



# ANOKA COUNTY OPIOID SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

## Opioid Advisory Council Minutes

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00-11:00 am

Blaine Human Service Center, Room 2402

**Mission:** To improve health, save lives, and reduce the impact caused by opioids and other substances in Anoka County by managing opioid settlement funding and supporting strategic partnerships.

**Vision:** All Anoka County residents and partners are supported, engaged, and prepared to overcome the opioid crisis and meet the challenges related to substance use in the community.

**Called to Order** by Patti Constant, Senior Program Specialist – Opioids, at 9 am

**Present:** Derek Schuldt, Lori Lachner, Patti Constant, Randi Prebil, Lacey Towe, Ryan George, Chris McCook, Diana Hoffman, Katherine Cole, Susan Ferron, Megan Schueller, Justin McNeal, Reysel Castillo, Todd Ostertag, Corey Kohan, Christina Lefkowich, Jess VanKuyk, Joe Amerman, Nancy Norman, Joshua VanHeuveln, Musab Adam, Samantha Guthman, Peggy McNabb

**Absent:** Nicholas Warnke, Carrie Wood, Dorian Harvey, George Borrell, Tim Kizer, Molly Nee

### 1. **Welcome, Introductions, and Moment of Grounding**

A moment of silence was observed to honor all the people that we have lost to deaths of despair (including suicide, drug overdose, & alcoholism), all of those currently struggling with behavioral health challenges (substance use disorders, mental illness), those who are bravely walking the recovery path, and all the families, friends, community members, and supports that are impacted.

### 2. **Meeting Agenda Approval**

Motion to approve the December 13, 2024, Advisory Council meeting agenda by Derek Schuldt. Second by Ryan George. Motion carried.

### 3. **Meeting Minutes Approval**

Motion to approve the November 8, 2024, Advisory Council meeting minutes by Todd Ostertag. Second by Lacey Towe. Motion carried.

### 4. **RFP Update / Patti Constant**

- RFP went out on Friday, December 6.
- Non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting is Friday, December 20, from 10 to 11 a.m. Great time for questions / answers.
- Proposals are due by January 28, 2025.





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- Patti is looking for three to four Advisory Council members to participate in the RFP review process between January 31 and February 12, with availability for a February 13 or 14 meeting. Contact Patti with your interest in potentially joining the review team.
- Awards will be made sometime in March.
- Responding to questions . . .
  - as to a potential second RFP date: Patti indicated that it is dependent on the number of RFPs requests received for this round. We could either get approval to release more funding otherwise, a second RFP process will likely begin again once the first round of funding is in place.
  - as to consideration being given to proposals from agencies outside Anoka County, Patti indicated agencies that can show that they understand our community and population and can do the work may be considered.
- Funding recipients will be asked to present their work to the Advisory Council so we can understand the work being done and how funding is being used.

## 5. **Membership Discussion – Who or what is missing at this table? / Patti Constant**

- Patti reported Tracee Anderson from Minnesota Prevention & Recovery Alliance has a conflict and can no longer participate on our Advisory Council.
- Noting a desire for this Advisory Council to be representative of our community, Patti asked for input on who or what areas are either not represented or under-represented with our current make-up. Are there groups or topics you would benefit from by having them at the table? Do you see gaps in this council?
  - Overall housing was identified as a gap, including sober housing connections, and working with people who are still using. Justin McNeal noted Meraki Recovery Housing has very good programming around housing with a good success rate.
  - There was suggestion to contact Jeff McDonald, Anoka County Partnerships for Family Success, on housing.
  - ACBC (Anoka County Brotherhood Council), food and clothing assistance, may be interested in being represented on the Council.

Patti will bring these suggestions to the Executive Council for discussion. Contact Patti with additional ideas as well.

## 6. **Data Discussion -- Does what you are all seeing MATCH what Cassie shared at the last meeting? / Patti Constant**

Patti facilitated a discussion / review of last month's data presentation, asking if that data fits with what council members are seeing. Are there questions that this data brings up? Are you seeing recent trends that should be noted? For example, Hennepin County is seeing a rise in their Black populations. Are disparities increasing?

- Lacey Towe noted that while the overdose deaths in Anoka County graph indicates zero due to heroin, there is one Anoka County death certificate listing heroin as the cause. Lacey will explore with Shane and report back to Patti.





# ANOKA COUNTY

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- Related to the Jail data / Substance use and mental illness data, Diana Hoffman defined ACEs as stressful and potentially traumatic events that happen during childhood or adolescence, such as abuse, violence, neglect, mental health issues, substance use. Children who experience multiple ACEs tend to have higher levels of chronic illnesses, homelessness, poverty, chemical use, and more, as adults.
- There was discussion surrounding the highest number of overdose deaths by age range being eight deaths in the 55 to 64 age group. Diana noted a seemingly increase in suicides.
  - Todd Ostertag noted:
    - His agency is noticing the higher age range which he feels may be due to the pandemic and isolation.
    - Aging bodies cannot process chemicals as well, making this higher age range a high-risk population.
    - A significant increase in the number of calls from people who are on Medicare.
    - Admission rate of people of color in our program has been fairly consistent over the last few years.
  - Lori Lachner noticed a large number of older people at Hazelden when she was there this week. While she used to see all ages, she is now seeing more who are older.
- There was overall agreement that this data very good to see.
- Suggestions for ways to use this data:
  - Develop and hand out data cards, acknowledging trends, what is occurring, etc., to catch attention and raise awareness.
  - Electronic “factoid” billboards out on our highways.
  - Recommendation to ensure our messages that are relatable and will resonate with people.

### 7. Naloxone Update / Patti Constant

- Library pilot will be happening soon.
- Patti has connected with two Hennepin County residents who purchase old newspaper dispensers from the StarTribune and repurposes them into naloxone dispensers. So they can work in a heated space rather than in an unheated garage, Patti has put them in contact with the Anoka Technical College and is working on a potential partnership that would provide nice workspace, along with a great community-based project / volunteer opportunity. Great promotional / increased awareness opportunity as well. There was further suggestion that building naloxone boxes or dispensers may be work opportunity / project for Workhouse inmates.
- Nasal naloxone will be available at all Anoka County NAPs by next week. Master location listing is available on the webpage.
- A couple fire departments, the Jail, and the Workhouse are interested in a program where they can give naloxone to folks being discharged.
- Randi reported the Cannabis ordinance being developed includes an ask to become a NAP.

### 8. Member Presentation – Josh Vanheuveln, Anoka-Hennepin Schools

- Josh and two additional licensed mental health / social workers provide support to students through the Anoka Hennepin Chemical Health Department, serving 40,000 students, and recognizing that chemical health issues and challenges within the schools are most often





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tied to mental health.

