

2023 ACTION PLAN

Philadelphia's Overdose Response

April 2023

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JIM KENNEY

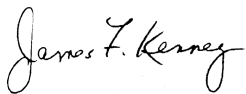
The overdose crisis has wrought immeasurable damage to our communities. While we strive to make progress on many fronts, more work is needed to stay ahead of this evolving, deadly crisis. In recent years, we have gained more insight on Philadelphia's overdose crisis and the changing nature of the drug supply. The growing prevalence of fentanyl and xylazine, and increased polysubstance use, present a unique danger to Philadelphians and require the City to pivot in its overdose response.

This fight requires a dedicated and unified effort for our city to overcome. The City of Philadelphia, through the Opioid Response Unit and alongside our many partners, will continue its work to protect and invest in the health and well-being of all Philadelphians.

In 2022, the state of Pennsylvania negotiated its share of the nationwide opioid settlements. Philadelphia will receive approximately \$200M over the next 18 years. Earlier this year, the City announced a \$20 million investment plan for the first two payments from the opioid settlement. We are proud that this plan was developed in response to direct community feedback and addresses the many ways in which overdose crisis impacts Philadelphians.

We continue to learn from and mourn the individuals we have lost to unintentional overdose. And as we work to prevent further loss, we must strive to reach communities within and outside of Kensington, and respond through care and compassion, recognizing that stigma persists.

Sincerely,



Jim Kenney
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR TUMAR ALEXANDER

The 2023 Opioid Response Unit Action Plan reflects our continued commitment as the City of Philadelphia to be transparent, empathetic, and unrelenting in the fight against the overdose crisis.

While we saw a decrease in the number of overdoses involving only opioids in 2021, we must acknowledge that unintentional fatal overdoses among Black Philadelphians continue to increase. This humbling information causes us to reflect and elicits a call to action.

The 2023 Action Plan reaffirms the City's promise to alleviate the harms of the overdose crisis, especially for our most underserved communities. Black and Brown Philadelphians have had to endure far too much suffering and loss due to the War on Drugs, mass incarceration, and systemic racism. Communities of color remain disproportionately affected by risks related to substance use, gun violence, trauma, and social determinants of health. We must be resilient and determined in our public health response and move beyond a one-size fits all approach, recognizing the importance of investing in the health and well-being of our communities and neighborhoods.

The overdose crisis is not over, and we must continue to work towards uplifting and rehabilitating affected communities. The 2023 Action Plan outlines the work of City agencies and other community organizations in this ongoing fight. We will continue to work towards a better future for families and children in every neighborhood. We stand with you, grieve with you, and will continue to fight with you to make Philadelphia the best place it can be.

Sincerely,



Tumar Alexander
Managing Director



OPIOID RESPONSE UNIT

Mission and Purpose

Established in February 2020, the Opioid Response Unit (ORU) is a permanent unit within the Managing Director's Office that ensures City departments are operating under a unified strategy in response to the overdose crisis in Philadelphia. The ORU works across departments to expand the prevention and treatment of substance use disorder, while helping impacted communities recover through coordinated efforts in community support and public safety. The ORU also collaborates with residents, providers, and community partners to mobilize a community-based response and support impacted areas.

Learn more at phila.gov/opioids.



Executive Summary

The overdose crisis in Philadelphia is a public health emergency. In 2021, Philadelphia lost 1,276 people to fatal overdose.

Philly's street drug supply is more potent and unpredictable, increasing the risk for overdose.

Fentanyl, a highly potent synthetic opioid, has largely replaced heroin and is often mixed with xylazine ("tranq"), an animal tranquilizer not meant for human use. Tranq can cause severe wounds that make it difficult to access SUD treatment, and can suppress breathing, which complicates overdose reversal.

The overdose crisis is not limited to opioids. More than half of fatal overdoses involved the combination of opioids and stimulants. Overdoses involving opioids and stimulants are likely from fentanyl being pressed into counterfeit pills, as well as intentional polysubstance use.

The overdose crisis is citywide. In 2021, the majority of fatal overdoses occurred outside of the Kensington-area, with 69% of fatal overdoses taking place in the victim's home. Sharp increases in unintentional fatal overdoses were seen in North Philadelphia ZIP Codes 19124, 19132, 19133, 19140 and 19144.

Overdoses are increasing among communities of color. Black Philadelphians aged 35-44 died from unintentional overdose more than any other racial/ethnic group in 2021. Encouraging culturally affirming conversations around available options in treatment and harm reduction is crucial for helping individuals access care and combat stigma.

Philadelphians who are at risk for overdose may not identify as substance users and may not recognize themselves in outreach campaigns targeted to people who use drugs. Meeting residents where they are and partnering with trusted community messengers can raise public awareness and make harm reduction more accessible in impacted communities.

The 2023 ORU Action Plan details work across City departments in response to the overdose crisis, focused on advancing four key strategies:



Engaging and supporting impacted communities.



Ensuring public safety by reducing drug-market activity.



Preventing overdoses and reducing harms associated with substance misuse.



Expanding access to behavioral health treatment and recovery services.



Key areas of progress in 2022 include:

- Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) distributed 54,036 doses of naloxone and installed the first Naloxone Near Me Tower in West Philadelphia.
- The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities (DBHIDS) completed a 100 Day Challenge pilot in Kensington and successfully connected 377 people to housing and treatment services.
- DBHIDS piloted the first licensed mobile wound care van in Pennsylvania in response to xylazine and treated 1,254 patients for wounds.
- PDPH expanded bereavement care to support families who have lost loved ones to substance misuse and launched the first Overdose Memorial Garden in Center City.
- ORU launched the Overdose Prevention and Community Healing Fund, a \$3.5M grantmaking program that mobilizes community-based organizations as trusted community messengers to bring prevention resources to impacted communities.
- Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Free Library partnered with community providers to provide free, year-long family-friendly programming in Kensington-area parks and coordinated with PPD, PDPH and CLIP to provide ongoing park security and cleaning.
- MDO-Community Services created 4,177 low-barrier temporary employment opportunities through Same Day Work Pay.

While we mark progress made, we also recognize that more work is required to reach impacted communities and turn the tide on the overdose crisis. In 2022, the City of Philadelphia secured its share of the nationwide opioid settlements and will receive about \$200M to support a wide array of crisis response strategies over the next 18 years. In January 2023, the City announced \$20 million in initial investments from the opioid settlement to fund several initiatives that are reflected in the 2023 ORU Action Plan.

In 2023, the City of Philadelphia will:

- **Launch mobile methadone citywide**, making critical treatment for substance use disorder accessible on the street.
- **Support the Kensington Plan** through \$7.5M in strategic investments towards repairing Kensington homes, parks and schools.
- **Disrupt the open-air drug markets** in Kensington through Drug Market Intervention (DMI).
- **Increase the number of permanent and supportive housing opportunities** to support people experiencing homelessness at different stages of recovery.
- **Expand harm reduction services citywide**, ensuring that messaging is culturally affirming and accessible for impacted families and communities, and better understand why people who use drugs are engaging in polysubstance use.



Overview

The City of Philadelphia established the Opioid Response Unit (ORU) in February 2020 to focus on preventing and treating opioid use disorder and helping communities recover, ensuring City departments operate with a unified strategy and shared resources in response to the overdose crisis.

The Opioid Response Unit manages four strategy groups:



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



PREVENTION



PUBLIC SAFETY



TREATMENT

Each strategy group works to advance strategic initiatives that address short and long-term goals in the City's response to the overdose crisis. The strategic initiatives listed below were designed to be implemented over a period of five years, starting in 2020, with annual Action Items that evolve and respond to current trends:

OPIOID RESPONSE UNIT		
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE	2023 ACTION ITEMS	PARTICIPATING AGENCIES
COMMUNITY SUPPORT <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing in neighborhoods with high overdose rates. 2. Expand employment programs for youth in neighborhoods with high overdose rates. 3. Develop holistic and trauma-informed healing centered engagement program for communities, individuals, and families impacted by substance use disorder. 4. <i>Coordinate with Public Safety to close drug corners and activate community spaces in neighborhoods with high overdose rates.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Launch Overdose Prevention and Community Healing Fund. → Advance community-driven master planning efforts through strategic investments in Kensington. → Sustain Kensington Community Resilience Fund. → Reduce homelessness experienced by people at different stages of recovery. → Simplify access to existing trauma resources for residents. → Increase outreach to residents for home repair grant programs. → Improve flow from Recovery Housing to Shared Supportive Housing. → Implement citywide community engagement plan. → Scope feasibility for sobering center. → Sustain Kensington Wellness Resource Fair. → Support Drug Market Intervention in East Division. 	Department of Commerce Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO) Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) Free Library of Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services (OHS) Department of Licenses & Inspections (L&I) Philadelphia Law Department Mayor's Commission on Aging Managing Director's Office – Community Services, Philly 311, CLIP MDO – Health & Human Services Cabinet (MDO-HHS) Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) Department of Planning & Development Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH)

Table continued on next page.



OPIOID RESPONSE UNIT			
	STRATEGIC INITIATIVE	2023 ACTION ITEMS	PARTICIPATING AGENCIES
<div>PREVENTION</div> <div></div>	5. Reduce overdoses and increase access to harm reduction services.	→ Expand harm reduction services and increase citywide naloxone and fentanyl test strips distribution.	DBHIDS
	6. Scale Emergency Medical Services Alternative Response Units.	→ Expand Alternative Response Unit-2. → Scope expansion of post non-fatal overdose interventions by EMS. → Move beyond one-size-fits all approach to overdose prevention. → Develop culturally affirming curricula and engagement materials.	Philadelphia Fire Department MDO-HHS MDO-Office of Criminal Justice (OCJ) Office of Public Engagement Office of Black Male Engagement Office of Re-entry Partnerships Office of Interfaith Affairs Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) PDPH
<div>PUBLIC SAFETY</div> <div></div>	7. Improve coordinated narcotics strategy between local, state and federal agencies.	→ Disrupt open-air drug markets in Kensington through Drug Market Intervention (DMI) strategy.	DBHIDS
	8. Pursue permanent closure of drug corners and coordinate with Community Support Strategy to activate community spaces in neighborhoods with high overdose rates.	→ Implement Post-Arrest Wellness Supports in East Division. → Expand Police Assisted Diversion. → Ensure safety and security for community parks activation. → Improve public information for Accelerated Misdemeanor Program. → Support SDP Opioid Task Force. → Address quality of life concerns on transit lines and hubs. → Increase enforcement for illegal dumping and Nuisance Business Task Force.	District Attorney's Office (DAO) OHS MDO-HHS MDO Office of Criminal Justice PPR PPD School District of Philadelphia (SDP) Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) Town Watch Integrated Services
<div>TREATMENT</div> <div></div>	10. Expand warm hand-off program, including post-incarceration.	→ Launch mobile methadone citywide.	DBHIDS
	11. Expand mobile Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).	→ Expand access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and increase MOUD dosage in prisons. → Expand mobile wound care. → Scope contingency management model.	Law MDO-HHS PDP PDPH
	12. Execute Medication First policies, provider incentives, and expand access to treatment.	→ Ensure treatment system agility in response to overdose crisis.	



