

#### **AGENDA**

- Overview of Why Substance Abuse Occurs
- Public Health Department
   Presentation/Q&A
- Racine Fire Department Presentation/Q&A
- Racine Police Department
   Presentation/Q&A
- Further Considerations and Final Takeaways

# WHY DOES DRUG ABUSE HAPPEN?

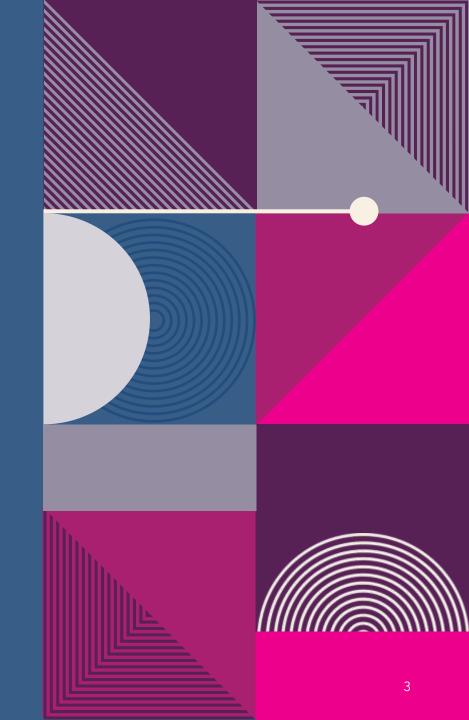
There are many factors that prompt drug use:

- Emotional or psychological stress or distress
- Physical pain
- Social Connectivity
- Curiosity

Regular substance use can change brain chemistry and development, which can affect one's ability to abstain or resist continued usage, forming an addiction.

Home environment, Mental Health predispositions, Social Life, Age of Exposure, and Genetic Predispositions all have influence on if and/or when a person can become addicted to a particular substance.

Source: National Institutes of Health



# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

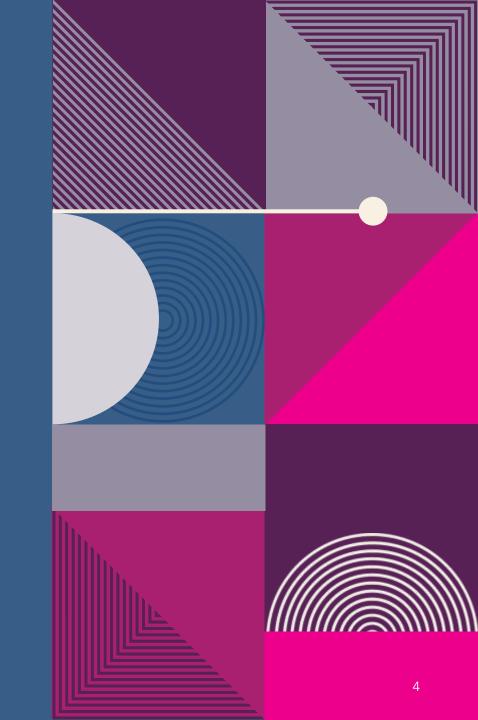
Stress is a known risk factor for numerous mental health disorders and serves as a probable common neurobiological link between the development of substance use disorders and mental health disorders.

Physically or emotionally traumatized people are at much higher risk for drug use and SUDs

Substance use and addiction can contribute to the development of mental illness

Mental illnesses can contribute to drug use and addiction.

Source: National Institutes of Health



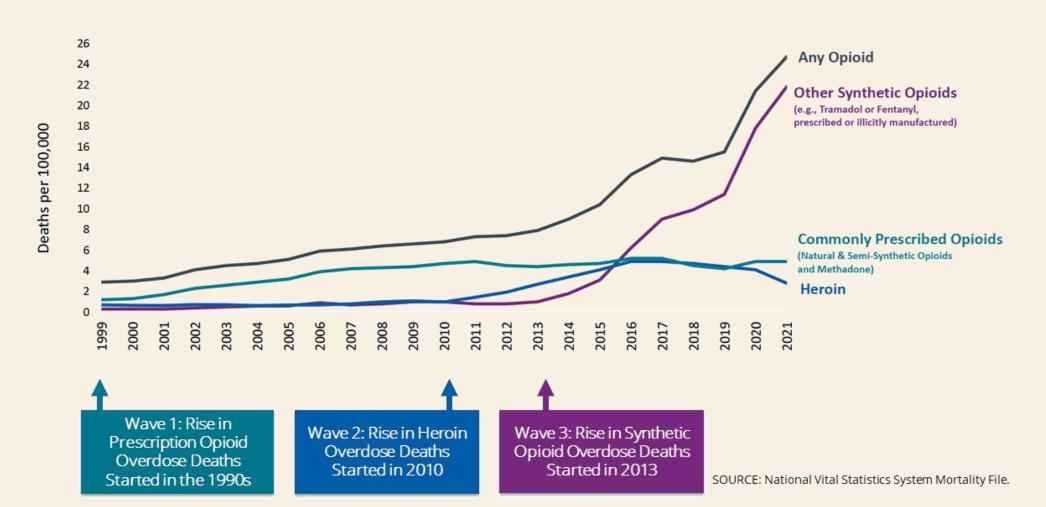


# CITY OF RACINE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Committee of the Whole Presentation March 13, 2024

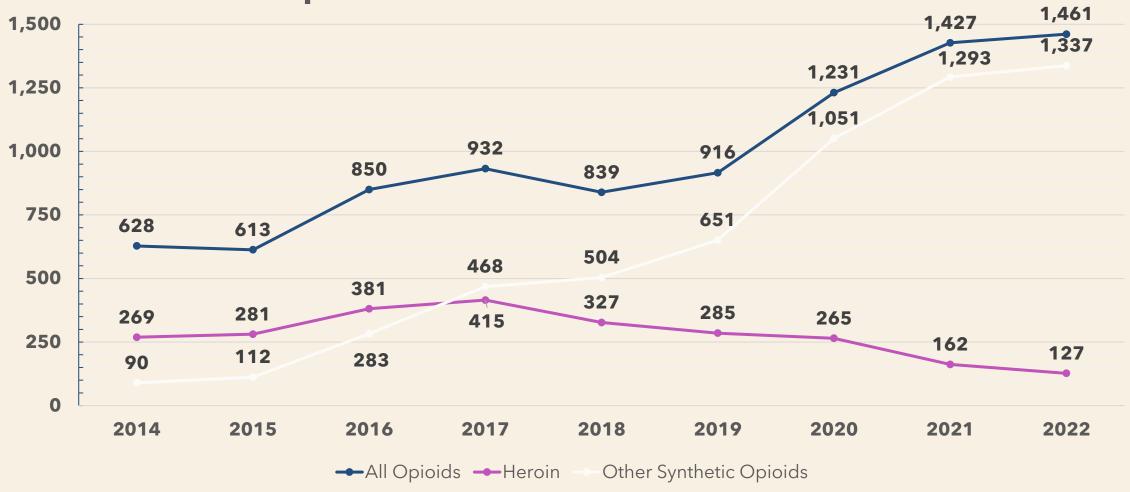
# How DID WE GET HERE? | OPIOID OVERDOSES

#### Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



# DEATHS IN WISCONSIN | OPIOID OVERDOSES

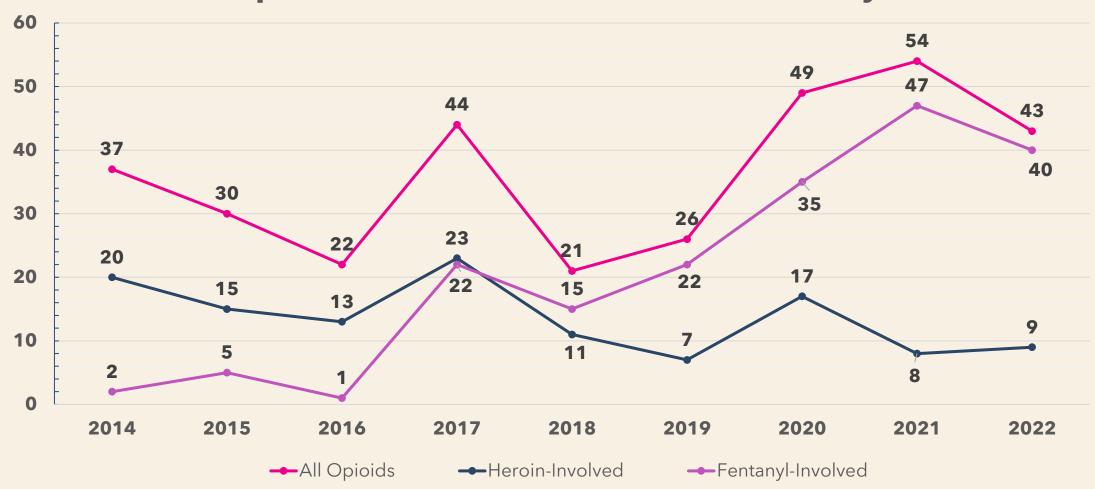




Source: WI Department of Health Services, <u>Dose of Reality: Opioid Deaths by County Dashboard | Wisconsin DHS</u>

