



Innovative Ways for Public Health and Hospitals to Integrate to Address the Opioid Epidemic



**Erie County
Department of
Health**



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The Opioid Epidemic

Why now?

- ▶ Newly emerging opioid users in large numbers
- ▶ New populations, less experience with drug use, harder to reach
- ▶ Transitioning from prescription drug use to heroin use due to lack of access (I-STOP)
- ▶ Increased rate of both fatal and non-fatal overdoses across the state and the country, not just here

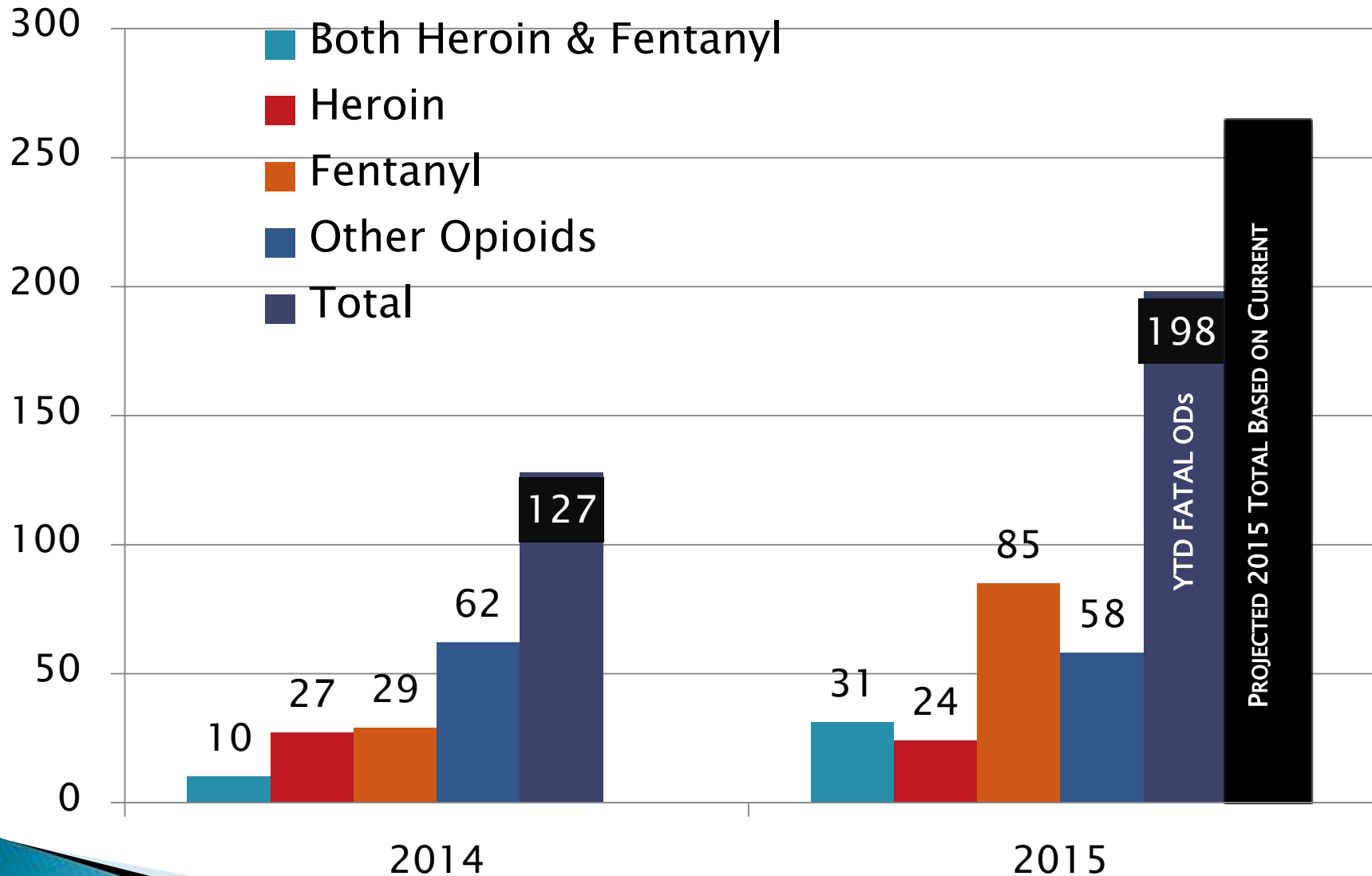


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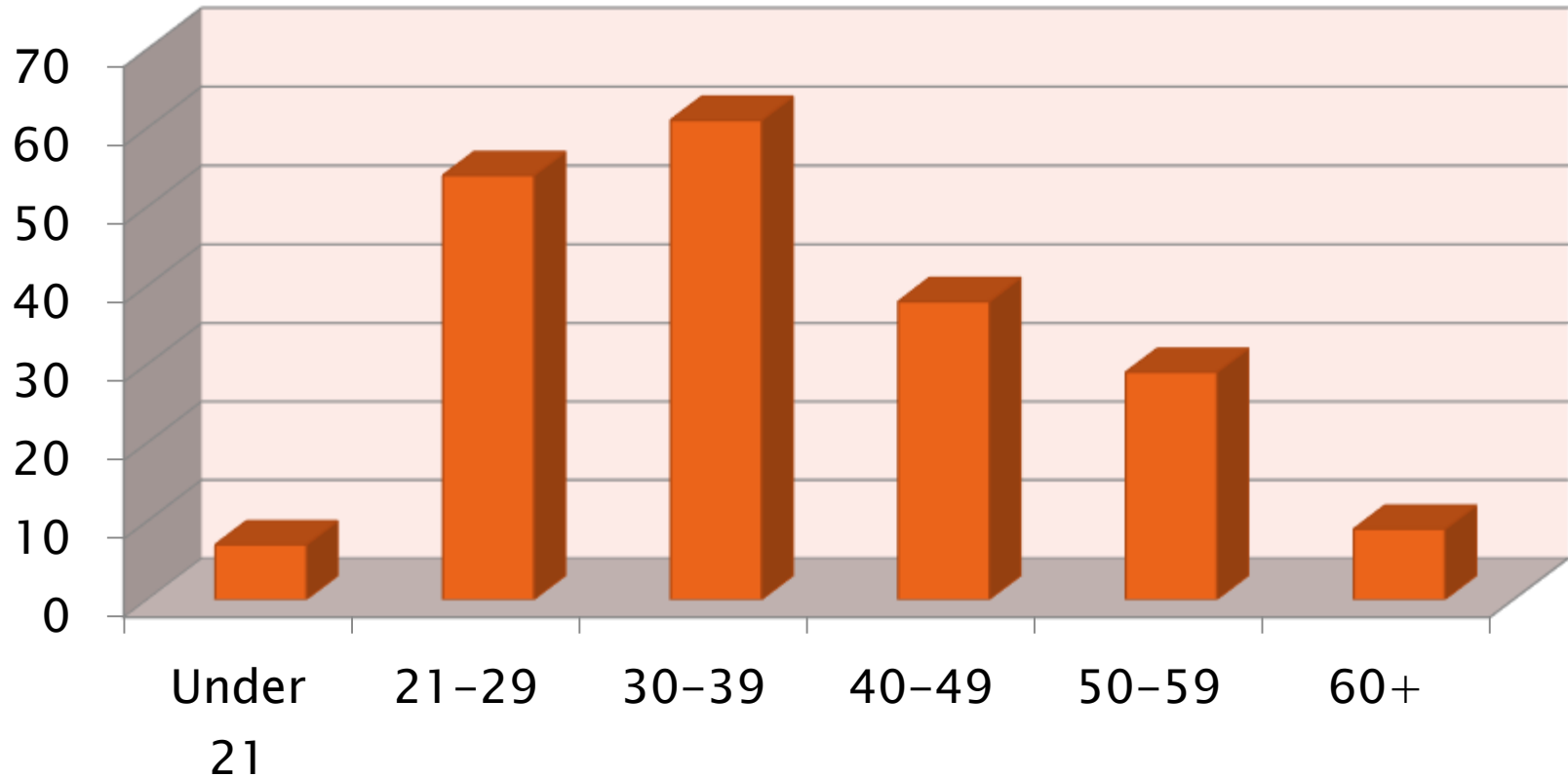
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FATAL OPIOID OVERDOSES 2014 -- 2015



