# Merilee Fowler

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Yavapai County Rural County in Center of Arizona

Population – 225,000 9 incorporated municipalities Over 20 unincorporated communities 2 tribal nations Over 8000 square miles



## Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board

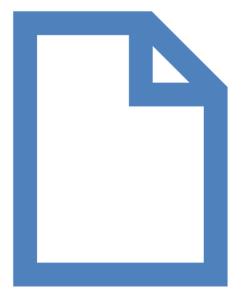


Formed in 2016

Idea of coalition member during planning session

Create an annual report each year.

What do we include in our annual report?



## **Current Overdose Trends in Yavapai County**



Fentanyl overdose deaths increased by over 7 times in 6 years. It was a contributing factor in 59% of deaths in 2021.

633% increase

47% increase

in overdose deaths from 2020 to 2021 in 31- to 40-year-olds

#### **Poly Drug Use**

A majority of overdose deaths involved

Multiple drugs in system.

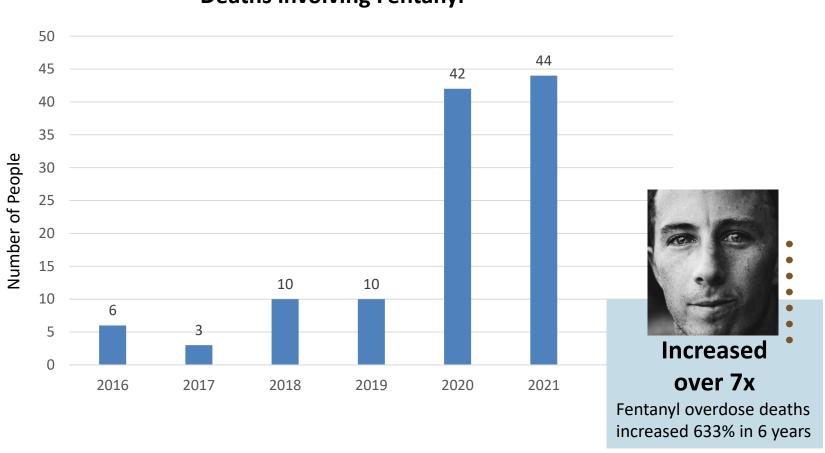


#### TheNewMeth.com

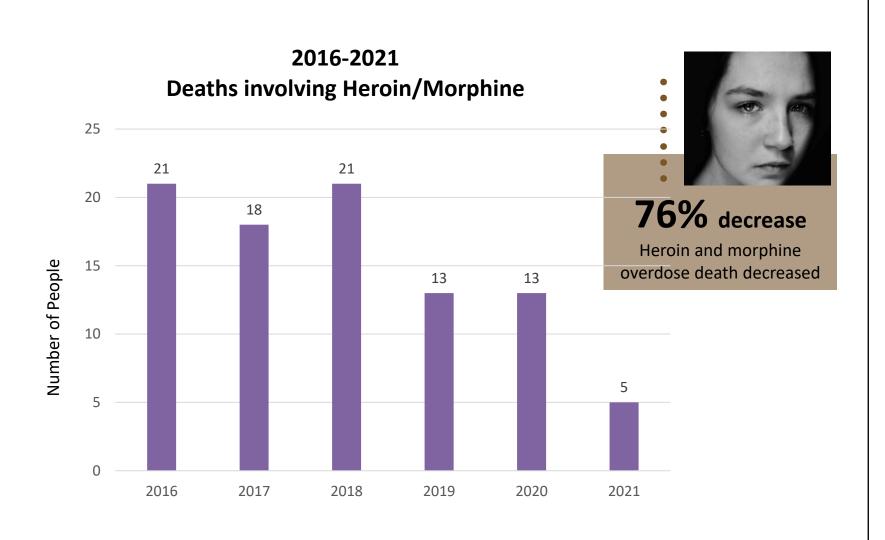
Methamphetamine was a contributing factor in over 38% of the 2021 overdose deaths in Yavapai County. Deaths involving methamphetamine have almost tripled since 2016.