# DEATHS IN RACINE COUNTY | OPIOID OVERDOSES

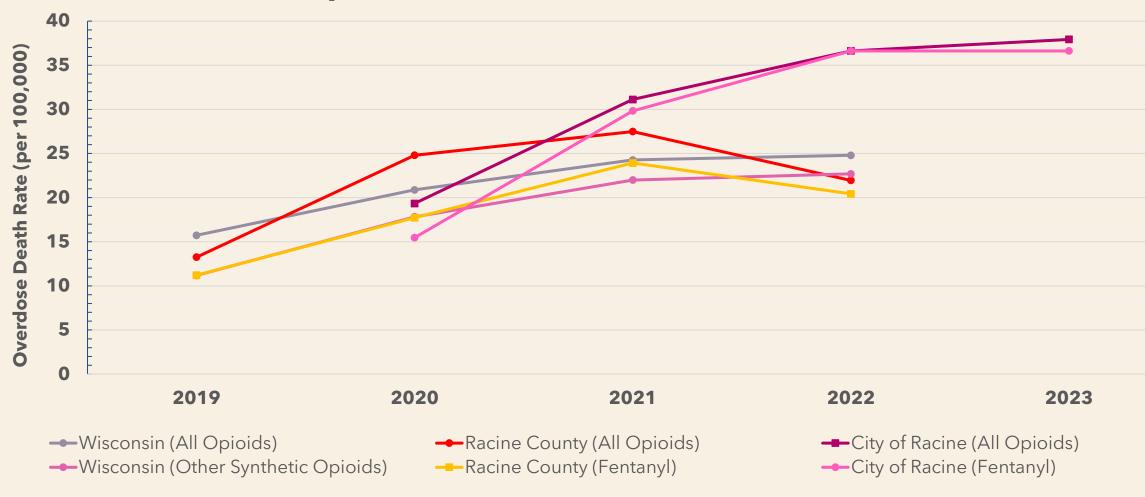
#### **Opioid Overdose Deaths in Racine County**



Source: WI Department of Health Services, <u>Dose of Reality: Opioid Deaths by County Dashboard | Wisconsin DHS</u>

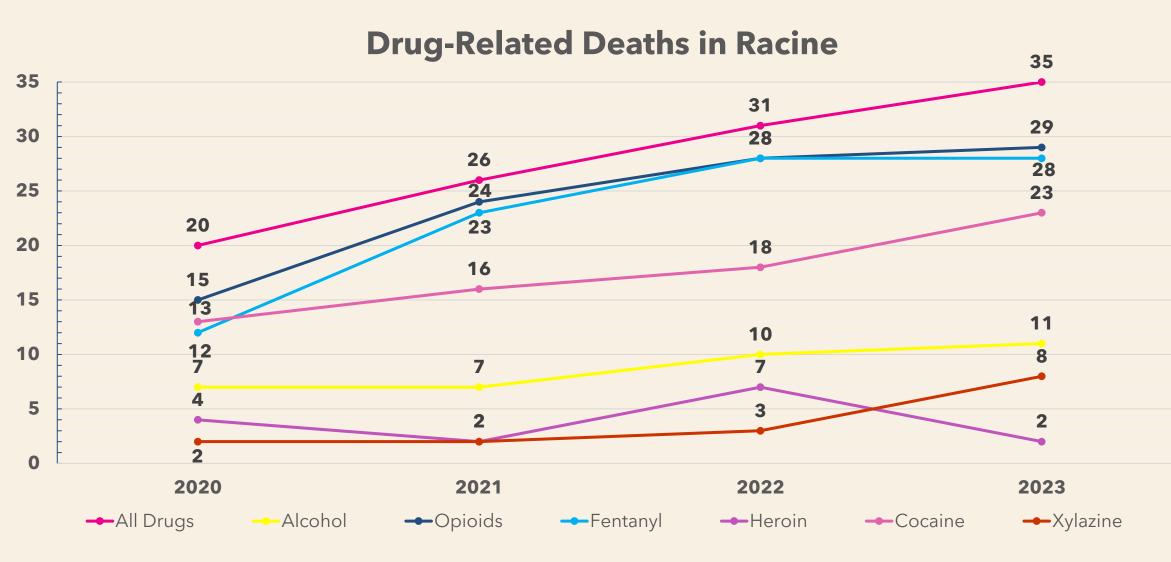
#### DEATHS IN RACINE (COUNTY/CITY) OPIOID OVERDOSES

#### **Opioid Overdose Death Rate in Racine**



Source: WI Department of Health Services, <u>Dose of Reality: Opioid Deaths by County Dashboard | Wisconsin DHS</u> (Wisconsin & Racine County data); WI Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, State Vital Records Office, Overdose Fatality Review Report (City of Racine data)

## DEATHS IN THE CITY OF RACINE | ALL DRUG-RELATED



Source: WI Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, State Vital Records Office, Overdose Fatality Review Report

# FENTANYL OPIOID OVERDOSES

Fentanyl is a **synthetic opioid** used to treat severe pain; it is **50-100x more potent than morphine**.



- Most fentanyl-related harm in the US is linked to illicit fentanyl.
- Often **mixed with heroin and cocaine**, and increasingly other drugs as well, to increase the desired effects of the drug.
- From 2014 to 2022, there was a 1900% increase in fentanylrelated deaths across Racine County.
- In 2014, fentanyl was found in **5.4% of drug overdose deaths** in Racine County. In 2022, it was found in **93%** of cases.
- Similarly, fentanyl was found in **80% of opioid overdose deaths** in the City of Racine in 2020. In 2023, this rose to **97%** (100% in 2022).

# XYLAZINE | DRUG OVERDOSES

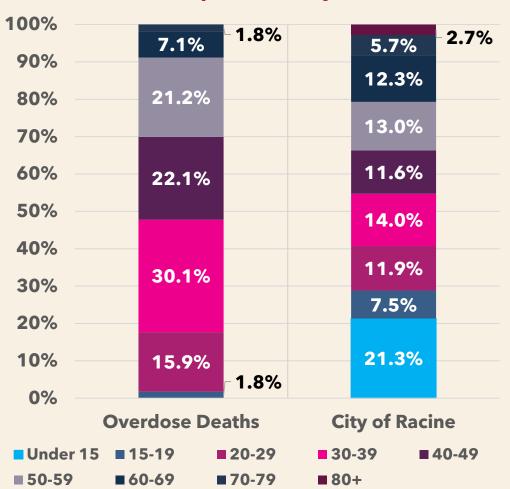
Xylazine, also known as "**Tranq**," is a powerful sedative approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for **veterinary use**.

- A non-opioid, so Narcan/naloxone will not reverse overdose.
- In 2022, the DEA Laboratory System found 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized contained xylazine.
- Declared an "emerging threat" by the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- Increasing threat locally: **300% increase** in **Xylazine-involved** overdose deaths in the City of Racine **from 2020-2023** (93% increase in opioid deaths over the same period).



# **AGE** | CITY OF RACINE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS

Age Groups, Overdose Deaths (2020-2023) Compared to City of Racine





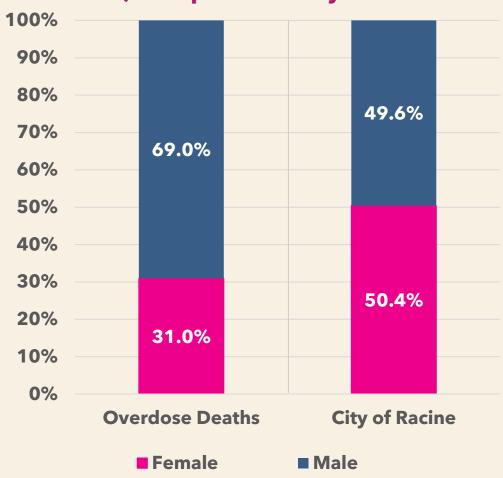




Source: WI Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, State Vital Records Office, Overdose Fatality Review Report

