



Improving Prevention & Treatment for Opioid Use Among Racial & Ethnic Groups June 12, 2025

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American Academy of CME, Inc. designates this activity for 1.0 continuing education credits.

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Other members of the care team will receive a certificate of participation.

Additional Continuing Education Credit

EMT

This webinar has been approved by NJ OEMS for 1 EMT Elective CEU.

Athletic Trainers

Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (BOC AP#: P12171) is approved by the Board of Certification, Inc. to provide continuing education to Athletic Trainers (ATs). This program is eligible for a maximum of one (1) Category A hours/CEUs.



Partnership for a
Drug-Free New Jersey
In Cooperation with the Governor's Council on
Substance Use Disorder and the NJ Dept. of Human Services

Additional Information About Continuing Education

- You must apply to receive continuing education credit. It will not be sent to you just for attending this webinar.
- **WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE LINK TO APPLY FOR CREDIT?**
 - The last slide of this webinar
 - The chat at the end of the program
 - The follow-up email you will receive tomorrow
- The poll at the end of today's webinar IS NOT the evaluation for continuing education credit. The evaluation will be available through the link mentioned above.
- The links will be active for 30 days after today's event.

PA Planner Dean Barone discloses that he serves on the speakers bureaus of Ethicon and Johnson & Johnson. All other planners, faculty, and reviewers have no relevant financial relationships to disclose. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

Featured Presenters



Edouard Coupet Jr., MD, M.S.
Yale School of Medicine
Assistant Professor
Department of Emergency Medicine

Dr. Coupet is an Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine and Core Faculty in the Yale Program of Addiction Medicine at Yale University. He is a board-certified physician in both emergency and addiction medicine. He has received funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Emergency Medicine Foundation to study health equity within access to evidence-based addiction medicine treatment. Dr. Coupet's primary research interests include emergency department (ED)-based interventions to reduce socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic disparities in addiction medicine treatment and the prevention of assault-related injury. His work has been featured in JAMA Network Open, JAMA Surgery, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Annals of Emergency Medicine, and Journal of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Coupet earned his bachelor's in science degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He completed his medical school training at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and residency training at the Jacobi/Montefiore Emergency Medicine Program in the Bronx.



Carola Gaines
Co-Chair, African American Opioid Coalition (AAOC)

Carola Gaines recently retired from Quartz and University of Wisconsin Health where she served for 31 years, working with Medicaid and SSI families advocating and creating programs that would support their health and assist in removing barriers to health care. Carola has also served as a Community Research Associate for UW-Madison Community Academic Aging Research Network for five years. She is committed to the African American/Black community and partners to build bridges with researchers to secure projects that address the needs of older adults in the community. She is passionate about advocating and dedicated to being the voice of the marginalized and changing the narratives that affect this community. She has served as the Co-Chair for the African American Opioid Coalition for 6 years. Carola graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.S. in Journalism/Communications and pursued post-graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work.



Edouard Coupet Jr., MD, M.S.
Yale School of Medicine
Assistant Professor
Department of Emergency Medicine



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Improving Prevention and Treatment for Opioid Use Among Racial and Ethnic Minoritized Groups

Edouard Coupet Jr., M.D., M.S.
June 12, 2025

Yale School of Medicine
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Department of Emergency Medicine

KOOAD NJ Webinar



No Conflicts of Interest to Declare.

Outline

- Overview of Racial & Ethnic Disparities in OUD
- Racial & Ethnic Inequities in Treatment Access
- Potential Solutions
- Key Takeaways

HEALTH

Reporter's notebook: 8 theories why fentanyl deaths are plummeting

MARCH 24, 2025 · 5:30 AM ET

U.S. overdose deaths fell by 27% last year – the largest one-year decline ever recorded

[Nation](#) Updated on May 14, 2025 1:17 PM EDT — Published on May 14, 2025 12:18 PM EDT

CDC Reports Nearly 24% Decline in U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths

HEALTHWATCH

U.S. drug overdose deaths dropped sharply in 2024, the largest one-year decline ever recorded

