UTAH OPIOID CRISIS RESPONSE BLUEPRINT

A Roadmap for Opioid Settlement Investments: County, Municipality, and Statewide Stakeholders

January 31, 2022

UTAH OPIOID
TASK FORCE

OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC) MEMBERS AND BLUEPRINT AUTHORS, WITH AREAS OF EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

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BLUEPRINT PURPOSE:

Provide Utah policymakers and stakeholders guidance on how to leverage opioid settlement funds

BLUEPRINT GOALS:

Maximize settlement spending benefits to alleviate the harms caused by opioids in Utah

The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) is a part of the Utah Opioid Task Force (UTOTF).

The OSAC is composed of voluntary subject matter experts from a broad range of relevant fields and has the singular task of providing guidance on utilizing opioid settlement funds expected from various opioid litigations.

BACKGROUND

- Drug poisoning deaths are a **preventable public health problem**

- **Utah** is particularly affected by prescription opioids

- There were over **100,000 overdose deaths** in the U.S. in 2021—the most ever in a 12-month period

- **Utah has made progress** but there is still much work to be done

Leading cause of injury death in Utah
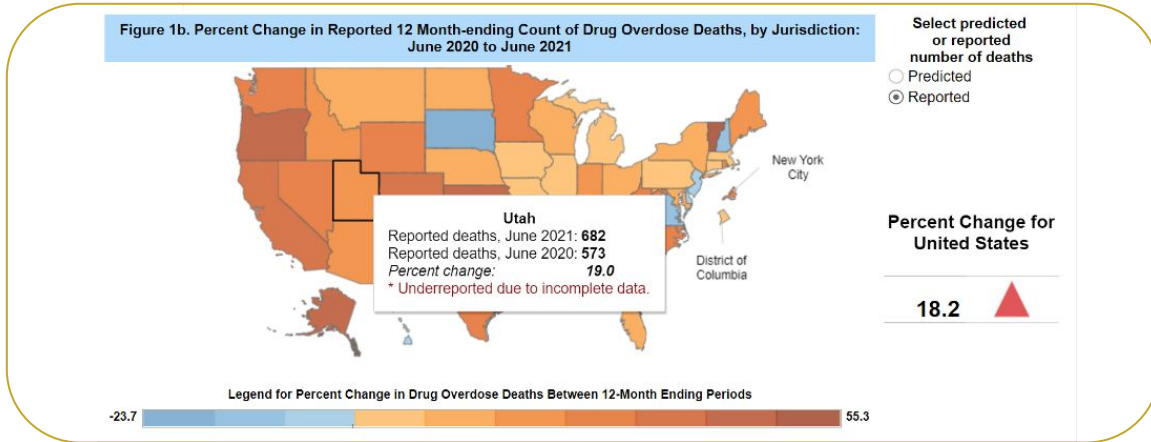
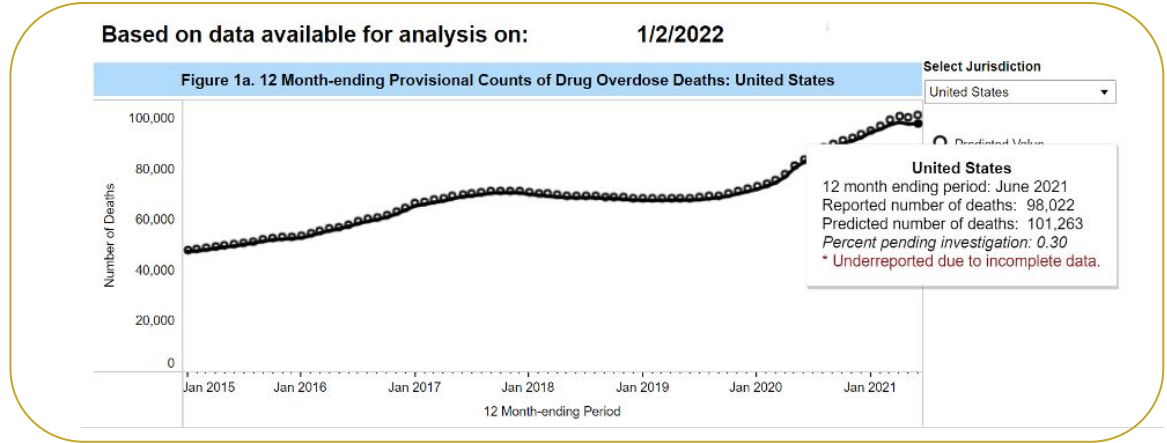**1 overdose death every 5 minutes** in the U.S.

