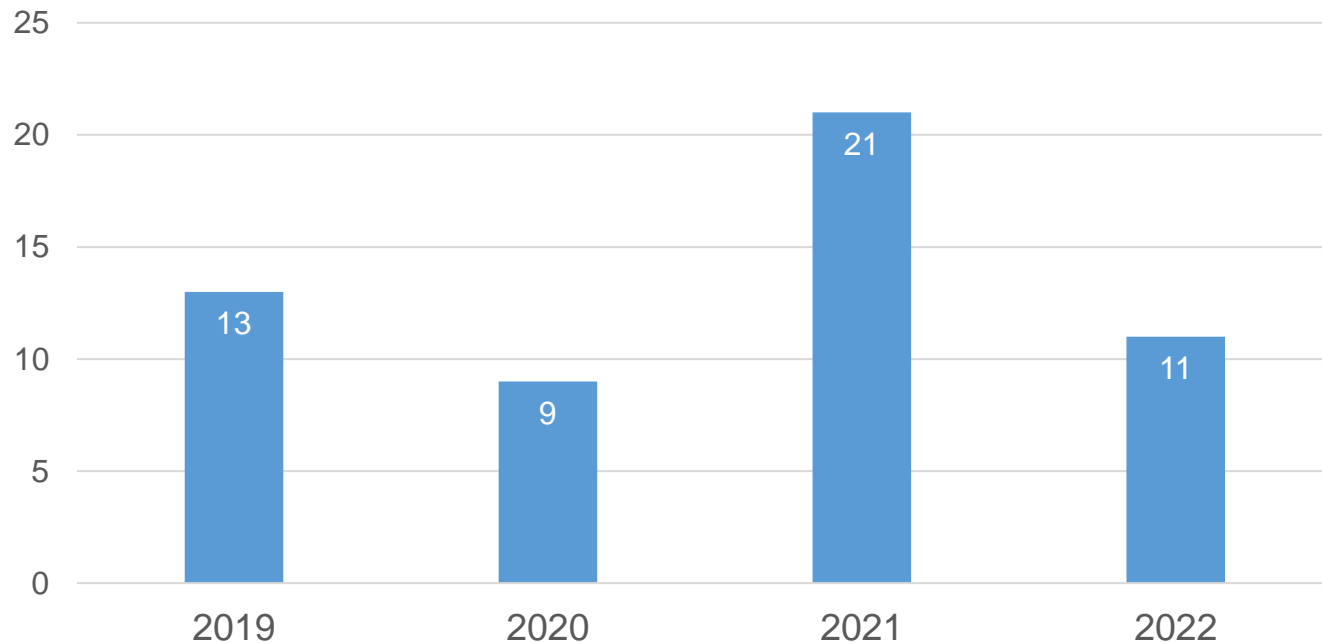
Between 2014 and 2021, the average annual crude rate of overdose among upstate NY counties was 17.6/100,000.

The average rate in Greene County for the same time period was about 1.5 times higher than the upstate average (25.5/100,000).

In 2021, the upstate NY crude rate of overdose was 23.5 and the rate in Greene County was 46.3, almost double the average of upstate NY counties.

Meanwhile, looking at Greene County alone between 2014 and 2021, the crude opioid overdose rate rose by 146%, 2.5-fold increase.

