



Berks Opioid Coalition

A Community Presentation

Agenda

12:00 – 12:15 PM

Gathering

12:15 – 12:20 PM

Welcome

12:20 – 12:50 PM

**Presentation and
Narcan Demo**

12:50 – 1:10 PM

Brainstorming Session

1:10 – 1:15 PM

Closing

Welcome





Why we
are here.



The Opioid Crisis



Prescription / Street Drugs



- ✓ Prescription medications can be as dangerous and deadly as street drugs.
- ✓ An individual can overdose on prescribed medication if they do not recognize the dosage/frequency of the medication.
- ✓ Street pills can look just like real ones.
- ✓ Fentanyl can be in ANYTHING, as well as Xylazine.

Overdose Deaths in Berks County 2016 - 2024

❖ 2016 – 116

❖ 2021 – 134

❖ 2017 – 114

❖ 2022 – 135

❖ 2018 – 92

❖ 2023 – 126

❖ 2019 – 125

❖ 2024 – 95

❖ 2020 – 126

Source: Berks County Coroner's Department

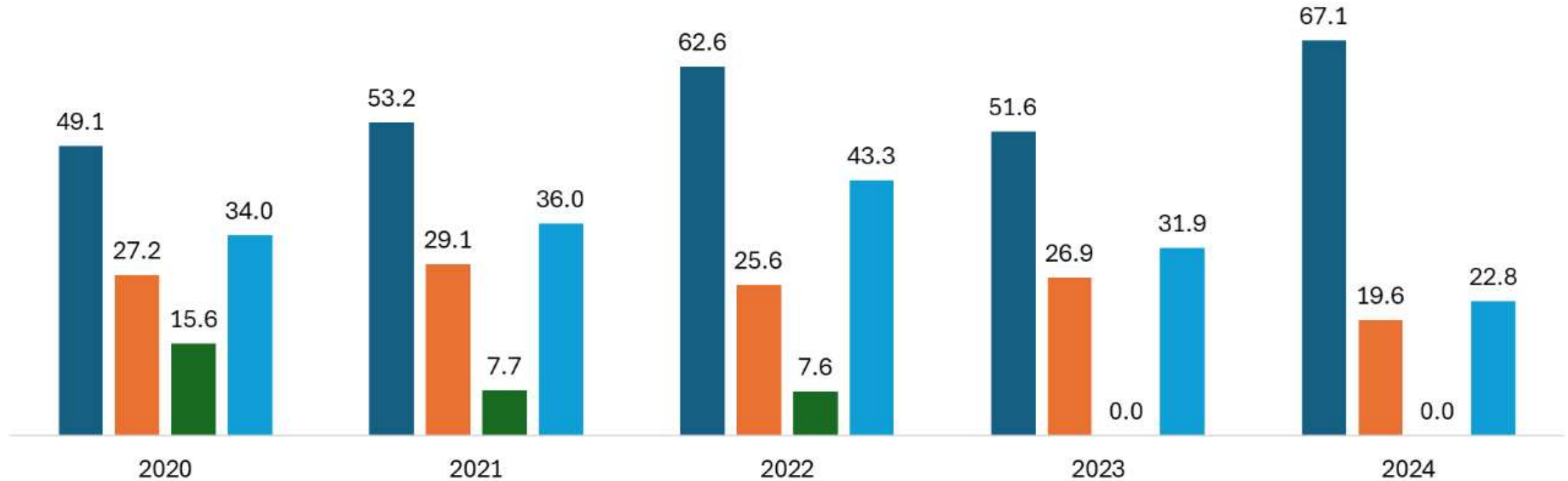


Overdose deaths per 100,000 population – Berks County, PA

by Race/Ethnicity

2020 - 2024

■ Black non-Hispanic ■ White non-Hispanic ■ Other non-Hispanic ■ Hispanic



Population Estimates

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Black non-Hispanic	18,323	18,804	19,168	19,374	19,374
White non-Hispanic	297,553	295,173	293,032	290,431	290,431
Other non-Hispanic	12,835	12,974	13,170	13,404	13,404
Hispanic	99,960	102,684	106,203	109,612	109,612

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Inequities in Treatment & Harm Reduction

The Society for the Study of Addiction conducted a study on inequities in (Narcan) Naloxone administration among fatal overdose descendants by race and ethnicity in Pennsylvania, 2019-2021.