8 out of every 10 Utah overdose deaths each week are from opioids

Utah overdose deaths up nearly **20%** in 2021

41% of unintentional and undetermined drug poisoning deaths in Utah are due to prescription opioids

Utah has gone from **4th to 38th** in U.S. overdose death rate

UTAH OPIOID
TASK FORCE

12-MONTH PROVISIONAL NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

CDC DATA June 2020-2021

Based on data available for analysis on: 1/2/2022

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: United States

Select Jurisdiction
United States

United States
12 month ending period: June 2021
Reported number of deaths: 98,022
Predicted number of deaths: 101,263
Percent pending investigation: 0.30
Underreported due to incomplete data.

Figure 1b. Percent Change in Reported 12 Month-ending Count of Drug Overdose Deaths, by Jurisdiction: June 2020 to June 2021

Select predicted or reported number of deaths
○ Predicted
◉ Reported

Utah
Reported deaths, June 2021: **682**
Reported deaths, June 2020: **573**
Percent change: **19.0**
Underreported due to incomplete data.

New York City

District of Columbia

Percent Change for United States

18.2 ▲

Legend for Percent Change in Drug Overdose Deaths Between 12-Month Ending Periods

-23.7   55.3

IMMEDIATE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR EARLY PHASE FUND MANAGEMENT

1. Establish **core principles** in legislation to provide a framework that ensures funds are spent in ways that save and improve lives.

2. Determine the **oversight entity** to manage funding, establish administrative cost limits.

3. Establish an **advisory group**.

4. Establish a **structured process for allocation of funds** based on the core principles.

5. Establish **parameters around project priorities** and selection processes based on community assessments and resources.

6. Establish **reporting and outcome measurements** required for transparency and compliance with settlements.

CORE PRINCIPLES

UTAH OPIOID TASK FORCE

1. Spend money to save lives

1. Establish a dedicated fund
2. Supplement existing funding
3. Don't spend all the money at once
4. Report to the public on where the money is going.

2. Use evidence to guide spending

1. Direct funds to evidence-based programs
2. Remove policies creating barriers for programs that work
3. Build data collection capacity
4. Fund data-driven strategies

3. Invest in youth prevention

1. Youth prevention programs have a very favorable return on investment—$18 for every $1 spent by one estimate.
2. Direct funds to evidence-based interventions

4. Focus on equity - geographic, socioeconomic, racial

1. Invest in communities affected by discriminatory policies
2. Support diversion from arrest and incarceration
3. Fund anti-stigma campaigns
4. Involve community members in solutions

5. Develop fair and transparent process for spending decisions

1. Determine areas of need
2. Pursue wide input from groups affected by the crisis to develop plan
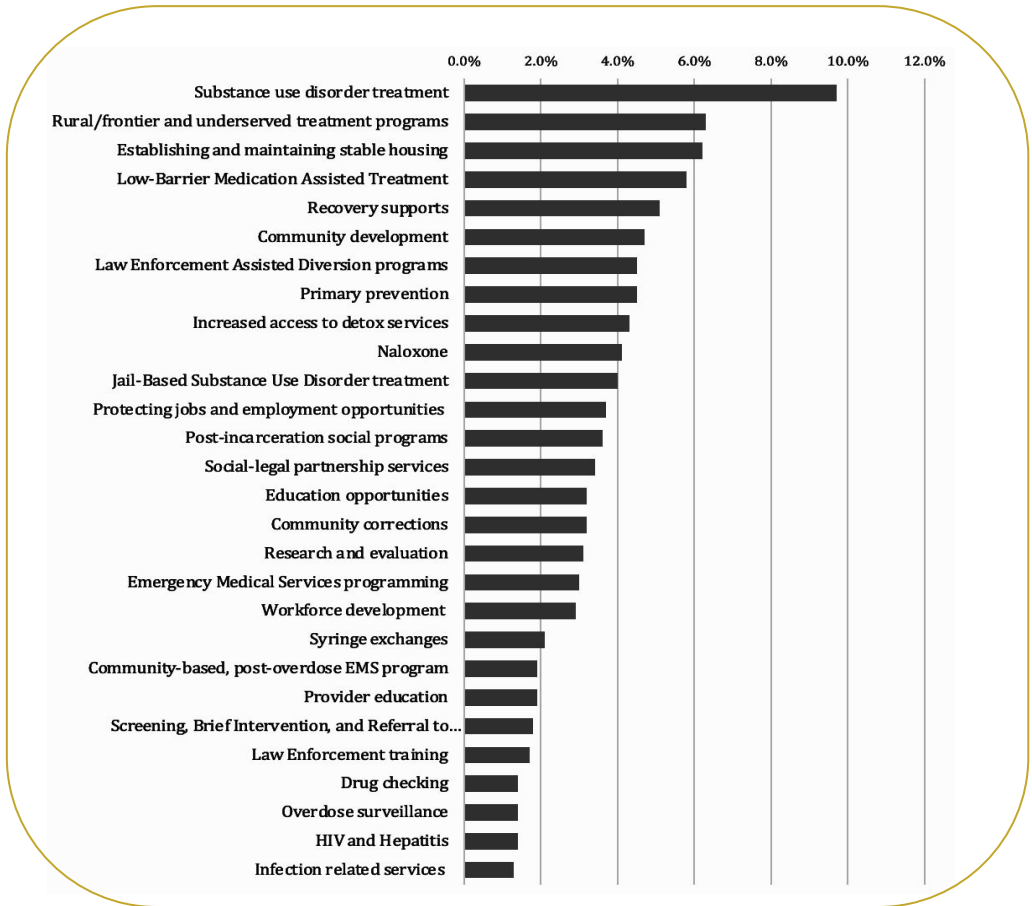3. Ensure representation that reflects affected communities when allocating funds

