
Preventing Opioid-Related Fentanyl Overdoses

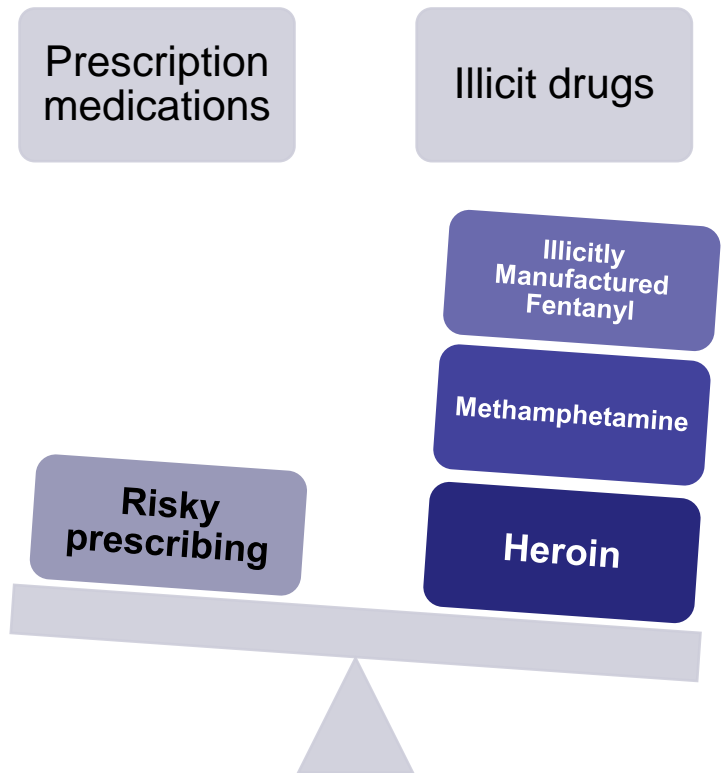
Senate Health Care Committee Informational Hearing

Rachel Banks, MPA
Public Health Director
Oregon Health Authority

June 2, 2022

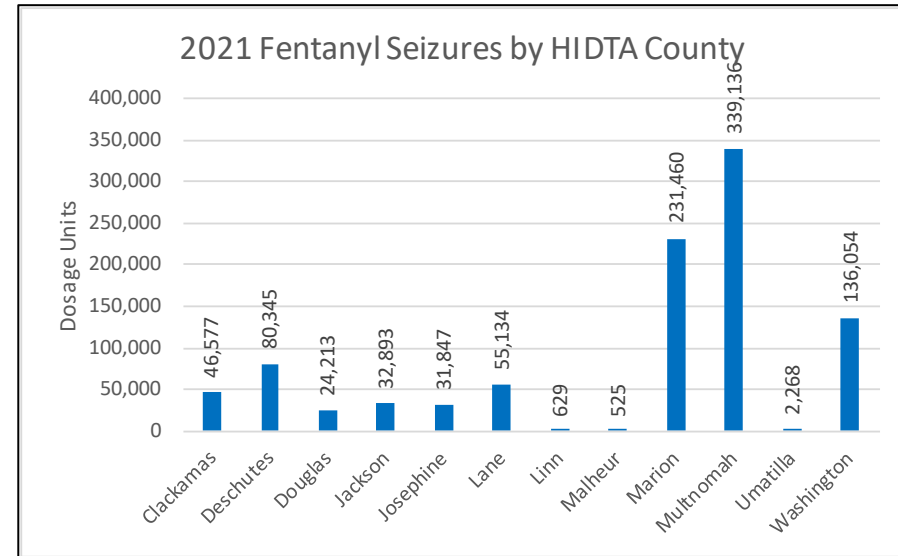
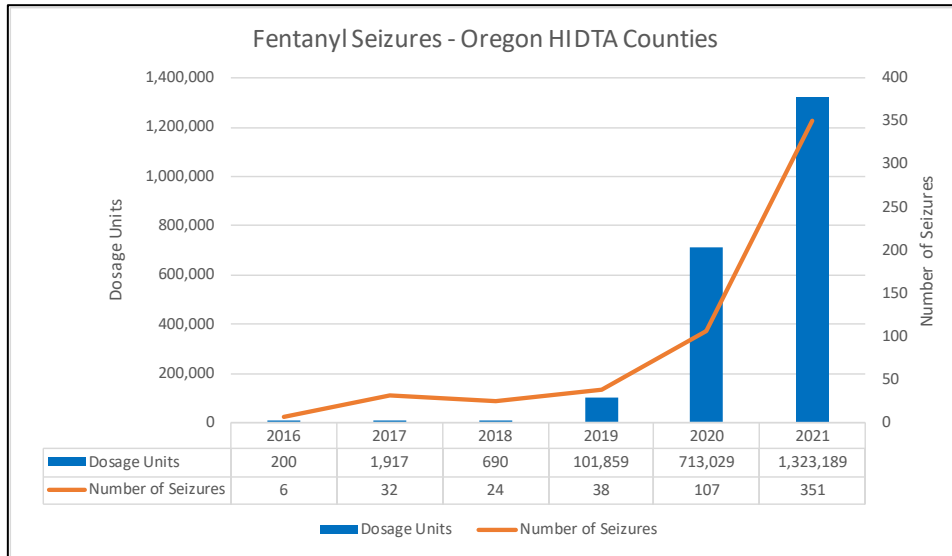


