

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



Leadership Sponsor: Ellen Volo, Opioid Response Manager

Lead(s): Ellen Volo, Opioid Response Manager

Brief Description of the Initiative: Fairfax County’s multi-pronged, collaborative opioid response strategy is guided by the County’s FY 23-FY 25 Opioid Response Plan (the third iteration of the County’s opioid work plan; the FY 26-FY 28 work plan is currently in development). It includes over 40 programs/activities across six priority areas: Education and Prevention; Early Intervention and Treatment; Data and Monitoring; Criminal Justice and Enforcement; Harm Reduction; and Recovery. Collectively, these opioid programs/activities aim to reduce deaths from opioids; improve the quality of life of individuals impacted by opioid use disorder (OUD) (including those with OUD and their family/friends); and use data to target and assess interventions. Over 15 County agencies (including Fairfax County Public Schools) partner through the Opioid and Substance Use Task Force to advance the County’s opioid response effort, in collaboration with several community partners. It should be noted that the participating County agencies have their own Agency Equity Impact Plan; this Opioid Response Equity Impact Plan is focused on cross-systems strategies/activities.

Context:

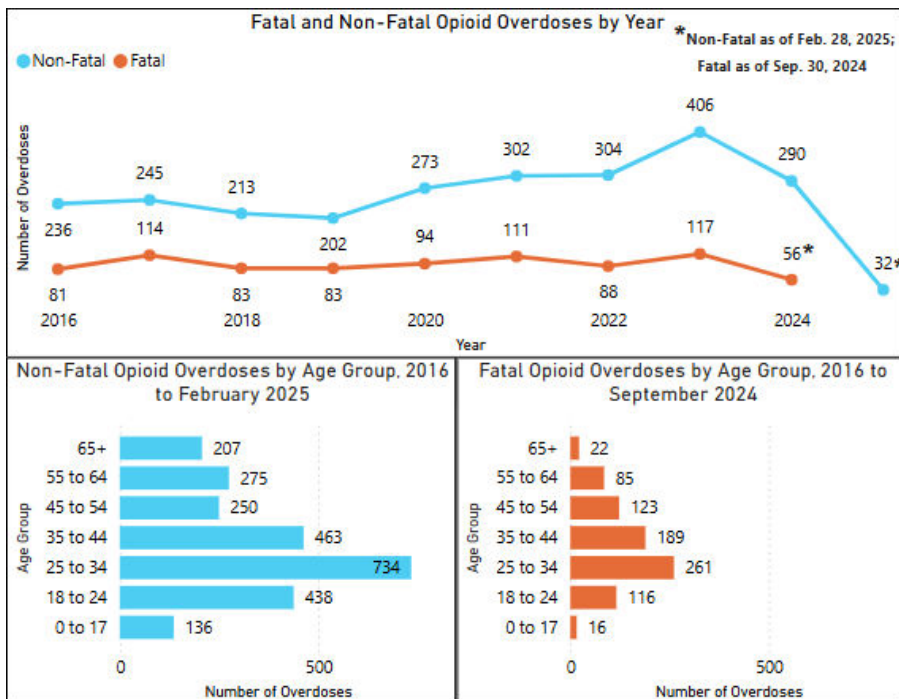
Across the nation and state, the number of fatal drug overdoses (of all types) has risen sharply in recent years. To respond to this increase, there are numerous national and state resources highlighting innovative approaches and best practices; many of these resources address equity and/or highlight strategies specific to populations disproportionately impacted.

