

Opioid Settlement Committee
Thursday, January 9th, 2025

Date: Thursday, January 9th, 2025

Members Present: Chairman Kathy Bryant, City Councilman Ire Bethea, Captain Jesse Blair, Christy Jergens, Beth McCall, Ben Marciano

Excused: Billy Woods, Rich Bianculli, Chief Balken, Chief Robert Kruger

Additional Attendees: Cheryl Martin, Kendall Stephens, Lauren Blaugh, Dana Olesky, Robin Lanier, Curt Bromund, Debra Velez, Crystal Pfriendr, Pete Lee

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Chairman Kathy Bryant called the meeting to order at 11:01am
Quorum	Clerk stated there was a Quorum present
Agenda	
1. Request Approval of June 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Chairman Bryant asked the board to review the previous meeting minutes from June 13th 2024. Motion: Ben Marciano Second: Jesse Blair Action: Approved
2. Opioid Settlement Updates: Cheryl Martin, Kendall Stephens	Cheryl Martin provided an update regarding the interlocal agreement Between the Opioid Settlement Committee and the Marion County Hospital District. This was also reviewed by Dana Olesky, Assistant County Attorney. Kendall Stephens presented a funding flow chart outlining the funding priorities. The chart clarified that the Marion County Hospital District will partner with the committee to distribute prescreen applications. Applications will be accepted through invitation and referrals will be accepted from the Regional Opioid Settlement committee. Discussion ensued regarding the funding flow chart and it was stated that the funding process would be a continual process. Cheryl Martin spoke to the project update which was included in the meeting packet, noting that a lump sum allocation will fund SMA's substance exposed newborn facility and the central receiving facility projects. Additionally, the CORE will remain a priority, with no additional allocation. ○ There is a remaining \$480,000 which will be prioritized towards transitional housing projects.

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	Robin Lanier of SMA Healthcare, discussed the timeline for transitional housing projects, outlining a four-phase process over 1.5 years. The first phase, emergency services, is expected to be completed by January 2026. No further questions were raised. The County received a notice from Brown and Greer that additional National funding, will be allocated to the County that mirrors the rules of the Regional Funding. Kendall Stephens demonstrated the opioid settlement portal located at https://floridaopioidsettlement.com/resources/ , which provides specific data related to arrest, deaths and overdoses, etc. for Marion County.
3. Discuss Regional Plan Priorities- Commissioner Bryant	The committee agreed to maintain the priorities established last year for FY 2025-2026. Judge Landt proposed the possibility of establishing a local government-drug testing lab, which could be used for drug courts, pretrial release, and other necessary screenings. Cheryl Martin noted that the central receiving facility could potentially provide drug testing services. Robin Lanier discussed the various types of drug screens available. Robin Lanier explained that SMA is applying to become an addiction receiving facility, which will allow them to treat all types of detox. Ben Marciano highlighted the concern about Kratom, particularly its increased accessibility in gas stations, and suggested the need for a comprehensive approach to address such substances. Pete Lee, shared that the City has an ordinance that prohibits the sale of synthetic drugs in gas stations. Discussion ensued an educational campaign on the dangers of Kratom and other substances in convenience stores. Marion County Hospital District will bring updates on educational outreach to the next meeting.
General Discussion/ Next Meeting Topics	Christy Jergens shared recent local data sets on overdose and emergency medical services (EMS) information. Jesse Blair reported a decrease in overdose deaths, from 200 to 70 per month, due to the impact of NARCAN. Alina Stutthof from Drug Count Administration informed the board about changing drug trends, noting a decline in opioid use but an uptick in other substances requiring emergency responses. A discussion followed regarding the need to proactively address these new substances, such as Kratom, and ensure comprehensive treatment options for all types of substance use disorders.

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	Action Items from this discussion: • Follow up with Attorney General’s office on banning the sale of substances like kratom • Follow up with the City of Ocala on potentially expanding their ordinance • Presentation from MCHD at next meeting on public awareness efforts with the school system • Explore the possibility of a centralized drug testing lab Chairman Bryant then offered Public Comment on various items discussed during the meeting. No public comments were requested. Next Meeting will be on April 16th, 2025 at 11am
Adjournment	Chairman Bryant adjourned the meeting at 11:59am.



OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Agenda



Committee Members:

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Government
Judge Robert Landt, Fifth Judicial Circuit
Rich Bianculli, Marion County Hospital District
Capt. Jesse Blaire, Ocala Fire Dept.
Christy Jergens, Marion County Health Dept.
Sheriff Billy Woods, Marion County Sheriff's Dept.

Beth McCall, Marion County Children's Alliance
Chief Mike Balken, Ocala Police Dept.
Ire Bethea Sr., City of Ocala
Dep. Chief Robert Kruger, Marion County Fire Dept.
Ben Marciano, Active Recovery Representative

Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Location: 2710 E Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala, FL 34470

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE
PUBLIC NOTICE
ROLL CALL

- 1. Request Approval of the June 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Bryant**
- 2. Opioid Settlement Updates – Cheryl Martin**
 - 2.1 Update on the Interlocal Agreement with Marion County Hospital District**
 - **Funding Flowchart**
 - **Approved Project Updates**
 - 2.2 Financial Update**
 - 2.3 Update on the Interlocal Agreements with the Municipalities**
 - 2.4 Florida Opioid Settlement Data Portal**
- 3. Discuss Regional Plan Priorities – Commissioner Bryant**

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting is on March 13, 2025, located at 2710 E Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala, FL 34470 (Growth Services Training Room).