- Over 500 referrals last year were triaged based on needs and comfort levels. We do not diagnose. We are not treatment and we are not therapy. We are support.
- What is unique and great is that our offerings to students do not require insurance or parental permission. We are an open door for anyone in the district or anyone connected to a student in the district.
- Support is provided by way of:
  - Individual meetings – non-negotiable.
  - Small groups around nicotine and cannabis, and we would like to expand in this area. Student-to-student / peer-to-peer very effective. Working with students on becoming peer educators as well.
  - Resource mobilization with many great community partners.
  - Targeted interventions for tobacco/nicotine and chemical violations.
  - Alternative to suspensions – REACH (Responsive Educational Approaches to Chemical Health) and Nicotine Education.
  - We work to be approachable and make it friendly. Most are hurting, with 95% having a mental health challenge to some degree.
- Our system level support builds capacity through staff development, incorporating our school paraprofessionals, and community involvement.
- As now required by legislation, nasal Narcan is now in every school. Opioids and fentanyl are very much in our schools to some degree.

Patti noted the Advisory Council's desire to support to schools and the work that our SUD workgroup will be doing on this school support effort.

## 9. Member Presentation – Derek Schuldt, Anoka County Sheriff's Office/Drug Task Force

Lieutenant Derek Schuldt provided an overview of the Anoka Hennepin Violent Offender Task Force consisting of 15 detectives, two analysts, and an administrative assistant in the Anoka County Sheriff's Office working to investigate high-level narcotics crimes and apprehend violent offenders. Year-to-date 2024 statistics:

- 336 cases
- 128 search warrants
- 4 lbs. cocaine
- 7,832 fentanyl pills
- 1 lb. fentanyl powder
- 108 lbs. methamphetamine
- 19 firearms
- Seeing an uptick this year in fentanyl and firearms.

There was discussion surrounding the violent crime and property crime societal effects from opioids, drug trends / current drug of choice, synthetic vs. natural, drug trafficking / cartel runners here in Anoka County, obstacles to enforcement, testing tablets, and more.

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Thank you to Josh and Derek for today's presentations. There was agreement to continue with

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these informational presentations. Suggestions for upcoming presentations:

- Community Corrections – how to best partner with Community Corrections in terms of treatment and building solid relationships with corrections around their work. Making sure we have the same end goals. Corey Kohan proposed the February meeting for a Community Corrections presentation.
  - Treatment centers.
10. There was interest for Patti to schedule a naloxone training with this group as part of an upcoming meeting agenda.
  11. Susan Ferron suggested / proposed the idea of partnering across the council membership on RFPs, creating / offering a strengthened RFP prevention initiative. There was agreement and appreciation for Susan's suggestion. *Let's email or use Basecamp chat.*
  12. **Closing / Next Meeting:**  
Friday, January 10, 2025, 9-11:00 am, Blaine Human Service Center, Room 2402
  13. **Adjourn 10:53 am**

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**Patti Constant**  
Senior Program Specialist

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**Randi Prebil**  
Health Promotion and Planning Manager  
PHES

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**Peggy McNabb**  
Administrative Services Supervisor

**Approved: 1-10-2025**





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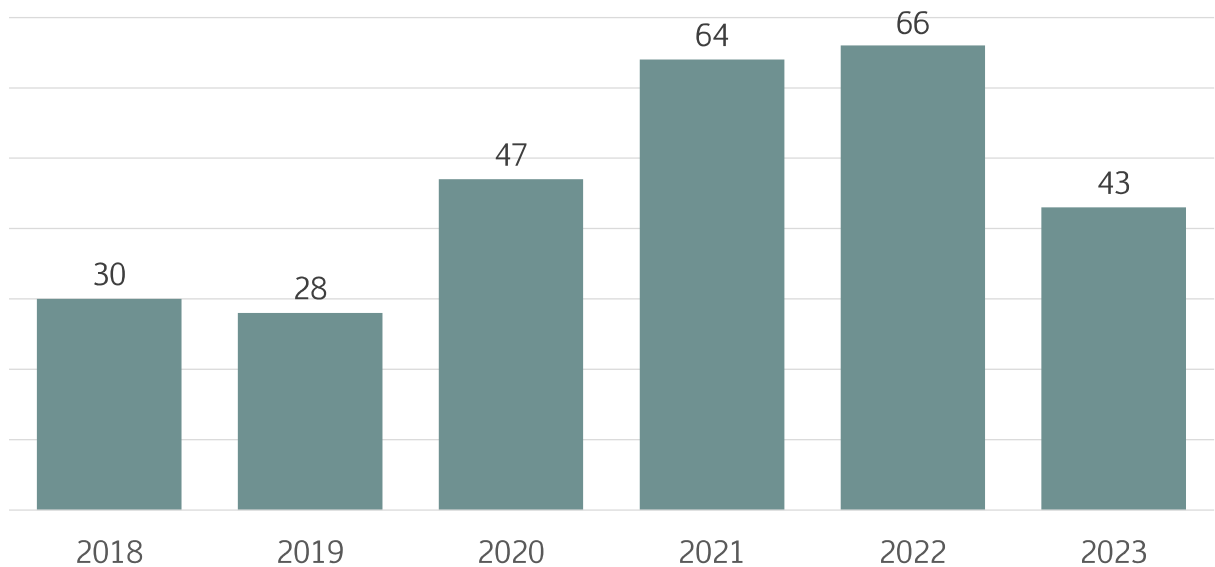
## Overdose Data

November 8, 2024



Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible.