2021

Emerging Trends in the Overdose Crisis



Racial disparities, polysubstance use, and the changing drug supply are driving the observed increase in fatal overdoses in Philadelphia.

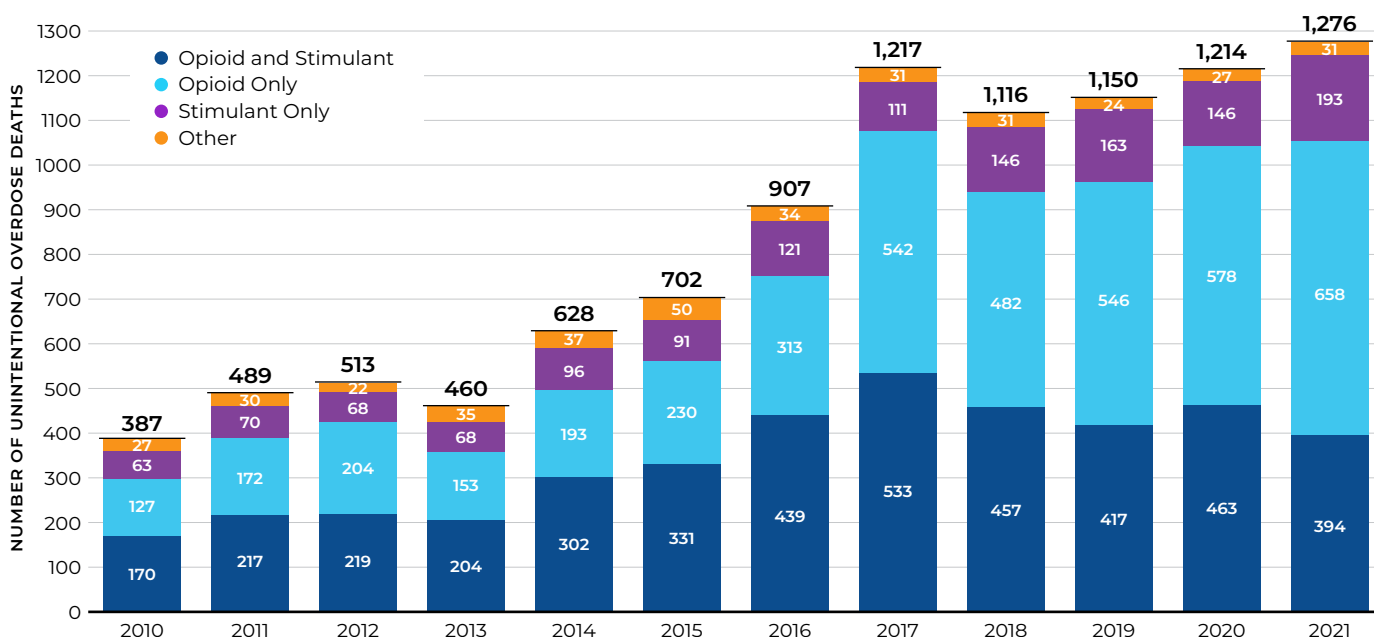
Philadelphia's most recent fatal overdose data reveals that unintentional overdose deaths continue to rise.

In 2021, there were 1,276 unintentional drug overdose deaths, the highest ever reported in Philadelphia and a 5% increase from the previous year.

Overdoses increased in communities of color, showing widening racial disparities. More than half of overdose deaths involved the combination of an opioid and a stimulant, highlighting the risks of polysubstance use.

The changing nature and toxicity of Philadelphia's illicit drug supply also complicates access to treatment and overdose reversal protocols.

UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE DEATHS BY DRUG GROUP 2010-2021



Polysubstance Use

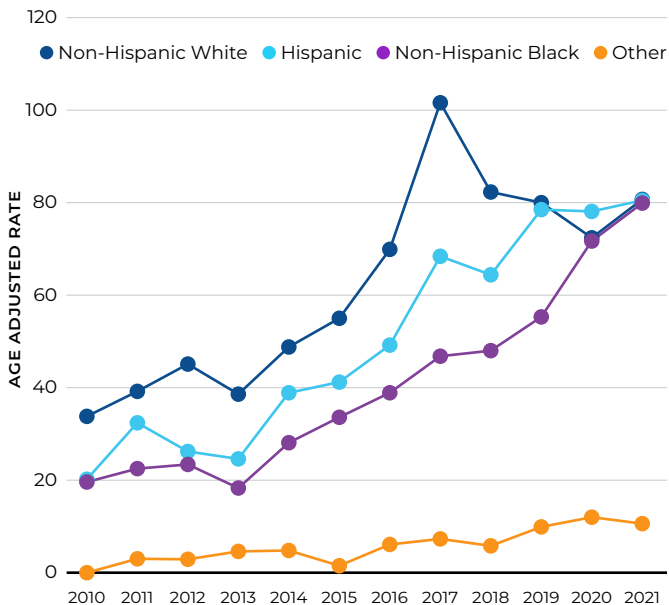
When two or more substances are taken at once, the combination can result in heightened, unpredictable effects that can increase the risk of overdose. Overdose deaths involving an opioid and a stimulant may be due to accidental exposure to fentanyl; the health department detected fentanyl in 8% of cocaine samples in 2021. However, intentional polysubstance use may also contribute to this increase, signaling the importance of engaging communities in harm reduction.



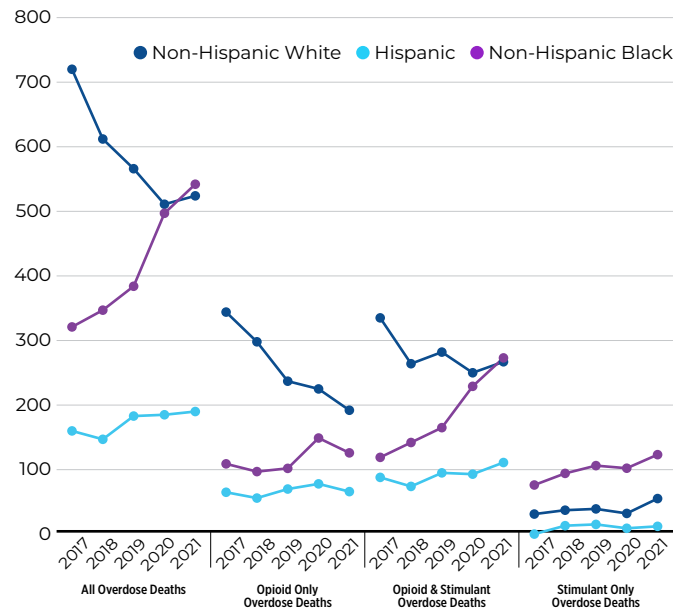
Racial Disparities

In 2021, unintentional fatal overdoses were highest among Non-Hispanic Black residents in Philadelphia for the first time since fentanyl emerged in 2013. Stimulant use, with or without opioids, accounted for 73% of unintentional overdose fatalities for this group. Notably, the overdose rate among non-Hispanic Black females in Philadelphia rose 29% from the previous year (data not shown).

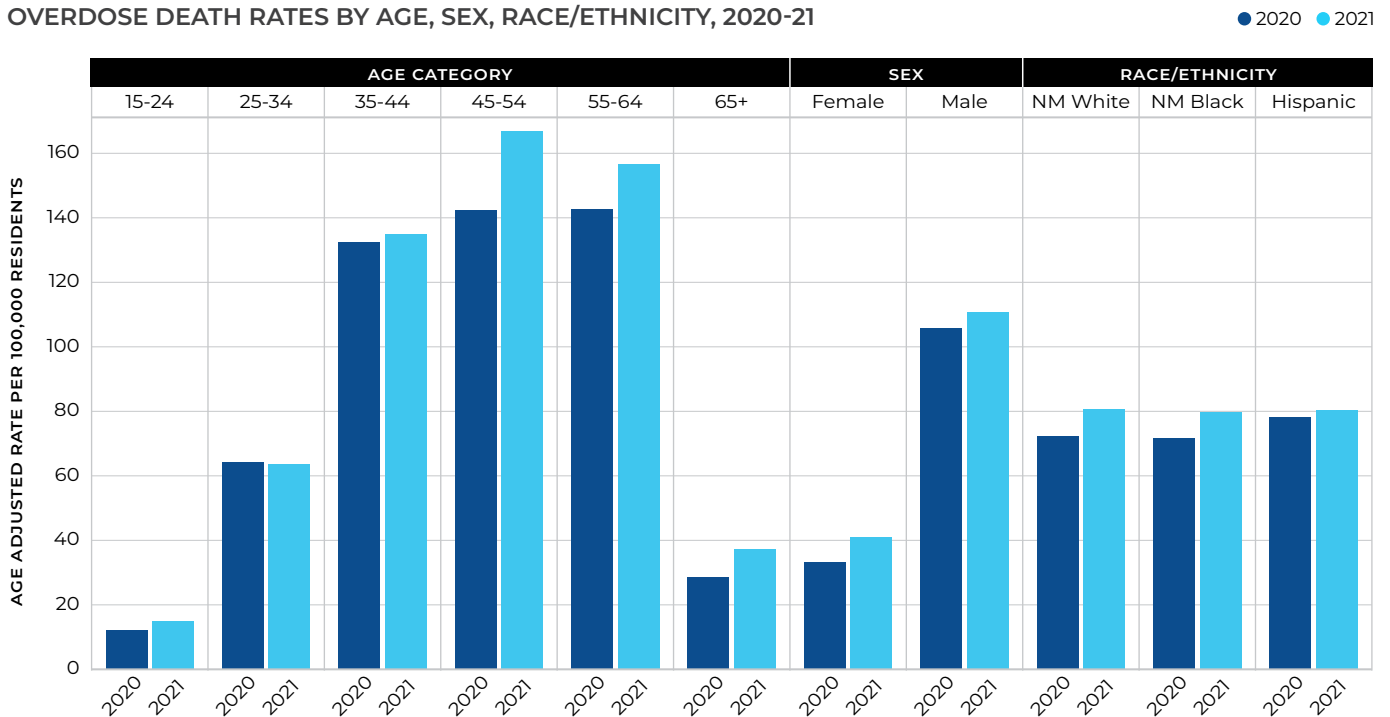
AGE ADJUSTED OVERDOSE DEATH RATE BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010-2021



NUMBER OF UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE DEATHS BY RACE/ETHNICITY DRUGS INVOLVED, 2017-2021



OVERDOSE DEATH RATES BY AGE, SEX, RACE/ETHNICITY, 2020-21



Changing Drug Supply

Fentanyl has been present in Philadelphia for almost ten years and has largely replaced heroin in the illicit drug supply. However, new substances are emerging in Philadelphia's drug supply that can increase the risk of overdose. People who use drugs (PWUD) should assume the presence of one or more of these adulterants and take universal precautions: carry naloxone, use fentanyl test strips, go slow, and use with others if possible.