Findings

- ❖ Black people are less likely to receive treatment for Substance Use Disorder and be linked to harm reduction.
- ❖ Overdose death rates were highest amongst black people.
- ❖ Black descendants had 40-50% lower odds of (Narcan) Naloxone administration.

Source: 2024 Society for the Study of Addiction



Mental Health/Substance Use Stats in Black/African American Population

Perceptions and Barriers

❖ 63% believe a mental health condition is a personal weakness

❖ Rates of mental illness similar to gen pop

- Lower outpatient yet higher use of inpatient services (crisis)

❖ 50% premature termination rate vs 30%

❖ Disparities

- Poorer quality of care
- Lack access to culturally competent care
- Most likely to use emergency rooms
- Misdiagnosis of emotional distress

❖ Physician-patient communication more verbally dominant



Helpful Resources



WHAT IS NALOXONE?

NALOXONE
IS AN "OPIOID
ANTAGONIST"
USED TO COUNTER
THE EFFECTS OF
OPIOIDS.

- ✓ Naloxone is a non-addictive prescription medication with no potential for abuse.
- ✓ It is a temporary drug that wears off in 30-90 minutes.
- ✓ Naloxone has no effect or harm if opioids are absent.

NALOXONE

- ✓ Naloxone counteracts the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose.



BE PREPARED WITH A KIT!

Opioid Overdose Reversal Kits Include:

- ✓ 2 doses (4 mg each) Narcan[®] Nasal Spray
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Breathing Barrier for Rescue Breathing
- ✓ Educational Insert



