

# Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH)

## Opioid Settlement- Listening Session

[September 26, 2023]

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### Presenters

- **Dr. Kathleen Clanon** (Medical Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency)
- **Stephanie Montgomery** (Health Equity Division Director/Health Equity Officer)

# Definition: Opioid

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Opioids are a broad class of drugs, natural and man-made, that act on body and brain to reduce the signals and feelings of pain. At higher doses, they can also cause sleep and can cause people to stop breathing.

**Norco**

**OxyContin**

**Morphine**

**Methadone**

**Fentanyl**

**Oxycodone**

**Tramadol**

**Carfentanyl**

**Percocet**

**Hydrocodone**

**Vicodin**

**Oxymorphone**

**Codeine**

**Dilaudid**

**Hydromorphone**

**Heroin**

# Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)

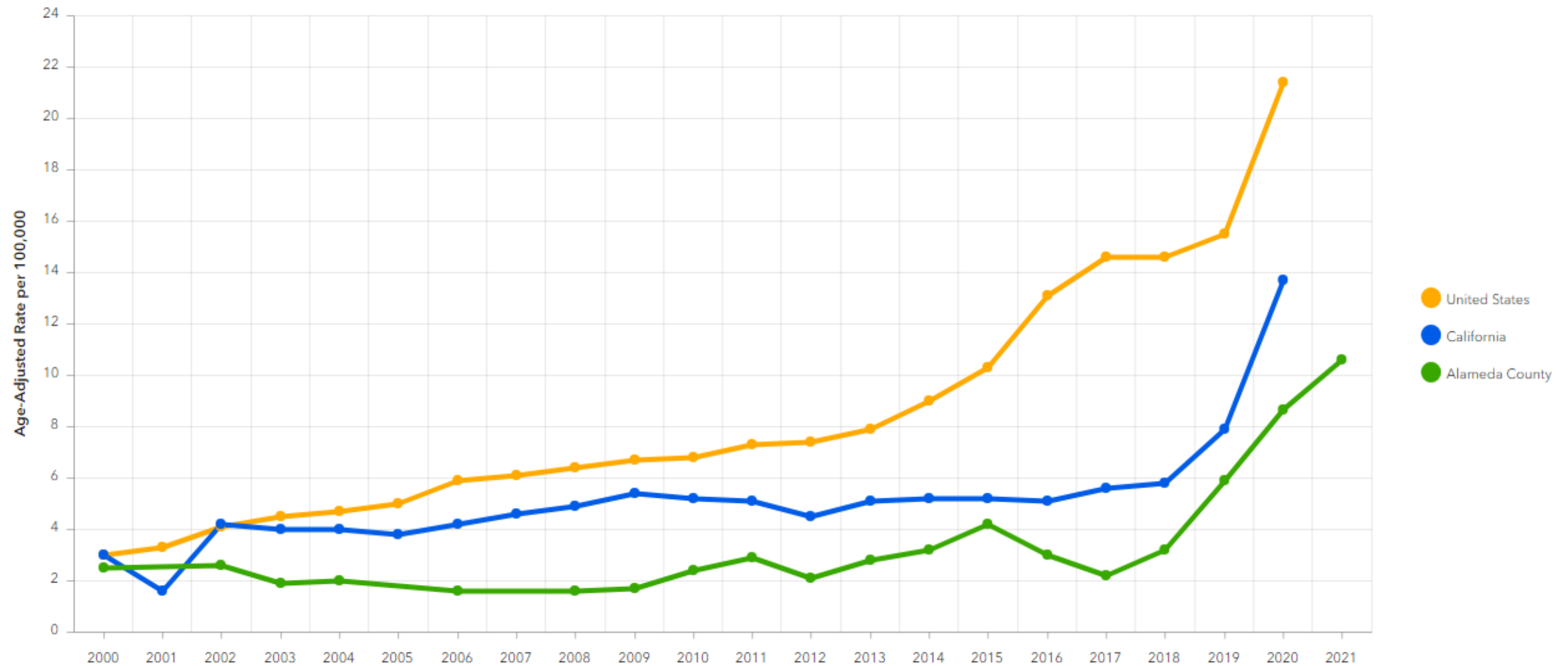
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- ❑ MAT, sometimes referred to as Medication for Addiction Treatment, is a treatment for opioid use disorder combining the use of medications such as **methadone and buprenorphine (AKA Suboxone)** with counseling and behavioral treatments.
- ❑ MAT is used to decrease withdrawal symptoms and cravings, to reduce the chances of relapse, and help people stay in a treatment program. If relapse does happen, people on buprenorphine MAT have lower rates of fatal overdose because their body is still used to having opioids on board.