## **GENDER** | CITY OF RACINE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS

Gender, Overdose Deaths (2020-2023) Compared to City of Racine



23X
Higher Overdose
Death Rate in
Males vs. Females

#### RACE & ETHNICITY | CITY OF RACINE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS

Race & Ethnicity, Overdose Deaths (2020-2023) Compared to City of Racine

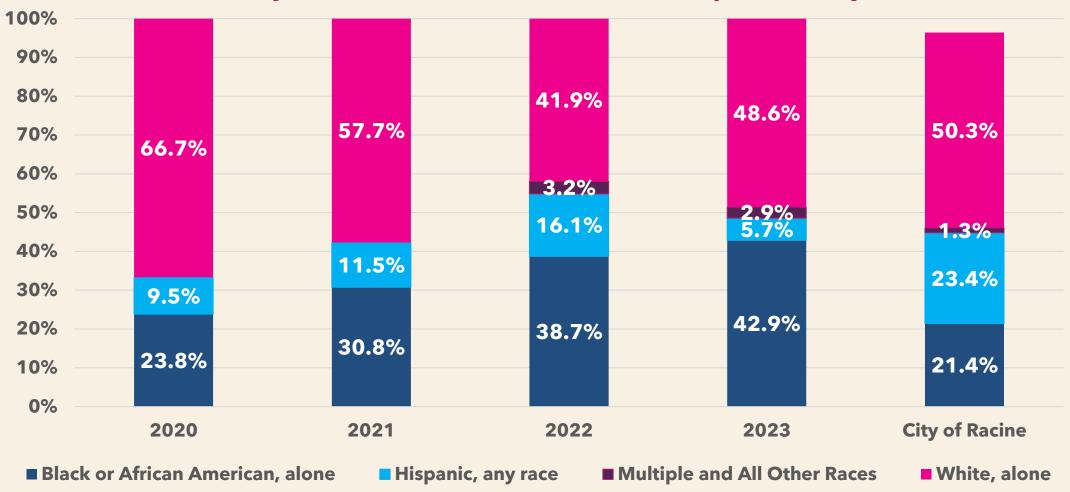


16X
Higher Overdose Death Rate in Black vs. White Individuals

3.6X
Higher Overdose
Death Rate in Black
vs. Hispanic Individuals

#### RACE & ETHNICITY | CITY OF RACINE DRUG-RELATED DEATHS





#### SINCE 2020 | THE BOTTOM LINE ON CITY OF RACINE DEATHS

112 Lives Lost to Drugs 86% Due to Opioids

95% of Opioid Deaths Involved Fentanyl

93% in Opioid Deaths from 2020 - 2023 133% in Fentanyl Deaths from 2020 - 2023



# WHAT IS BEING DONE?

**City of Racine Public Health Department** 

Committee of the Whole Presentation

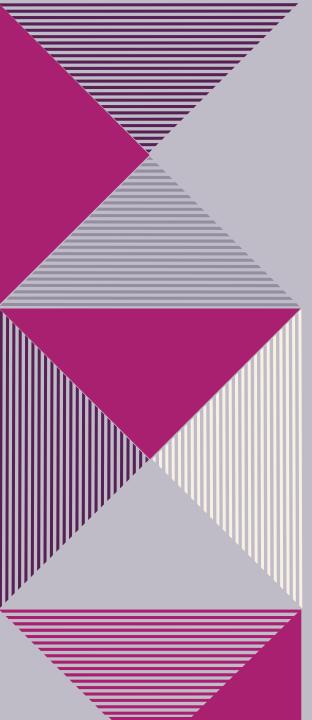
March 13, 2024



## SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Proper medication disposal is a **public health and safety issue** and an **environmental protection concern**.

- The Public Health Department coordinates Racine County's grant.
- Funding allows for implementation and management of medication drop boxes and collection events.
- Safe disposal of opioids prevents misuse and accidental overdose.
- A total of 12 drop boxes are located across Racine County at police departments, municipal buildings, and pharmacies.
- Nearly **3,100 pounds** of unwanted medications were collected in **2023** 1,200 pounds greater than in 2022.



# **HARM REDUCTION - WHAT IS IT?**

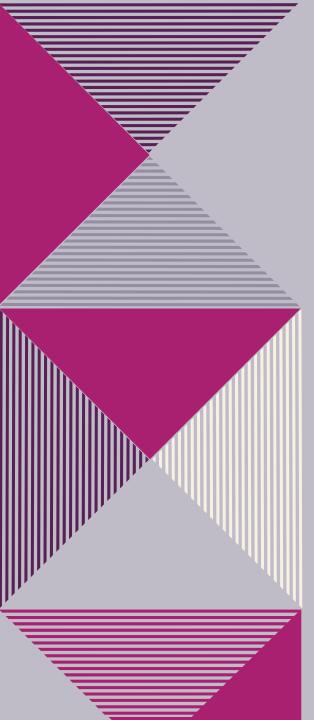
Harm reduction: An evidence-based approach to engaging those who use drugs:

- Seeks to equip them with life-saving tools and information.
- Works to **create positive change** in their lives.
- Outcomes are a decrease in negative health consequences and potentially saving lives.

Strategies for harm reduction include both services and supplies:

- Services: Education, referrals, testing, syringe disposal
- Supplies: Sterile injection equipment, Hope Kits, safer sex items

Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), <a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/harm-reduction">https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/harm-reduction</a>



# BACKGROUND | HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

- Program has been in operation for 10 years; began in 2014.
- Program Goals:
  - Reduce transmission of communicable diseases, such as Hepatitis C and HIV, among people who inject drugs (PWID).
  - Provide training and resources to decrease preventable deaths and injuries due to opioid overdose.
  - Reduce overall harms caused by injection drug use among PWID and the general public.
- Provides syringe access supplies and a safe, appropriate option for disposal of used syringes.
- Provides nasal Narcan (naloxone); distributed injectable as well.
- Rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing are offered, as well as referrals and resources for treatment programs, STI testing, etc.



#### TIMELINE | HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

2014

- Launched in March with training, technical assistance, and supplies from the AIDS Resource Center of WI.
- Sharps containers installed: City Hall, Annex, and Racine Public Library.

2017

• Narcan distribution and education began in January.

2020

• COVID-19 Pandemic interrupted services.

2021

• Harm Reduction Program activities resumed on a limited scale in June (full reopening in March 2022).

2023

• Public Health Vending Machine deployed in December, located at Corinne Reid-Owens Transit Center.

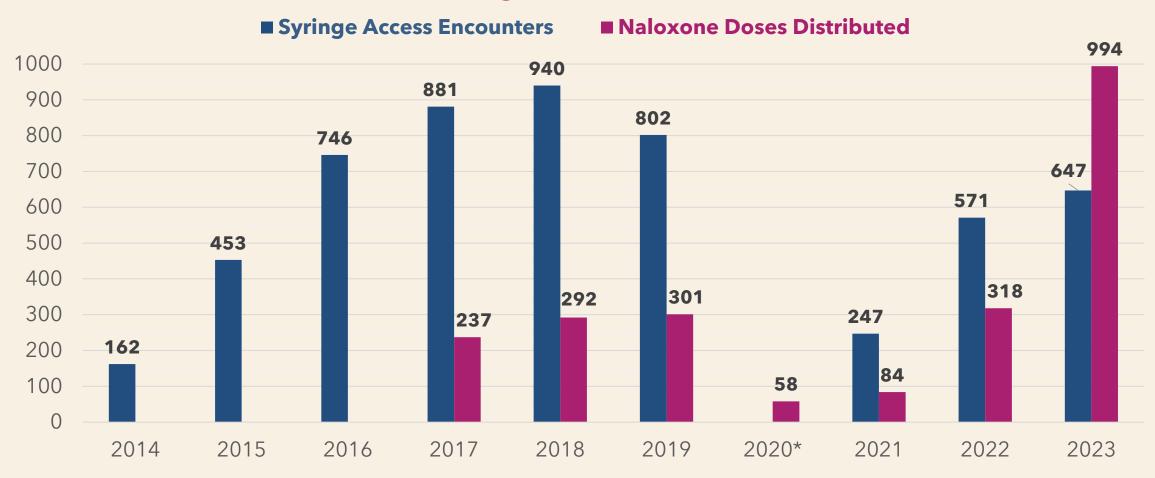


# **FUNDING** | HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

- No City Levy funding is used for Harm Reduction Program supplies.
- Supplies from local partners and grant funding to support activities:
  - Vivent Health (formerly ARCW)
    - Safer injection equipment
  - WI Department of Health Services
    - Narcan Direct program
    - Fentanyl Test Strip Kit grant
    - Public Health Vending Machine grant

# SERVICE TRENDS | HARM REDUCTION

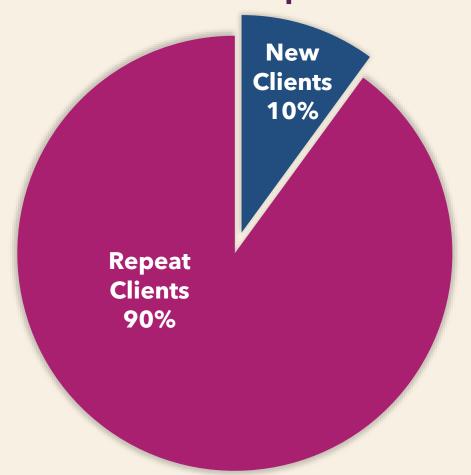
#### **Harm Reduction Program Interactions, 2014 - 2023**



<sup>\*</sup>Data loss and service interruption due to ransomware attack (January) followed by the COVID-19 pandemic (February onward).