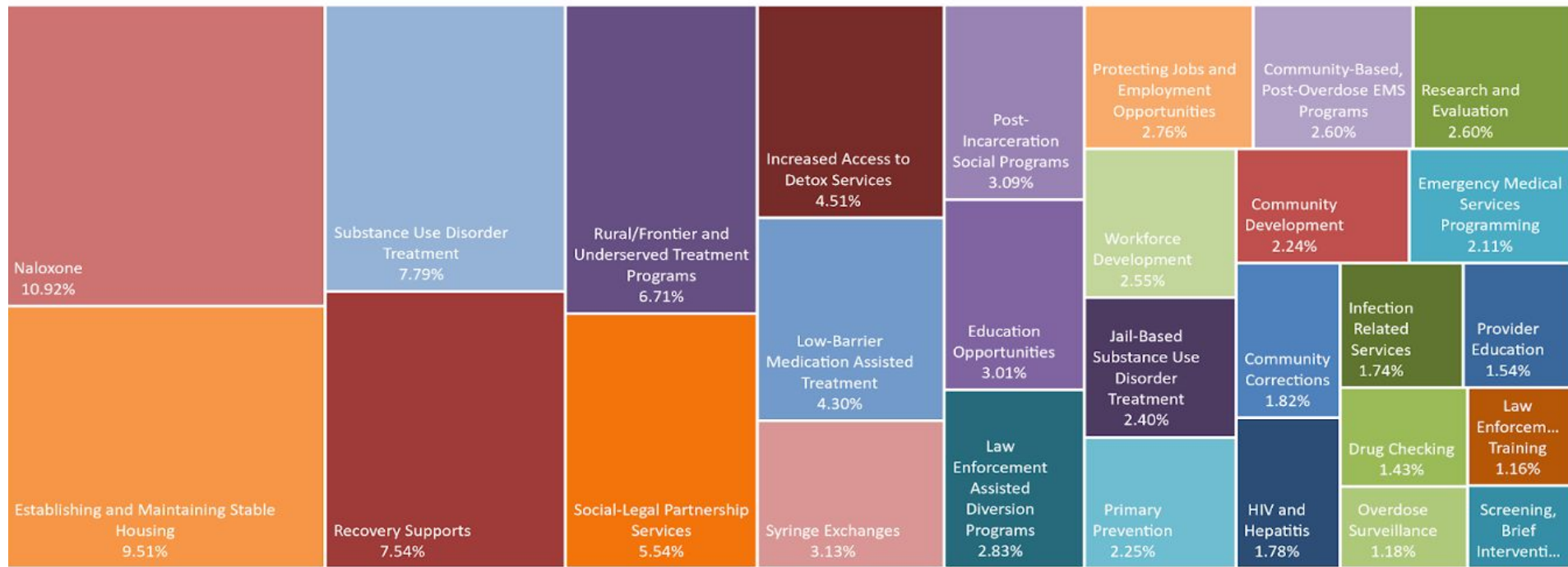# RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES: SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS (SMEs)
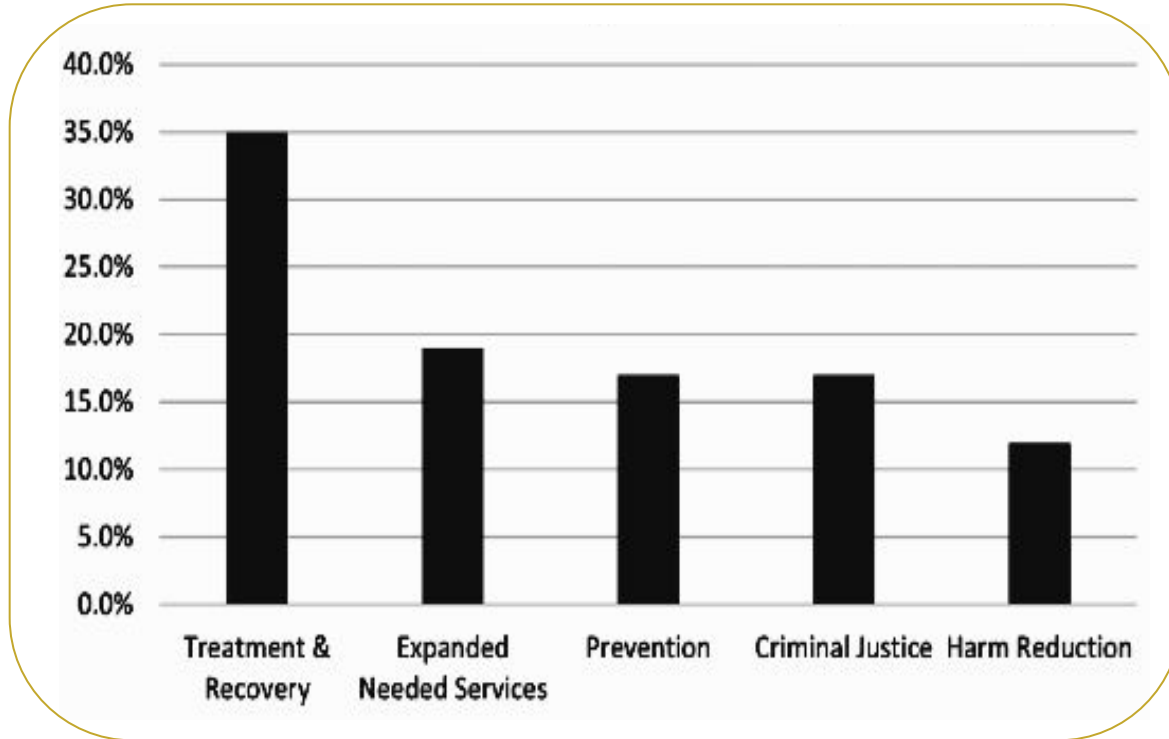
Evidence-based and data-driven strategies should be prioritized.