The changing overdose epidemic

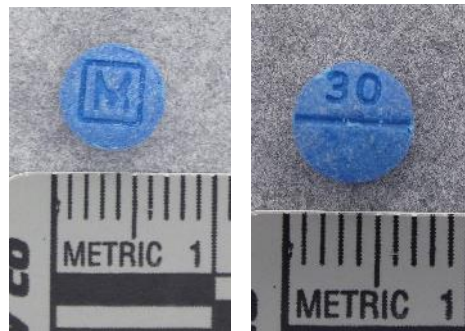


- Fewer deaths & overdoses from Rx medications
- More deaths & overdoses from illicit drugs

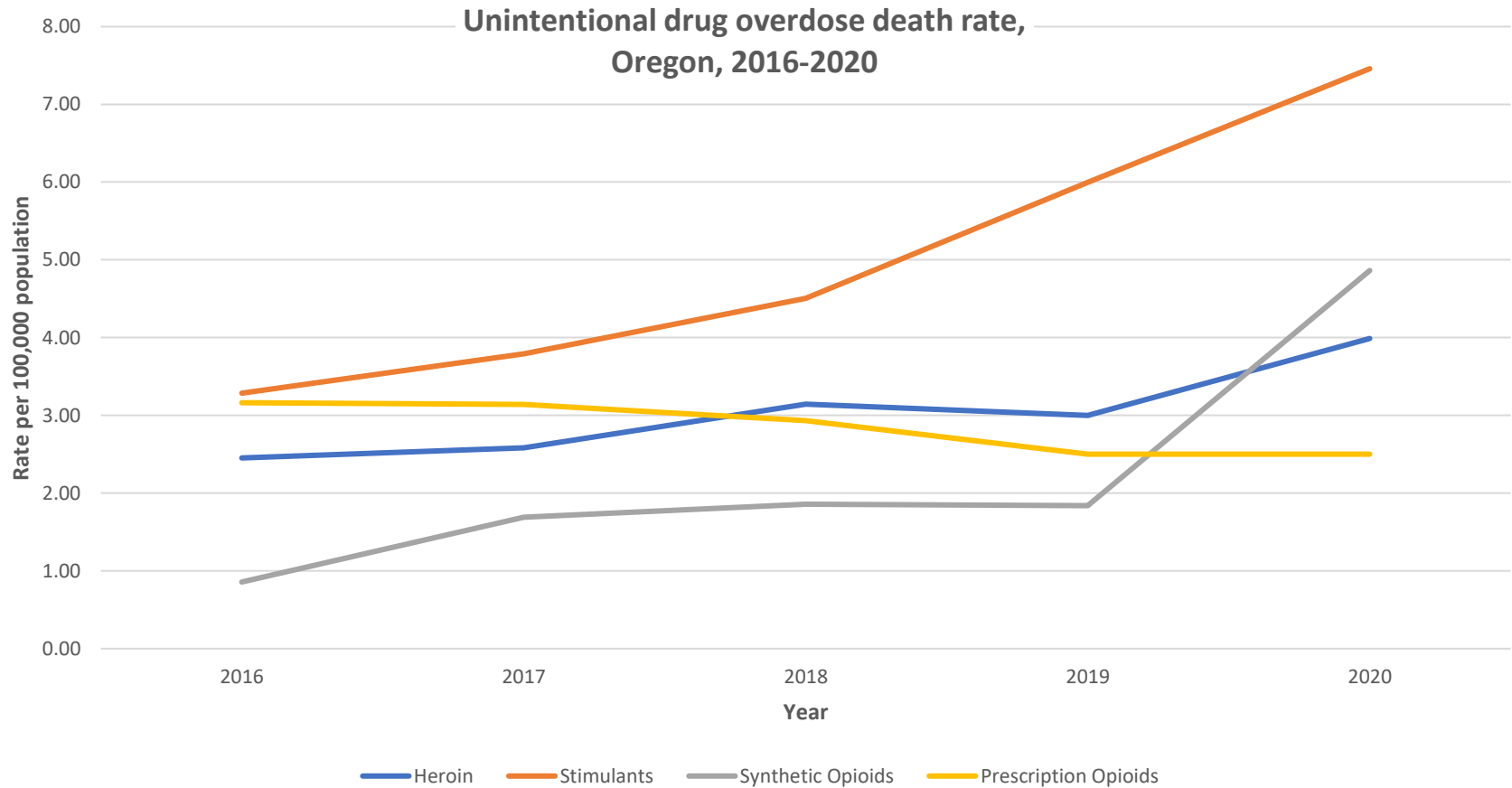