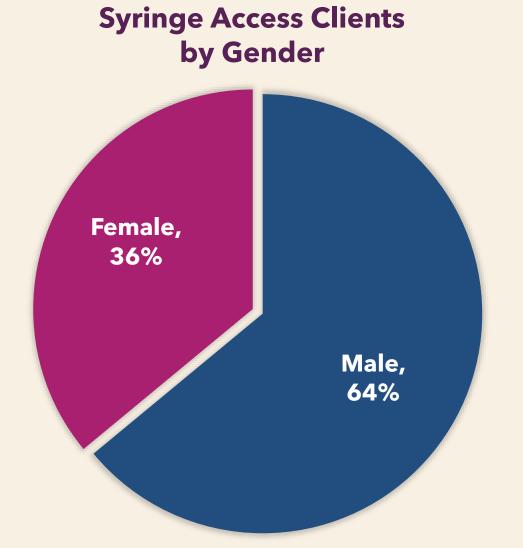
# SERVICE TRENDS | HARM REDUCTION

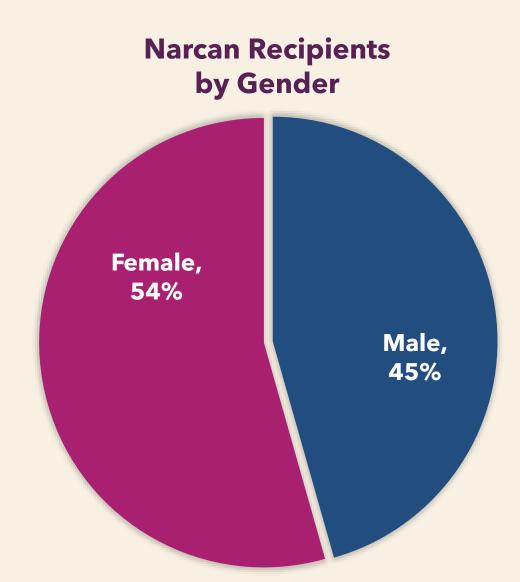
Syringe Access Clients, New vs. Repeat



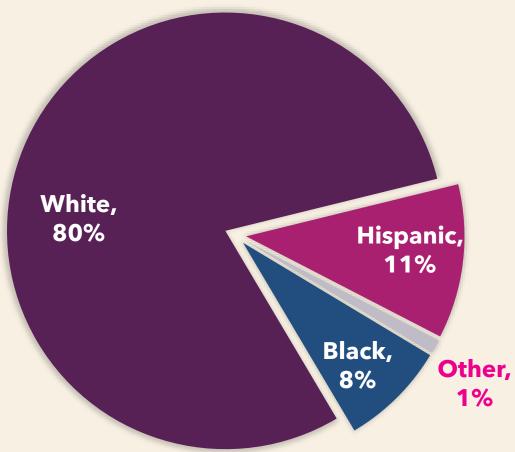




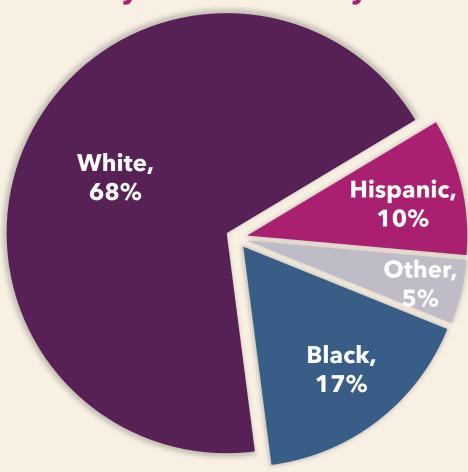


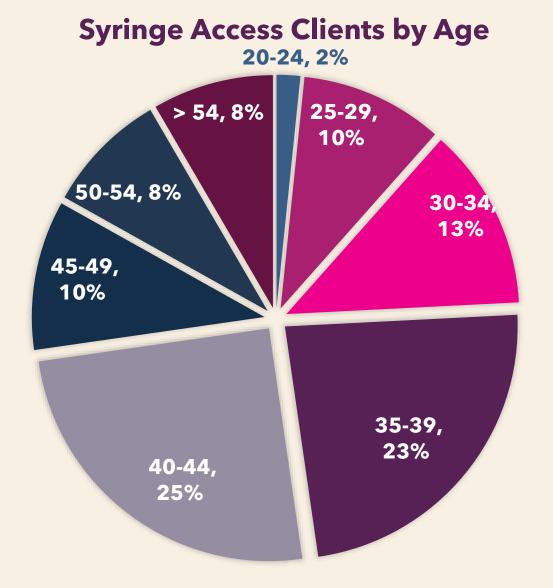


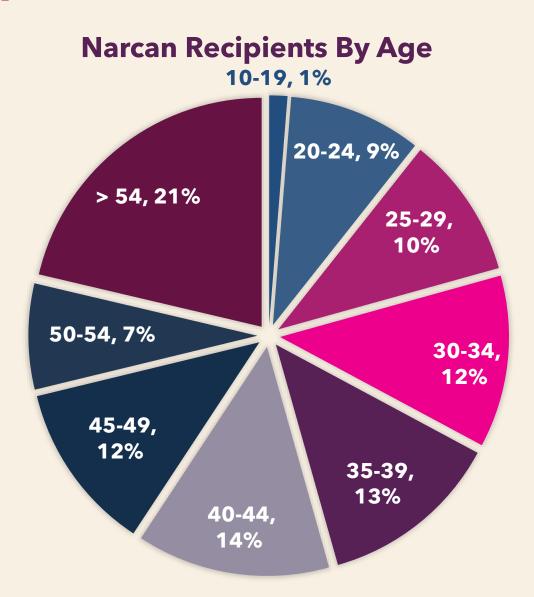




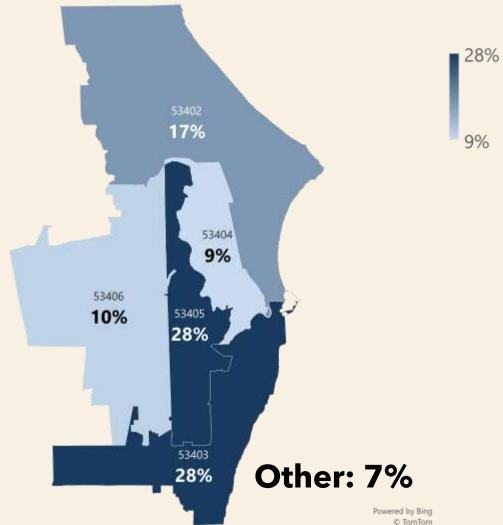
# Narcan Recipients by Race & Ethnicity



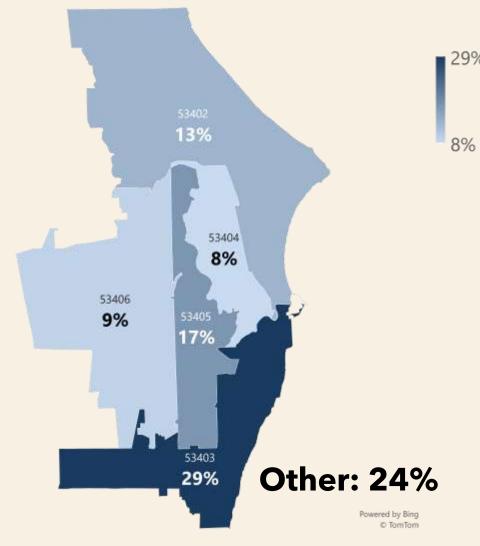




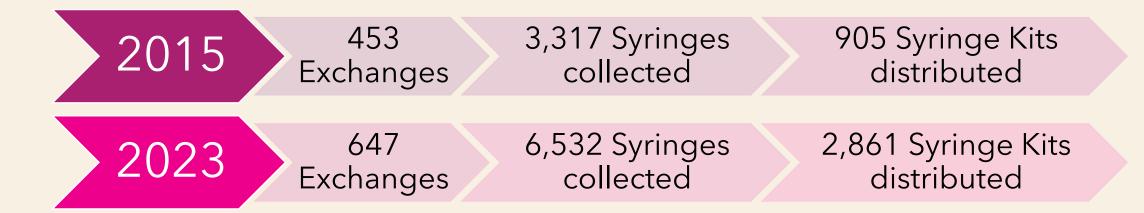




#### **Narcan Recipients**



# PROGRAM GROWTH | HARM REDUCTION



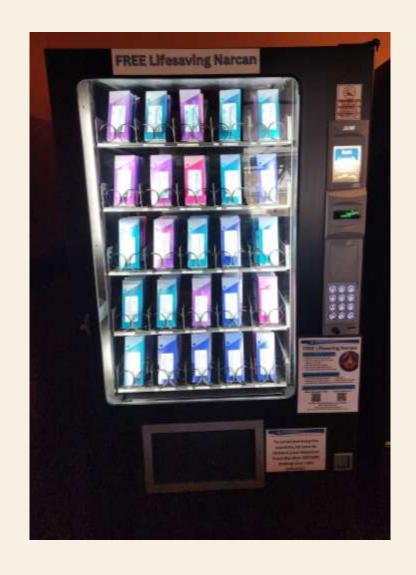
• Program promotion and growth is mainly through word of mouth and outreach with local partners.