# Current Data

# Opioid Mortality Rate

Alameda County, California, and the United States

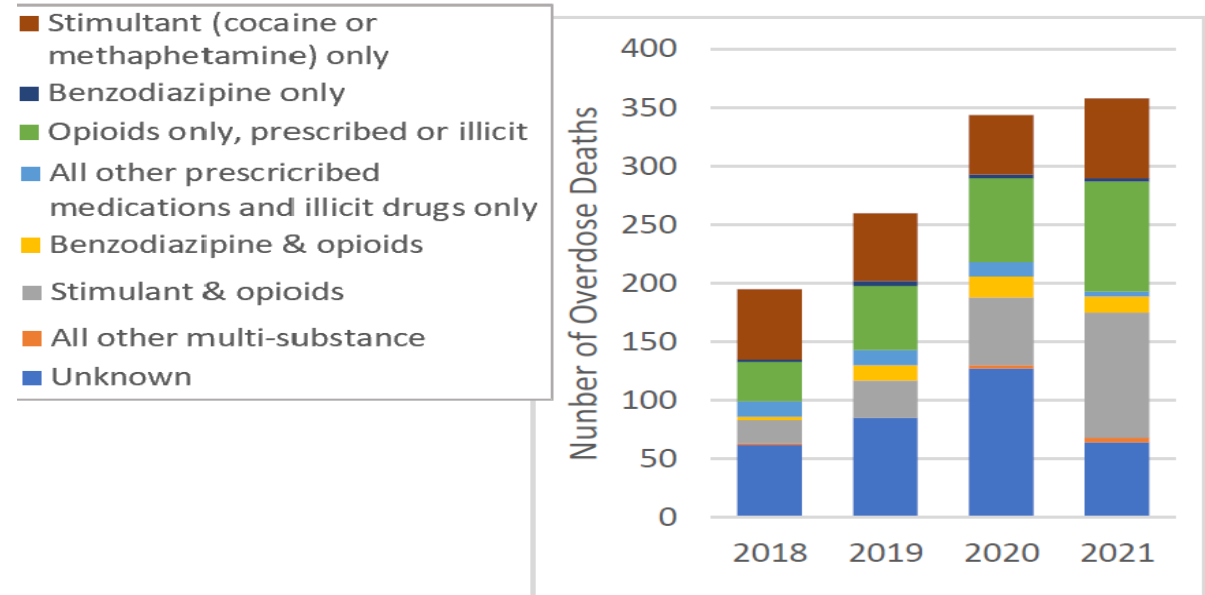


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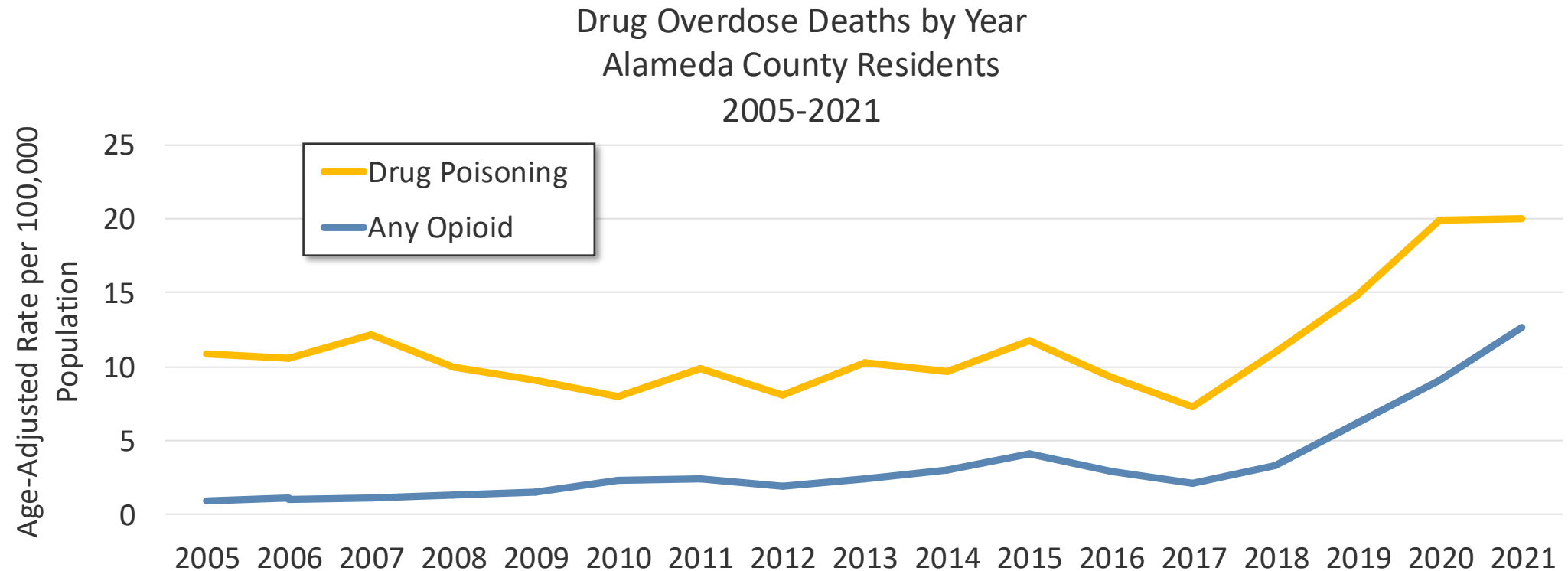
# All overdose deaths are increasing – driven by opioids

- ☐ Overdose deaths are increasing each year.
- ☐ Opioid deaths are increasing as a proportion of overall overdoses.
- ☐ Polydrug overdoses that include opioids and stimulants are the fastest growing segment.