Pennsylvania

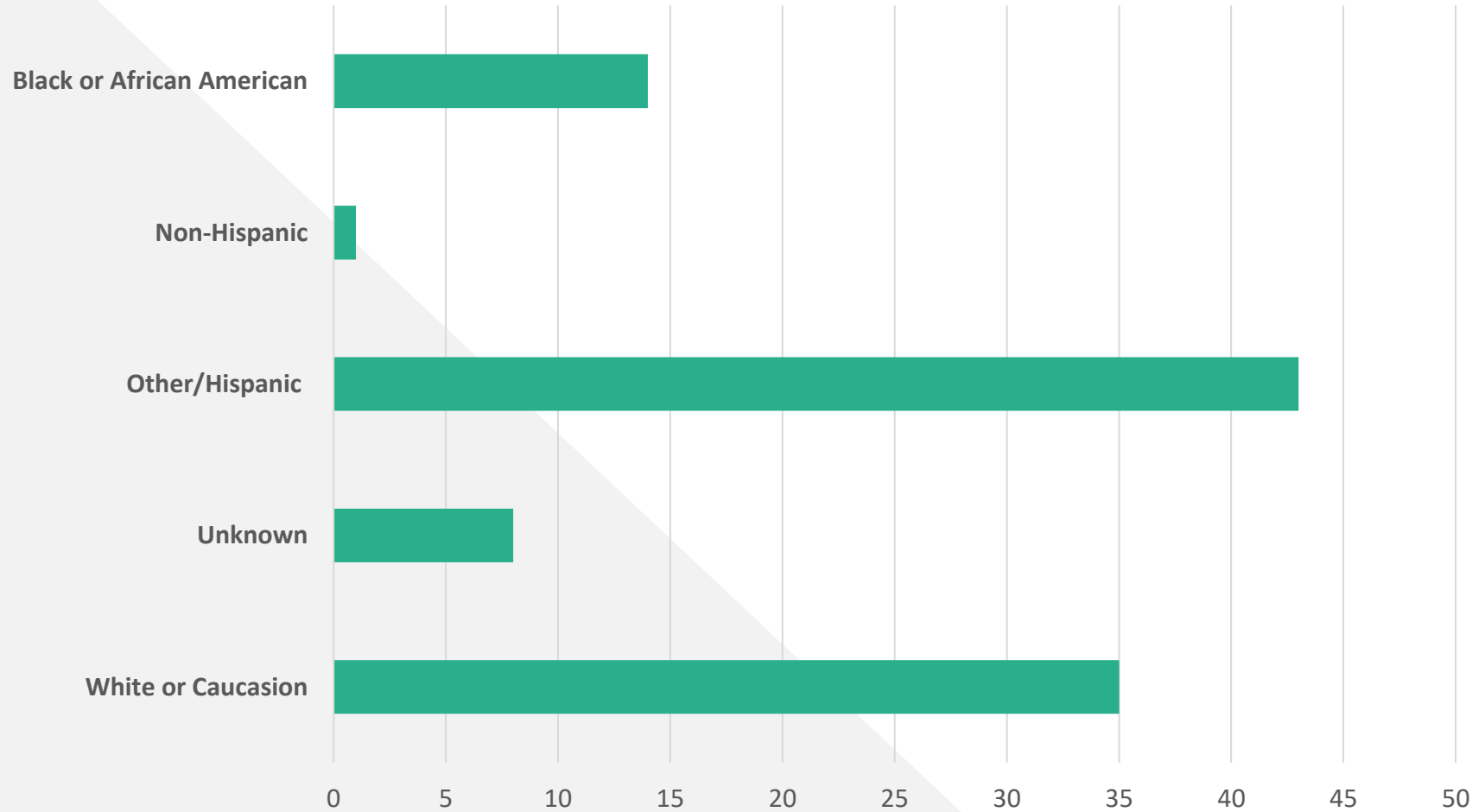
“Good Samaritan” Immunity Law

PA Good Samaritan law offers protection, or immunity, to those who seek medical attention or administer (Narcan) Naloxone to someone experiencing a drug-related overdose and consequently may be at risk of arrests, charges or prosecution for drug-related crimes. These laws aim to reduce fatal overdoses by encouraging people to call 911 if they experience or witness a drug overdose, rather than avoiding law enforcement due to fear of arrest. It requires that the person reporting the overdose remain with the victim and cooperate with police in order for either party to be granted immunity.