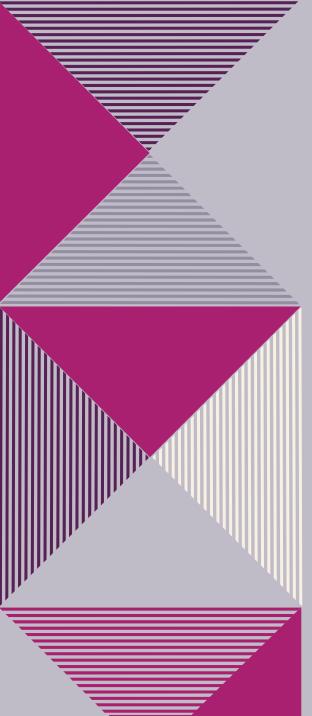
# NARCAN OUTREACH | HARM REDUCTION

- Outreach activities for Narcan education/distribution greatly increased in 2023.
- Group presentations for:
  - Numerous City of Racine departments
  - Community agencies
  - RUSD and private schools (Teachers, Admin, & other staff)
  - Local organizations
- Education/outreach conducted at community events, including:
  - Racine Public Library Resource Fair
  - Overdose Awareness Day at Lincoln Park
  - City of Racine Bounce Back Events
  - City of Racine 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash

#### PUBLIC HEALTH VENDING MACHINE | HARM REDUCTION

- Grant funding from WI Department of Health Services for a Public Health Vending Machine (PHVM).
- Located at the Corinne Reid-Owens Transit Center.
- Dispenses Hope Kits at no cost.
- Reduces barriers to access:
  - Hours of operation
  - Confidentiality
  - Stigma
- More than 340 Hope Kits have been distributed since December 21, 2023.
  - 680 doses of Narcan
  - Zip Codes 53402 and 53404 have highest usage





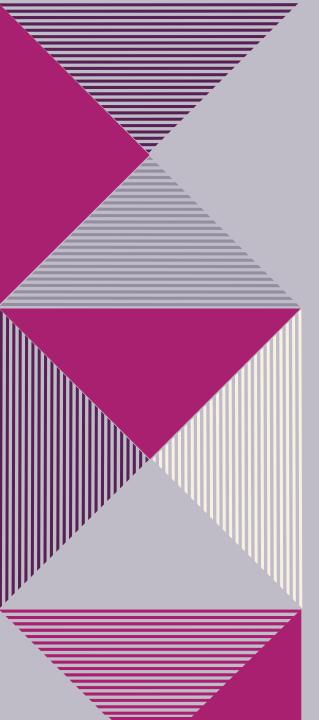
#### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Participation in statewide and national groups, including:

- Wisconsin Harm Reduction Alliance
- National PHVM Roundtable
- Wisconsin PHVM Community of Practice

Trainings and meetings to keep up with best practices:

- Wisconsin Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit
- Trainings and Webinars:
  - New Trends: Xylazine
  - Hepatitis C Elimination Plan
  - Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services
  - Combatting stigma & engaging those who use drugs
  - Safer Use Education



#### **OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM**

"Overdose Fatality Review" (OFR) is a locally based, multidisciplinary process to understand the circumstances and risk factors leading to fatal overdoses, then identify opportunities to prevent future overdoses.

The basis of OFR is that these fatalities could have been prevented with the right action, timing, intervention, and/or response.

#### Partners include:

- Law enforcement
- EMS
- Public Health

- Medical Examiner
   Health care
- Treatment Providers Research/Education
- Criminal justice



# **OVERDOSE SPIKE ALERTS**

- Overdose data actively monitored via syndromic surveillance, using near real-time reports from Emergency Departments.
- When an increase beyond "expected" rate occurs, the OFR Team meets to discuss and analyze data.
- A spike alert is sent out to partners with specific requests and instruction for outreach and other actions.
- Public health shares messaging on social media and with clients of the Harm Reduction program
- Intent is to inform community members that drugs circulating may contain higher than expected quantities of substances like fentanyl and what steps should be taken.



# **OUTCOMES**

- 133 people, and one dog, who experienced a suspected overdose were saved by Narcan from this program\*.
  - \*Only saves reported to Public Health are counted, so actual figures are likely higher.
- More than 2,500 doses of Narcan distributed by the Public Health Department since 2017.
- More than 12,000 pounds of unwanted medications collected via drop boxes across Racine County since 2020.



## NEXT STEPS

#### **City of Racine Public Health Department**

Committee of the Whole Presentation

### FURTHER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

#### Addressing disparities:

- Increase targeted outreach to those disproportionately affected via:
  - Churches
  - Community and social organizations
  - Community sites and events
- Increase messaging targeted to those disproportionately affected

#### Increase access to Narcan:

- Increase messaging about additional ways to obtain Narcan
- Provide Narcan through mail via "Mail Me Condoms" model
- Anticipate opportunity to apply for grant funding to deploy a second Public Health Vending Machine



## QUESTIONS?

#### **City of Racine Public Health Department**

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# CITY OF RACINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committee of the Whole Presentation March 13, 2024

### FIRE DEPARTMENT DATA

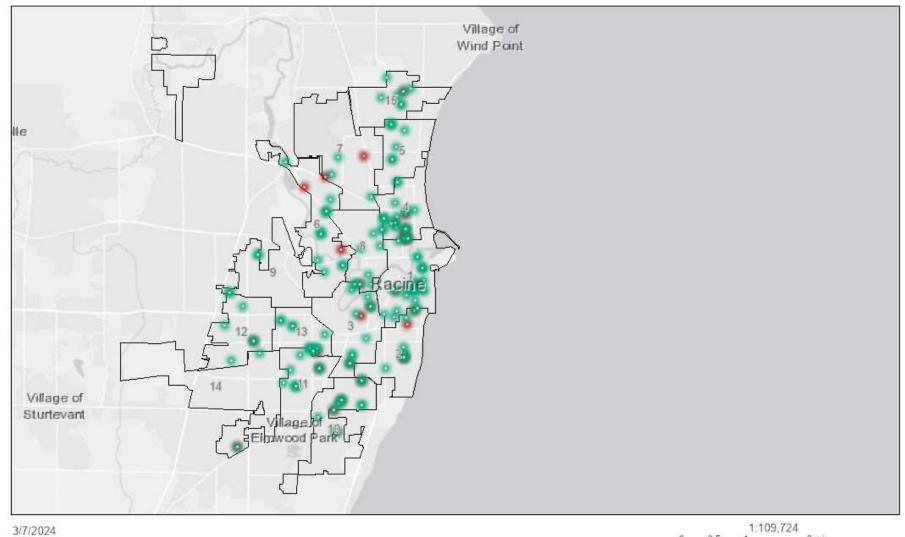


Total # of Narcan	
Administrations	Count of Medication Given
<b>±2018</b>	150
<b>±2019</b>	188
<b>±2020</b>	248
<b>±2021</b>	319
<b>±2022</b>	293
<b>±2023</b>	283
<b>±2024</b>	30
Grand Total	1511

Year	Count of Overdoses
2018	30
2019	62
2020	133
2021	266
2022	261
2023	238
2024	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	1019

Narcan Administrations					
Age Ran	nge ,	Count of Pts			
50-59		214			
30-39		210			
40-49		190			
20-29		146			
60-69		125			
70-79		36			
80-89		21			
10-19		19			
90-99		9			
NR		8			
< 1		2			
100-120		1			
Grand T	otal	981			

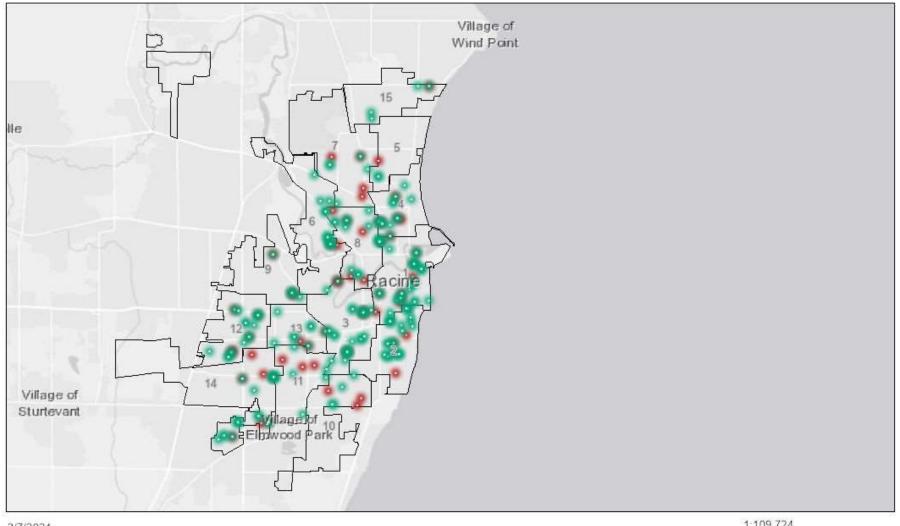
Overdoses	
Age Range	Count of Pts
30-39	231
20-29	209
40-49	206
50-59	184
60-69	90
10-19	49
Not Recorded	21
70-79	13
0-9	11
80-89	5
Grand Total	1019