PBS NEWS HOUR

What's behind the significant drop in opioid overdose deaths

May 15, 2025 6:35 PM EDT

Overdose Deaths Decline, Fentanyl Threat Looms

Disparities behind the Headlines



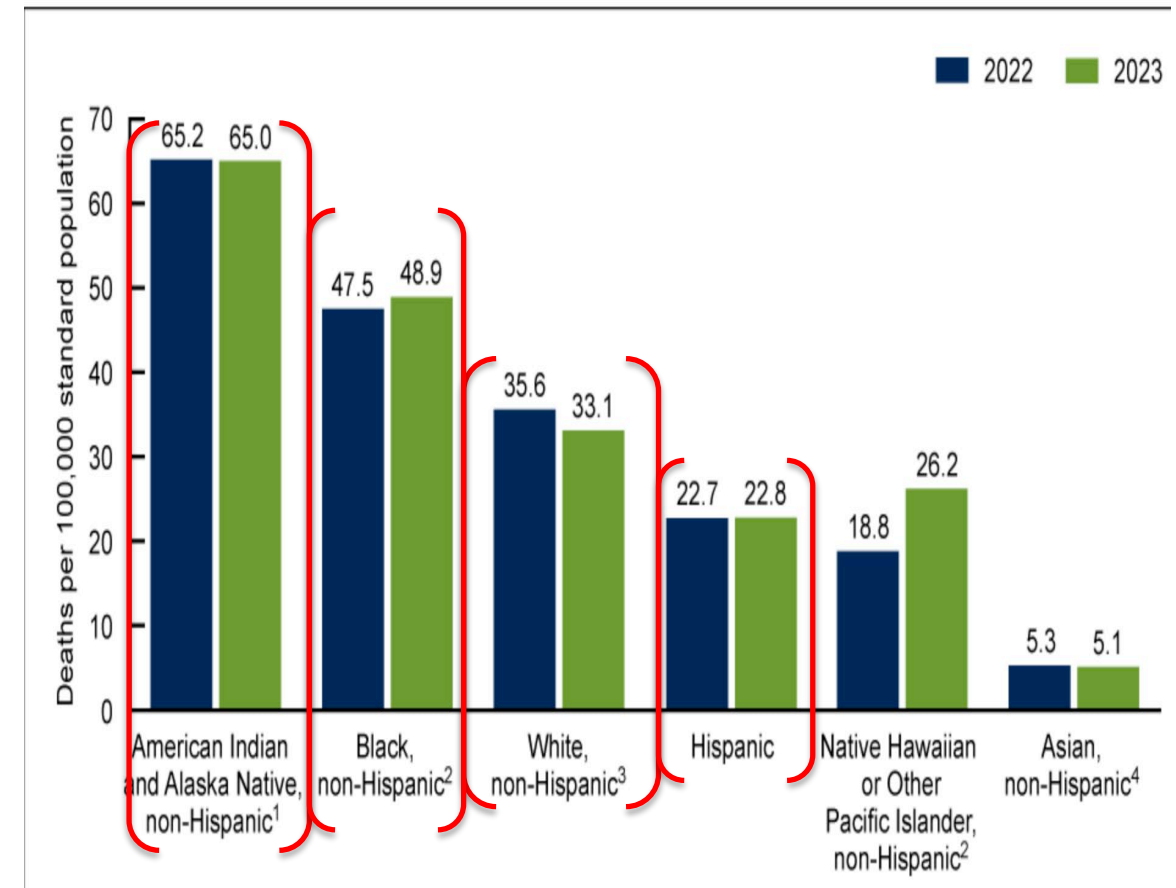
- From 2022 to 2023, the rate of opioid overdose deaths
 -  among non-Latino White populations
 - \equiv among Latino populations
 - \equiv among Native American populations
 -  among Black populations

Figure 3. Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2022 and 2023



Garnett & Miniño, NCHS Data Brief 2024

Inequities

- High-potency synthetic opioids (i.e., fentanyl)
- Polysubstance use (e.g., amphetamine-type stimulant use)
- Structural racism

Friedman et al., Amer J of Psych 2024



**Overcoming addiction takes
more than willpower.**

Inequities in MOUD Access

Black, Latino, & Native American populations have lower odds of receiving buprenorphine vs. White populations in 180 days after OUD diagnosis

	AOR (95% CI)	p-value
Race/ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	1.0 (ref)	
Black, non-Hispanic	0.58 (0.57, 0.59)	<0.001
AIAN/Asian/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	0.88 (0.84, 0.91)	<0.001
Hispanic, all races	0.78 (0.76, 0.80)	<0.001


