

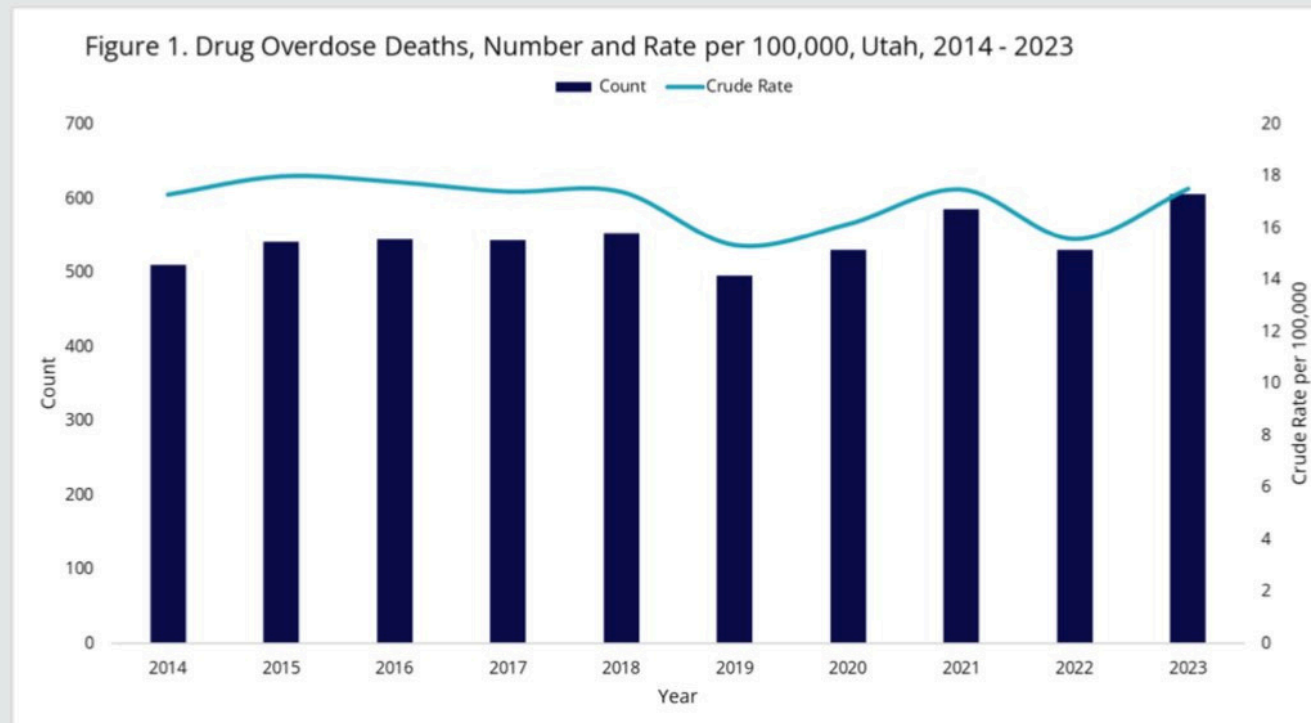
HB 199:

Substance Abuse Treatment &
Enforcement Amendments.