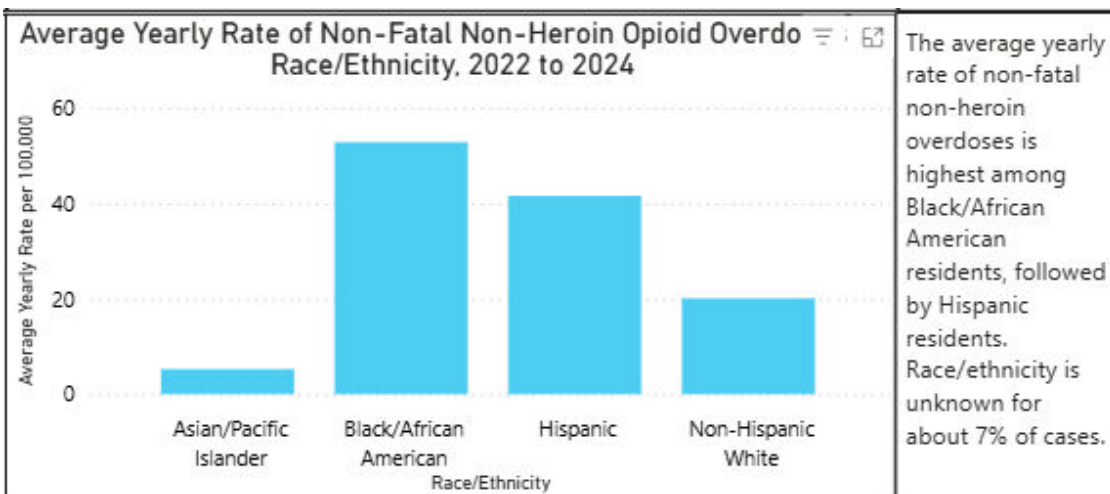
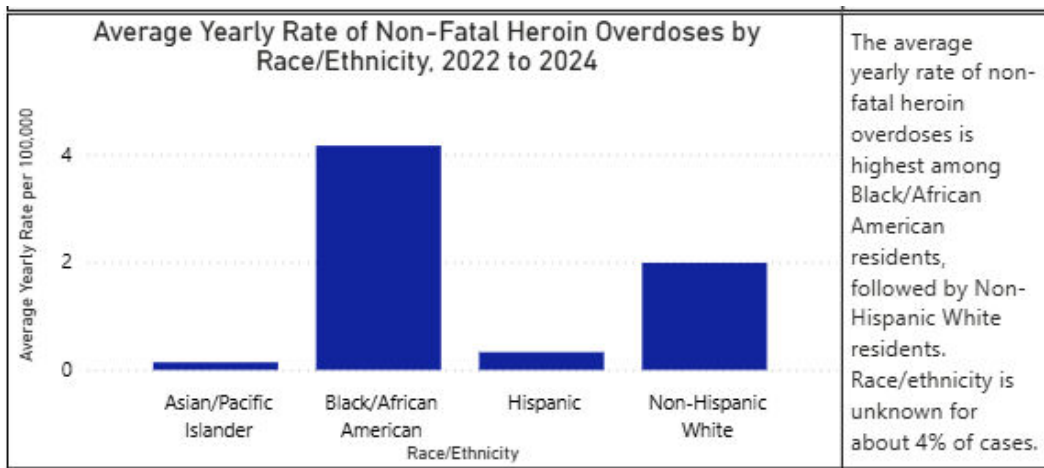
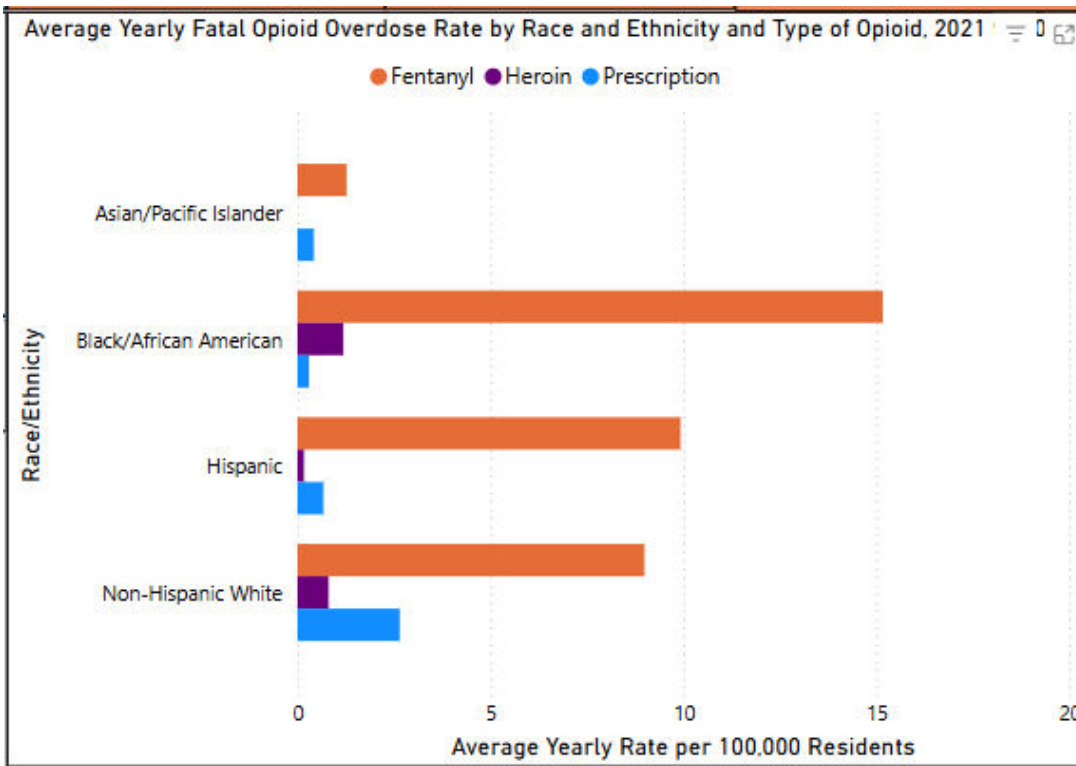
In the Fairfax Health District, similar to communities across the country, fentanyl is the primary opioid responsible for fatal and nonfatal overdoses. The Fairfax Health Department’s public opioid overdose dashboard provides up to date data on both nonfatal and fatal overdoses: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/opioid-overdoses-data>. This dashboard is updated regularly and highlights demographic trends through several graphs. Select graphs are below (please note the below graphs were obtained from the dashboard on December 6, 2024; please visit the dashboard at the link above for the most current data).