The toxicity of the current drug supply further complicates access to substance use treatment:

- Severe withdrawal symptoms may limit a person's ability to withstand the assessment process.
- Severe wounds from xylazine use typically cannot be treated in residential treatment facilities.
- There are limited best practices for treating xylazine dependence and overdose reversal

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid up to 50 times stronger than heroin, and is currently the most common drug involved in unintentional overdose deaths. In 2021, 94% of unintentional overdose deaths involving opioids had fentanyl, and 77% of all overdose deaths contained fentanyl. Fentanyl is commonly found in "dope" bags and pressed counterfeit pills. It is rare to find pure heroin; only 7.2% of unintentional overdose deaths involved heroin in 2021.

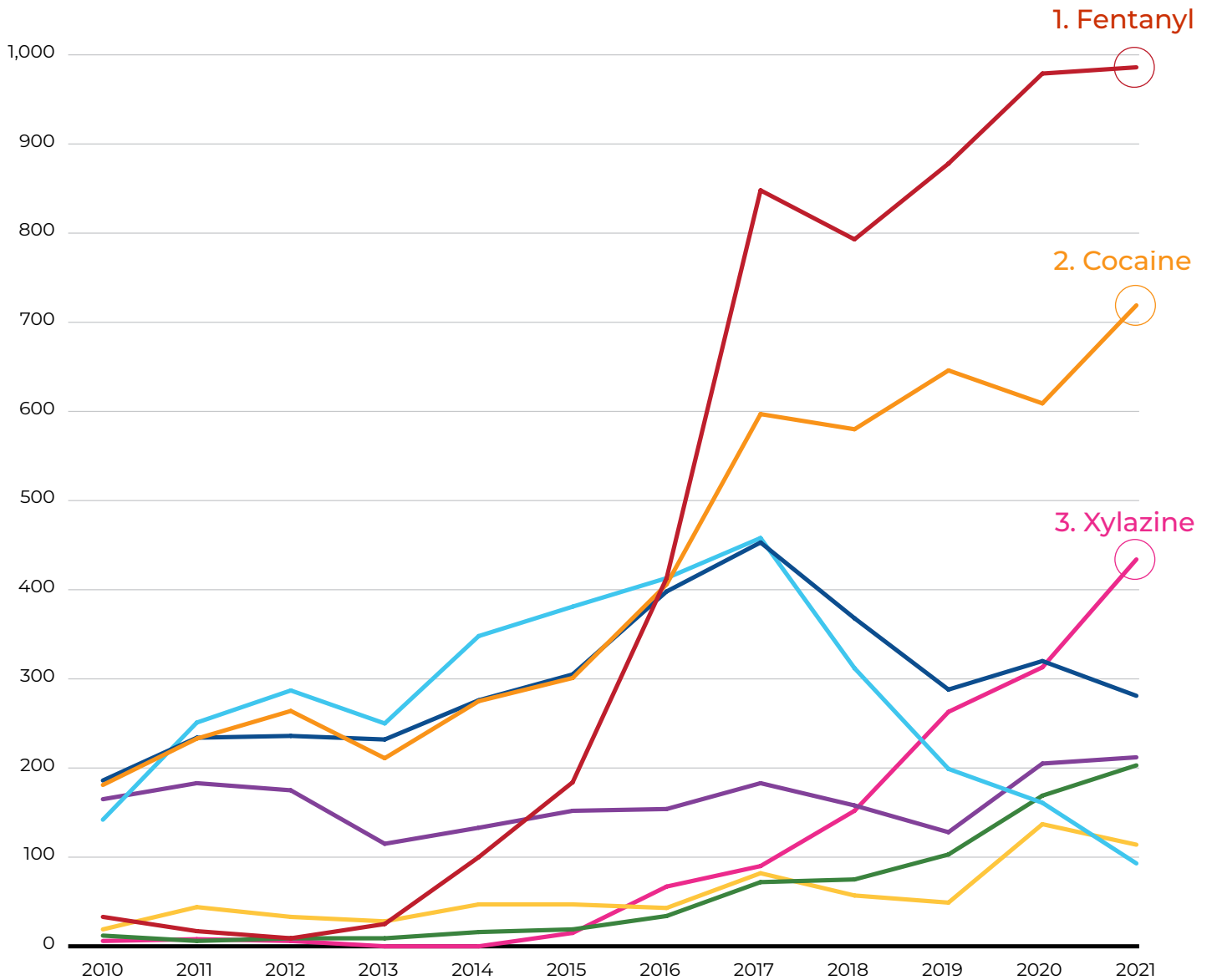
Nitazenes are a new class of synthetic opioids up to 40 times stronger than fentanyl. The health department first detected nitazenes in Philadelphia's drug supply in December 2022. PDPH's drug surveillance program is working with the Medical Examiner's Office to expand its testing for nitazenes.

Xylazine (tranq) In 2021, PDPH found that over 90% of opioid samples tested from the street supply contained xylazine, an animal tranquilizer also known as tranq. Not approved for human use, xylazine can cause life-threatening skin lesions and severe withdrawal symptoms. Many substance use treatment facilities have not yet developed protocols to address this new challenge and cannot yet accommodate the severe wounds caused by tranq use. PDPH is working with health system partners to develop best practices for inpatient treatment for people with xylazine dependence. DBHIDS also launched the first licensed mobile wound care van in Pennsylvania to provide free wound care on the street and facilitate access to treatment and recovery services.

Stimulants Historically, the public health response to the opioid epidemic has focused on the increase of opioid-related overdoses. However, overdose deaths involving stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine have increased 240% in Philadelphia since 2013. There are currently no FDA-approved medication treatments available for individuals who use stimulants. Individuals who use stimulants can enter the SUD treatment system, which uses evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy and other therapeutic techniques to assist individuals on their recovery journey. Contingency management, an evidence-based practice that provides an economic incentive for participating in treatment-related goals, has limited use due to federal regulation.



UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE DEATHS BY SPECIFIC DRUGS INVOLVED, 2010-2021

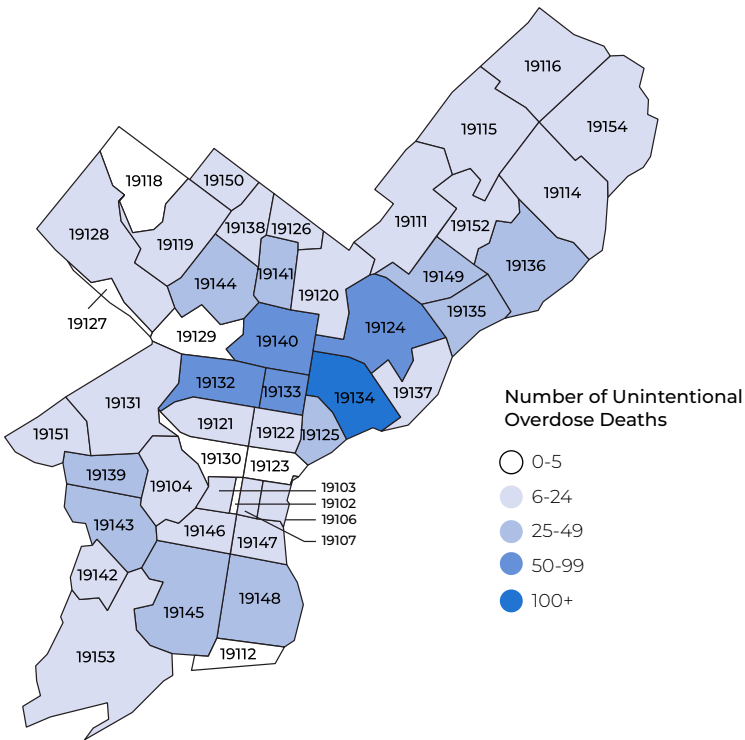


Drug Name

- Fentanyl
- Cocaine
- Xylazine
- Benzodiazepine
- Heroin
- Pharmaceutical Opioid
- Methamphetamine
- PCP



INCIDENCE OF UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE DEATHS BY ZIP CODE, 2021



OVERDOSES AFFECT EVERY PHILLY ZIP CODE

In 2021, these zip codes experienced the highest incidence of unintentional overdose deaths:

19134
19140
19124

19133
19132

69%

OF FATAL OVERDOSES
OCCURRED IN THE VICTIM'S
RESIDENCE IN 2021

THE CRISIS IS CHANGING

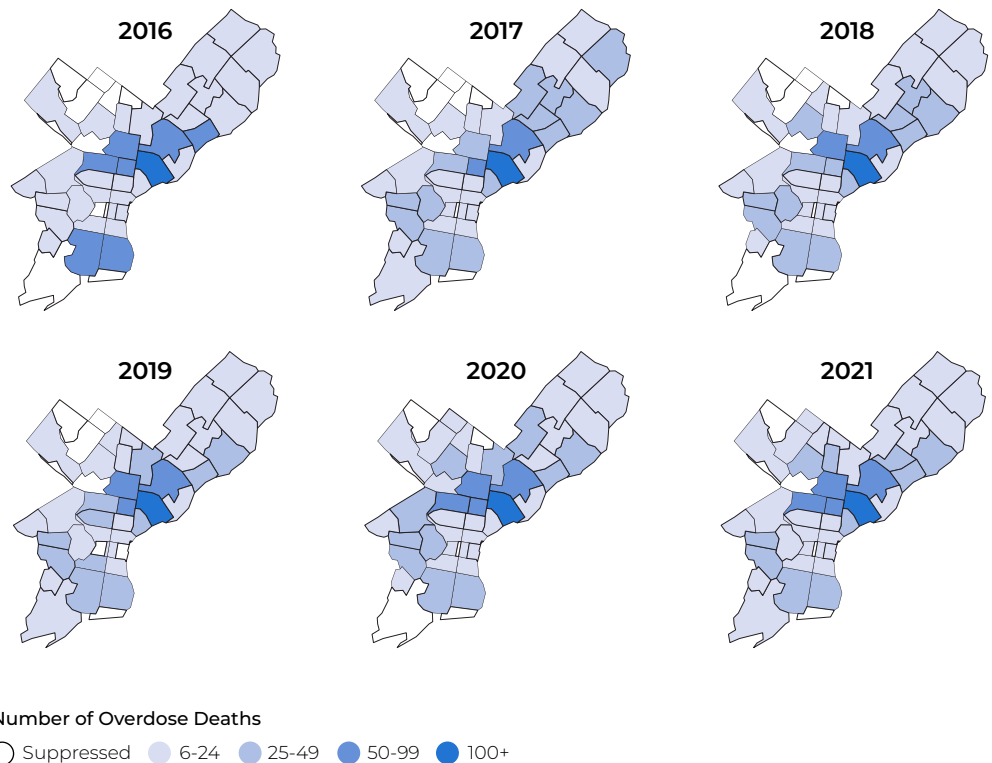
Between 2016-2021, increases in unintentional fatal overdoses are seen in North, West and Southwest Philadelphia.

