



Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force
Quarterly Meeting
5.1.2023
Agenda

1. Registration, sign in and networking – (9:30 – 10:00)
2. Welcome, housekeeping, introduction of agenda – (10:00 – 10:10)
3. Guest introduction
 - Trini Ross, US Attorney (10:10 – 10:20)
4. Workgroup report out – 5 – 10 minutes each – (10:20 – 11:40)
 - Provider Education and Policy Reform – Dr. Gale Burstein – (10:20 – 10:30)
 - REAP – Michael Cereo, DEA, ASAC, DEA, IRS Stephen Bevilacqua – (10:30 – 10:40)
 - Treatment Providers – Mark O’Brien – (10:40 – 10:50)
 - Hospitals and Emergency Departments – Brittani McKay and Shelby Arena (10:50 – 11:00)
 - Harm Reduction (Formerly Naloxone Distribution) – Cheryl Moore (11:00 – 11:10)
 - i. Peer Coordination and Harm Reduction Outreach - Elizabeth Terranova
 - i. DHHS SAMHSA FR Cara award – first responder training and Narcan supply grant, linkage to MATTERS, virtual appointments expansion – Jennifer Garrigan
 - ii. Cannabis Updates – Jennifer Garrigan
 - iii. ESAP Updates – Frank Scarpinato
 - iv. Probation Peer Project updates
 - Family and Consumers – Deb Smith (11:10 – 11:20)
 - Community Education – Barbara Burns (11:20 – 11:30)
5. Guest Presenter – Suicide Coalition – Celia Spacone, Jessica Pirro (11:30 – 11:50)
6. Other news – (11:50 – 12:00)

Thank you! – next meeting: **Monday August 7, 2023**



**Erie County
Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**Erie County
Opiate Epidemic
*Task Force***

ERIE COUNTY OPIOID OVERDOSE DATA

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION
AND POLICY REFORM ACTIVITIES
ACTIVITIES UPDATE**



**Erie County
Department of
Health**



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Opiate Epidemic
*Task Force***

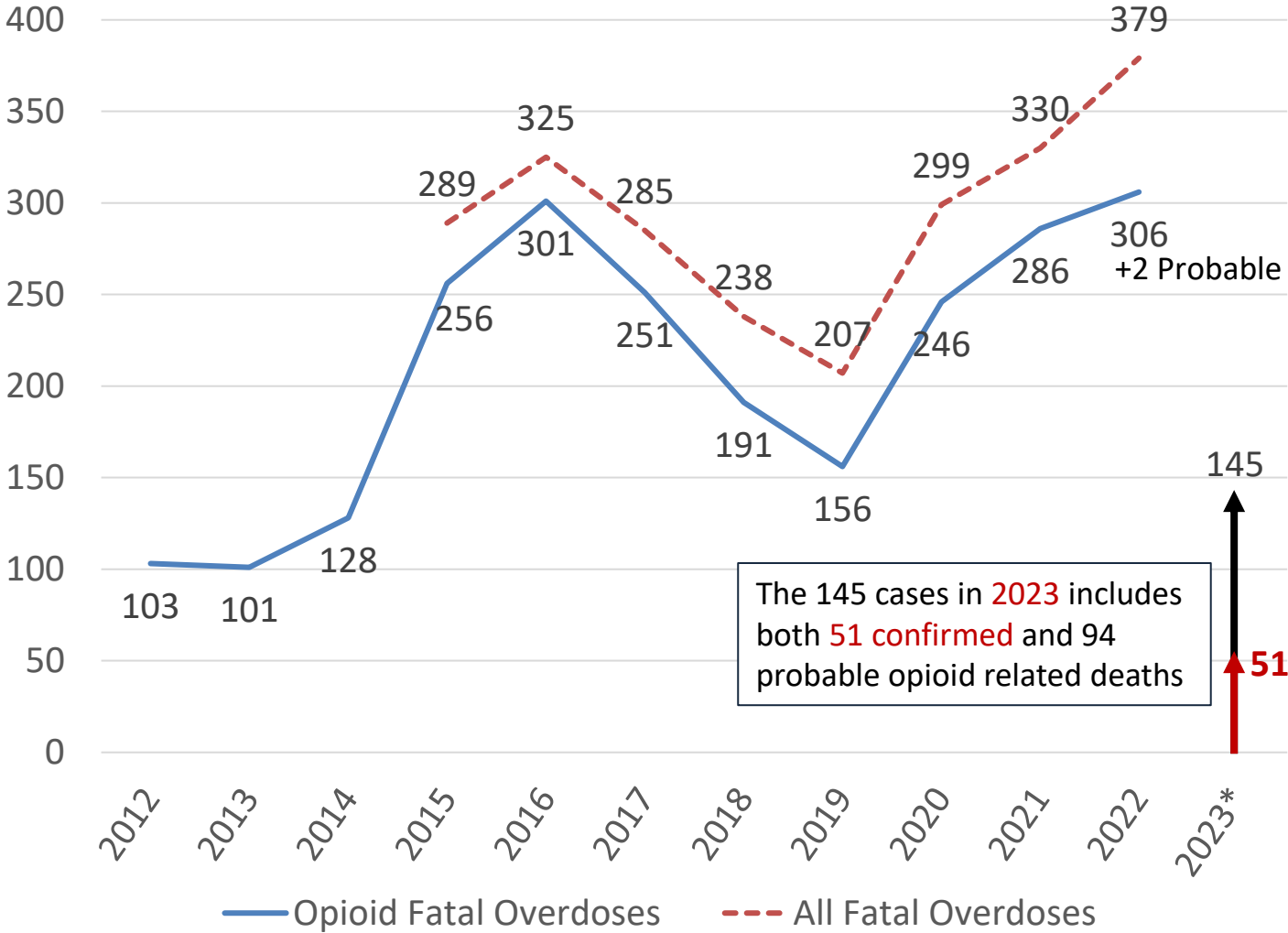
OVERDOSE DEATHS ERIE COUNTY

As of 4/28/2023

2012 – 2023* OVERDOSE DEATHS

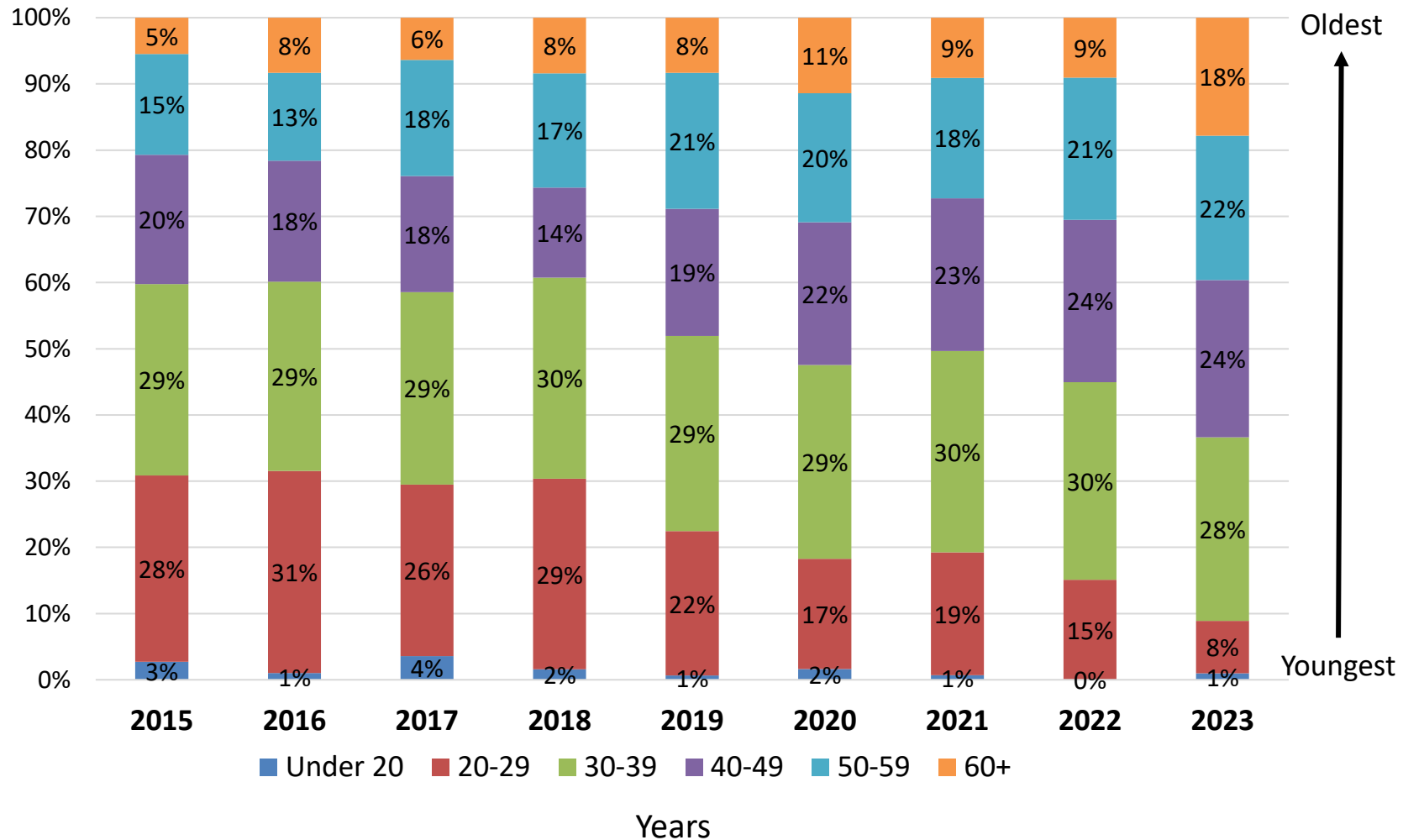
ERIE COUNTY

2016: 7% OD deaths tox neg for opioids
 2022*: 19% OD deaths tox neg for opioids



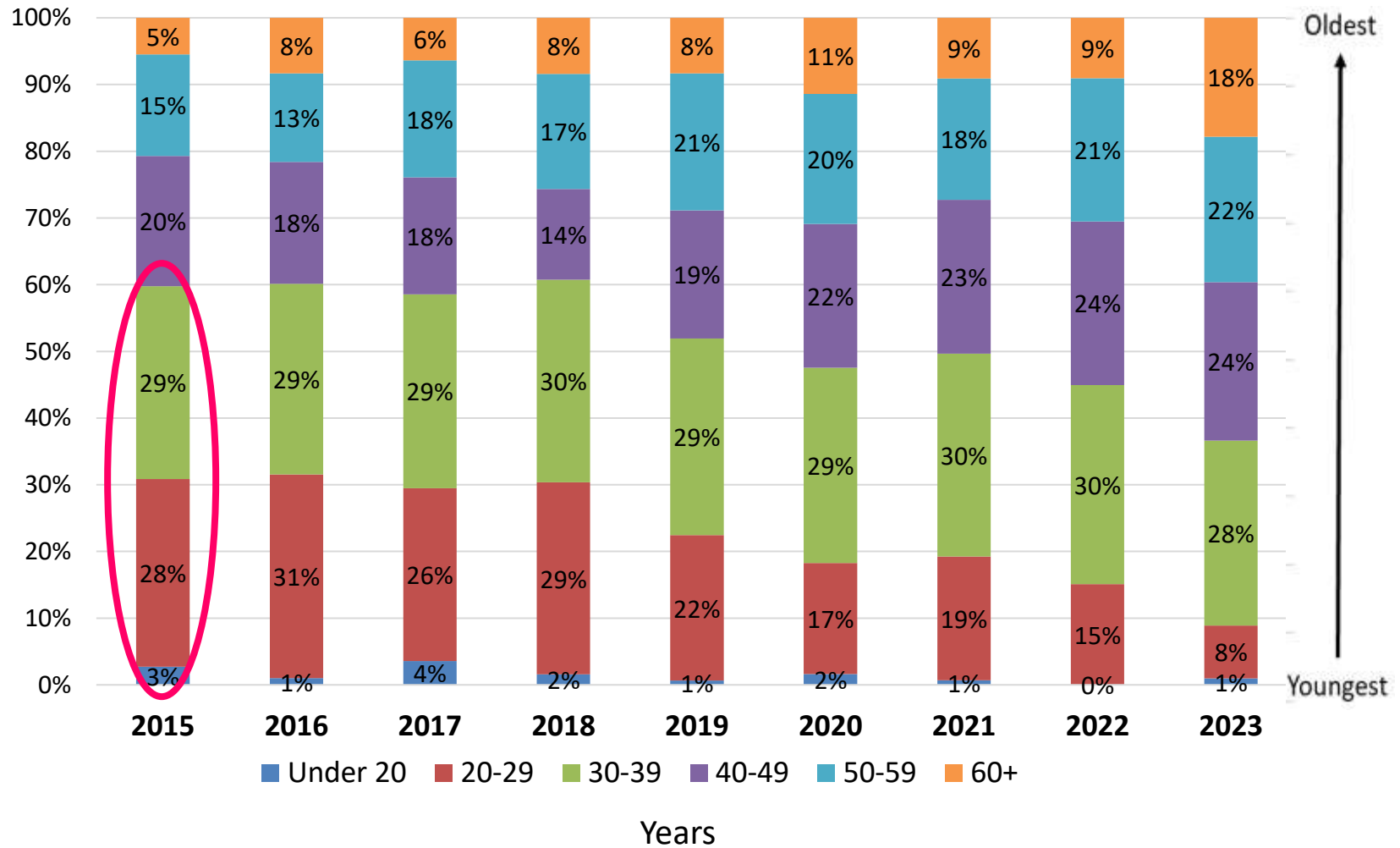
SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE, *CASES REPORTED THRU 4/28/2023