### **Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl**

2016-2021 Deaths involving Fentanyl

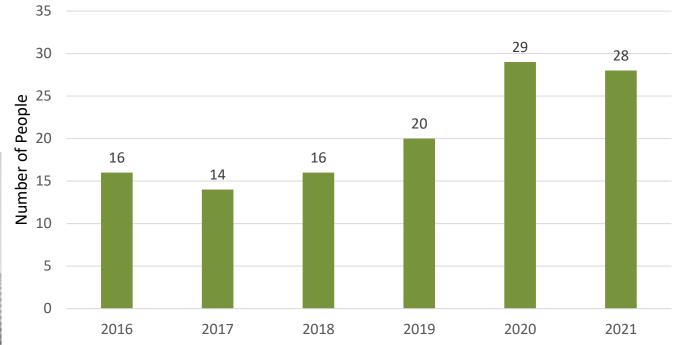


# **Overdose Deaths Involving Heroin**



# **Overdose Deaths Involving Meth**

2016-2021
Deaths involving Methamphetamine

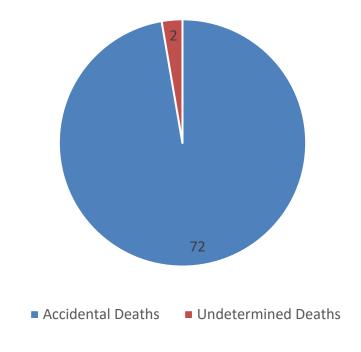


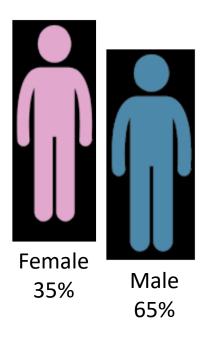


75% Methamphetamine overdose deaths

# **Demographics of Deaths**

# 2021 Drug Related Deaths Manner of Death

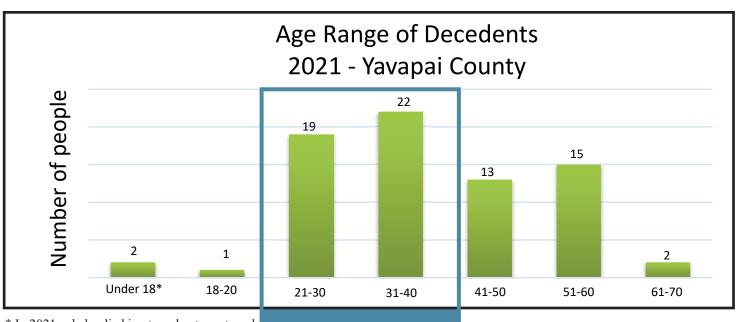




# Of the 74 drug-related deaths

48 of the decedents were male 26 of the decedents were female

# **Age Range of Deaths**



\* In 2021, a baby died in utero due to maternal fentanyl use, and a 12-year-old overdosed on methadone.

55% of overdose deaths were between 20 and 40 years of age



# 2021 Overdose Deaths by Month

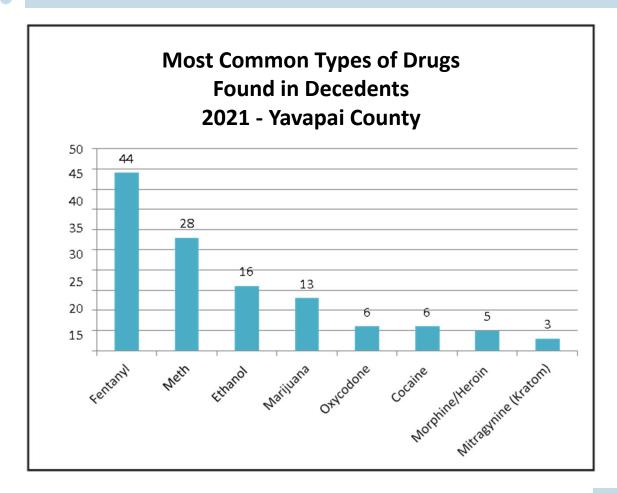
January	4 deaths	July	8 deaths
February	4 deaths	August	9 deaths
March	7 deaths	September	6 deaths
April	5 deaths	October	3 deaths
May	7 deaths	November	7 deaths
June	5 deaths	December	9 deaths