**Drug Overdose Deaths by Mutually Exclusive Substance Type(s), 2018-2021: General Population**

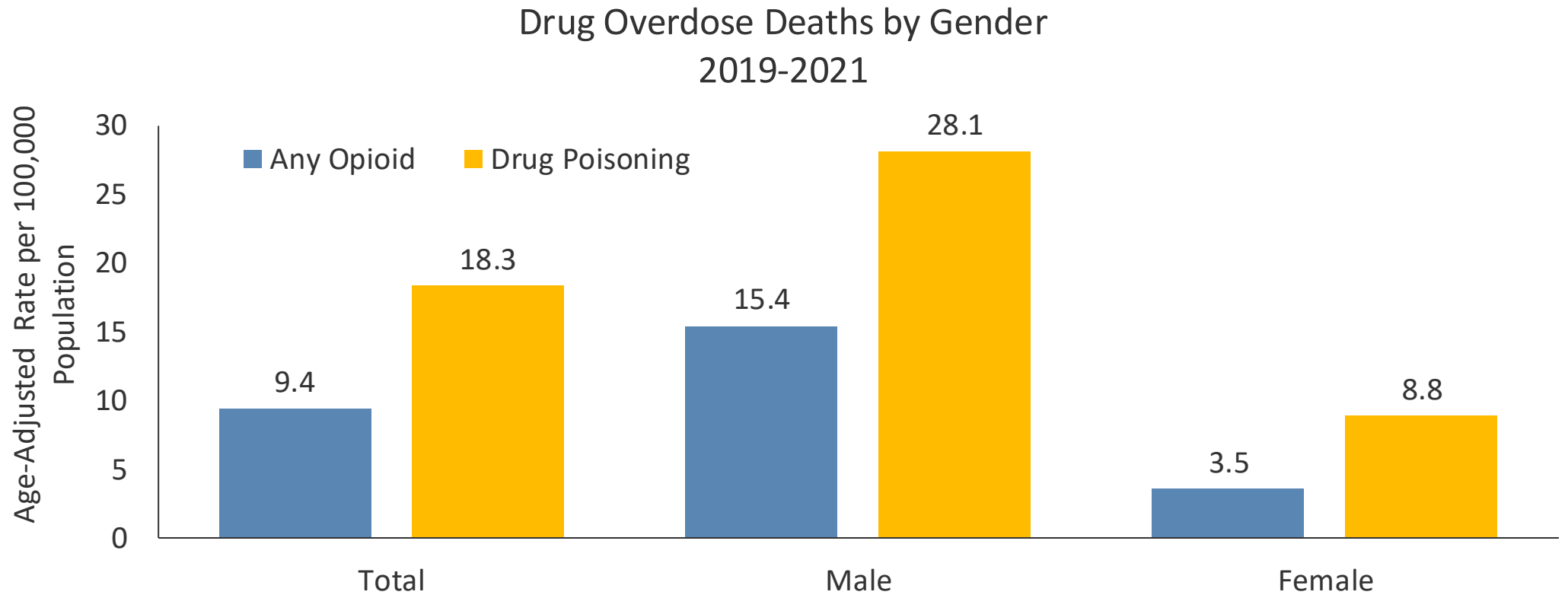


# Rapid increase in overdose deaths starting in 2017



Notes: (1) Deaths of Alameda County residents, no matter where they occurred. (2) An overdose is a fatal poisoning.

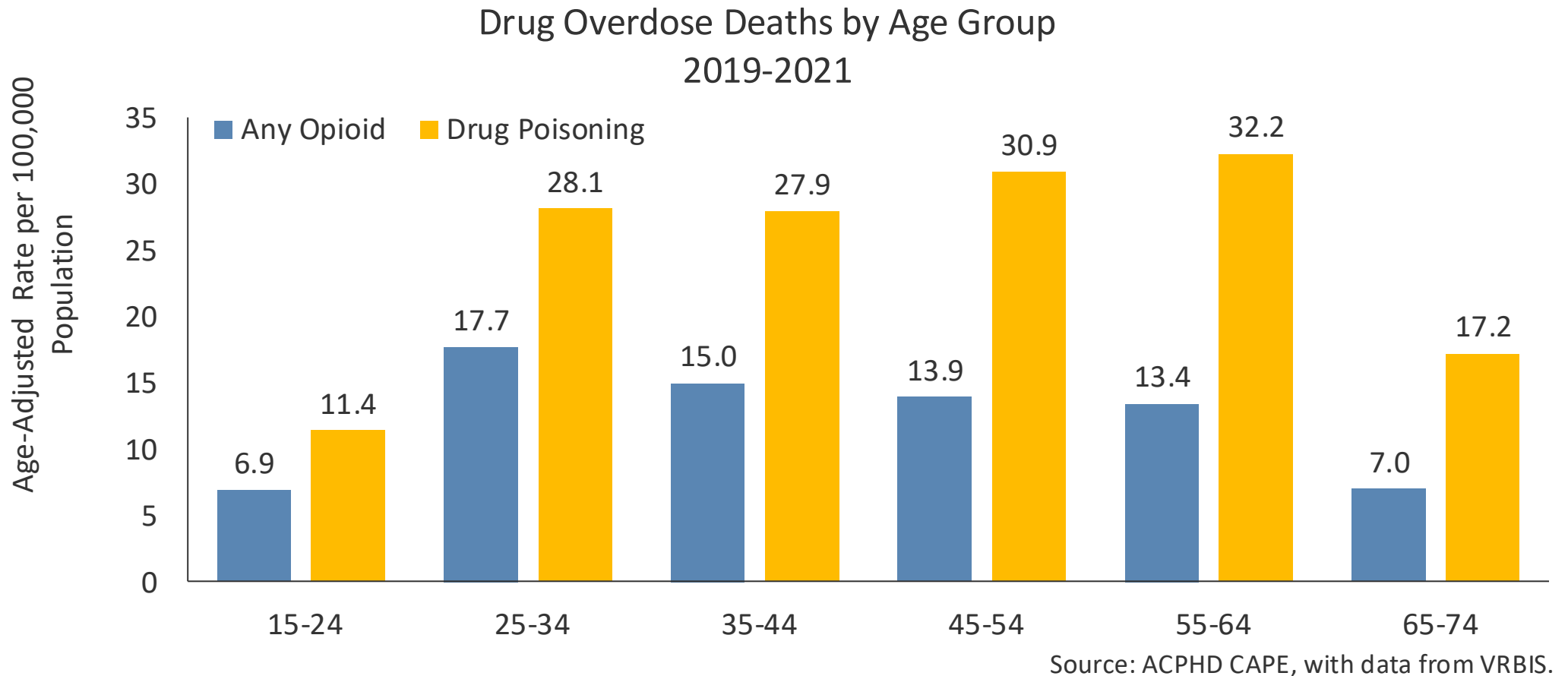
# Opioid Poisoning deaths higher among Men