- Average Age of Overdose Victim = 37.8 years old
- Youngest Victim = 17 years old
- Oldest Victim = 83 years old

Age Range



N=198



The Opioid Epidemic

Executive Order #014

Establishment of an Opioid Epidemic Task Force

WHEREAS, the Erie County Health Department has noted a sustained and growing number of opioid addicted persons in our community, identifying a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office projects 2015 to be the year with the greatest number of reported opioid related fatalities, with well over 200 deaths; and

WHEREAS, if not for the distribution of Naloxone to first responders, and widespread training in its use to the general public, the number of opioid related fatalities would have been significantly higher; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has identified the need for additional inpatient beds, out-patient slots, community-based medication-assisted treatment with methadone and suboxone, and related services to treat those suffering from opioid addiction; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis affects nearly every part of Erie County be it urban, rural, or suburban; and

WHEREAS, opioid addiction often starts in individuals who are prescribed opioid pain medications or who take opioid medication prescribed for other people and may progress to using illegally manufactured drugs, such as heroin; and

WHEREAS, dangerous and powerful opioids, such as fentanyl, are increasingly being found on our streets, in addition to heroin; and

WHEREAS, no single strategy alone can address this complex, multifaceted issue; and

WHEREAS, coordination of the many individual anti-opioid initiatives currently being undertaken throughout Western New York is critically needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK C. POLONCARZ, Erie County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Erie County's Charter Sections 301 and 302, do hereby declare a public health crisis related to the opioid epidemic exists in Erie County and do hereby order as follows:

The creation of an Opioid Epidemic Task Force to be headed by the Commissioners of Health and Mental Health.

That the Opioid Epidemic Task Force will include community experts from social service agencies, law enforcement, physicians, mental health and addictions providers, the health insurance industry, and members of victims' families.

That the Opioid Epidemic Task Force will examine all areas of the opioid crisis including but not limited to opioid prescribing practices, access to inpatient, outpatient, and community-based medication-assisted treatment programs, police-assisted recovery, and the distribution of lifesaving medication like Naloxone.

That the Opioid Epidemic Task Force will serve to coordinate efforts of its members and the Opioid Epidemic Task Force shall have the power to create various work groups and/or other subcommittees to assist it in the performance of its duties.

That the Opioid Epidemic Task Force work groups shall meet on no less than a monthly basis and the formal Opioid Epidemic Task Force shall meet quarterly and report back its progress to the undersigned on a quarterly basis until such a time as the work of the task force is no longer needed.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Erie in the City of Buffalo this 19th day of January, in the year two thousand sixteen.

County of Erie

By: _____
Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

ERIE COUNTY OPIATE EPIDEMIC TASK FORCE



Mission: To provide a framework for organizations and individuals from across the opiate overdose continuum to collaborate, develop and share best practices and provide for timely sharing of information.

Revised 18 January 2016



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Role of Public Health

- ▶ Increase provider capacity in the community through multiple initiatives
 - Adoption of Communitywide Opioid Prescribing Guideline
 - Training of physicians and dentist on appropriate prescribing
 - Training of primary care providers on SBIRT
 - Training and certification of additional treatment providers (Suboxone, Methadone, Counselors, ECHO model)
 - Development of innovative programs with different partners to get folks to treatment sooner – Hospital Emergency Room Release of Information, Naloxone distribution to those who present with an overdose in the ED



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Current Efforts in Erie County Working with Hospitals

- ▶ Naloxone distribution programs active in the Emergency Departments
 - WCHOB
 - Millard Fillmore Suburban
 - Buffalo General Hospital
 - Degraff Memorial Hospital
 - ECMC
 - South Buffalo Mercy Hospital
 - Mercy Ambulatory Care Center



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- ▶ Release of Information program in Emergency Departments
 - Millard Fillmore Suburban
 - ECMC

THANK YOU

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