Annual Count of Overdose Deaths, Greene County, NY 2019 - 2022



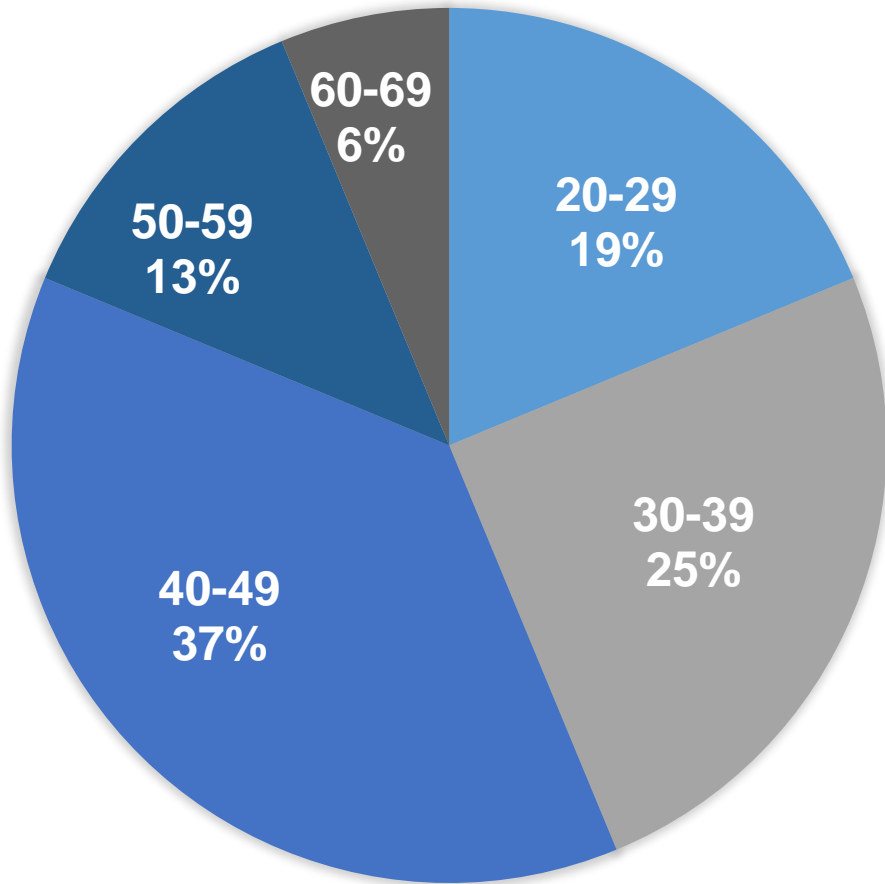
Source: Greene County Coroners and Medical Examiner (2020-2022). 2019 count of overdoses is estimated from county death certificate records.

Going back to 2019, Greene County has recorded 54 overdose deaths. 2021 was a peak year in overdose in Greene County; 39% of total deaths going back to 2019 occurred in 2021 alone.

Between 2021 and 2022, the volume of overdose deaths decreased by 48% (21 deaths in '21 compared to 11 deaths in '22).

While this decrease is hopeful, annual fluctuation in volume of deaths is notable; the prior year change, 2020 to 2021, saw a 133% increase.

**OVERDOSE DECEDENTS BY AGE GROUP
GREENE COUNTY, 2021-2022 (N=32)**



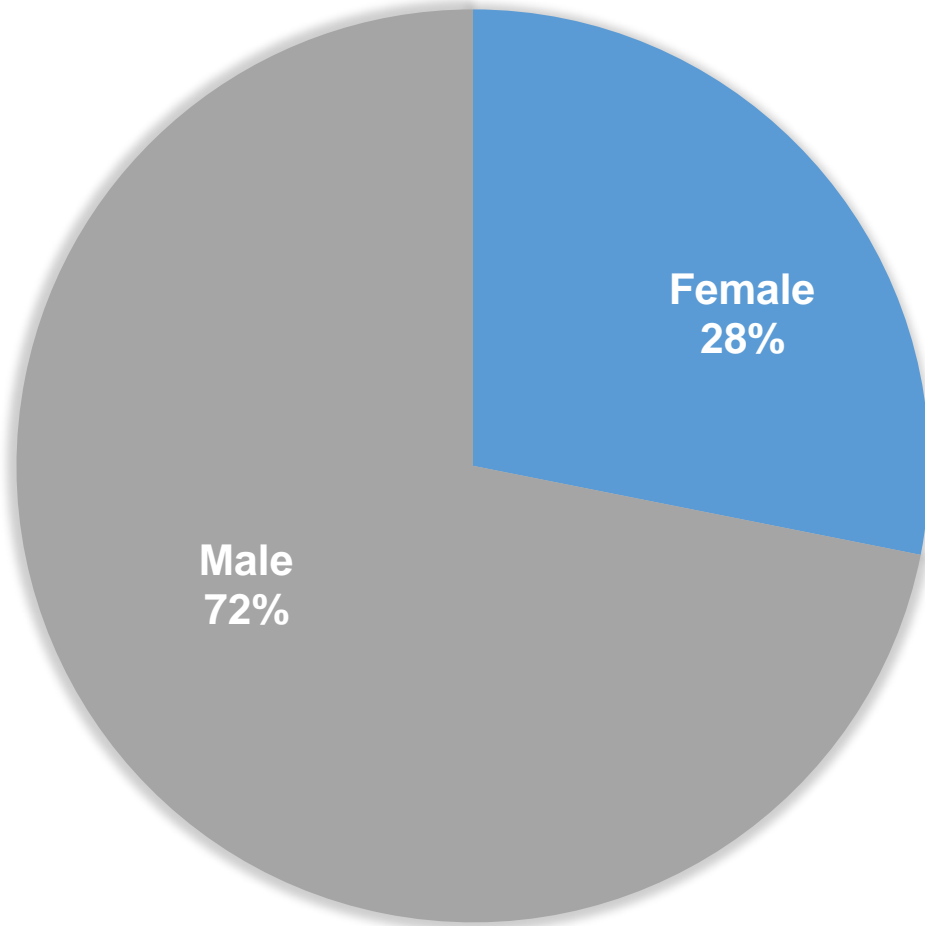
**Overdose Decedents by Age Group,
Greene County, NY. 2021-2022**

