

Monte Barnett, Founder | A1 Stigma Free Coalition



Our Mission

Our mission is to reduce the stigma surrounding overdose deaths and improving mental well being in the African American community by providing education, evidence-based treatment, and resources.



Our Vision

Our vision is to eradicate all behavior health disparities in the African American communities in Hamilton County by providing education and access to a full continuum of care.



Disparities

Paris Wheeler, PhD

Assistant Professor | Dept of Psychology

University of Cincinnati



Substance Use Disparities among Black Americans

Drug Use

- Past year illicit drug use do not differ between Black and White people (21.9% and 21.7%, respectively)

Drug Treatment

- Black adults are 18-37% less likely to complete substance use treatment compared to White counterparts
- Shorter treatment duration

Health Disparities

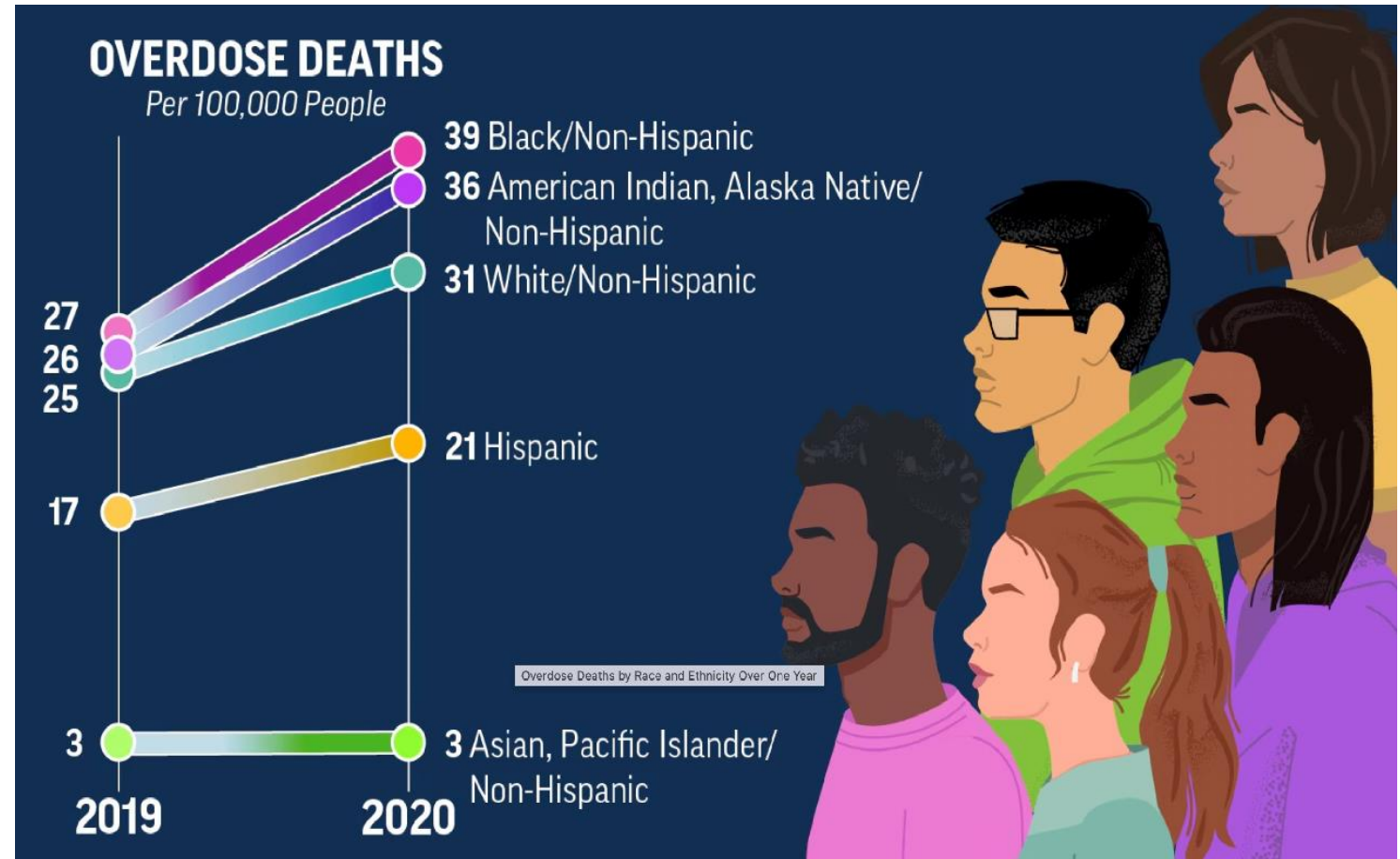
- Black Americans more likely to contract STIs despite similar or lower individual risks behaviors
- Disproportionate overdose deaths

