



Opioid Overdose Strategy: Transformative Approaches and Collaborative Solutions

APRIL GERARD – DESC OUTPATIENT NURSE MANAGER

LISA GRILLO – SUD SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

JEREMY HOOG – OTN NURSE SUPERVISOR





DESC HISTORY OF THE OPIOID CRISIS

- In 2017 DESC created an Opioid Overdose Policy:
 - All staff are trained on overdose response
 - All staff encouraged to carry naloxone
- Policy outlined:
 - How to Recognize & Respond to overdoses
- Overdose response refreshers offered to any DESC site
- Overdose response training posted on the internal website



ADVOCACY



CRISIS RESPONSE



HOUSING FIRST



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



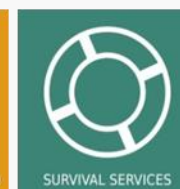
HEALTH SERVICES



INTEGRATED SERVICES



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



SURVIVAL SERVICES



THE ESCALATION OF EVENTS

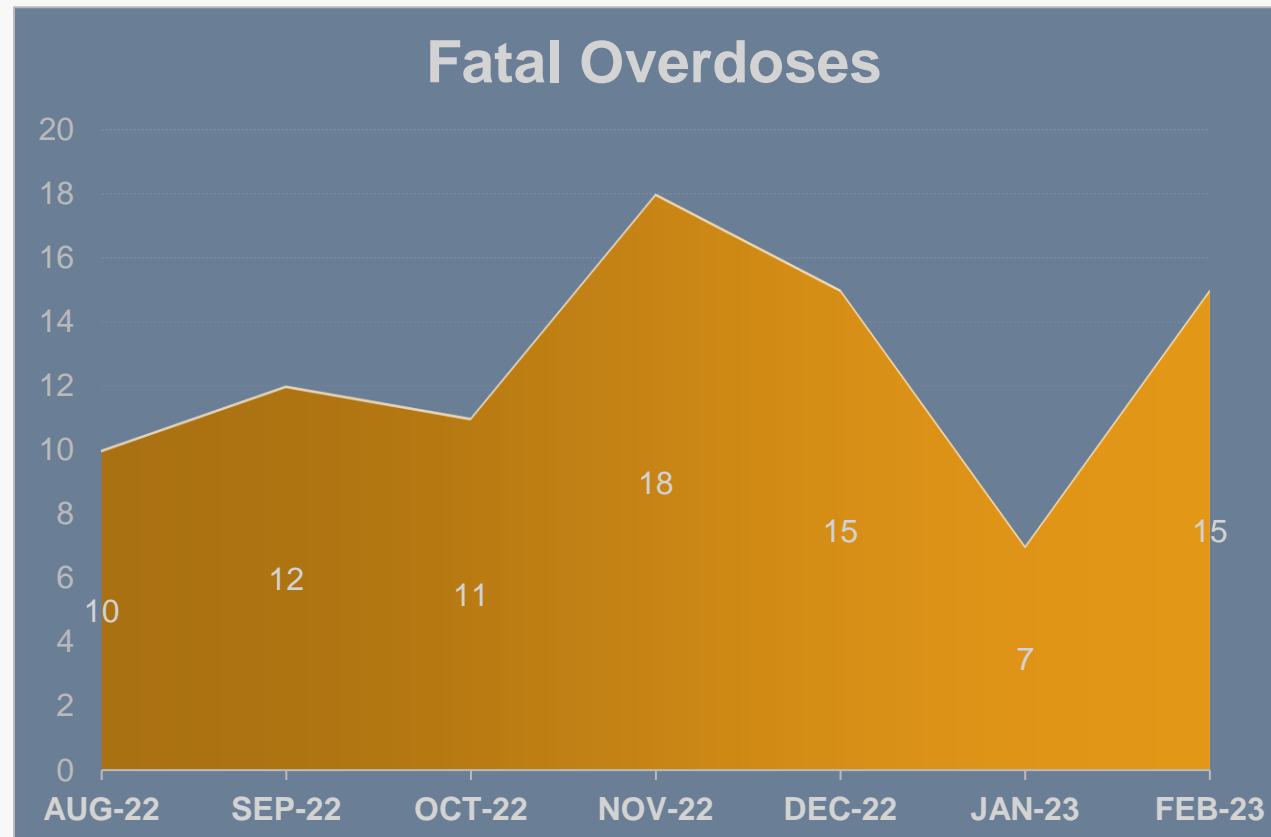
- From 2019 to 2021 DESC experiences 98 fatal overdose deaths
- From August 2022 to December 2022 overdose events escalate
- February 2023 both fatal and non-fatal overdoses rise to unprecedented levels
- 2+ Fatal overdoses a week are being recorded
- On pace to have more fatal overdoses in 2023 than the four-year period from 2019 to 2022