In 2021, these zip codes experienced a significant increase in overdoses from the previous year:

(data not shown)

19106
19125
19128
19137
19141

19114
19136
19149
19155



2022 Key Highlights



Focus on Kensington

The City remains committed to improving the quality of life for community members in Kensington, which has been hardest hit by the overdose crisis.

Kensington has endured historical disinvestment, rapid deindustrialization, and job loss since the 1960s, and continues to experience significant trauma and suffering due to the open-air drug markets. This section outlines the City's continued efforts to improve the conditions in Kensington, in no small part thanks to the unwavering strength, advocacy and resilience of the Kensington community.

ACTIVATING KENSINGTON PARKS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The City of Philadelphia is dedicated to making public parks safer and reclaiming public spaces for children and families to enjoy in Kensington, Harrowgate and Fairhill. Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR), Free Library, and ORU partnered with community-based providers to support seasonal activation of McPherson Square Park, Hissey Playground and Harrowgate Park.

Impact Services, New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC), and other Kensington community-based organizations coordinate these efforts, including free festivals, after-school programming, movie nights, and other family-friendly events.

Park rangers and police officers patrol five days a week to enforce park regulations on camping, drug use, and park curfew. PPR Operations Crew, CLIP, and Project Reach work together to ensure the parks are clean and regularly pick up needles.

SEASONAL ACTIVATIONS IN KENSINGTON

FALL 2022



3 MOVIE NIGHTS:
90 FAMILIES



450+
ENJOYED FALL FEST
AT MCPHERSON

WINTER 2022



1ST HOLIDAY LIGHTING
IN MCPHERSON
SQUARE



OVER **1000** FAMILIES
ATTEND WINTER FEST
AT HARROWGATE AND
MCPHERSON

SUMMER 2022



3
SUMMER CAMPS



20
PLAYSTREETS



3
PLAYPARKS
10-50 PARTICIPANTS
DAILY



2
SWIMPHILLY POOLS
AT SCANLON, MCVEIGH
10,000 VISITS
400 SWIM LESSONS



KENSINGTON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

The **Kensington Community Resilience Fund (KCRF)** is a community-driven grantmaking program that awards \$10,000 grants to small, community-based organizations that address quality of life in Kensington, Harrowgate, and Fairhill.

In March 2022, the KCR fund distributed a second round of grants to twenty grantees, totaling \$400,000 awarded since the fund began the previous year.

A third round is underway for early 2023 in partnership with the Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation.



\$400,000

AWARDED
SINCE 2021



40

GRANTEES

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS IN KENSINGTON SELECTED THESE FUND FOCUS AREAS:

- Public Safety and Gun Violence
- Youth Development (birth to age 24)
- Workforce Development and Training
- Beautification and Blight Removal
- Connecting Residents to Resources
- Addressing Community Trauma

SAME DAY WORK PAY PROGRAM

Same Day Work Pay offers people experiencing homelessness and/or substance use disorder the opportunity to earn a living wage in cash through temporary work opportunities. CLIP, PHS and Mural Arts operate the program to support community beautification in Kensington and other neighborhoods. Housed residents may also participate to access low barrier employment opportunities.

In 2022, the **Mural Arts "Color Me Back"** program expanded to Kensington and re-opened the Kensington Storefront, a program that promotes behavioral health and wellness through arts programming.



\$208,850

EARNED IN SAME
DAY PAY

IN 2022

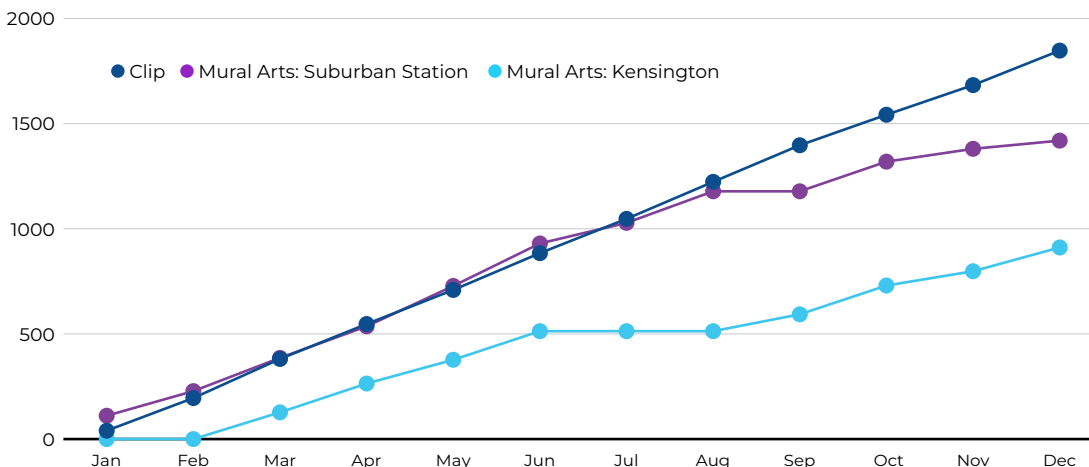


614

PARTICIPANTS
IN 2022



In 2022, Mural Arts Color Me Back partnered with MDO-HHS to launch a Same Day Pay mural project at the Emerald Street underpass in Kensington.



4,177

DAILY JOBS
CREATED
BY SAME DAY
PAY PROGRAMS

IN 2022



100 DAY CHALLENGE

The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) and the Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) launched a **100-Day Challenge** in Kensington in March 2022 to focus on intense systems change, eliminate barriers, and improve the pipeline into treatment and housing systems through interagency collaboration.

The goal was to connect **350** unsheltered individuals with substance use disorder that had at least two previous contacts with an outreach worker into housing opportunities and/or enroll into behavioral health treatment. Over twenty treatment and housing providers worked to streamline linkages between residential drug treatment, recovery, and permanent housing and surpassed their goal:



OVER **100** DAYS, **431** PEOPLE ACCESSED HOUSING AND/OR TREATMENT.



337 PEOPLE ACCESSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT SERVICES:

- Crisis centers
- Inpatient, Residential and Outpatient Treatment
- Journey of Hope

84 OF THESE PARTICIPANTS ALSO RECEIVED WOUND CARE.



171 PEOPLE ACCESSED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid-Rehousing
- Transitional housing
- Emergency housing (shelters)
- DBHIDS-funded Recovery Houses
- Safe havens

MARCH 2022 – JULY 2022

MOBILE WOUND CARE VAN

In the past year, the emergence of xylazine in Philadelphia's drug supply has produced life-threatening, necrotic wounds.

In response, DBHIDS partnered with Kensington Hospital and Penn's Rock Primary Care to launch the first licensed mobile wound care van in the state of Pennsylvania.

The **Mobile Wound Care Van** paves a pathway to housing and treatment by addressing open wounds, a common barrier to accessing treatment.

In addition to wound care, the team offers a wide range of services and their consistent engagement with individuals opens the conversation towards accessing treatment and/or shelter. The team includes a certified wound-care nurse and doctor who can medically clear individuals for treatment. A social worker on site provides SUD assessments to facilitate admissions to SUD treatment programs, emotional support to community members and has reversed overdoses.



1,254 PATIENTS SERVED

2,140 WOUNDS TREATED



730 PRESCRIPTIONS GIVEN

362 FOLLOW UPS



62 PATIENTS CLEARED FOR TREATMENT

18 PATIENTS TRANSFERRED TO ER



7 DENTAL ABSCESSSES TREATED

7 SUBOXONE INDUCTIONS



14 SCABIES CASES TREATED

MAY 2022 – JAN 2023



KENSINGTON WELLNESS RESOURCE FAIR

In May 2022, the Opioid Response Unit resumed a weekly **Wellness Resource Fair** located at Rock Ministries in Kensington. Over twenty social services providers continue to provide resources and support at the fair to people who may be experiencing homelessness and/or complications from substance use on Kensington Avenue.

Services include, but are not limited to: free wound care and nursing services; HIV and Hepatitis C testing; COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination; transportation services; access to behavioral health treatment and services; shelter; access to benefits and employment; case management; free snacks, water and toiletries.

OVER **6,435** ENGAGEMENTS
ACROSS **20+** PROVIDERS

94 PEOPLE ACCESSED
EMERGENCY SHELTER AND
HOUSING SERVICES

85 PEOPLE REFERRED TO
TREATMENT

MAY 2022 – DEC 2022

EAST DIVISION NARCOTICS BUREAU

The **Narcotics Bureau** conducts narcotics investigations for controlled substances, suppresses street-level sales and monitors drug trafficking. The Bureau also works closely with state and federal partners to investigate and coordinate actions against drug trafficking organizations.

In 2022, PPD created a Narcotics Enforcement Strategy for East Police Division that focuses on the Kensington Avenue District.

\$39.5M+ RECOVERED IN
DRUG SEIZURES

\$2.9M SEIZED IN CASH

2,550 ARRESTS

422 FIREARMS SEIZED

IN 2022

KENSINGTON POLICE DISTRICT

The **Kensington Police District (KPD)** launched in January 2021 to provide additional foot beat and patrol officers dedicated to Kensington.

In 2022, KPD began to deploy the Kensington Emergency Rapid Response Team and embed DEA agents in the district through Operation Overdrive.

In 2023, KPD plans to increase positive interactions with residents, improve community relations and collaborate with Police Assisted Diversion (PAD) and Alternative Response Unit-2 (AR-2) to facilitate connections with social services.