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Members Present: Kathy Bryant, Mike Balken, Ire Bethea, Rich Bianculli, Jesse Blair, Christy Jergens, Robert Kruger, Beth McCall

Excused: Ben Marciano

Absent: Billy Woods

Additional Attendees: Cheryl Martin, Kendall Hirst, Lauren Blaugh, Dana Olesky, Curt Bromund, Crystal Pfriender, Deb Velez, Will Sexton, Pete Lee

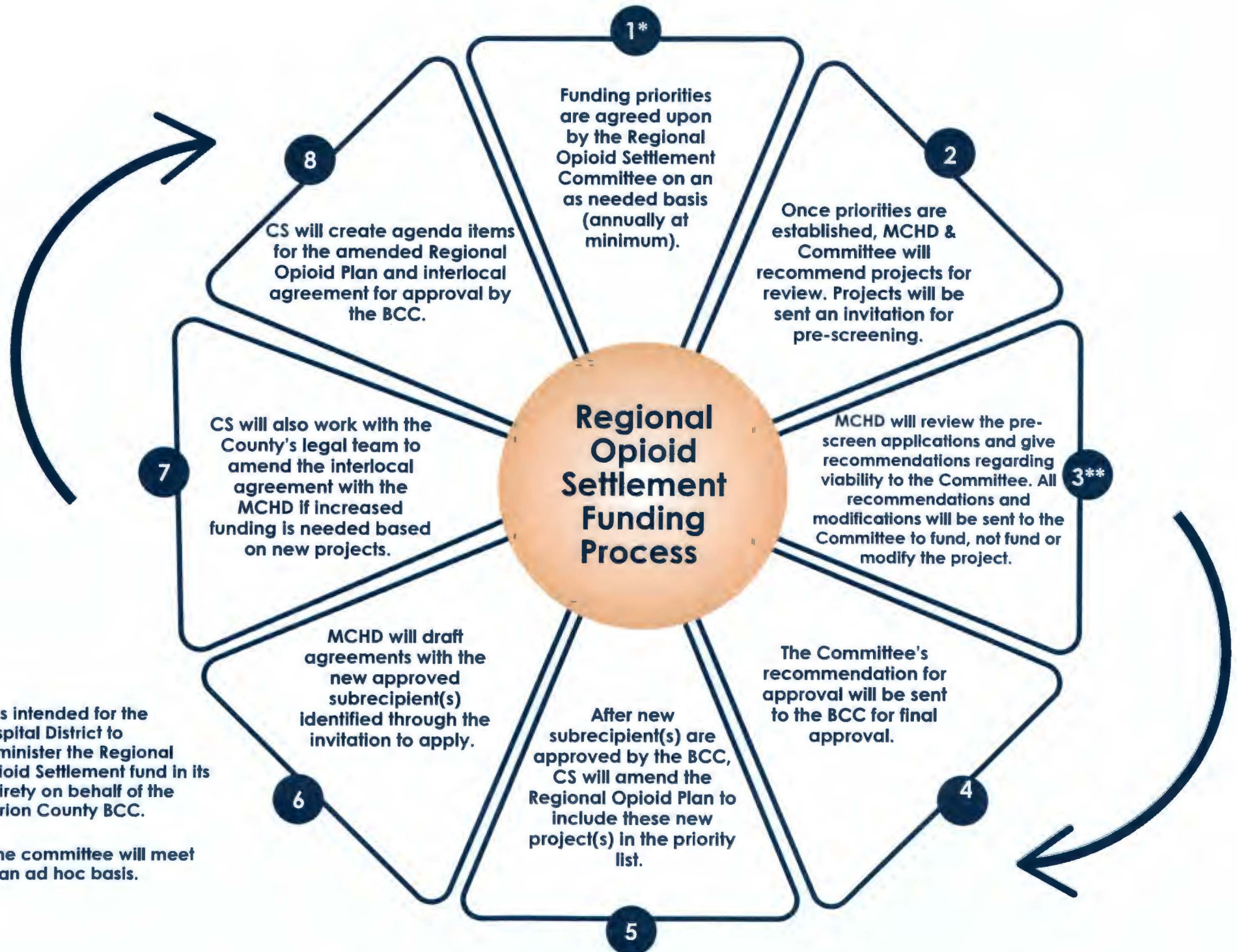
TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Chair Kathy Bryant called the meeting to order at 11:04am
Quorum	Clerk stated there was a Quorum present
Agenda	
1. Request Approval of January 11th, 2024 and April 11th, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Chair Bryant asked the board to accept the previous meeting minutes from January and April 2024. Motion: Ire Bethea Second: Beth McCall Action: Approved
2. Appointment of Vice Chair for Committee- Kathy Bryant	Chair Bryant asked the board to appoint a Vice-Chair for the Opioid Settlement Committee. Beth McCall volunteered to be vice chair. This required a vote from the board. Motion: Rich Bianculli Second: Ire Bethea Action: Approved
3. Request Approval of the 2024-2025 Marion County Regional Opioid Abatement Plan - Cheryl Martin	Cheryl presented the changes to the abatement plan, which have been reformatted. She requested a vote for approval of the revised plan. Upon approval, the plan will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and will also be presented to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on July 2nd. The revised plan includes the updated priority list and distribution guidelines. A discussion regarding available funds ensued among the board members. A motion was made by Beth McCall to approve the presented plan.

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	Second: Ire Bethea Action: Approved Additionally, it was agreed that the committee will meet quarterly following today's meeting.
4. Next Steps- Cheryl Martin	Cheryl provided an overview of the reporting requirements for the funds and grants associated with the abatement plan. She emphasized the importance of adhering to these reporting guidelines to ensure proper tracking and accountability of the funds. Ms. Martin also discussed the deposit process, particularly how agreements will be structured in relation to fund deposits. She clarified that the organization will report directly to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as part of the agreement. Additionally, Cheryl informed the committee that a comprehensive update on the process and progress will be provided in October. Community Services Director Cheryl Martin introduced Kendall Hirst to the board. Kendall is the Community Development Ambassador.
General Discussion/ Next Meeting Topics	Captain Blair provided an update on the current overdose (OD) numbers, noting a decrease in the 2024 OD statistics. The year-to-date (YTD) figures from October show 300 cases, which are attributed to Deborah Velez and the MAP services. Robin Lanier from the MAP Clinic discussed the CORE program, which plays a role in addressing overdose prevention and response. Crystal Frederick reported 300 cases related to overdose prevention. Discussion on Data Tracking and Reporting: Robert Kruger suggested that data sets be brought to future quarterly meetings to enhance the understanding of trends and outcomes. The board members appeared to agree with this proposal. Christy Jergens informed the group that her team also tracks relevant data and that moving forward, these data presentations will be included as part of the regular meeting agenda.