Dunphy et al., Amer J of Preventive Med 2022

Inequities in MOUD Access

Fewer Black & Latino patients: received buprenorphine, naloxone, naltrexone, and engaged in treatment vs White patients at 180 days

Variable	Black (N=3937)	Hispanic (N=2105)	White (N=19,862)	Adjusted Difference (95% CI)		
				Black vs. White	Hispanic vs. White	Hispanic vs. Black
Buprenorphine						
Any receipt in 180 days — no. (%)	501 (12.7)	393 (18.7)	4627 (23.3)	−8.7 (−11.3 to −6.0)	−4.2 (−6.7 to −1.8)	4.4 (2.0 to 6.9)
Total days' supply received within 180 days, among recipients	94.1±68.4	111.7±66.9	118.1±66.0	−23.4 (−32.5 to −14.2)	−4.0 (−11.3 to 3.3)	19.4 (8.1 to 30.7)
Treatment retention — no./total no. (%)†	151/501 (30.1)	160/393 (40.7)	2073/4627 (44.8)	−14.0 (−20.3 to −7.8)	−1.9 (−7.3 to 3.6)	12.2 (5.8 to 18.6)
Naloxone						
Any receipt in 180 days — no. (%)	568 (14.4)	435 (20.7)	4546 (22.9)	−6.7 (−9.5 to −3.7)	−2.3 (−5.1 to 0.5)	4.3 (1.5 to 7.1)
Naltrexone						
Any receipt in 180 days — no. (%)	110 (2.8)	70 (3.3)	664 (3.3)	−0.1 (−0.7 to 0.6)	0.1 (−0.9 to 1.1)	0.2 (−0.7 to 1.0)

Barnett et al, NEJM 2023



The emergency department is a treatment hub for many racial and ethnic minoritized populations with untreated OUD.

Little is known about barriers and facilitators racial and ethnic minoritized populations encounter to treatment engagement after an ED visit.

Study Aim

To elicit and compare barriers and facilitators to OUD treatment engagement post-ED visit among Black, Latino, and White individuals

Study Design

- Performed 57 semi-structured individual interviews
 - 20 Black, 20 non-Latino White, 17 Latino
 - Study sites:
Cooper (NJ), Grady (GA), Henry Ford (MI), Maine Medical Center (ME), University of New Mexico (NM), University of Utah Hospital (UT), and Alameda Health System (CA)

Data Collection: Interview Guide

- **OUD and its intersections with race & ethnicity**

- Attitudes
- Subjective norms
- Perceived behavior control
- Perceptions of the ED patient-clinician relationship
- OUD treatment preferences

- **Example Interview Questions:**

- “When someone says ‘drug use treatment’, what does that mean to you?”
- “How would important people in your life react if they knew you were currently seeking treatment for drug use?”

Common Barriers

Self-Stigma

Healthcare Stigma

Stigma from Loved Ones

Difficulty Navigating the Healthcare System

Polysubstance Use

Mental Health Issues

Structural Factors

Representative Quote: Difficulty Navigating the Healthcare System

“I would need somebody, I guess, willin' to show me which avenue to take. The study I did with you guys was only limited. It was only good for, what? Two months? A month-and-a-half? I don't know how to get [buprenorphine] out here like that.” –Black Participant

Representative Quote: Stigma from Loved Ones

“That's one of the big reasons why I didn't want to keep taking [buprenorphine]. It's because [my family] would have probably looked at it as another opioid and another chance for relapse. That was one of my biggest things of not wanting to continue it as well.” –Latino Participant

Barrier Among Black and Latino Participants: Racism & Mistrust in Healthcare

“Most of these treatments are ran by white people, and they do discriminate, and there’s still racism behind these walls..... I’ve experienced racism. I experienced discrimination just ‘cause of my color. I got discriminated just how big I am. ‘Cause of how big I am, my weight, how dark I am, and I’m black. I felt all three at once.” – Black Participant

Barrier Among Latino and White Participants: Concerns about Side Effects of Buprenorphine

