

# **Plenary Session**

# Utilizing Law Enforcement Touchpoints to Connect Individuals at Risk of Overdose with Recovery Resources

Moderator: Meg Chapman, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Speaker: Emily Dalgo, MA, King County, Washington, Medical Examiner's Office



# Disclaimer



This project was supported by Grant No. 15PBJA-21-GK-01074-MUMU awarded by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinguency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). Points of view or opinions are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# **Site Information**



- County: King
- City, state: Seattle, Washington
- Year OFR started: 2023
- Estimated number of overdose deaths per year: 1,369
- **Size of jurisdiction:** Population in 2020 = 2,269,675
- Funding sources: Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP)

# King County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO)





- Investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, suspicious, and unnatural deaths
- Medical examiners, death investigators, autopsy technicians, Real-Time Drug Surveillance Program staff, and administrative support staff
  - Overdose fatality review (OFR) housed within the drug surveillance team

# King County MEO "Real-Time" Surveillance Model

Purpose: To detect and report suspected overdose fatalities earlier than traditional methods that rely on post-mortem toxicology testing

# How Do We Do This?

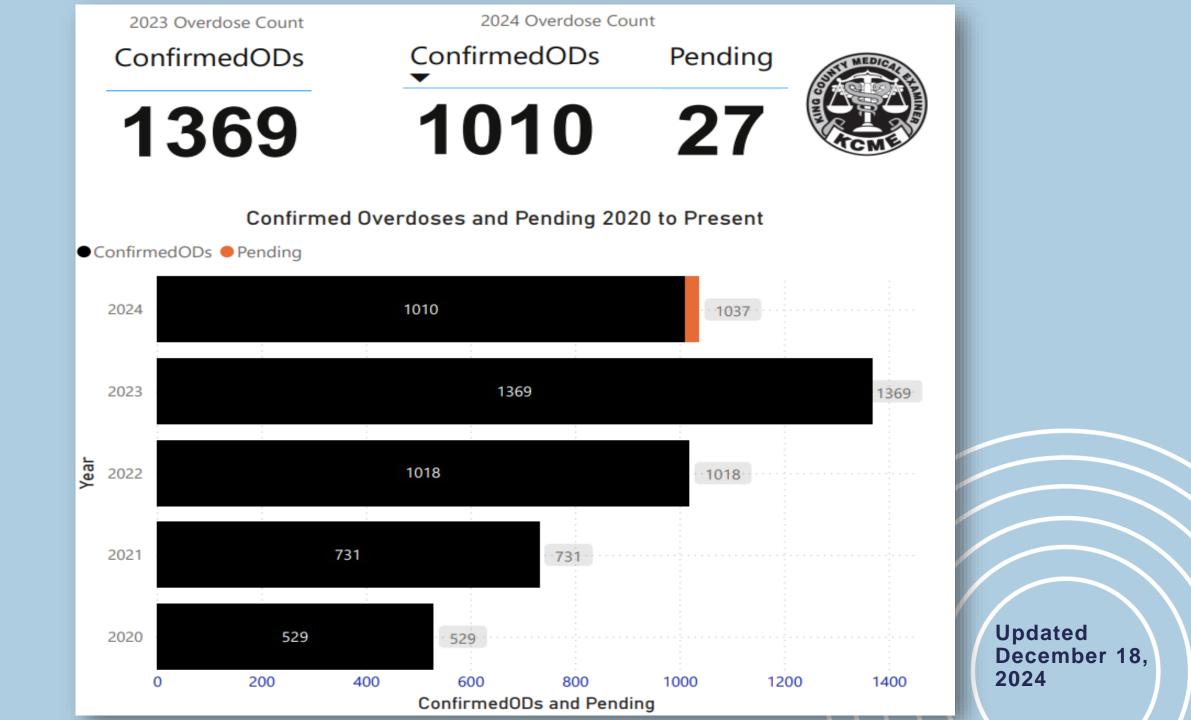
In-house testing!