Though numbers historically have been lower among youth (0-17), fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses have increased in this age group in recent years. In fact, in 2023 there were five

fatal opioid overdoses and 58 non-fatal opioid overdoses among this age group, with many occurring among Hispanic youth. To address this concerning trend, there has been a lot of focus recently on enhancing youth prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery programs/activities and progress has been made. Notably, the number of youth opioid overdoses in 2024 is significantly lower than the 2023 full-year total.

In CY 2025, the County’s Opioid and Substance Use Task Force will update the County’s Opioid Response work plan for FY 26-FY 28. Guided by local opioid overdose trends (depicted below and on the Fairfax Opioid Overdose Dashboard), the focus on enhancing programs/activities for youth will continue in parallel process to optimizing and expanding opioid-related programs/activities for individuals 18 and older. In particular, Fairfax County is currently using opioid settlement funds to advance 8 projects/activities which expand/enhance services for youth and individuals involved with the criminal justice system. These projects/activities launched in 2024 and are in varying stages of implementation, with significant work ahead for all 8 projects in 2025. Additional opportunities to [utilize opioid settlement funds](#) will be explored as more settlement funds become available to Fairfax County. It is important to note that opioid settlement payments are expected through at least FY 2039, so the utilization of these funds will be an ongoing area of focus for several years.