Age Group	2021		2022	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
20-29	4	19%	2	18%
30-39	7	33%	1	9%
40-49	6	29%	6	55%
50-59	3	14%	1	9%
60-69	1	5%	1	9%

Overall, looking at total overdose deaths over the last 2 years, the majority of deaths occurred among people in their 40s (37%), followed by people in their 30s (25%). More than half of decedents were 40 or older (56%).

Looking at each year separately, more overdose deaths occurred in people under 40 years of age in 2021 than in 2022. The average age of overdose decedents rose from 2021 to 2022. The average age of death in 2021 was 40 and in 2022 it was 42.

OVERDOSE DECEDENTS BY GENDER GREENE COUNTY, 2021-2022 (N=32)



Overdose Decedents by Gender, Greene County, NY. 2021-2022

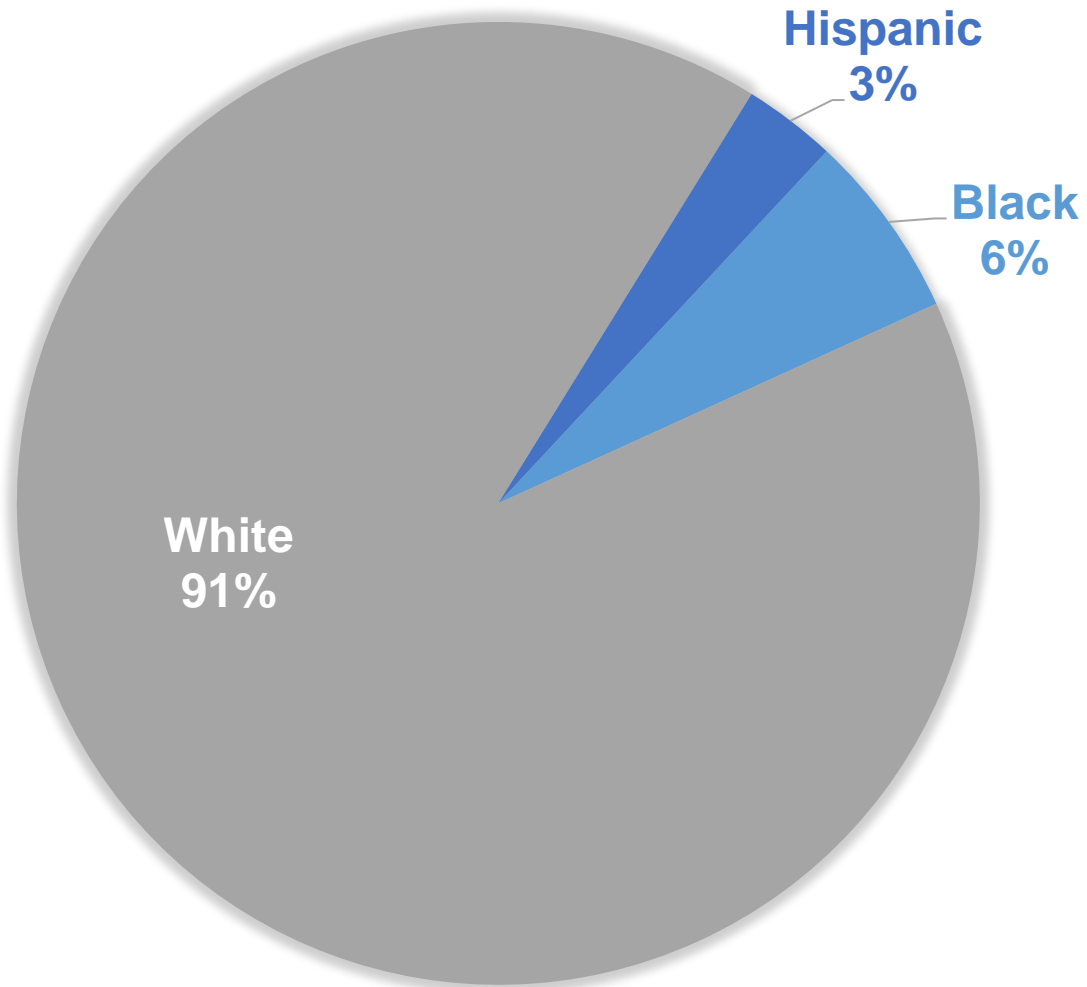
Gender	2021		2022	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Female	7	33%	2	18%
Male	14	67%	9	82%

Overall, looking at overdose decedents over the last 2 years, the majority are male (72%).