2015 – 2023* PERCENT OF ERIE COUNTY OPIOID RELATED DEATHS BY AGE



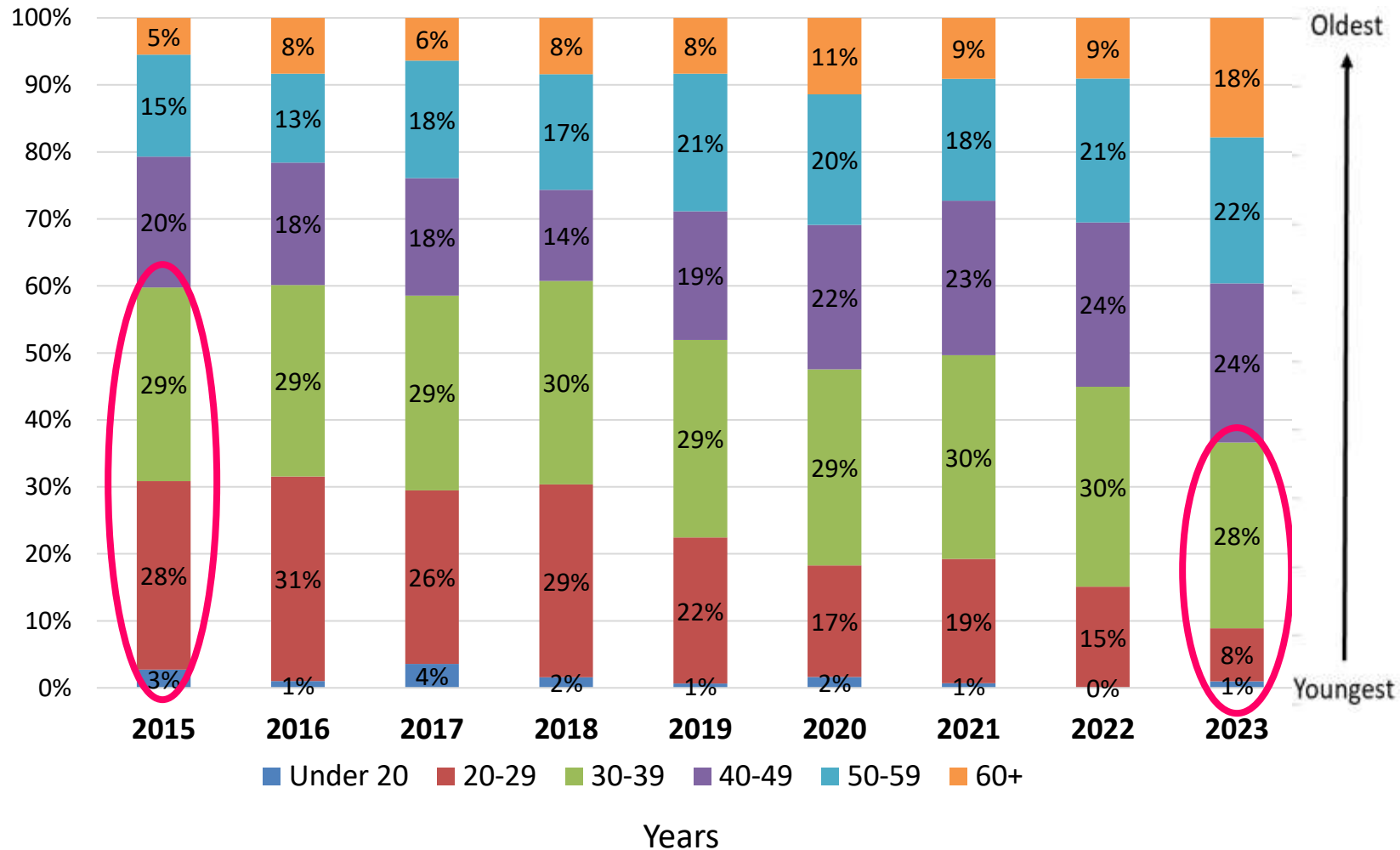
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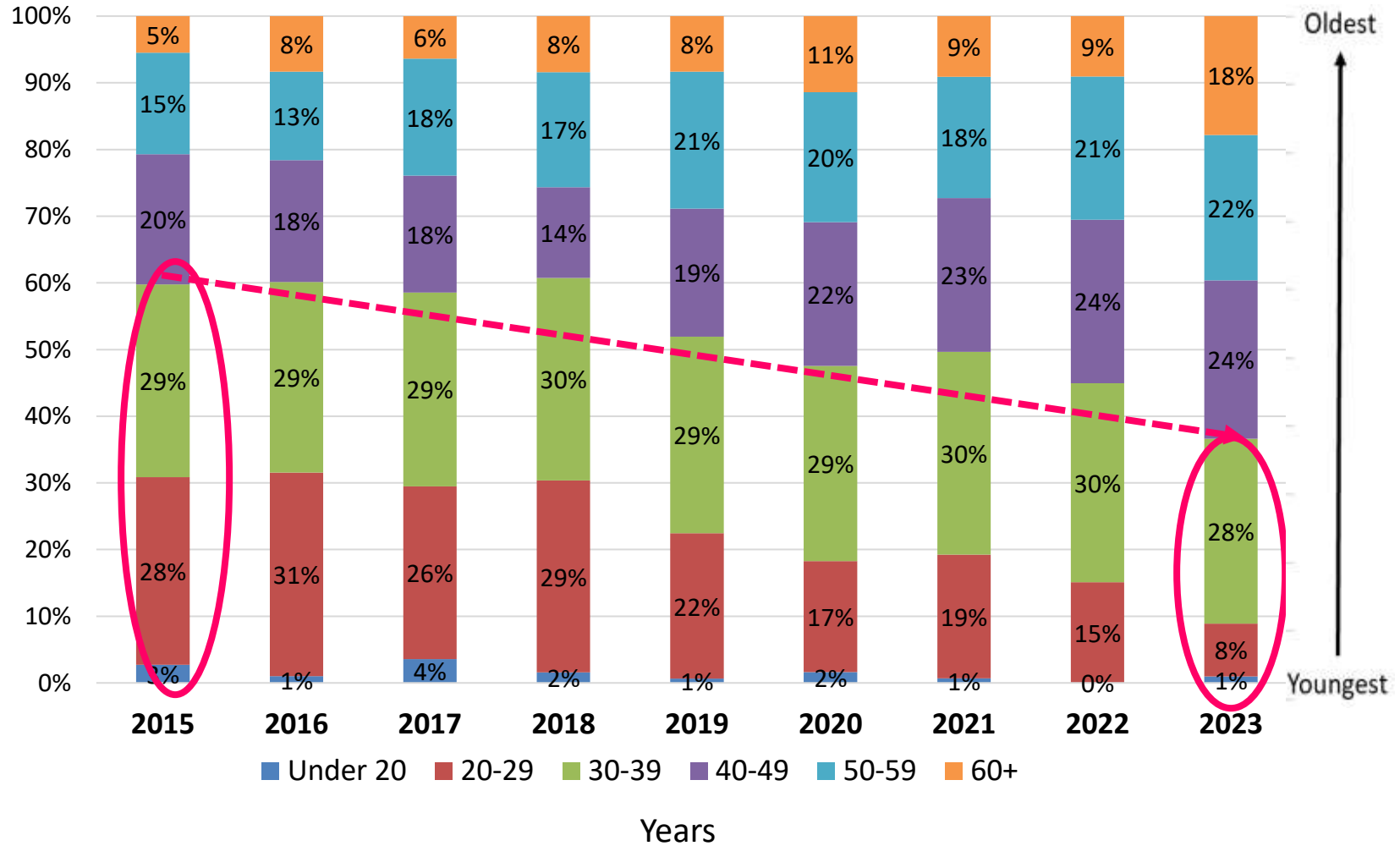
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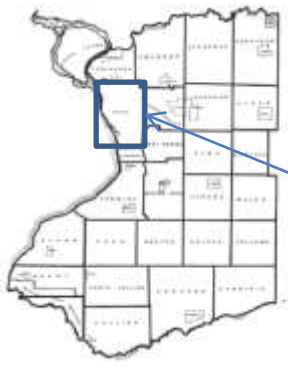
SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE, *CASES REPORTED THRU 4/28/2023

Erie County Census Estimate

Erie County Opioid Overdoses

| | Population % (N=954,236) 2020 Census | 2018 Overdos e % (N=191) | 2019 Overdos e % (N=156) | 2020 Overdose % (N=246) | 2021 Overdo se % (N=286) | 2022 Overdose % (N=306 +2 Probable) | 2023 Overdose % (N=145 Confirmed & Probable) |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | |
| White alone | 79% | 79% | 78% | 79% | 73% | 68% | 71% |
| Black or African American alone | 14% | 10% | 10% | 19% | 22% | 28% | 28% |
| Native Amer / Alaskan Native | .7% | N/A | N/A | 2% | 4% | 2% | 1% |
| Hispanic | 6% | 7% | 8% | 10% | 9% | 12% | 14% |
| Gender | | | | | | | |
| Female | 52% | 30% | 27% | 30% | 27% | 31% | 30% |
| Male | 48% | 70% | 73% | 70% | 73% | 69% | 70% |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| 20-29 | 14% | 29% | 22% | 17% | 19% | 15% | 8% |
| 30-39 | 13% | 30% | 29% | 29% | 30% | 30% | 28% |
| 40-49 | 11% | 14% | 19% | 22% | 23% | 24% | 24% |
| 50-59 | 14% | 17% | 21% | 19% | 18% | 22% | 22% |
| 60+ | 25% | 8% | 8% | 12% | 9% | 10% | 18% |

2016 – 2023* PERCENT OF ERIE COUNTY OPIOID RELATED DEATHS BY RESIDENCE



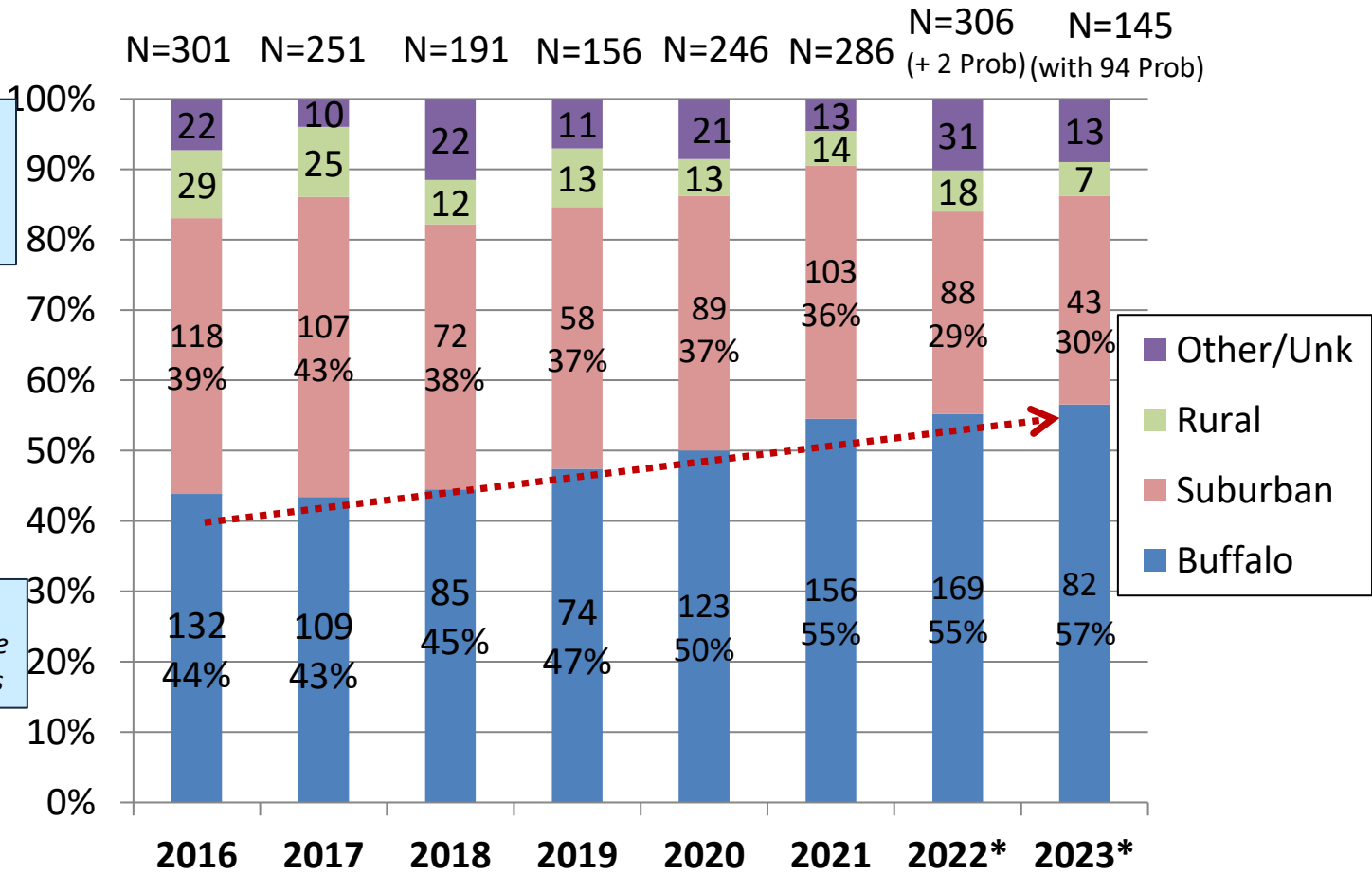
Buffalo
29% of persons who live in Erie County reside in the City of Buffalo

- SUBURBAN TOWNS:**
- AMHERST
 - CHEEKTOWAGA
 - CLARENCE
 - GRAND ISLAND
 - HAMBURG
 - LACKAWANNA
 - LANCASTER
 - ORCHARD PARK
 - TONAWANDA
 - WEST SENECA

Suburban Towns
59% of persons live in the Suburban Towns

- RURAL TOWNS:**
- ALDEN
 - AURORA
 - COLDEN
 - COLLINS
 - CONCORD
 - EDEN
 - ELMA
 - EVANS
 - GOWANDA
 - HOLLAND
 - MARILLA
 - NEWSTEAD
 - NORTH COLLINS
 - SARDINIA