\$239,000 SEIZED IN CASH

749 ARRESTS

234 DIVERSIONS

110 FIREARMS RECOVERED

↓ **12%** IN SHOOTING VICTIMS

IN 2022

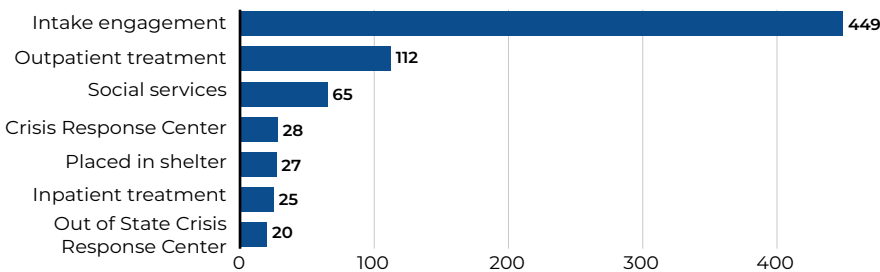


POLICE ASSISTED DIVERSION

Police Assisted Diversion (PAD) diverts non-violent offenders away from the criminal justice system, offering the earliest opportunity to connect individuals with unmet health needs to critical support services. PPD works with community-based service providers to offer pre-booking diversion opportunities for possession or purchasing of narcotics, prostitution, and retail theft.

Operational in East Police Division since 2018, PAD reduces arrest processing times and recidivism. PAD also embeds behavioral healthcare professionals in marginalized, low-income neighborhoods to assist individuals experiencing mental health crisis and offer alternate resources.

CLIENT OUTCOMES WITHIN 24 HOURS OF PAD DIVERSION Jan – Sept 2022



3 OF 4 DIVERSIONS
CONNECTED TO SERVICES

SINCE PAD BEGAN IN DEC 2017

223 CLIENTS CONNECTED
TO CARE OUTSIDE OF
PHILADELPHIA

DIVERSION PATHWAYS

ARREST

Diversion at point of arrest for retail theft, prostitution or unlawful possession/purchasing of narcotics

POLICE ENCOUNTER

Warm handoff by police to service provider when there is no probable cause for arrest

CO-RESPONSE

Behavioral health and law enforcement teams actively engage individuals and co-respond to quality of life calls

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT (BHU)

In collaboration with DBHIDS and OCJ, PPD launched the City's first **Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)** within the Police Department in December 2022. The BHU is a citywide unit that formalizes the partnership between police officers and behavioral health professionals to produce an effective co-response for individuals in crisis. The BHU works closely with PAD officers, the Crisis Intervention Response Teams (CIRT) and PPD Homeless Service Detail to respond to 911 calls that have a behavioral health component. BHU focuses on de-escalation and diversion from the court system to facilitate access to housing and treatment. BHU's unique structure will support the expansion of PAD and CIRT models to offer citywide, after-hours support.

ACCELERATED MISDEMEANOR PROGRAM

Accelerated Misdemeanor Program (AMP) is a court diversion program for defendants charged with nonviolent misdemeanors that offers the chance to complete community service or enroll in treatment in lieu of receiving further criminal penalties or sanctions. Upon accepting the AMP offer, it takes at least five weeks to complete the program.

In partnership with PPD, DBHIDS, Philadelphia Defender's Association and the District Attorney's Office, the First Judicial District resumed the AMP program in August 2022. AMP is in public session twice a week at the Stout Center for Criminal Justice and East Division Headquarters. With support from MDO, individuals who complete AMP do not face any fines or fees related to their offense and ensures that the misdemeanor does not appear on a criminal record check.



GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION IN EAST DIVISION

Group Violence Intervention (GVI) is an evidence-based strategy to reduce gun violence that involves engaging known members of neighborhood groups and providing a way out. In communities with high rates of violence, only a small number of people are involved in homicides and shootings, and they are often connected to each other through groups. GVI outreach teams provide social services and support to at-risk Philadelphians, focusing on community-rooted messaging and deterrence to combat violence.

In partnership with the National Network for Safer Communities, GVI expanded in-field engagements in the 26th Police District in April 2022. A recent program evaluation by the University of Pennsylvania found that GVI has led to a 50.3% decrease in shooting violence among groups engaged through the program.

ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION

The **Encampment Resolution** program brings together health providers, social services providers, and other partners to resolve encampments and safely connect individuals experiencing homelessness with shelter and social services. In June 2022, OHS launched the Encampment Resolution Team (ERT) to focus on this work in Kensington.

Staffed by One Day At A Time (ODAAT), a local recovery organization, the ERT regularly engages individuals at encampments to build trust and rapport and provides linkages for clients in need of additional services, including stranded traveler's assistance.

KENSINGTON

5,497 ENGAGEMENTS

162 PLACEMENTS

32 FOCUS AREAS

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUPHR's environmental teams work daily to reduce drug-related litter and discarded needles, improve community safety and sanitation, and prevent spread of infectious disease in Kensington.

These teams include Project Reach, Block 2 Block and public restroom specialists. In addition to the syringe box initiative, environmental services also expanded its services to several local parks and schools outside of Kensington.

KENSINGTON

PICKED UP **126,428**
SYRINGES

REMOVED **2,697** BAGS OF
TRASH

DISTRIBUTED **915** NALOXONE
DOSES

REVERSED **19** OVERDOSES

IN 2022



Citywide Efforts

The overdose crisis impacts communities across Philadelphia. This section reflects the City's efforts in 2022 to address the crisis and provide support to affected communities citywide.

PREVENTING OVERDOSES

The **Division of Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction (SUPHR)** provides harm reduction centered education and distributes lifesaving harm reduction materials to communities such as naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose, and fentanyl test strips.



54,036 NALOXONE DOSES
DISTRIBUTED



3,662 PEOPLE TRAINED TO REVERSE
AN OPIOID OVERDOSE IN **135** TRAINING
SESSIONS



115,267 FENTANYL TEST STRIPS
DISTRIBUTED



1,693 PEOPLE TRAINED TO USE
FENTANYL TEST STRIPS IN **58**
TRAINING SESSIONS

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS ARE LEGAL

August 2021 – Mayor Kenney signs Executive Order 4-21, decriminalizing possession and distribution of fentanyl test strips

December 2022 – Governor Wolf signs bill decriminalizing FTS and other drug testing technology in Pennsylvania.

Harm Reduction and Community Engagement

teams perform outreach and promote public awareness, focusing on communities experiencing racial inequity and high rates of unintentional overdose death. In August 2022, SUPHR hired a Community Engagement Specialist to focus on harm reduction services in North Philadelphia including trainings on overdose reversal and fentanyl test strips education and awareness. SUPHR will hire a second Community Engagement Specialist in March 2023.

Philly LIFTS supports the families of infants diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and/or affected by substance use disorder by providing linkages to substance use treatment, Doula support and other necessary services.



In February 2022, SUPHR installed the first Naloxone Near Me Tower, a 24/7 vending machine that dispenses free naloxone to residents in West Philadelphia. Since installation, the tower has distributed 732 doses of free naloxone.



52 FAMILIES CONNECTED
TO SERVICES

IN 2022



Philly HEALs provides free bereavement care for Philadelphians who have lost a loved one to substance use. Philly HEALs offers free crisis counseling, adult and youth grief counseling, workshops and peer support groups.

With DBHIDS and CEO, SUPHR's Bereavement Care Team organized the first pop-up Overdose Memorial Garden in Philadelphia to commemorate Philadelphians lost to substance use. Community members were welcome to attend events in the garden, learn more about substance use resources and supports, and dedicate flowers in honor of a lost loved one. Over 575 memorial stones were dedicated and decorated in the Overdose Memorial Garden by bereaved loved ones.

ODAAT and Philly HEALs staff engaged visitors daily and supported 42 events at the garden, including Black Grief Matters Panel, Wellness Resource Fair and a Community and First Responders event.

SUPHR also launched a virtual memorial site for individuals to honor loved ones lost to overdose and share personal portraits and stories celebrating their lives. The virtual memorial continues to accept submissions at substanceusephilly.com/memorial.

1,522 PEOPLE RECEIVED
BEREAVEMENT CARE

1,333 LOVED ONES LOST
TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE

3,652 BEREAVEMENT
SERVICES PROVIDED

IN 2022

1,200+ FLOWERS
PLANTED AT THE GARDEN



2300+ VISITED GARDEN

575 MEMORIAL STONES
DEDICATED

ADDRESSING QUALITY OF LIFE CONCERNS

The Managing Director's Office worked with Department of Streets, Philadelphia Police, Law, and District Attorney's Office (DAO) to address illegal short dumping in Philadelphia. In May 2022, Mayor Kenney signed a bill to increase penalties for illegal dumping.

The Streets Department deploys teams daily to promote neighborhood beautification and address blight. In 2022, PPD and Streets partnered to dedicate an additional street truck that runs Kensington Avenue five days a week and has collected 800 tons of trash.

Streets also began the **"Keep it Clean Philly"** campaign that deploys a short dumping team on Fridays in areas identified by community members, block captains and CDCs.

In 2023, Streets plans to expand its mechanical sweeping program, hire an additional short dumping crew dedicated to Kensington and install an additional 150 surveillance cameras citywide to aid in short dumping investigations.

INCREASED SHORT DUMPING FINES

Violators were previously charged up to \$5,000 per illegal dumping incident using a vehicle.

Under new legislation, every large item of debris is subject to violation, and violators can be charged \$5,000 per item disposed.

NEW HAND-CLEANING TEAMS COMPLETED

600 CLEAN-UPS AND

REMOVED **4,100** TONS OF
LITTER



Community Life Improvement Program

The Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. CLIP teams clean vacant lots, remove graffiti from buildings, support neighborhood clean-ups and provide community service opportunities for non-violent offenders.

CLIP also operates a Same Day Pay program and supports maintenance in Kensington-area parks, including syringe pick-ups and hazmat sanitation. CLIP recently collaborated with PPD to recover and sanitize stolen shopping carts in Kensington.

KENSINGTON

41,460 NEEDLES
PICKED UP

36,015 GRAFFITI
REMOVALS

2,110 VACANT LOTS
ABATED

2,461 TONS OF TRASH
REMOVED

555 OWNERS CLEANED
LOTS

365 SHOPPING CARTS
SANITIZED

CITYWIDE

1200+ BLOCKS
CLEANED

1000+ COMMUNITY
SERVICE PROJECTS

2,400 SAME DAY PAY
PROJECTS

IMPROVING ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES

DBHIDS increased access, availability, and use of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

In 2022, DBHIDS removed the requirement for prior authorization for accessing outpatient and residential rehabilitation services (ASAM Level 1, 3.5). Previously, individuals in need of accessing 24-hour residential treatment for substance use disorder had to secure permission from their insurance companies first, leading to long wait times and potential gaps in care. While the requirement was removed for accessing DBHIDS-funded treatment services, commercial insurance may have their own restrictions.

DBHIDS also launched a warm hand off program to offer MOUD induction and warm hand offs to behavioral health treatment and services in emergency departments. DBHIDS launched four new Intensive Outpatient (IOP) treatment programs to serve the City regionally.