Seizures of fentanyl are increasing



**This data is specific to HIDTA counties, not all counties in Oregon*



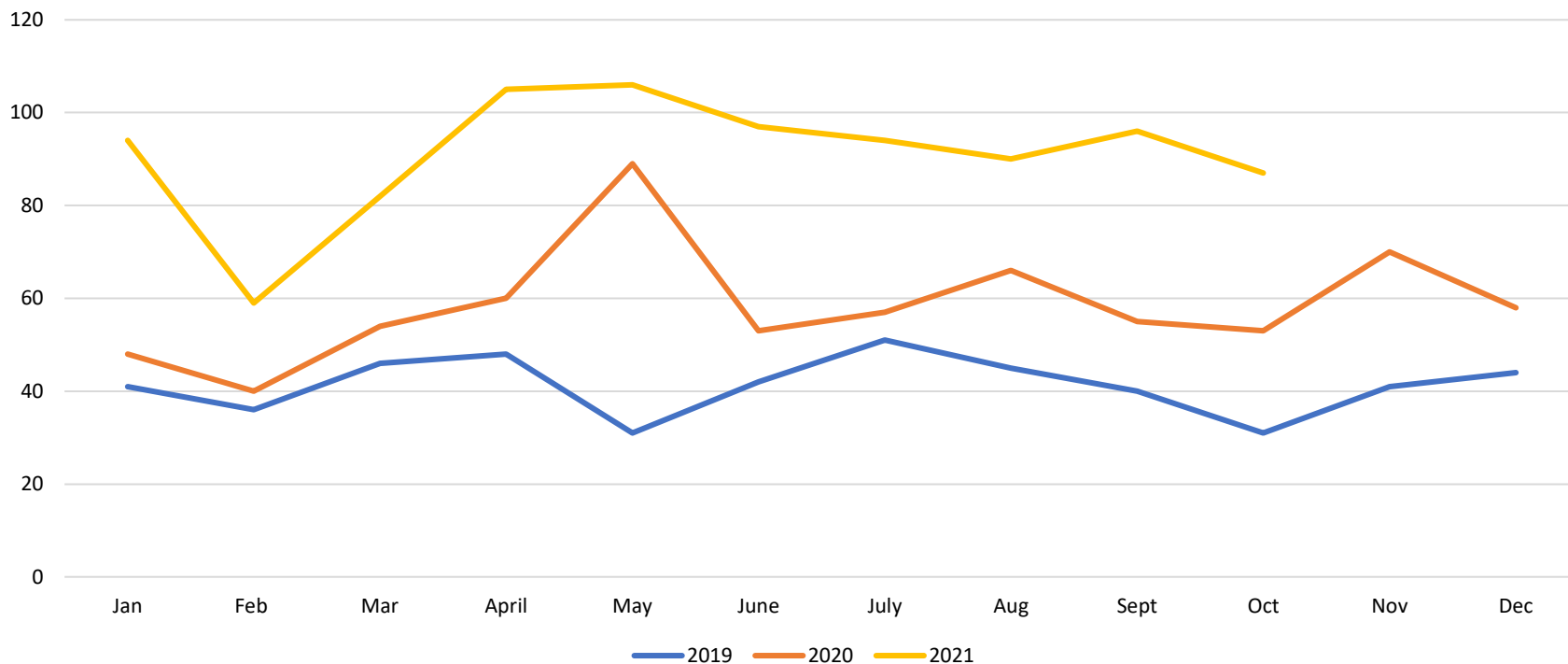
Overdose deaths from stimulants, heroin and synthetic opioids are rising