- Blood toxicology
- Urine toxicology
- Drug evidence testing



National Forum on Overdose Fatality

**Review** 

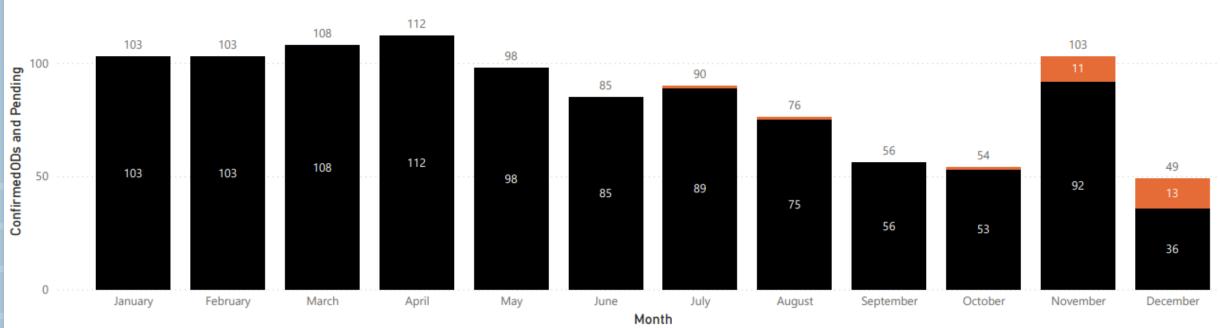


#### 2024 Overdose Deaths to Date

ConfirmedODs	Fentanyl	Methamphetamine	Cocaine	Heroin	Xylazine	Poly-FENT XYL	Pending
1010	746	550	262	26	10	10	27
Poly-FENT METH	Poly-Fentanyl C	ocaine Poly-FENT Bu	prenorphine	Poly-FENT	Methadon	e Poly-METH N	/lethadone

418	200	15	36	30
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Confirmed Overdoses and Pending by Month of 2024



#### ConfirmedODs



### Fentanyl Forms and Route of Administration in King County



#### **King County MEO Response**



- Our real-time overdose data allows us to identify patterns.
- Those overdose patterns then direct our OFR efforts and open communication with community partners.
  - High Emergency Medical Services/Emergency Department contact
    - $\rightarrow$  Health 99 Program with Seattle Fire
  - While on a medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
    - → Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) Clinic
  - On public transit
    - → King County Metro and Sound Transit
  - After jail release
    - → South Correctional Entity (SCORE), Jail Health Services, Seattle Police Department (SPD)

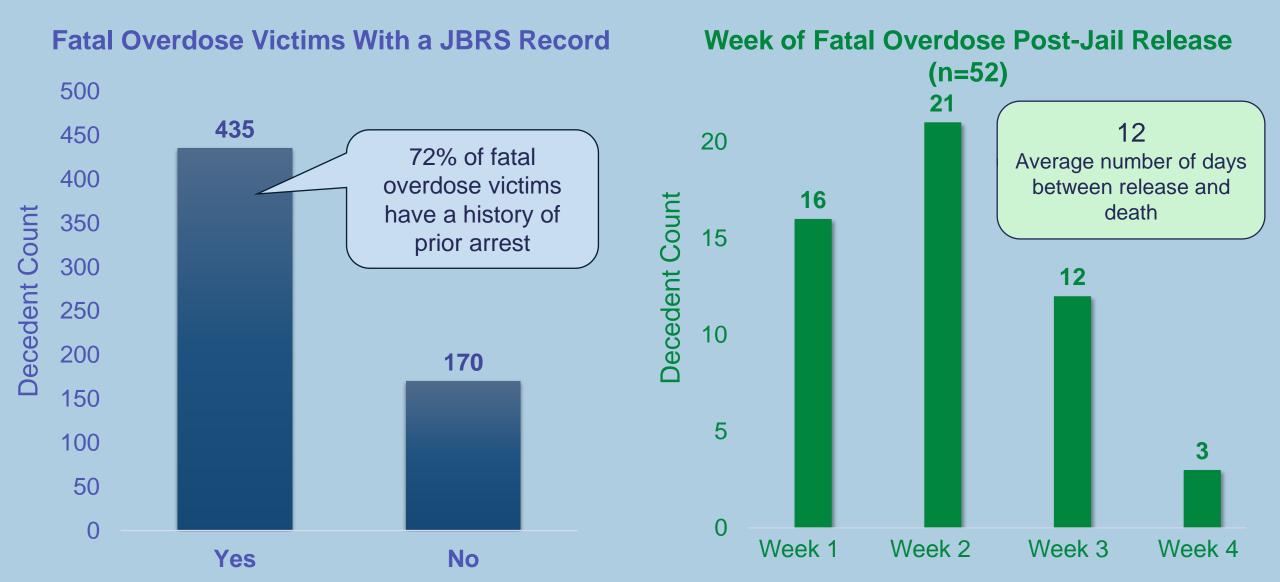
# Utilizing Internal and External Data Sources