## Anoka County Opioid Overdose Deaths

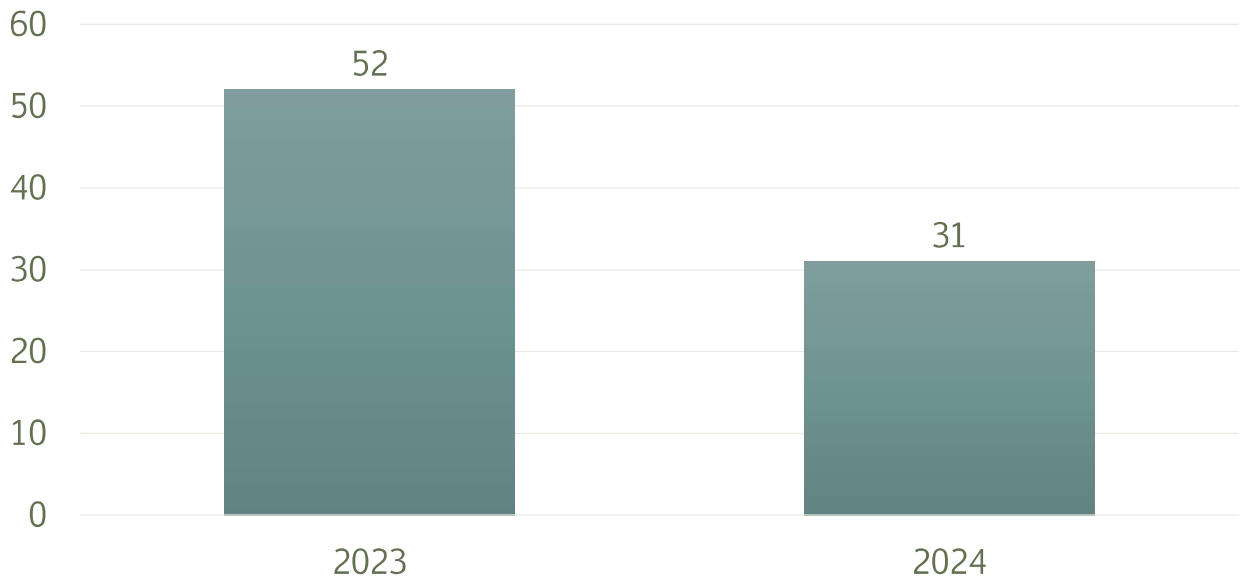


Data from: Minnesota death certificates, Minnesota Department of Health, \*2023 data are preliminary



ANOKA COUNTY  
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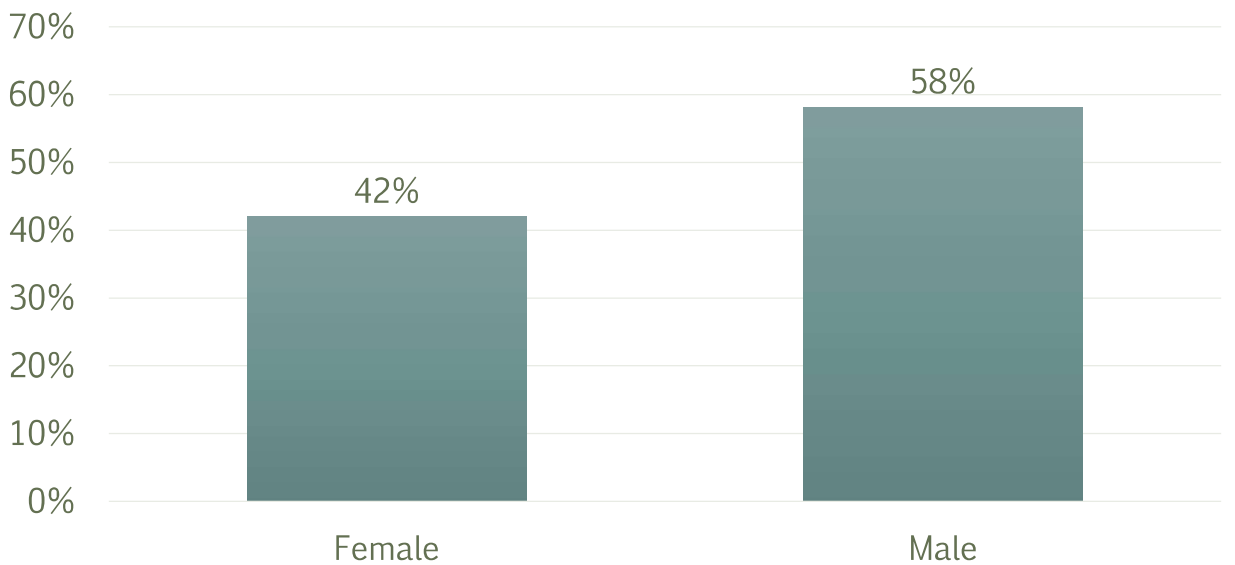
## Overdose deaths in Anoka County residents by Year (preliminary data)



Data from: Midwest Medical Examiner's Office



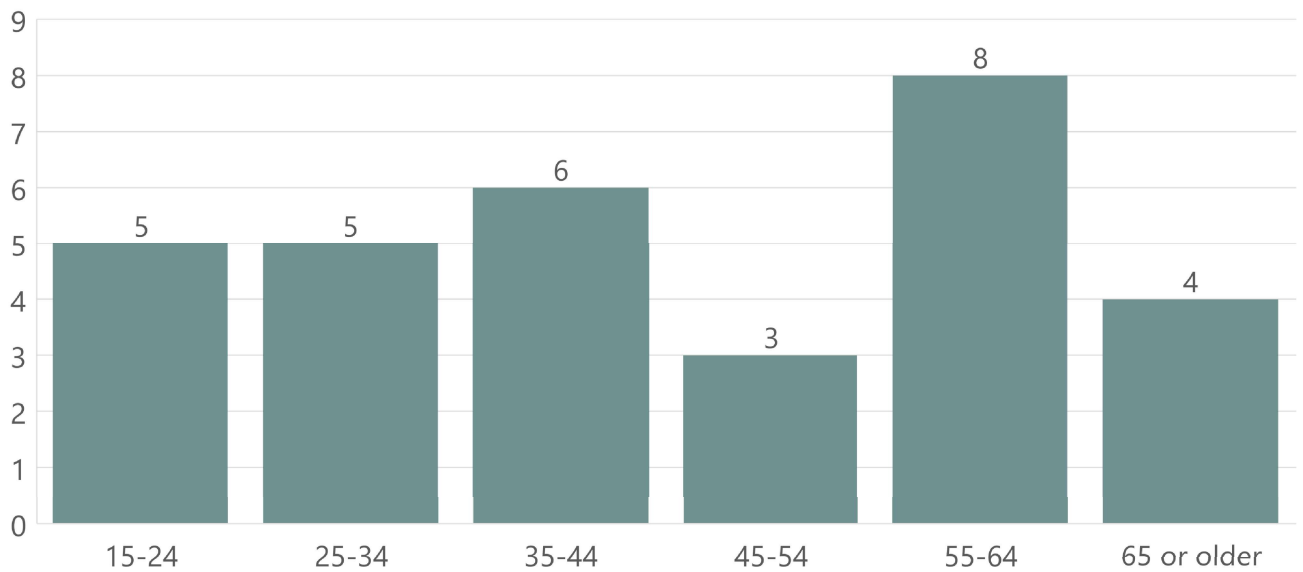
## Overdose deaths in Anoka County residents by sex (2024- preliminary data)