DBHIDS expanded warm hand-off program following incarceration

DBHIDS received a grant to expand warm handoffs for persons in reentry that are discharged from Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) to Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS). The goal is to increase MOUD engagement upon discharge from the prisons, utilizing CRS's who will work with formerly incarcerated individuals as they transition out of prison to connect with supports in the community of their choice.

1000+ WARM
HANDOFFS FROM
EMERGENCY ROOMS
TO SUD TREATMENT
PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES

IN 2022

All DBHIDS-funded Recovery Houses became licensed through PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)

In addition, DBHIDS released a request for proposals (RFP) for recovery house providers that are not contracted with DBHIDS to fund repairs and space improvements required for state licensure. Meeting physical plant standards is essential for recovery houses to provide a safe and supportive environment for residents in recovery.

24 DBHIDS-
FUNDED RECOVERY
HOUSES BECAME
DDAP LICENSED

IN 2022



DBHIDS developed new strategic framework for addressing trauma and social determinants of health in communities

Trauma is a lasting, emotional experience to a terrible event, and has been found to significantly impact the health and wellbeing of families and communities over time. To address trauma, DBHIDS will ensure its operations are trauma-informed, reduce behavioral health disparities and shift its services to be more community-based.

DBHIDS is providing free trauma supports citywide through extensive trauma-informed programming, and evidence-based approaches to trauma-healing.

In 2022, DBHIDS created a new series of palm cards on free trauma-healing supports for residents, including targeted cards on traumatic stress for school-aged children, early childhood caretakers, and residents who have been exposed to gun violence.

DBHIDS launched the Boost Your Mood campaign to make behavioral health information easily accessible and elevate wellness resources.

DBHIDS also created a social determinants of health toolkit and launched a state supported pilot in Kensington that included residential programming, free food boxes, transportation, and access to employment.

Have You Experienced Traumatic Stress?

Trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event or series of events. Trauma can occur from a single experience or prolonged experiences.

Traumatic events might include:

- Violence
- Racism
- Neglect
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Pandemic related isolation
- Grief and Loss

Trauma can feel like:

- Heart racing or skipping
- Body aches
- Emotional swings
- Outburst of anger or rage
- Fear
- Depression
- Anxiety
- No energy

Support is available:

For help with the impact of trauma, please contact:
 CBH Member Services **888-545-2600**
(support is available to all)
 Philadelphia Crisis Line **215-685-6440**
 Network of Neighbors **267-233-4837**
(respond to trauma in communities)

You can expect:

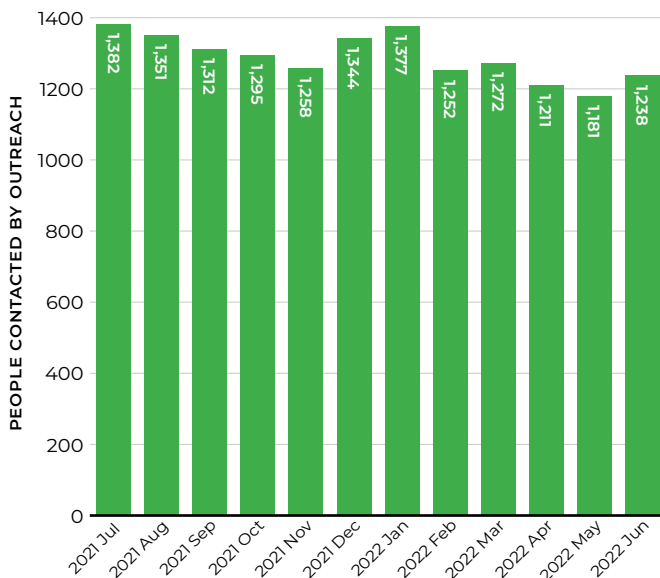
1. Compassionate professionals to listen and connect you to resources.
2. Insurance and paperwork assistance to get the help you need.
3. Ongoing support as needed, including contacting professionals.

For more tips and resources visit **DBHIDS.ORG/TRAUMA**
Sources: traumaresourceinstitute.com and unicefusa.org

DBHIDS Homeless Outreach teams engage and support individuals experiencing street homelessness daily.

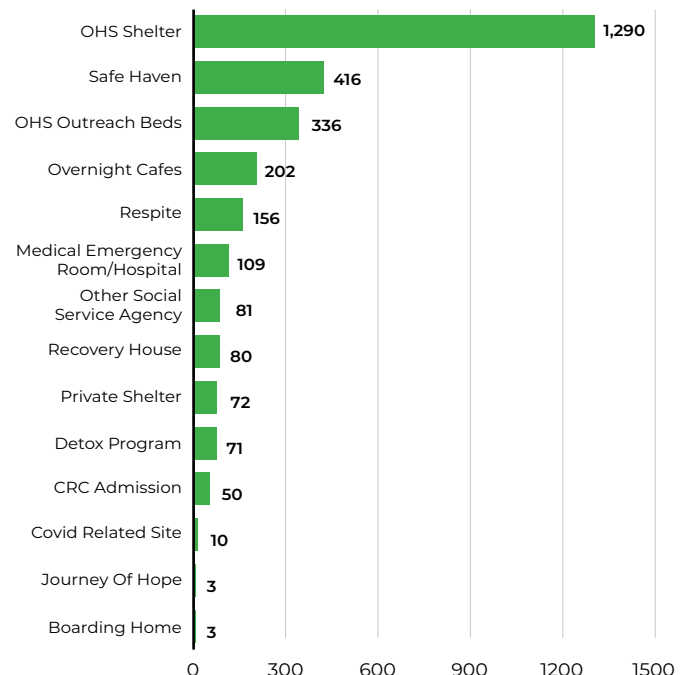
Through continued engagement and trust-building, DBHIDS outreach staff help unhoused individuals access housing and treatment options and meet immediate needs. Outreach teams include staff with lived experience that help individuals identify their needs, wants and desires as they begin their recovery journey, acting as a bridge beyond street homelessness.

IN FY22, DBHIDS HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAMS LOGGED 34,307 INTERACTIONS* AND ENGAGED 7,226 PEOPLE July 2021 - June 2022



*Represents number of recorded contacts in DBHIDS' database, may not reflect all engagements due to requests for anonymity.

2,377 PEOPLE ACCEPTED PLACEMENT INTO:



DBHIDS expanded citywide Mobile Outreach

DBHIDS expanded its **COMMUNITY MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAMS** to offer 24/7 support across four regions in Philadelphia for adults who may be experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The community-based teams include behavioral health professionals, a licensed nurse and a peer advocate with lived experience, and build trusted relationships with the communities they serve through a trauma-informed, non-police response. CMCRT teams can offer referrals to services occurring as clinically indicated, including resources that address social determinants of health.

ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE UNIT-2 is an overdose response team that pairs behavioral health professionals with paramedics to respond to non-fatal overdoses on the street in East Division. AR-2 conducts active community outreach and is certified to perform on-site assessments, able to complete medical triage and take individuals directly into behavioral health treatment.

THE MOBILE OUTREACH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (MORS) TEAM works with individuals seeking behavioral health recovery support services and can also provide a mobile assessment in real time. In 2022, the MORS team expanded to include additional Mobile Certified Peer/Recovery Specialists.



OF PEOPLE ENCOUNTERED BY AR-2, **82%**
ACCEPTED ENROLLMENT INTO TREATMENT

JAN - AUG 2022

DBHIDS MOBILE TEAMS PROVIDE 24/7, CITYWIDE COVERAGE

- DBHIDS Homeless Outreach
- Community Wellness Engagement Unit (CWEU)
- Mobile Outreach and Recovery Services (MORS)
- Mobile Wound Care
- Alternative Response Unit 2 (AR-2)
- Network of Neighbors
- Community Mobile Crisis Response (CMCR)

SCOPE PROGRAM

In 2022, SEPTA continued its social services program that includes ongoing outreach teams throughout its transit lines in partnership with ODAAT, Merakey and Eagle Staffing. Social service specialists work in pairs to engage individuals experiencing homelessness, perform well-being checks, provide resources and facilitate connections to social services.

CITYWIDE

20,573 ENGAGEMENTS

4,265 RESOURCES
DISTRIBUTED

110 OVERDOSE REVERSALS

193 WARM HANDOFFS TO
SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS




APRIL 2022 - DEC 2022



2023 Action Items



The Opioid Response Unit's 2023 Action Items represent the City's response to the overdose crisis based on recommendations from community leaders, City leadership, staff with lived experience and OD Stat, the City's overdose fatality review.

-  OD Stat Recommendation
-  Opioid Settlement Plan
-  Dependent on FY24 Budget Allocation



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Engage and support communities impacted by the overdose crisis

Launch Overdose Prevention and Community Healing Fund

In December 2022, the City launched a \$3.5M grant program that awards grants to community-based organizations engaging communities impacted by the overdose crisis in Philadelphia. The fund invests in community-based prevention and harm reduction, holistic efforts that address community trauma and stigma, and promotes safety and well-being for community-based workers in the field. Funds are prioritized for organizations based in ZIP Codes with the highest unintentional fatal overdoses in 2021. Grantees will participate in a learning community and receive technical assistance from the Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation. A second round of funding is anticipated in 2023.

Sustain Kensington Community Resilience Fund

See KCRF on page 18.

The Kensington Community Resilience Fund will receive \$400,000 to support 1-2 grant cycles in 2023, building capacity for small, grassroots organizations in Kensington, Harrowgate and Fairhill. These grants promote community wellness, build resilience, and improve the quality of life for Kensington residents.

Advance Kensington Master Planning

Facilitated by New Kensington Community Development Corporation and Impact Services, the Kensington Plan builds upon established neighborhood plans and proposes strategic investments to help address the underlying physical, social and economic conditions that negatively impact residents' overall health and prosperity in Kensington. The City is investing \$7.5M in opioid settlement funds to increase community engagement in the planning process and provide targeted funds to keep people in their homes, activate their park spaces, and provide additional resources to Kensington public schools impacted by the overdose crisis. Learn more at kensingtonplan.org.

Increase outreach to residents for home repair grant programs

Home repair grant programs provide low-income homeowners with free emergency repairs to fix major systems, replace failing heaters, or make accessibility improvements, allowing homeowners to stay in their homes and prevent houses from becoming abandoned. PHDC and MDO will expand community outreach and increase homeowner applications for Basic Systems Repair, Adaptive Modifications, and Heater Hotline in zip codes most impacted by the overdose crisis.