### **BRS** JAIL BOOKING & REPORTING SYSTEM Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

# Touchpoints with the criminal/legal system are high among those who die from an overdose.



From: Stevens, Shilah <<u>Shilah.Stevens@seattle.gov</u>> Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 4:09 PM To: Dalgo, Emily <<u>edalgo@kingcounty.gov</u>> Subject: Ride along

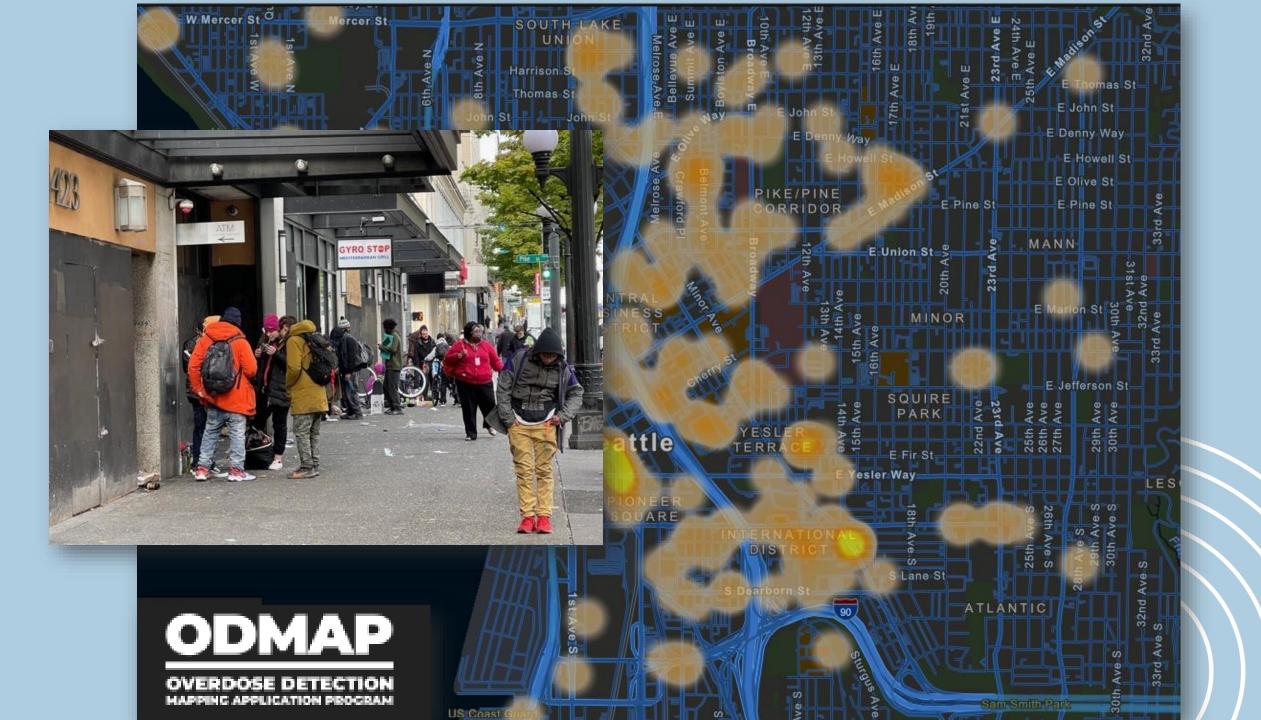
Hello Emily,

My name is Shilah and I work at the West Precinct and am a member of the OFRB and was contacted by LT Haynes about you possibly wanting to do a ride along. I'd be happy to show you around and take you on calls! I currently work in King sector which includes parts of the downtown core and the CID.