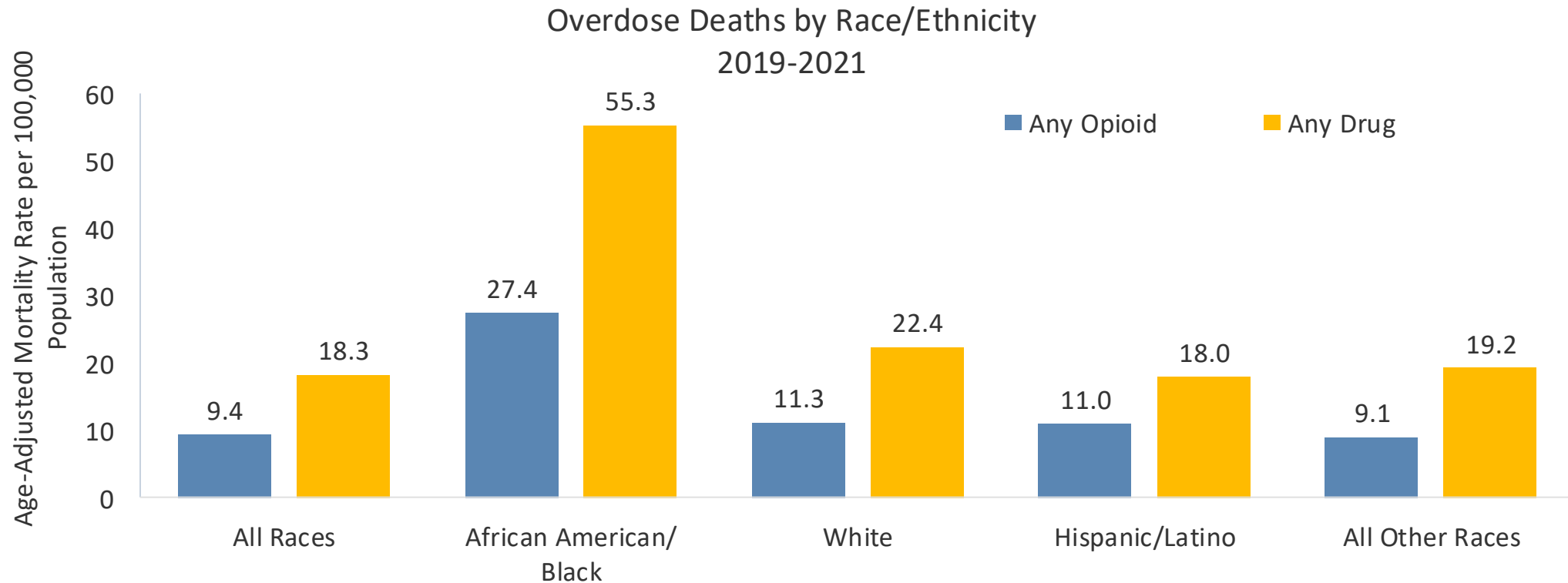
Source: ACPHD CAPE, with data from VRBIS.



