

# OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN KENOSHA COUNTY

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KENOSHA COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE, KENOSHA COUNTY PUBLIC  
HEALTH, KENOSHA COUNTY AGING, DISABILITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



# TOXICITY DEATHS

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- Illegal drugs- Heroin, Cocaine, Fentanyl Analogs
- Abuse of prescription medications
- Xanax, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Valium
- Alcohol
- [Death Statistics | Kenosha County, WI - Official Website](#)

# TOXICITY RATES IN KENOSHA COUNTY

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- 2022 – 13 deaths (8 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog as of 05/20/2022)
- The county had 51 suspected overdoses that EMS has responded to from January-March
- 2021 – 53 deaths (40 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog)
- 2020 – 49 deaths (24 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog)
- 2019 – 30 deaths (16 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog)
- 2018 – 46 deaths (11 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog)
- 2017 – 57 deaths (22 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog)
- 2016 – 54 deaths (6 positive for fentanyl or fentanyl analog)

# FENTANYL HAS CHANGED - HOW WE RESPOND

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- Types of gloves used – nitrile gloves only
- Additional needle stick/PPE precautions
- All DMEs and laboratory staff carrying Narcan
- Increased case load
- Working with additional agencies – DEA, KDOG, DCFS, APS, KUSD
- Kenosha County Opioid Task Force (KCOTF) established in February 2017

# EMERGING DRUG TRENDS

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- Methamphetamine
- PCP – hallucinogen
- Gabapentin – nerve pain medication
- Xylazine – used as a muscle relaxant for large animals
- Numerous fentanyl analogs
- Xanax and Oxycodone counterfeits – look like the real thing, but are fentanyl



# HARM REDUCTION

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- Fentanyl test strips – available free at Vivent (1212 - 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha) & Kenosha County Human Services Building (8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha)
  - Vivent has clean needle exchange
  - Don't use alone
  - Don't use the same amount previous to being incarcerated
  - Have Narcan available (free through Kenosha County Public Health or Vivent) – nasal spray – easy to use
  - Substance use disorder treatment is available in Kenosha County
  - Kenosha County Public Health distributes fentanyl test strips

# KENOSHA COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE

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- Sub Committee of the Substance Abuse Coalition-merged in 2021. This formal connection developed “Today’s the Day”, a substance abuse resource guide.
- Overdose deaths involving fentanyl jumped from 6 in 2016 to 22 in 2017. This led to the creation of the Opioid Task Force.
- The mission of the task force is to understand addiction, promote recovery and strengthen the community through education and awareness.
- Multiple agencies are involved with the KCOTF
  - Narcan is carried by KSD, TLPD, & PPPD as well as KCMEO staff
  - “This packet could save your life” – ERs, FDs, PDs, & Public Safety Building

# CURRENT PLANS

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- After the creation of the Opioid Task Force and a community effort to create awareness of available resources, the numbers went down from 22 in 2017 to 11 in 2018, then 16 in 2019. In 2020, we saw another rise to 24 and in 2021 a spike of 40 fentanyl-related overdose deaths.
- COVID had an impact on our efforts. Services that were in person, such as group meetings, larger community meetings, education and training events stopped. People lost their support system.
- We've adapted our approach to meet the perimeters of the pandemic. Instead of holding large in-person gatherings, we looked at data to see which neighborhoods the majority of our crisis calls were coming from or where overdoses were occurring.
  - We deployed small teams to various neighborhoods to connect with residents and share information about available resources within their community. Our Human Services On the Go was born.



# PLANS CONTINUED

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- Human Services on the Go
  - June 29, 2022
  - July 27, 2022
  - August 24, 2022
  - September 21, 2022
- Neighborhoods:
  - Uptown, Columbus Park, Roosevelt Road and 25<sup>th</sup> Ave, southeast side of Twin Lakes,
- The Opioid Task Force will continue to monitor the data from EMS, ME, all 5 LEAs to determine additional dates and locations for outreach.

# WHAT IS MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT? (MAT)

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- Use of medications to treat opioid and alcohol addiction in combination with intensive therapy and recovery case management.
- Evidenced based approach that
  - Reduces risk of overdose
  - Reduces cravings
  - Increases retention in treatment
  - Decrease illicit opiate use and other criminal activity
  - Increases ability to gain and maintain employment
- FDA approved MAT options provided through CADTP include Buprenorphine and Naltrexone (Vivitrol)

# COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM (CADTP)

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- Started in 2016 as a response to the increasing use of substances with overdoses
- Designed to work with adults with substance use disorders
- Collaboration amongst community agencies
  - Kenosha County Human Services
  - Professional Services Group (PSG)
  - Kenosha County Detention Center (KCDC)
  - Kenosha County District Attorney's Office
  - Kenosha Human Development Services (Crisis/KARE Center)
- Intensive case facilitation, medicated assisted treatment, counseling

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- Referral sources: Kenosha County Jail, KCDC, Department of Corrections, District Attorney's office, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Center, self referrals
- Within 24 hours of referral the participant is screened for the program
- PSG therapists complete a comprehensive behavioral, social and substance use assessment
- A Kenosha County Public Health Nurse Practitioner completes a medical screening
  - Labs to assess kidney and liver function
  - Screening for communicable diseases (HIV, Hepatitis C, STIs)
  - Screening and/or management of other comorbid health conditions such as high blood pressure

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

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- For those in the jail setting, the process starts 30 days prior to discharge
  - The goal is to administer the first injection while still incarcerated or immediately upon release
- Kenosha County Public Health nurses administer Vivitrol injections every 28 days
- PSG staff provide ongoing case management, 1:1 therapy and group therapy
- Collaboration with other community agencies to access resources for housing, employment, transportation and economic support



# MAT PARTICIPATION

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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
# served in CADTP	90	164	90	99	116	152
# received MAT	44	76	72	85	91	120

# CADTP PROGRAM DATA

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- Average age is 36 years old
- Average years of use is eleven
- Approximately 70% have a mental health history/diagnosis
- 88% have not recidivated
- 90% have gained stable housing or had stable housing at discharge
- 81% are employed or were employed at discharge

# KENOSHA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NARCAN EFFORTS

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Since 2017 Kenosha County Public Health has trained 3,938 individuals and distributed 4,747 kits of Narcan.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
People trained	253	979	1,175	686	495	350
Narcan Kits Distributed	455	1,058	1,299	757	726	452

# KENOSHA OVERDOSE RESPONSE INITIATIVE (KORI)

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Team established in February 2022

- Trained 350 people on Narcan
- Dispensed 452 kits of Narcan
- Provides Fentanyl test strips to the public
- Builds community partnerships
- Responsible for creating a mobile overdose response team

Recurring Narcan trainings currently available at:

- Herzing University
- ELCA Outreach Center
- Kenosha County Human Services Building
- Kenosha County Detention Center

Narcan trainings have been provided to first responders and community members including:

- EMS/FIRE
- Law Enforcement
- Libraries
- Bars/Restaurants
- Universities
- County schools
- Tavern League, etc.