



The National Opioid (Fentanyl) Crisis and Fairfax County's Response Strategy

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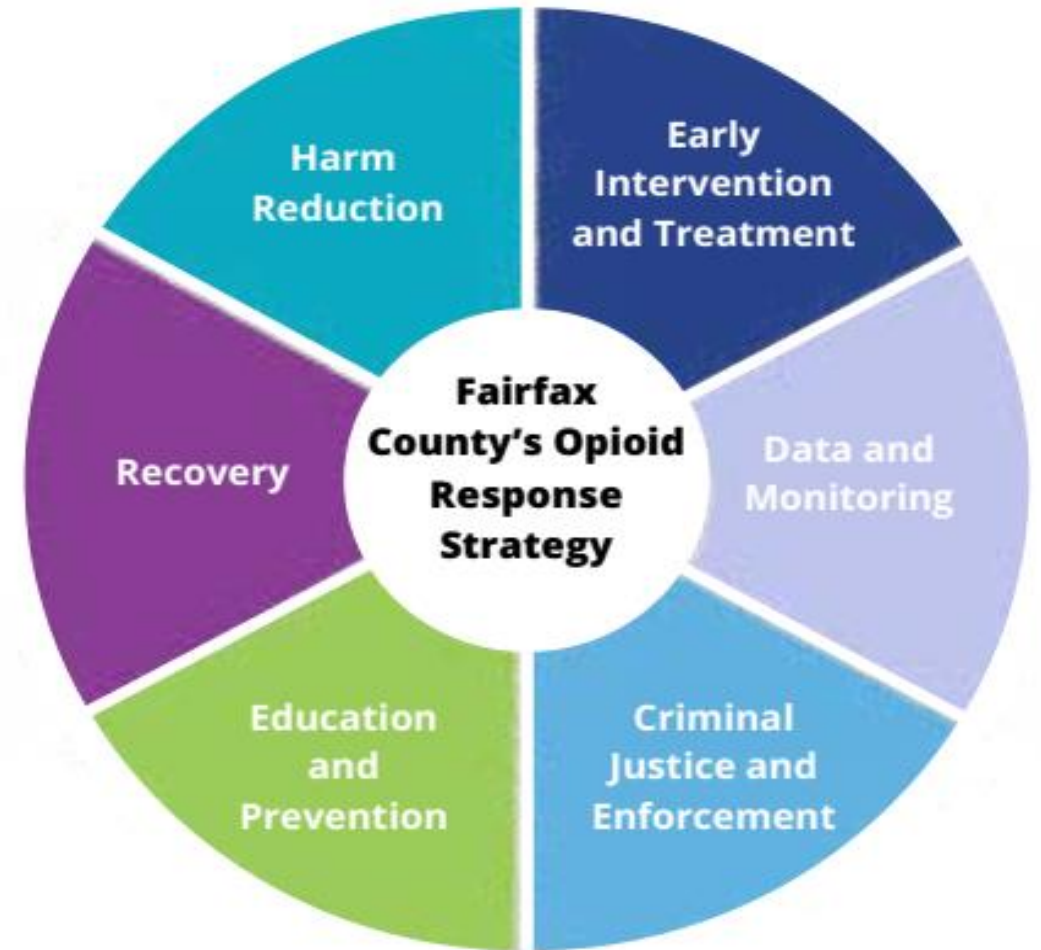
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Mike Axler and Stefan Mascoll, FCPS

January 30, 2024

Fairfax's Opioid Epidemic Response

- 2017/2018: Initial appropriation of funds and first opioid work plan finalized
- FY 23-25 Opioid Response Plan is a cross-systems, multi-pronged effort with the primary goals of:
 - Reducing deaths from opioids
 - Improving the quality of life of individuals impacted by opioid use disorder
 - Using data to describe the problem, target and improve interventions, and evaluate effectiveness
- About 40 programs/activities underway