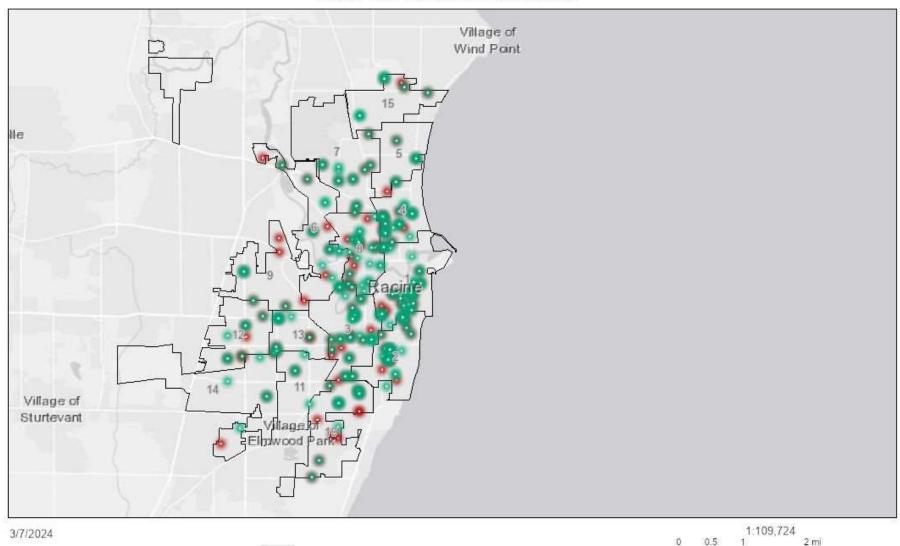


#### 2019 Narcan and Overdoses Village of Wind Point



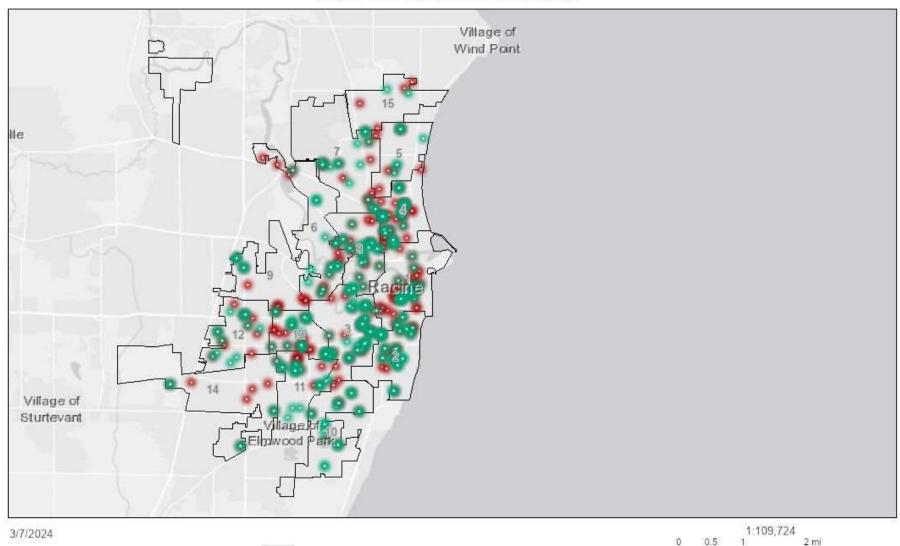






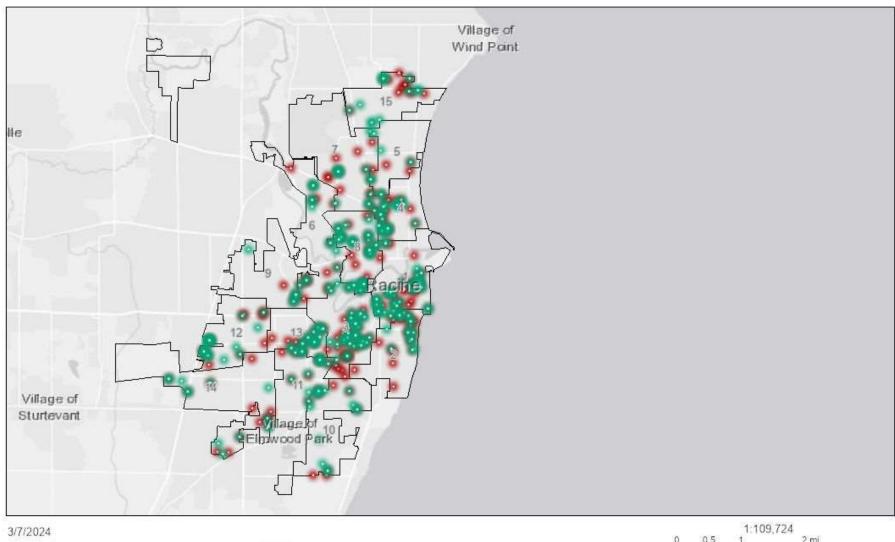






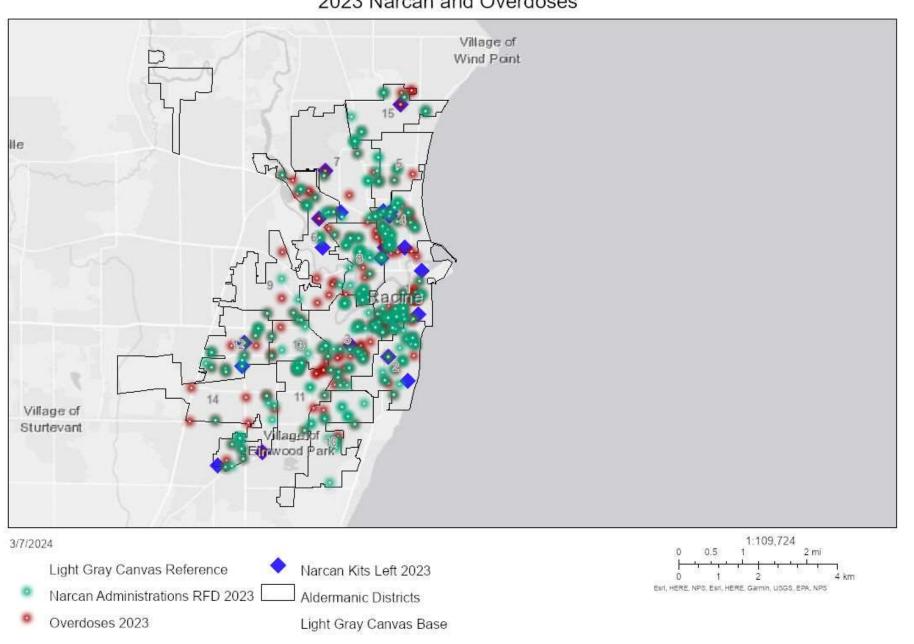




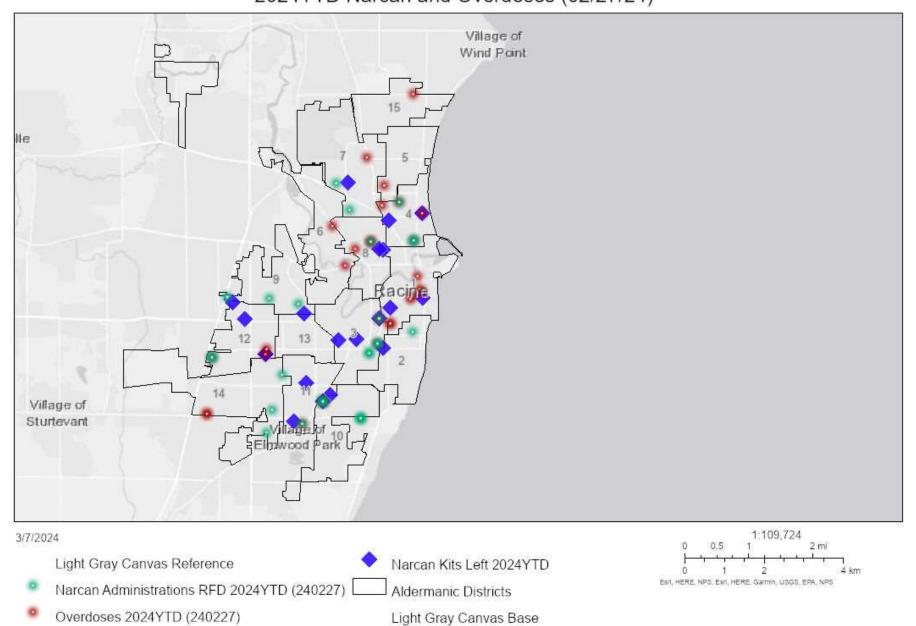








#### 2024YTD Narcan and Overdoses (02/27/24)





# FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

EMS Leave Behind Narcan Kits

➤ Grant funded by Department of Justice settlement funds through August 2024

County-Wide Overdose Review Taskforce

City Public Health Partnership

➤ Home visits post overdose (on hold)



### EMS LEAVE BEHIND KIT





## NEXT STEPS

**City of Racine Fire Department** 

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# INVESTMENT AND STAFFING

- Fund EMS Leave Behind Kit program in Fire Department Budget
- Create and fund an FTE position to implement school education program like current Fire Public Education program focused on harm reduction and intervention in Racine Unified Schools.
  - Position would re-establish post-overdose home visit program.