Looking at each individual year, the majority are male (67% in 2021 and 82% in 2022).

Proportionally, the proportion that were male increased by 22% between 2021 and 2022 and the proportion that were female decreased by 45%.

OVERDOSE DECEDENTS BY RACE, GREENE COUNTY, NY. 2021-2022 (N=32)



Overdose Decedents by Race, Greene County, NY. 2021-2022

Race	2021		2022	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Black	1	5%	1	9%
White	20	95%	9	82%
Hispanic	0	0%	1	9%

Overall, looking at overdose decedents over the last 2 years, the majority are White (91%).

This is also true looking at each year individually. In 2021, 20 of 21 deaths were among individuals who were white and one individual who died was black. In 2022, 9 of 11 deaths were among individuals who were white and 1 person who died was black and 1 was hispanic.

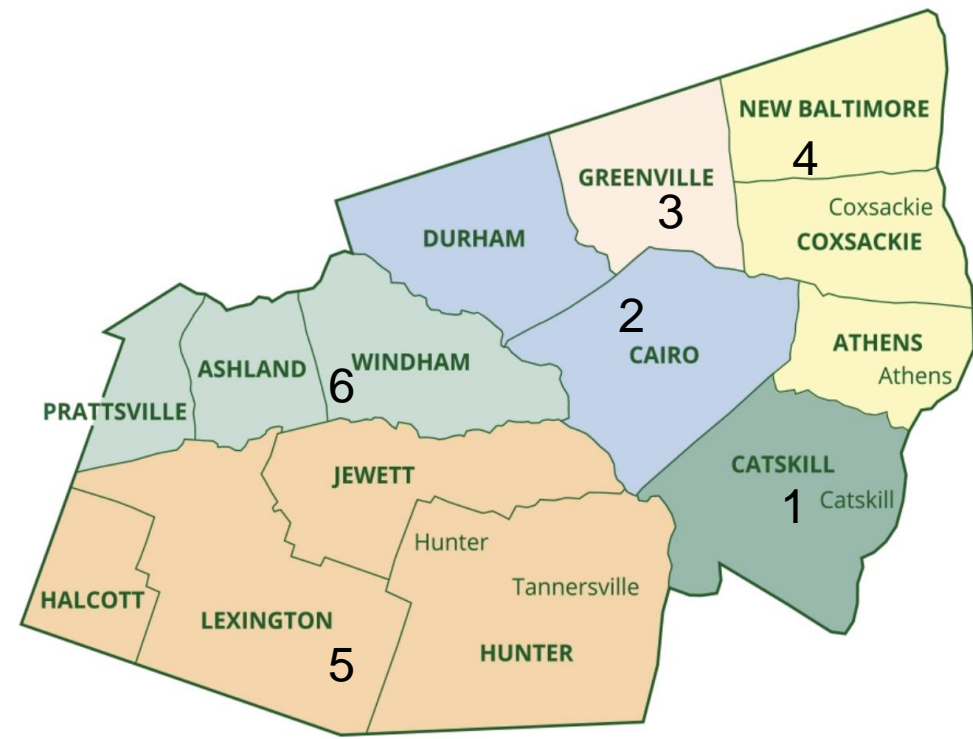
Regional OD Volume, Average Annual OD Death Rates and Fatality Rates

County-wide, there were 374 fatal and non-fatal overdoses (ODMAP) between 2019-2022 and 55 overdose deaths. The County-wide Death Rate was 27.5/100,000 and the Fatality Rate was 15%.

By region, Region 1 (Catskill area) has the highest volume of overdoses, overdose deaths and the highest death rate/100,000. However, it has a low fatality rate. Regions 5 & 6 (Mountain Top Region) have the highest fatality rates, although the volume of overdose in that region is lower.

This means you are more likely to survive an overdose in the Catskill Region and less likely to survive an overdose in the Mountain Top Region.