2025 General
Session

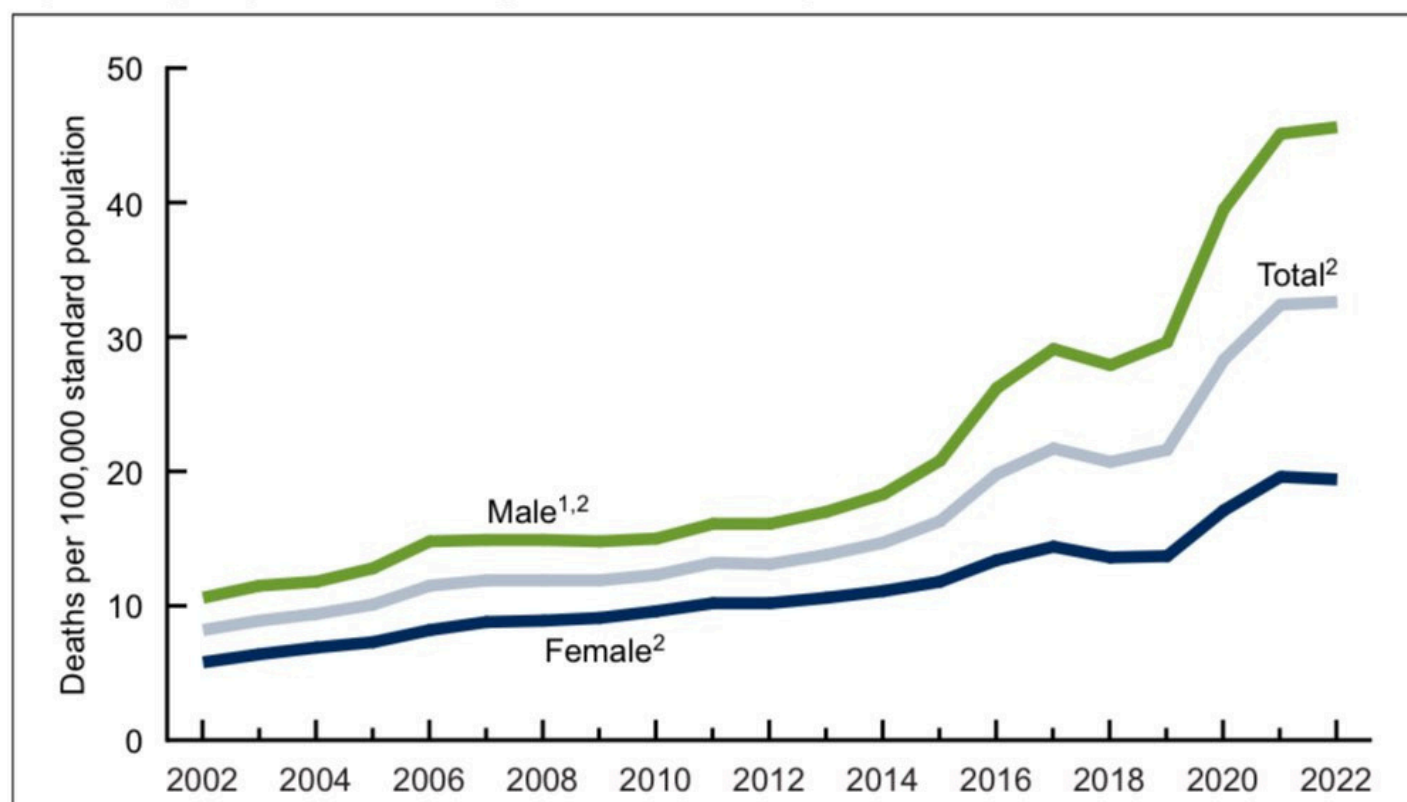


Drug overdose death rates peaked in 2015 and have stayed close to peak levels since (Figure 1). **However, more people died from a drug overdose in 2023 than ever before.** There were 606 drug overdose deaths in 2023—an increase of 14.3% from the year before. This increase is a return to the high number of deaths we saw in 2021.



- In 2022, 107,941 drug overdose deaths occurred, resulting in an age-adjusted rate of 32.6 deaths per 100,000 standard population (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths, by sex: United States, 2002–2022



Our Current Crisis:

The Overdose epidemic has ravaged America, and Utah has not been immune. In 2023, 606 Utahns died of a drug overdose, with the majority from Fentanyl.