I currently work Fridays through Mondays at the West Precinct from 11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. I do have a vacation coming up from 8/13-8/22 but other than that, I should be available!

Looking forward to meeting you!

Ofc. Shilah Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup> Watch West Precinct – King Sector







## Recommendation





Utilize high-touchpoint systems: Provide a training and resource to criminal/legal system employees on substance use disorder (SUD) and MOUDs to recognize and connect people in the community who could benefit from available services.

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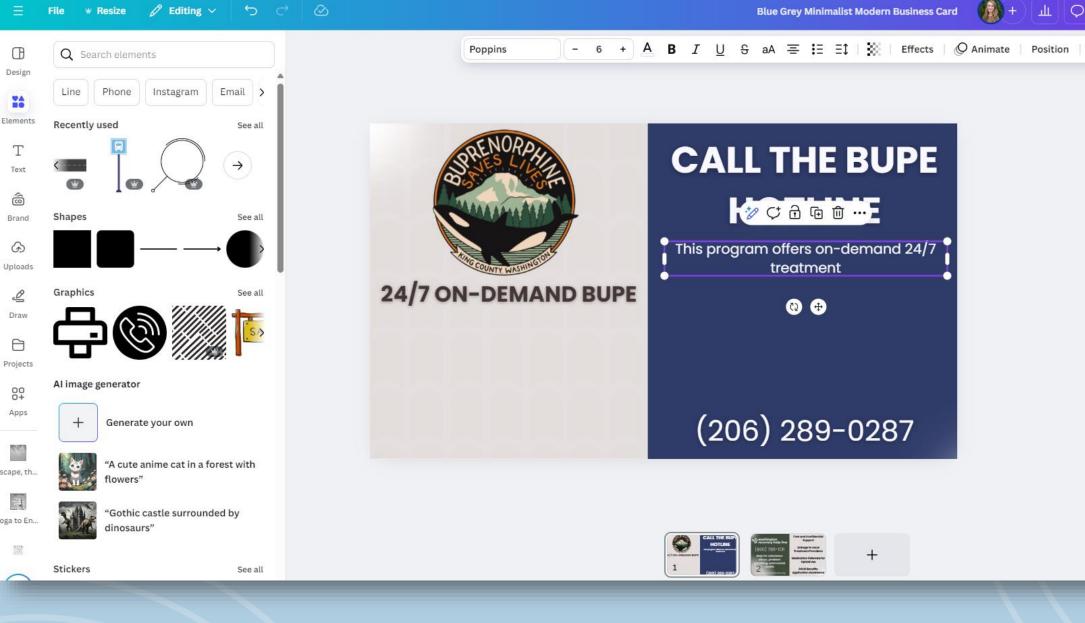
Blue Grey Minimalist Modern Business Card

Print with Canva 0

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∱ Share



National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

Free and Confidential Support

Linkage to Local Treatment Providers

Medication Referrals for Opioid Use

**DSHS Benefits Application Assistance** 

# CALL THE BUPE HOTLINE

This program offers on-demand 24/7 treatment through a free telehealth visit with an Emergency Medicine physician

A buprenorphine prescription will be sent to the pharmacy of your choice

A Care Navigator will follow up with you to connect you to ongoing medication

(206) 289-0287 gambling and

gambling, and mental health

Iton

/ help line

9-1511

www.waRecoveryHelpLine.org

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medication used to treat opioid use disorder. It is one of the best available treatments to alleviate withdrawal, reduce cravings, and significantly reduce overdose risk.