2023 Berks County Known Narcan® Saves

2023 Narcan® / Naloxone Saves to Date – 102 Total

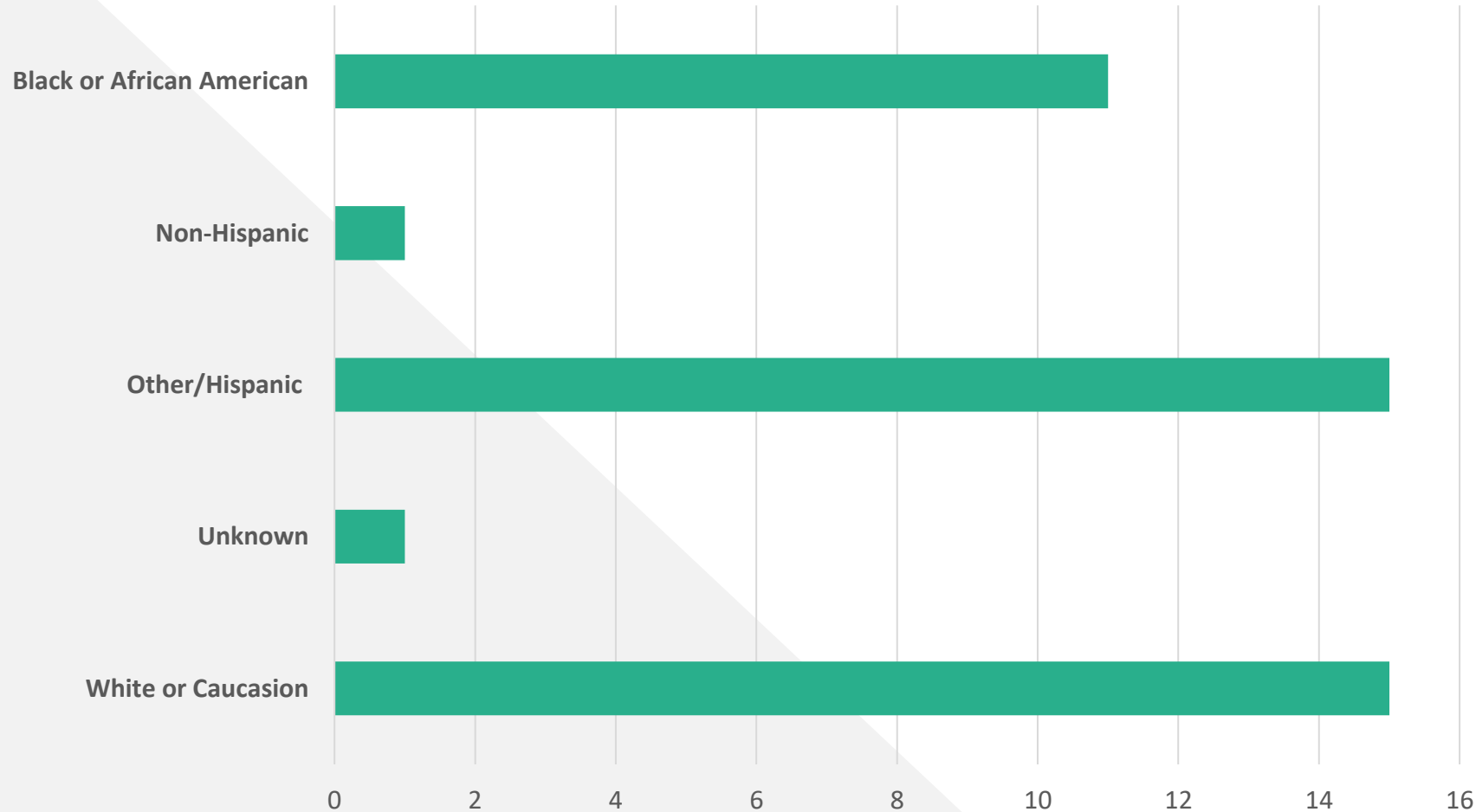


Of 102 saves,
65 were not
EMS saves.

Source: Tower Health

2024 Berks County Known Narcan® Saves

2024 Narcan® / Naloxone Saves to Date – 44 Total



Of 44 saves,
5 were not
EMS saves.

Source: Tower Health

Narcan Demonstration



Helpful Resources Continued



Treatment & Warm Handoff (WHO) Program



Berks Community Health Center

- ❖ Medication Assisted Treatment
- ❖ Integrated Behavior Health
- ❖ CRS Coaching offered to Patients
- ❖ * *Must be willing to receive primary care at BCHC*



Racial Trauma group at Caron Outpatient

Race-based trauma

- Oppression
- Discrimination
- intergenerational

Facilitated by Greg Day, Edie Randall, and Tara Cooper

Incorporates CBT, storytelling, role playing, art, music, psycho-education

Mondays 3PM-5PM
in Ten week cohorts

4843454670

Ways to Help

Spread the word. Share the information you learned today to help spread awareness.



Brainstorming Session

What can we all do
right now?



Resources

SOS Coalition Meetings

(Usually first Friday of each month)

Next meeting Friday, July 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM

Alvernia McGlinn Center 460 St. Bernardine Street 19607

cocaberks.org

sosberks.org

getnaloxonenow.org

Contact Bernice at BHCorbit@cocaberks.org

(610) 376-8669 Ext. 108



SOS



Stop Overdoses... Save Lives