Data from: Midwest Medical Examiner's Office



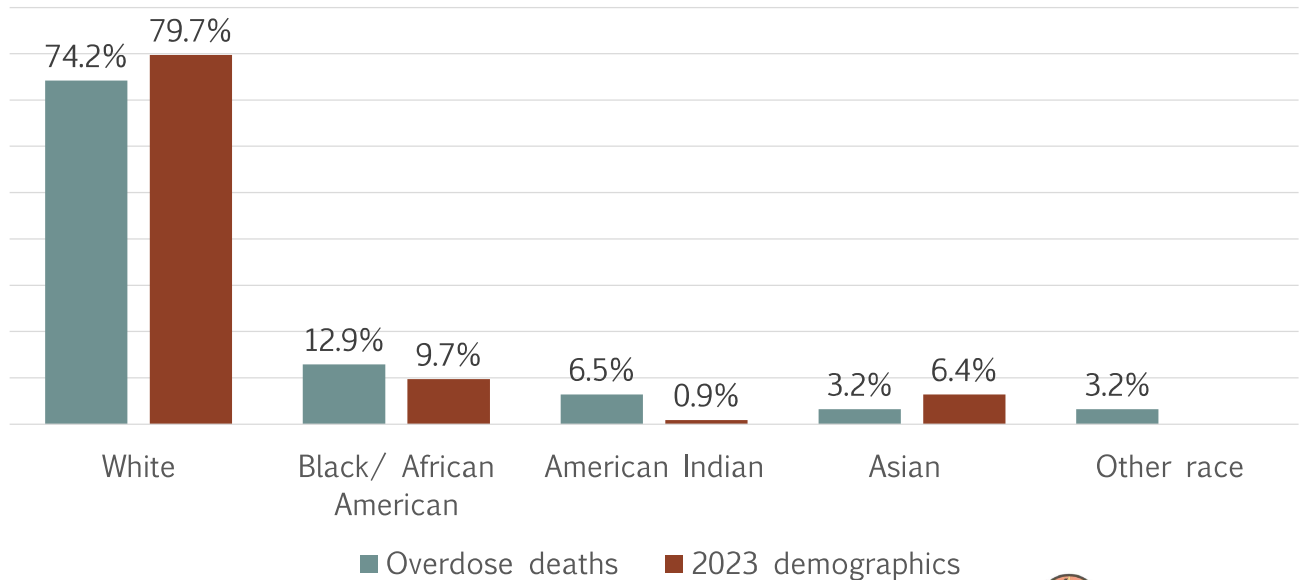
## Overdose deaths in Anoka County residents by age (2024- preliminary data)



Data from: Midwest Medical Examiner's Office



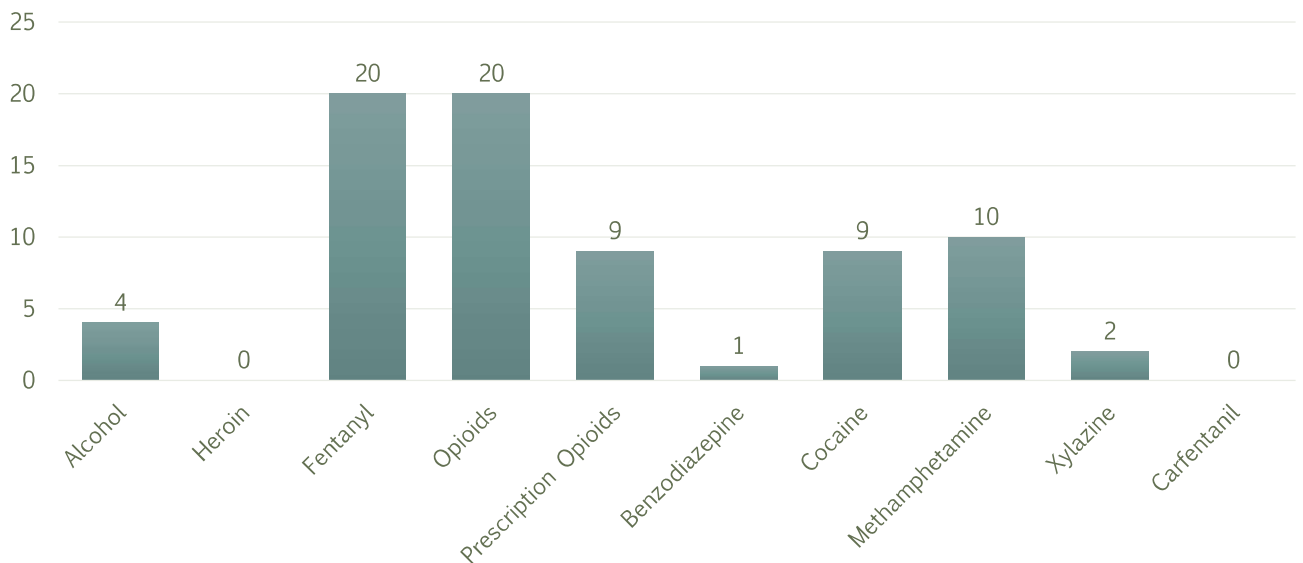
## Overdose deaths in Anoka County residents by race or ethnicity (2024- preliminary data)



Data from: Midwest Medical Examiner's Office



## Overdose deaths in Anoka County residents by substance (2024- preliminary data)



Data from: Midwest Medical Examiner's Office



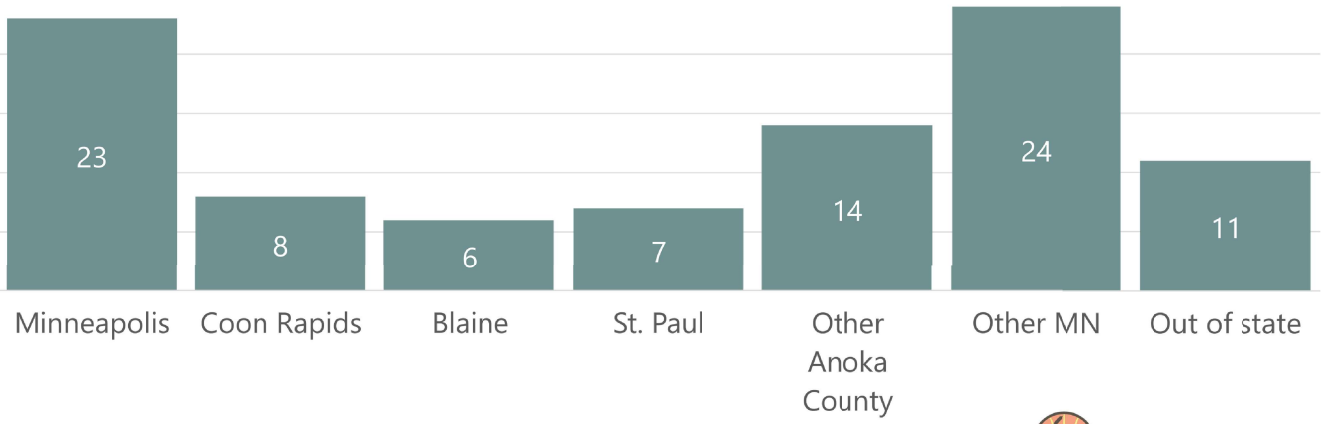
## Jail data

- › Anoka County jail started surveying those who were incarcerated on June 4 about drug and opioid use.
- › Surveys were voluntary
- › Contains data from June 4 through October 24
- › 123 were offered the survey, 10 refused, 10 noted no drug use
- › 103 responses in the results
- › Average first age of use was 16.3 (range 7-44)
- › Average age of addiction was 21.6 (range 10-44)