# Opioid Poisoning deaths affect adults of all ages



# Overdose deaths disproportionately high among Black residents

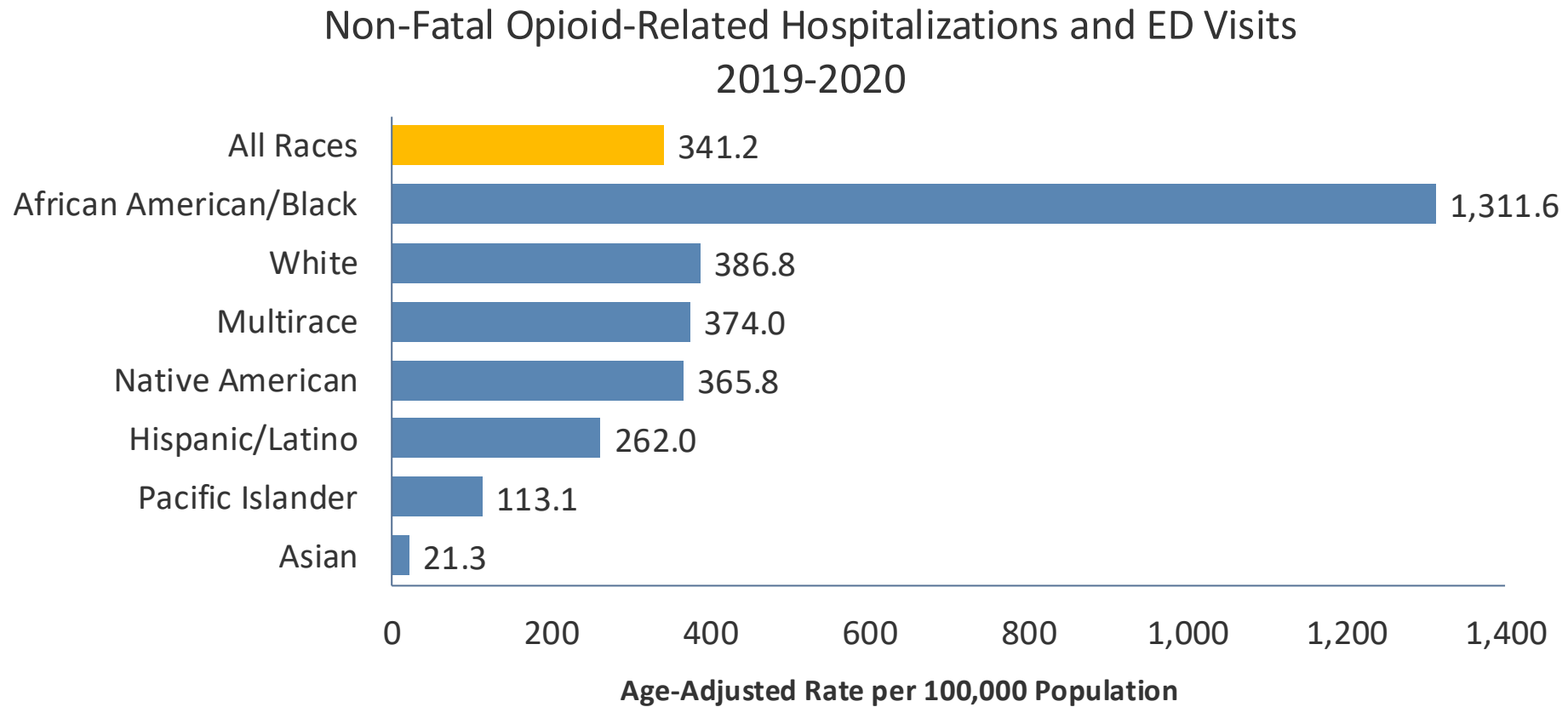


Notes: (1) All other races includes Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Multi-race.

(2) Deaths of Alameda County residents, no matter where they occurred.

Source: ACPHD CAPE, with data from VRBIS, CA's Vital Records Business Information System.

# Opioid-related ER visits also disproportionately high among Black residents



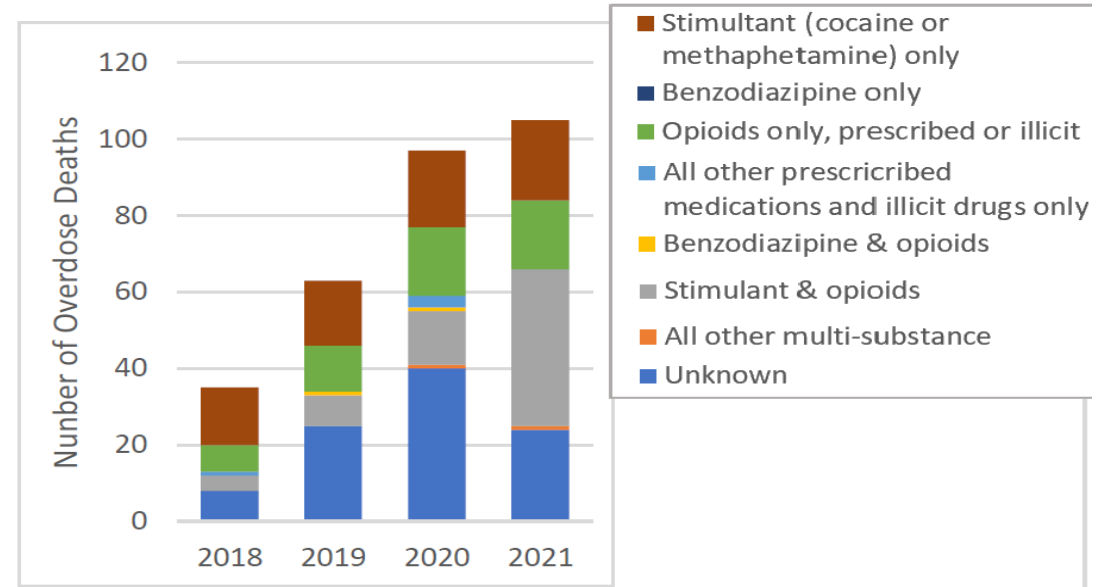
Notes: (1) The race/ethnicity coding changed in 2019, so the data shown for race/ethnicity span only two years.  
(2) Hospital visits of Alameda County residents, no matter where they occurred.

Source: ACPHD CAPE, with data from HCAI.

# Opioids driving overdose deaths among PEH

- ❑ Overdose deaths are increasing each year with People Experiencing homelessness (PEH) accounting for about 30% of all overdose deaths.
- ❑ Polydrug overdoses including opiates have sharply increased between 2020 and 2021.