Rural Towns
11% of persons live in the Rural Towns

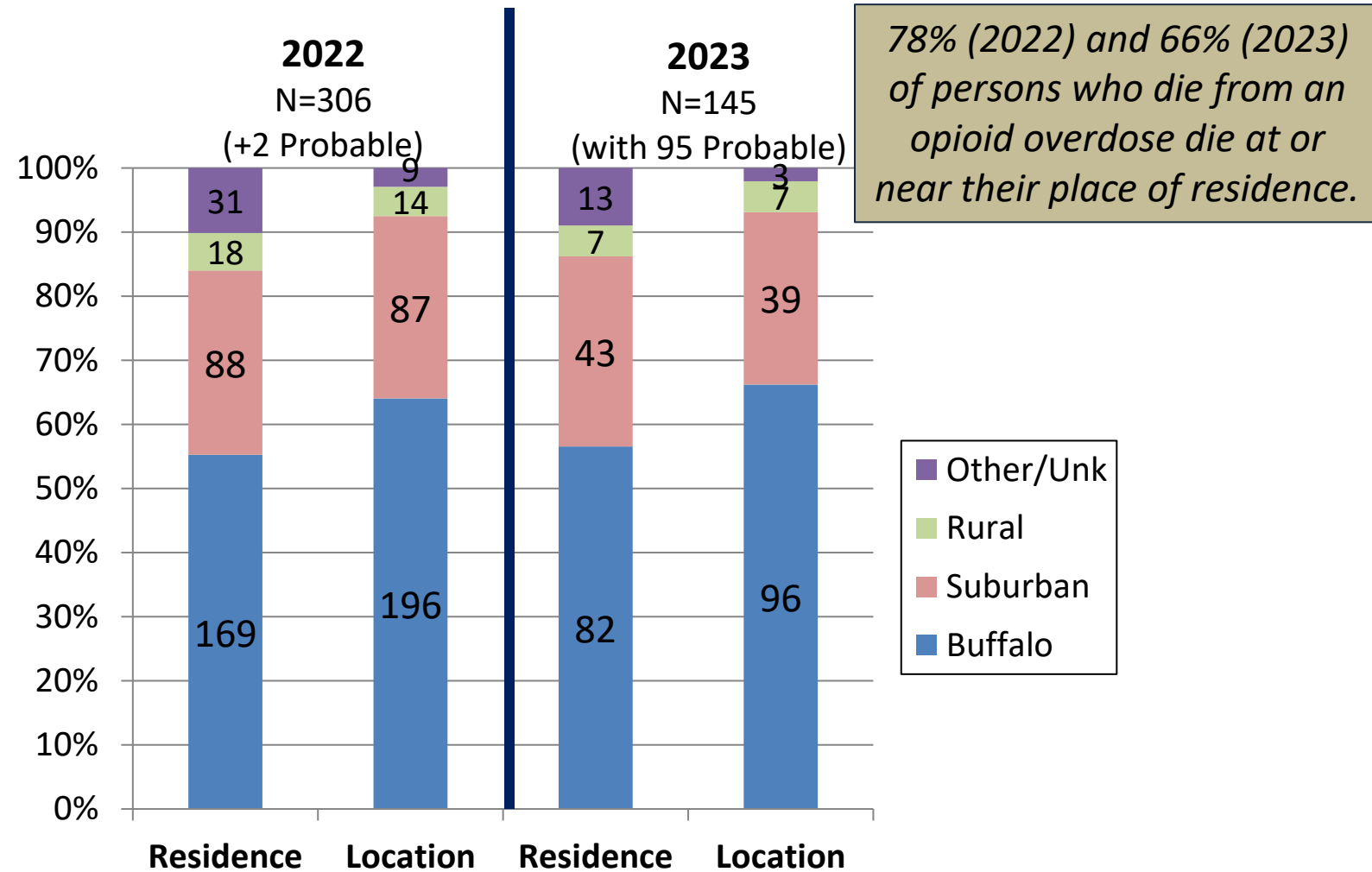


SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE, *CASES REPORTED THRU 4/28/2023

2022 AND 2023* PERCENT OF ERIE COUNTY

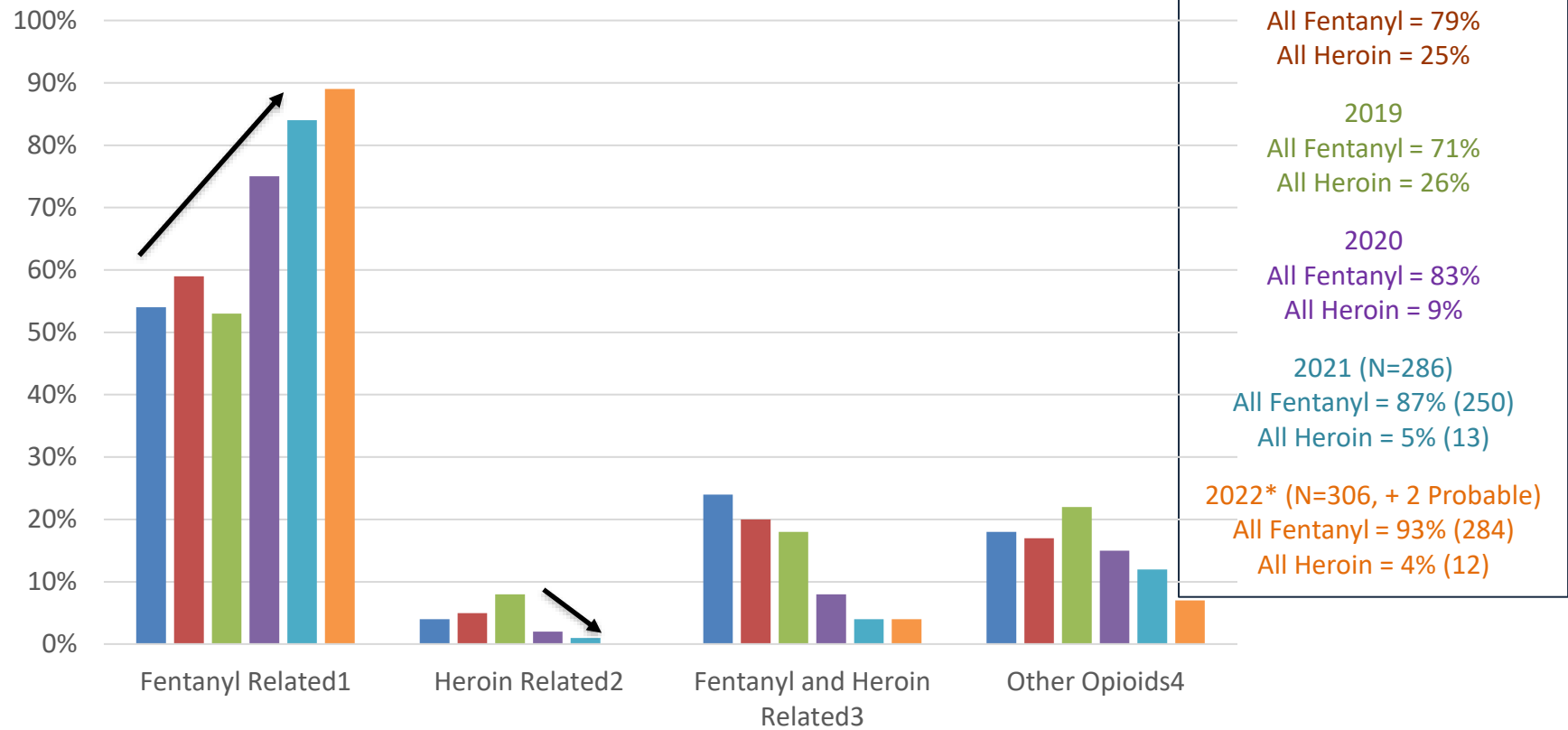
OPIOID RELATED DEATHS

BY RESIDENCE AND OVERDOSE LOCATION



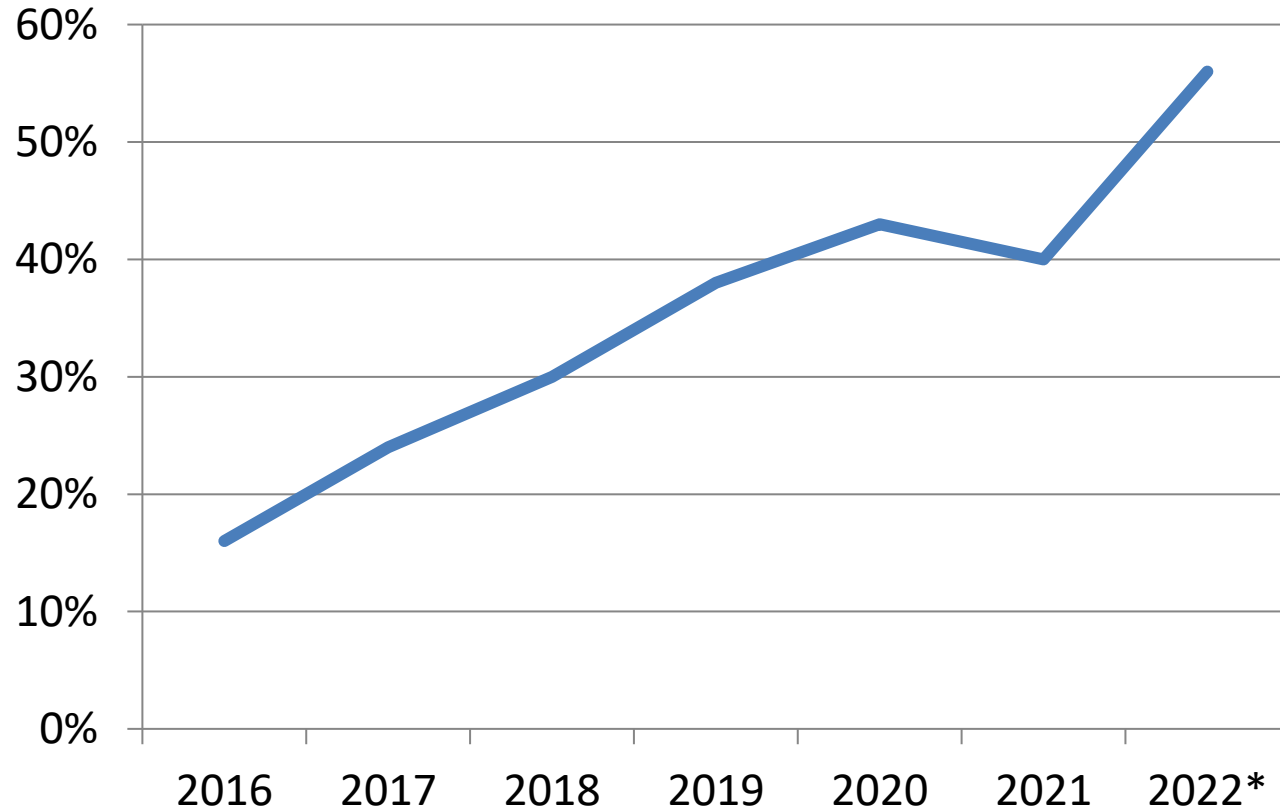
SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE, *CASES REPORTED THRU 4/28/2023

2017 – 2022 PERCENT OF ERIE COUNTY OPIOID RELATED DEATHS BY TYPE OF OPIOID



¹ NO HEROIN; POSSIBLE OTHER DRUGS INVOLVED
² NO FENTANYL; POSSIBLE OTHER DRUGS INVOLVED
³ POSSIBLE OTHER DRUGS INVOLVED
⁴ NO FENTANYL OR HEROIN; POSSIBLE OTHER DRUGS INVOLVED

2016 – 2022* PERCENT OF ERIE COUNTY OPIOID RELATED DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH FENTANYL¹ AND COCAINE



2020: 48% (118/246) of opioid related deaths involved cocaine
2021: 44% (125/286) of opioid related deaths involved cocaine
2022*: 57% (173/306) of opioid related deaths involved cocaine

¹Includes all Fentanyl related deaths.

SOURCE: ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE, *CASES REPORTED THRU 4/28/2023

Xylazine (AKA Tranq)

- Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer used for sedation/pain relief
- Xylazine is increasingly found added to illicit drugs, especially fentanyl
- In humans, xylazine overdose causes major toxicity
 - Coma, low BP, cardio-respiratory arrest
 - Disfiguring skin ulcers after repeated injections that can lead to gangrene and limb amputations
- Treatment consists of supportive care, i.e., ICU admission, intubation, etc.
 - No rapid diagnostic testing or safe antidote available
 - Xylazine poisoning is **not** responsive to naloxone



Opioid Related Death Updates

Erie County

Case and Demographic Trend Updates

- ↑↑ in opioid related deaths since 2019
- ↑↑ in deaths among black persons from 10% to 28% from 2018 to 2022
- ↓↓ in deaths among white persons from 79% to 68% from 2018 to 2022
- ↓↓ in deaths among persons aged 20-29 years from 29% to 15% from 2018 to 2022
- ↑↑ in deaths among persons aged 40-49 years from 14% to 24% from 2018 to 2022

Opioid Related Death Updates

Erie County

Substance Updates

- Xylazine identified in 13 deaths in 2022
- Methamphetamine identified in 28 deaths in 2022
- ↑↑ OD deaths with NO opioids from 2016 (7%) to 2022 (19%)
- Cocaine identified in 173 (57%) opioid deaths in 2022
 - 35% of opioid with cocaine deaths among black persons (black persons = 14% of total Erie Co population)
 - 29% of opioid with cocaine deaths among aged 50-59 years (50-59 year old = 14% Erie Co population)

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND POLICY
REFORM ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

MOUD in community primary care

- DEA buprenorphine prescribing restrictions lifted
- Primary care opportunity to identify and treat patients with OUD
- Given current health plan reimbursements, community providers report financially difficult to sustain MOUD

MOUD in community primary care

- Next steps:
 - Key informant interviews to better understand challenges
 - Work with NYSACHO and Erie County Medical Society to attempt to make needed changes



**Erie County
Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Comments and Questions



Erie County
Opiate Epidemic
Task Force
Quarterly Meeting
May 1, 2023

Treatment Workgroup



Co-Chair:
John Grieco, MS CRC
Assistant Commissioner
Erie County Dept of Mental Health

Co-Chair:
Jennifer Seib, LMHC, CASAC
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Integration
BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.



Treatment Provider Workgroup

- ❑ The work group continues to meet monthly with representation of treatment and prevention providers, family members, peers, hospitals, treatment court representation, managed care representation, Erie County staff as well as representation from NYS OASAS.
- ❑ Meetings are generally monthly and typically via WebEx.



Treatment Committee 3 current workgroups

- **Increase access to SUD Housing**
- **Increase access to MAT in Community with focus on primary care**
- **Education and Training: Harm Reduction Education and Support for Families/Community**



Committee Updates:

Increase access to SUD Housing

Facilitator: John Grieco, john.grieco@erie.gov

- Last met January 23rd
- Next meeting via WebEx [May 22nd](#) at 1:00.
- **Recent Updates:**
 - Continue to make incremental progress on the projects reported at the last couple Task Force meetings.
 - SUD housing inventory has been updated with some usability improvements made by Christine Slocum, Housing Coordinator, Single Point of Access and Accountability. It is found at: [Erie County Chemical Dependency Treatment Resource Guide | Mental Health](#)
 - If you have anything to add or edit please contact Christine Slocum at 858-8539, or Christine.Slocum@erie.gov
 - Keeping an eye on the State Budget for additional opportunities.



Committee Updates:

Harm Reduction Education and Support for Families/Community

Facilitator: Julianna Everdyke, Julianna.Everdyke@erie.gov

Last met March 2023

- [3 drafts of harm reduction education handouts](#) were reviewed by the group, great feedback was provided and edits will be made
- Style of handouts – foldable size to fit in a wallet/purse.
 - Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL) has a template of one that they sent to ECDMH to use as a guide.
- Excellent input from the group on what we should focus on next.
 - [Support specifically for family/support systems](#) (support groups, family peer support, education/prevention for different ages)
- [Next meeting is scheduled for 5/17/23](#). Meetings are typically the 3rd Wednesday of Month 3-4p.



Committee Updates:

- **Improve access to Medication Assisted Treatment in the Community**
 - **Facilitator: Jennifer Seib, JSeib@bestselfwny.org**

Despite efforts of many individuals and various strategies attempted to have an impact, current environmental barriers beyond our control i.e. reimbursement, didn't allow these efforts to gain traction. As a result, at least for the time being, the Treatment Workgroup has [elected to discontinue this committee for now.](#)



Exploration of Potential Committees New

The Treatment Workgroup has had preliminary discussions around two possibilities:

1) Those with **stimulant use disorders** are increasingly susceptible to overdose. How can we better reach and treat them?