This may reflect disparities in data entry by region, which will soon be resolved through automation of data entry through first responder



Regional Count of All Overdoses (ODMAP), Overdose Deaths, Average Annual OD Death Rate and Fatality Rate

Region #	Total Overdoses 2019-2022	Total Deaths 2019-2022	Average Annual OD Death Rate/100,000 (Rank)	Fatality Rate (Rank)
1	226	26	47.6 (1)	12% (5)
2	59	8	24.8 (4)	14% (4)
3	15	0	0.0 (6)	0% (6)
4	48	10	16.2 (5)	21% (3)
5	20	7	41.4 (2)	35% (2)
6	6	4	29.0 (3)	67% (1)
County-Wide	374	55	27.5	15%

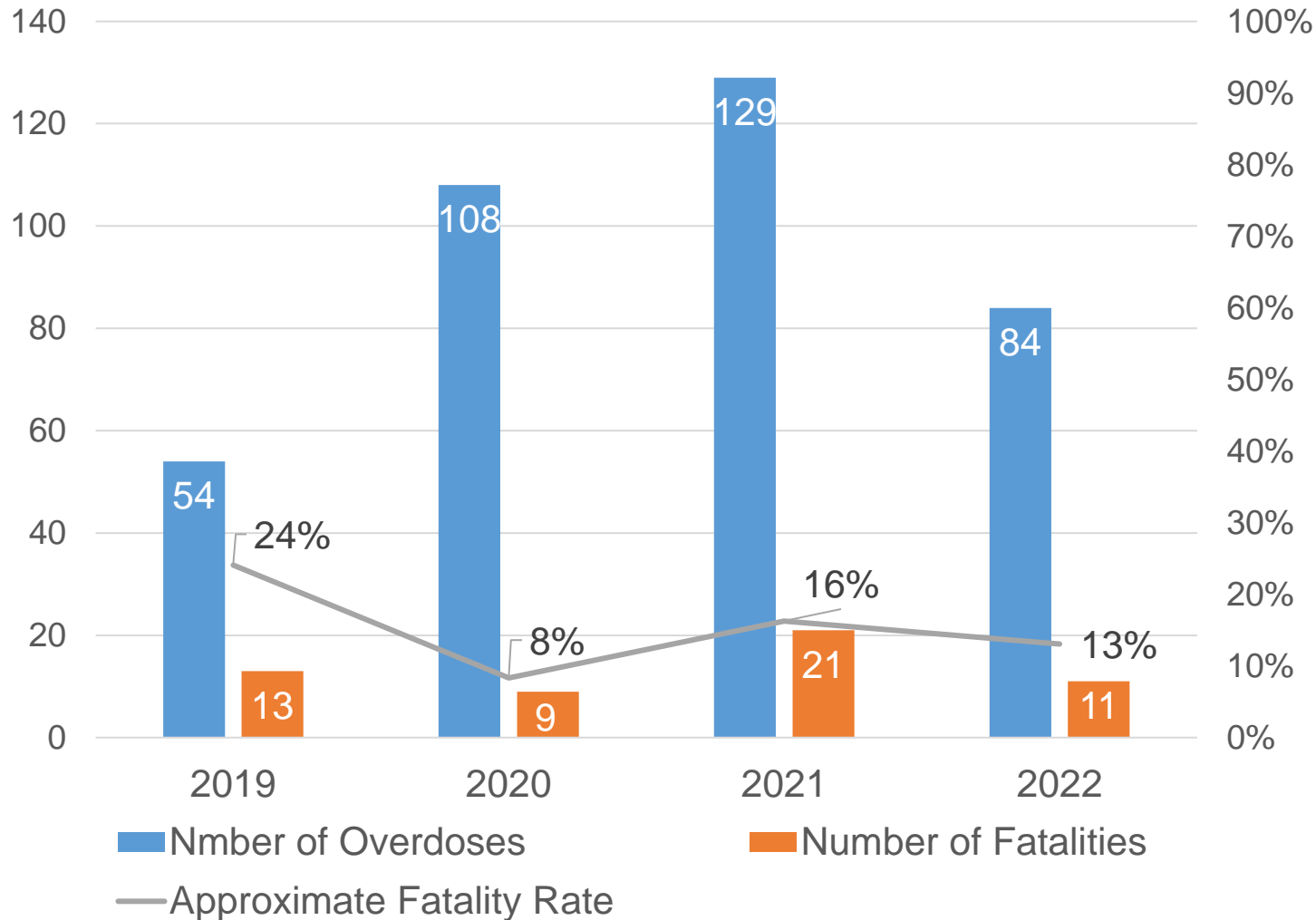
Public Health Strategies to Prevent/Reduce Overdose and Transmission of Infectious Disease