“I didn't really like the [buprenorphine] 'cause I feel like I had relapse. [Buprenorphine] wasn't good for me just 'cause it didn't help me stay clean, 'cause when I was on [buprenorphine], I would just crave it...I would probably take it if they up-dose the medication.” –Latino Participant

Common Facilitators

Positive attitudes towards and self-efficacy in treatment engagement

Stable Healthcare Access

Social Support

Positive Experiences with ED Staff

Representative Quote: Social Support

“No, [not having transportation] wouldn’t affect me ‘cause, like I tell you, I have the support of my family.” –
Latino Participant

Addressing Disparities: Substance Use Navigators

- Trained staff who seek to link patients with addiction treatment & recovery services
- Uniquely positioned to navigate structural barriers to care

Addressing Disparities: Culturally-Responsive Care

- Clinician implicit bias training
- Linguistically adapted interventions
 - Interpreter services
 - Patient-facing material in Spanish (e.g., brochures, apps)

Addressing Disparities: Bridge Clinics

- Low barrier, transitional outpatient programs designed for rapid access to MOUD
 - Few requirements (e.g., abstinence)
 - Accept walk-ins
- Patient-centered
 - Same day MOUD initiation
 - Harm reduction services
 - Case management
 - Facilitate linkage to ongoing care

Key Takeaways for the Care Team

- Substantial racial & ethnic disparities in OUD
- Inequities are multi-factorial
 - Structural determinants of health
 - Stigma
- Potential solutions to address disparities
 - Substance use navigation
 - Culturally-responsive care
 - Bridge clinics

Email: edouard.coupet@yale.edu

Questions
?





Carola Gaines
Co-Chair, African American Opioid Coalition (AAOC)

African American Opioid Coalition-AAOC

Charlie Daniel, Founder
Carola A. Gaines, Co-Chair
June 12, 2025



Safe Communities



AAOC - Founder - Co-Chairs and Secretary



*“When Whites die
of drug overdoses,
the whole world
listens....when
African
American/Blacks
die, it isn’t new”*