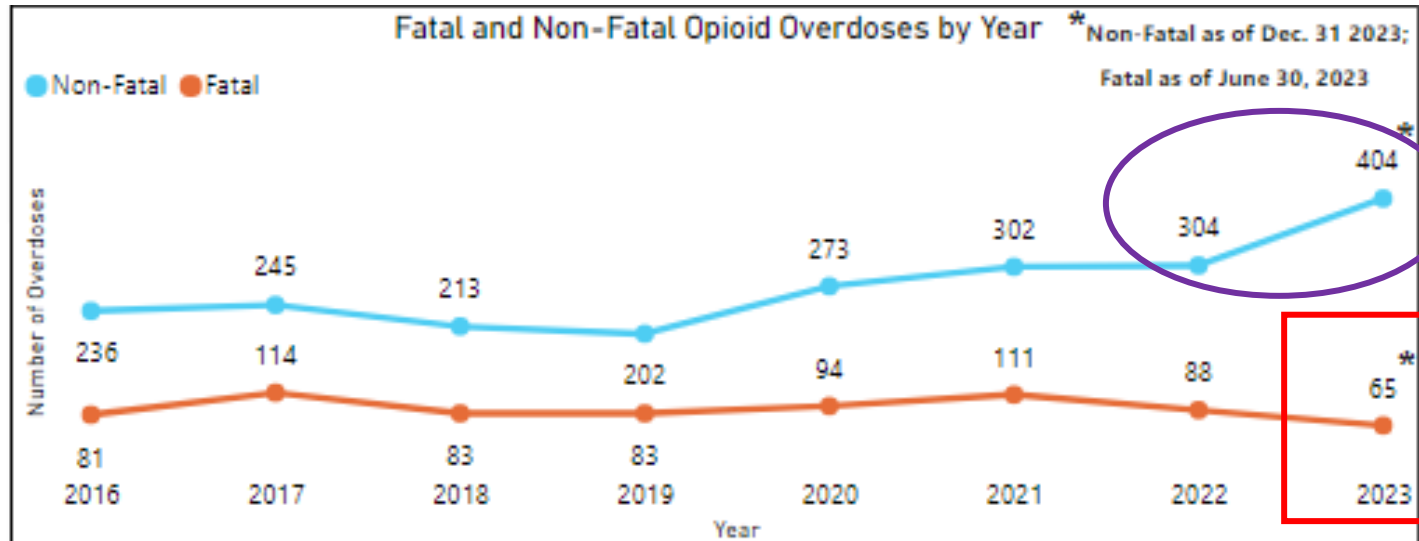


Scan to view FY 23-25 Opioid Response Plan

Opioid Overdoses Occurring in the Fairfax Health District

www.bit.ly/ffx-opioid-data

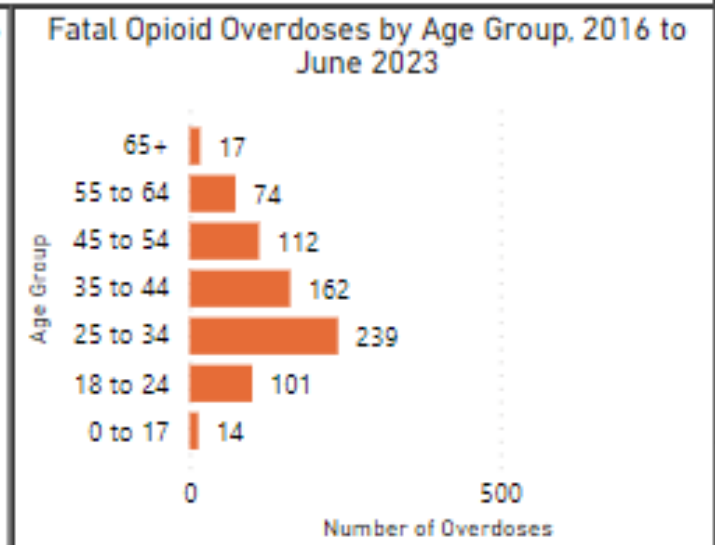
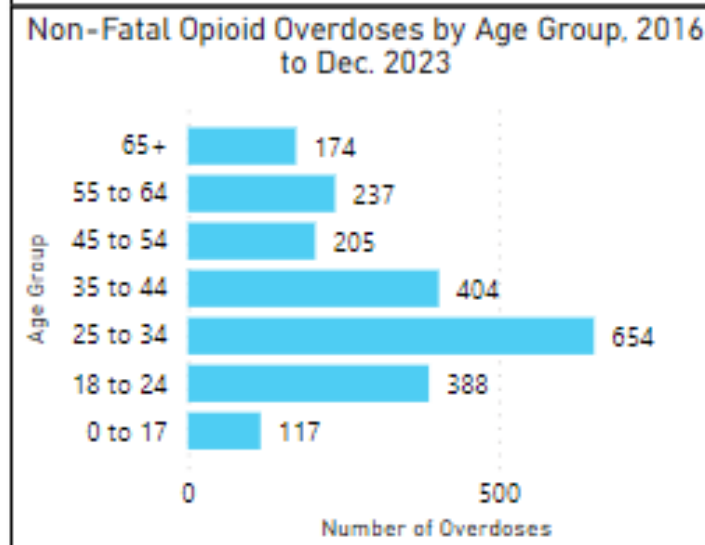
Nearly all fatal overdoses in recent years in the Fairfax Health District have involved the opioid **fentanyl**