Strategies to prevent overdose, deaths to overdose and other drug-related harms include:

- Naloxone-100% affective at preventing opioid overdose deaths when administered in time
- Fentanyl Test Strips-96-100% effective at detecting the presence of fentanyl in a tested substance
- Medication Assisted Treatment (Methadone, Buprenorphine, Vivitrol)-Time in Treatment is associated with decreased overdose risk. 60-day treatment retention associated with 61% decrease in overdose risk. This increases to 72% reduction in overdose risk with 300 days in treatment
- Access to sterile syringes- The national prevalence estimate for Hepatitis C among people who inject drugs is 53%; injection drug use is the leading risk factor for Hepatitis C. It is also the leading risk factor for HIV. Ensuring access to new, sterile syringes prevents sharing or re-using syringes and decreases transmission of infectious disease.

In Greene County, access to naloxone, fentanyl test strips and treatment with Buprenorphine has increased dramatically since 2019. There is no provider offering sterile syringe access programs located within Greene County. Catholic Charities' Project Safepoint does provide this service through special arrangements.

Number of Overdoses Entered into ODMAP, Number of Overdose Fatalities and Approximate Fatality Rate. Greene County, NY. 2019-2022



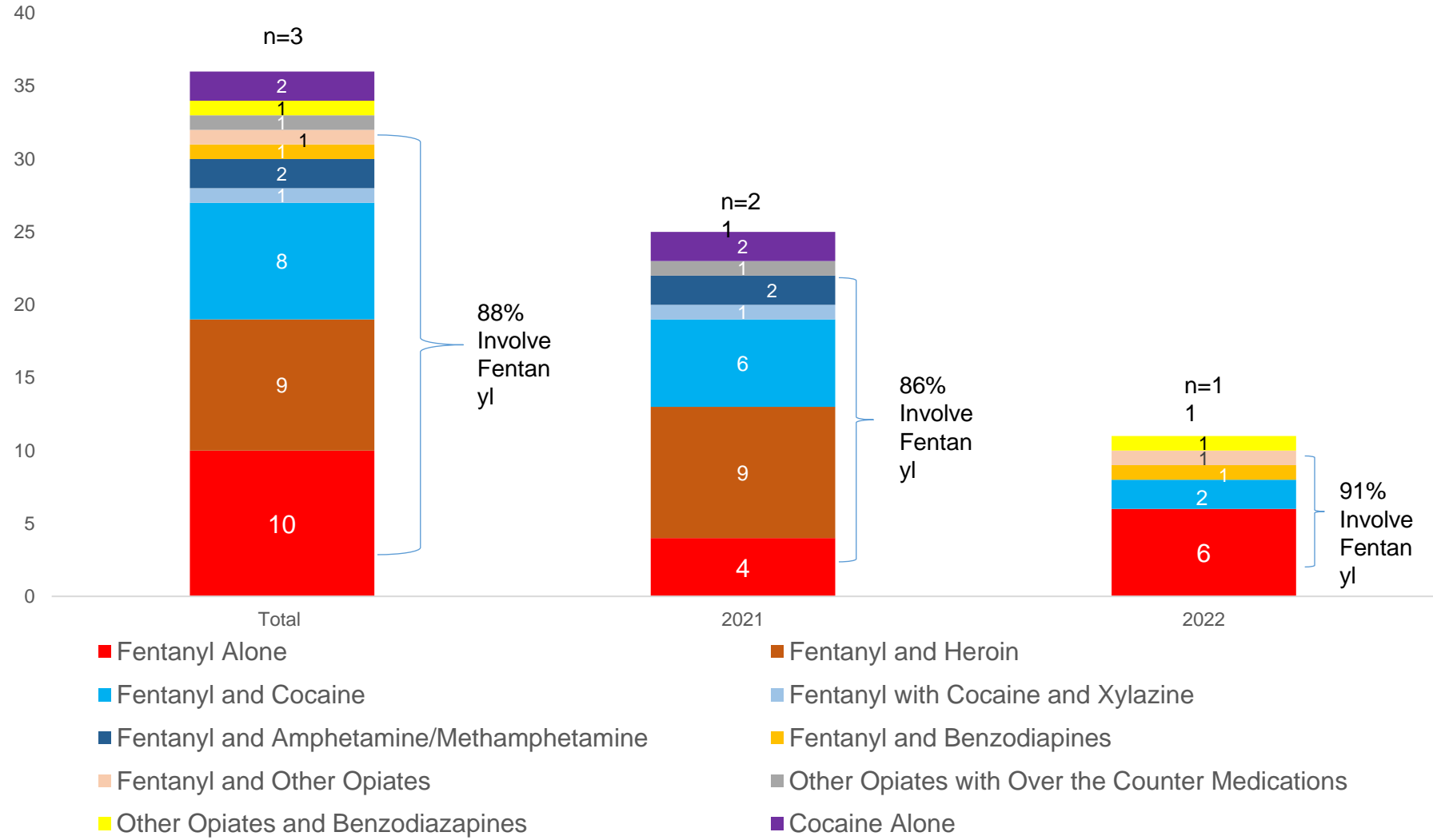
The **approximate fatality rate** is the number of confirmed fatal overdoses divided by the number of overdoses entered into ODMAP. It is approximate because while the number of fatalities is certain, the true number of overdoses is larger than the number entered into ODMAP either because 911 was not called, or first responders did not enter the event into ODMAP.*