- Next Step:
 - Work group members will be meeting to explore what might be available in terms of
 - Program models
 - Best Practices
 - Educational Resources
 - Training



Exploration of Potential Committees

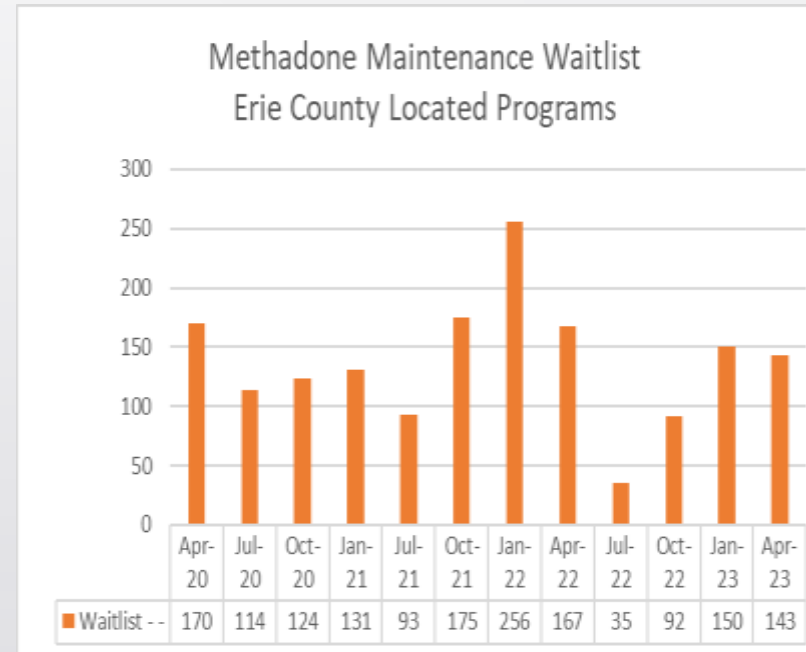
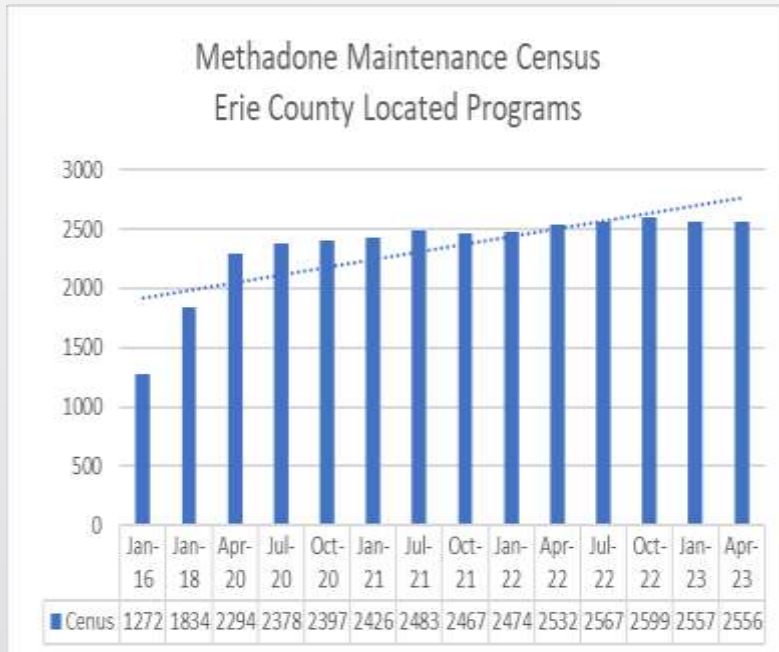
New

2) Potential collaboration with Youth and Schools.

- Recognize much is already being done within prevention services, school satellite clinics, and other school collaborations.
 - Learn what is being done and what gaps might exist.
 - Next Step: Inviting representatives from OASAS funded prevention services to a future Treatment Workgroup meeting.



Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in Erie County: Methadone Maintenance Access Trends



Erie County Located Providers Methadone Census and Waitlist: A Deeper Dive

| Census of Erie County Located Methadone Maintenance Programs by County of Residence of Enrolled Individuals | | |
|---|--|--|
| Residence County of Enrolled | Number Enrolled from Respective County | % Enrolled in Erie County Located Methadone Program from Respective County |
| Erie | 1681 | 66.6% |
| Niagara | 325 | 12.9% |
| Chautauqua | 291 | 11.5% |
| Cattaraugus | 180 | 7.1% |
| All others | 7 | 1.5% |
| Allegany | 19 | 0.8% |

From NYS OASAS Reports_Data run and as of 3/21/23

| Waitlist of Erie County Located Methadone Maintenance Programs by County of Residence of Waitlisted Individuals | | |
|---|---|--|
| Residence County of Enrolled | Number On Waitlist from Respective County | % Enrolled in Erie County Located Methadone Program from Respective County |
| Erie | 95 | 62.5% |
| Cattaraugus | 21 | 13.8% |
| Niagara | 20 | 13.2% |
| Allegany | 6 | 3.9% |
| Chautauqua | 5 | 3.3% |
| All others | 5 | 3.3% |

From Erie County Providers; Data as of Last week of March to 1st week of April 2023



Plans for Additional Access to Methadone Slots

- [Hopewell Center](#) is planning to open a location in Erie County.
 - Hopewell Center is presently in conversation with the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports
 - Services intended to be for those Native Americans who live on and off Territory as well as for the general community
 - More details to come as this further develops



WNY Opioid Addiction Treatment
*24/7 Virtual Medication Assisted Treatment
Center*

716-463-6222

- Available to anyone in WNY
- Call to be linked to a MAT Provider for evaluation, prescription, and linkage to ongoing care at location of choice
- BestSelf Behavioral Health and NY MATTERS collaborate to provide the services and Value Network provides support to the project engaging the VN partners
- Opened May 16th 2022



WNY Opioid Addiction Treatment 24/7 Virtual Medication Assisted *Treatment* Center

- 419 Unique Individuals have been prescribed medication via the program
 - 204 Erie County
 - 183 Niagara County
 - Calls from Allegany, Wyoming, Orleans, Genesee, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus range from 4-48 per county – 109 Total Calls from these 6 Counties
 - 3 callers identified as homeless
- 461 unique individuals referred to prescriber for MAT eval
- 533 MAT prescriptions provided
- People continue to be linked with the provider of their choice, for ongoing care, across the WNY counties



Treatment Agency Highlights

- Caz Recovery transitioned their OASAS-certified 819 Supportive Living Program to 820 Reintegration (scattered site) now named Step Toward Success
- Program Information:
 - Features [peer-supported apartments](#) with [wraparound support](#) services for adults with SUD
 - Apartments located in Erie and Niagara Counties
 - Suitable for individuals further along with recover and can [maintain a degree of independence](#) with some structure and support.
 - [Ideal candidates](#) will have [completed previous residential SUD programs](#) and will [need to be enrolled in outpatient treatment](#)
 - Applications are handled through the intake department intake@cazenoviarecovery.org or 716-852-4331

Treatment Agency Highlights

- Spectrum Health and Human Services has Buffalo H.O.P.E (Healing Our People Equitably)



The lingering impact of the COVID epidemic.
A racially-motivated hate crime that took 10 lives and changed countless others.
An epic Christmas storm that took dozens of lives and strained city infrastructure to its limits.
City of Buffalo residents have been through a lot the past few years. **Buffalo H.O.P.E.** was created to support our emotional needs as we heal.



Crisis Counselors from Buffalo H.O.P.E. can:

- Be on site at your location to talk to your staff or your patrons;
- Offer referral to support services like emergency assistance, food, shelter, or counseling;
- Share techniques and activities for coping with stress and anxiety; and
- Listen to anyone in need and help.



Buffalo H.O.P.E. also operates an emotional support helpline to answer questions and provide referrals to other services. Call (716) 566-6506 Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm, to speak with a trained crisis counselor.

All **Buffalo H.O.P.E.** services are provided free of charge, for all ages, from children to senior citizens in the City of Buffalo.

Email BuffaloHope@shswny.org for more information.

**Spectrum Health
Buffalo H.O.P.E.**
Community Engagement
Comfort
Emotional Support

<https://shswny.org/buffalo-hope>
Funded by the
NYS Office of Mental Health



ERIE COUNTY ADDICTION HOTLINE
831-7007

Operated by Crisis Services 24/7

- Provides information, referral, linkage to treatment and support.
- Education on MOUDs & Motivational Interviewing is woven into phone counselor script to facilitate referrals for callers.
- Integrate into Substance Use Disorder Treatment system
- Year to Date Call Volume: **98 YTD thru March 2023.**



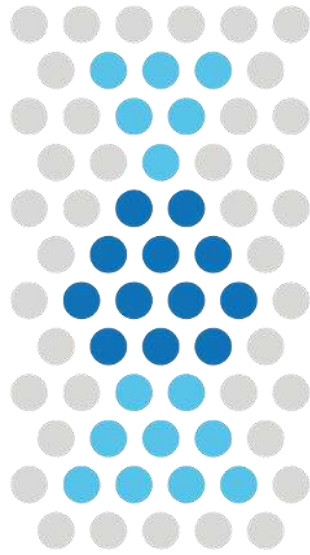
Next meeting:

5/22, 10:30-12 via WebEx



Thank you for
your support
& dedication





MATTERS®

Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals

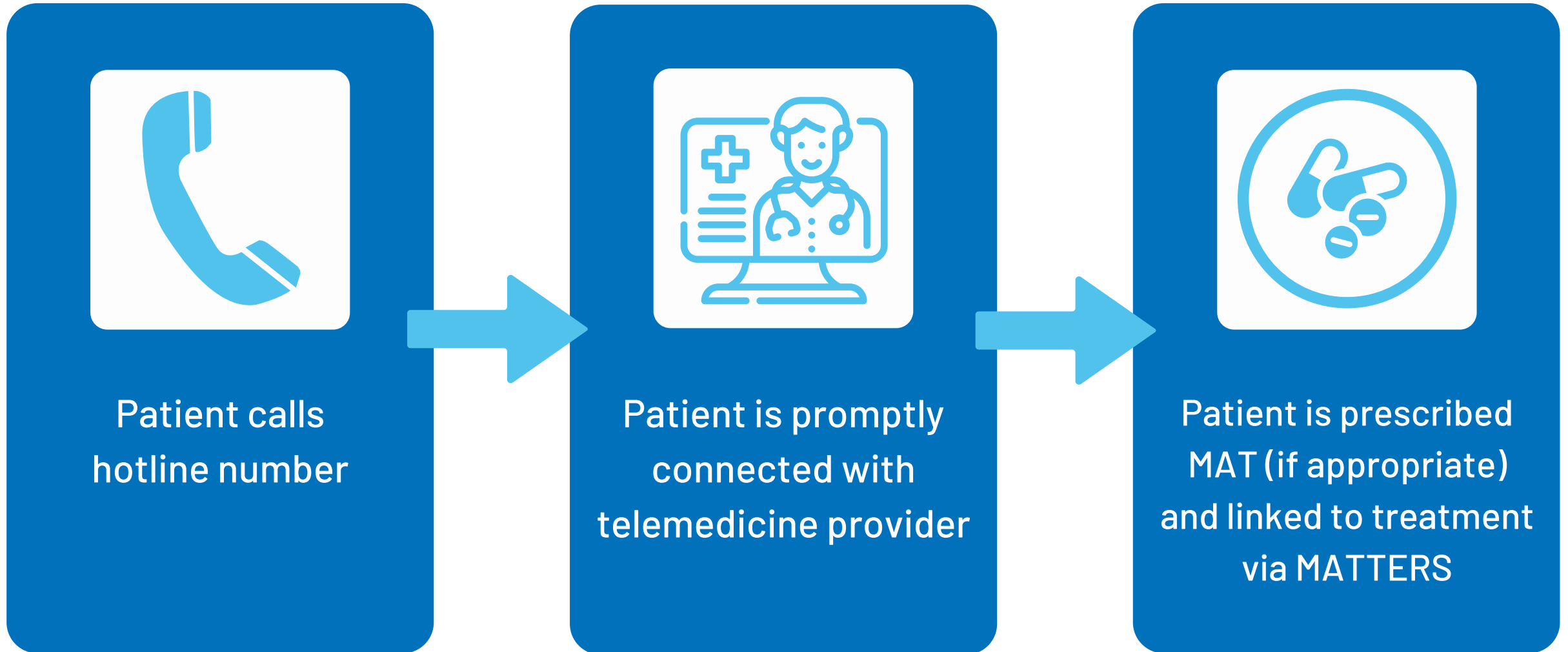
What We Do

Our electronic referral platform efficiently refers patients with opioid use disorder from emergency departments, OB/GYN offices, correctional facilities, inpatient units, pre-hospital settings, etc. to community-based clinics.