AAOC

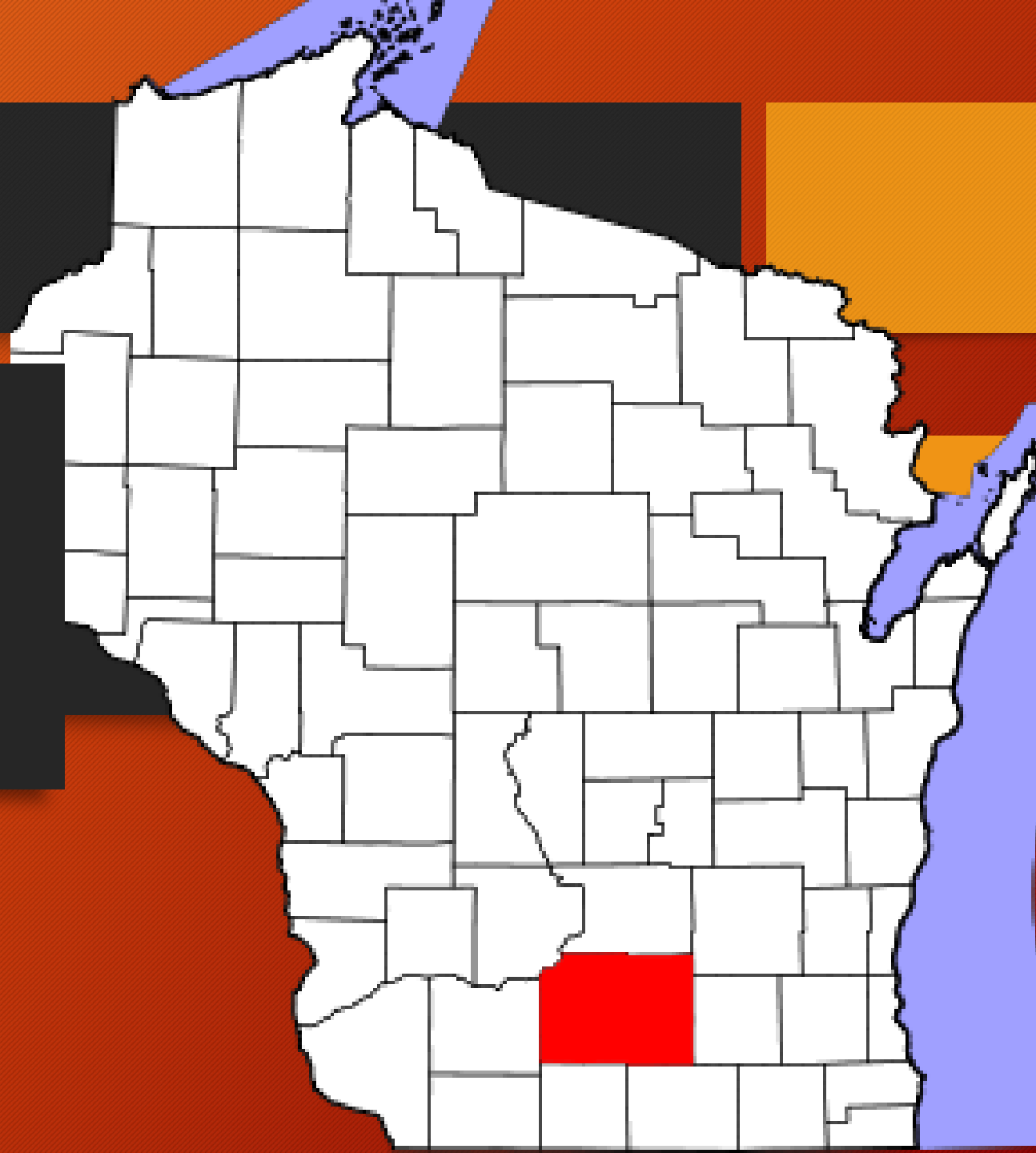
Founded in April 2017

Mission

The African American Opioid Coalition (AAOC) of Safe Communities is a coalition of Black leaders representing organizations with a role to play to prevent drug harm in Dane County's Black community. AAOC goals are: to improve the overall wellness of Black families; to educate about impacts of opioid addiction in the African American community; and to have a place at the table (not on the menu!) to inform policies and practices affecting Black families.



*The Opioid Overdose death rate
among Black Dane County
residents is higher than the
opioid overdose death rates
among Black individuals in
Milwaukee County and Wisconsin
Statewide*



Overdose-related deaths among Black men have increased in Dane County

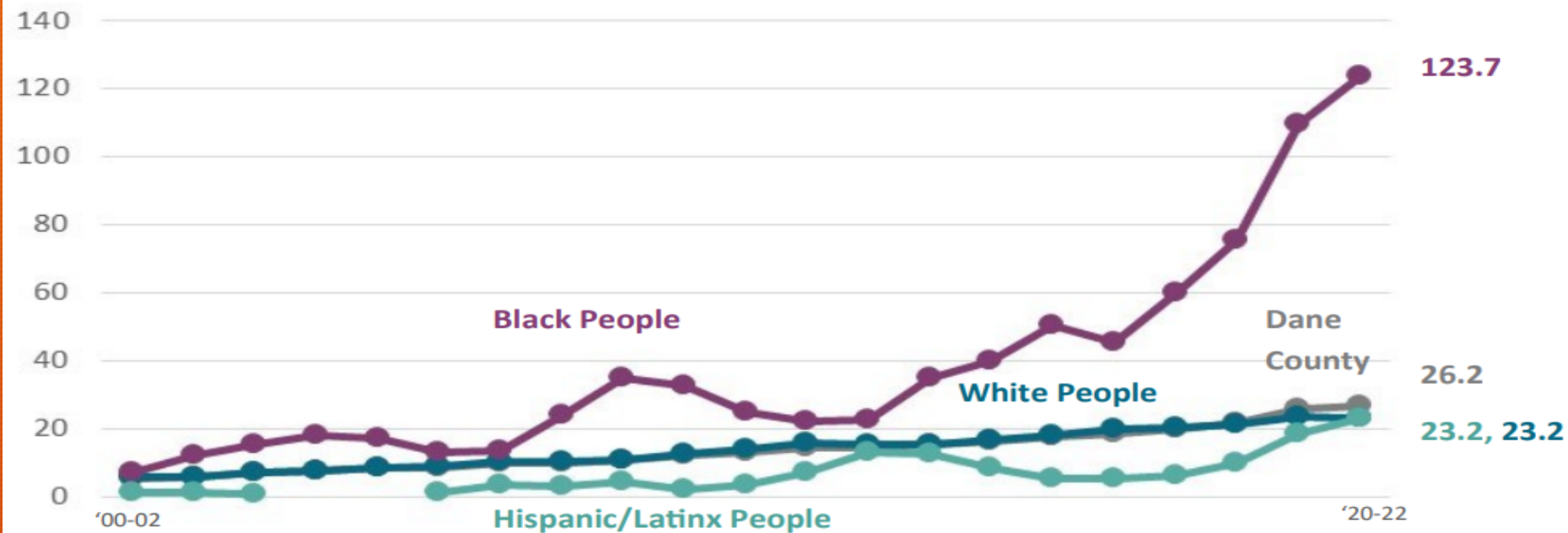
- The overdose death rate* for Black men was over 5 times higher than men overall from 2020-2022
- 81 Black men died from 2020-2022
- Among Black men and women opioid overdose death rates are highest at ages 25-54
- Urgent action is needed to address the worsening racial inequities in drug overdose deaths