33% increase in ED visits for nonfatal opioid overdoses from 2022 to 2023

Available data for Jan. – June 2023 trending high compared to 2022

Scan to view the Fairfax Opioid Dashboard



What is Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is a highly addictive synthetic opioid that is 50X more potent than heroin and 100X more potent than morphine
- Significant increase in fentanyl in counterfeit pills resembling prescription pills such as Percocet/Xanax
 - DEA lab testing reveals 7 out of 10 pills with fentanyl contain a lethal dose (2023)
- Fentanyl also is used as a substitute or cutting agent in other drugs like cocaine and heroin
- Just 2mg of fentanyl, the small amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially deadly dose (DEA.gov)



Rainbow Fentanyl



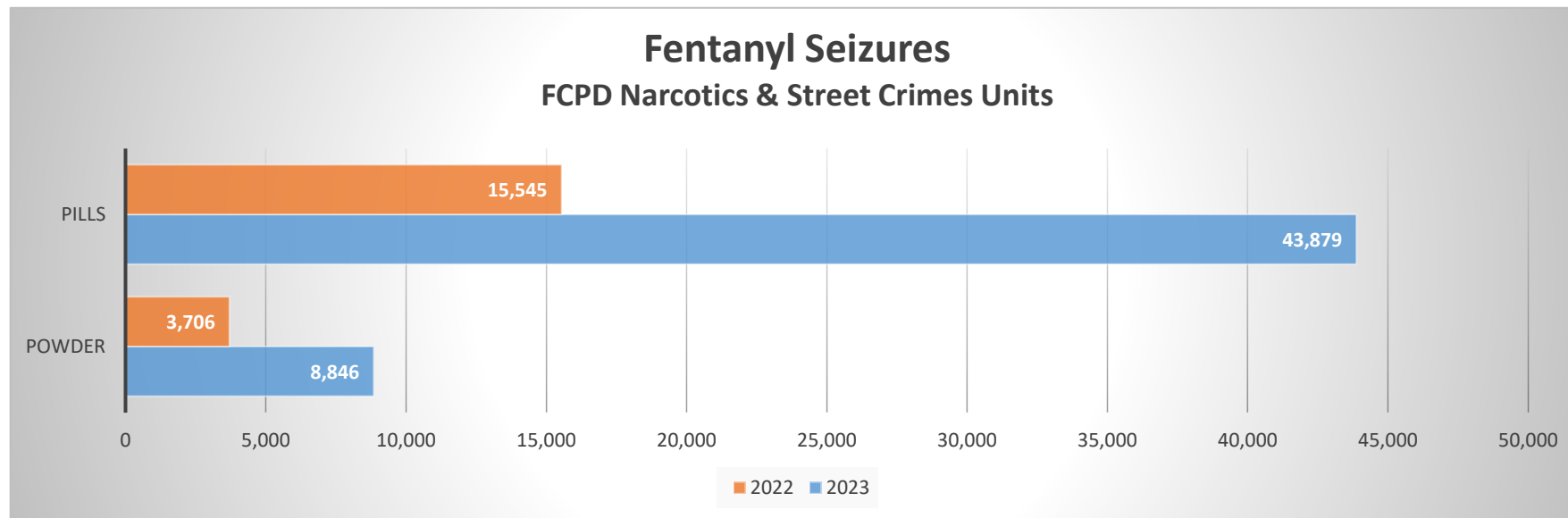
Dollar Bill with Powder



Foil with Pills



Local Illicit Drug Supply



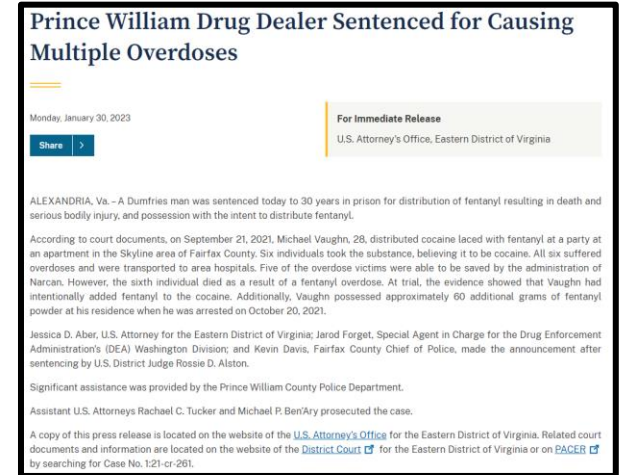
- Nationally, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports a significant increase in illicit fentanyl seizures – the DEA seized more than 76 million fentanyl-laced fake pills in 2023, compared to 59.6 million in 2022
- Locally, counterfeit pills containing fentanyl and other substances are selling for less than \$10/pill, compared to \$30/pill in recent years



Photos from FCPD investigation

FCPD Overdose Investigations Unit (OIU)

- Investigates the person(s) distributing drugs that result in a death in Fairfax County
- Detectives are notified of every overdose that comes to the attention of FCPD
- Multiple successful prosecutions resulting in federal and local sentences up to 30 years
- Outreach efforts:
 - 18.2-250.03 Safe reporting of overdoses
 - Reducing the stigma of addiction
 - Encouraging the reporting of overdoses
 - Regularly participate in community meetings and town halls (30+ events in 2023)
 - Conduct training to department personnel and other stakeholders



Enhancing the County's Opioid Response with Opioid Settlement Funds



- Some settlements in the payment phase and many lawsuits still pending
- Additional payments expected (amount and timing remains uncertain)
- Three different types of opioid settlement funds – Fairfax County receives some directly and also is eligible to receive settlement funds from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) (competitive and noncompetitive awards)
- County agencies/FCPS submitted requests for opioid settlement funds in summer 2023