Data from: Anoka County Jail



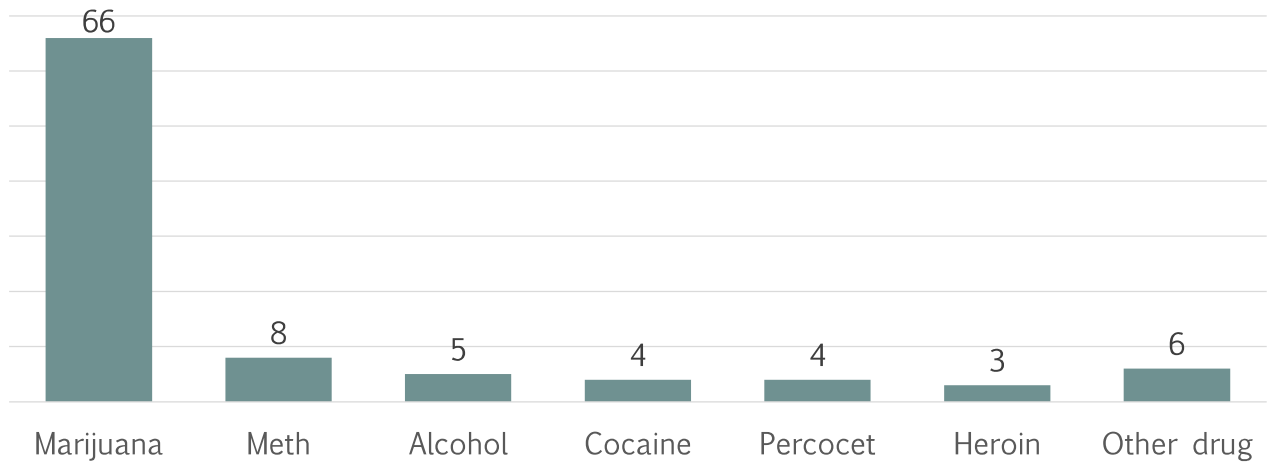
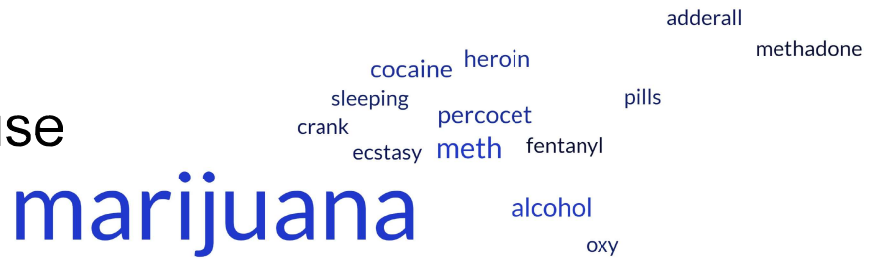
# Jail data- First use



Data from: Anoka County Jail



# Jail data- First use



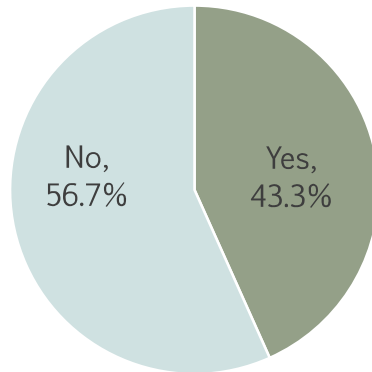
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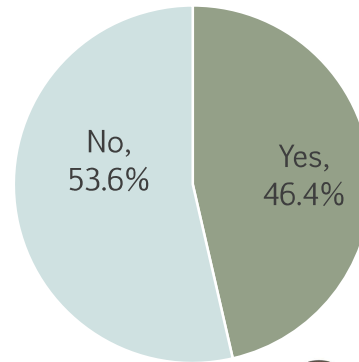
## Jail data- Opioids

- › 6 in 10 tried opioids (62.1%)
- › Average age to try opioids 22

Have had naloxone used on them



Used Naloxone on another person



Data from: Anoka County Jail



## Jail data- Incarceration reason

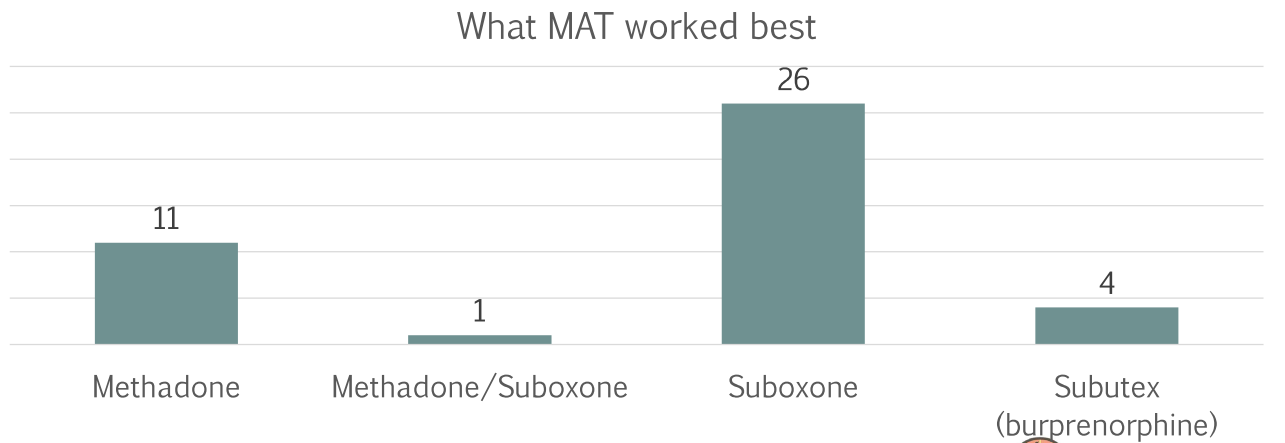
- › Incarceration due to drugs charges or related to drug use
  - 16 said none of their incarcerations were directly or indirectly related to drugs (15.5%)
  - Directly
    - › 51.5% said at least one incarceration was a drug charge
    - › 4 said all were only drug charges, 2 said most
  - Indirectly
    - › 58.3% said at least one incarceration was related to drug use
    - › 13 said all were related to drug use, 3 said most