**Drug Overdose Deaths by Mutually Exclusive Substance Type(s), 2018-2021: Homeless Population**



## Conclusions from the data

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- Opioid poisoning deaths in Alameda County are continuing to rise
- Opioids alone and in combination are driving that increase.
- Overdose deaths disproportionately impact African Americans, men, and people experiencing homelessness.
- People experiencing homelessness account for about 30% of all overdose deaths.

# Overview of Approach

# Evidence-based interventions to reduce opioid overdose deaths



- Targeted Naloxone distribution e.g., transitional housing, treatment centers, and in criminal justice settings
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Healthcare provider education on screening for and diagnosing Substance Use Disorder and connecting people to treatment.
- Eliminating insurance barriers for medications for opioid use disorder
- Screening for fentanyl in routine lab tests
- 911 'Good Samaritan' laws
- MAT in criminal justice settings and on release
- Starting suboxone/buprenorphine-based MAT in Emergency Departments
- Syringe services programs

# Opioid Overdose Intervention Points

## REDUCE OPIOID EXPOSURE

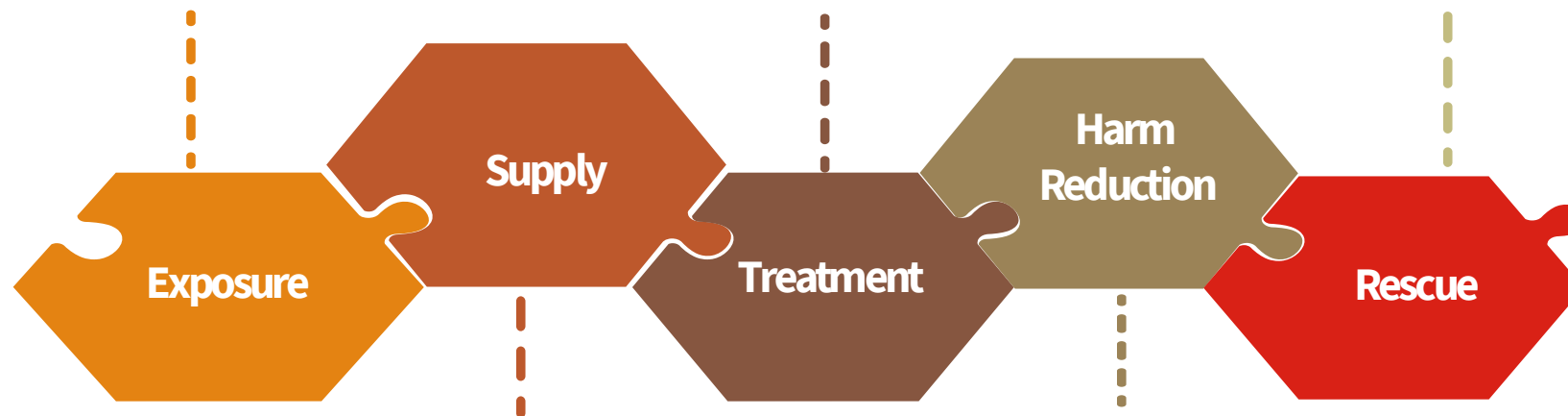
- Public education
- Collect unwanted meds
- Stigma reduction

## TREAT OPIOID ADDICTION

- Recovery Housing
- Detox facilities
- Long-acting injectable MAT
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

## RESCUE

- Naloxone use training
- Naloxone distribution



## REDUCE OPIOID SUPPLY

- Public protection partners
- Prescriber education
- Prescriber accountability

## REDUCE HARM

- Drug checking
- Supervised use
- Test strips
- Syringe Service Programs



# Opioid Litigation Settlement Update

# Key National Settlement Terms

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- More than 3,000 state and local governments have targeted opioid makers and distributors in hopes of recouping billions in tax dollars spent dealing with the opioid epidemic [[Opioids - National Association of Attorneys General \(naag.org\)](#)]. In 2018, the County of Alameda and several cities also decided to join.
- In 2021 and late 2022 nationwide settlements were reached to resolve all opioid litigation against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors, a major producer, and three pharmacy chains.
- Funds will be paid overtime, from 6 to 18 years, depending on the settlement.
- At least 85% of the funds must be used for opioid abatement, for the County almost all funds being received are restricted to funding future abatement efforts.

# CA Opioid Abatement Priority Areas

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- 1) Creating new or expanded Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment infrastructure.
- 2) Matching existing funds for SUD within the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure
- 3) Addressing the needs of communities of color and vulnerable populations (including sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations) that are disproportionately impacted by SUD.
- 4) Diversion of people with SUD from the justice system into treatment, including by providing training and resources to first and early responders and implementing best practices for outreach, diversion and deflection, employability, restorative justice, and harm reduction.
- 5) Interventions to prevent drug addiction in vulnerable youth.

# ACBH Opioid Settlement Program Planning

# Goals

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- ☐ Expenditure of Opioid Settlement funds to address opioid crises in Alameda County.
  
- ☐ Expand and enhance Substance Use System of Care with targeted investment from the opioid settlement.
  
- ☐ Periodic Stakeholder process to inform, educate and update on ACBH's settlement funding planning and to receive community feedback and input.
  
- ☐ Expend settlement funding on prevention efforts such as public media campaign to address opioid misuse and to educate on Substance Use Services in Alameda County.

