



Overdose Prevention & Response Strategic Overview

Dedra Barrow, MPH
Program Manager

September 2024



2024-2029 Public Health Strategic Plan Priorities



Learn more: www.kingcounty.gov/health/strategicplan



Emerging Threats to Community Health & Well-being

Overdose Prevention and Well-being for People Who Use Drugs

GOAL: Make evidence-based, culturally appropriate services accessible for every individual who uses drugs while reducing stigma around substance use disorders and reducing overdose deaths.

- **Objective 1:** By 2025 and every two years thereafter, **evaluate ongoing overdose prevention activities** and explore research on emerging and existing overdose prevention best practices and apply those findings to implement changes in service delivery, training, communications strategies, and harm reduction supplies.
- **Objective 2:** By 2026, **conduct 36 trainings per year and produce at least one communication campaign/strategy** to improve community knowledge about overdose risks and protective factors, empathy, and understanding of the impact of stigma.
- **Objective 3:** By 2029, expand reach of health strategies that reduce harm by **increasing the distribution of harm reduction resources and supplies** from Public Health and partners by 15% per year.
- **Objective 4:** By 2029, increase access and linkage to evidence-based **medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)**.



Overdose Prevention & Response at Public Health



Our Vision

We are working towards a future where people who use drugs can access care without barriers. Care that is:

- Timely
- Compassionate
- Evidence-based
- People-centered



Our Mission

Our work prevents overdoses, saves lives, and improves quality of life for all county residents.

Guiding Principles



**Our work
is driven
by these
principles:**

- » Based on person-centered services, we lead with health equity and decreasing harm for PWUD
- » Informed by community-based, lived & living experiences of PWUD
- » Anti-racist and driven to eliminate disparities in services and outcomes
- » Data-driven and focused on addressing root causes
- » Open to innovative approaches
- » Responsive, adaptive, transparent, and accountable

Problems We're Addressing:

Toxic Drug Supply

- >> The availability of low-cost, lethal drugs like fentanyl has significantly increased the risk



Overdose Rates Are Too High

- >> The rate of overdose death shows signs of decreasing, but is still alarmingly high



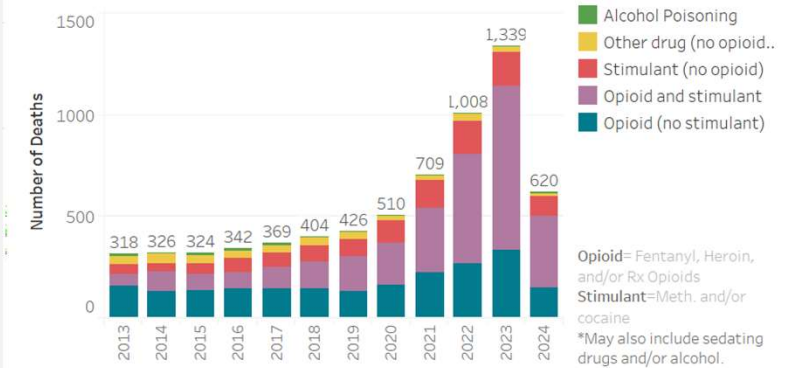
Disproportionate Impacts

- >> This health crisis disproportionately harms BIPOC communities & people living unsheltered



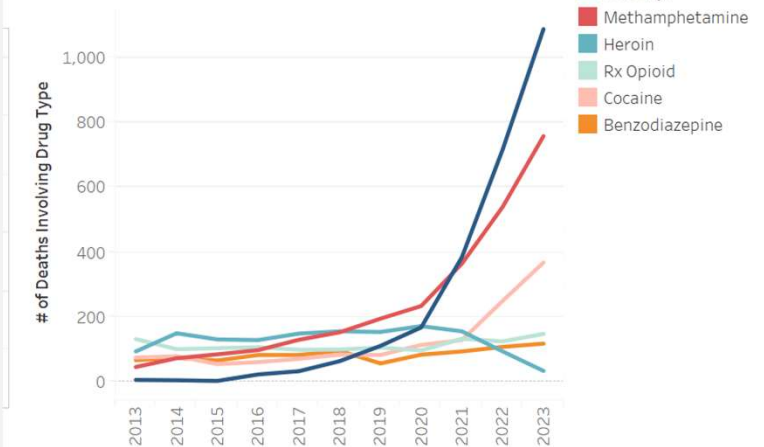
Drug & Alcohol Poisoning Deaths, King County

(Note: Bar chart can be viewed in terms of counts or rates; each decedent with an overdose death is represented once.)



Drugs Involved in Confirmed Overdose Deaths

(Note: A decedent may be represented in multiple lines)



Strategic Pillars: How we are lowering barriers to access

01



Improve access to evidence-based care

02



Advance innovative health strategies that reduce harm for people who use drugs

03



Promote the dignity of people who use drugs through compassionate, non-judgmental practices

We work across a continuum of overdose prevention services





Prevention & Early Intervention

Key Programs

- » Awareness & education campaigns

- » Education and training for community & providers

- » Overdose prevention text alerts

- » Youth Healing Project

2024 Progress: Prevention & Early Intervention

1,050+

people trained on overdose
prevention & response in
2024

3,000+

engagements with public
information campaigns in
2024

19,000+

posters, pamphlets and
educational materials
distributed in 2024



Harm Reduction

Key Programs

- » Harm reduction clearinghouse

- » Harm reduction vending machines

- » Drug checking services

- » Syringe Service Programs

- » Mobile Medical Van & Street Medicine Teams

- » Naloxone “leave behind” program

2024 Progress: Harm Reduction

63,600+

naloxone kits distributed
in 2024

63,300+

fentanyl test strips
distributed in 2024

450+

drug samples tested in
2024



Treatment & Management of Substance Use Disorders

Key Programs

- » 24/7 buprenorphine prescribing line

- » Bupe Pathways clinic

- » Mobile Medical Van & Street Medicine teams

- » Healthcare for the Homeless Network contracted services

- » EMS overdose response & field buprenorphine initiation

- » Jail Health Services Substance Use Disorder Program

2024 Progress:

Treatment & Management of Substance Use Disorders

200+

buprenorphine prescriptions
through hotline in 2024

Seattle Fire began
buprenorphine field initiation
pilot, King County EMS pilot is
planned for 2024

11,900+

people received medication
for opioid use disorder
through Medicaid in 2023



Community Supports & System Coordination

Key Programs

- » Care Navigators to link individuals at risk of overdose to medication and harm reduction

- » Opioid settlement

- » Opioid Abatement Council

- » Housing provider community of practice (FPHS activity)

- » Addiction medicine learning collaborative

2024 Progress: Community Supports & System Coordination

6 care navigators working in public safety, healthcare and community settings

Investing an estimated \$68.9 million in opioid settlement funds over 17 years

100 people from 30 organizations participating in housing provider community of practice



Data & Evaluation

Key Programs

- » Fatal overdose deaths investigation

- » Overdose Fatality Review

- » Real time fatal and non-fatal overdose surveillance

- » WA State Overdose Surveillance Network

A vision for hope:

Long Acting Injectable Bupe

- More medications to treat opioid use & reduce risk of overdose are becoming available, including long acting injectables

Crisis Care Centers

- This investment will create 5 new walk-in facilities where people having a substance use or other behavioral health crisis can get help

Post-overdose Recovery Center

- This center will provide a place for those recovering from overdose to stabilize, get care, start medications, and connect to resources