 - 7 requests received totaling \$1.4 million in one-time and \$1.2 million in recurring funds
 - All recommended for funding by the Fairfax Opioid Settlement Executive Committee and subsequently approved by the BOS on 11/21/23
- The County has also partnered with other NOVA localities on a regional cooperative project

Opioid Settlement-Funded Projects

Project	Amount	Primary Target Age Group		Opioid Response Plan Category ✓ = Primary Category * = Elements Include/Aligns With					
		0-17	18+	Education/ Prevention	Early Intervention/ Treatment	Data and Monitoring	Criminal Justice and Enforcement	Harm Reduction	Recovery
Fairfax Drug Court Young Adult Track Expansion (CSB, in partnership with Circuit Court, Sheriff's Office, State Probation, Office of the Public Defender, and Commonwealth's Attorney)	\$157,804 <i>recurring</i>		✓				✓	*	*
Jail-Based Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Impact on Post-Release OD and Recidivism Study (Sheriff's Office, in partnership with GMU)	\$50,000 <i>one-time</i>		✓			✓			
Behavioral Health Services for Individuals with Opioid Use Disorders in the Adult Detention Center (CSB, in partnership with Sheriff's Office)	\$600,000 <i>one-time</i>		✓		✓			*	*
Temporary Staffing Nurse Practitioner to Prescribe MOUD and Provide Chronic Care Treatment in the Adult Detention Center (Sheriff's Office)	\$473,200 <i>one-time</i>		✓		✓			*	*
Prevention Campaign and Anti-Stigma Initiative (FCPS)	\$260,000 <i>one-time</i>	✓		✓					
Community Dialogue Sessions to Identify and Address the Root Causes of Youth Substance Use (Healthy Minds Fairfax)	\$24,000 <i>one-time</i>	✓		✓					
Youth Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion (YMAT-E) (CSB)	\$1,084,498 <i>recurring</i>	✓			✓			*	*
Cooperative Regional Project - Youth Detox/Residential Treatment (CSB)	see next slide	✓			✓			*	*

OAA Cooperative Regional Award – Youth Detox/Residential Treatment

- NOVA CSBs applied last spring for an OAA cooperative partnership grant for youth detox/residential services
- Project awarded \$2,588,493 in FY 24 OAA cooperative partnership funds, plus FY 24 regional local match of \$1,860,000
- Several pathways for using the award have been explored after no responsive proposals for youth services were received during the initial RFP
- New interest from the provider community so planning to release another RFP in winter/early spring and renew the OAA award for FY 25
- Upcoming Board Item for authorization to accept the OAA award