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# Opioid Settlement Planning

## An Integrated Approach

# Process

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## Communities Most Impacted

- People Experiencing Homelessness;
- Chronic Substance-Dependent individuals;
- Incarcerated; and
- Black/African American

## Stakeholder Process

- Periodic Public Updates Overtime

# Opioid Settlement Planning

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# ACBH Plans for Opioid Settlement Dollars

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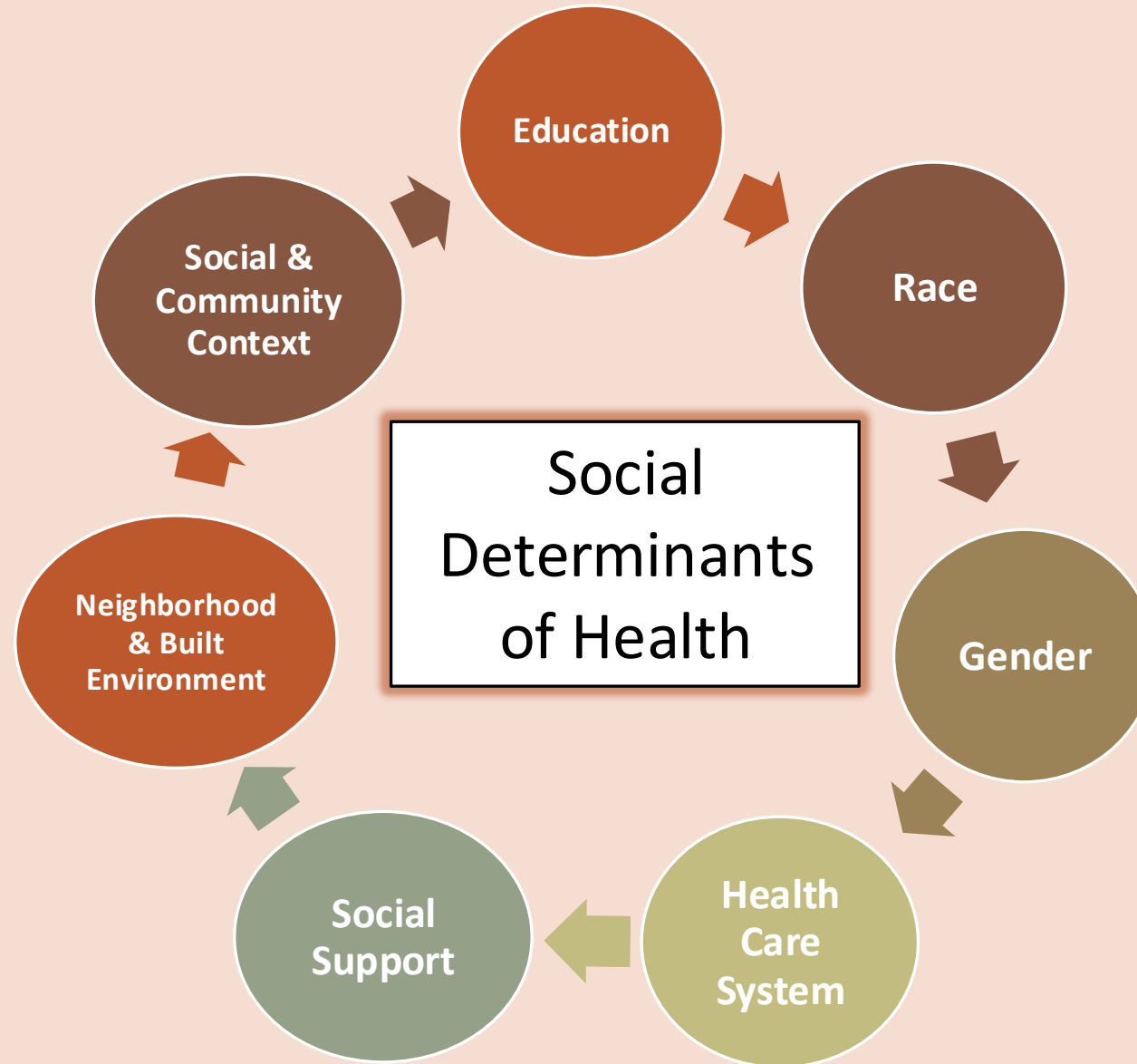
- Public media campaign regarding the opioid crisis
- Fund more Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services.
- Establish hospital based medical detoxification beds.
- Mini grants to community organizations to address opioid crisis.



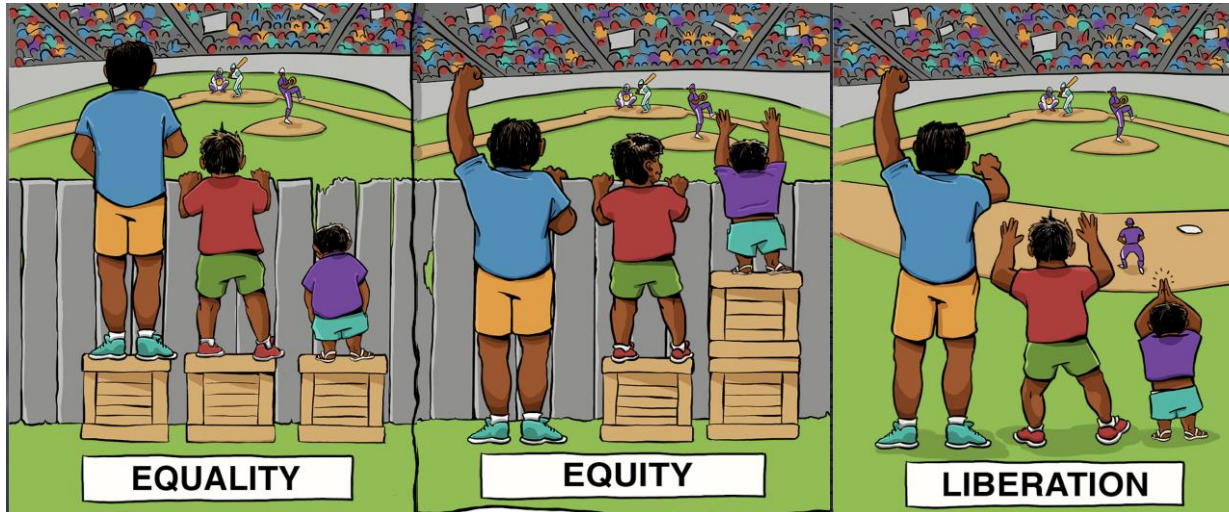
Our own data clearly indicates that African American males are disproportionately represented compared to other demographics.