MAT- PDOA

Since May 2022 we have received more than 630 calls



Harm Reduction Vending Machines

15 Vending Machines will be
placed across NYS

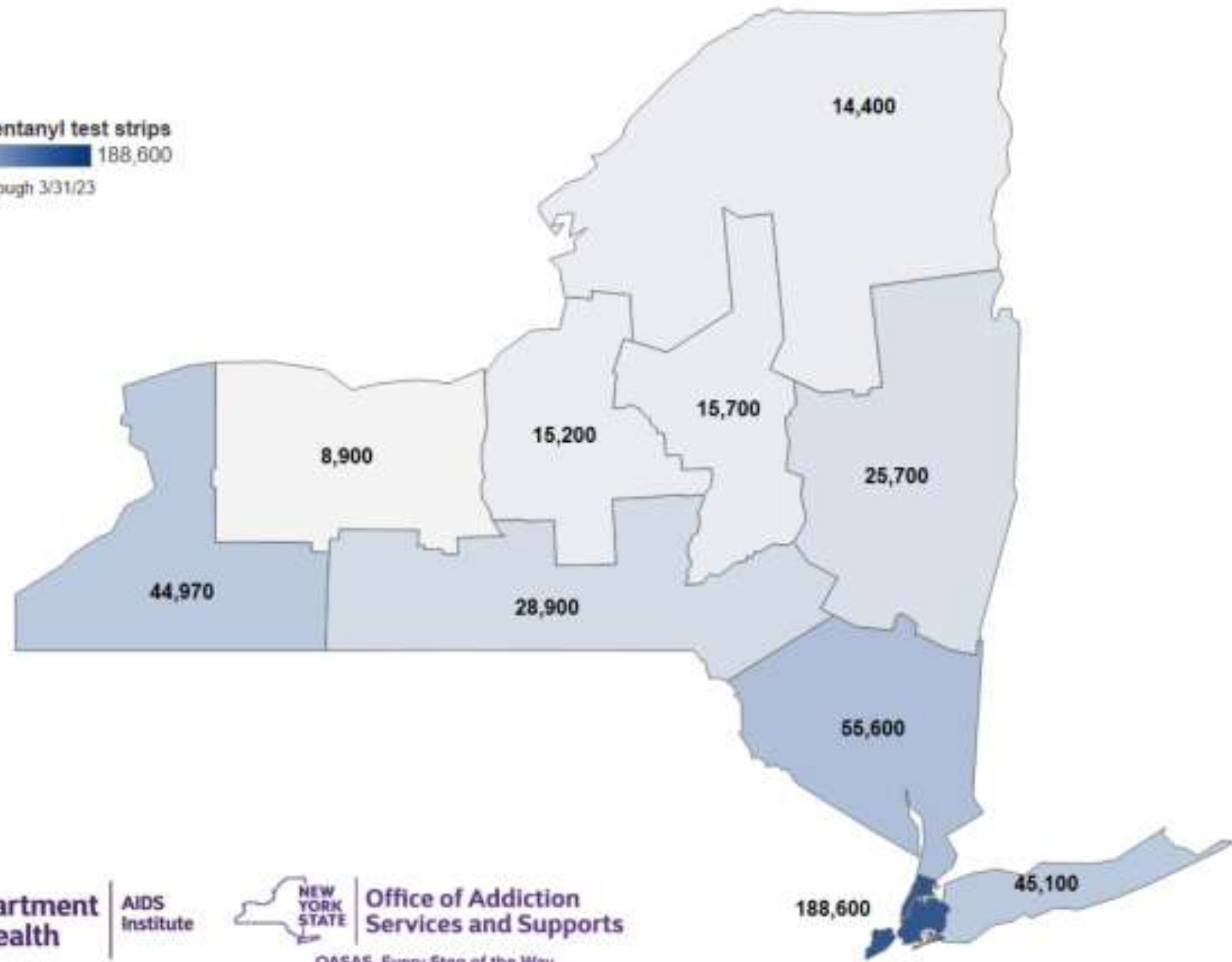
Vending machines will contain:

- Fentanyl test strips
- Naloxone



435,000+
Fentanyl Test Strips
Distributed to Agencies
so far

Number of fentanyl test strips
8,900  188,600
*Data through 3/31/23



As of 3/31/23

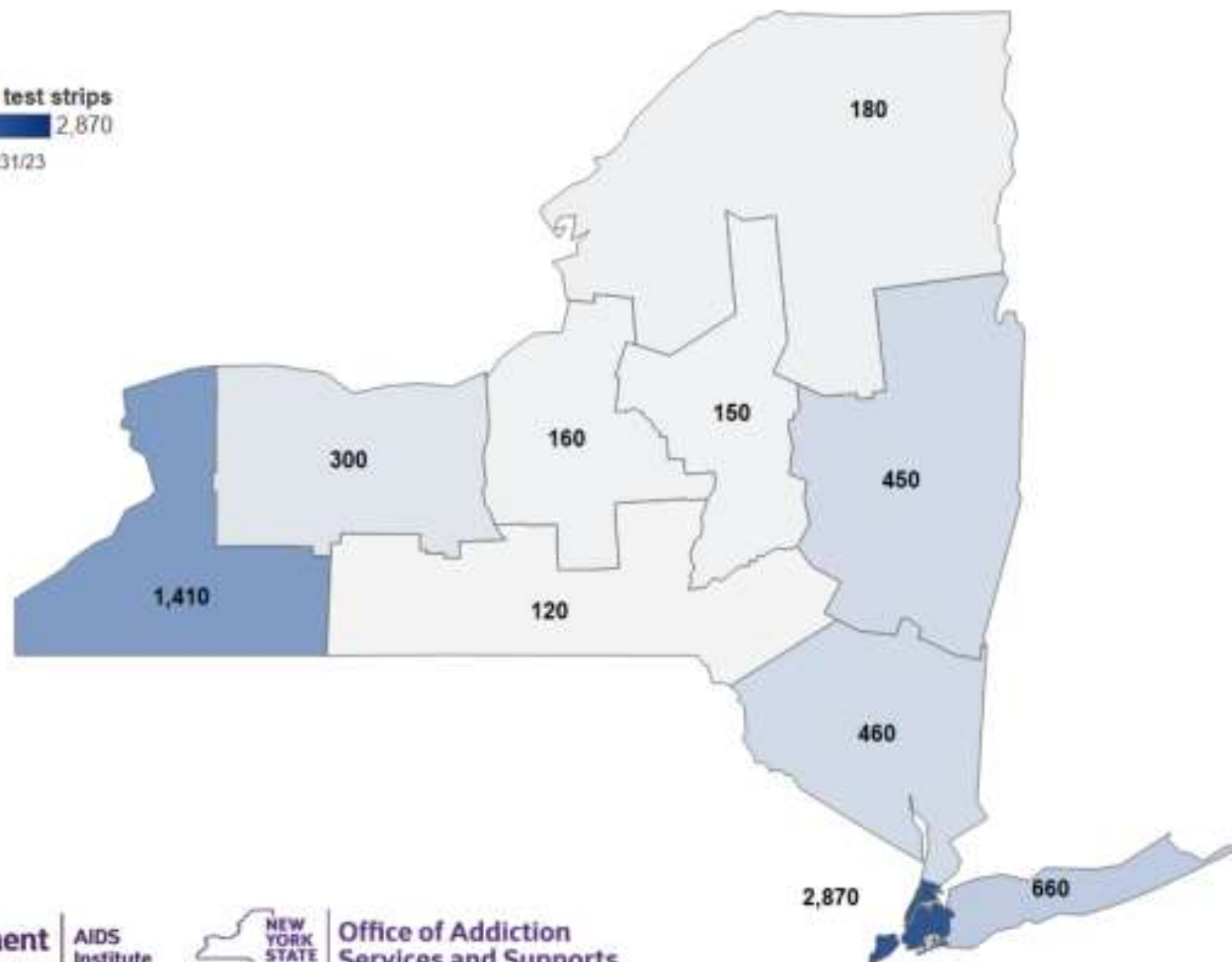
6,760+

Fentanyl Test Strips
Distributed to Individuals
so far

Number of fentanyl test strips



*Data through 3/31/23



As of 3/31/23

How do I order fentanyl test strips?



1

Go to www.mattersnetwork.org and click on **Request Fentanyl Test Strips**

2

Individuals click on 'I am an Individual' and Organization, Clinic and Hospital partners click 'I am an Organization'



3

Fill out a name and address for shipping purposes and your order will be on its way!

Every Life MATTERS[®]

Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals

Get Linked.



Any questions? Reach us at
info@mattersnetwork.org or
765-MATTERS (628-8377)

Opiate Epidemic Task Force: Harm Reduction Workgroup (formerly naloxone)

Erie County Health Department

May 1, 2023



Workgroup Projects and Updates

- Continued naloxone trainings and medication deployment conducted by the department, many are virtual or on the spot, unique sites including bars, festivals, concert venues
- Workplace committee developed, first meeting next Monday 5.8.2023, educational forum being planned

TRAINING AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Elizabeth Terranova, MPH

Office of
Harm
Reduction



Erie County
Department of
Health

Narcan trainings

- January 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023



| Type | # trainings | # Narcan kits |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| First responder | 8 | 306 |
| Community | 44 | 843 |
| Healthcare | 14 | 704 |
| School | 9 | 435 |
| Business | 4 | 170 |
| Train the trainer | 2 | 37 |



Outreach

- January 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023

| Type | # outreach | # Narcan kits |
|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Tuesday Curbside | 15 | 1,676 |
| Street outreach | 19 | 421 |
| Tabling event | 17 | 564 |

Narcan distribution, January 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023

Text for Narcan

- 1,242 Narcan kits mailed
- 130 fentanyl test strips mailed
- Sent to over 779 people



Narcan wall boxes

- 204 wall boxes distributed



Office of
Harm
Reduction



Erie County
Department of
Health

Narcan OPEN stands, January 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023



- 22 stands distributed

Included:

- Narcan
- Test strips
- Sharps containers
- Educational brochures

Peer update

- Client management
 - Outreach & referral
 - MATTERS
 - Overdose reports
- Community of Peer Enrichment (COPE)
 - WNY peer group
 - Training and skills
 - Networking and support
 - Self-care





SAMSHA FR-CARA Award for Erie County


Status Update

Staff Hiring Ongoing

- Project coordinator fulfilled –
 - Jennifer Garrigan – Hired May 2023
- Three Peer Navigator positions open and applications being received right now
 - Anticipated start times of June/ early July pending interview process

Objectives:

- Train/ re-train first responders on the opioid epidemic today and Narcan administration
 - Message sent to all 97 fire companies in Erie County
 - Training has been ongoing since the start of the grant
 - Narcan continues to be provided and shared access orders allow distribution to
- Provide leave-behind materials for first responders at time of overdose
 - Neoprene pouches with Narcan, test strips and information on resources available
- Increase linkage through virtual appointments including on call physicians and NY Matters



To schedule a training for your unit of first responders, or for more information, please contact:

Jennifer Garrigan

Jennifer.Garrigan@erie.gov

Office: 716-858-7945

Work Cell: 716-291-4685 (Text or call)

Erie County Cannabis Update April 2023

based on updates from the NYS Office of Cannabis Management

- ▶ The injunction is lifted allowing legal and regulated recreational marijuana dispensaries to open in WNY.
 - ▶ There were three conditional adult-use dispensary licenses awarded in Erie County.
- ▶ There continue to be operational dispensaries on Native land which to distribute both medical and recreational cannabis based on sovereign regulations.
- ▶ In Erie County, several additional conditional licenses have been approved:
 - ▶ 9 conditional cultivator licenses
 - ▶ 2 conditional processor licenses



We continue to be asked about fentanyl in cannabis.
We are not seeing this locally or at the state level.

What are we doing?

▶ Educating:

- ▶ Edible packaging may contain more than what one person should consume as a serving prompting educational materials advising ***“Start low, go slow.”***
- ▶ Each method of ingestion metabolizes at different rates based on the person consuming the product
- ▶ Encouraging research and communication with dispensaries about their products and their effects
- ▶ Strict packaging requirements with the goal of preventing use in minors including restricting character advertisement, labeling as an already existing product and catch phrases.
- ▶ Childproof packaging will be available for purchase or provided with each sale
- ▶ Cannabis in the home should be locked and out of sight of children



Labeling Regulations

- All licensed dispensaries can be verified using the Dispensary Verification Tool which should be posted in the storefront.
- All products must contain the approved warning label.



ESAP Drug and SHARPs Drop Off Kiosks

• Sheriff Maintained Locations

- Akron; Alden; Brant; Clearance; Colden; Elma; Grand Island; Holland; Lackawanna; Marilla; Springville
- Erie County Facilities at ECC North; ECC South; ECC City; Rath Bldg; Jesse Nash Health Ctr; EC Sherriff's @ 10 Delaware;
- Kaleida Health locations- Buffalo General; John R. Oishei Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital
- Canisius Collage;
- Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Local Municipality Kiosk Locations

- Amherst Police Dpt.
- Cheektowaga Police Department
- Orchard Park Police
- Evans Police Dept.
- University of Buffalo- North Campus @ Bissell Hall
- All Buffalo Police Departments

Outside of Erie County

- Albion Police Department (Orleans Co.)
- Orleans County Sheriff's Office (Orleans Co.)
- Batavia Police Department (Genesee Co.)
- LeRoy Village Police (Genesee Co.)
- Medina Police Dept (Orleans Co.)
- Wyoming County Sheriff (Wyoming Co.)



Totals Collected

Drugs Destroyed

- **2023 – 4220 lbs**
- 2022 – 8000 lbs
- 2021 - 7160 lbs
- 2020 - 16520 lbs
- 2019 - 34720 lbs

Sharps Collected

- **2023 – 6700 lbs**
- 2022 – 10404 lbs
- 2021 – 11676 lbs
- 2020 – 9629 lbs
- 2019 – 8809 lbs

Going Forward



- Collected Materials are transferred to Inmar for final destruction
- All cost of shipping and destruction of collected materials covered by pharmaceutical industry
 - No cost for Pharmacies
 - Prior DEC programs transferred cost of disposal after 2 years to host pharmacies
- Retention in Evidence Rooms no longer necessary – immediate shipping
- Most Police Departments have transitioned or are completing the process



Erie County Probation Department

OPIOID TASK FORCE MEETING

MAY 1, 2023



Current Status of Opioid Unit

- 29 Probationers on the Opioid Unit Caseload
- 79 Probationers paired with a Peer Navigator for support
- 2 Probationers rearrested
- 3 Probationers recently transferred to absconder unit
- 6 Active Violation of Probation (VOP)



Opioid Grant General Information

- 49 Boxes of Narcan distributed to probationers
- 10 Probationers at an inpatient facility
- 4 Probationers in jail
- 0 Fatal/2 non-fatal Opioid OD



Updates

- 3rd Peer Navigator started this quarter
- Will be hiring a 4th PN
- Planning for certification for new PN's and recertification for our most tenured PN
- Narcan available department wide, not just the Opioid Unit

The background features a glowing circular light in the center, surrounded by abstract, geometric shapes and lines in shades of purple, blue, and red. The overall effect is a futuristic, tunnel-like perspective.

Family and Consumer Support and Advocacy Group

Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force

Report May 1, 2023

Founded February 2016 by
Executive Order #014 of Erie
County Executive Mark Poloncarz



- That the Opioid Epidemic Task Force will include community experts from social service agencies, law enforcement, physicians, mental health and addictions providers, the health insurance industry, **and members of victims' families.**



Black Balloon Day –
March 5, 2023

At The Buffalo History Museum

Black Balloon Day

John Flynn DA Erie County, NY

Michael Adler, US Attorney Buffalo
Opioid Coordinator

Pastor Al Robinson, Spirit of Truth
Ministry

Barbara Burns, Community Education
Group ECOETF

Cheryll Moore, Erie County Health
Department and

In Support of the Families, the Peers of
the Opioid Unit of the DOH

300 Names Took 25
Minutes to Read
everyone stayed

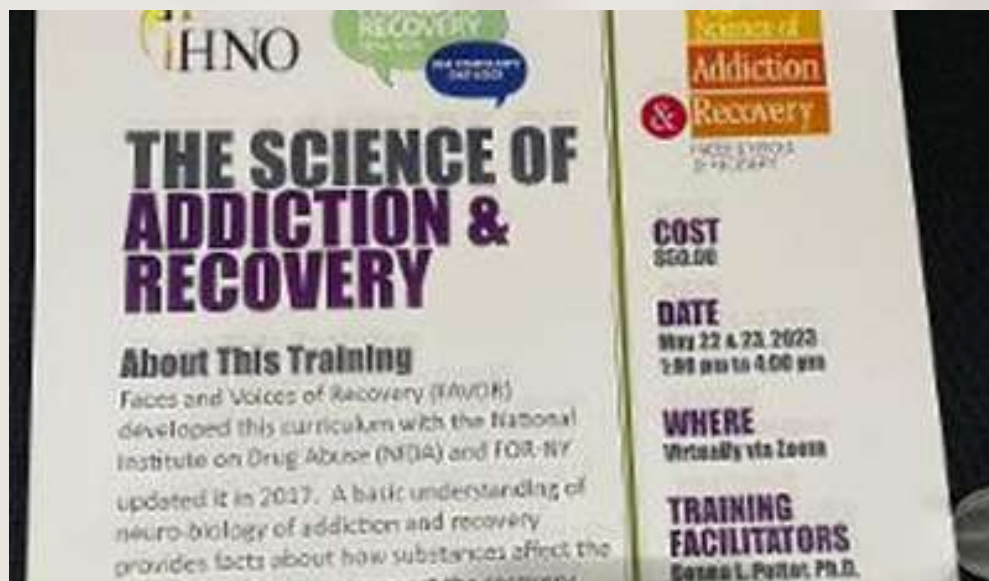


Call to Action

April 29, 2023

How you and your faith community can respond to Substance Use Disorder

Hosted by Sparks of Hope Recovery Support Center, Hamburg United Methodist Church and In His Name Outreach.