Key Stakeholders:

- Individuals impacted by opioid use disorder and their families
- Community Services Board (CSB)
- Department of Family Services (DFS)
- Department of Information Technology (DIT)
- Department of Management and Budget (DMB)
- Department of Planning and Development
- Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
- Fire and Rescue Department
- General District Court
- Health Department
- Healthy Minds Fairfax
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC)
- Office of the County Attorney
- One Fairfax
- Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
- Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Police Department
- Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)
- Risk Management
- Sheriff's Office
- Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Fairfax Prevention Coalition, which includes several community partners

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative

Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



Goal 1: Incorporate behavioral health equity concepts/strategies in the County's FY 26-FY 28 Opioid Response Plan				
Key Equity Driver(s): Community Health and Wellbeing; Community Safety and Justice				
One Fairfax Area(s) of Focus: 7. A criminal justice system that provides equitable access and fair treatment for all people. 10. A health and human services system where opportunities exist for all individuals and families to be safe, be healthy and realize their potential through the provision of accessible, high quality, affordable and culturally appropriate services.				
Countywide Strategic Plan Community Outcome Area(s): Healthy Communities (HC); Safety and Security; Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability				
Countywide Strategic Plan Strategies/Metric(s): HC 9. Address substance use through coordinated education efforts for prevention, expanded treatment options and harm reduction actions in collaboration with community partners. SS 5. Bolster programs and resources that reduce recidivism and support successful offender re-entry into the community SS 12. Ensure coordinated post-incident human services and recovery assistance including case management, emergency housing, behavioral health and family reunification. SS 14. Work collaboratively to increase access to services and identify alternatives to adjudication and incarceration (e.g., diversion programs, specialty dockets) while protecting victims' and witnesses' rights. EEG 21. Strengthen the use of data-informed decision making through regular data collection, evaluation and distribution. ESRFV 1. Develop targeted marketing and outreach strategies, in coordination with community-based partners, to proactively engage residents facing vulnerability				
Actions	Stakeholders	Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
1a. Review national behavioral health equity resources to inform development of the County's FY 26-FY 28 Opioid Response Plan	Agencies contributing to the County's Opioid Response; Community members/organizations	Opioid Response Manager	2025	# of behavioral health equity resources reviewed
1b. Participate in a review conducted by George Mason University of other jurisdictions' opioid response efforts to identify potential programs/strategies to incorporate into the County's FY 26-FY 28 Opioid Response Plan to enhance	Agencies contributing to the County's Opioid Response; Community members/organizations	Opioid Response Manager	2024-2025	# of jurisdictions reviewed # of potential strategies identified

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative

Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



<p>program/services for at-risk populations, including youth, people who use drugs (PWUD), BIPOC, individuals involved with the criminal justice, and others.</p>				
<p>1c. Identify national/state resources that are culturally competent and/or available in multiple languages to incorporate into the County's opioid response activities</p>	<p>Agencies contributing to the County's Opioid Response; Community members/organizations</p>	<p>Opioid Response Manager</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p># of resources identified</p>

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative

Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



Goal 2: Utilize demographic analysis of local opioid overdose data to understand evolving local trends and target and improve interventions				
Key Equity Driver(s): Community Health and Wellbeing; Community Safety and Justice				
One Fairfax Area(s) of Focus: 7. A criminal justice system that provides equitable access and fair treatment for all people. 10. A health and human services system where opportunities exist for all individuals and families to be safe, be healthy and realize their potential through the provision of accessible, high quality, affordable and culturally appropriate services.				
Countywide Strategic Plan Community Outcome Area(s): Effective and Efficient Government (EEG)				
Countywide Strategic Plan Strategies/Metric(s): EEG 21. Strengthen the use of data-informed decision making through regular data collection, evaluation and distribution.				
Actions	Stakeholders	Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
2a. Review other local jurisdictions’ methods for analyzing and displaying demographic opioid overdose information to identify potential strategies to inform Fairfax County’s Opioid Response	Agencies contributing to the County’s Opioid Response; Community members/organizations	Fairfax Health Department Division of Epidemiology and Population Health; Opioid Response Manager	Ongoing	# of other jurisdictions consulted/reviewed
2b. Review trends in opioid overdose ED visits by multiple simultaneous demographic stratifications (e.g., race/ethnicity and age) to inform opioid response activities	Agencies contributing to the County’s Opioid Response; Community members/organizations	Fairfax Health Department Division of Epidemiology and Population Health; Opioid Response Manager	Spring 2025	# of analyses conducted involving multiple stratification factors # of new findings identified through analyses