## QUESTIONS?

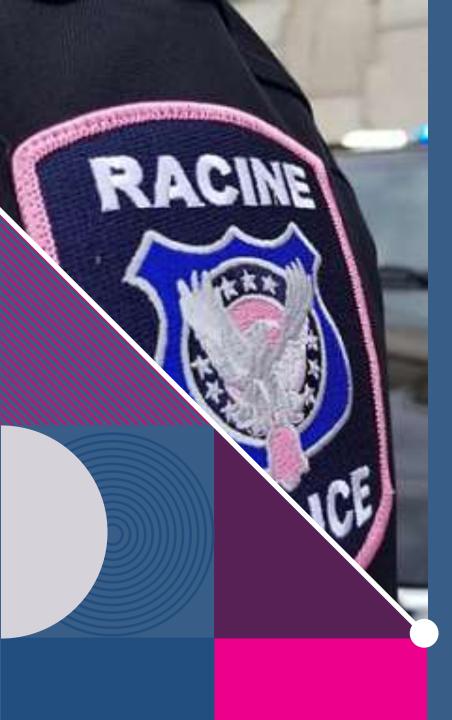
#### **City of Racine Fire Department**

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# CITY OF RACINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Committee of the Whole Presentation March 13, 2024



### How did we get here?

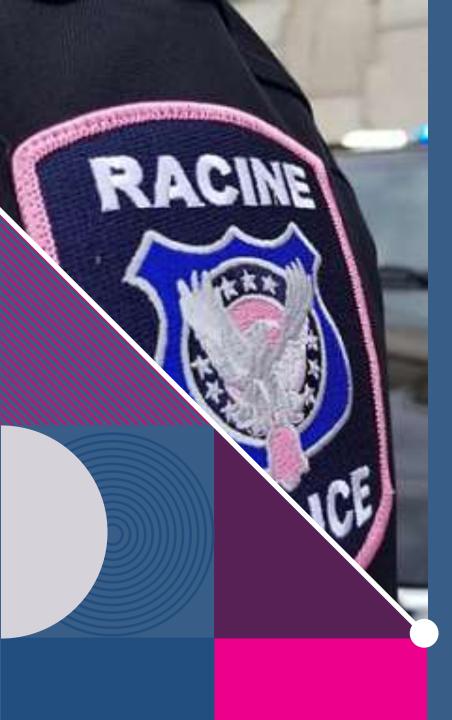
**City of Racine Police Department** 

Committee of the Whole Presentation



### **KEY INFLECTION POINTS**

- 1971 National War on Drugs is Declared
- 50 years of drug use/abuse and distribution evolution
- Cocaine and THC prevalent until rise of crack cocaine
- 80s and 90s significant surge in crack cocaine as main drug locally
- Late 90s early 2000s opioids begin to emerge
  - Heroin and prescribed opioids become prevalent in the narcotics scene
- 2015-present
  - Fentanyl rises to the top now found in nearly all illegal drugs we recover from the streets – Cocaine, Heroin, THC, Fake Prescription Pills etc.
  - Overdose deaths as a result continue to occur



### DRUG CRIMES RESPONSE

**City of Racine Police Department** 

Committee of the Whole Presentation



# HISTORIC RESPONSES TO DRUG CRISIS

- 1990s-early 2000s Drug Units, Gang Units, Target Officers, Community Policing Officers, DARE officer
- Reorganization of Units Structures and names changed, but investigative efforts and tactics remained relatively the same
  - Street Crimes Unit Created
  - 2005-2006 FBI Greater Racine Gang Task Force Developed
     led to significant additional resources provided by FBI
  - Investigators assigned to DEA prescription drug task force
  - Special Investigations Unit formed -Task Force Officers (TFO's) with Drug Investigators under one roof



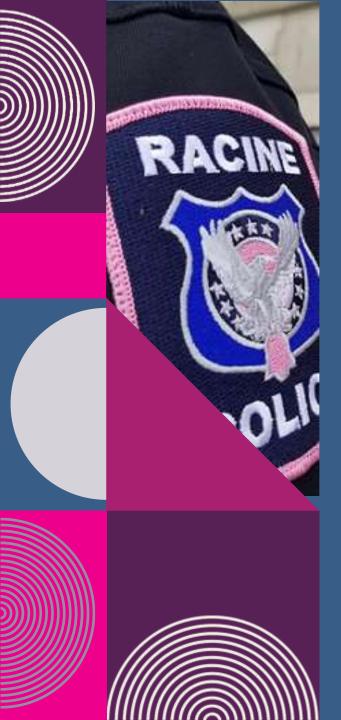
# HISTORIC RESPONSES TO DRUG CRISIS

- Multi Pronged Approach to street crimes
  - COP Officers and Beat Officers daily street level enforcement (open air dealing most prevalent)
  - Drug Unit street level investigations more frequent visibility of search warrants
  - FBI Gang Task Force Long term federal conspiracy cases targeting violent street gangs through drug trafficking
  - Joint operations with all three units some cross over investigations with Racine County Metro Drug Unit



# CURRENT STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO DRUG CRISIS, CONT'D

- Additional federal task force resources/partnerships are developed
  - ATF 3 TFOs
  - DEA 2 TFOs
  - US Marshall's Service 1 TFO
  - NIBN Unit Acquired
  - Crime Analyst professional hired, 2 Analyst Interns, Ongoing effort to bring on an additional crime analyst
- Special Investigations Unit (SIU) => Reorganized into Violent Crimes and Intelligence Unit (VCIU)
- All Task Force Officers now in one location
  - Led by Lt. Mike Smith and Sergeant Ryan Comstock



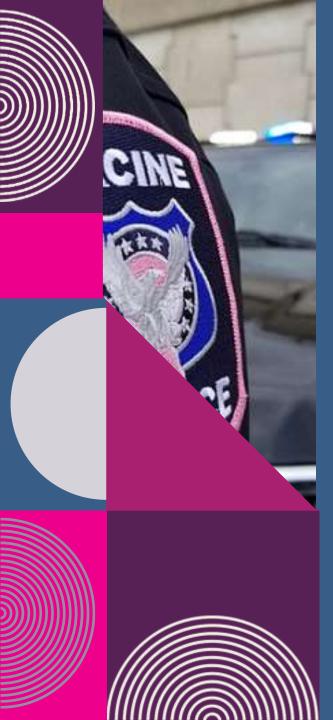
## CURRENT STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO DRUG CRISIS, CONT'D

- Investigative Efforts and resources are laser focused on what will have the greatest impact on community safety
- VCIU pursues larger level narcotics trafficking in our community
- Nearly all illegal drugs that are recovered from the streets are laced with fentanyl, this includes
  - Cocaine, THC, Heroin, Fake Prescription Medication, etc.
  - Highly dangerous and deadly
  - OD deaths often occur as user doesn't even realize what they are using is fentanyl
  - Xylazine (horse tranquilizer) now prevalent in much of the OD deaths we are finding as well



# MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT REORGANIZATION

- Reorganization of SIU to VCIU did not adversely impact drug investigations
- VCIU TFOs are engaged in separate longterm investigations that span across the state and international lines.
- VCIU works very closely and effectively with Racine County Metro Drug Unit - numerous joint investigations ongoing



### STATISTICAL GLIMPSE

	Drug Overdose	Drug Overdose Death	Drug Complaints	Dept Drug Arrests	VCIU Arrests
2021	76	26	105	205	45
2022	69	31	100	180	26
2023	76	35	80	159	52
2024	10	*3	5	*30	23