Racial Disparities in Drug Overdose

- Overdoses among Black Americans surpassed rates for White Americans for first time in 2020 (Friedman & Hansen, 2022)

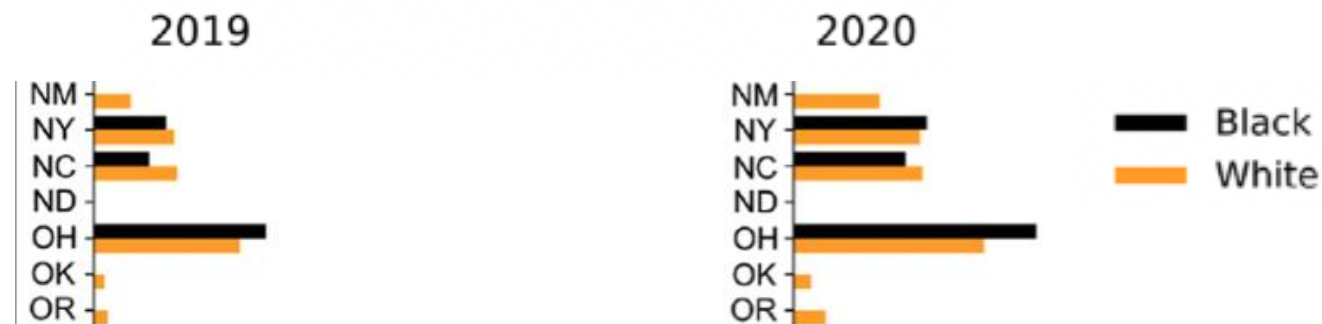
- Causes

- Employment access
- Housing
- Discriminatory law enforcement practices
- Unregulated drug supply



Fentanyl in Illicit Drug Supplies

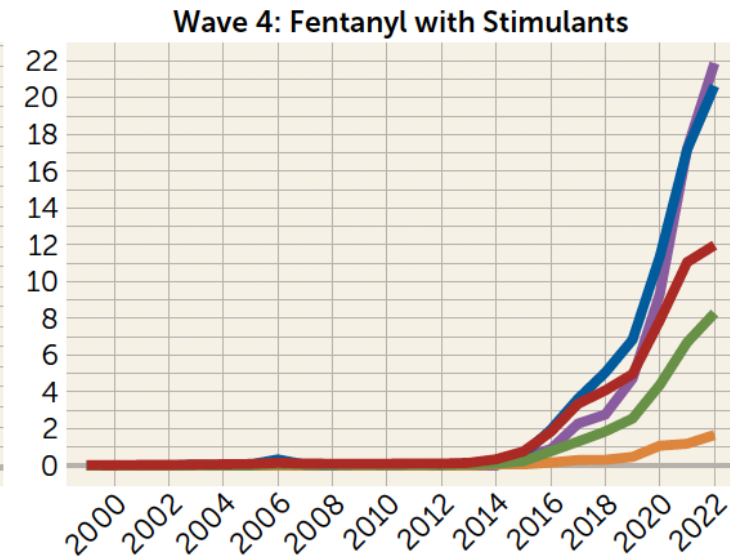
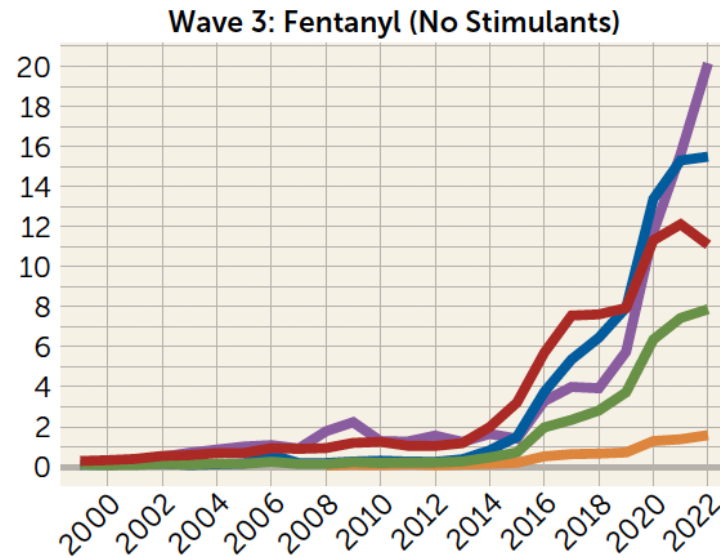
- Illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) laced in various drug sources, including heroin, cocaine, pills, etc.
- Many Black Americans who overdose are not primary opioid users, but were exposed to IMF through use other drugs
 - Between 2013 and 2020, the crude rates of fentanyl- involved overdose deaths rose by 6,980% for Black men and 2,140% for Black women, compared to 2,209% and 991% for the aggregate US male and female populations