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	Bryant proposed the creation of a sub-committee focused on law enforcement, tasked with developing intake questions to help determine substance usage. Cheryl agreed to follow up with Sheriff Woods to discuss this proposal and ensure that it complies with legal requirements
Adjournment	Chair Bryant adjourned the meeting at 11:59am.



*It is intended for the Hospital District to administer the Regional Opioid Settlement fund in its entirety on behalf of the Marion County BCC.

**The committee will meet on an ad hoc basis.

Regional Opioid Settlement - Approved Project Updates:

Central Receiving Facility:

SMA's Acute Care Services has been operating under the designation of a Central Receiving Facility since January 1, 2024, in Marion County. With that designation in place SMA is in the process of working with an architect and contractor to finalize the remodel plans which are slated to begin at the end of January 2025 and will occur in 4 phases in order for services to be provided uninterrupted. This remodel is necessary to efficiently provide the services required by this designation. In addition, the Airport Road Campus was also recently connected to county water as part of this process.

Women's Substance Exposed Newborn Program:

Renovations are currently underway at the SMA Healthcare Marion County residential program in Building 7. The primary purpose of the renovations is to upgrade the functionality of the building; update appliances, bathrooms, and lighting; beautify the interior appearance; and to create a therapeutic environment for women who may be pregnant and with newborns. Renovations are planned to be completed March 2025, which will then allow SMA to start accepting women in recovery to stay with their newborn children for an average length of stay of 6 months.

Actuals and Projections as of 1/3/2025		
	Date Received	Regional Funding Projections
Year 1	4/12/2023	\$2,882,761.17
Year 2	12/7/2023	\$1,361,107.98
Year 3		\$1,467,597.30
Year 4		\$1,507,008.07
Year 5		\$1,175,933.40
Year 6		\$1,084,716.13
Year 7		\$1,025,687.79
Year 8		\$1,042,880.02
Year 9		\$1,047,994.52
Year 10		\$933,593.70
Year 11		\$856,096.17
Year 12		\$792,286.60
Year 13		\$835,230.87
Year 14		\$835,230.87
Year 15		\$835,230.87
Year 16		\$669,126.16
Year 17		\$669,126.16
Year 18		\$299,860.65
		\$19,321,468.43
	Total Received	\$4,243,869.15
Approved Projects	Centralized Receiving Facility	(\$2,300,000.00)
	CORE & Peer Programs	(\$750,000.00)
	Transitional Housing	(\$500,000.00)
	Admin	(\$213,193.00)
	Remaining for Transitional Housing	\$480,676.15



Florida Department of Health

Overdose Data to Action: Data Report for the Marion County Opioid Settlement Committee

January 2025

Data Disclaimer

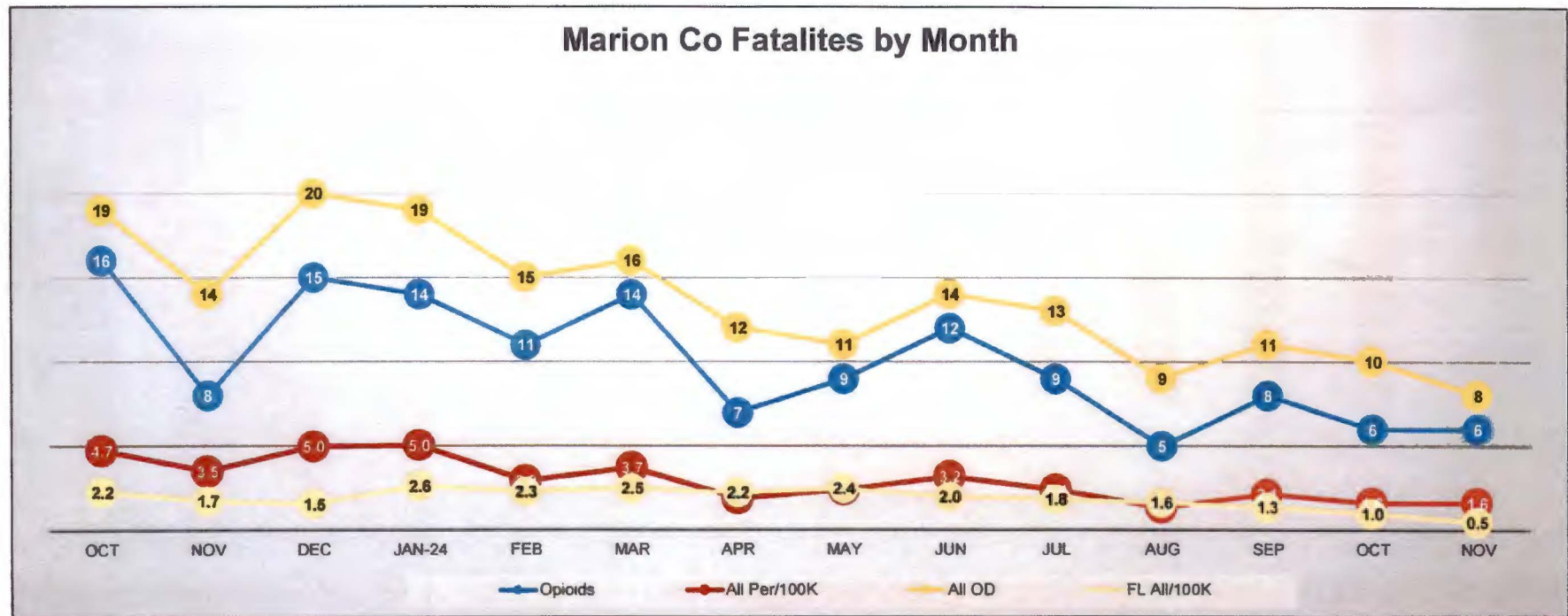
Consider all data presented as provisional data and subject to change. The information is current at the time of presentation.