Results and outcomes should be tracked and reported.

110 SME completed surveys

TOTAL PRIORITY INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:
ALL SMEs

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES: SMEs WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE
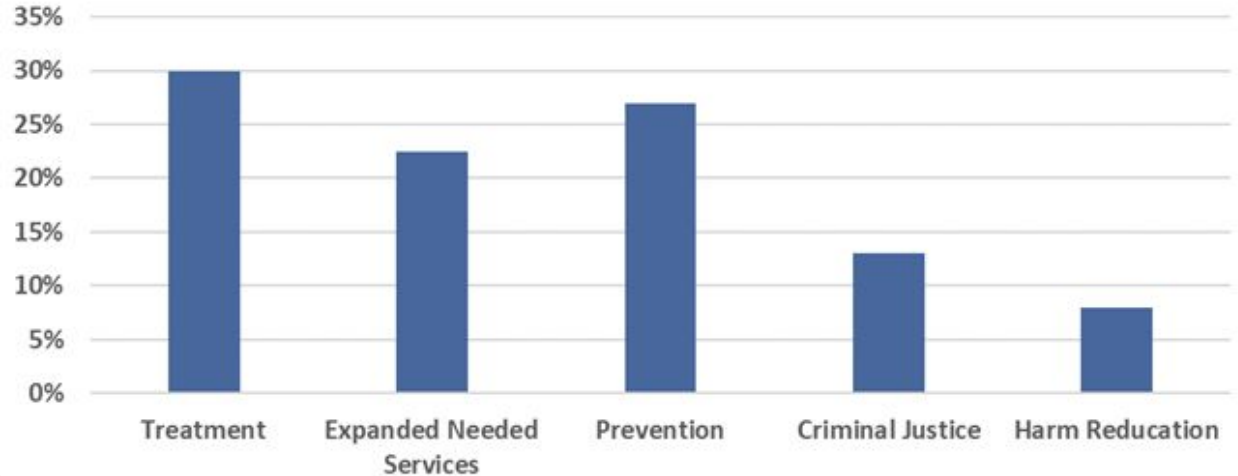
ADDITIONAL KEY CONSIDERATIONS/NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY SMEs

- Comprehensively expand a more equitable **workforce**
- Prioritize **housing, legal supports, education, and job training**
- Include those with **lived experience**, their families, and community members
- Include vital **recovery supports**
- Ensure overdose prevention for groups and areas that are at **high risk for overdose**
- Address **impacts and trauma on families and children**
- Fund/support costs of **physical structures** for service delivery
- **Vet/Monitor** funding of for-profit entities
- Measure and report **results and outcomes**

Keep the focus on the intent of the opioid settlements:

AMELIORATE THE HARMS OF OPIOIDS ON OUR COMMUNITIES

Unprecedented opportunity to **invest in solutions** to address the needs of people impacted by opioids and substance use disorders