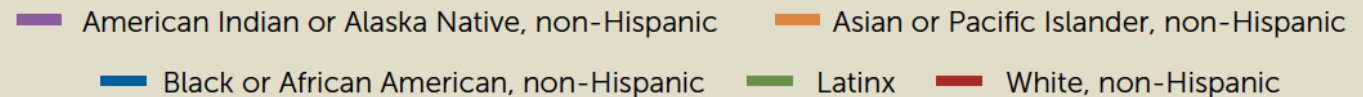
Fentanyl and Stimulants

- Overdoses are highest among people who are ingesting fentanyl with stimulants (cocaine, methamphetamine)

- 1) Harder for body to process multiple drugs
- 2) stimulants decrease blood flow to the brain, while opioids slow breathing
- 3) usually leads to injecting more frequently, more opioids in system

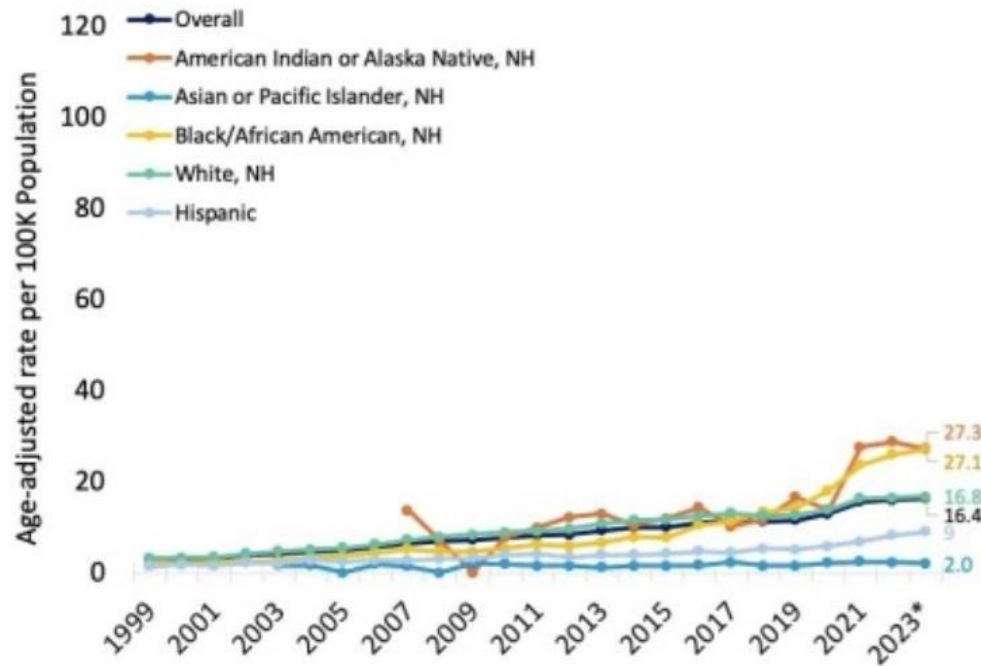


Year

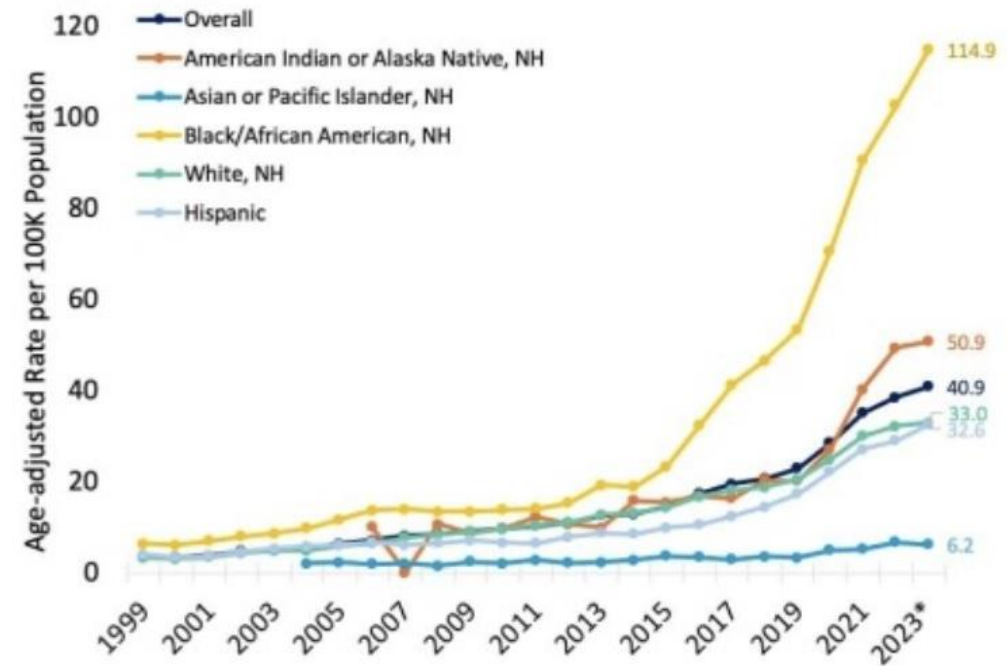


Fentanyl and Stimulants

Adults Females, Aged 55-85+ years, by Race



Adult Males, Aged 55-85+ years, by Race





Harm Reduction

Deztani Randle

Outreach Coordinator

Hamilton County Public Health



Harm Reduction

- Harm reduction: evidence-based strategies to save lives and improve well-being of people who use drugs
- Empowers people who use drugs with life-saving skills and resources
 - Person-centered and community led approaches
 - Reduce disease transmission
 - Prevent overdose
 - Improve physical, mental, social well-being
 - Examples: medications for OUD; naloxone access; drug testing; Syringe exchange programs/safe injection sites; condoms and PrEP
- Regional efforts (e.g., HEALing Communities Study)
Aims to reduce overdose by 40%; however, shifts in racial disparities have emerged since the study began

Prevention

Rashida Pearson

Community Engagement Expert

Walls of Wellness Consulting



Prevention

Prevention: a planned sequence of culturally relevant, evidenced-based strategies, which are designed to reduce the likelihood of or delay the onset of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders.

Prevention Strategies

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) identifies six effective prevention strategies. The strategies are listed below.

- Information Dissemination
- Prevention Education
- Alternatives
- Problem Identification and Referral
- Community Based Processes
- Environmental Strategies

Mental Health

Launie Miller, MS, LPCC, LICDC

Founder

Peaceful Intentions Counseling & Consulting



Mental Health



How to Help

Michael Collins, MS, LPCC, LICDC

Author

The Recovery Guidebook



How to Help



***This is a Call to Action to emphasize the importance of addressing opioid prevention disparities in the Black communities. (Individuals, communities, and policymakers of all races must unite to combat this historical opioid epidemic.)**



Thank you!



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