# Result

- All SPD precincts are now receiving SUD and MOUD training and Bupe Hotline resource cards
- Narcan leave-behind programs have been implemented in highrisk areas in Seattle

Seattle Police Department West West Precinct Roll Call



- COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE **SEATTLE POLICE** CRISIS RESPONDE
  - Seattle Police Department (West, South, North Precincts)
  - Community Crisis Responders
  - Community Service Officers

# Impact

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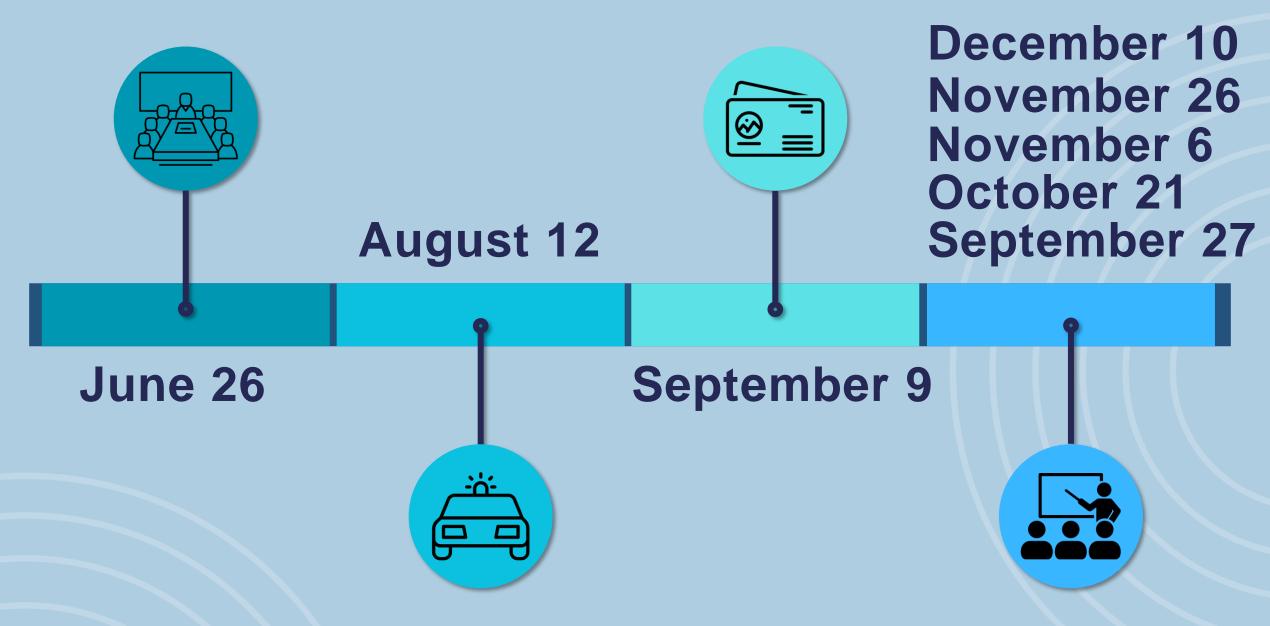
Hi Emily,

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you So much for coming to talk to the team, everyone had nice things to say about it and we already gave away a whole box of leave-behind Narcan!

I don't want to take too much but just know that if you ever have more you want to offload the team can do it expeditiously. We even talked about possibly slipping fentanyl test strips and a hotline card in the boxes before we hand them out.

Either way I'm sure we'll be in touch in the future for more cards, thank you again!

## **2024 Recommendation Timeline**



# Key Takeaways



- Identifying "champions" is critical
  - One OFR member played a pivotal role in advocating for the initiative, securing access for our presentations, and facilitating its expansion
- Direct community engagement is key to identifying needs
  - By shadowing the police, we discovered gaps in knowledge and resources, leading to the development of actionable solutions
- Routine encounters can be transformed into meaningful opportunities for overdose prevention and recovery

# Contact



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