#### **Location of Deaths**

- 28 Deaths in Prescott
- 10 Deaths in Prescott Valley
- 7 Deaths in Camp Verde
- 7 Deaths in Cottonwood
- 4 Deaths in Clarkdale
- 3 Deaths in Mayer
- 2 Deaths in Chino Valley
- 2 Deaths in Dewey
- 2 Deaths in Paulden
- 1 Unknown

- 1 Death in Black
   Canyon City
- 1 Death in Cornville
- 1 Death in Humboldt
- 1 Death in Rimrock
- 1 Death in Sedona
- 1 Death in Tonto
   National Forest
- 1 Death in Wilhoit
- 1 Death in Yarnell

# Chart of Most Common Drugs Found for Year

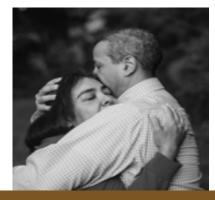




**3rd** highest

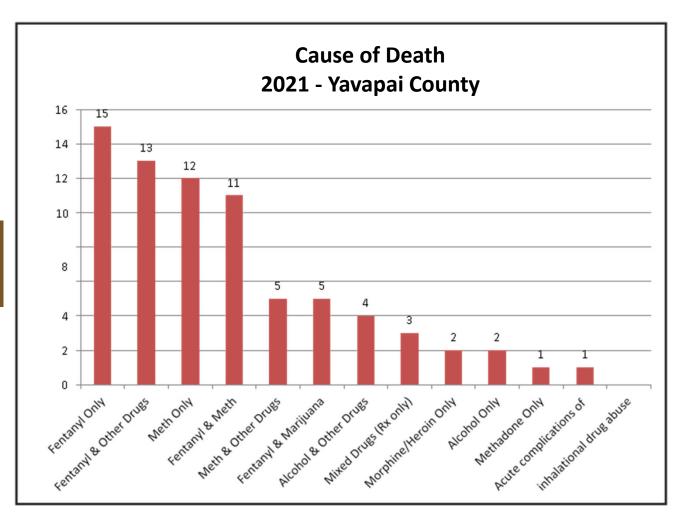
Alcohol surpassed marijuana as the third most common drug found in overdose deaths

# Chart of Causes of Death- ME Reports



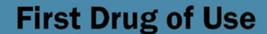
 $59\sqrt[6]{0}$  of overdose deaths involved fentanyl

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#### **Commonalities of Decedents**

as identified by the Overdose Fatality Review Board





70% used alcohol and marijuana at an early age

#### **Criminal History**



24% were on probation or parole at the time of death

50% had spent time in jail and or prison

# History of Suicide Attempts

16% had a history of suicide attempts

. . . . . . . . . .