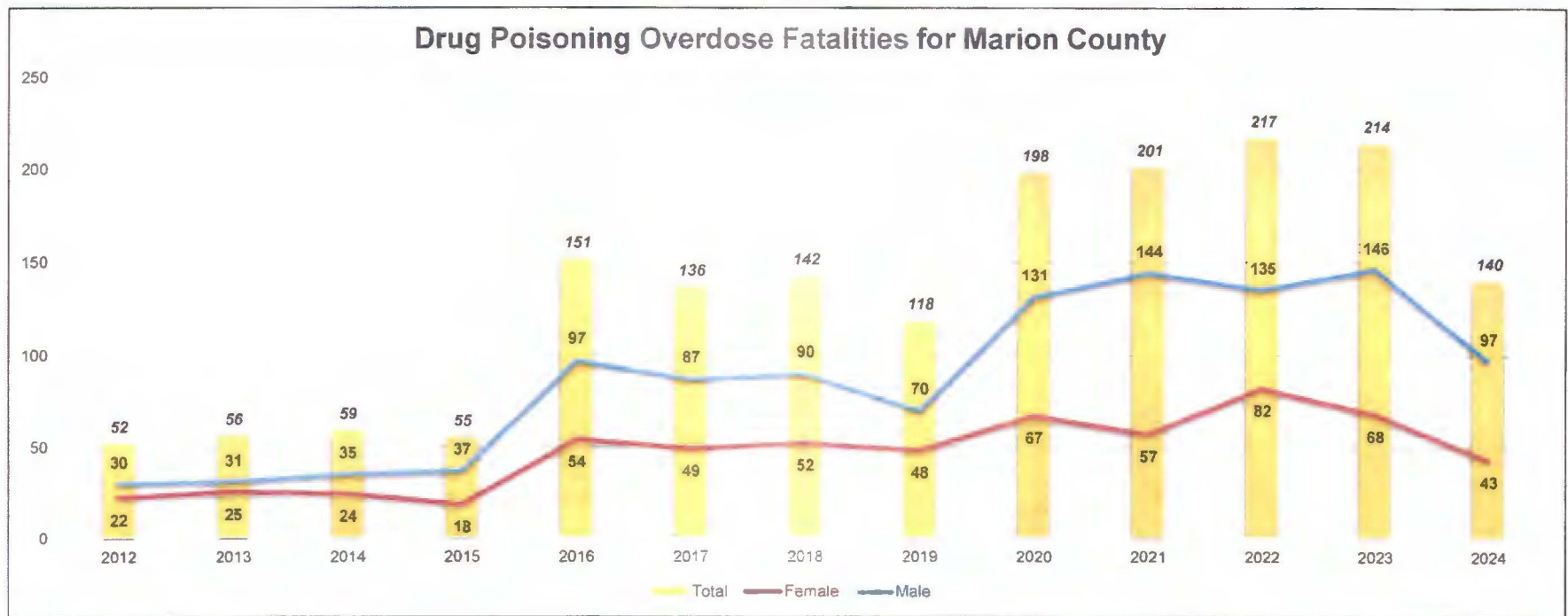
OD | **Overdose**
2A | **Data to**
Action
Marion County