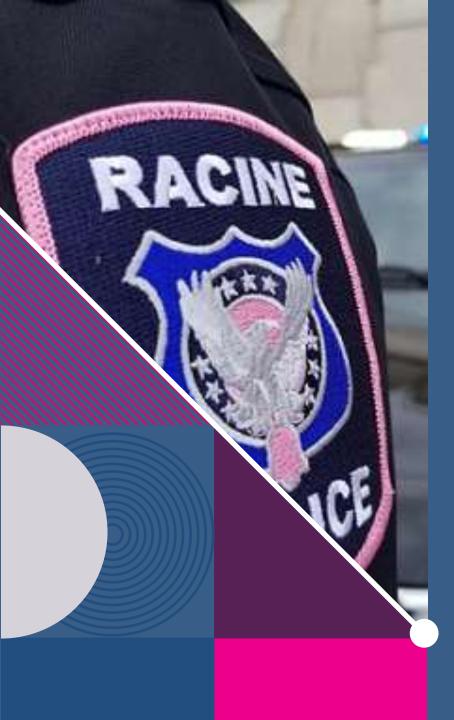
<sup>\*</sup> Please note this information for 2024 is preliminary

#### VCIU 2022-2023

	Search Warrants	Heroin	Crack	Cocaine	THC	Pills
2022	47	10.4g	43.3g	3320g	12311g	195
2023	40	31.6g	221.8g	2104g	3364g	1727

#### USMS TF 2023

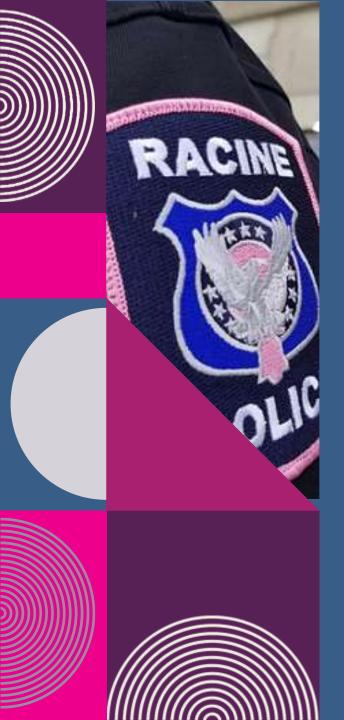
	Fugitives	Narcotics		Fentanyl		
	Apprehended	Arrests	THC	Pills	Fentanyl	Cocaine
2023	45	54	1843g	3395	44.1g	950g



### **OVERDOSE RESPONSE**

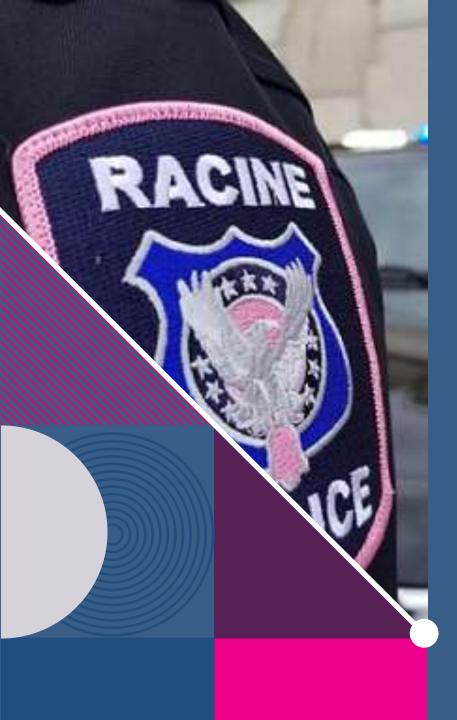
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## RACINE POLICE RESPONSE TO DRUG OVERDOSE

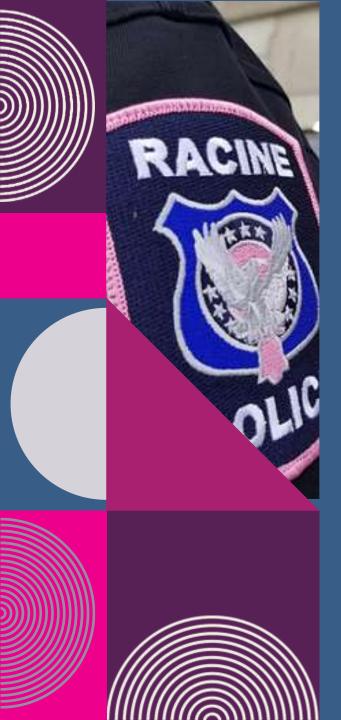
- Every overdose death is reviewed by investigative division command staff
- All cases with investigative leads that could lead to successful prosecution are assigned to detectives
- Currently 2 overdose fatalities from 2024 are actively being investigated
- District Attorney's office exercises full prosecutorial discretion overdose death cases (known as Lens Bias cases) are rarely prosecuted – extremely difficult to prove beyond a reasonable doubt.
- RPD participates in the Racine County Overdose Fatality Review Team



## NEXT STEPS

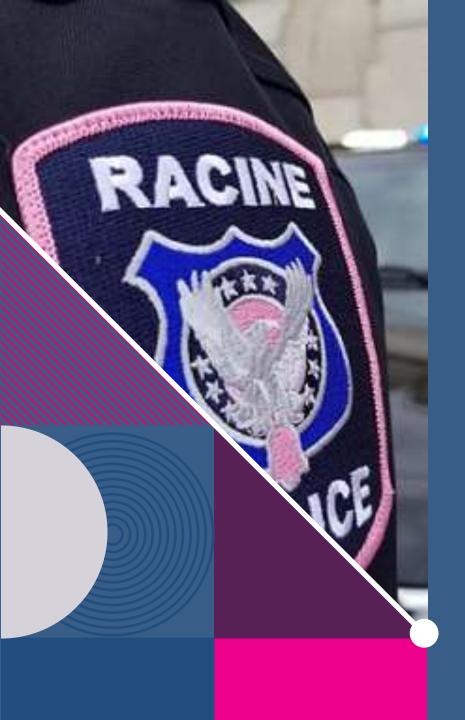
**City of Racine Police Department** 

Committee of the Whole Presentation



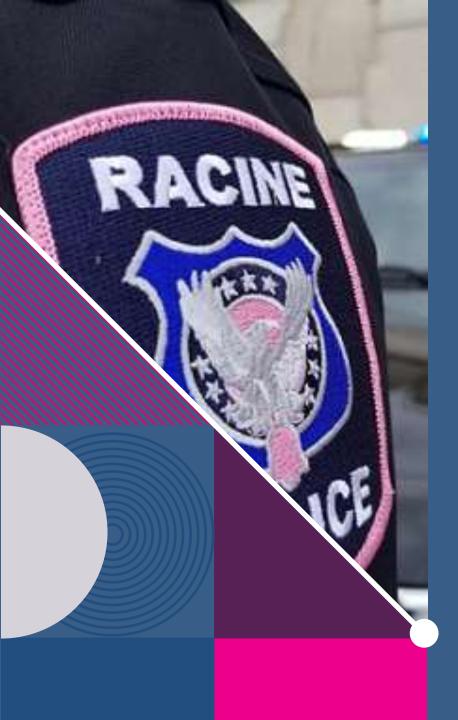
### **LOOKING AHEAD**

- Fill Investigative division currently has 10 detective vacancies
- As staffing improves re-evaluate structural and organizational strategy
- Utilize our available resources and manpower efficiently and effectively
- Develop Crime Analysis and NIBN unit into a local fusion center
- Expand Federal Task Force Partnerships
- Fully Staff COP Unit (6 COP, 6 Beat/Patrol)



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Education and Public Awareness
- Support Harm Reduction: leave behind kits/vending machine initiatives
- Support Expansion of Crime Analysis Unit
- Get trained on use of Narcan and carry it with you at all times



## QUESTIONS?

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## FURTHER STEPS & TAKEAWAYS

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# RAISING AWARENESS & REDUCE STIGMA



- Overdose Memorial tells the stories of those lost to overdose
  - By humanizing victims of overdose, we can further destigmatize the underlying causes and contributing factors to drug abuse

# SUPPORT HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- Harm Reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.
  - Accepts, whether we like it or not, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world, and focuses on minimizing its harmful effects rather than ignore them or condemning the user

Example Policy: 911 Good Samaritan Laws/Ordinances

 provide overdose victims and/or overdose bystanders with limited immunity from drug-related criminal charges in order to encourage contacting emergency services before permanent harm occurs

# INCREASE MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION



Public Health
Leader

Project
Coordinator

Other Government and
Community Partners

Public Safety
Leader

Data Analyst

Public Health/
Health/
Healthcare Partners

Public Safety Partners

PHAST is a set of guiding principles and steps developed to assist jurisdictions in reducing overdose deaths by supporting multi-sector datasharing and coordinated overdose prevention.

The PHAST framework focuses on partnerships among all sectors that work with or impact individuals at risk of overdose, with particular focus on leadership from public health and public safety

PHAST is complementary to the Overdose Fatality Review process



## CLOSING QUESTIONS?

### **City of Racine**

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