#### **Behavioral Health**



60% had a reported mental illness

#### **Commonalities of Decedents**

as identified by the Overdose Fatality Review Board

#### **Employment** & Housing



71% were unemployed at time of death

27% were homeless at time of death

#### **Health Issues**

48% had significant medical issues



#### **Prescription Opioids**



were prescribed opioids by a doctor at some time

#### **Substance Abuse Treatment**

outpatient treatment

57% had received inpatient treatment

50% had received 22% had received Medication Assisted Treatment

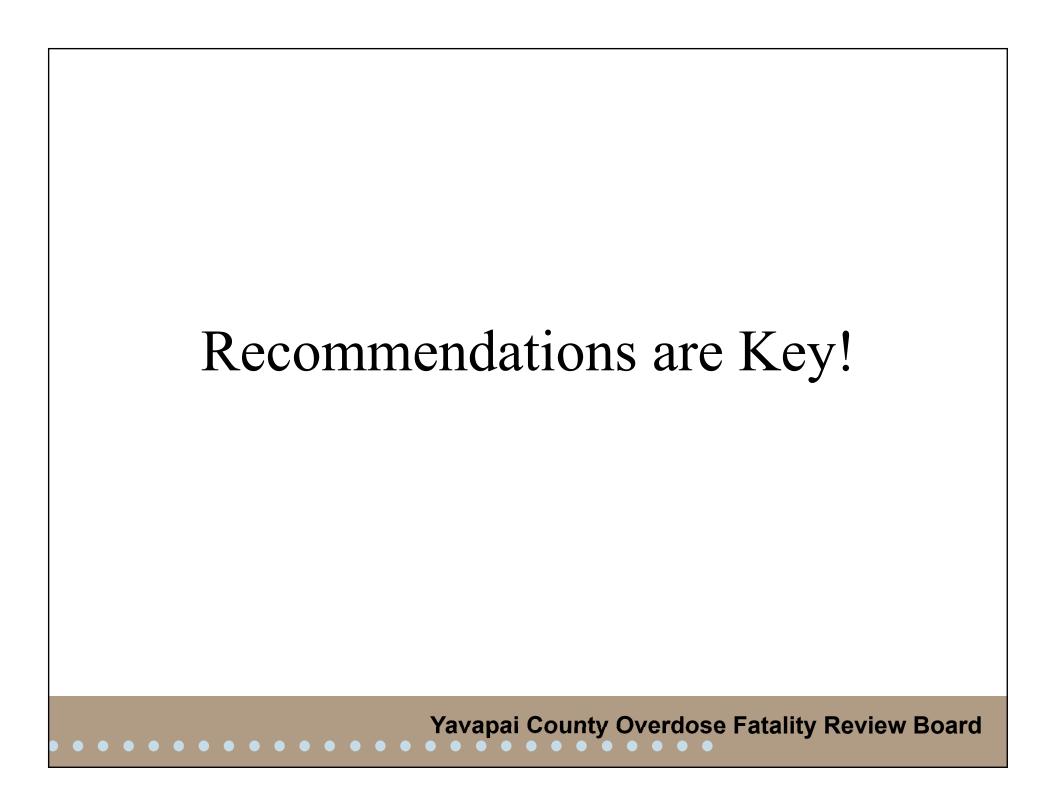
> 18% came to Yavapai County for treatment



#### **Family History of Substance Abuse**



50% had family members with a history of drug and alcohol addiction



# Recommendations and Findings for the Medical Community

- 1. Create a fact sheet to distribute to medical offices outlining how a COVID diagnosis can impact individuals with problematic drug use.
- 2. Develop a public awareness campaign on the adverse medical effects of drug use.

#### Recommendations and Findings for Substance Abuse Treatment, Recovery, and Mental Health Services

1. Provide support and recognition to staff members working in treatment and recovery.

2. Work to create effective community support, family support, and peer support when individuals are released from sober living and recovery facilities. Determine what will motivate the client to stay proactive.

## **Recommendations Regarding Policy**

- 1. Enroll a minimum of 100 drug prevention advocates in the Request to Speak system at the state legislature.
- 2. Increase support for the legislation, such as a drug Homicide Bill, that will result in a reduction of drug overdose deaths in Arizona.
- 3. Advocate to make Kratom an illegal substance: Investigate how bath salts were made illegal in Yavapai County and how this process can be applied to Kratom.



#### In crisis? Call 24/7 (877) 756-4090

- Care1st Health Plan Arizona (866) 560-4042
- Catholic Charities (928) 778-2531
- Dept. of Economic Security (928) 277-2800
- Health Choice Arizona (928) 774-7128
- SW Behavioral & Health Services (928) 772-1610

- Spectrum Healthcare (928) 778-0330
- West Yavapai Guidance Clinic (928) 445-5211
- Yavapai Community Health (928) 583-1000
- Yavapai Regional Medical Center (928) 445-2700



#### In crisis? Call 24/7 (877) 756-4090

- Care1st Health Plan Arizona (866) 560-4042
- Catholic Charities (928) 634-4254
- Dept. of Economic Security (928) 649-6800
- Health Choice Arizona (928) 774-7128
- SW Behavioral & Health Services (928) 772-1610

- Spectrum Healthcare (928) 634-2236
- Verde Valley Medical Center (928) 634-2251
- Yavapai Community Health (928) 6396-8132



# Recommendations and Findings for Prevention

- 1. Continue the implementation of the fentanyl awareness campaign.
  - Continue to educate about the lethal dose in counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl.
  - Emphasize that 42% of counterfeit pills are deadly.
  - Develop and increase fentanyl messaging for youth and young adults.
  - Distribute educational materials to construction and hospitality locations.
- 2. Continue to increase access to and availability of naloxone.
  - Distribute naloxone to construction and hospitality locations in Yavapai County.

# How do we inform our community?

# Annual Meeting



#### Overdose Fatality Review Board | Annual Report

Join community leaders and key stakeholders as the Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board announces the findings and recommendations from the **2022**Annual Report.