For help 24/7, call 352-266-4769

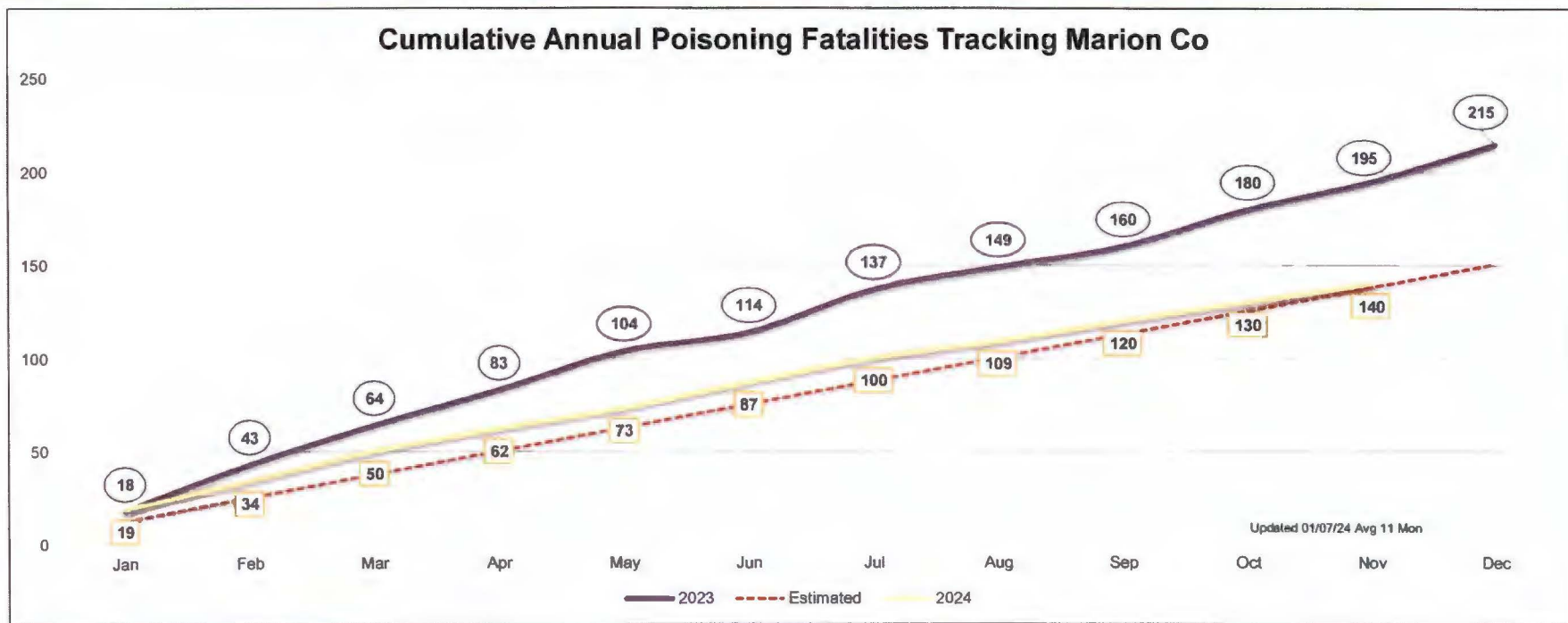
Marion Co Substance Related Fatalities



Marion Co Drug OD Fatalities by Gender



Cumulative Drug OD Fatalities Estimate

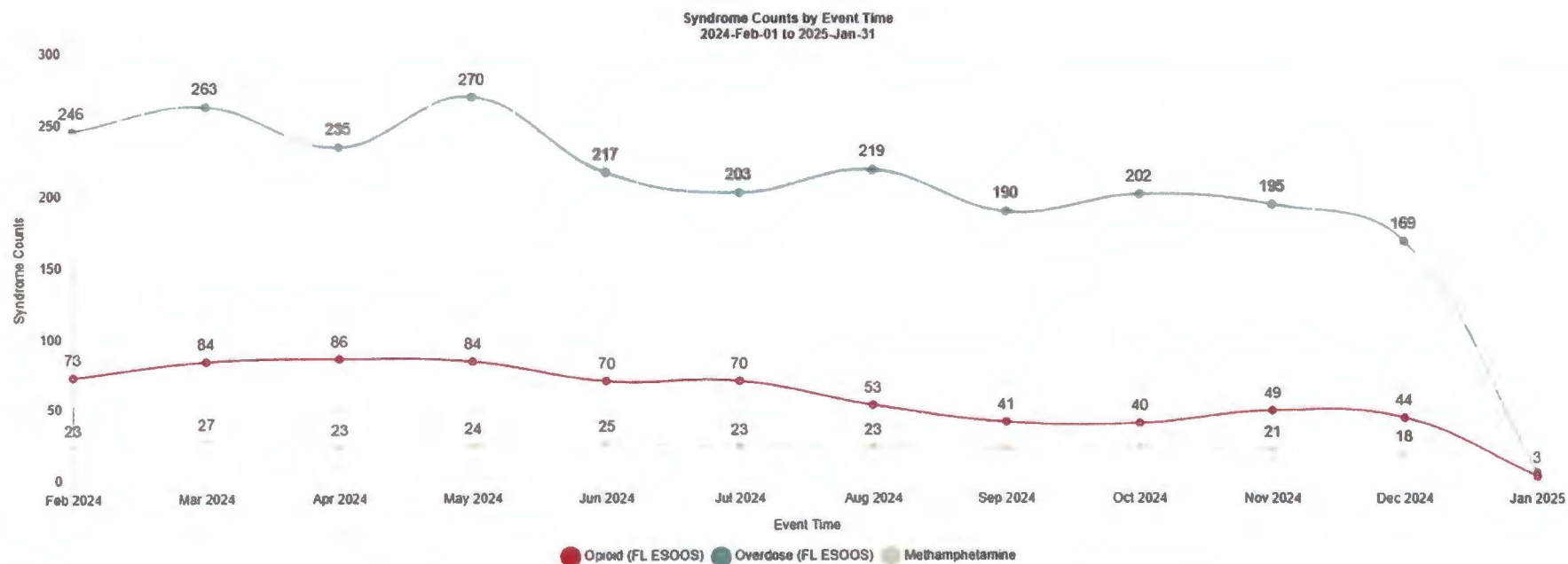


Marion Co Drug OD ER Visits

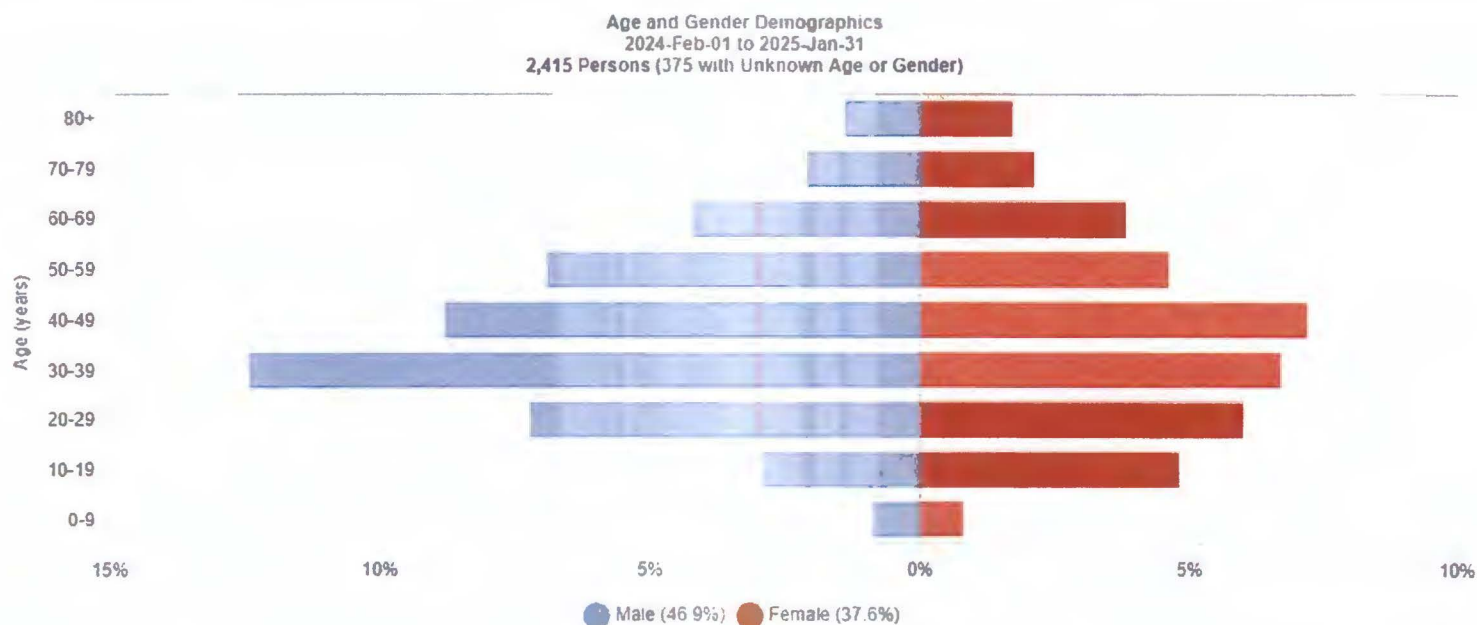
Opioid Related Marion Co Hospital ER Visits