Source: Oregon Vital Records (Deaths), OHA Center for Health Statistics

These trends have continued through 2021

Unintentional/Undetermined **Total Drug Overdose Deaths**,
Oregon, Jan 2019 – Oct 2021*

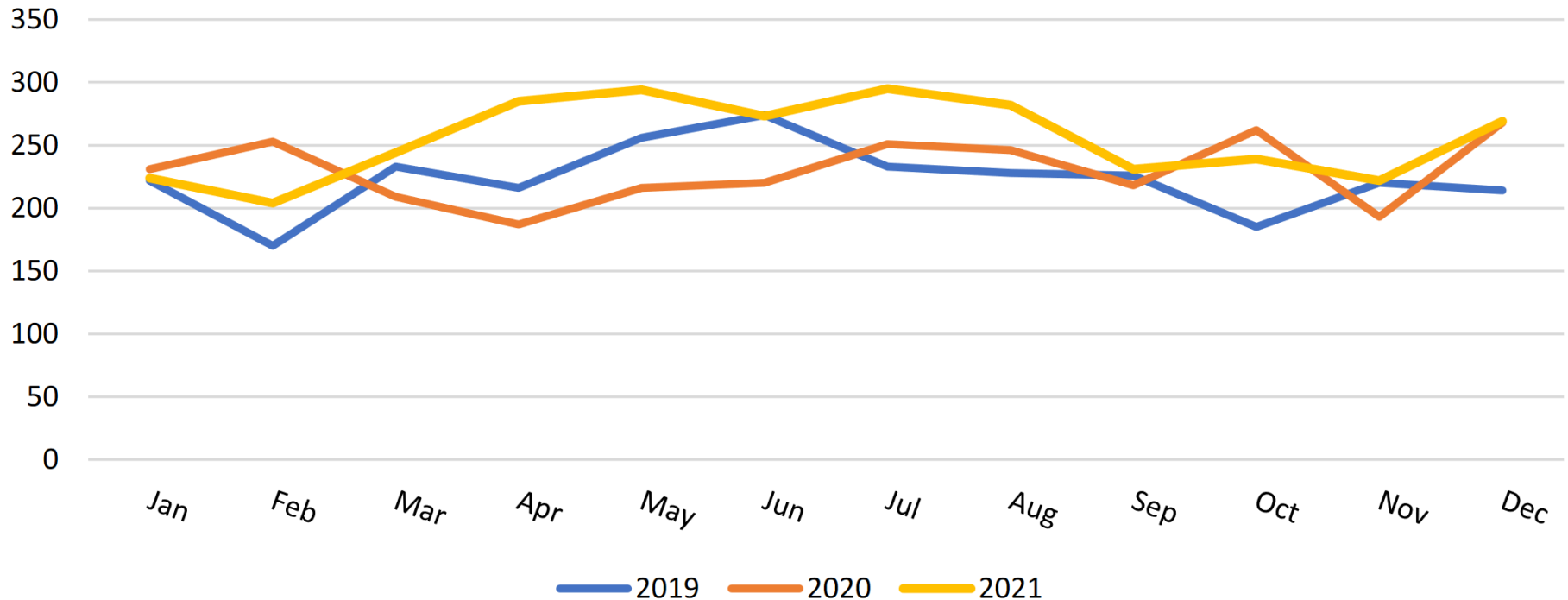


*2021 data is preliminary and subject to change

Source: Oregon State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Emergency department and urgent care visits are up