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022** 11:00 am | Virtual • • • • •

Register here for this free, virtual event or visit matforce.org for more information.



# Distribution of information



**Press Releases** 



Articles written by reporters



Social Media Posts



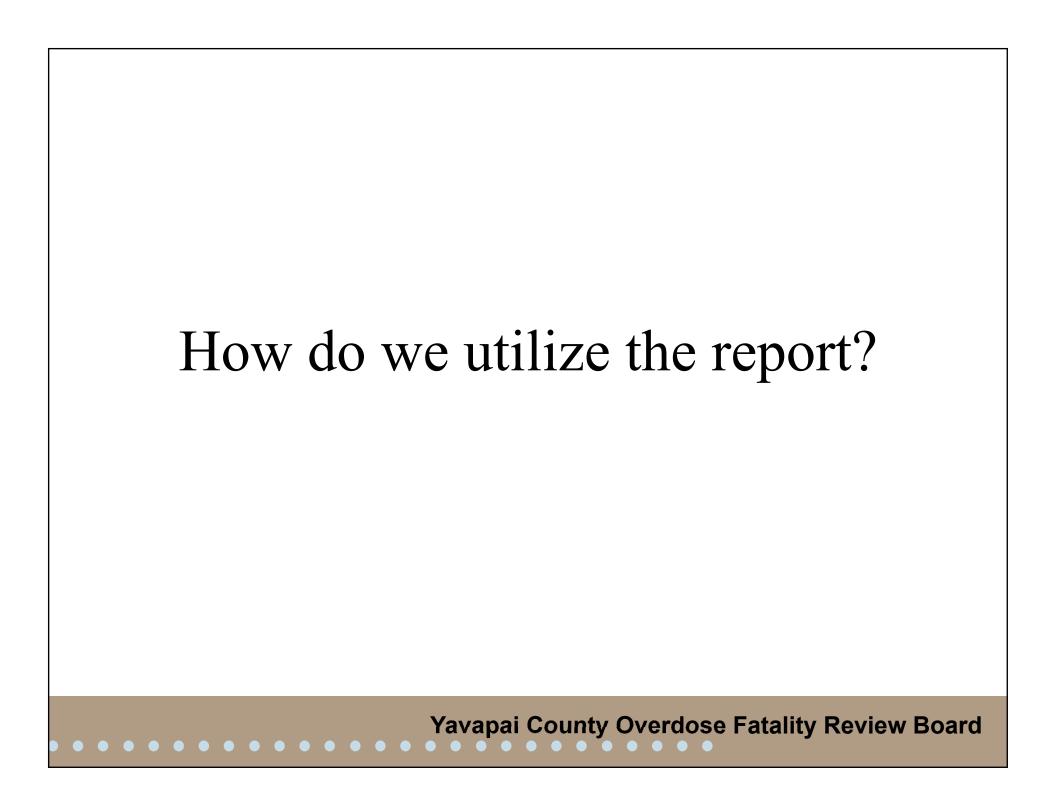
Distribution of Reports



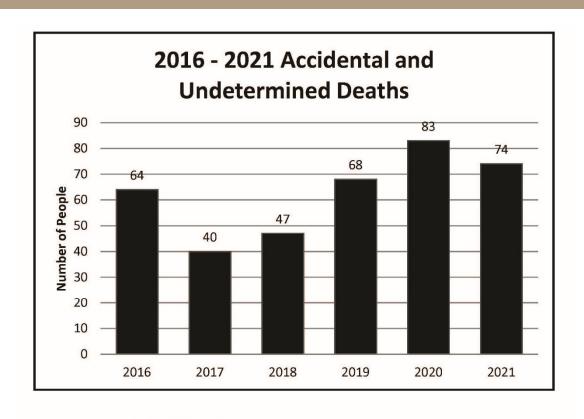
Presentations to Service Clubs, other groups

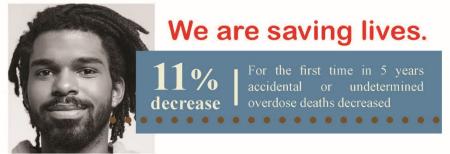


Capacity Building through coalition!



#### **Celebrate Successes!**





# Recommendations to Action!

• What are we doing to prevent overdose deaths?