Understanding SDOH can support strategies that will support and pave the way for better outcomes for those most impacted within our system of care.

# Social Determinants of Health

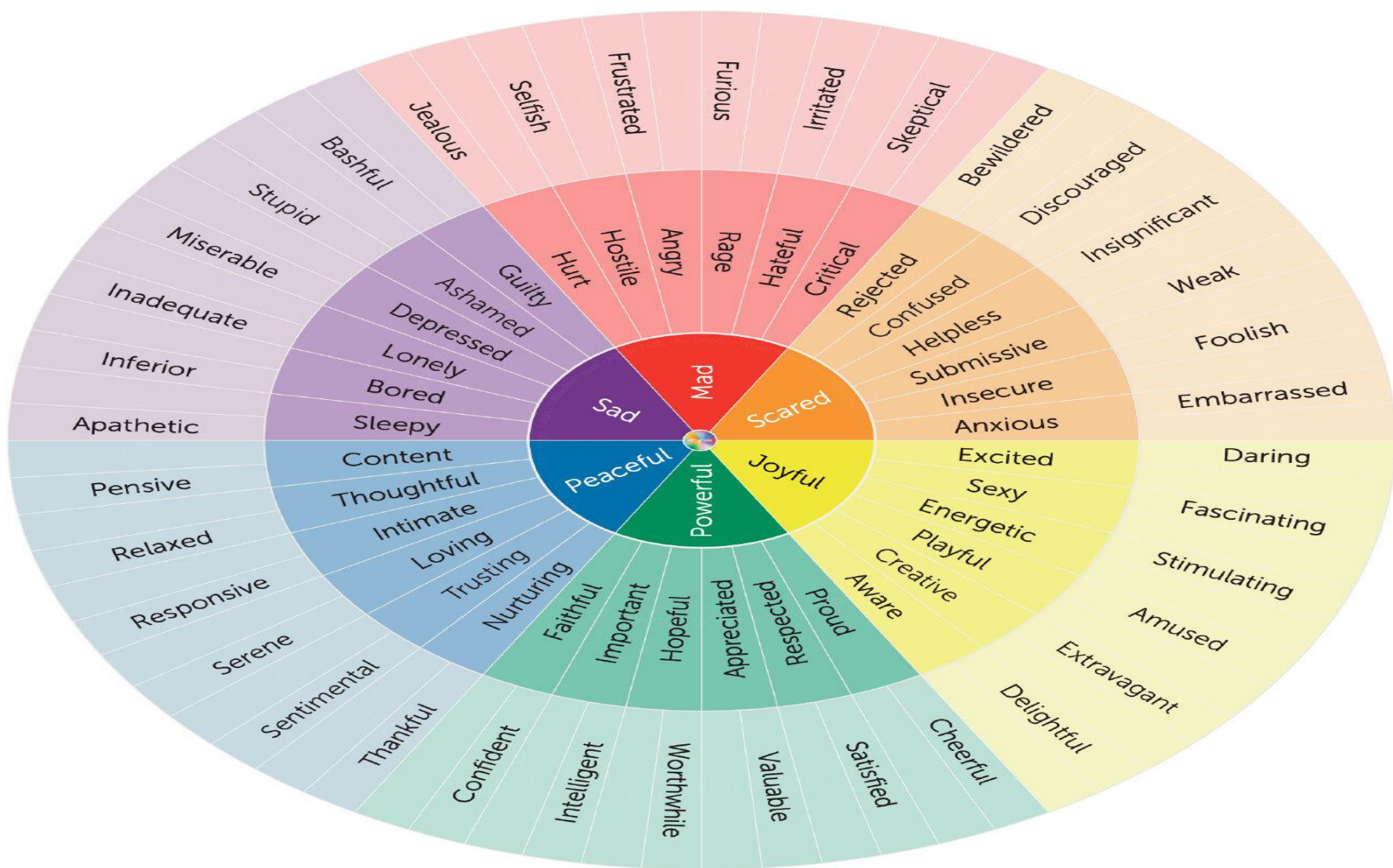


# Health Equity



It's important to acknowledge how institutional and structural racism affect the care and support of individuals most affected by opioid use. We need to actively strive to break down these barriers and develop a new, culturally sensitive approach to care that is inclusive and supportive for those who need it.

*Image Credit: A collaboration between Center for Story-based Strategy & Interaction Institute for Social Change.*



# The Feeling Wheel

BY GLORIA WILLCOX





## Community Input & Feedback

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