Therefore, the rate shown is the worst-case scenario—in reality, the true number of overdoses is larger, and the fatality rate is smaller.

Ensuring access to naloxone, which is near 100% effective at reversing an opioid overdose death when administered in time, is the most effective intervention for decreasing opioid overdose fatality rates.

**GCPH is in process of improving ODMAP data accuracy through integration of an ODMAP API with the First Responder EHR*

Overdose Deaths by Substance Type Involved, 2021-2022
 Greene County.
 Source: Greene County Coroner and Medical Examiner Records



While the majority of overdose deaths involve fentanyl, only 31% involve fentanyl alone. Usually, fentanyl is combined with some other substance—most often heroin, cocaine, but also amphetamine/methamphetamine, benzodiazepines and other substances.

Xylazine is a risky additive first identified in overdose death in Greene County is 2021. It increases respiratory depression and risk of death to overdose.

The drug supply is highly contaminated. This is why the availability and use of fentanyl test strips is a key overdose prevention strategy, along with free access to naloxone.

Overdose Spike Alert

Overdoses have spiked. There may be an exceptionally harmful drug in the local supply.

There were 3 overdoses in Catskill, NY between 1/2/2023 and 1/3/2023; 2 were fatal. Greene County Health Department suspects the overdoses involved **cocaine mixed with fentanyl**.

If you are using drugs, you can decrease your risk of overdose by practicing **harm reduction**.

- Test your drugs and know what you are using. Text **TESTSTRIPS** to 77948 for free strips delivered confidentially
- Carry Narcan and know how to use it. Text **NARCANKIT** to 21000 for free naloxone delivered confidentially
- Consider safety. It is best to use around others and to take turns using so that if someone overdoses, there is someone nearby to help. When alone, consider the **Never Use Alone Hotline** (800) 997-2280.*

*Expect to provide your exact location and stay on the phone while you use. The service is anonymous, but if you become unresponsive, a peer will send an ambulance to your location.

Greene County Public Health maintains an Overdose Spike Response Plan, which details protocols and partnerships aimed at reducing overdose deaths during an overdose 'spike'.

Spikes are temporal and geographic and indicate that a particularly potent or harmful substance may be present in the local drug supply.

When the Overdose Spike Response Plan is activated, GCPH, along with designated partners working in public health, public safety and human services mobilize to inform the community at risk and to provide naloxone, fentanyl test strips and other resources that can reduce the risk of additional fatalities.

Injection Drug Use and Hepatitis C Risk

Injection Drug Use is common among GCFP MAT Program Patients. Of a sample of 198 MAT Patients at GCFP, 67% have a history of injection drug use.

Hepatitis C status is known for 78% of Patients.
97% of patients with Hepatitis C have a history of injection drug use.

Among patients with a history of injection drug use, the prevalence of Hepatitis C infection is 61%.

This demonstrates a high prevalence of Hepatitis C within the community in Greene County that injects drugs.

Chronic infection with Hepatitis C often leads to cirrhosis and can lead to liver disease, including liver cancer and death.

The risk factors for Hepatitis C transmission and infection mostly include injection drug use, but it can also be transmitted through sexual contact, through sharing items that could be contaminated with blood like toothbrushes or razors, through practices where needles are involved, like tattooing or needlestick injury among healthcare workers, or through maternal/infant transmission at birth.