Hosted by Sparks of Hope Recovery Support Center, Hamburg United Methodist Church and In His Name Outreach.



IHNO FRIENDS OF RECOVERY

THE SCIENCE OF ADDICTION & RECOVERY

About This Training
 Faces and Voices of Recovery (FVR) developed this curriculum with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and FOR-NY updated it in 2017. A basic understanding of neuro-biology of addiction and recovery provides facts about how substances affect the brain and evidence to support the recovery process. This knowledge assists advocates to speak confidently to increase public understanding.

COST
\$50.00

DATE
 May 22 & 23, 2023
 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

WHERE
 Virtually via Zoom

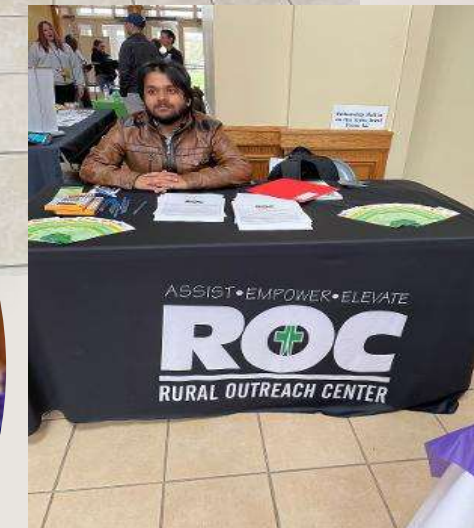
TRAINING FACILITATORS
 Bonnie L. Pottat, Ph.D.
 Timothy G. Bos, M.S.

HOSTED BY:

ASAP-NYCR re-certification hours for CARC and/or CRVA
 OASAS re-credentialing hours for CASAC, CPP, CPS

FORGE
 FRIENDS OF RECOVERY - GREATER ERIE

REGISTER AT THE LINK BELOW
<https://app.donorview.com/Q86Vx>



Changing the Message

Teaching People How to Treat People

- No One Deserves to be Poisoned
- Predatory Fentanyl Dealers are not People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)
- We shouldn't have to Wait for Anything to develop a flexible plan to save Lives
- When the Message Changes, Community Response will Change

Compassionate Interaction is Harm Reduction

- Every interaction can be an opportunity to express low impact help and personal care
- In many cases, the person developing a problem doesn't know what is happening to them
- Food, shelter, clothing and medical care are basic human needs

Harm Reduction Includes

- Connect individuals to overdose education, counseling and referral to treatment for infections diseases and SUD
- Distribute opioid overdose reversal medications
- Lessen harms associated with drug use; Hepatitis, HIV, infections
- Reduce infections disease among PWUD
- Promote a philosophy of hope and healing by utilizing those with lived experience.

SAMHSA.gov

Family Members and Hilbert College develop Research- The Many Voices of Addiction

- Graduate Student Marissa Kleinsmith under the direction of Dr. Martin Floss
- N=28
- Age of PWUD
- Education and Employment
- Mental Health
- Contacts with Primary Care regarding Substance Use
- Treatment Sought

Findings Regarding Health Care and SUD

- MAT programs were mentioned as an option to 63% (n=17) of participants and were not mentioned by healthcare providers to 37% (n=10) of these participants. More research is needed to understand the reasoning behind MAT programs being unavailable to some people struggling with SUD since they are proven to be effective in helping with opioid addiction.
- It was found that many of the participants did seek out help from the healthcare system for OUD, in that 71.4% (n=20) did seek out help, and 28.6% (n=8) did not. Of those, 59.3% (n=16) were not able to find a physician that properly helped them with their OUD, and 40.7% (n=11) did. These numbers indicate that even when seeking out professional help more than half of the respondents were not able to find someone to properly help them with OUD.
- When it comes to SUD the healthcare system in 2017, spend an estimated \$35 billion dollars which include costs spent on healthcare and opioid use disorder treatment (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention c, 2021).

Findings Regarding Harm Reduction

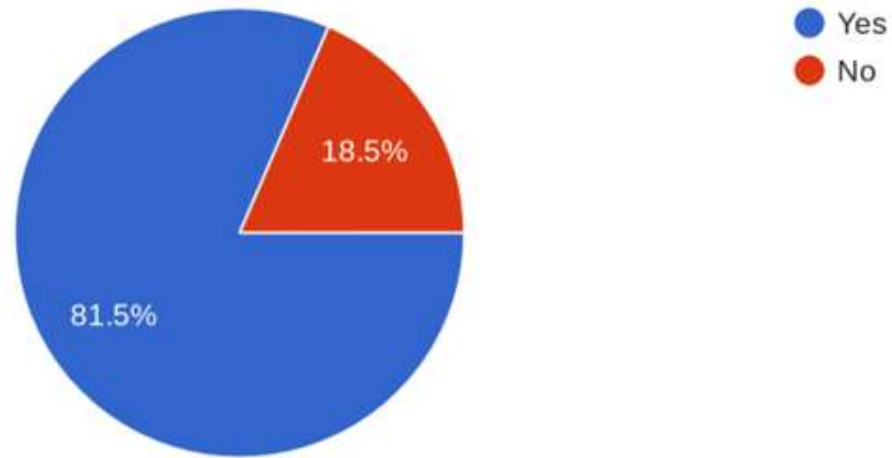
- This method is focused on reaching the “unreachable” by meeting the substance users where they are at instead of focusing on the traditional abstinence prevention model (Einstein, 2007). This approach is newer and not as widely accepted by society or the healthcare system.
- When participants were asked if the healthcare system spoke to their loved one about harm reduction 40% (n=10) indicated “yes” and 60% (n=15) indicated “no”. This shows that more than half the respondents were not given the option of this type of treatment.

Findings Regarding Criminal Justice

- In this research study, participants were asked if their loved one was ever involved with the criminal justice system because of opioid use. It was found that 82.1% (n=23) indicated “yes” and 17.9% (n=5) indicated “no”. This indicates that OUD does influence the criminal justice system.
- Therefore, the next question asked was whether they thought any particular services provided by the criminal justice system seemed to be helpful to their loved ones. It was found that 64% (n=16) did not feel the criminal justice system provided helpful services to their loved ones and 36% (n=9) did.

Do you think your loved one would have maintained contact with a service they found to be friendly?

27 responses



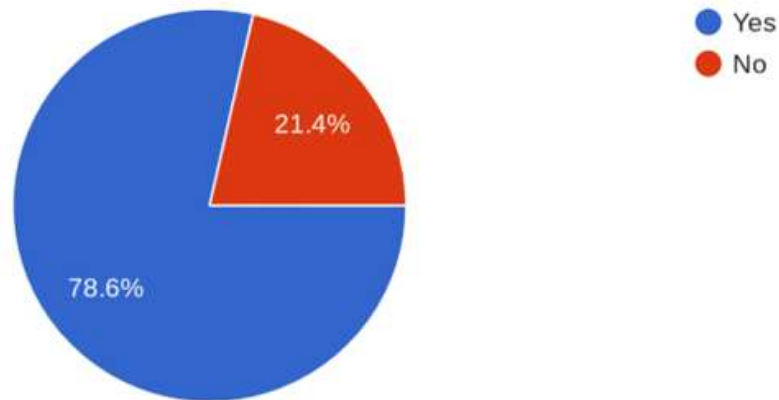
- In figure 5 it is noticed that 81.5% (n=22) indicated “yes” and 18.5% (n=5) indicated “no”. More than half of respondents indicated that if they found the services to be friendly they would have maintained contact. A friendly service opens lines of communication and makes the individual feel safe and free of judgment based on OUD. If the service is friendly with the individual, they are more likely to continue with the service and use it based on these findings.

Harm Reduction Kits

- Since there is a stigma around harm reduction tool kits enabling loved ones to continue using, this could be why more participants indicated “no” to this question.

Do you think harm reduction kits would have been helpful for your loved one? (example: fentanyl test strips, naloxone, alcohol wipes, water bottles, ...und care, a metal receptacle, clean syringes, pipes)

28 responses



Findings Regarding Mental Health

- It was found that 71.4% (n=20) battled also with a mental health disorder.
- Respondents also were able to indicate which mental health disorders their loved ones were diagnosed with, those included: Bipolar disorder (BD), anxiety, depression, Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), borderline personality disorder (BPD), and schizophrenia.
- Out of all these mental health disorders, anxiety and depression were more frequently found than others.

Findings Regarding Treatment

- The loved ones in this study indicated that 74.1% (n=20) had attended some sort of treatment for SUD throughout their addiction. This means that 25.9% (n=7) did not participate in treatment for their addiction.
- Participants expressed that of the treatment options their loved ones attended, rehab, MAT programs, and counseling to be most helpful.
- Majority of the responses (n=8) found MAT programs to be most helpful. This finding is not surprising since other research that has been done found that medication-based treatment is effective in supporting safe and less agonizing withdrawal, reduced mortality rates, and promotes functionality in the family, community, and society (Leshner et al., 2019).
- Even though MAT programs are proven to be effective, it is still limited in its availability, and there is misunderstanding which surrounds medication treatment (Leshner et al., 2019; Mojtabai et al., 2019).

Families Need Help

- **WHEREAS**, dangerous and powerful opioids, such as fentanyl, are increasingly being found on our streets, in addition to heroin; and
- **WHEREAS**, no single strategy alone can address this complex, multifaceted issue; and
- **WHEREAS**, coordination of the many individual anti-opioid initiatives currently being undertaken throughout Western New York is critically needed.

An Identified Community Need?

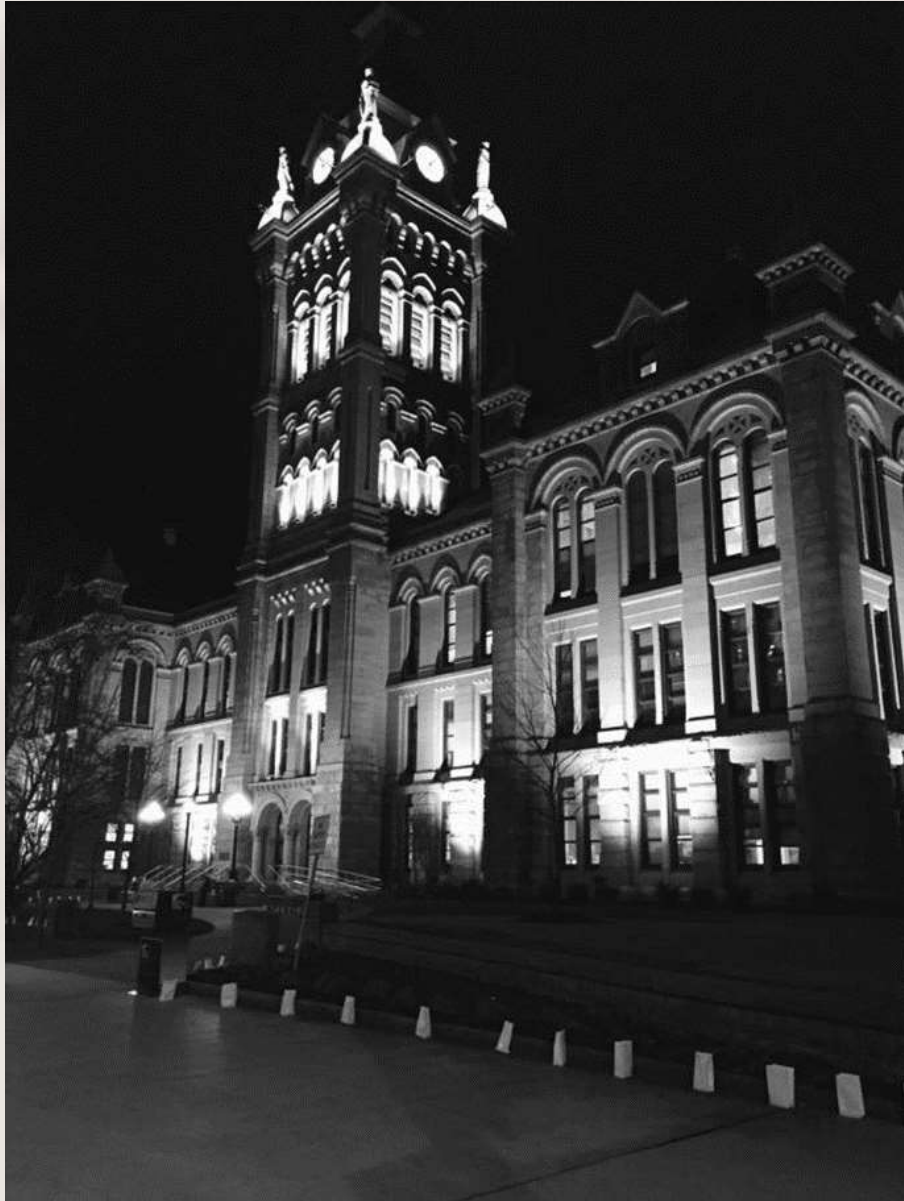
- An Appropriately Staffed central location to provide accurate, reliable information of the disease of Substance Use
- A central list of resources in the community
- Educational materials and hands-on training to show best practices in keeping people alive, wound care and disease management
- The ability to make a health care plan from evidence-based practices that is flexible
- Educational displays to show the history of opioids, the biology of opioids and the present-day concerns for our community

We Need to Respond to Drug Cartels

- Overdosing is the wrong word. The Victims were poisoned
- Drug Cartels have flooded our streets with poisons
- They are unchallenged for countless deaths
- We need to end measured and ineffective counterattacks

Upcoming International Overdose Awareness Day Stay Tuned for Further Developments





We have a long way to go.

Thank you for all you do.

Erie County Opiate Task Force

Community Education and Prevention Committee

Goals

- Educate the community about the current status of the opioid epidemic in Western New York and addiction in general
- Provide awareness, guidance, and direction to those directly and indirectly impacted by the crisis
- AND promote, encourage and educate the community about prevention

What's Going On?