Data from: Anoka County Jail

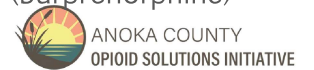


## Jail data- Treatment

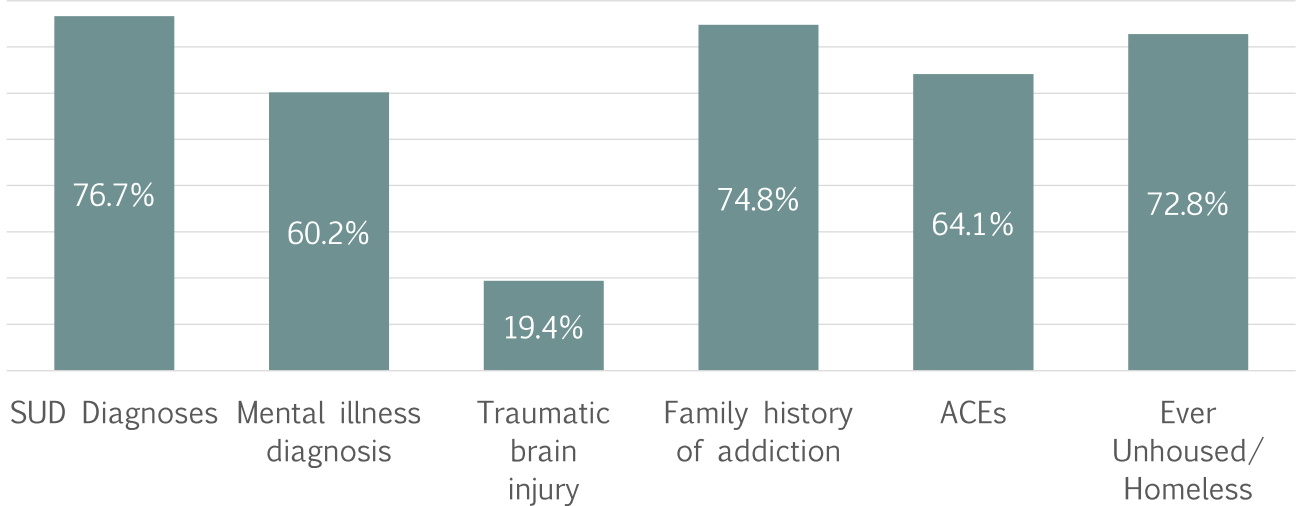
- › Average 4.7 times at treatment (range 0-30)
- › 71.4% went to treatment voluntarily



Data from: Anoka County Jail



## Jail data- Substance use and mental illness



Data from: Anoka County Jail



## Workhouse data

- › Anoka County workhouse started surveying those who were incarcerated from September 3 through October 21 so far
- › 34 were offered the survey, 1 refused
- › Average first age of use was 18.3, older than those in the jail survey (range 4-34)
- › Average age of addiction was 20.5, younger than those in the jail survey (range 11-57)

Data from: Anoka County Workhouse



## Workhouse data- Opioids

- › 72.7% tried opioids (more than jail survey)
- › 4 in 10 had naloxone used on them
- › Slightly less than half have used naloxone on another person

Data from: Anoka County Workhouse



## Workhouse data- Incarceration reason

- › Incarceration due to drugs charges or related to drug use
  - 2 said none of their incarcerations were directly or indirectly related to drugs (6.1%)
  - Directly
    - › 75.8% said at least one incarceration was drug charges
    - › 7 said all were only drug charges
  - Indirectly
    - › 84.8% said at least one incarceration was related to drug use
    - › 15 said all were related to drug use

Data from: Anoka County Workhouse



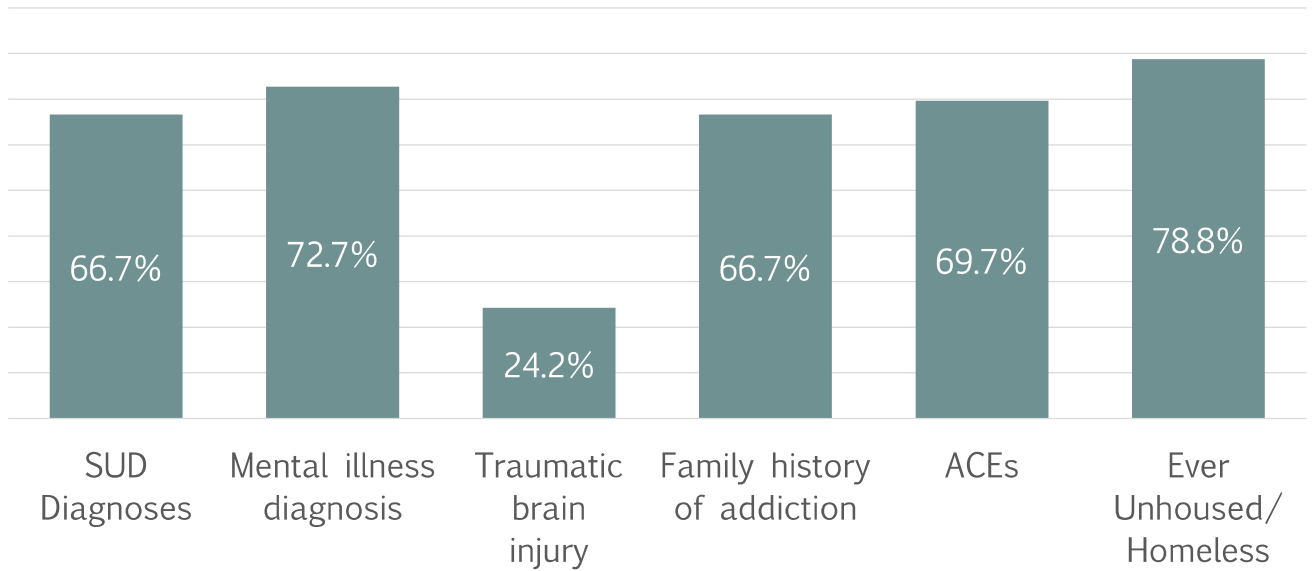
## Workhouse data- Treatment

- › Average 5.8 times at treatment (range 0-20)
- › 69% went to treatment voluntarily
- › For those who tried MAT, suboxone was mentioned the most as helpful

Data from: Anoka County Workhouse



# Workhouse data- Substance use and mental illness



Data from: Anoka County Workhouse



## Questions?



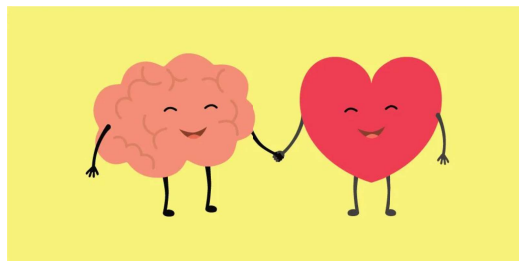
# Anoka-Hennepin School District

## Student Services / Chemical Health Department

Abby Rice, Josh Van Heuveln, and Sarah Perry: *AH Chemical Health Department*

### What does support look like?

- Individual meetings
- Small groups (when appropriate)
- Resource mobilization
- Targeted interventions for tobacco/nicotine and chemical violations



## Comprehensive support.

- **Direct support**
  - **Student**
    - **Individual support**
    - **Small group**
    - **Alternative to suspensions**
      - **REACH, Nicotine Ed**
  - **family**
- **System level support**
  - **Staff development and support**
  - **processes/procedures**
  - **community involvement**
  - **building capacity of others to help support and guide**

## Who do we serve?

Any Anoka Hennepin Student who would like support with:

- Their own recovery from substance use
- Better understanding the impacts of their substance use
- Coping with a friend or family member who is struggling with substance use

And often we meet with students who didn't ask for support themselves...