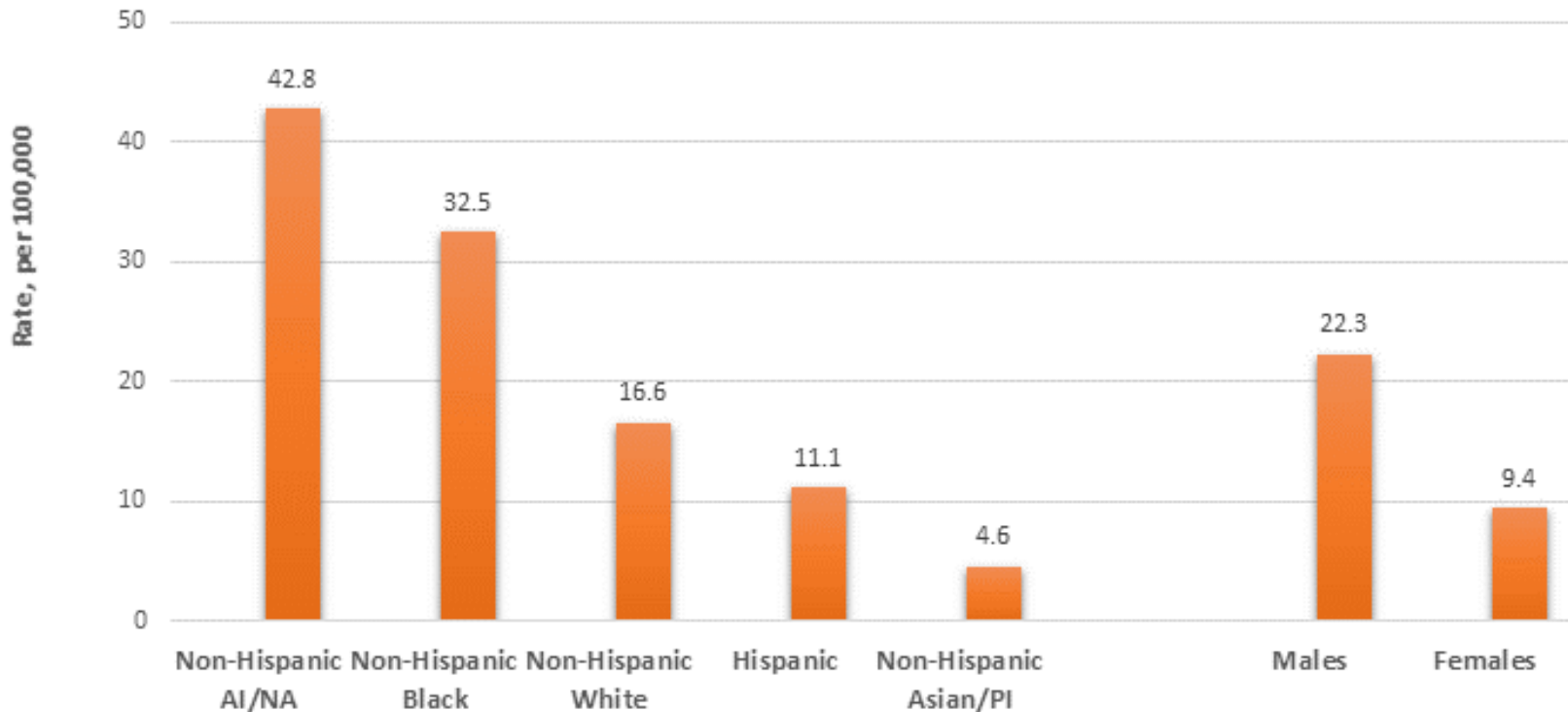
Opioid overdose visits to EDs and UCCs
Monthly 2019-2021



Source: [January 2022 Monthly Opioid Overdose Data Report](#)

Some groups bear disproportionate burden of overdose death

Crude Rates of Unintentional Drug Overdose Death by Race / Ethnicity and Sex, Oregon, 2020