- Who's doing what?
- Promote

What's Going On?

- PSA-complete!
- Spreading the word
- Copies available

Currently...

- March 2020
- Round 2-Media visits
- COVID
- May 2023
- Round 2-Media visits

- What do we want to share?
- Latest trends/numbers
- Fentanyl laced cocaine
- Language

- Language
- We make assumptions
- What do those struggling with SUD think?
- Go straight to the source
- Surveys
- Panels

Erie County Suicide Prevention Coalition Presentation to the Erie County Opiate Task Force

May 1, 2023

Celia Spacone, Ph.D.

Coordinator

Jessica C. Pirro, LMSW

Chair

Suicide Prevention Coalition of Erie County



Our Mission

The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Erie County fosters a community of hopefulness, safety, and shared responsibility to prevent suicide and suicide attempts by increasing awareness, promoting resiliency and facilitating access to resources.



53 Stakeholder members!

[American Foundation for Suicide Prevention WNY Chapter](#)

[Amherst Central School District](#)

[Bar Association of Erie County](#)

[BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.](#)

[Bornhava](#)

[BryLin Hospital](#)

[Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Inc.](#)

[Buffalo Psychiatric Center](#)

[Buffalo Public Schools](#)

[Canisius High School](#)

[Child & Family Services](#)

[Community Veterans Engagement Board WNY](#)

[Compeer Buffalo](#)

[Crisis Services](#)

[Endeavor Health Services](#)

[Everytown for Gun Safety](#)



Our Members Continued...

[Erie 1 BOCES](#)

[Erie County Department of Health](#)

[Erie County Department of Mental Health](#)

[Erie County Medical Center](#)

[Erie County Medical Examiner's Office](#)

[Evergreen Health](#)

[Frontier Central School District](#)

[GLYS WNY](#)

[Gowanda Central Schools](#)

[Harmonia Collaborative Care](#)

[Hillside Children's Center](#)

[Horizon Health Services](#)

[Independent Living Center of Erie County](#)

[JED Foundation](#)

[Kasey's Key](#)

[Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD](#)

[Mental Health Advocates of WNY](#)

[Millennium Collaborative Care](#)



Our Members Continued...

[NAMI Buffalo and Erie County](#)

[Nardin Academy](#)

[Native American Community Services of Erie &
Niagara Counties, Inc.](#)

[New Directions Youth and Family Services](#)

[PATH Enrichment Center](#)

[Preventionfocus, Inc.](#)

[Restoration Society, Inc.](#)

[Recovery Options Made Easy](#)

[Sarah Klaiber](#)

[Shaun Rocco Foundation](#)

[Spectrum Health & Human Services](#)

[SUNY Buffalo State Counseling Center](#)

[UB Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention](#)

[UB Department of Psychiatry](#)

[VA Western New York Healthcare System](#)

[Veterans Experience Office](#)

[Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY](#)

[Western Problem Gambling Resource Center](#)

[Williamsville Central Schools](#)





7 new trainers certified in Suicide Safety for School Staff

811 School Staff trained in Suicide Safety for School Staff

This brings total to 5,919 local school staff trained since the program was first introduced!



731 Professional Staff Trained in Suicide Prevention Techniques



CALM

Counseling on Access to Lethal
Means

Developed by Cathy Barber and
Elaine Frank



THE COLUMBIA
LIGHTHOUSE
PROJECT
IDENTIFY RISK. PREVENT SUICIDE.

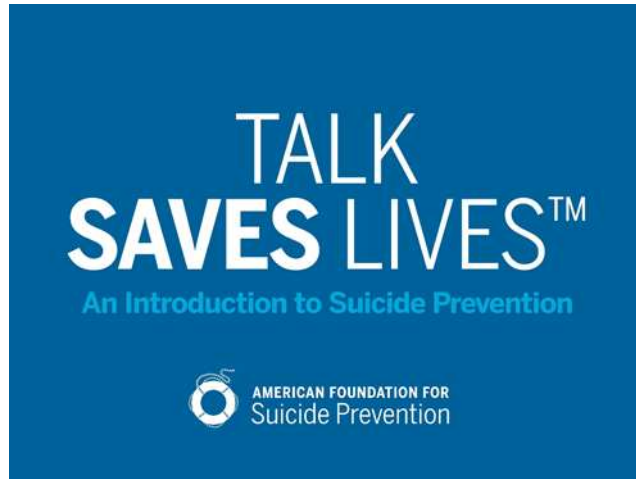
Stanley-Brown
Safety Planning Intervention

PHQ-9



**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
COALITION**
OF ERIE COUNTY

398 Community Members Trained in Gatekeeper Programs



BIPOC Committee

Ring the Alarm! Black Youth Suicide



An Introduction
to Suicide Prevention

We Stand With You:
Mental Health
Resources
for the Black
Community



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention

**BLACK
LGBTQ
MENTAL
HEALTH
MATTERS**

afsp.org/lgbtq

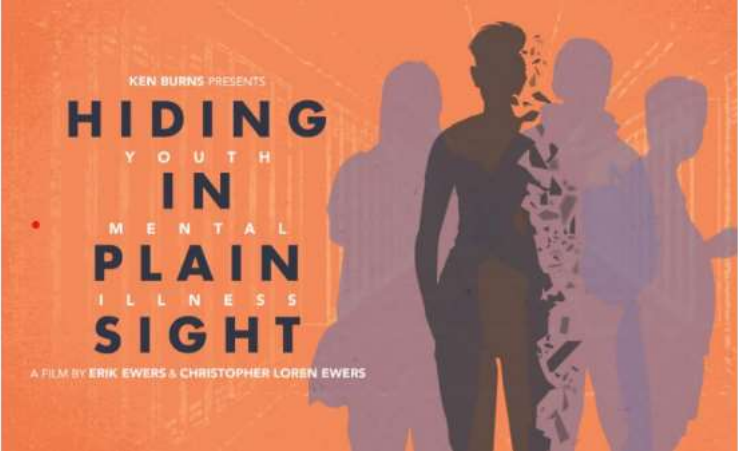


American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention





Soul Shop™ for Black Churches is a one-day workshop designed for clergy, staff, lay pastors, and faith-based clinicians in the Black Church. Soul Shop provides training to help Clergy leaders work with community members impacted by trauma and struggling with mental illness that may place them at risk for suicide.



Did you know
suicide by Native American youth
is three times the national average?

School Committee

- Membership grew!
- Hospital-Schools Discharge Planning Collaboration continued- Hosted a Webex with Bob Cannata
- Creating Suicide Safety in Schools T4T
- Helping Students at Risk
- Making Your Home Suicide Safer Roll-out continues
- Parents Program: Raising Resilient Kids in Challenging Times
- Suicide Safety for School Staff- T4T and continued roll out
- Are You Ready to Act on the FACTS?
- Joined SMART



Means Reduction Committee

Members: Katie Coric, Robert Cannata, Amy Rockwood, Christopher Ramnauth, Allison Freeman, Patricia Logan-Greene

- Distributed gun locks at ECDOH Covid testing sites, Erie County Fair.
- Firearm storage Map shared
- Time and Distance video
- Two In-Person Gun Shows
- Pistol Permit Registration
- Firearm Safety Family Project



OVER 600 GUN LOCKS!!