There aren't enough facilities to treat all kids hooked on opioids



Analysis by Zachary B. Wolf, CNN

Published 9:15 AM EDT, Sat Apr 8, 2023



Craig Kohlruess/Fresno Bee/Getty Images

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/08/politics/narcan-fentanyl-opioids-what-matters/index.html>

School Overdose Notifications

- On November 1, 2023, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 28 requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Virginia Department of Education to:
 - 1) issue guidance requiring the notification of all parents within a school division through regular communication channels within 24 hours of a school-connected student overdose, while always ensuring protection of student privacy;
 - 2) issue guidance outlining close collaboration between local school divisions and state law enforcement to prevent student overdoses; and
 - 3) provide information to local school divisions about drug-related education programs for students.
- On November 17, 2023, the Virginia Department of Education released best practices. Formal guidance is in development.
- FCPS has sent out three overdose notifications to date (November 17, 2023 - January 22, 2024)
- FCPS is working to refine the operational definitions used to implement this Executive Order and navigate legal considerations regarding student privacy and sharing of information regarding off-campus incidents.

Questions?

For more information/resources:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/opioids>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/opioid-overdoses-continue-learn-how-get-help-1>

Resources - Education/Awareness

Trainings/presentations:

- CSB Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education - how to recognize and reverse opioid overdoses (residents receive free Narcan upon completion of the training) <http://bit.ly/revive-csb>
- Mental Health First Aid - how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges and substance use disorder (youth and teen-specific versions available) <http://bit.ly/CSB-MHFA>
- FCPS Webinars:
 - What Your 11th & 12th Graders Are Learning in Schools About Drugs & How You can Talk with Them (Fall 2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxlpUY487lw>
 - Preparing Families for Difficult Conversations about Alcohol & Drugs (Spring 2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ABUcTggQbl>
 - What Parents Need to Know About Drugs and Their Students with Disabilities (Spring 2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdVQAskajOs>

Communication tools:

- NewsCenter article - Text can be edited for use in newsletters; includes information on fentanyl and community resources available
 - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/opioid-overdoses-continue-learn-how-get-help-1?opioid-overdoses-continue-learn-how-get-help-1>
- Communications toolkit - Social media graphics in multiple languages available for use by community members and organizations
 - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/opioids-communications-toolkit>

CSB Resources

If the situation is immediately life-threatening, call 911

Fairfax-Falls Church CSB Emergency Services (24/7) - Available for people who have a mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or developmental disability in need of immediate help

703-573-5679 <https://bit.ly/CSB247>

CSB Entry and Referral - Assessment and referral services available for youth, adults, and pregnant women including office-based opioid treatment

703-393-8500 <https://bit.ly/CSBentry>

CSB Fairfax Detoxification Center (24/7) - A short-term residential program to help adults safely detoxify from the effects of drugs and/or alcohol

703-502-7000 <https://bit.ly/CSBdetox>

CSB Peer Outreach Response Team - provides outreach, engagement and resource navigation to individuals who have opioid and other substance use challenges. If you or someone you know could benefit from PORT services

703-559-3199. <https://bit.ly/35ibMB5>

FCPS Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP)

Services:

★ Tier 1: Education & Outreach for All Students, Families, Staff & Community

- Prevention lessons/presentations
 - live, webinar, podcast, social media, classrooms, community
 - students, parents, teachers, community members
- Community outreach
- Prevention campaigns, initiatives, social media messaging

★ Tier 2: Individual & Group Brief Intervention/Counseling

- Referrals
 - discipline & non-discipline
- Brief screening, education, counseling

★ Tier 3: Refer student/family to outside resources (higher level of care)

- Partnerships with CSB & other community and private agencies and treatment centers



SCAN ME



<https://bit.ly/3tG5Mw0>

571-423-4270

FCPS Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP)

- ❖ Parents/Guardians can call their child's school front office staff or ask their counselor to connect to their school's assigned SAP Specialist.



OR

- ❖ Contact the Office of Student Safety and Wellness:
<https://bit.ly/3tG5Mw0>
571-423-4270

Additional SAP Program info:



- ❖ FCPS resources
 - Search Keywords: ATOD, SSAW, Vaping