- Chemical violation at school
- Parent/guardian concern

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## How do students get referred to us?

- Referrals come through school administrators or support staff (counselors, social workers)
- We ask that students be notified by the referent whenever possible that a referral was made
- Students are NOT required to meet with us if they do not want to
- Parent/Guardian's permission is NOT required for students to meet with us- especially if this will cause barriers to students receiving services



# Chemical Health Updates

## *Current trends and interventions for students*

Abby Rice, Josh Van Heuveln, and Sarah Perry: *AH Chemical Health Department*

Claire Weiss: *My Health Youth Programs Coordinator*

Cathy Rude: *Hennepin County Public Health*



# What is chemical health ?

Talk with a partner.

## Today's Agenda

- Current trends on vaping and cannabis products and legislation
- Peer Education Pilot Update from Andover High School
- Current school based chemical health interventions and supports for students
- Classroom resources for teachers
- Opioids / fent

## Peer Education: [Pilot at Andover High School](#)



# Anoka Hennepin Chemical Health Department

**Abby Rice, MSW, LICSW:**

*Andover HS, Oak View MS, Anoka HS, Anoka MS, Compass Programs*

**Sarah Perry, MSW, LICSW:**

*Blaine, Coon Rapids HS, Coon Rapids MS, Northdale MS, Compass Programs: TPP*

**Josh Van Heuveln MSW, LICSW, LADC, CPP:**

*Champlin Park HS, Regional-Sandburg, Anoka Technical HS, Jackson MS, Roosevelt MS, Pathways Programs, RTLC*

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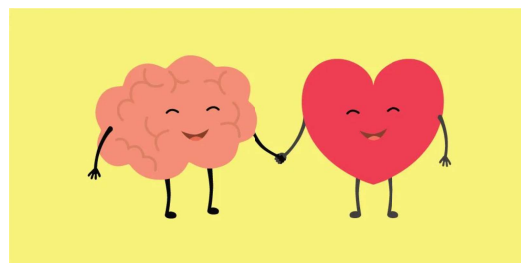
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## What does support look like?

- Individual meetings
- Small groups (when appropriate)
- Resource mobilization
- Targeted interventions for tobacco/nicotine and chemical violations



# AH Interventions

- **Nicotine Education**
  - Small groups run at each site for students who have received a nicotine violation
- **REACH (Responsive Educational Approaches to Chemical Health)**
  - Small group run two times per month at Compass for students (district wide) who have received a chemical violation
  - Primarily seeing cannabis violations (alcohol is second)



Healthy Futures - Nicotine Version >



Healthy Futures - Cannabis Version >

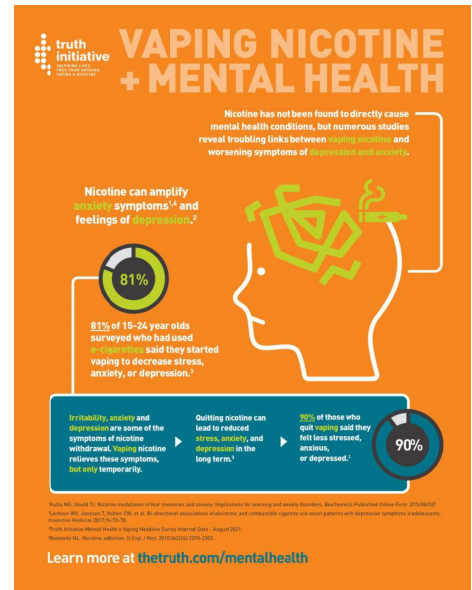
# Students served

- 331 referrals last school year (accounted for in the referral form)
  - More students were served through our new intervention REACH
- We are currently working with over 90 students so far this year (this includes new referrals and students who are still receiving support from last school year)
- We anticipate this number will continue to grow



# What are we seeing?

- Primarily nicotine and THC
  - Alcohol, oxys, opioid pills, psilocybin should be discussed
- Most students report using substances as a way to relieve mental health symptoms
- Students are not always ready to quit- but they are interested in learning more about impacts of their use
- Many students report that family members are aware of their use
- Changes in society norms/expectations make this a difficult landscape to navigate with students



# Classroom Resources

## [Minnesota Nicotine Dependence and Education Resources](#)



**Stanford**  
MEDICINE

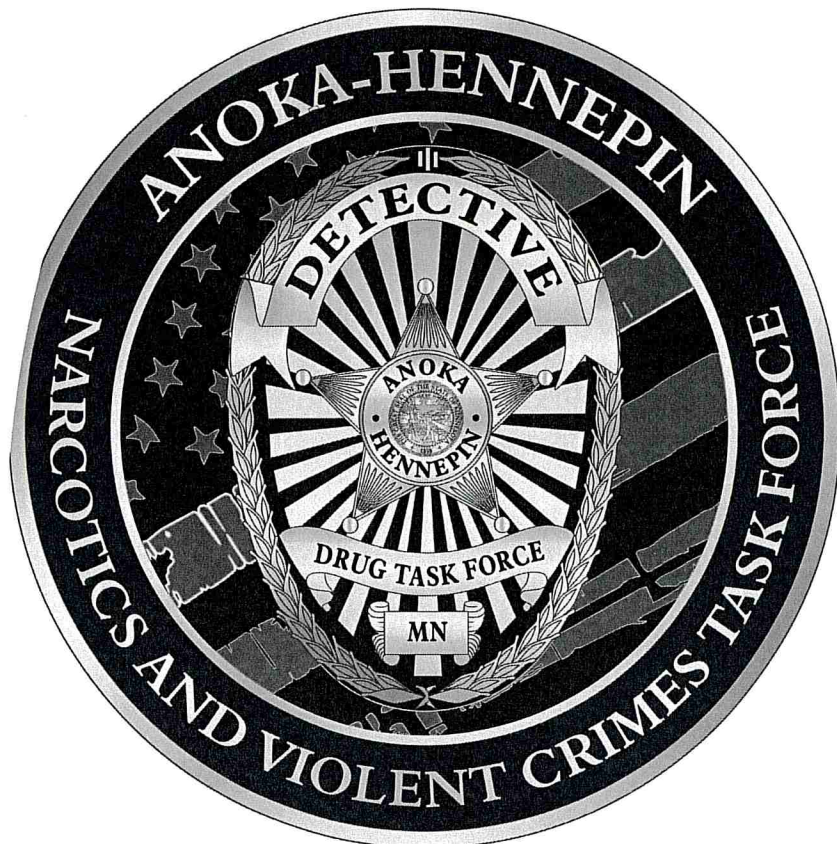
REACH Lab



Anoka  
Hennepin  
Violent  
Offender Task  
Force

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LT. Derek Schuldt



## Task Force make up/Duties

- Investigate High-level narcotics crimes
- Apprehend violent offenders
  
- 18 members in the unit
- 15 Detectives, 2 Analysts, Admin assistant
- Cover Anoka and Hennepin County