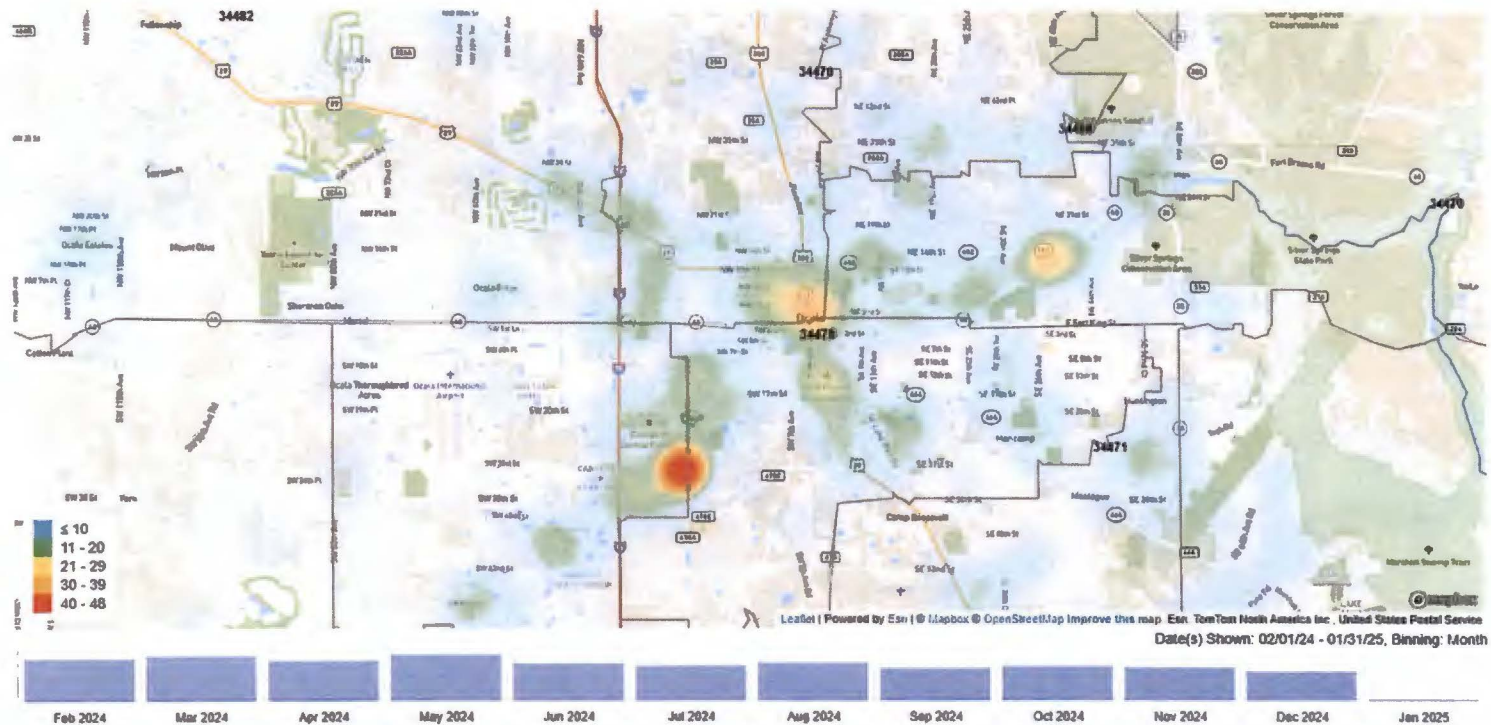
Marion Co EMS Drug OD Responses



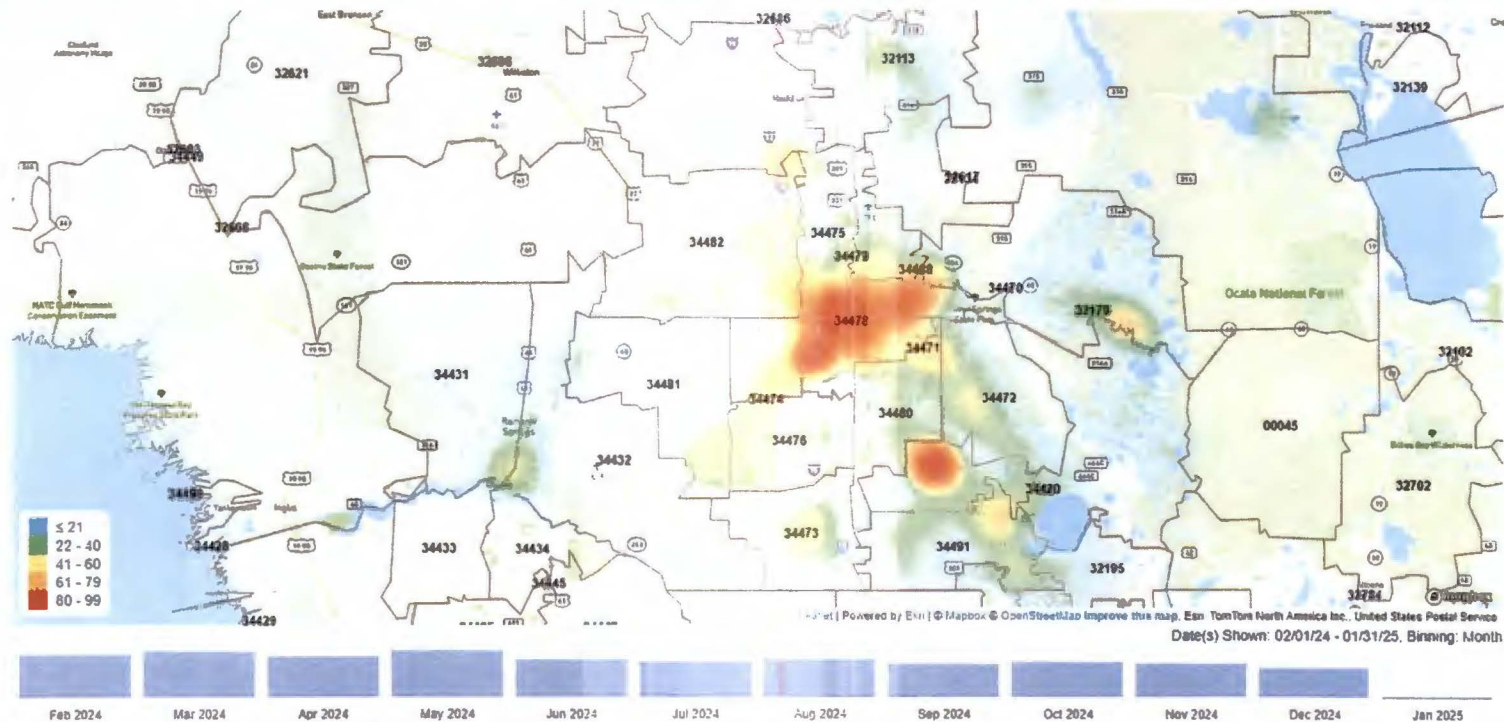