Reduce homelessness experienced by people at different stages of recovery 💰

For people experiencing homelessness and substance use disorder, housing and services go hand in hand, neither succeeding without the other. Once housed, people with substance use disorder are more able to enter and sustain recovery. Using opioid settlement funds, OHS will expand 100 Day Challenge housing opportunities and invest in innovative Housing First solutions that provide low-barrier, tenant-based housing citywide, supporting individuals and couples leaving the streets at every step of the process, interrupting the cycle of recidivism, providing stability in outpatient treatment, and opening the path towards long-term recovery.

- **Reduce return to street homelessness from jail** Housing Smart Re-Entry is a master leasing model for returning citizens who were homeless prior to incarceration and are in recovery from SUD. Safe, stable housing upon re-entry dramatically reduces recidivism and return to the street.
- **New Couples Safe Haven** allows couples with SUD to enter recovery together, overcoming a major obstacle to accepting shelter services from the street. Many people experiencing street homelessness are unwilling to enter housing without their partners. DBHIDS and RHD will open a second progress haven that offers couples low-barrier, entry level temporary housing and behavioral health services.
- **Supportive housing through Housing First Pathways** addresses chronic homelessness for people with disabilities who have not accessed treatment by providing low-barrier housing and comprehensive supportive services.
- **Rapid Rehousing: Street to Home** provides hope and stability to people experiencing homelessness who are unwilling to enter shelter. This program allows people with substance use disorder to stabilize, especially when in outpatient treatment.
- **Tenant based rental assistance** through the Shallow Rent program: 'Home \$200' offers long-term stable housing and rent stabilization for people experiencing homelessness that are in recovery and living on low, fixed incomes such as disability and social security.
- **Post hospital discharge resources** OUD/Serious Medical Need program addresses inflow by providing alternatives for hospital discharge. A consultant will be hired to improve the process for placement and availability of short-term options for people experiencing street homelessness that have serious behavioral health and medical needs, and cannot be accommodated in treatment or shelter after hospital discharge.

Improve flow from Recovery Housing to Shared Supportive Housing 🕒

DBHIDS and OHS will work together to facilitate direct flow from Recovery House beds to Shared Supportive Housing through a peer-based recovery model that provides supportive services. Traditionally, individuals reside in recovery houses for approximately 180 days and there are limited housing opportunities that provide similar supports thereafter. This pilot addresses those gaps by offering individualized supports in a shared housing environment following a recovery house stay, with other roommates in recovery, while promoting a sense of community. Individuals will share a three-bedroom unit, receive supportive services, and have access to job opportunities.

Simplify access to trauma resources for residents

See *Trauma*, page 26.

DBHIDS has a wide range of trauma resources available and will continue to expand its outreach efforts and simplify access to these resources for residents. Major entry points that DBHIDS will elevate include Member Services, 988, and Network of Neighbors.

Learn more at dbhids.org/trauma.



Develop and implement citywide community engagement plan

The City will develop a citywide community engagement plan to improve and expand its community outreach efforts outside of Kensington, ensuring that City services and resources are available and accessible to residents, schools, community development corporations, and community-based organizations in other neighborhoods.

Explore feasibility and develop model for a sobering center

Community Support will assist in the pre-development of a sobering center, a drop-in site that provides a safe space for individuals experiencing acute public intoxication and offers a safe alternative to emergency departments or detention. Certified Peer/Recovery Specialists, staff with lived experience, at the center will connect individuals with adjacent services, including behavioral health treatment and housing services.

Sustain and expand Wellness Resource Fair

The Opioid Response Unit organizes a weekly Wellness Resource Fair at the Rock Ministries in Kensington. Social services providers at the fair provide resources, services and support to individuals who may be experiencing homelessness and/or substance use. The ORU will continue to organize the fair in 2023 and determine the feasibility of hosting additional fairs in other impacted communities.

Support Public Safety's Drug Market Intervention (DMI) strategy in East Division

See *Public Safety* on page 33.

DMI brings families, social service providers and community leaders together to deliver a clear message and offer a choice to non-violent dealers: you are cared for, and help is available; stop dealing or face immediate, harsh legal consequences. MDO will support DMI strategy by coordinating community support and city services at locations where law enforcement interventions occur.



PREVENTION

Reduce overdoses and save lives

Develop and implement Citywide Strategic Harm Reduction Plan

PDPH will create a citywide strategic harm reduction plan that lays out key strategies for reducing harms in disproportionately impacted communities. PDPH will enhance its overdose prevention education to include emerging trends in the overdose crisis such as fentanyl, xylazine, polysubstance use and stimulant overdose risk.

Expand harm reduction services citywide, including syringe exchange, naloxone and fentanyl strip distribution

PDPH will work with City agencies, service providers and community partners to distribute life-saving harm reduction tools in impacted neighborhoods. PDPH will increase awareness and utilization of naloxone and fentanyl test strips, and ensure language is culturally affirming and accessible for a wide range of audiences. PDPH will continue to provide options for families to support their loved ones and work to increase engagement and distribution of harm reduction supplies to faith-based communities, businesses, supermarkets, and convenience stores. PDPH will also focus on reducing stigma related to the overdose crisis and reaching Philadelphians who may not identify as drug users.



Sustain and expand Alternative Response Unit (AR-2)

In collaboration with the Philadelphia Fire Department and DBHIDS, the AR-2 service area will expand beyond Kensington to include North, Northwest, and lower Frankford. With added capacity, AR-2 can respond to overdoses that happen in residences and be dispatched for 911 calls related to overdoses.

Explore expansion of post non-fatal overdose interventions by Emergency Medical Services

The Fire Department will expand capacity to make behavioral health supports available for residents that recently experienced a non-fatal overdose. This comprehensive pilot encompasses up to four evidence-based models for post-overdose response and seeks to provide behavioral health support in a crucial moment when someone may be most at risk, following a non-fatal overdose.

Move beyond one-size-fits-all approach to overdose prevention

The ORU will work with PDPH to develop culturally responsive curricula and engagement materials using an intersectional lens. Community-specific messaging around harm reduction will consider structural inequity and leverage the expertise of trusted community messengers in neighborhoods where overdoses are rising.



- **Juvenile justice involvement** Juvenile justice-involved youth make up a small portion of the population, yet experience significantly worse socioeconomic outcomes, higher rates of mortality, and higher rates of opioid use. Prevention will focus on lowering the overdose risk among juvenile justice involved youth and hire a consultant to analyze gaps and missed opportunities for substance use support in the juvenile justice system.
- **Black maternal and family engagement** Black women experience disproportionate risks and harms related to pregnancy and the perinatal period. Disproportionate maternal mortality rates, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs), teen pregnancy, child welfare involvement, and access to SUD treatment contribute to poor health outcomes for Black and Brown women. Prevention will develop SUD trainings for child-welfare professionals, intersectional maternal mortality support, and analyze system gaps to support Black maternal health.
- **Faith-based communities** Spiritual pathways can align and complement the path towards recovery. Prevention will work with faith-based leaders to leverage the reach and trust of faith-based community messengers and pilot a workshop series for faith-based leaders that focuses on expanding awareness on the science of substance use and developing best practices in community messaging and engagement.
- **LGBTQIA+** individuals are disproportionately impacted by substance use and substance use disorder. Prevention will develop targeted outreach to support LGBTQIA+ individuals in nightlife settings, partner with LGBTQIA+ behavioral health and affinity organizations to share harm reduction materials and support this population.
- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP)** individuals whose primary language is not English may face barriers in accessing treatment and harm reduction materials due to language access. Prevention will develop a multilingual style guide and work with the Office of Immigrant Affairs, behavioral health, and harm reduction providers to better reach this population.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Reduce drug-market related activity and increase social service delivery

Implement Drug Market Intervention (DMI) strategy to disrupt the open-air drug markets in Kensington

MDO will continue to work with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and the National Network of Safe Communities to pilot a drug market intervention (DMI) that will disrupt and close open air drug markets in Kensington. Through DMI, law enforcement maps out specific drug markets, identifies who is selling on the street, and arrests those who are committing violent acts. For non-violent dealers, law enforcement works to develop highly prosecutable cases and puts them on stand-by. DMI brings in their families, social service providers, and community leaders to deliver a clear message and offer a choice to non-violent dealers: you are cared for, and help is available; you can stop dealing now or immediately face legal consequences.

First piloted in High Point in 2004, DMI has been found to significantly reduce violent and drug-related crime and close open air drug markets in cities. Partners engaged in this effort include the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Attorney's Office, DAO, MDO and PPD.



Implement Post-Arrest Wellness Supports in East Division 🕒

DBHIDS, PDPH and PPD will begin a pilot in East Division that provides physical health and behavioral health supports for detainees after arrest and before arraignment. When individuals experience severe withdrawal symptoms in the cell, police officers must take them to the hospital for care. Individuals at high risk of overdose will be identified early by behavioral health specialists and connected to life-saving resources upon release: substance use and behavioral health treatment, access to pregnancy support, employment, PHL CityID, school navigation, food insecurity resources, and healthcare. Police officers previously on 'hospital duty' will have expanded capacity. In addition, behavioral health supports, social service connections, and adjacent resources will be offered to all detainees brought to East Division headquarters.

Expand Police Assisted Diversion (PAD) 💰

PAD will expand its service area outside of Kensington. The Office of Criminal Justice is working with community partners in a participatory planning process to identify a location for a new community hub where PAD staff can facilitate diversions, accept social referrals and walk-ins, and provide transport to services.

Ensure safety and security for family-friendly programming in parks

Parks Rangers and police officers will continue to provide security at family-friendly events organized by the Free Library and Parks and Recreation, including Play Parks, Swim Philly, Play Streets, and movie nights. PPR operations crews, CLIP and Project Reach will also continue to regularly maintain the parks and pick up needles to ensure open public spaces are safe for children to play.

Increase data sharing and public information for Accelerated Misdemeanor Program

MDO will continue to coordinate with DAO, First Judicial District (FJD), and other agency partners to increase utilization of the AMP program and publish a public dashboard to encourage transparency and public awareness.

Support the Philadelphia School District Opioid Task Force

The Philadelphia School District resumed the Opioid Task Force, a core group of City and School District leadership that coordinates planning for District schools impacted by the overdose crisis. Public Safety will work with the task force to ensure safety within school grounds, maintain safe corridors for children walking to school, and provide educational trainings for children, families and staff in substance use awareness and prevention. Public Safety partners will continue to support next steps and recommendations, address safety and quality of life concerns, and increase city services in and around schools impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Work with SEPTA to address safety, security, and quality of life concerns on transit lines and adjacent to transit hubs

The ORU is supporting efforts in partnership with SEPTA and Northeast Treatment Center (NET) to improve engagement and facilitate connections to treatment for individuals with behavioral health needs at train stations on the Broad Street Line. SEPTA and NET implemented their pilot engagement program in October 2022. Initially, engagement along the Broad Street Line will take place bi-weekly.