## 2023 statistics

- Worked 537 cases, conducted 229 search warrants
- Seizures Cocaine 27 lbs
- Methamphetamine 17 lbs
- Heroin 5 lbs
- Fentanyl 12,953 doses
- 27 firearms
- Approx \$80,000

## 2024 YTD statistics

- 336 cases
- 128 search warrants
- Cocaine 4 lbs
- Fentanyl pills 7,832
- Fentanyl powder 1 lb
- Methamphetamine 108 lbs
- 19 firearms

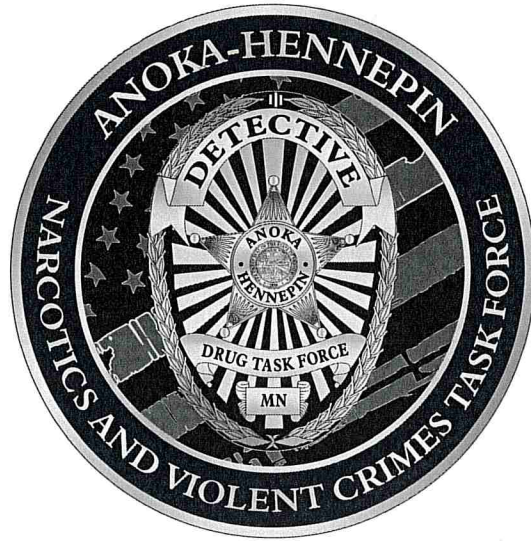
## Society effect from Opioids

- Violent crime and property crimes continue to be a major issue with fentanyl/opioid trafficking.
- Property crimes are frequently used to fund an individual's addiction.
  - Home burglaries, retail theft, car theft, stolen property, catalytic converter thefts, etc.
- Violent crime can occur to maintain a DTO's territorial control or during a drug "rip".




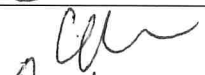

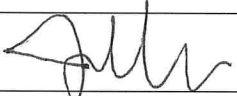

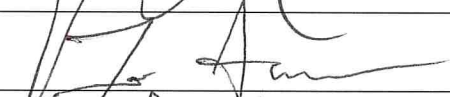
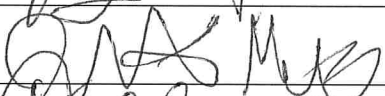
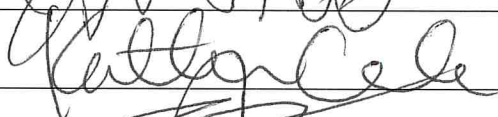


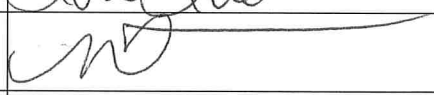

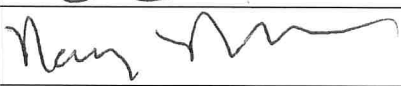
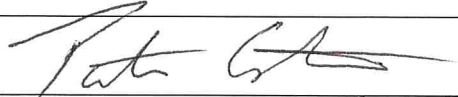
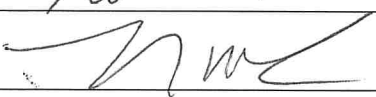
## Obstacles to Opioid enforcement

- There is not a solid presumptive test for fentanyl
- Statistical tracking is largely unreliable for OD's

Questions?



# Anoka County Opioid Advisory Council Meeting Sign-In / December 13, 2024

Name	Signature	Representing
Carrie Wood		Operations Lieutenant, Anoka County Jail / Sheriff's Office
Chris McCook		Associate Health Education Specialist / Anoka County Public Health & AmeriCorps
Christina Lefkowich		Director of Treatment Service, Riverplace Counseling Center
Corey Kohan		Senior Manager, Rum River Campus Anoka County Community Corrections
Derek Schuldt		Narcotics and Violent Crime Lieutenant, Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Diana Hoffman		Senior Social Worker, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Dorian Harvey		Community Member
George Borrell		Director, Anoka County Social Services and Behavioral Health
Jess VanKuyk		Senior Manager, Anoka County Children and Family Services
Joshua VanHeuveln		Chemical Health Professional, Anoka-Hennepin Schools
Joe Amerman		Cannabis Planner / Anoka County Public Health
Justin McNeal		Executive Director, Begin Anew Recovery
Katherine Cole		Supervisor, Anoka County Public Health Budget and Technology
Lacey Towe		Forensic Technician, Midwest Medical Examiner's Office
Lori Lachner		Community Member
Megan Schueller		Supervisor, Anoka County Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder
Molly Nee		Senior Communications Specialist, Anoka County
Musab Adam		Director of Community Relations, Access Healing Center
Nancy Norman		Anoka County Attorney's Office
Nicholas Warnke		Community Member
Patti Constant		Opioid Prevention Specialist, Anoka County Public Health
Randi Prebil		Health Promotion and Planning Manager, Anoka County Public Health
	<b>CONTINUED</b>	





# ANOKA COUNTY OPIOID SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

## Opioid Advisory Council Agenda

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00-11:00 am

Blaine Human Service Center, Room 2402

***Mission:** To improve health, save lives, and reduce the impact caused by opioids and other substances in Anoka County by managing opioid settlement funding and supporting strategic partnerships.*

***Vision:** All Anoka County residents and partners are supported, engaged, and prepared to overcome the opioid crisis and meet the challenges related to substance use in the community.*

### Call to Order

1. **Welcome and Moment of Grounding**
2. **11-8-2024 Meeting Minutes Approval**
3. **12-13-2024 Meeting Agenda Approval**
4. **RFP Update**
5. **Membership Discussion**
  - **Who / what is missing at this table?**
6. **Data Discussion**
  - **Does what you are all seeing MATCH what Cassie shared at last meeting?**
7. **Member Presentation**
  - **Josh VanHeuveln, Anoka-Hennepin Schools**
8. **Member Presentation**
  - **Derek Schuldt, Anoka County Sheriff's Office / Drug Task Force**
9. **Closing**