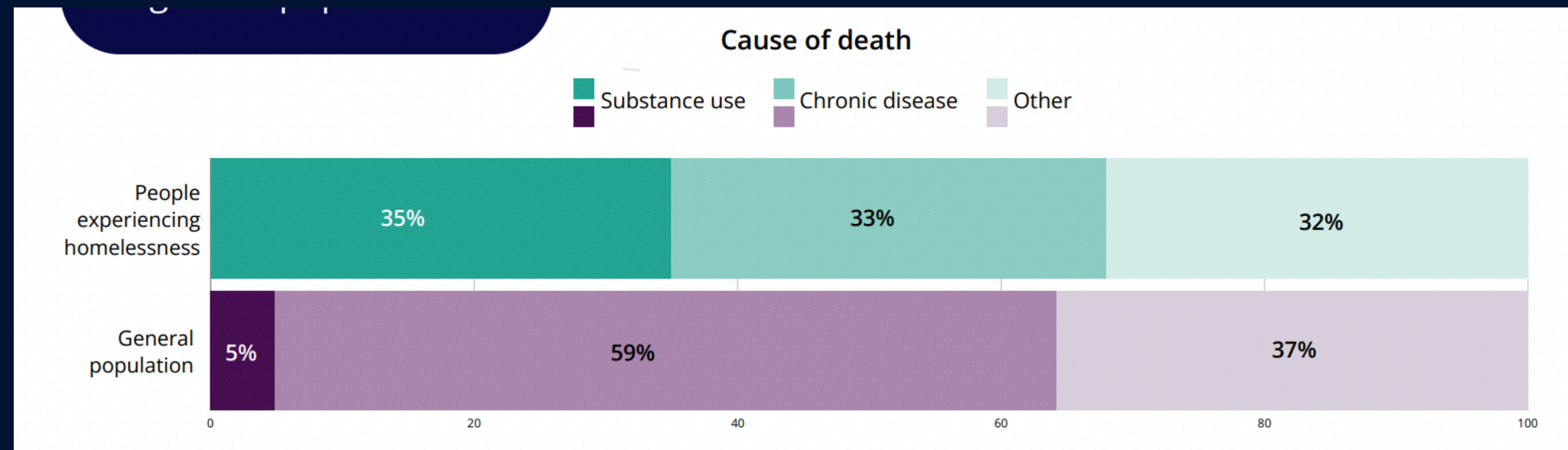
It's important to contextualize these numbers [See bottom graph] and recognize this is a relatively new phenomenon that's taken the country by storm.

These are only fatal overdoses – there can be serious lifelong impacts (brain injuries) to individuals who overdose and are revived with Narcan.

Impacts to the Homeless Community:

“The **leading** causes of death among people experiencing homelessness were substance use related and chronic diseases. Substance use related deaths accounted for 35% of all deaths within people experiencing homelessness.”

-DHHS Homeless Mortality Report (2023)



Harm-Reduction Regulation:

Ban Supervised Consumption Sites:

SCS are a failed approach that flies in the face of Utah's companion efforts and task forces.

Drug Free Zones:

HB 199 prohibits syringe exchange at drug-free zones.

Path to Recovery:

Explicitly requires harm-reduction programs to ensure recovery is a key goal.

Data Collection:

HB 199 creates a framework for data collection to holistically address the opioid crisis.

“Harm-Reduction is a tool, not the goal.”

“Disease prevention is important: so is addressing fatal overdoses”.



Improving Overdose Response:

Currently, first responders operate under a “good Samaritan law” where there is no enforcement action taken after an overdose reversal. While this is important, it leaves opportunities for improvement.

Every first responder knows the sadness of seeing someone walk away knowing they’re still in danger. Data shows that the mortality of those who are treated with naloxone for opioid overdose by EMS is high. (Weiner SG, NIH, 2020)

HB 199 creates new public health best practices for first responders by giving them real-time treatment resources to provide to patients at the time of an overdose.



“We conclude that naloxone has a clear & important role in harm-reduction, yet its ability to combat the opioid epidemic’s death toll may be limited without complementary efforts.”

– Doleac & Mukherjee (2021)





Mobile MAT Clinics:

In 2020, the DEA issued new guidance on the use and licensing of Mobile MAT clinics. Per DEA guidance providers “*must return to a fixed site at the end of each day, where it must unload and store all controlled substances*”. HB 199, mirrors the DEA guidelines and allows space for brick-and-mortar providers to innovate and try this new approach under supervision and regulation from federal rules.

Initial feedback has indicated that this type of intervention may prove most impactful in serving our homeless/transient population along with rural Utahns.

Many rural areas in Utah lack MAT providers, making it difficult for individuals struggling with opioid use disorder (OUD) to get treatment. A mobile clinic could reach underserved communities and reduce travel barriers.

Mobile MAT clinics could coordinate with police, fire departments, and emergency rooms to provide immediate support for people at risk of overdose.

“Mobile programs hold great promise to extend the reach of opioid agonist treatment to hard-hit communities.”