Treatment is available and effective, but difficult to endure (8-12 weeks with severe side effects) and expensive (\$30,000-\$80,000 treatment per patient).

Ensuring access to free, sterile syringes reduces syringe sharing and transmission of disease among high-risk individuals.

GCFP is working with NYS Department of Health to design a Second Tier Syringe Access Program to supplement First Tier Access through Catholic Charities' Project Safepoint program.



Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, Crude Rates/100,000 Columbia County vs. NYS Excluding NYC, 2014-2021

Data Source: NYSDOH County Annual Opioid Reports
Last Updated: 12/05/2022
Update Frequency: Annual

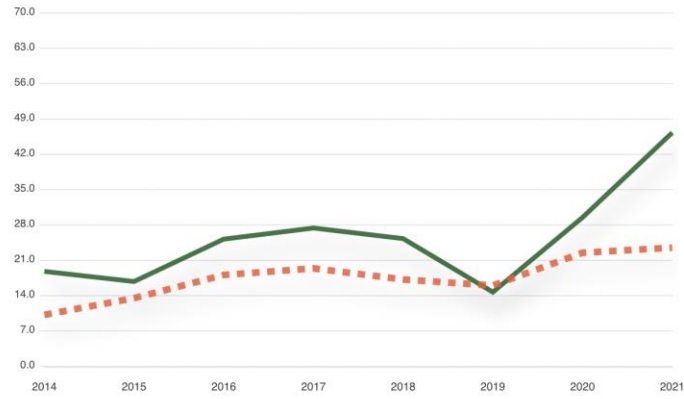


Between 2014 and 2021, the average annual crude rate of overdose among upstate NY counties was 17.6/100,000. The average rate in Columbia County for the same period was just below the upstate average (17.2/100,000).

In 2021, the upstate NY crude rate of overdose was 23.5 and the rate in Columbia County was 24.4.

Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, Crude Rates/100,000 Greene County vs. NYS Excluding NYC, 2014-2021

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In 2021, the upstate NY crude rate of overdose was 23.5 and the rate in Greene County was 46.3.

A recently launched Opioid Data Dashboard is available on the CGAC website.

Covering Columbia and Greene counties, the dashboard includes real time county-level and subcounty-level data on trends in overdose volume, fatality rates, overdose decedent demographics and substances implicated in overdose deaths.

Access to the data can heighten a shared sense of urgency relating to local overdose trends. The dashboard data can also be used by those practicing harm reduction and making informed decisions about how to decrease risk.

It is our hope that access to this information will lead to targeted interventions to prevent overdose death.

<https://www.columbiagreeneaddictioncoalition.org/opioid-dashboard/>

Next Steps relating to Overdose Prevention

- Complete a needs assessment relating to a Second Tier Syringe Distribution program through Greene County Public Health
- Design and implement an Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) process to explore overdose death cases for common themes
- Explore and pursue funding for on-going data and surveillance work and for expanded services to prevent overdose and increase access to treatment
 - CDC RFP
 - NYSACHO RFP
 - NYSDOH OD2A
 - County Settlement Funds

Questions for the Presenter



Break



Fellow Group Activity



Fellow Breakout Room

- Fellows will be placed in the breakout room
- The meeting will be facilitated by the FPC and Senior Fellow
- Breakout room will have (3) questions to prompt discussion

Please consider the following:

1. Can you tell us currently what projects or work activities that you are working on?
2. What topic areas of public health are you most interested in?
3. What has been your favorite or most interesting project that you have worked on thus far?

Question 1

Can you tell us currently what projects or work activities that you are working on?

Question 2

What topic areas of public health are you most interested in?

Question 3

What has been your favorite or most interesting project that you have worked on thus far?

**Closing, Announcements,
Updates, Save the Date**



Announcements & Updates

- Please complete the Consortium Meeting Evaluation Survey which will be sent via email following this meeting
- If you want to continue the conversation, join the NYSPHC Fellowship Program LinkedIn Group to continue networking and professional development:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14059709>



Save the Date!

Save the date for the following upcoming meetings:

- Educational Series – JEDI Wednesday, April 12th
- June 2023 Consortium
- Annual Summit (FALL)

NYSPHC Training and Resources Website

<https://nysphcresources.health.ny.gov/training-resource-center>

New York State Public Health Corps
Fellowship Program



Training Resource Center Home



About the
NYSPHC



Fellow Training
Resources



Mentor Training
Resources



Resources by
Region



Workgroup
Resources



NYSPHC Events
Calendar

Questions?



Contact us with Questions

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