Source: Oregon State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Youth overdoses are rising but represent a small proportion of all overdose deaths

Unintentional/undetermined **drug overdose deaths** by year,
Oregon, 2019-2021

Year	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-44	Ages 45-64	Ages >=65	Total
2019	**	33 (7%)	212 (43%)	211 (42%)	38 (8%)	496
2020	5 (<1%)	68 (10%)	312 (44%)	262 (37%)	56 (8%)	703
2021*	15 (1%)	77 (8%)	422 (43%)	392 (40%)	66 (7%)	972

*Many overdose deaths in 4th quarter of 2021 are not included

**Numbers <5 are suppressed to protect potentially identifiable data

Due to rounding errors and suppression, numbers may not add to 100

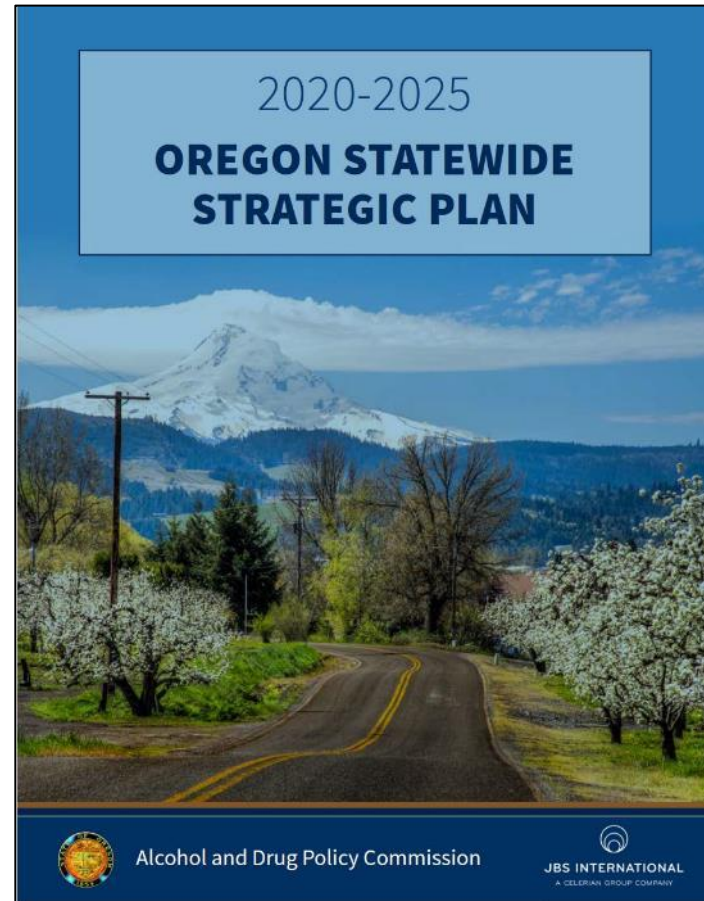
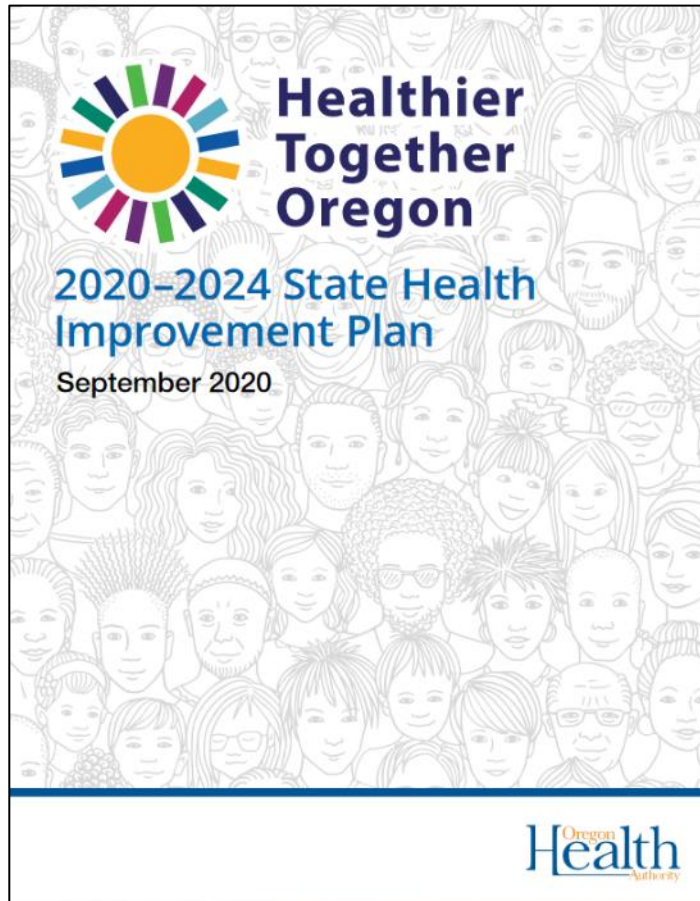
Youth overdoses are rising but represent a small proportion of all overdose deaths