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative

Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



Goal 3: Utilize opioid settlement funds to expand/enhance services for highly impacted/at risk populations				
Key Equity Driver(s): Community Health and Wellbeing; Community Safety and Justice				
One Fairfax Area(s) of Focus: 7. A criminal justice system that provides equitable access and fair treatment for all people. 10. A health and human services system where opportunities exist for all individuals and families to be safe, be healthy and realize their potential through the provision of accessible, high quality, affordable and culturally appropriate services.				
Countywide Strategic Plan Community Outcome Area(s): Healthy Communities (HC); Safety and Security; Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability				
Countywide Strategic Plan Strategies/Metric(s): HC 9. Address substance use through coordinated education efforts for prevention, expanded treatment options and harm reduction actions in collaboration with community partners. SS 5. Bolster programs and resources that reduce recidivism and support successful offender re-entry into the community ESRFV 3. Identify the root causes of vulnerabilities affecting residents and use those insights to inform policy and practice and target interventions to prevent vulnerability.				
Actions	Stakeholders	Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
3a. Address gaps in local youth substance use treatment options by expanding use of youth medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)	Community members/organizations; County agencies serving youth and their families (FCPS, DFS, JDRDC, FCPD, FCFRD)	CSB Youth and Families Division	Ongoing	# youth referred to CSB youth MOUD in 2025 # youth receiving CSB MOUD in 2025
3b. Optimize the Fairfax Recovery Court* Track for individuals 18-25 <i>*Fairfax Recovery Court was formerly known as the Fairfax Drug Court</i>	Community members/organizations; CSB, Circuit Court, Sheriff's Office, Commonwealth's Attorney, State Probation Office, Public Defender	CSB Diversion and Jail-Based Services Circuit Court Commonwealth Attorney's Office State Probation Office	Ongoing	# individuals referred to the 18-25 Recovery Court Track in 2025 # individuals participating in the 18-25 Recovery Court Track in 2025

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative

Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



		Public Defender's Office Sheriff's Office		
3c. Continue provision of expanded medical care and behavioral health treatment for incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorder	Individuals in the Adult Detention Center and their family members; CSB, Circuit Court, General District Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Sheriff's Office, Commonwealth's Attorney, Office of the Public Defender	CSB Jail Diversion; Sheriff's Office	Ongoing	# screened/ # positive OUD # received MOUD # provider visits # receiving release meds/prescriptions # Narcan/Fentanyl Test strips at release # Referred to community treatment
3d. Launch a substance use prevention campaign to build protective factors and reduce stigma	Community members/organizations; Healthy Minds Fairfax, CSB and other county agencies serving youth and their families	FCPS	Launch campaigns in winter/spring 2025	Increase in percentage of youth in Fairfax County reporting three or more protective factors in their lives. Reduction in the percentage of students who report using/misusing substances, including but not limited to opioids. Reduction in the percentage of students who report

Opioid Response Cross-Systems Initiative

Calendar Year 2025 Equity Impact Plan



				experiencing feelings of sadness or hopelessness
3e. Hold community dialogue sessions to identify and address the root causes of youth substance use	Community members/organizations; County agencies serving youth and their families	Healthy Minds Fairfax (CSB/Department of Family Services	Sessions held in fall 2024- winter 2025; final report expected in winter/spring 2025	# of dialogue sessions held # of participants