Summary of Drug Overdoses in Dane Co. 2020-2022

Black people have experienced sharp increases in drug overdose death rates in the past decade.


The age-adjusted drug overdose death rate among **Black people** was more than 4.5 times the rate of Dane County as a whole from 2020-2022.

3-year age-adjusted overdose death rate per 100,000 people






THE LARGEST recent increases in drug overdose deaths for Black and Hispanics were due to heroin. Although there were also increases due to other opioids




WHEN AFRICAN AMERICANS die of drug overdose, it gets ignored. When whites die of drug overdose the whole world listens. From Politician to Big Pharma, FDA & The Media.

“When African Americans die, it isn't news.”



PUBLIC HEALTH measures have been initiated, particular in heavily affected areas in response to opioid deaths among whites. But is often overlooked in the Black and Brown communities



MUCH MEDIA COVERAGE of opioid overdose has focused on young white people, many of them in suburbia

AAOC MEMBERSHIP



AAOC Programs



Prescription Drug Take-Back Day



Med-Drop Sundays



Oak Boxes



Ending Deaths from Despair

AAOC Community Involvement

 **Med Drop**

NATIONAL
PRESCRIPTION DRUG
Take Back Day

The Drug Take Back Day goal is to provide a safe convenient and responsible means of disposal of prescription medications. We also educate the public about safe use, storage, and disposal of medications to prevent poisoning and other potential harm from accidental or intentional misuse of medications.

Free medication Lockboxes • Free Dispose RX

October 26th, 2024 • 10am-2pm

3 DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

1 WarnerPark 2 Elver Park
3 Mt. Zion Baptist Church Food Pantry



For more information and a complete list of Dane County locations, please visit www.safercommunity.net/events



National Drug Take Back Day



Med Drop Sundays

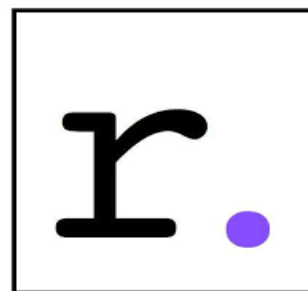


OAK BOXES

- Overdose Aid Kits, or OAK boxes, are boxes that include information on how to administer the life saving drug naloxone (Narcan) in an emergency, breathing masks, and other information and resources for those impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- We partner with many locations across Dane County to make naloxone and fentanyl test strips available free of charge.



Our Community Sustaining Partners



Resources

- <https://safercommunity.net/aaocmdc/>
- [The Opioid Crisis and the Black/African American Population: An Urgent Issue](#)
- [Data Spotlight – Blacks Experiencing Fast-Rising Rates of Overdose Deaths Involving Synthetic Opioids Other Than Methadone](#)
- [2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: African Americans](#)
- [African Americans and Mental Health \(American Psychiatric Association\)](#)
- https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/Summary_of_Overdose_Deaths.pdf



Safe Communities



Questions and Answers

Thank you!



To register for continuing education for today's webinar:
Physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, pharmacists, other: knockoutday.drugfreenj.org/june12
EMT: KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/EMT
Athletic Trainers: KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/Trainers

UPCOMING WEBINAR
Responsible Opioid Prescribing
11 a.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025
Register at KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/events