Opioid Overdose Statistics:

88 fatal overdoses in 7 months





DEVELOPMENT OF THE: 'INTEGRATED OD PREVENTION AND RESPONSE GROUP'

- A group of 25+ individuals, both from leadership positions and frontline staff formed the workgroup
- Initial schedule was an hour meeting every two weeks
 - The frequency of meetings was increased as needed
- Stated goal: 'To keep people alive longer'





4 WORKGROUPS CREATED

- **Advocacy & Communication Group**
 - **Education Group**
 - **Clinical Coordination Group**
 - **Data Collection & Communication Group**
-
- These workgroups met weekly and reported back to the larger collective every two weeks with progress





ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATION

- Standardized Narcan ordering process
- Found different ways to acquire naloxone for clients – prescriptions, grant money, state donations
- Connected with local Fire Department and the University of Washington to expand services offered at DESC
 - Moving forward with a project to offer overdose recovery services that will include a 24 hour stay/care and initiation of MOUD should the client be interested





EDUCATION

- Developed education modules for staff to address such things as: communicating with people who use drugs, improved substance use education, improved harm reduction education, improved overdose response education.
- Plan for a day long clinic onsite to address overdose education, and harm reduction education.
- Developed an overdose prevention program to be delivered to residents that includes an overdose prevention worksheet with Nursing Educators from King County.





CLINICAL COORDINATION

- Changes to internal EHR to improve overdose response processes by defining structural requirements for staff pre/post overdose.
- A weekly meeting between our SUD program, Peer Program and Opioid Treatment Program to review recent overdoses
 - All clients who have experienced an overdose will be seen by a member of one of the above teams
- Increased access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)





DASHBOARD

this year

+ Client

CSC Roster

MRT Tracking

Crisis Response Referrals

Overdose Response

Staff Menu

Quick search

Go!

Advanced Search

Overdose Response Tracking

Jump Links

Overdose Logs 9

Unassigned Clients 1

Assigned Clients 9

Completed Follow-Up 25

Pending Overdose Logs ?

Log Info	Subject	Focus Flags	
2461687 03/01/24	Suspected Overdose/Unresponsiveness [REDACTED]	CRP	<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
2462648 03/03/24	Overdose [REDACTED]	Cottage Grove	<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
	[REDACTED]		<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
	[REDACTED]		<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
2462704 03/03/24	Narcan Administered [REDACTED]	Hobson Place	<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
	[REDACTED]		<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
2463485 03/05/24	Suspected Overdose in K401 [REDACTED]	Kerner-Scott	<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
2463505 03/05/24	OVER DOSE AT THE BUS STOP [REDACTED]	West Wing	<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
	[REDACTED]		<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>
2463522 03/05/24	NIGHT SHIFT SUMMARY [REDACTED]	West Wing	<div>Needs Assignment</div> <div>Remove</div>



Overdose Response Tracking

Jump Links

Overdose Logs9

Unassigned Clients1

Assigned Clients9

Completed Follow-Up25

Clients Awaiting Overdose Outreach Assignment ?				
Log Info	Client Name	Residence	Clinical Support Specialist	Mental Health Case Manager
2456183 02/21/24	Edit [REDACTED]	--	--	Luke Cloutier
Clients With OTN/SUD Follow-up Assigned ?				
Log Info	Client Name	Residence	Concern Level	Assigned Follow-up
2447494 02/06/24	Edit [REDACTED]	Evans	High	Brittany White
2448671 02/08/24		--	High	OTN Team
2455887 02/20/24		--	High	Alicia Hook
2457003 02/22/24		Burbridge	High	SUD Team
2456917 02/22/24		Hobson Place	High	Stephanie Holman
2456792 02/22/24		--	High	Pathfinder Team
2457698 02/23/24		Kerner-Scott	High	Julia Durant-Storey
2458874 02/26/24		--	High	Pathfinder Team
2459011 02/26/24		Morrison	High	Brittany White