Increase enforcement for quality-of-life concerns

Public Safety will continue to track criminal prosecution and civil fines for illegal dumping, and continue coordination of the Nuisance Business Task Force.





TREATMENT

Increase access to behavioral health treatment and recovery services

Launch citywide mobile methadone program

Mobile methadone increases access to life-saving medication for individuals who use opioids. Providing methadone inductions at the street level can decrease cravings and support individuals in seeking alternate care, including behavioral health treatment and housing.

DBHIDS will work with a provider to operate mobile methadone units that offer same-day methadone inductions and ongoing methadone maintenance within targeted areas. Once individuals are stabilized, the program will facilitate warm handoffs to a methadone clinic and continue serving new individuals seeking care.

DBHIDS is developing a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit applications from providers within the DBHIDS network who are interested in operating a Mobile Methadone pilot. The RFP for the Mobile Methadone pilot will be posted in spring 2023.

Expand access to MOUD, and increase MOUD dosage in prisons

DBHIDS will work with PDP and PDPH to expand availability of methadone in an incarcerated setting, including for those who are not enrolled in programs but for whom methadone would be an appropriate MOUD option, and allow methadone inductions to occur in the prison. The City will also increase the general dose of Buprenorphine from 8mg to 16mg in the Philadelphia prison to offer a standard comfort dose. Enhancing MOUD availability in prisons will give individuals the resources to effectively treat their illness and increase the likelihood of continuing treatment once leaving the institutional setting.

Expand Mobile Wound Care

See *Mobile Wound Care Van* on page 19.

In response to xylazine, DBHIDS will sustain the Mobile Wound Care & Clinic pilot from the 100 Day Challenge and expand to two vehicles. Using opioid settlement dollars to expand mobile wound care will allow the vans to reach more individuals, have wider geographic reach and operate after hours. Mobile wound care clears the pathway to housing and treatment by directly addressing open wounds, and building relationships built over time increases the likelihood of enrolling in behavioral health treatment and medical services. PDPH will scope explore physical health reimbursement for mobile wound care through Medicaid and coordinate with a federally qualified health care center (FQHC) to offer mobile wound care.

Scope contingency management model

As of January 2023, there is no FDA-approved medication for stimulant use. Contingency management (CM) is a behavioral therapy that does not involve medication and has been found to be effective for treating stimulant use disorder. CM rewards individuals for meeting treatment-based goals, reinforcing positive behaviors over time with direct cash payments. DBHIDS and PDPH will scope a contingency management model to pilot in 2024 and explore national evidence-based practices specific to abating stimulant use, enhancing and sustaining treatment engagement. While there is a growing evidence base in support of contingency management as a harm reduction and treatment tool for cocaine and methamphetamine users, contingency management is subject to federal regulation and requires advocacy.

Ensure treatment system agility in response to the overdose crisis

DBHIDS will work to refine Philadelphia's treatment systems to adjust and anticipate future changes in the drug supply, such as the increase in overdoses from polysubstance and non-opioids, to be proactive in response to clients' needs.



Resource Guide

How to access treatment:

Call Member Services anytime at 888-545-2600. Learn more in this DBHIDS guide.



How to find naloxone:

Anyone can access naloxone without a prescription from their pharmacy under Pennsylvania's standing order prescription law. You can also request free naloxone and fentanyl test strips by mail at nextdistro.org

Learn more and sign up for an overdose reversal training at phillynaloxone.com

How to help a resident or loved one in distress:

HOMELESS OUTREACH HOTLINE

215-232-1984

PHILADELPHIA CRISIS LINE (SUICIDE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS)

988

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

888-545-2600 or visit CBHPhilly.org

NETWORK OF NEIGHBORS (TRAUMA SUPPORT)

267-233-4837

Visit dbhids.org/BOOST for more information on behavioral health supports.

Get free bereavement care:

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one due to substance use, the Philly HEALs team offers free bereavement support for Philadelphia residents.

Learn more at phila.gov/griefsupport

Report illegal dumping:

If you see illegal dumping in the act, call 911.

You can also report illegal dumping after the act by calling 311.



Glossary

ASAM Level of Care refers to a set of criteria established by the American Society of Addiction Medicine that is used to determine the appropriate level of care for individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorder.

ASAM Level 3.5 refers to a type of residential treatment program for SUD, also known as Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services. The 3.5 level of care is a structured, intensive program that provides 24-hour care in a residential setting.

Community Wellness Engagement Unit (CWEU) is a DBHIDS mobile unit with multilingual teams of Certified Peer Specialists, Certified Recovery Specialists, and Behavioral Health Specialists who engage and link residents to mental health and wellness resources. Learn more at dbhids.org/cweu.

Culturally affirming describes the ability to understand and respect specific values, attitudes, beliefs, and mores that differ across cultures, and to consider and respond appropriately to these differences when planning, implementing, and evaluating programs and interventions for focus communities and populations.

Fentanyl test strips are a harm reduction tool that allow people to test substances for the presence or absence of fentanyl prior to using. With the increasing presence of fentanyl in the drug supply and increased number of overdose deaths with fentanyl present, this tool allows individuals to make individualized choices around their substance use.

Harm Reduction refers to practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences and harms associated with substance use, including:

- Seeking to minimize the harmful effects of drugs rather than ignore or condemn people who use, understanding that drug use ranges from frequent use to total abstinence.
- Calling for judgment-free and at-will resources for people who use drugs.
- Being honest about the risks of drug use.

Housing First – Through a Housing First approach, households at-risk of or experiencing homelessness are housed quickly without preconditions or service participation requirements; a homeless assistance systems approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English can be limited English proficient, or “LEP.” These individuals may be entitled to language assistance with respect to a particular type of service, benefit, or encounter.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is considered to be the gold standard for treating opioid use disorder in Pennsylvania. MAT involves the use of medications for opioid use disorder, in combination with counseling or behavioral therapies, to curb withdrawal symptoms, reduce cravings and sustain full recovery from OUD.

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) include methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.



Naloxone is a lifesaving prescription medicine that can reverse opioid overdoses by temporarily blocking the effect of opioids and helps a person to start breathing again. Learn how to use naloxone at phillynaloxone.com

Naloxone Near Me Tower is a free vending machine operated by PDPH that provides 24-hour access to naloxone.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a group of conditions caused by a newborn's withdrawal from substances they were exposed to while in the womb. Most commonly, NAS occurs when a baby is exposed to opioids; however, NAS can be a result of other substance exposures.

Opioids are a class of drugs that can reduce pain. Derived from opium poppy plant, opioids include heroin and fentanyl and prescription medications like oxycodone, codeine and morphine.

Opioid settlement refers to litigation from the nationwide opioid settlements representing thousands of lawsuits across the country against opioid pharmaceutical companies whose practices may have contributed to the opioid crisis.

Overdose is an injury to the body (poisoning) that happens when a drug is taken in excessive amounts. An overdose can be fatal or nonfatal, as well as unintentional. Overdoses are preventable.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) – Permanent, long-term housing in which supportive services are provided to assist homeless persons with a disability to live independently. At least one adult or child in the household must have a disability to qualify for PSH. Financial assistance of indefinite duration to make housing affordable, paired with supportive services. Some PSH programs target persons with experiences of chronic homelessness; HIV/AIDS; serious mental illness; SUD; survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV); veterans; youths ages 18-24.

Polysubstance use is the use or combination of more than one drug. This includes when two or more are taken together or within a short time period, and may be intentional or unintentional. Polysubstance use may strengthen effects that are unpredictable and increase risk of overdose.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) – A Housing First intervention that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through housing identification, medium-term rental and move-in assistance, and targeted services and case management to support housing stability. Participants can stay in housing for an indefinite duration if they can pay the rent—then considered Permanent Housing. Target families and individuals are often current residents of emergency housing or transitional housing programs.

Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential. There are multiple pathways to recovery.

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH includes economic stability, access to quality education, access to quality healthcare, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

Stimulants are a class of drugs that speed up messages travelling between the brain and body. They can make a person feel more awake and alert. Stimulants include cocaine, amphetamines (speed), methamphetamine (meth), caffeine and nicotine.



Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a complex medical condition in which there is intense, uncontrolled use of a substance despite harmful consequences to the point where use impairs a person's ability to function in day-to-day life. Not all substance use falls under substance use disorders. People can have a variety of relationships with substance use, ranging from abstinence to chaotic use. This relationship is along a spectrum and can change over time based on risk and protective factors.

Substance misuse is any misuse of drugs that may be harmful and put someone at risk of having an overdose.

Transitional Housing (TH) is a type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing within 24 months. Persons in TH are considered homeless and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or provided by other public or private agencies.

Trauma results from an experience, series of events or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically, emotionally harmful or life threatening and has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being. If left untreated, trauma can have lasting and adverse effects on an individual's social, emotional, and physical well-being. Substance use, mental health conditions, and other risky behaviors have been linked with traumatic experiences, especially traumatic events that occur during childhood.

Warm handoff is the transfer of care of an individual with a substance use disorder from a healthcare unit to substance use treatment; refers to a personalized connection between service levels of care, in hopes that a personalized connection will increase utilization.

Xylazine – also known as **tranq**, a non-opioid tranquilizer used by veterinarians on animals; not approved for human use.



Acknowledgments

CITY AGENCIES

311

Office of Black Male Engagement

Community Behavioral Health (CBH)

Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual
disAbility Services (DBHIDS)

District Attorney's Office (DAO)

First Judicial District (FJD)

Fire Department

Free Library of Philadelphia

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
(CEO)

Office of Homeless Services (OHS)

Office of Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs

Office of Integrated Data for Evidence and Action (IDEA)

Licenses & Inspections (L&I)

Managing Director's Office (MDO)

MDO-Health & Human Services

MDO-Community Services

MDO-Office of Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Office of Re-Entry Partnerships

Office of Public Engagement

Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH)

PDPH - Substance Use and Harm Reduction Division

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR)

Philadelphia Police Department (PPD)

Philadelphia School District (SDP)

Department of Planning and Development

Philadelphia Single County Authority

Streets Department

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA)

Town Watch Integrated Services

The Opioid Response

Unit would like to thank our partners, including countless community-based organizations, residents and neighbors, and extend our deepest gratitude for your continued collaboration, patience and dedication in advancing Philadelphia's efforts to respond to the overdose crisis.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Philadelphia City Council

Philadelphia Mental Health Care Corporation

Philadelphia Prevention Point

Public Health Management Corporation

Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation

STATE PARTNERS

Office of the Attorney General

Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Pennsylvania State Senate

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

US Attorney's Office



Endnotes

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OPIOID RESPONSE UNIT
PHILADELPHIA'S 2023 OVERDOSE RESPONSE PLAN

phila.gov/opioids