Marion Co EMS Drug OD Demographics



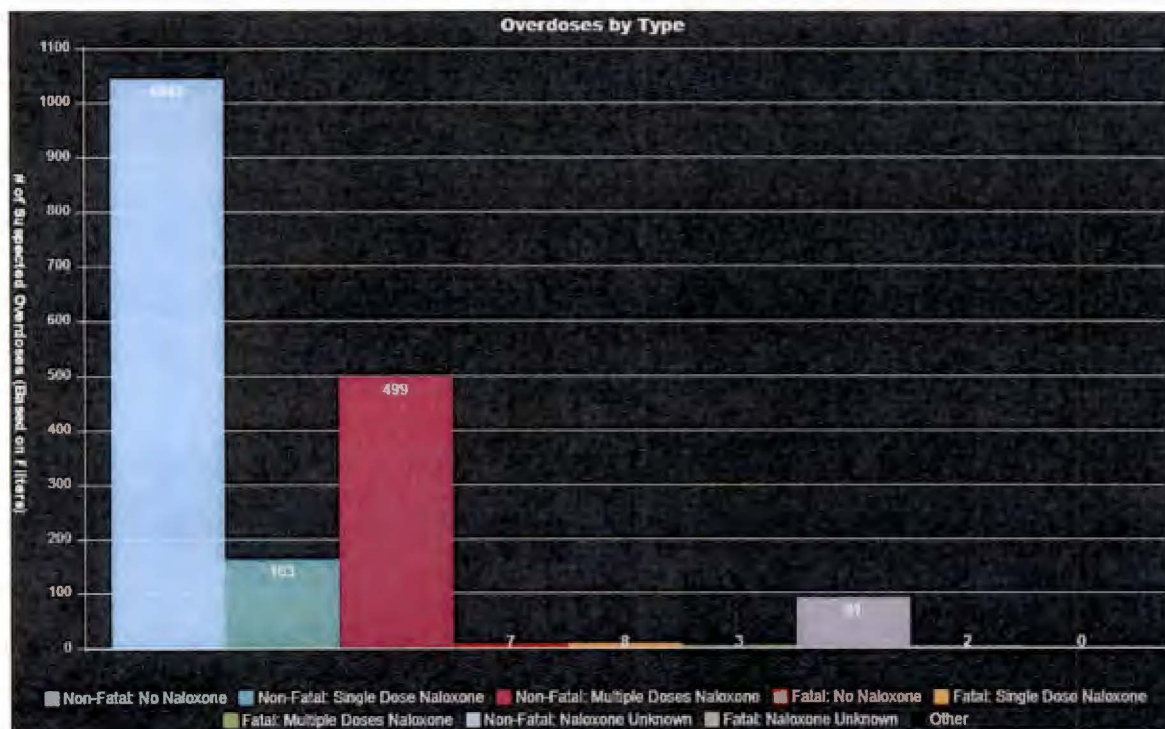
Marion Co EMS Drug OD Heatmap (Ocala)