DATA COLLECTION & TRACKING

- Overdose data was not being collected in a formal manner prior to this project
- Our current system of data collection is a barrier to accurate data collection - but we are finding ways to collect data and working with our IT department to improve automated collection of data
- Collecting overdose data is imperative to provide transparency and be able to track DESC trends against local and national trends



ADVOCACY



CRISIS RESPONSE



HOUSING FIRST



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



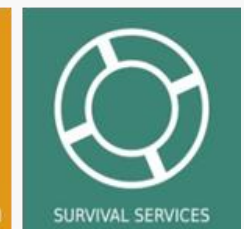
HEALTH SERVICES



INTEGRATED SERVICES



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



SURVIVAL SERVICES



PRIORITIZATION

- Required formal conversations about the need to prioritize the work
- This required changing schedules and moving or skipping other meetings that were already booked – sometimes for months
 - Changing a team meeting schedule to another time because of a conflict with the larger group meeting times
- Being creative with scheduling meetings
 - Utilizing lunch hour to hold these meetings
- Holding steadfast to the mission to improve overdose prevention and response when others did not seem to hold the same urgency





BARRIERS TO THE PROJECT

- Many individuals were at the discussion table – the larger the group the more voices – this can slow down implementation
- Buy in from participants to do the work in an urgent manner. Implementation of practice changes and updates in education is difficult within a large organization.
- Schedule changes were a regular occurrence – As tasks are completed reorganization of priorities is key to success