(Breve F, Batastini L, LeQuang JAK, Marchando G. Mobile Narcotic Treatment Programs: 2022)



Updating Utah Nuisance Laws:

“...Studies conducted over the last 15 yrs provided important evidence of crime concentrations across time & across cities found that about 5% of street segments produced 50% of crime incidents each year over a 14 yr period”

– Weisburd, D. (2016). Place matters: Criminology for the twenty-first century

- Currently, Utah Nuisance law covers tobacco smoke, but not meth or fentanyl smoke. HB 199 updates the code to accurately reflect the challenges of the 21st century (drug fumes).
- HB 199 takes a “smart on crime” approach to place based policing. One problem property can exacerbate property crime and violent crime in an area by orders of magnitude.

Ending Sanctioned Crime:

Place-based policing is important because it focuses law enforcement resources on high-crime areas, rather than just responding to incidents as they occur. By concentrating efforts on problem locations—like drug houses, illegal gambling sites, or human trafficking hubs—police can prevent crime from taking root and spreading. This strategy has been shown to reduce crime rates, improve community safety, and build stronger relationships between law enforcement and residents.

Strengthening Utah’s nuisance laws, including codifying the federal Crack House Statute (21 U.S.C. § 856), would enhance local authorities' ability to shut down properties that facilitate drug-related crimes. Drug houses often attract other crimes, such as violence, theft, and human trafficking. Shutting them down disrupts criminal networks.

“Since July 1, police have responded to more than 25 reports of various alleged crimes occurring at the motel, including aggravated assaults, sexual assaults, robberies and drug trafficking.”

-KSL News (December 2024)





QUESTIONS?

HB 199

Substance Abuse Treatment & Enforcement Amendments

Rep. Clancy & Sen. Brammer

Santee's Story:



“The graphs can never articulate the pain felt by a four-year-old, who will grow up never getting to play catch with his father.

The charts will never convey the pain a mother feels, seeing an empty chair at the dinner table where her beautiful daughter once sat.

I can promise you in my own life – that as a police officer, sitting outside an apartment complex with a ten-year-old girl, where inside – my partner and the paramedics are trying to save her mom’s life with Narcan. The statistics can never quantify the damage it does to a community – when she looks at you and says – yeah, mom is having a bad day.”

Hope & Healing is Possible.



Moe Egan



Amy Daeschel



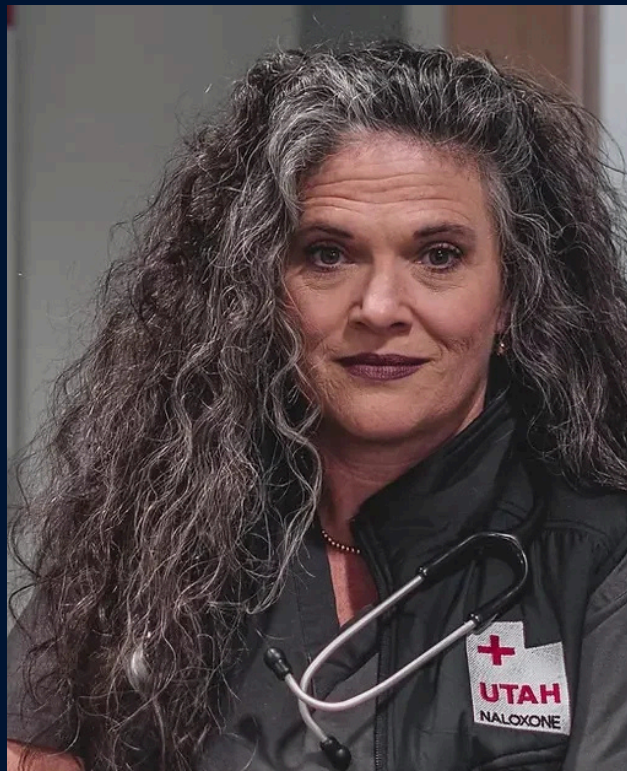
Ty Hansen



Dave Durocher



Mandi Durocher



Sen. Jen Plumb



Dr. Nathaniel Day



Adam Cohen



Dr. Keith
Humphreys



Destiny Garcia