Unintentional/undetermined **opioid overdose deaths** by year, Oregon, 2019-2021

Year	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-24	Ages 25-44	Ages 45-64	Ages >=65	Total
2019	0 (0%)	11 (15%)	48 (67%)	11 (15%)	**	71
2020	5 (2%)	44 (19%)	128 (56%)	46 (20%)	**	226
2021*	11 (2%)	60 (13%)	230 (50%)	132 (29%)	22 (5%)	455

*Many overdose deaths in 4th quarter of 2021 are not included
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Aligning Oregon's response



Overdose prevention needs culturally and community specific responses

Affordable, geographically accessible, culturally responsive services:

- Substance use disorder treatment
- Mental health services
- Harm reduction (naloxone kits & training, sterile syringes, fentanyl test strips)
- Housing support
- Non-opioid pain management services, tools & education



The screenshot shows the top of a website with the logo "heal SAFELY" in the top left. A navigation bar includes "Get Started", "Real Stories", "Resources", "Toolkit", and "Make your plan". A search bar with "Español" is visible. The main content area features a portrait of a smiling woman of color. Overlaid on the image is the quote: **"Pain is personal. Healing is too."** Below the quote, it says: "Planning ahead can help you find better ways to heal—without the risks of prescription opioids." At the bottom left of the image is a green button that says "DOWNLOAD YOUR PLAN".

The screenshot shows a website with the logo "Reverse Opioid Overdose Oregon" in the top left. A navigation bar includes "What is Naloxone?", "Get Started", "Resources", "Media", and "Español". The main heading is "Reverse an opioid overdose with lifesaving naloxone." Below this, there is a paragraph of text: "Naloxone is a medication that works to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose when administered properly and at the right time. By enrolling, you are often the first to come upon someone who has overdosed. Because this can happen anywhere—everywhere in the world—you and your employees can be prepared to act and reverse an overdose by getting trained to administer naloxone." Below the text is a green button that says "Get empowered. Help save a life." To the right is a video player showing a woman with glasses speaking, with a play button icon in the center.

State & local level response

- Multi-sector
- Continues to evolve
- Essential aspect of COVID pandemic response & recovery
- Must address immediate crisis and root causes

Future needs:

- Stigma reduction
- Fentanyl education
- Focus on methamphetamine



Harm reduction components

Fentanyl test strips

Syringe services

Naloxone & training

Crisis support

Stigma reduction

Low-barrier housing

Employment opportunities

Peer connections

Connections to treatment

<https://www.hhs.gov/overdose-prevention/harm-reduction>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/harm-reduction>

We should move upstream and implement a shared risk and protective factor approach

Risk factors for drug use

- Genetic predisposition to addiction or exposure to alcohol prenatally
- Mental health issues
- Adverse Childhood Experiences: ACES
- Neighborhood poverty and violence
- Racism and lack of economic opportunity
- Poor social coping skills
- Affiliations with peers displaying negative behaviors
- Perceptions of approval of drug-using behaviors in family, work, school, peer, and community environments

Protective factors for drug use

- Strong and positive family bonds
- Positive self-image
- Emotional self-regulation
- Positive peer group
- Availability of faith-based resources and after-school activities
- Academic success
- Hate-crime laws
- Policies limiting the availability of alcohol