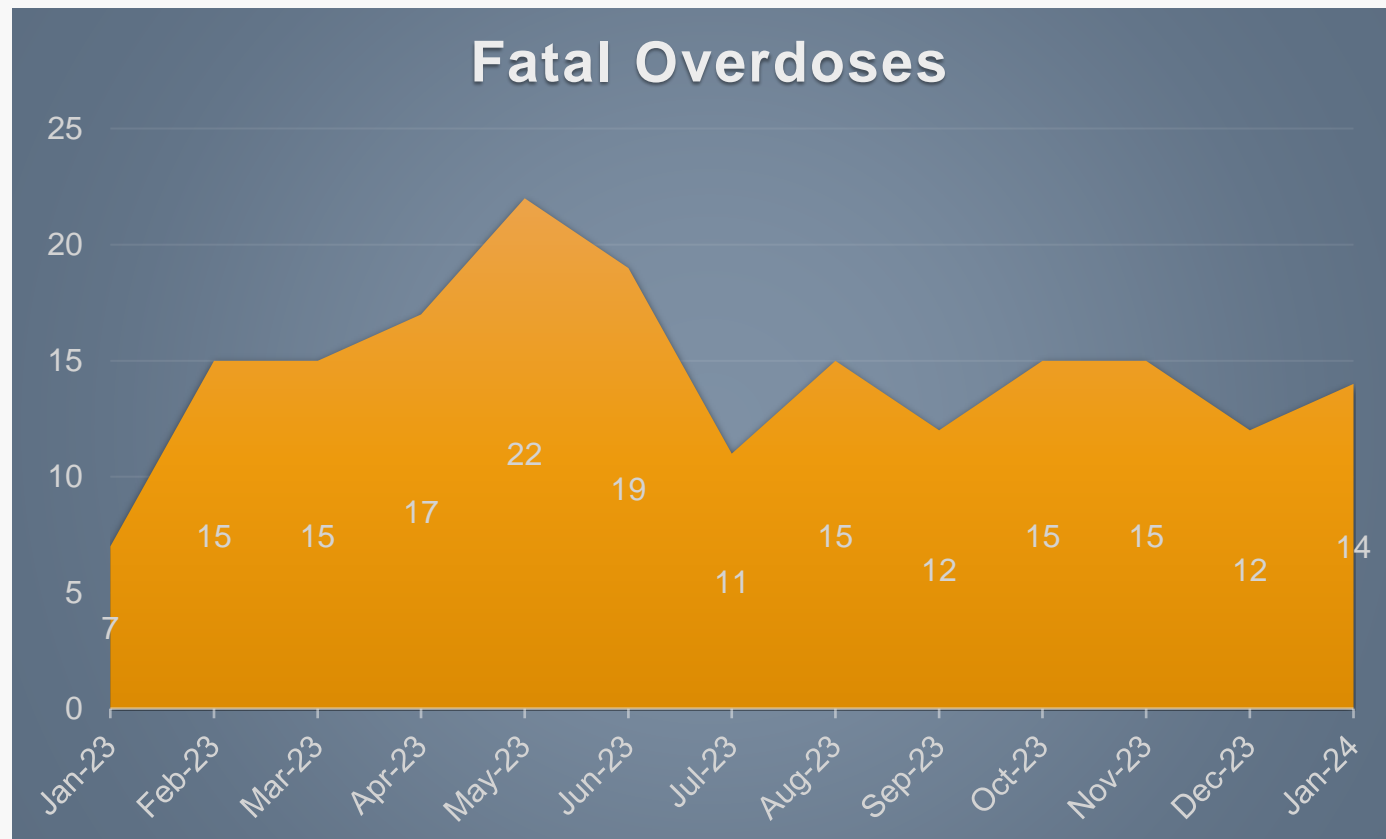
2023 OVERDOSE DATA UPDATE





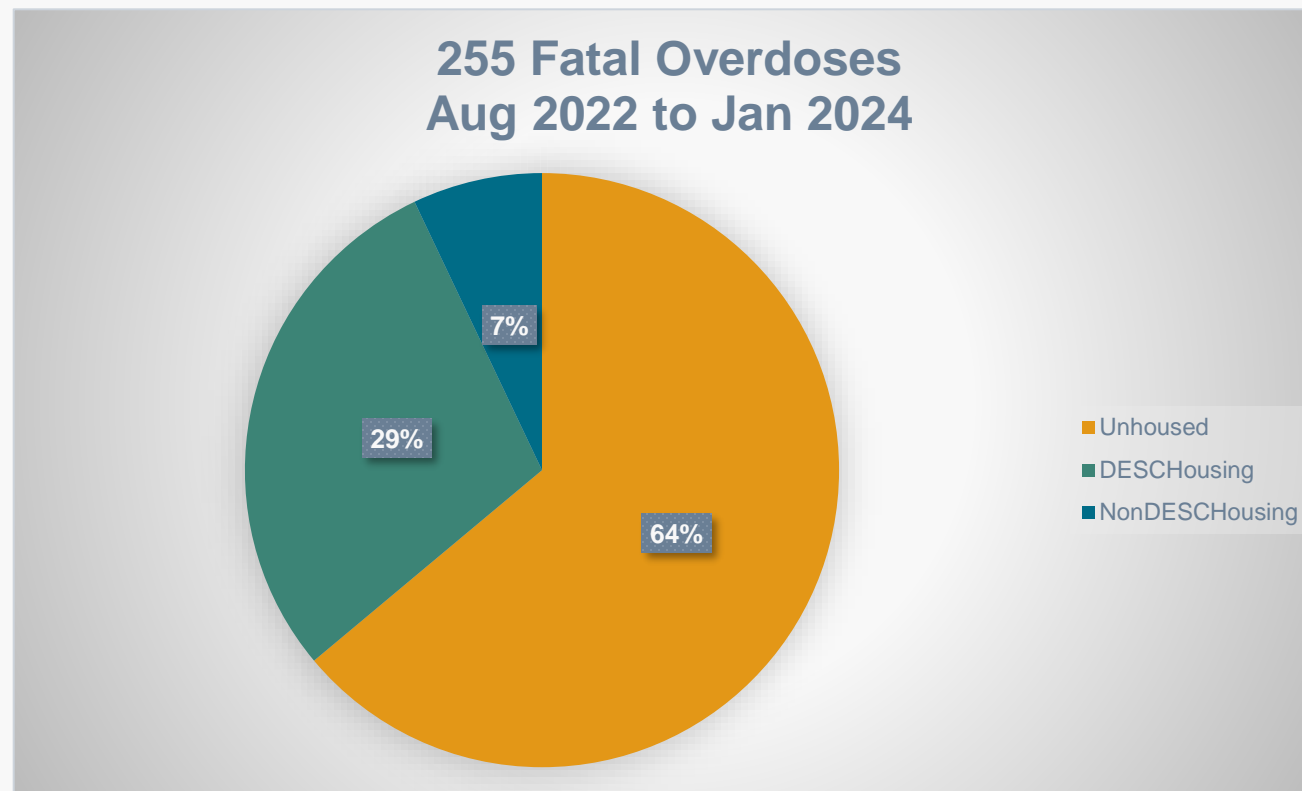
Opioid Overdose Statistics:

175 Fatal Overdoses in 2023





Opioid Overdose: Housed vs. Unhoused



ADVOCACY



CRISIS RESPONSE



HOUSING FIRST



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



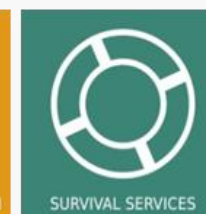
HEALTH SERVICES



INTEGRATED SERVICES



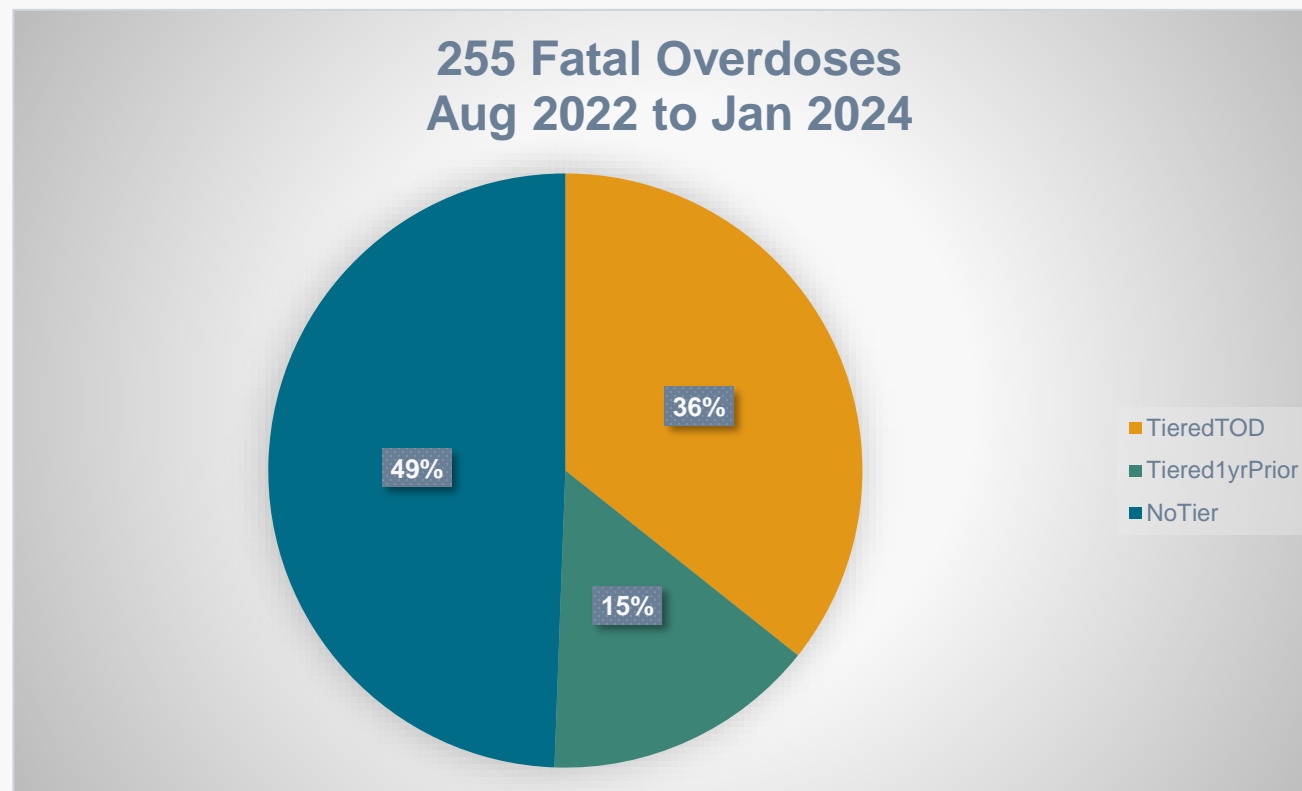
RESEARCH & INNOVATION



SURVIVAL SERVICES

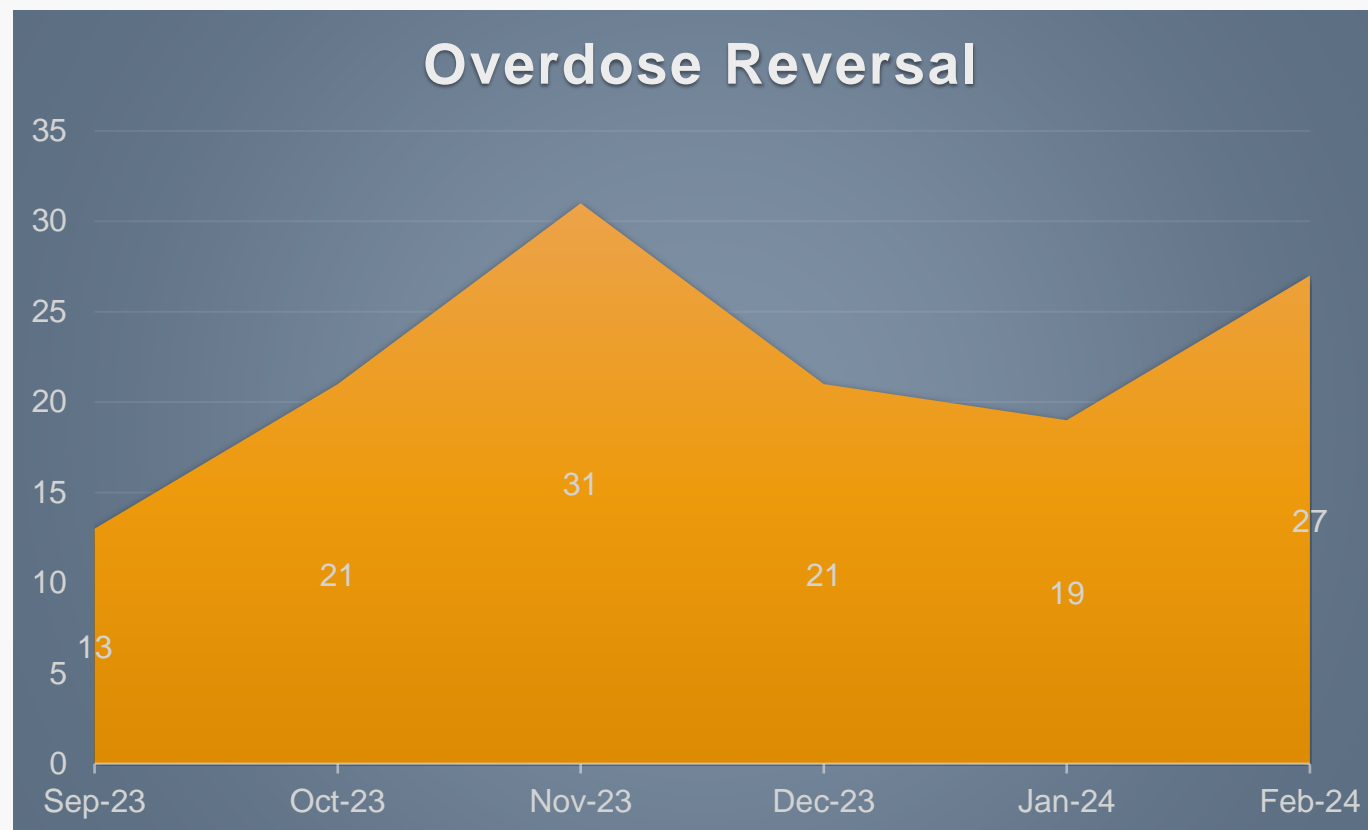


Opioid Overdose: Tiered vs. Not-Tiered





132 Overdose Reversals in 6 Months





Key Takeaways:

- From August 2022 to January 2024 DESC entered 255 fatal overdose records
 - 163 were unhoused (64%)
 - 164 clients were not tiered at time of death (64%)
- Client outcomes are *significantly* improved when housed or tiered with services

!!! NALOXONE WORKS !!!





QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

APRIL GERARD, RN
LISA GRILLO, SUDP
JEREMY HOOG, RN, MBE

agerard@desc.org
lgrillo@desc.org
jhoog@desc.org

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING HFPC 2024!