Marion Co EMS Drug OD Heatmap

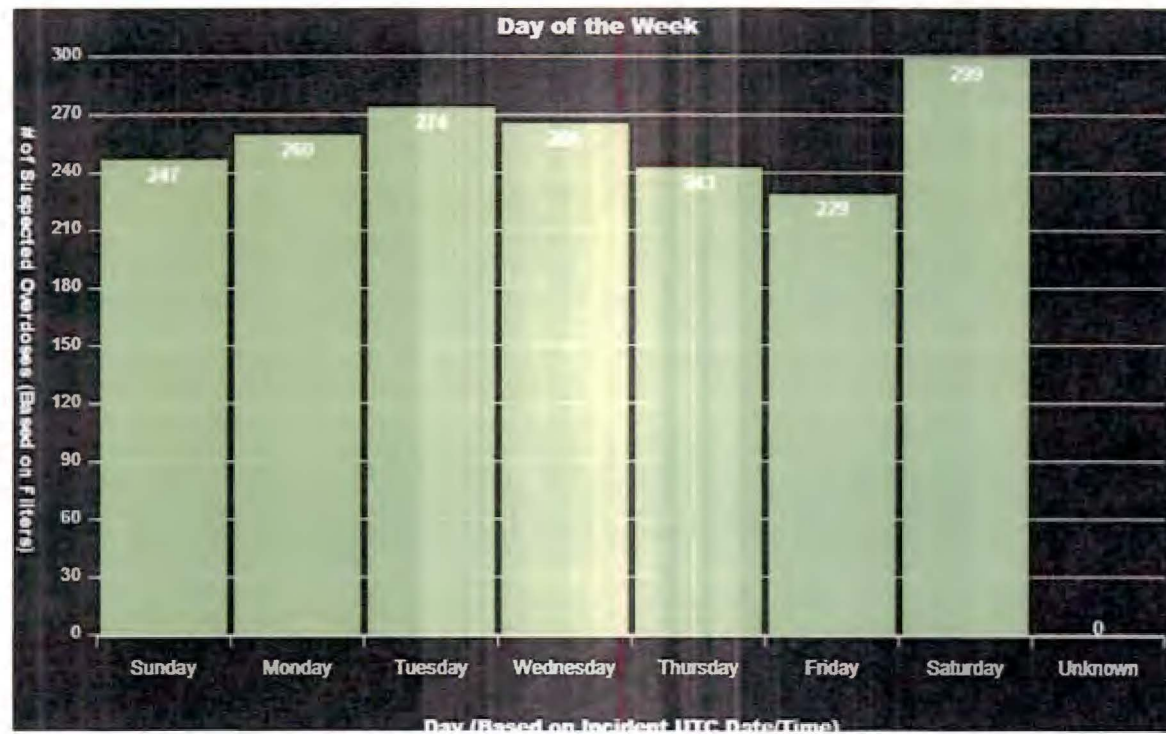


ODMAP (EMS & LE) Overdose by Type

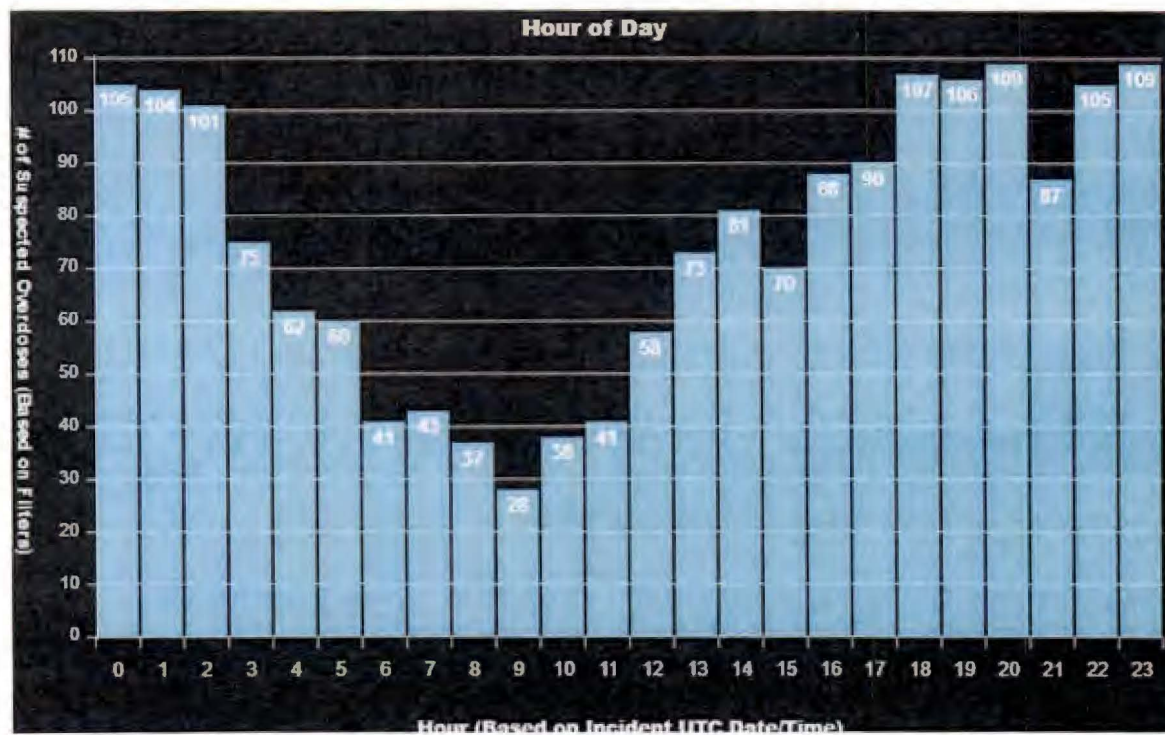


Total Suspected Overdoses:	1818
Suspected Fatal Overdoses:	20
Naloxone:	673

ODMAP (EMS & LE) Overdose Day of the Week



ODMAP (EMS & LE) Overdose by Hour of Day



ODMAP (EMS & LE) Suspected Overdose per Month