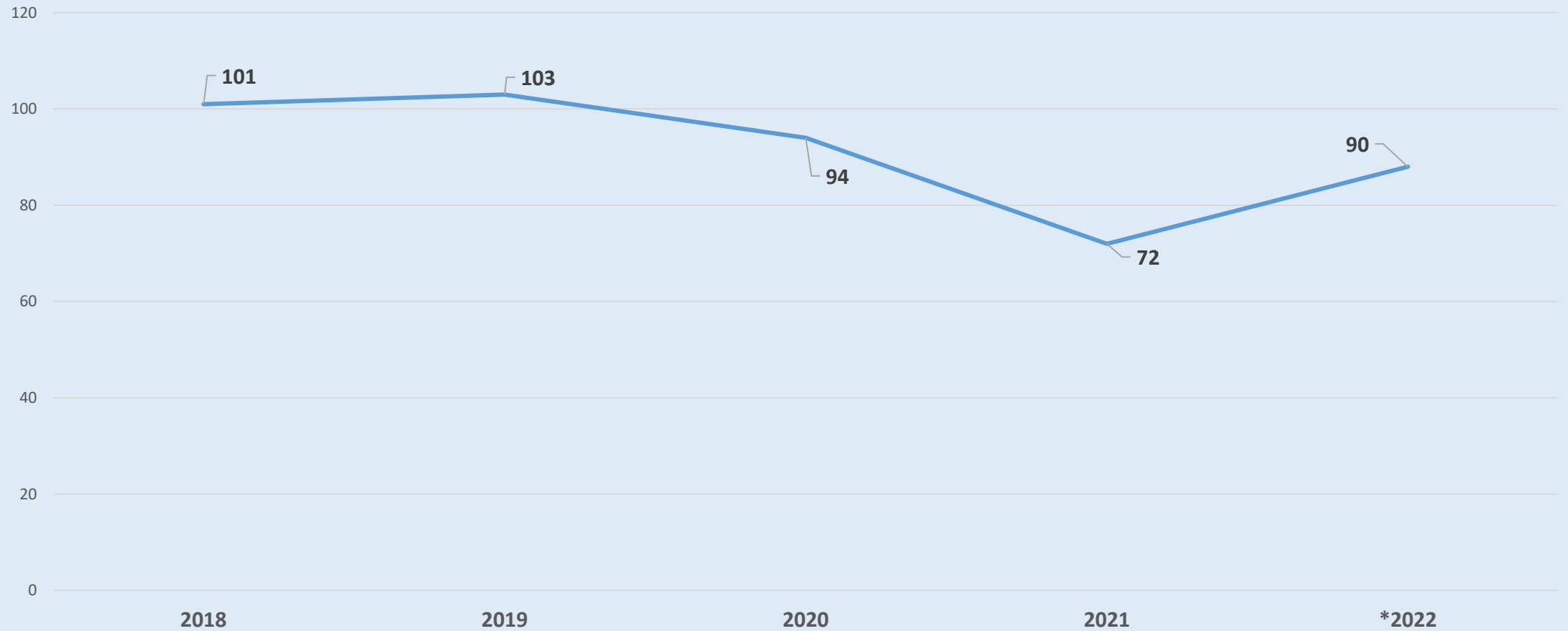


Erie County Suicide Data 2018 – 2022

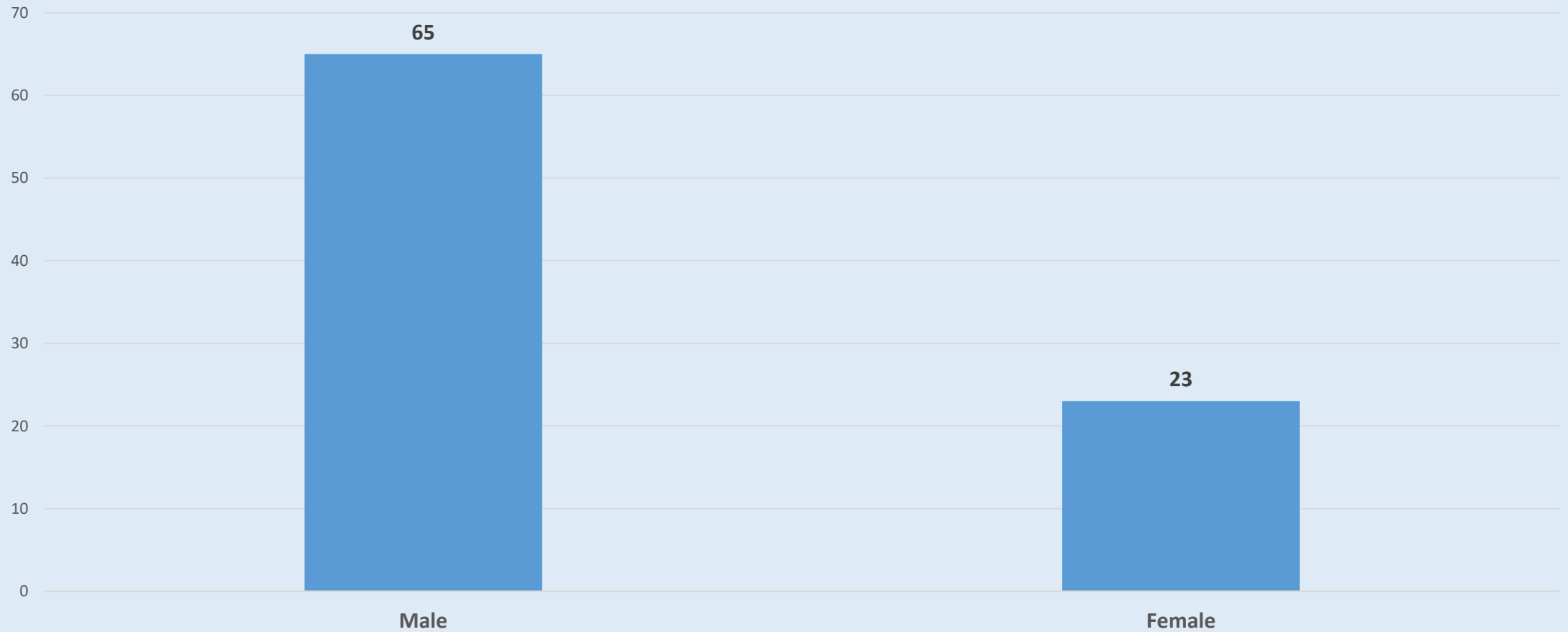


Erie County Medical Examiner's Office

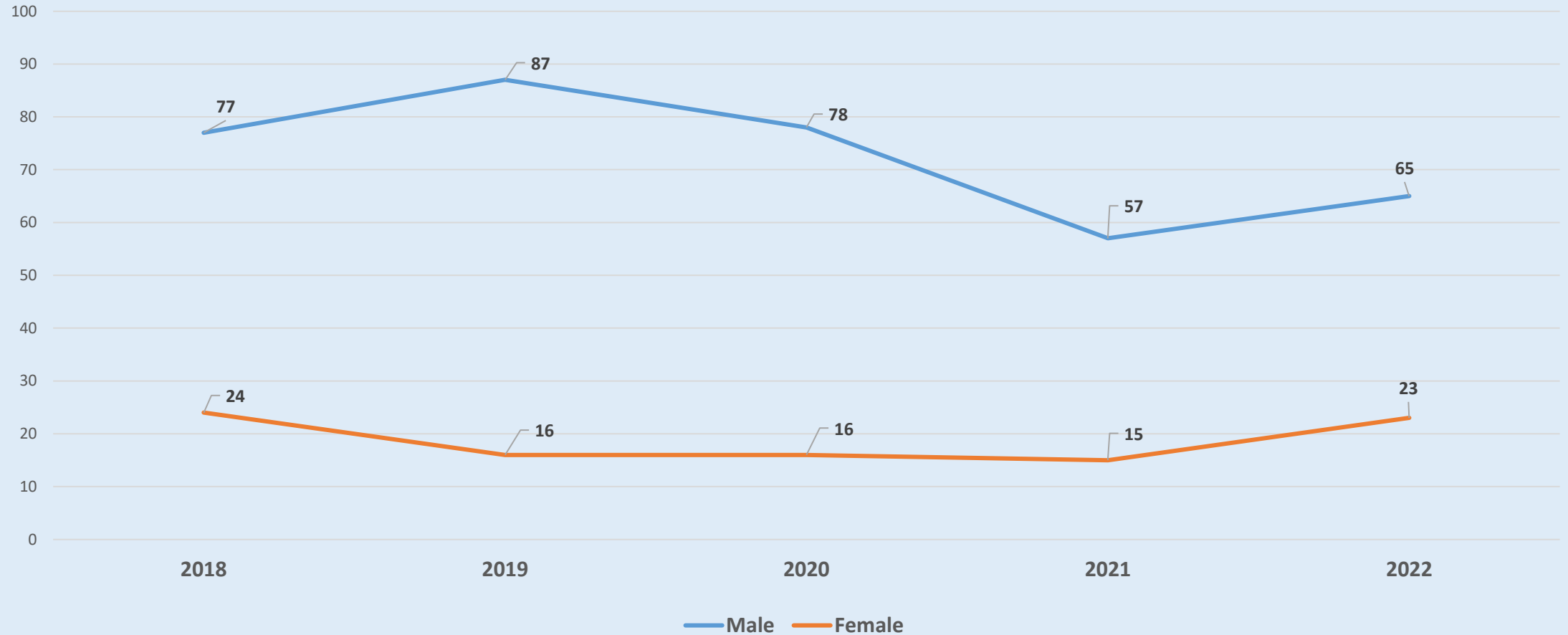
Total Suicides 2018-2022



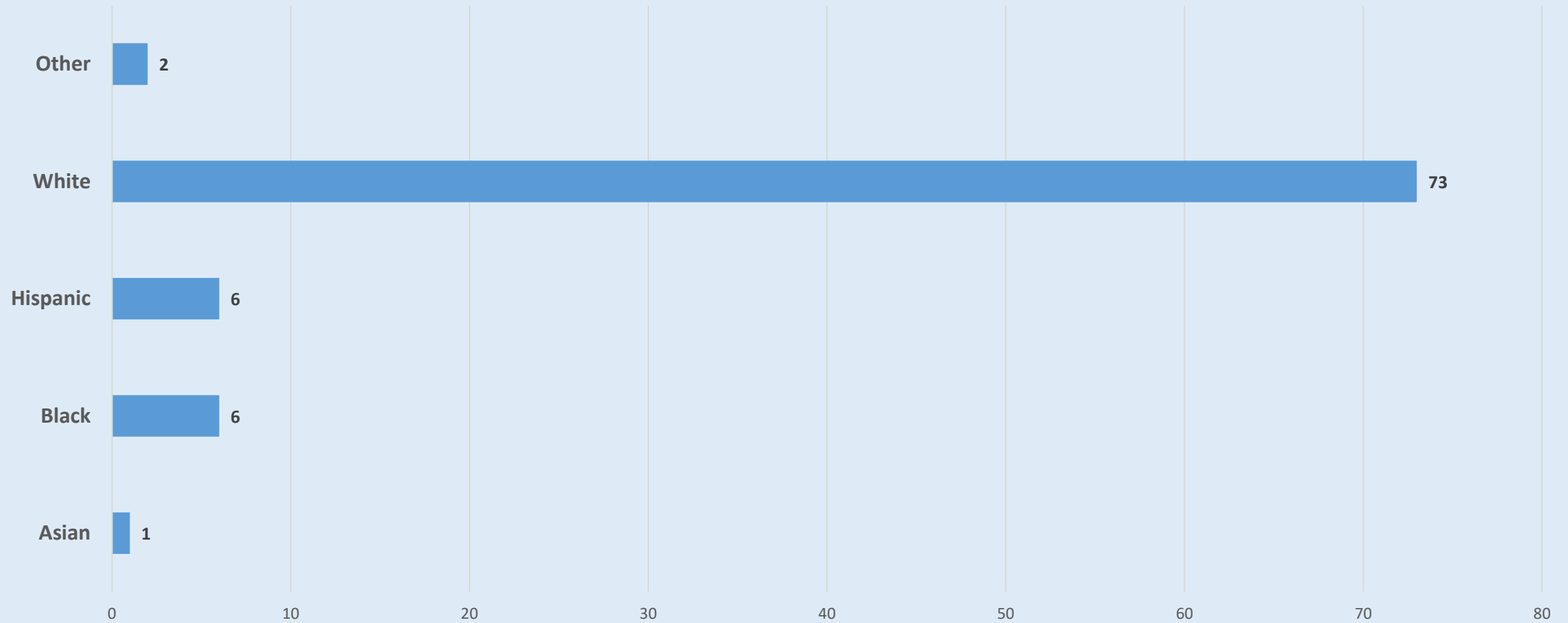
2022 Suicides by Biological Sex



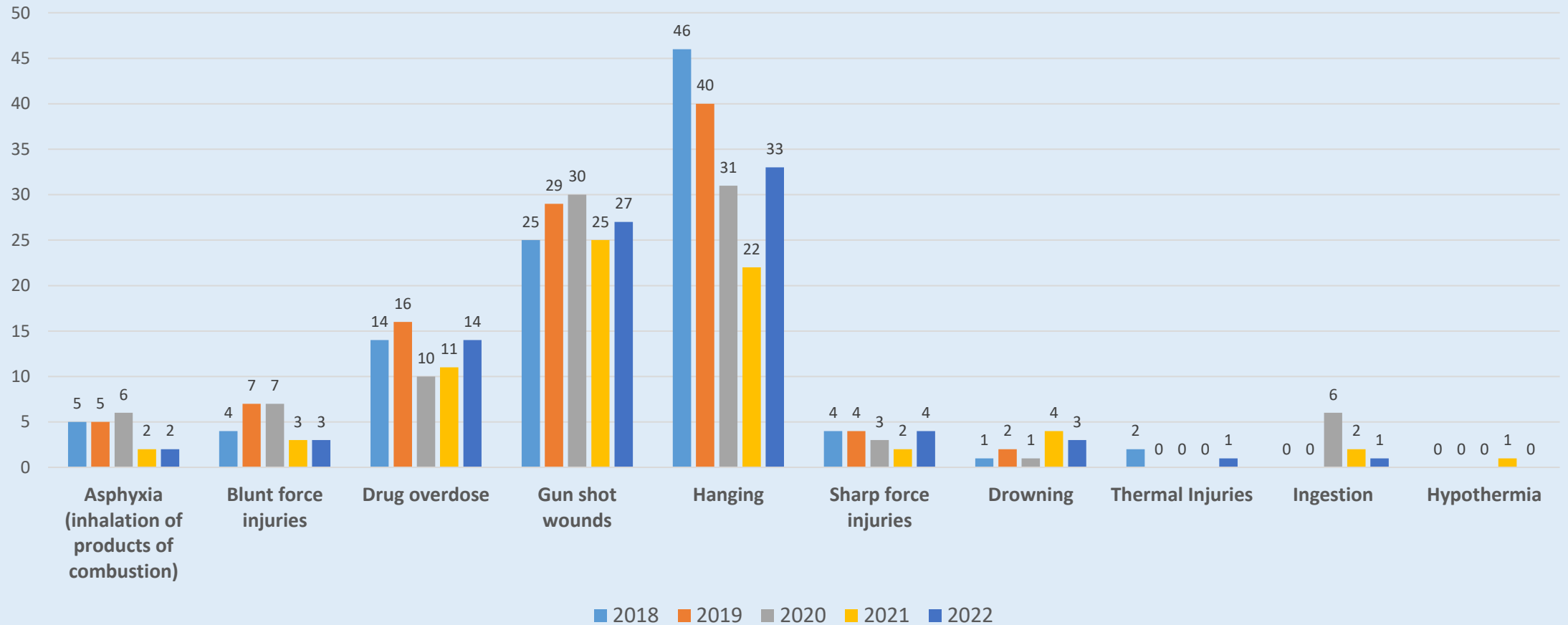
2018-2022 Suicides by Biological Sex



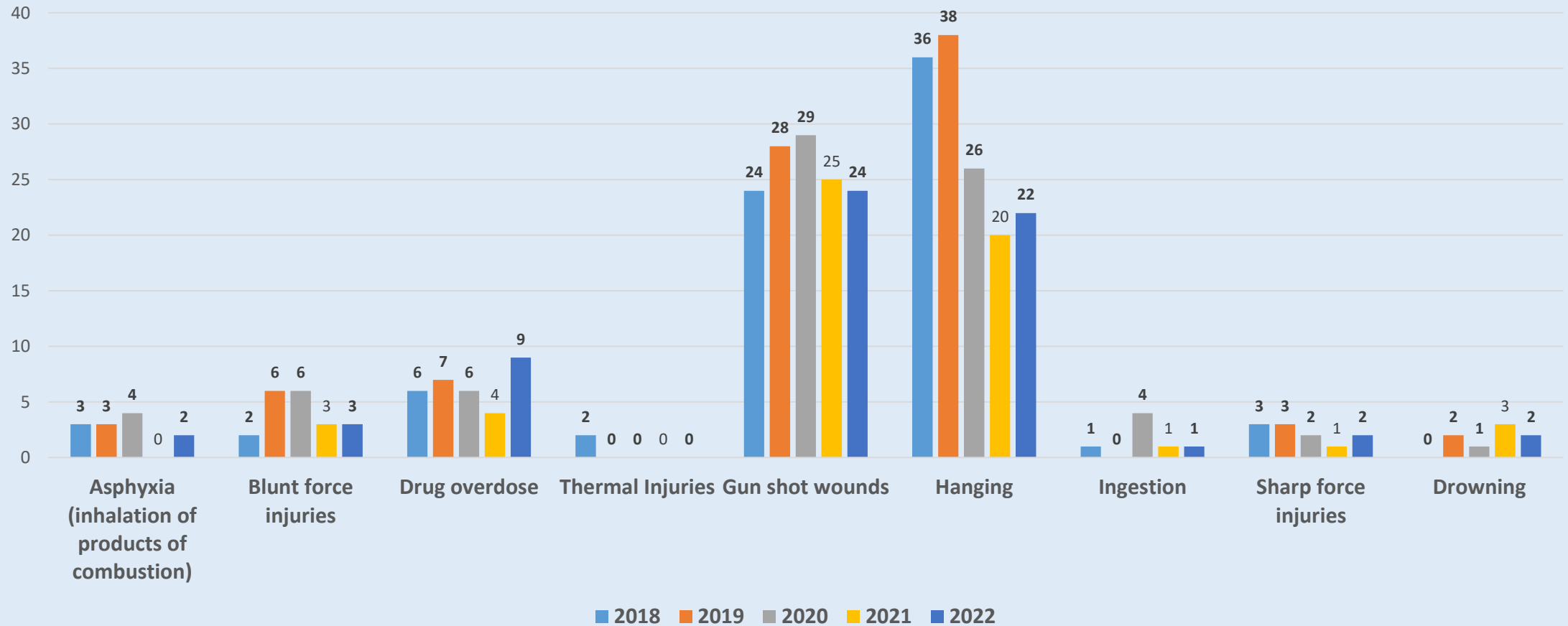
2022 Suicides by Race



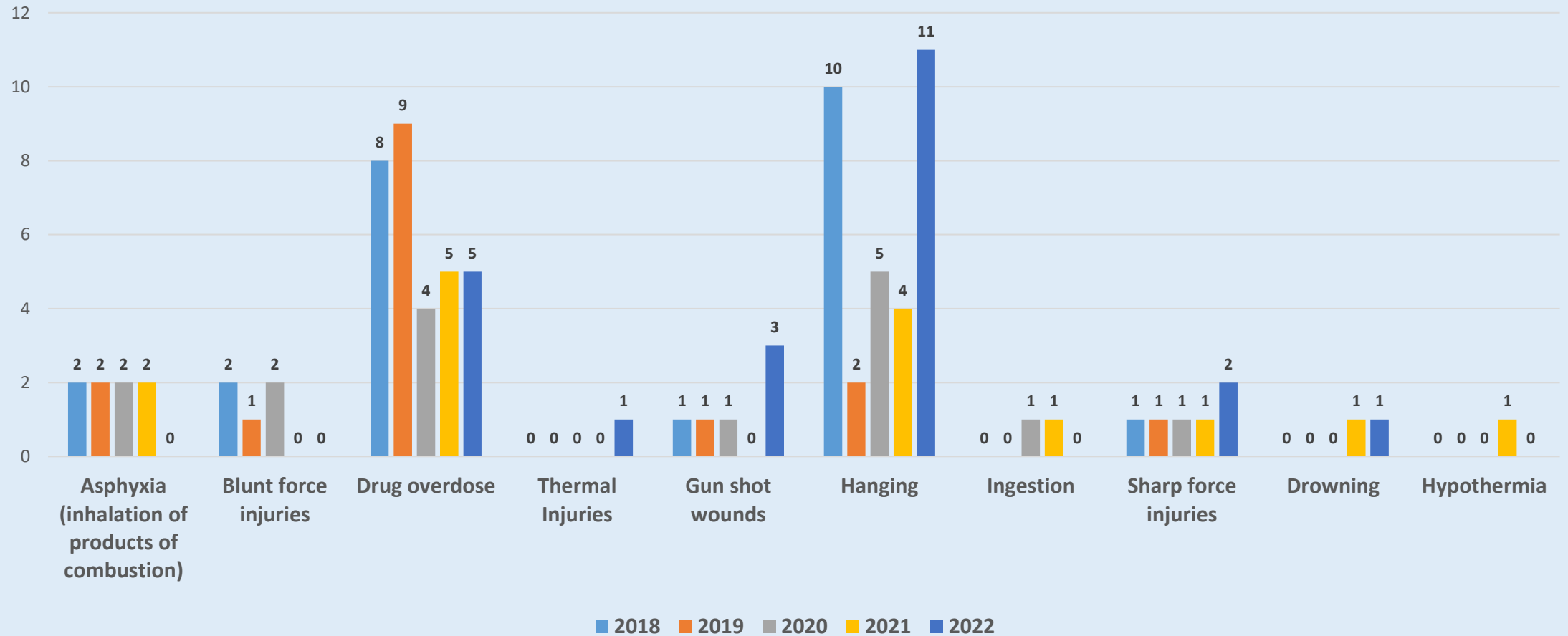
2018-2022 Suicides by Mode



2018-2022 Suicides by Mode (Male)



2018-2022 Suicides by Mode (Female)



Suicidepreventionecnycny.org



Time and Distance

MAP

